

April 2015

*Celebrating 90 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## President's Report

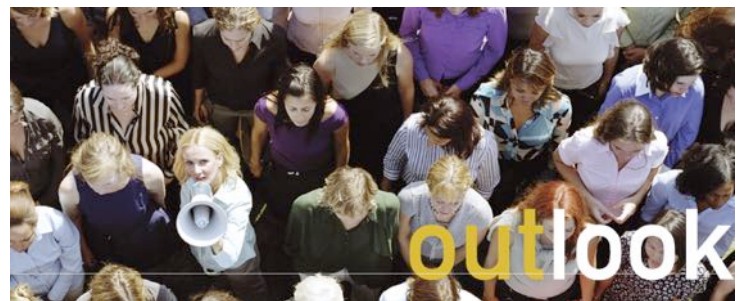
*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

What I feared is coming true. Our wonderful long-time branch member Ruth Wright, who VOLUNTEERED to be the nominating search person for officers for the next two years, has come up with no one willing to fill the branch president slot. I really don't want to go down in branch history archives as the last president of AAUW in the Monmouth Area before it folded, especially since we celebrated AAUW's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Monmouth last year! All we need is some generous person who is willing to carry us forward just two more years. That was my intent when I decided to serve as president two years ago. In two years, I believe that we'll have at least one person who will be willing to step up and take over for the next two, and so on and so forth. We're just at a crossroads right now. Please help us move in the direction of keeping AAUW in the Monmouth Area. What other organization is there around here that cares about women's rights and makes sure that the issues of concern to women are addressed through thoughtful programming and meaningful outreach?

If I can do the president's job (three times), I know that any one of you could do it better. Show up at meetings as often as you can (It's easy to find a branch member willing to fill in for you when you can't – I did it twice this year.) Spend a couple of minutes after the program (of which there are usually about 7 during the year – that leaves 358 other days during the year where there AREN'T any programs!) reminding members about upcoming programs or events. Write something up for the branch newsletter (the 6<sup>th</sup> and final one this year will be out next week – only 6!) Ideas can come from what's going on in the regular calendar year or from the national website about one of the timely issues of concern to women. I HATE writing! If I can do this, you can do it better. And I'll be around to help! I had someone working in the background as my silent co-president. She's still willing to do that for the next

president and she's super! Or perhaps you can think of a friend in the branch who would be willing to share the position with you.

Bottom line: we need someone (or two people) who would be willing to carry us forward for just two more years. It's not a difficult or time-consuming job. Please give serious thought to considering being that person. The women of the area need you!



Get in the game!  
Step up!

### Inside this issue

President's Report .....	page 1
April Program .....	page 2
Get Together.....	page 2
Dues Notice .....	page 2
Branch History .....	page 3
Public Policy .....	page 4
Book Group.....	page 5
Membership.....	page 5
Membership Bio.....	page 5
Interesting Article.....	page 6
Mission Statement .....	page 6

## AAUW April 22, 2015 Program

*Trudi Peterson*

### Women's Studies Sexual Assault Project

The purpose for our project is to raise awareness for sexual assault and domestic violence on college campuses. We also want to be able to provide our campus and community with ways to help not only prevent sexual assault and domestic violence but ways to approach the topic as a whole.

The week leading up to our event we will be posting facts around campus that will hopefully show students on the campus how the people around them are affected by Sexual assault and domestic violence. Throughout the week we will have a Bill of Rights pledge for students to sign to show their support for those who have been affected by sexual assault along with giving them steps on how to support someone that is in the process of coming out about their sexual assault. On Wednesday night at 5:30 in 278 CSB, we will be doing a panel with AAUW to explain why we chose this as our senior research project, and to give more information on our Take Back the Night event. During the day on Wednesday we will have the campus group Troubling Violence Performance Project (TVPP) performing monologues of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Friday night we will host our big event, Take Back the Night from 7pm to 9pm in the Quad behind Stockdale Center. We will have the bagpipers along with other Monmouth College musical groups performing. We will have a keynote speaker, along with a few other short speeches made by professors and students. We will also have activity tables and provide a wide range of information on sexual assault and domestic violence. To end the event we will have a candle light vigil to show support to those who have experienced Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence.



### AAUW Get-Together

### Market Alley Wines

**Tuesday, May 12**

**5:00-ish**

**Just for fun! Let's get together and chat.**

### Dues Dues Dues Dues Dues Dues

The general treasury shows a balance of \$716.61. Savings for AAUW Funds has a balance of \$59.40. CD has a value of \$801.20.

It is time to think about renewing your membership for the 2015-16 year. I urge you to renew online with your credit card. It is simple and easy. The renewal is immediate.

