

May 2019

Celebrating 95 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

Presidents' Report

Geneen Gillen and Alice Lawson, co-presidents

As we complete another successful year, we say Thank you to the entire membership for making it so. We registered voters, had a successful STEM program in partnership with Monmouth College. We had thought-provoking book club meetings and film group meetings, had members attend fall and spring state meetings, had phenomenal monthly meetings, and we have several new members. Who could ask for anything more?

We do want to single out our fabulous nominating committee, Chair Ruth Wright, Carol Bowman and Nancy Buban for presenting us a wonderful slate of officers for the coming two years: Our new president will be Mary Osborne, Our new secretary will be Rebecca Eaton, the vice president for programs will be Michelle Holschuh-Simmons, the vice president for membership will be Marilyn Van Ausdall and Kathy Lowe-Arthur, and our treasurer will be Judy Diemer.

Thank you for the support you have given Geneen and me. We couldn't have done it without each of you.

AAUW Potluck/Program May 20, 2019

Donna Sproston, facilitator

Join us on Monday, May 20th for our annual potluck. We will gather at 6 p.m. in the Faith Church social hall. Bring a dish to pass. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Let Donna Sproston know by May 19th if you plan to attend. sproston@grics.net or 563-6782

We will be electing officers for next year.

AAUW Funds

Donna Sproston

It has been a banner year for our contributions to AAUW. Thanks to all who bought Rada and Christmas brunch decorations, gave additional contributions directly to AAUW to the branch, or increased their annual dues with a gift. Our per capita giving was up and so was our total branch contribution. Look for this year's notecards in the mail, another way to enhance AAUW's efforts. Remember that non-designated contributions are put to use immediately.

Inside this issue

President's Report	page 1
May Program.....	page 1
AAUW Funds	page 1
Convention Report	page 2
Membership	page 3
Treasurer	page 3
Film Group.....	page 3
Book Group.....	page 3
Buchanan Center News.....	page 4
Susan Van Kirk.....	page 4
Mission Statement.....	page 4



2019 AAUW-Illinois Convention Report

Jan DeYoung

Our 2019 State Convention was one of the best I've ever attended. The turnout wasn't great, but the presenters were really outstanding.

First, the good news for Monmouth Area Branch: In addition to honoring our dedicated members, Shirley Daddona and Marilyn Van Ausdall for \$500 branch contributions, our branch was recognized for Per Capita giving, 8th in the state with \$78.89 per member, and Shirley Daddona was listed as a member of the Legacy Circle. Our branch also made the list of twelve branches which had maintained or increased total membership. Not a bad record for a small branch in western Illinois!

The keynote was given by our new CEO Kim Churches. What a dynamo! She took over an organization with serious financial challenges (did we know that?) and has made significant changes in all areas to get us back in black numbers, including taking a salary cut! Kim used a Power Point presentation available to all members online, but she added her own perspective and personality to the equation as she walked around the room connecting with members. Her biggest point was that M is for Mission! We've thought it was Membership, but Membership is necessary to drive the Mission. She also explained how important it is that we make our donations to the Greatest Need component of AAUW Funds. Too much of our money, as in the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, is tied up and unable to be used because it is designated for a single purpose. She announced that right now the organization does not have sufficient money to fund a research study. That is really sad, because our research is one of the main things that gives AAUW its national reputation. I hope that you will be able to hear Kim sometime in the next few years. And do check the presentation on our website, aauw.org.

The next highlight was Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, who is running for Congress in Illinois' 13th District. Betsy has lived in Springfield most of her life. Her campaign focuses on kitchen table issues such as affordable

healthcare, student debt, the effect of tariffs on farmers in the Midwest, and climate change. After winning her primary, Betsy lost by only 1% in the general election in 2018. She has the support of our own member of Congress, Cheri Bustos. Betsy gave a most impressive presentation.

In the afternoon, we were treated to a "thank you" presentation titled "I Am Worth More," given by LAF plaintiff Dr. Zoe Spencer, who took us on her journey fighting for equal pay and appropriate promotion at Virginia State University, a historically black university in Virginia. She is in the final stage of her suit and does not really expect to win at the Supreme Court level, but she is so grateful to AAUW for our support through LAF. Her poignant story about gender and racial discrimination made a big impact on the attendees and raised over \$2200 in contributions from about 80 attendees on the spot. I really hope she wins her case!

