

Presidents' Report **Final Thoughts on Phyllis Schlafly** *Donna Sproston, co-president*

Phyllis Schlafly died on Labor Day, 2016. A group of Monmouth branch members were attending a talk at the college, and we were among the few people in the audience who reacted when the speaker made note of her death. To the current students, Schlafly seemed to be an unknown, but to those of us who remember her fight against the ERA, her name is not one we will easily forget.

Back in the 1970s, I was an active member of the League of Women Voters in Monmouth and gave a presentation to a friendly audience on the need for Illinois to ratify the ERA. I was a bit taken aback when a good friend responded that we did not need it and who wanted to use same sex bathrooms. My friend was ready for the campaign of Phyllis Schlafly and her robotic crusaders, instructed in what to say and how to dress. I was not. I expected the ERA to be ratified in Illinois. It had passed through Congress with little opposition, was signed by President Carter and endorsed by President Nixon, and was easily ratified in state after state. Then Phyllis Schlafly started her campaign. As pundits reacted to her death last week, I read an interesting array of facts, opinions, and reactions.

Her life was entwined with politics, and in her final months she had endorsed Donald Trump, much to the consternation of her family members. Schlafly was a true conservative and loyal to the GOP long before it took its sharp right turn. In her earliest years in politics she did research for the infamous Senator Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin and was a strong opponent of communism. She ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1952, losing in a strong Democratic district. At the 1956 Republican convention she was part of a group opposed to the party platform planks that favored civil rights and integration. She worked diligently for the election of Barry Goldwater in 1964 and chose his theme, A Choice

not an Echo, as the title of her book which came out soon after.

When the issue of the ERA came up in the early 1970s, Schlafly told her book club in Darien, CT, that she had no opinion. We will never know if her subsequent campaign to stop the ERA was out of sincerity or political opportunism.

Schlafly's campaign against ratification was successful in part because the women of America were just not there yet. Although her strategy became a model for the conservative wing of her party, her tactics also activated a new wave of feminists. She was an instigator of my feminism. We will eventually have parental leave, equal pay for equal work, and all the other planks of our AAUW public policy. As I told my friend many years ago, it is not about bathrooms but about equality.

It will be interesting to see how history remembers her.



Inside this issue

President's Report	page 1
September Program	page 2
President's Report, II	page 2
Public Policy	page 3
Treasurer's Report	page 3
Film Group	page 3
Book Group.....	page 3
Membership.....	page 4
RADA Fundraiser.....	page 4
Southern Conference.....	page 5
Voter Registration.....	page 5
Martha Shugart.....	page 5
Program Notes.....	page 6
Meeting Minutes.....	page 7
Mission Statement	page 7

AAUW September 26, 2016 Program

Jan DeYoung

Prevention of Harassment and Intolerance at Monmouth College

On Monday, September 26th, Stephanie Kinkaid will be our speaker in the Center for Science and Business, Room 273. Appointed this past spring as Monmouth's Title IX Coordinator, Stephanie will share with us some of the initiatives Monmouth College is taking to prevent all forms of harassment and intolerance on- and off-campus.

Stephanie has a background in mental health services and has been on the staff at Monmouth College for eleven years. In the past year she has attended many intensive training workshops on implementation of Title IX on campuses to prevent physical and mental attacks on students and other members of the campus community. When Geneen Gillen and I met with Stephanie and Vice President for Student Services Jackie Condon this summer, we were very much impressed by the commitment of these two women to making Monmouth College a safe and welcoming place for everyone. When there are so many horror stories in the media about rape and other sexually violent attacks, it is good to know that Monmouth is in the forefront of taking positive action and not just waiting to react after the fact.

Stephanie graduated from Williamsfield High School and Illinois State University and will complete a Master's Degree in Leadership in Higher Education in May of 2017. With years of experience in mental health, she has extensive additional training in student personnel services and Title IX enforcement and is the co-chair leader of the campus Behavioral Intervention Team as well as a community task force with law enforcement and victim advocates as well as members of the college administration.

Stephanie lives in Gerlaw with her husband Jim and daughter Kristen, a student at Carl Sandburg College. Her older son, Donald, is in the Navy and will soon be deployed to the Middle East. Her other son, Michael, is studying Criminal Justice at Western Illinois University.