If you do not feel comfortable doing it on line, I will take your check for \$68.00 and file a group report to national. It takes several weeks to complete the process. I will take checks at the remaining meetings or you may mail them to me

Shirley Daddona, 453 1/2 N. Pleasant Ave., Galesburg, IL 61401. If you have any questions please call me at 309-342-2794 or e-mail me ([sdaddona814@gmail.com](mailto:sdaddona814@gmail.com))

**Dues Dues Dues Dues Dues Dues**

### An Illustrious Branch, Part 6

*Jan DeYoung*

In 1957 Dr. Jean Liedman was elected President of Illinois Division of AAUW, and Mary Crow was appointed her Administrative Assistant. The branch had added 11 new members in the Fall of 1956. The Board began holding separate meetings, and members decided to assess themselves \$1.00 per year to be contributed to Fellowships. Sally Horner received the AAUW branch scholarship. Continuing to demonstrate members' interest in and support of the arts, Mrs. Jean Franz Hogue, art director for Monmouth Public Schools, gave a branch program on the "connection between art instruction and intellectual and social growth of the individual." Sound like AAUW Art Presenter?

The joint meeting with Business and Professional Women featured a program on Citizens Lake and its effect in combating juvenile delinquency in the community. 107 members and guests attended the joint dinner meeting! The formation of a local League of Women Voters was announced. Fay Chrissinger, Marilyn Van Ausdall's aunt, created AAUW posters which were displayed at Warren County Library. A Book Fair in March netted about \$150, part of which was used for rent at Holt House for branch meetings.

In 1958 Dr. Liedman explained that Fellowships money should go to international fellowships rather than to local scholarships.

AAUW provided funds to redecorate the guest room at Grier Hall in honor of member Emma Gibson, who had moved to California. A plaque on the door was to read "AAUW Room, in honor of Emma Gibson, Dean of Women \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_." To honor Eva Louise Barr, the branch sent \$500 to International Fellowships, borrowing the money from an AAUW account at Homestead and Loan. Do you suppose this is the beginning of the CD we have now? The branch sponsored a Leadership Lecture series, featuring distinguished Monmouth College professors. (I believe all speakers were men, but I will try to check on this.)

In a self-evaluation, members felt that the branch needed more study groups, but the Association admitted that it was difficult for branches with fewer than 100 members to maintain such groups. On the plus side, members liked the convenience of the new

meeting place (the conference room at the Administration Building at Monmouth College), the success of the lecture series, and the election of two women to the Monmouth Public School Board; one of these women was Ruth Turnbull, who was a member of AAUW at that time, I believe.

The branch collected \$580 in cash and \$30 in pledges for the new AAUW Education Center to be built in Washington, D.C. They borrowed \$210 from savings to meet the goal of \$820.

In planning for the 1959-60 year, attendance, branch members decided to invite Monmouth College senior women to the April meeting rather than the May meeting in order to improve turnout. Other topics of discussion included sending someone to visit school board meetings, assisting with PTA's, and allowing five cents per mile reimbursement for travel to conferences and conventions. Branch president was Dr. Madge Sanmann at this time. A previous scholarship winner, Phyllis Peterson, donated \$50 to the branch; the money was applied to the debt from borrowing for the Education Center.

In 1960, 100 AAUW and B&PW members attended a joint dinner. Now members were cooperating with Campus Club in improving the kitchen in the Administration Building, sharing \$50 in costs plus \$10.95 for the branch's share of a new coffee urn. 16 senior women attended the April meeting and received membership cards. This turnout was still considered poor attendance.

Members voted to pay all the president's expenses to attend official meetings. Board meetings were changed to one hour before branch meetings instead of on a separate evening. Members were encouraged to contact more prospective members and also to reach out to 60 former members.

Note: I still have 55 years of branch minutes and other records to read. It is so interesting to see that some concerns continue in 2015, and others repeat themselves in cycles. Our members have always been involved in education and the arts. The partnerships with Monmouth College faculty women and deans have been strong. Membership is always an issue. Meeting

places come and go. Getting senior women from the College to show an interest in membership is a challenge, whether or not we invite them to a meeting. And yet, Monmouth (Area) branch has provided strong leadership both in the community and at Monmouth College and has sent many members to lead at the state level as well.

## Public Policy

Jan DeYoung

Public Policy, Spring, 2015

April 14 is Equal Pay Day! It's also Lilly Ledbetter's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. I hope you remembered to wear red, or perhaps your pink Equal Pay t-shirt. If you think you are worth more than 77 cents to a man's dollar, it's time to take action! See below!



As the General Assembly of Illinois winds down its Spring session, we have a job to do! Our new 94<sup>th</sup> District State Representative, Randy Frese, needs to hear from us! He will have office hours in City Hall on Wednesday, May 13, from 10:00 to 2:00. I would like to take a group of branch members to visit with him about ERA and other issues of importance to women. At this point, we have no idea what his position on ERA is. I will try to find out before that date, but whatever he believes, we need to persuade him or support him so that, if the bill comes to the House floor, he will be informed on ERA and knows that we will be watching! If you would like to contact his office, his Springfield number is 217-782-8096; or you can contact him through his website, [www.repfrese.com](http://www.repfrese.com). There's a contact button on the top of his home page. If you prefer to write a letter or a postcard, his address is 230 N Stratton Office Building, Springfield, IL 62706. Please let me know if you will go with me to meet Mr. Frese ([jdeyoung@maplecity.com](mailto:jdeyoung@maplecity.com) or 734-5529). We also need Representative Frese's support on HB4013, which amends a 1971 law which severely restricts women's freedom in health care, especially those whose medical care is controlled by the state or Medicare.