Jennie Purdue, our lobbyist, and our Public Policy co-chairs announced our Springfield Day, this Wednesday, May 15. I'd love to go! Let me know if you're interested.

Dr. Deanie Brown, an attorney and Title IX Coordinator at University of Illinois Springfield gave an outstanding presentation on the way UIS deals with Title IX, from education and prevention to dealing with complaints. It sounds as if that school has things well in hand with campus-wide training and hands-on follow-up on cases.

The final presentation was on "Media and Information Literacy," given by Dr. Natasha Casey from Blackburn College in Jacksonville. She prefers the tag "Information Pollution" to Fake News. In her Communications classes, she works to educate her students about how to analyze information in order to separate fact from fiction in an era in which information and the media are inseparable.

I wish you could all have heard these presentations. They were informative, inspirational, and energizing! And they remind me of the reasons I am proud to be a member of AAUW!

Membership

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Give a Grad a Gift

If you know someone graduating from college, you can give her (or him) a year of AAUW membership free (no cost to you, either.) Follow this link to learn more about this great gift and to easily fill out the gift form online:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>.

Membership Renewal 2019/2020

Everyone should have received an email on Friday (May 10) from memberinfo@aauw.org. Within the email, two choices are given: click on the link to renew online using a credit or debit card, or mail a check for \$78 to our branch treasurer, Judy Diemer, whose address is included in the email. SO EASY!

Why Be a Member of AAUW?

“AAUW is a community standing 170,000 strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.”

What We Do: <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/>.



Treasurer's Report

Judy Diemer

The checking account has been reconciled through April 30th showing a balance of \$1459.15.

Membership invoices for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 were sent via email on May 10th. As I mentioned last month, the renewal process is so much easier. You are to renew your membership through the invoiced email rather than going to the website. If you choose not to renew online the invoice contains instructions for mailing a check to me or you can give me your check at the May meeting.



Film Group

Nancy Buban

Closed for the season!



¡Adelante! Book Group

No report

Buchanan Center News

Kristyne Gilbert

Artist in Residence Open House

10:30am Saturday, June 1

The Buchanan Center for the Arts is pleased to launch our inaugural Artist in Residence Program. As part of our 30th anniversary celebration, the BCA is hosting an open house to introduce the artist to the community and share more about the projects and programs we have planned for the entire community this summer. Interested in being a part of the thriving cultural community in Monmouth? You can sign up at our open house to join the artist and the creative team of volunteers that will paint the mural on the BCA's south exterior wall as well as participate in a variety of art classes during the summer. This event is free and open to the public!

Call To Artists

Art from the HeARTland features artwork of all mediums from local and regional artists as part of the Buchanan Center for the Arts ongoing mission to offer creative and diverse artistic experiences. Entry fees: \$5 per work for BCA members and \$8 per work for non-members. Deadline for entry is 5pm Friday, June 21. Our 2019 juror, Janice Rockwell, will present awards at the opening reception 5-7pm Friday, July 12. The exhibition prospectus with a list of awards and guidelines may be found at bcaarts.org under the exhibits tab.

BCA SURVEY

As we continue to grow and serve the community, the Buchanan Center for the Arts board of directors and staff would like your feedback on how we are doing, ideas you may have for future programming and how we may better serve our community. Please complete the survey by clicking on the link below. The survey will take approximately five minutes. Your feedback is critical to meet the needs of our patrons, supporters, and community in our effort to enrich lives and promote enjoyment of the arts by offering opportunities for creative and diverse artistic experiences. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B38QFNR>

Susan Van Kirk's Latest Mystery

Susan Van Kirk

Susan Van Kirk's fifth mystery, *A Death at Tippitt Pond*, will be released from Encircle Publications on June 15, 2019. It's a cozy mystery--in paperback and e-book-- the first of a series that combines mystery, history, and a small Midwestern town. Three local events are on the calendar: June 17, 2019 from 4:30-6:00 at the Warren County Public Library (a brief reading and book-signing); June 28, 2019 from 11:00-2:00 at Security Savings Bank (book signing); and July 3, 6:30- 7:30 at the Galesburg Public Library (brief reading and book signing.) Her books can be found in Galesburg at the Civic Art Center on East Main Street, and in Monmouth at OSF Giftshop, the Buchanan Center for the Arts, and the history museum.



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/>

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