Please come and bring a friend to this important meeting!

Presidents' Report, part two Campus/School Sexual Harassment and Title IX

Jan DeYoung, co-president

If we were to believe the statistics released recently by the U.S. Department of Education, we would assume that there are very few incidents of sexual harassment in the public schools or on college campuses. Two thirds of school districts report ZERO incidents of harassment and bullying. Colleges likewise report a very small number of incidents. And yet we know that school and college campuses are not nearly as safe as these reports would lead us to believe. In the AAUW report, "Crossing Line," released in 2011, nearly half of students in grades 7—12 reported having experienced some form of sexual harassment during the 2010-11 school year. Verbal harassment constituted the majority of experience, but sexual harassment by electronic media was also reported by 30% of students. And physical harassment was also common.

For greater insight into this widespread, yet under-reported problem, read [Missoula: Rape and Justice in a College Town](#) by Jon Krakauer, or view "The Hunting Ground."

Rigorous enforcement of Title IX protections is needed in all of our schools, from Kindergarten through graduate school. We need to know who our Title IX officers are and keep our eyes and ears open to make sure that students who experience any kind of harassment know their rights and know the person(s) they should contact in their school district or college. Students need to be empowered to take action in their own behalf and to work on prevention as well as intervention. An increase in reporting attacks is just the first step.



Public Policy

Jan DeYoung

Although it's difficult to focus on anything political beyond the interminable Presidential campaign, there are other issues that require our attention.

First, of course, is voter registration. A team of Monmouth Area AAUW members registered about 25 students, one new faculty member, and one of the volunteers at the Monmouth College Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, September 14th. Another team will be at Jamieson Community Center to register voters from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21. A big "Thank you" to those members who volunteered and took the "refresher training" at the Court House: Lila, Sarah, Donna, Alice, Marilyn, Joanie, and Jan. Our AAUW branch has been influential in the Get Out the Vote movement for the past several election cycles.

The Illinois General Assembly will meet in Veto Session November 15, 16, 17, 29, and 30, and December 1. I will have more information for you after the Southern Fall Conference in October. Two items that I'm aware of now are the Equal Pay Day Resolution, HR1201/SR114; and, of course, the Equal Rights Amendment Ratification bill, SJRCA24. Feel free to contact your state legislators and senators on these two issues any time prior to the veto session.

A bill on police training regarding domestic violence, HB5538, was on the governor's desk awaiting his approval.

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Daddona

7/31/15:
\$602.40 in checking, \$268.60 in Savings. The CD has a value of \$801.60.



Film Group

Nancy Buban
September 28, 2015

Since the meeting is set for the 26th and film group is usually the fourth Monday there will be no film group in September. It is too difficult to reschedule.

Nancy



¡Adelante! Book Group

Jan DeYoung

The first meeting of our branch book group will be held on Wednesday, September 21st, at 1:00 at Jan's house, 1101 East Broadway. We will be discussing My Beloved World: The Making of a Justice by Sonia Sotomayor. In her inspiring memoir, Sotomayor describes her life from childhood through her appointment to the United States Supreme Court in 1992. Growing up in the Bronx, the daughter of an alcoholic father and a nurse mother, Sotomayor learned early in life that she would have to take charge of her own development. At the age of seven, she taught herself to inject her own insulin for her diabetes by practicing on an orange.

"I've spent my whole life learning how to do things that were hard for me," she remarked to a friend. After her father died, when Sonia was nine, she almost lost her mother to grief. At one point she banged on her mother's bedroom door and shouted, "Don't you die, too!" At this difficult time Sonia found the library to be a great resource and solace. Her paternal grandmother in the South Bronx was also a "safe haven" for her.

Sonia credits her mother with two things that helped her as well: speaking English to the children and buying them a copy of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Sotomayor credits affirmative action in allowing her to achieve academically. Admitted to Princeton, she earned the Pyne Prize and graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She attended Yale Law School and was very successful there, too.

Since the book ends with her appointment to the Supreme Court as the first Hispanic justice. One hopes that she will write another memoir or two to continue her story of grit and determination!