At the Federal level, we need to contact Senator Mark Kirk to ask him to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act,

S.862, introduced by Senator Mikulski in late March. At this time, neither of our Senators is a co-sponsor, nor is Congresswoman Bustos a co-sponsor of the House version, H.R.1619. The bill has been referred to committees in both houses. We know that both Senator Durbin and Congresswoman Bustos are supportive of equal pay, but we do not know Senator Kirk's position. We need to contact all three of them. We also need to urge Senator Kirk to support the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Women's Health Act. The bill, introduced in March by Senators Barbara Mikulski, Patty Murray, and Barbara Boxer has been referred to the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. It focuses on women's health, including maternity and preventive care, expands access to birth control and rape survivors' access to emergency contraception. The Act "challenges elected officials to be on the right side of history when it comes to health, equality, and opportunity." Sounds like AAUW to me!

Contact information for Senator Kirk: The Honorable Mark Kirk, 387 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 201510. His email address is [senator@kirk.senate.gov](mailto:senator@kirk.senate.gov).

Senator Durbin's phone number is 202-224-2152; to email him, go to <http://www/durbin.senate.gov/contact/email>, or just go to his website: [www.durbin.gov](http://www.durbin.gov) and hit the Contact button.

Congresswoman Bustos is with us on Equal Pay and Women's Health, but she is not yet a co-sponsor of the Equal Pay Act. Please thank her for her efforts on behalf of women and girls, and ask her to become a co-sponsor. Contact her at [bustos@house.gov](mailto:bustos@house.gov) or (202) 225-5905 in Washington. Her address for letters and postcards is 1009 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Better yet, if you can see her in person, thank her!





## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Jan DeYoung*

We will be discussing Dashiell Hammett’s mystery, “The Maltese Falcon” as part of our partnership with Warren County Library in this year’s NEH Big Read program. The discussion will take place at the library on Thursday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. It’s a quick read, so grab a copy (I’ll lend you mine, if necessary!), or watch the movie, and come on down to WCPL and join in! It would be nice to have more than just book group members there!

Our May selection is Lilly Ledbetter’s “Grace and Grit.” Published in 2012, “Grace and Grit” tells the story of Ledbetter’s eight-year fight for equal rights in the workplace, leading to the landmark signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, President Obama’s first official act as President. Read about Lilly’s experiences in fighting her cause, all the way to the Supreme Court, where, alas, she lost her case again. Nevertheless, Lilly Ledbetter has become an icon in our continuing effort to guarantee equal pay for women.



## Membership

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

We have a new member! Dr. Janna Deitz, professor of political science at WIU, joined last month. Jana was the speaker for our opening program in September. She gave an inspiring talk on the importance of getting women interested in running for public office. Stay tuned for more information about her. We’re thrilled that you’ve decided to join us, Janna!

## New Member Bio

*Janna Deitz*

Janna Deitz is Professor of Political Science at Western Illinois University, with research interests in women and politics, congressional elections, legislative politics, and campaign finance. In 2011-2012, she served as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow in the DC office of Senator Durbin and was inspired by that experience to create a *WIU in DC* semester-length internship for Western Illinois University students. Her longtime passion has been the study of women's underrepresentation in political office. As an undergraduate student at UNC she interviewed women in state and local office in North Carolina to learn more about gender and political ambition. Her latest effort includes working with the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University to host one of their nonpartisan candidate training programs in Illinois. The first offering of *Ready to Run Illinois* will kick off on June 6th at the WIU Quad Cities campus. Janna could not be more excited about getting more women to run for office! She is happy to have connected with such a vibrant group of women in the AAUW Monmouth area chapter and has truly enjoyed its programming. Janna is from Sylva, NC (an hour west of Asheville, NC) and every now and then has to make a trip "back home" to take in a good hike in the Smokies, drink some sweet tea, and bring back a jar or two of chow-chow. Just ask, and she'll be happy to explain. :)



## Interesting Article

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

Fellow branch member, Vicki Gladfelter, shared the following link with me. It’s an article written by former President Jimmy Carter: “Losing my religion for equality.” Since, three years ago, I left the religion I’d grown up in; this article was very meaningful to me. Jimmy addresses exactly why I finally left. Somehow, I

felt vindicated. I hope you find this as interesting as I did:

<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/losing-my-religion-for-equality-20090714-dk0v.html?stb=fb>.

*If you press Control while you click on the above address, it will take you right to it and it is well worth it!*

*Editor*

**Association Web site:** [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**AAUW-Illinois Web site:**

<http://aauw-il.aauw.net/>

**Monmouth Branch Web site:**

<http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net/>

**AAUW Initiative Editor:** Sharon Gilbert,  
[sharongilbert1484@comcast.net](mailto:sharongilbert1484@comcast.net)

**Mission Statement:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

**Vision Statement:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.