



Elmhurst Area Branch News

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February 10th Program: Book / Issue Discussion

The book [Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay & Fairness at Goodyear & Beyond](#) by Lilly Ledbetter will be discussed at the next Branch meeting.

Lilly Ledbetter was an overnight supervisor at the Alabama Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. for 19 years. She was the plaintiff in the American employment discrimination case *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* and inspired the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act.

"Compelling...This story of a lifelong struggle for fairness deserves to be widely read not only as a document of a case so stunningly unjust that it sparked legislative change, but also as an introduction to a remarkable woman who also happens to be an outstanding storyteller," Ms. Magazine.

Come to the Elmhurst Library at 7:00 pm to join in the discussion of the issues in her story, as well as those in our culture and economy, that are impacting gender pay equity.

Returning Student Scholarship

We, the members of our branch, know how difficult it is for a woman, age 25 or older, to finance her goal of pursuing an education at the undergraduate or graduate level. Our offer of a \$2,500 scholarship will help such a woman pursue this dream.

Please encourage qualified candidates to complete the application form which can be found online at aauwelmhurst.org by the deadline. The deadline for filing is April 1, 2016.

State Conference Slated for Schaumburg

The AAUW-Illinois State Convention will be held April 29-30, 2016 at Roosevelt University in Schaumburg.

A presentation by Legal Advocacy Plaintiff Susan Burhans promises to be riveting. Burhans filed suit against Yale University after being fired after years of helping survivors of sexual assault and alerting administrators of Title IX violations at the university. You may remember a similar speaker who spoke to our Branch about a suit she filed after being sexually assaulted in the military several years ago.

Contact Jan Summers if you are interested in attending.



BRANCH CALENDAR

Board of Directors

No meeting in February

February 1 - 1:00 pm

Noontime Potpourri

Cafe Amano - 116 Schiller

February 10 - 7:00 pm

AAUW Meeting

"Grace and Grit" Book Discussion

Elmhurst Public Library

February 24 - 7:30 pm

Half the Sky Group

Perry Doubt's Home

February 25 - 1:00 pm

Book Discussion Group

"No Time Like the Present"

by Nadine Gordimer

Hostess: Jan Hodge

Leader: Mary Hallman



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289
Email: info@aauwelmhurst.org

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

Membership

The American Association of University Women is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution.

AAUW FUNDS

The AAUW Funds support educational fellowships and grants, legal advocacy, public policy, leadership programs and research reports.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2015-January 2016

Denise Thompson
Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund:	\$ 5,686.84
Conferences Fund	2,065.44
General Fund:	<u>3,212.67</u>
Total	\$10,964.95

AAUW Speaks on Troublesome Campus Sexual Assault Data at the National Press Club

“When campus environments are hostile because of sexual harassment and violence, students can’t learn. It’s that simple and it’s that devastating. Schools have an important and necessary role to play in addressing this epidemic,” said Lisa Maatz, AAUW VP of Government Relations. On January 14, 2016, Ms Maatz, along with Anne Hedgepath, AAUW government relations manager, addressed the National Press Club’s Newsmaker Conference on the subject of campus sexual assault policy trends.

As stated on c-span.org, “American Association of University Women (AAUW) representatives outlined the findings of a study on campus sexual assault. According to the report and analysis of data, more than 50 percent of college campuses in 2014 reported they had zero sexual assaults. The group said this statistic alone raises red flags on the need to address this prevalent issue that affects young women and men alike.”

To view c-span’s video of this address, please go to:

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?403207-1/discussion-campus-sexual-assaults>

Do Your Part to Keep Our Branch Strong

We need you! This spring we will again be electing officers to serve on our Branch Board of Directors. There are four positions open this year: Program Vice President (one of two), Recording Secretary, Director of Publicity/Communications and Director of AAUW Funds. Each of these positions is vital to the Branch.

The Program Vice Presidents work with the rest of the Board to identify and plan mission based programs that will inform and inspire us as AAUW members and build community within the Branch.

The Recording Secretary takes notes and maintains our records of all Board and Branch business meetings.

The Director of Publicity/Communications works to make the community aware of our Branch and its activities, especially the annual Used Book Sale, by sending articles and photos to local media outlets, including websites.

Finally, the Director of AAUW Funds chairs the committee that recommends how our Book Sale profits should be donated and coordinates the awarding of any scholarships offered by the Branch. All elected officers serve on the Board of Directors and join in making strategic plans and conducting the business of the Branch.

If you would like to volunteer to run for one of these positions, please contact Sarah Caltvedt, Chair of the Nominating Committee, or committee members Jan Summers and Carolyn Heiney. And if you get a call from one of us, please say yes!

Are You on Facebook?

Our Branch is! If you haven’t already, search on Facebook for AAUW-Elmhurst Area Branch and “like” our page. If you’re not a Facebook user yet, check it out at www.facebook.com/AAUWElmhurstIL. Following our Facebook page is a great way to keep up to date not only on Branch activities, but also other issues and events of interest to AAUW members. Better yet, post some links or add some comments yourself. Let’s get a conversation going!

