

**Volume 60, Number 4
Summer 2017**

AAUW-IL State Convention “Building on a Legacy of Leadership” Recap

The 93rd State Convention was held May 5-6, 2017, at the I Hotel in Champaign. There were over 90 enthusiastic members in attendance, including 13 Champaign-Urbana branch members. The CU members attending were Nancy Dietrich, Pam Erickson, Jenny Harvey, Liz Jackson, Laura Keller, Ginger Lozar, Sharon Michalove, Karen Retzer, Deborah Richie, Margaret Stewart, Gail Tittle, Brenda Wilson, and Sallie Miller. Many thanks to Deborah Richie who organized the successful state convention. Several CU branch members assisted Deborah in facilitating the many tasks that were required. Pictured below are a few of the CU branch members who attended.



Pictured above are Sharon Michalove, Deborah Richie, Sallie Miller, Gail Tittle, Nancy Dietrich, and Brenda Wilson.

Friday at the convention featured a showing of *Equal Means Equal*, a riveting movie that is an "unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today." After dinner, we were treated to the story of Elizabeth Van Lew, southern belle and northern spy. The evening finished with the President's reception. Alicia Hetman opened the convention Saturday with an AAUW update and the news that in the last election, only a little over 11% of Illinois members voted. She challenged us to improve--do you really want 11% deciding the future of AAUW?

The business meeting was held and the following officers were elected: Jennifer Urish, President-Elect; Lisa Cherry, VP Membership; and Sally Vogl, Secretary



Deborah Richie at the registration table.

In her keynote address, Amanda Simpson told her compelling story and encouraged us to live an authentic life. After lunch, Carol Heisler was named the Agent of Change.

The breakout sessions were Elect Her/Running Start--a panel discussion of political leaders; Title IX presented by Alicia Hetman, Vice Chair, AAUW Board; and Equity and Diversity: Leading for a Culture of Inclusiveness by Dr. Assata Zerai, University of Illinois Associate Chancellor for Diversity. All were well attended and well received. There were also sales tables, branch displays featuring programs made possible by LEG-Up grants, a quilt raffle, and a silent auction to raise money for the Gender Equity Fund! A busy weekend full of information.

--Submitted by Sallie Miller

AAUW dues renewal

It's that time of year again—time to renew your dues for the Champaign-Urbana branch of AAUW. If you have already renewed, **thank you** for your continued support for AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women & girls!

If you have not renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible. Hopefully you have received renewal notices via email with the address line of membershipinfo@aauw.org, giving you the opportunity to click the button in the body of the email to renew your membership online with a credit card. **I strongly encourage you to renew this way in order to save time and postage.** It's very easy. If you need me to email that notice to you again, I would be happy to do so. Just email me at nancydietrich01@gmail.com. However, if you prefer, you can still renew your membership dues by making a check out to C-U AAUW and mailing it to **Nancy Dietrich, 2803 S. Myra Ridge Dr., Urbana, IL 61802**, along with any address, email, or phone # changes. For most of you, the amount will be \$70. Information about making additional donations is below.

Donations to local scholarships: Local scholarships are not tax deductible if made payable to the branch because branches are 501(c)(4) organizations. To receive a tax deduction for a local scholarship donation, write a separate check made payable to Parkland College Foundation and in the Memo section specify the scholarship you are supporting—Southwood-van Es, Amy Kummerow, or Phyllis Cline and include that check with your dues renewal in the enclosed envelope. Donations to our new NCCWSL scholarship, which will allow a young woman to attend AAUW's National Conference for Women Student Leaders, are not tax-deductible. Make the check out to C-U AAUW for that scholarship.

Donations to the national office's Fellowships & Grants, and Legal Advocacy Fund, are also tax deductible. Please write a separate check, made out to AAUW, and in the memo line state which fund it is for. The branch will then submit your donations and you will receive an official acknowledgment letter from the national office.

Tax deduction: Most of the national programs are classified as 501(c)(3) for tax purposes. \$46 of the \$49 national dues is tax deductible. The remaining \$3 of national dues is for the 501(c)(4) lobbying section and is not tax-deductible. State and branch dues are not tax-deductible. Please let me know if you need any further information. My email address is nancydietrich01@gmail.com and my phone number is 217-337-0334.

--Submitted by Nancy A. Dietrich, C-U AAUW Vice President for Finance (through 6/30/17)

RECENT HAPPENINGS

C-U AAUW members at the Women's March on Springfield. Pam Erickson, Esther Patt, and Nancy Dietrich (C-U AAUW members) along with Pam's friend Margie and Nancy's mom, Donna Dietrich (friends of C-U AAUW) had a great day Tuesday, April 25th at the Women's March on Springfield. We met up with others from the Springfield AAUW branch and participated in a rally & march around the capital building with approximately 1,500 other women and allies supporting a women's and progressive agenda. Speakers included various legislators and activists, including Rep. Carol Ammons and Rev. Jesse Jackson. We then took our signed postcards supporting various legislation affecting women to our Representatives' & Senators' offices.