Please join us to discuss this book on September 21st! We'd love to expand our book group!



Membership

Susan Van Kirk

If you check out the national website for AAUW, you see these two statements:

Our Vision is Simple: We bring people together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

Our Mission is Sound: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

In the many years I've been a member of AAUW, I've always found that our chapter focuses on these issues in everything we do. Our occasional informal get-togethers at a local business for coffee and conversation bring intelligent women together to discuss everything from the most recent research on girls and learning, to the political positions of candidates when it comes to the issues we care about.

If you look at the programs on our list for this year, you'll notice that our focus on those two statements has not changed. We'll watch, listen and discuss everything from voter registration to sexual harassment and discrimination on campuses, and from women's

health access to workshops to help girls excel in math and science. We'll be looking at gender bias research and issues involving global food research. Even a sponsored book-signing is about domestic violence, the law, and women.

Why wouldn't a woman want to come and listen to these programs, grab a cup of coffee, talk and meet new people, and take part in initiatives to help the next generation of girls? Look around, keep your ears and eyes open, and consider women who might be interested in what we have to offer. Invite someone new to come to one of our programs. It only enriches our whole group.



RADA FUNDRAISER

Jan DeYoung

Some of you have asked if we will sell RADA Cutlery again this year. The answer is Yes! This year we encourage you to order online for delivery directly to your home (delivery is pretty quick), but we will have catalogs available at the September meeting for those of you who prefer to look through a catalog, even if you order online. We will collect orders at the October meeting from those of you who prefer to order through the branch. Those orders will be ready for pickup at the November meeting. By the way, we really need someone to step up to handle these orders! It's pretty much a one-time commitment, collecting and placing orders, and sorting them when they arrive. If this is something you can do, please contact Marilyn or Jan.

We make a very good commission on RADA items, and it's an easy way to get a head start on your holiday shopping. In addition to the cutlery, the recipe books, and premixed bread, dip, and soup packages are also very popular. All RADA products make excellent gifts!

Get the order number and password at the September meeting when you pick up your catalog, or watch for it in the October.



SIGN UP TO COME TO THE AAUW-IL

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

11:00 am – 2:30 pm
Saturday, October 15
Lincoln Public Library
Carnegie Room North
326 S. 7th St., Springfield



Presentations: The Roles of National, State, and Branches;
Grants for Branches; AAUW Funds.

“Topic” Tables: Sharing Fundraising Ideas; Successful Programs; Gender Equity Speakers Bureau; Get Out the Vote & Get Involved!

I just completed my registration online at aauw-il.aauw.net. Very slick – and I even did it riding in a car in California and using my phone as a hotspot for my laptop.

I chose to fill out the online registration form, saved it, and then attached it to an email. I also used the PayPal button to pay the \$15. The regular way of printing the form and mailing it with a check is obviously still an option, too.

COME WITH. YOU CAN RIDE WITH ME!

You can take action on federal legislation by signing up to be a Two-Minute Activist. I use this option very frequently, as it gives a brief background on pending legislation of importance to us as AAUW members and links us directly to our Members of Congress. You can sign up by clicking the button on the home page,

AAUW.org, or you can access it here: www.aauw.org/actionnetwork. When you go there, be sure to check the box for the Weekly Washington Update, which will keep you informed of the progress of action related to equity for women and girls, as well as educational issues that come before Congress. It’s easy! It literally takes only Two Minutes! And your activism does make a difference!

AAUW Voter Registration at Monmouth College



Candidate Martha Shugart *Joan Larsen*

Here's info about Martha Shugart, RN for state representative, 75th District. Martha has been a nurse for almost 3 decades, and several generations of her family live in the 75th district. She practices in the

Emergency Department, and has also worked in management roles as hospital supervisor. Martha served several years as an Alderman for the City of Morris, where she across the aisle to solve issues in the community. Martha also served as a Grundy County Deputy Coroner, and was honored to serve on the Illinois Child Death Review Team.

Martha is currently the charge nurse in the Cardiovascular Department at Morris Hospital. She has trained countless healthcare professionals, from paramedics to nurses. Martha notes, "I am driven to learn, empower, inspire, and influence those to make our lives better, healthier, and stronger." She is seeking to ensure that access to affordable education is available to future generations of Illinoisans. If elected, Martha Shugart would be the first nurse ever to serve in the Illinois State Legislature.

