

## **NEWSBRIEF**

**Volume 58, Number 5**  
**May/June 2015**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This is the last newsletter that will feature my piece as our branch president. I want to thank all of you for your commitment to the mission of AAUW. As I have tried to consistently convey, your membership matters. Your financial support furthers the work of AAUW and your participation, at whatever level, provides opportunities to engage with other members and to spread the word of who we are and what we do.

I will continue to serve as our branch newsletter editor, and invite you to share ideas on how to make the newsletter more relevant and interesting. In this issue, I will feature several recent events, including the Annual Meeting, the YWCA Women of Achievement Celebration, and the State Convention. We had several branch members participating in each, and each event offered opportunities to celebrate our efforts and recognize the contributions of members.

### **Garage Sale to benefit AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund**

Saturday, June 13, 8 am – 2pm'ish

2803 S. Myra Ridge Dr. in Urbana (home of member Nancy Dietrich)

In conjunction with the Myra Ridge/South Ridge/Deerfield Trails Neighborhood Sale

Thanks Nancy!





## TIME TO GIVE A GRAD A GIFT

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

AAUW members can give recent college graduates a free, one-year AAUW membership within two years of graduation, at no cost to you or them. **With a gift of AAUW membership, you will...**

- Expose the grad to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization of more than 170,000 who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls.
- Expand their networking opportunities.
- Keep them current on the events and people that affect their life
- Increase their buying power with access to member only discount.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held this year on April 14 at Pizza M in Urbana. We elected and installed the incoming officers who will serve for 2015-2017:

- Sharon Michalove , President
- Denise Taylor, Secretary
- Brenda Wilson and Helen Miron, Vice President for Programs

The program topic was Pay Equity and featured the podcast *On Point* with Tom Ashbrook. Thanks to the branch members who facilitated the discussion, Nancy Dietrich, Karen Retzer, and Brenda Wilson.

**GENDER PAY GAP** -- here are some points featured in the AAUW material (*The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap, 2015* and *AAUW Quick Facts, Gender Pay Gap*) that was made available at the Annual Meeting.

- 💰 The pay gap is real
- 💰 On average, females who work full-time earn about 78 cents for every dollar a full-time male worker earns
- 💰 The wage gap exists across all racial and ethnic groups, with the largest gap for Hispanic and Latina women

For more information that includes state level data and action tips, visit the AAUW website – [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) or <http://www.aauw.org/fairpay/>

## YWCA WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATION

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, several AAUW members attended the annual celebration event that recognizes “the achievements and contributions of exceptional individuals, organizations, and businesses in the greater Champaign-Urbana community who work to advance the mission of the YWCA.”

Two branch members received awards -

- Professor Brenda Wilson received the STEM Leadership Award, which “recognizes a woman who has contributed significantly to science, technology, engineering or mathematics”
- Naomi Jakobsson received the Trailblazer award, which “recognizes an individual whose efforts have been pioneering and continues to have an impact on her profession and/or the greater community”.

We celebrate the accomplishments of these two outstanding women!



Brenda Wilson



Naomi Jakobsson



AAUW Members in attendance



## **AAUW-IL 91<sup>st</sup> STATE CONVENTION** **May 1-2, 2015, Bloomington, Illinois** **Theme: “It’s a Jungle Out There”**

Several Champaign-Urbana Branch members attended and volunteered – Sallie Miller served as Registrar, Nancy Dietrich coordinated the preparation of conference packets, Nancy and Sallie staffed the registration table, with assistance from Karen Retzer, and Deborah Richie assisted conference Program Chair, Cindy Grau, with meeting/hotel logistics.

New board officers were elected – congratulations to Sallie Miller who begins her term as President-Elect. By-law changes were approved and a number of awards were made – Champaign-Urbana received the BEST Branch Award in recognition of excellence.

Participants viewed a new video “One AAUW- Working for All Women” and heard from speakers including Kristen Galles, Title IX attorney, and Dr. Kathryn Clancy from the University of Illinois, who had presented at the Champaign-Urbana 2014 Annual Meeting. Dr. Clancy spoke on her research “Sexual Harassment and Assault in Scientific Fieldwork Settings”, and Ms. Galles’ topic was “LAF- One Lifeline for Title IX Plaintiffs”. Breakout sessions featured these presentations:

- Illinois Legislative Update
- “Look Beneath the Surface” – trafficking and exploitation of children
- Women’s Success in STEM
- Leadership

**To view the video “One AAUW- Working for All Women ” go to <http://www.aauw.org/resource/one-aauw-video/>**



President Carol Heisler



Installation of officers, including Sallie Miller



Participants Nancy Dietrich, Deborah Richie, Sallie Miller and Karen Retzer

Here are comments from Champaign-Urbana branch members about their experiences at the meeting:

**Nancy Dietrich** – “The AAUW IL State Conference's focus on our mission reminded me why I belong to AAUW, especially in the following ways: AAUW National Director Pam Thiel's slideshow presentation highlighting all of the ways AAUW is making a difference for women: Legal Advocacy Fund, programs like ElectHer/Campus Women Win and Start Smart, research on women in STEM and the Pay Gap, AAUW's Two-Minute Activist & lobbying efforts, just to name a few.