HB40, which passed, was being debated as we rallied outside. And, Senator Scott Bennett signed on as a co-sponsor to SJRCA4, which would ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. Our voices are being heard in Springfield! Thank you to Julie Laut, Esther Patt, and Laura Keller who signed postcards to be taken to the march or mailed in. The weather couldn't have been better and it was a fun and rewarding experience.

--Submitted by Nancy Dietrich

For your Calendar!

Please join us for dinner on **Wednesday, July 19, 5:00 PM** July's Social at Pizza M, 208 W. Main St., downtown Urbana, 5:00 PM



Branch Interest Groups

We have four active interest groups. All members and soon-to-be members are welcome!

Drinks & Dialogue: We continue to gather for lively discussions of topics relevant to AAUW women on 2nd Tuesdays of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Milo's Restaurant, 2870 Philo Road, Urbana. All are welcome! Contact Gail Tittle at gatittle@gmail.com or 217-377-9539 for further information.

Drama Group will not meet during the summer. The next meeting will take place in September. For further information, members can contact Cesaria Lancaster at 217-384-7798, 217-493-9600 or fwclancaster@yahoo.com) or Betty Cook at 815-383-1817.

Great Decisions will not meet during the summer. The next meeting will take place in September. Please contact Jenny Harvey for more information: 217-344-5335 or jennygharvey@yahoo.com

Adelante Book Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Satterthwaite Conference Room on the lower level of the Urbana Free Library **from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** The books for July and August are below. All members are welcome; we hope you will join us! Feel free to bring book-loving friends who may be prospective members. Books are available at the Champaign and Urbana libraries. Questions? Contact Laura Keller or Sallie Miller.

- July 19: **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins
- August 16: **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** by Bryan Stevenson

Be an Activist

House Bill 40 has passed out of the IL Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Please send him a message urging him to sign this bill to ensure that Illinois allows full access to reproductive health care.

Address: Office of the Governor, 207 State House, Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

Please sign House Bill 40, which repeals a provision in Illinois law that would make all abortions illegal immediately upon a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that modifies or overturns the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. House Bill 40 also removes from law discriminatory provisions that prohibit abortion coverage under Medicaid and prohibit coverage under the state employee health insurance plans with no exceptions for victims of sexual assault who become pregnant as a result of the attack.

House Bill 40 is common sense policy that supports each woman's personal health care decisions. You ran as a pro-choice candidate. Please follow through on that and sign House Bill 40. Thank you.

Meet our Newest Member: Assata Zerai

Assata Zerai is the Associate Chancellor for Diversity and Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois. As Associate Chancellor, Zerai serves as the Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. Within this portfolio, diversity and inclusion programming and educational opportunities provided to faculty, staff, and students at the University of Illinois is inclusive of the intersectionality of race/ethnicity, class, gender, national origin and/or immigrant status, disability status, sexuality and gender identity, and religion. In 2016-17 Zerai coordinated and carried out a comprehensive self-study and external review of the entire diversity and inclusion portfolio centrally managed at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. She is currently writing a diversity action plan on the basis of the reviewers' recommendations.

At Illinois since 2002, Zerai's research interests have included maternal and child health, health activism, safe water and sanitation, as well as diversity and LGBTQI inclusiveness in U.S. Protestant congregations, and making the work of marginalized scholars more accessible. Dr. Zerai's recent books include: *Intersectionality in Intentional Communities: The Struggle for Inclusivity* (2016); *Hypermasculinity and State Violence in Zimbabwe* (2014). She has also authored *Dehumanizing Discourse, Law and Policy in America* (with Rae Banks, 2002); and, *Safe Water, Sanitation and Early Childhood Malnutrition in East Africa* (forthcoming). She is currently completing her fifth book manuscript, *African Women and the Challenge of Gendered Digital Divides to People-Centered Governance*. In Spring 2015, while Associate Dean in the Graduate College, Zerai began service as co-PI on a \$1M award from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to increase numbers of graduate students underrepresented in STEM. And 2015-16, Zerai served as co-PI

on a US State Department award to offer a Young African Leaders Public Management Institute to Mandela Washington Fellows at the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois.

Assata has two children, a rising sophomore in the College of Media at the University of Illinois, and a rising senior in highschool who will pursue a major in computer science or information sciences . She loves bicycling and hiking in on our many opulant central Illinois trails. Assata joined AAUW because she wants to be a part of the conversations to bolster women's participation in educational settings. She says, "Women hold up half the sky, and they are entitled to equitable benefit from the assets of academia."

--submitted by Laura Keller



Branch Leadership (through June 30, 2017)

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