We need individuals to donate to her campaign, or get out and canvass if they live in the region. Her website is <http://www.shugart2016.com/>



Program Notes

Lila Blum, Program Co-Chair

First of all, I want to welcome Michelle Simmons who has agreed to serve as Co-Program Chair for our branch. Michelle will help us facilitate events at Monmouth College and assist with the promotion of AAUW-sponsored programs within the college community. We are pleased that she's joined "our team!"

Next I want to thank Kathy Lowe Arthur for graciously hosting our AAUW kickoff on August 29th. Her lovely house was the ideal setting for our first gathering of the year which was attended by seventeen members and three guests - a great turnout!

We will distribute our branch handbooks at the meeting on September 26th. Meanwhile, for those who didn't receive the program handout at the kickoff, I'll list the forthcoming programs and dates for September - December 2016. Please mark your calendar!

Monday, September 26 "What's It All About? What Monmouth College is Doing about Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, On and Off Campus," presentation by Stephanie Kincaid, Title IX Coordinator at Monmouth College at the Center for Science & Business, Room 273, Monmouth College, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 "Trends in Women's Health; Warren County Public Health Department," presentation by Jenna Link, Administrator, Warren County Public Health Department at the Warren County Health Dept., 240 South Main Street, Monmouth, IL at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5, 2016 "GEMS" Workshop (Girls in Excelling in Math and Science) at Warren County Public Library, 60 Public Square, Monmouth, IL, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Monday, November 21, 2016 "Political Compromise and Policy Change After the 2016 Election: the Incentives for and the Limits to All-or-Nothing Politics," presentation by Janna Deitz, Professor of Political Science, Western Illinois University at the Center for Science & Business, Room 273, Monmouth College at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 3, 2016 **Holiday Brunch** at Holt House, 402 East First Ave., Monmouth, IL., 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 **Talk & Book Signing for "Marry In Haste," Endurance Series** with author Susan Van Kirk at the Warren County Public Library, 60 Public Square, Monmouth, IL, 6:30 p.m.



Meeting Minutes

AAUW Meeting Aug. 29th, 2016

Vicki Gladfelter

The Kick-Off Meeting for the 2016-2017 was held at the home of Kathy Lowe-Arthur with 15 members and 3 guests in attendance. Jan DeYoung called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Lila Blum moved that Michelle Simmons be nominated for Co-director of the Programming Committee, seconded by Joni Larson. Motion passed.

Lila Blum also moved that we donate \$50 for the Best of Show award to be given at the Town and Country Art Show. Marilyn VanAusdall seconded. Motion passed.

Marilyn VanAusdall acknowledged that we had 4 of our 50 year members in attendance. They were: Joyce Hagemann, Lila Blum, Shirley Daddona, and Jan DeYoung.

A 10 year pin was awarded to Joni Larson and a 20 year pin was awarded to Carol Bowman.

Jan DeYoung asked for 3-4 volunteers for the September 14th voter registration to be held at Monmouth College from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Those who agreed to help were Alice Lawson, Sarah Hall, Lila Blum, and Donna Sproston.

Jan also asked for volunteers to help with the September 21st voter registration at Jamison Center from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm. Volunteers include Joni Larson, Marilyn VanAusdall, Alice Lawson, and Donna Sproston.

Training for both voter registration dates will be given by Tina Conard. Jan DeYoung will call to let the volunteer know when this training will be.

Announcements

Book group will meet at Jan DeYoung's house on Wednesday, Sept. 21st at 1:00 pm to discuss My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayer.

Film group will be watching *Suffragette*. Due to a conflict with the Sept. 26th speaker, a new date, time, and location of the film showing will be announced soon.

Sharon Gilbert announced that September 16th is the deadline for articles to be placed in the newsletter.

Jan DeYoung encouraged all members to attend the Monmouth College Cultural Festival on Saturday, September 10th from 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

Judy Diemer moved to adjourn, seconded by Joni Larson. Motion passed.

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.

Association Web site: 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