Kate Clancy's remarks on agency and institution (learning skills to empower yourself vs. policies at the institutional level), and how we need to focus on both to empower women (which AAUW does!) really spoke to me, as well.

It was also fun to be there with fellow C-U Branch members Sallie, Deborah, & Karen and to be involved with some of the "behind the scenes" work with the registration table. Thank you to Karen & Phyllis for their help in putting the packets for the registration table together a few days before the convention!”

**Sallie Miller** – “Since I was the registrar for the convention, I received all the registrations in advance of the convention. I enjoyed sitting at registration desk with Nancy and meeting the attendees, so I could put a name with a face. I found the convention speakers good and it was especially enjoyable to hear Kate Clancy's presentation again.”

**Karen Retzer** – “In general, I found it very inspiring to be around so many strong and empowering women. It was very good to see how our branch in Champaign-Urbana fits into the larger statewide and national frameworks. I appreciated the work that Kristen Galles has done taking the University of California to task over Title IX.”



## 2015-16 Membership

This is the time of year when we collect the annual AAUW dues. Phyllis Cline, our Vice President for Finance, mailed dues renewal forms to every branch member showing the amount owed. The national office wants all dues submitted by the end of June. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please do so by June 30 if possible. Dues can be submitted later this summer if they cannot be paid earlier, but it helps to submit most of them within the official period.

In addition to a request for submission of membership dues, the annual mailing included a call for support of our local scholarship programs and the national Fellowship and Grants program and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). The branch awards local scholarships totaling \$3,000 per school year. You may include a local scholarship donation in your dues check if you do not need a tax-deduction. If you want your local scholarship donation to be tax-deductible, write a separate check payable to Parkland College Foundation, indicate which scholarship you are supporting (Southwood-van Es or Amy Kummerow), and include it in your envelope with the dues check. Phyllis submits these checks to the Parkland Foundation. There is not currently a way to provide a tax-deduction for donations in support of the UI scholarship.

You may donations to the national fellowship and grants program or LAF in your membership dues check and Phyllis will submit the donations to the national office, which will provide a tax-deduction. Indicate the amounts for the program(s) you are supporting.

Make checks payable to C-U AAUW and mail to: C-U AAUW, 104 E. Willard, Urbana, IL 61801-6660. If you have questions about the membership or scholarship/fellowship/grant support opportunities, contact Phyllis at 217-344-4806 or [plcline@comcast.net](mailto:plcline@comcast.net).

**Know someone new to the  
community or know someone  
who is a national member?**

**Invite and Encourage others  
to become Branch members**



## BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

Participation is welcome by members and non-members. Invite others to join us and introduce them to the variety of interests shared by the members of our branch.



**ADELANTE BOOK DISCUSSION** Meets the fourth Tuesday at 2:30 PM at 104 E. Willard, Urbana. Contact: Phyllis Cline 344-4806, [plcline@comcast.net](mailto:plcline@comcast.net).

Upcoming meetings and titles:

**June 23** - *Behind the Kitchen Door*, Sarumathi Jayaraman (2013). Restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America. Poor working conditions such as discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, unsanitary kitchens, and denial of sick leave, have a significantly negative effect on the well-being of restaurant workers and on the health and safety of the people who eat at restaurants. Jayaraman sets out a bold agenda to raise the living standards of the nation's second-largest private sector workforce—and to ensure that dining out is a positive experience on both sides of the kitchen door.

**July 28** - *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope*, William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer (2010). At age 14, in poverty and experiencing famine, a Malawian boy built a windmill to power his family's home. Using old science textbooks, scrap metal, tractor parts, bicycle halves, curiosity and determination, Kamkwamba embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption, a windmill that would supply electricity to his family's home and eventually beyond to his village. This is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change a community and improve lives.



**Drama Group** will resume meetings in the fall.



**Drinks and Dialogue** is a monthly discussion group (usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month) that meets 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Milo's in Urbana. Discussion focuses on a current event or topic specifically of relevance to women. Contact: Gail Tittle, [gatittle@gmail.com](mailto:gatittle@gmail.com)

Next meeting: June 9

Topic: News-Gazette op-ed piece written by an engineer, Shannon Lybarger, refuting an opinion piece in the NY Times, also written by an engineer who believes that the message attracting girls and women to engineering needs to be reframed so women see that engineers make a difference in society.

Facilitator: Nancy Dietrich

The News-Gazette piece – <http://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/guest-commentary/2015-05-17/sunday-extra-dont-sugarcoat-engineering-career-choice-young-wome>

The NY Times piece - <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/27/opinion/how-to-attract-female-engineers.html>



**GREAT DECISIONS** meetings will resume in September.



**Writers Group** meets at Windsor Court, 401 Burwash, Savoy, at 1:30 PM on the third Friday. Members are encouraged to present their writings and resources for writers are offered. Contact person is Barb Scott, 352-7364



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