

## Presidents' Report

*Carolyn Weber*

### Please note!!!

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 6-7:00 pm (CST)**

Please don't pass up on your invitation to a **Zoom meeting "AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results"** featuring **Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy.**

The talk will focus on social justice priority issues and other priorities that go with or hinge on social justice.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZETf-yuqTwrHNXLgJev5-OXXtKlZJSUE1VI#/registration>

Sharon says:

This will be another opportunity to engage with AAUW leaders about the current political climate ramifications and challenges post-election.

Carolyn will have more in her December letter.

**DATE AND VENUE CHANGED FOR HOLIDAY POTLUCK BRUNCH – BRING A GUEST - TWO SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE THAT DAY!**

**Saturday, November 30, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Weeks House at Monmouth College Northeast Corner 9th & Broadway** Our Branch member **Anne Mamary** extended the invitation to this **Monmouth College** venue where she and the college chaplain are officed. There are two fine meeting rooms adjacent to the living room and updated kitchen. If it snows, **Anne** has graciously offered to remove the snow from the outside steps. Please bring **\$10 for the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. RADA cutlery items can be ordered that day.**

**RSVP to Carolyn**

**Weber joyfl66.weber@gmail.com by Monday, November 25 with the brunch item and number of guests you plan to bring.**

**I hope you all will attend!**



## Monmouth Area Branch of AAUW turns 100





*Photo of Mayor Rod Davies handing me Monmouth IL Area AAUW Branch Centennial Celebration Week Proclamation at the November 4 City Council Meeting*



**2025 AAUW-IL Convention | Save the date!**  
**NORTHFIELD INN, Suites & Conference Center**  
**April 25-26, 2025 in Springfield, IL**

It's official, we have a confirmed date and location!  
 Mark your calendar now so you can join members from across the state.

- Guest rooms will be \$129.00 plus tax (currently 14%), registration info coming soon
  - Interested in presenting, submit a proposal at <https://forms.gle/BZjcf96VbxQ5i5GN9>
  - Have a speaker you want to hear from, send us the name/info at [aauwilprograms@gmail.com](mailto:aauwilprograms@gmail.com)
- Kathy Battee-Freeman (Springfield) & Jo-An Takamoto-Sabonjian (Waukegan)  
 Co - Vice Presidents - Programs

*Proclamation*  
 American Association of University Women  
 Monmouth Area Branch  
 Centennial Celebration Week  
 November 4 - 9, 2024

**WHEREAS**, members of AAUW have worked through the years to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, and

**WHEREAS**, the Monmouth Area Branch of AAUW was founded by a group of educated women, among whom were Monmouth College faculty members, including the Dean of Women, who was also an instructor of Latin and English, and instructors of German and French, and

**WHEREAS**, the local AAUW Art Presenter program bringing monthly art programs to area classrooms, was founded by, and sponsored for 40 years, 1973-2013, by AAUW Monmouth Area Branch; after which it has continued as an integral and permanent part of the Buchanan Center for the Arts programming, and

**WHEREAS**, the AAUW Monmouth Area Branch sponsors the Best of Show Award at the Buchanan Center for the Arts in the annual Town and Country Show at Buchanan Center for student art submissions, and

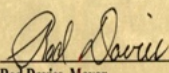
**WHEREAS**, the AAUW Monmouth Area Branch has sponsored through the years for Women's History Month in March the annual AAUW Women in History Essay (and sometimes Art) Contest for all Warren County Sixth graders to highlight the influence of extraordinary women, and

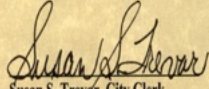
**WHEREAS**, the AAUW Monmouth Area Branch has through the years worked on projects to help build harassment-free hallways in schools, awarded scholarships, hosted candidate forums, worked with voter registration, and hosted workshops to help graduating college women negotiate their first salaries;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rod Davies**, Mayor of the City of Monmouth, do hereby proclaim November 4-9, 2024, **AAUW Monmouth Area Branch Centennial Celebration** week and urge all residents to join in commemorating this momentous occasion, celebrating a century of service, advocacy, and empowerment. Through continued collaboration with businesses, schools, Monmouth College and the City of Monmouth, may we continue to uphold AAUW's noble mission and work tirelessly towards a future where every woman and girl can thrive and reach her fullest potential.

Signed this 4th day of November, 2024

ATTESTED:

  
 Rod Davies, Mayor

  
 Susan S. Trevor, City Clerk

## The Proclamation!

## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

We'll be discussing Stacy Cordery's newest book ([Becoming Elizabeth Arden: the Woman Behind the Global Beauty Empire](#)) this Thursday the 21st at 10 am. The Zoom links are below!

Marilyn is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Book Group 1

Time: Nov 21, 2024 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76881574322?pwd=2gJCvqaA97zbtY1FqpdYaxUGELGxGW.1>

Meeting ID: 768 8157 4322

Passcode: 3NE4JG

Marilyn is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Book Group 2

Time: Nov 21, 2024 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77306925441?pwd=pPQ50WtTG9dr3y71ltwjky8LCMU0fK.1>

Meeting ID: 773 0692 5441

Passcode: k1uCZF



## Public Policy news

The veto session for the Illinois Legislature is scheduled to take place on November 12-14 and November 19-21. The veto session is usually held for six days in the fall and was designed to allow the General Assembly to take action on bills that the governor has vetoed.

In present times, the session is also used to address pending legislation. This past year there were no pieces of legislation that were vetoed by the governor so the legislature will be addressing only pending legislation.

Our lobbyist will meet with me and Ken after the session has ended to brief us on any actions that are relevant to our AAUW public policy priorities. The results of the recent election at the federal level and its impact on our state is sure to be weighing heavily on the minds of the legislators in the Illinois General Assembly.

