

February 2020

*Celebrating 95 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## Presidents' Report

*Mary Osborne, President*

### Happy New Year

"January was a tough year, but we made it!" That meme circulating social media contains some truth. Inclement weather forced us to cancel last month's program, but February is finally here. The days are starting to get a little longer, and Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you during our next program. Gayle Keiser's presentation on the 2020 census promises to be very informative.

I often consult prior censuses while doing research on the Stewart family and Monmouth. The census represents more than a simple population count. The last census provides information on a number of topics, including women in the workforce.

Did you know...?

- There are over 40 million women working full time in the US.
- The percentage of managers who are women is about 38%.
- The percentage of women-owned businesses was 35.9% in 2007.

Please join us at the Warren County Public Library on February 11 at 6:30 PM to learn about the significance of the 2020 census.



## AAUW February 11, 2020 Program

*Michelle Holschuh Simmons*  
*Warren County Public Library*  
*6:30 pm*  
**Census 2020**

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, at 6:30 pm at the Warren County Public Library, Gayle Keiser, Recruiting Assistant for the Census 2020, will be speaking about the upcoming census. Please come and learn about this important undertaking for our country!



### Inside this issue

President's Report.....	page 1
February Program.....	page 1
Public Policy.....	page 2
Treasurer's Report.....	page 2
Film Group.....	page 2
Book Group.....	page 3
Mission Statement.....	page 3

## Public Policy

*Jan DeYoung*

First, a big thank you to Donna Sproston for coordinating our winter voter registration session with Maggie Bruckner and the Associated Students of Monmouth College. Thanks, too, to Mary Osborn and Carol Scotten for stepping up to help! According to Donna, the cooperating teams registered 26 new voters, an excellent record, considering that the table was set up in the lower level of Stockton and not the prime location in front of the cafeteria. The volunteers were also able to answer a lot of questions regarding online registration, changing registration after graduating from college, and voting by mail. We look forward to cooperating again with ASMC for a final session in September, prior to the November General Election. Stay tuned for another opportunity to Get Out the Vote in 2020!

Second, another big thank you to Rebecca Eaton for posting a great article on the next step to getting ERA over the next hurdle: removing the irrelevant deadline. There is precedent for passing a constitutional amendment as long as 200 years after it was introduced. There are likely to be challenges in the court, so this story is not over yet, unfortunately. However, we are closer than we have ever been!

For those of you who missed the article, I highly recommend that you read it. The URL is [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/era-lawsuit-herring/2020/01/30/027eb956-42dc-11ea-aa6a-083d01b3ed18\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/era-lawsuit-herring/2020/01/30/027eb956-42dc-11ea-aa6a-083d01b3ed18_story.html)):

Another good article on finally passing ERA can be found on the NOW website: <https://now.org/now-and-the-equal-rights-amendment/>.

Third, now is a good time to think about implications of the gender gap in data collection. According to an article by Caroline Criado Perez in the February 3 issue of Time, the fact that women are not included in statistical studies affects our health and safety. For example, did you know that cars are 71% less safe for women because the crash dummies are based on a 50<sup>th</sup> percentile-weight man? Or that voice-recognition software is geared to a male voice, creating a 70% less

accurate recognition of a message from a woman than from a man? How about this one: medication is usually clinically tested on men, and therefore may not work on a woman who is having her period? The article contains many more examples of the way in which data collection not only discriminates against women, it often leads to products or processes which endanger women! With the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence, it is critically important that the data inputted into the algorithms be accurate and reflects more than just the “standard” male.

## Treasurer’s Report

*Judy Diemer*

Congratulations to everyone involved with the December Brunch fundraiser. We collected \$634 from the event plus received updated memberships. We now have 34 members in our Monmouth branch and the Wells Fargo checking account balance as of December 31st is \$2068.84.



## Film Group

*Nancy Buban*

Report coming later.





## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Donna Sproston*

Join us on Monday, February 24, at 3:30 p.m. at the home of Donna Sproston, 1376 200<sup>th</sup> Ave., Monmouth.

This month's selection is **The Great Alone**, by Kristin Hannah. Ernst Albright, suffering from PTSD from his POW experience in Nam, loses another job and decides to move his wife Cora and 13- year-old daughter Leni to the last wild frontier in Alaska. There is great hope on their arrival during the summer months, but as winter settles in, they are totally unprepared for the reality of a remote Alaskan winter with its loneliness, desolation, and Ernst's mental deterioration. The gripping tale is one of desperation, courage, and survival.

For those going to film group that evening, a pot of soup will be simmering.



**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](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)