Stay tuned for updates next month and use every opportunity available to contact your legislators and let them know you support AAUW values.

In Solidarity,  
*Karen Kortsch and Ken Olson*  
*Public Policy Co-Chairs*



## Meet New Member Dottie Halverson

Dorothy Anne Mingus Halverson goes by Dottie. Her Scottish-German ancestors arrived in New York state in 1709 and worked in the sawmills. They spelled their name Menges which they then Americanized into Mingus. She was “born and bred in the heart of the Buckeyes in Columbus, Ohio.” Ohio State is her favorite team. She graduated from Muskingum University in 1972 with a BA in English Literature and Secondary Education. Later she took two courses in English Education from Indiana University, South Bend.

When Dottie’s older son was a year and a half old, Dottie felt called into pastoral ministry at a mission celebration weekend sponsored by the Presbytery. When her sons were in grade school and junior high she embarked on theological training at Bethany Theological Seminary in Oakbrook IL from which she graduated with a Master’s of Divinity in 1992. This was a Church of the Brethren school which affiliated in 1994 with Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, IN which is Quaker. Her first call was to a church in LaPorte, IN.

She then served Presbyterian (PCUSA) churches in Kouts IN (near Valparaiso); Sugar Tree Grove Westminster Parish in the Monmouth IL area; Winfield-Cotter-Salem yoked PCUSA churches in the Winfield IA area. For thirteen years she also taught online for Ivy Tech Community College out of Gary IN.

Dottie retired in May 2020 and moved to Kenosha WI, closer to her son Mark and family at Greys Lake, IL. She worked as a hospice chaplain for her first few years there. Her hobbies are cooking, reading, and traveling, especially to her older son John and family in Frisco TX. Dottie has six grandchildren and her beloved Lucy Cupcake who is a Jack Russell terrier.

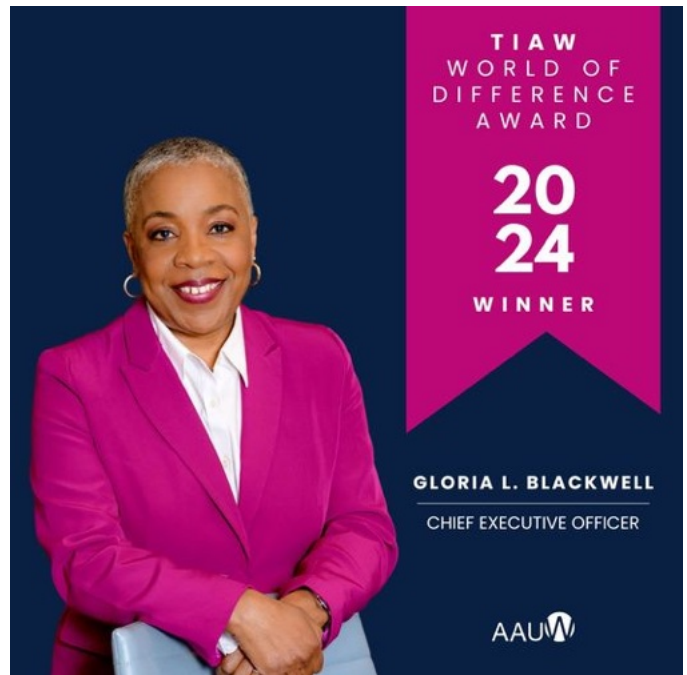


## “Empower women. Change the world.”

AAUW is thrilled to announce our CEO, Gloria L. Blackwell, is a 2024 TIAW World of Difference Award winner! The TIAW World of Difference Award recognizes those whose efforts have advanced the economic empowerment of women locally, regionally, or worldwide.

Under Gloria L. Blackwell's stewardship, AAUW remains a powerful force for gender equity, driving critical research, advocacy, and programs that create meaningful change. This award is a testament to her tireless dedication and the transformative impact AAUW is making on women across the U.S.

Thank you, [The International Alliance for Women \(TIAW\)](#). Please join us in celebrating this well-deserved honor for our CEO! #AAUWLeads #WomensEmpowerment



## “Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women’s Economic Security”

Report on November 19, 2024 Webinar: As the nation navigates a new political landscape, policy solutions to such pressing challenges as workplace equity, reproductive rights, affordable childcare and paid family leave were discussed by these expert panelists:

**Heather Marie Boushey**, Economist and 1997-98 AAUW American Fellow who is a member of President Biden’s Council of Economic Advisers and Chief Economist to the Investing in America Cabinet. Boushey is one of the nation’s most influential voices on economic policy and a leading economist who focuses on the intersection between economic inequality, growth, and public policy. She is co-founder of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, where she was President and CEO from 2013 - 2020. She previously served as chief economist for Secretary Clinton’s 2016 transition team and as an economist for the Center for American Progress, the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, the Center for Economic and Policy Research, and the Economic Policy Institute.

**Dr. Jamila K. Taylor**, President and CEO of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR), known for her leadership and expertise in maternal healthcare, reproductive justice, and structural barriers to healthcare access. IWPR works to shape policies that grow women’s power and influence, close inequality gaps, and improve the wellbeing of women and families.

**Gloria L. Blackwell**, CEO and main representative to the United Nations for the American Association of University Women. AAUW, a leader and innovator for gender equity for over 140 years, is a nonpartisan organization committed to advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. With over 170,000 members and supporters, 1,000 local branches and 800 college and university partners, AAUW is at the forefront of expanding women’s

economic, educational and political equity, access and opportunity. Learn more at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

## "To be continued in the December *Initiative*"



**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,  
[sharon711gilbert@comcast.net](mailto:sharon711gilbert@comcast.net)