Reflecting on AAUW Accomplishments in 2015

Reprinted from AAUW Action Network's Year-End Report

As we dive into 2016, it's important to take stock of AAUW's policy achievements in 2015, and to thank AAUW Action Network members like you for your extraordinary efforts to advance our shared mission. Your advocacy has helped AAUW influence public policy at the national, state, and local level. Your support has also ensured we could implement successful and exciting policy programs and campaigns throughout the last year.

Thanks to the work and generosity of you and all our members and supporters, we can be proud of some impressive AAUW advocacy achievements in 2015. Here are just a few:

- Over **250,000 emails** were sent by Action Network members to their legislators, both statewide and nationally. Each Thursday, when the AAUW Action Fund's Lobby Corps hits Capitol Hill, they are able to show members of Congress how many of their constituents are AAUW activists. Our Action Network was a critical force in furthering our public policy priorities in the states and in Congress in 2015!

- AAUW Action Fund **Capitol Hill Lobby Corps** made over 1,300 visits to senators and members of Congress on issues important to women and families.

- New Title IX coordinator materials** were released this year! After several years of advocating, AAUW realized a huge victory when the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights published the first-ever official tools for Title IX coordinators. These free resources, including a guidance letter and manual, reinforce the authority of Title IX coordinators and supports their work. AAUW was specifically mentioned in press, from *Politico* to *Huffington Post* and *Inside Higher Ed*.

- AAUW leaders Bets Brown

(ME), Christine Siebeneck (OH), Corinne Anderson (MS), Denny McGuire (NC), Mary Modder (WI), Deborah Karvey (GA), Katherine Burgess (CO), and Sharon Bigot (MN) were a key part of our coalition lobbying efforts when they came to Capitol Hill to advocate for critical civil rights protections in federal **K-12 education laws**. The bill that was signed into law included several of these important civil rights and gender equity provisions.

- The House Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing on **Campus Sexual Assault**. AAUW's Lisa Maatz was invited to testify at the House Education and Workforce Higher Education Subcommittee Hearing on "Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses."

- After advocacy by AAUW and other groups, the U.S. Department of Justice released much needed **guidance on identifying and preventing gender bias in law enforcement's** response to sexual assault and domestic violence. The gender bias present in policing results in decreased protection, less robust services, and a diminished response – especially for women of color. The new guidance provides tools and resources for law enforcement while recognizing and addressing biases, assumptions, and stereotypes.

- AAUW released the Fall 2015 edition of **The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap**, complete with new information and tools about AAUW's expanded state policy efforts.

- AAUW released **Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's' Success in Engineering and Computing**, with additional recommendations for state and federal policy makers to increase women's participation in STEM fields. AAUW hosted a packed briefing at Google,

as well as a Capitol Hill briefing, to share the policy recommendations of *Solving the Equation*.

- President Barack Obama's **paid leave executive order** includes many AAUW priorities, and is the result of years of persistent member advocacy. The **president announced his support for many AAUW endorsed policies** including 1) Healthy Families Act, which would allow millions of working Americans to earn up to seven days a year of paid sick time; 2) a budget plan to help states create paid leave programs; 3) a presidential memorandum that will ensure federal employees have access to at least six weeks of paid sick leave when a new child arrives, and proposes that Congress offer six weeks of paid administrative leave as well. AAUW's statement was included on the White House Blog reacting to Obama's proposal for paid sick leave!

- The U.S. Department of Labor issued final **rules prohibiting federal contractors from retaliating against employees** who ask about or share salary information. AAUW led the fight to secure this executive order, and AAUW members from all 50 states submitted over 1,000 comments in support of this rule to the U.S. Department of Labor. This important rule will protect almost 28 million people working for federal contractors.

- It took years of hard work and dedication to pass the **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013**. The law's campus safety provisions – sometimes called Campus SaVE or the VAWA Amendments to the Clery Act – are now supported by **final regulations** that require colleges and universities to take new and better steps to end sexual violence. Now the rubber meets the road: These critical new rules from the U.S. Department of Education went into effect on July 1. (*cont'd on next page*)

AAUW Year-End Review

(continued from previous page)

AAUW's annual **Title IX anniversary event on Capitol Hill** exceeded expectations with over 200 attendees! It was a bi-partisan event attended by 45 congressional and committee offices, 25 advocacy and civil rights organizations, and AAUW members. Lobby Corps members were lauded as "AAUW Title IX Champions."

We were very pleased to hear the president urge Congress to support reforms that will provide concrete economic benefits to women and their families — working toward equal pay, expanding care tax credits, establishing paid sick days and paid family leave, making college more accessible and affordable, improving retirement savings, raising the minimum wage, and making investments in education.

AAUW Tech Savvy Conference

Oakton Community College
April 16, 2016
8.30 am – 3.30 pm

AAUW Tech Savvy is a one-day career conference designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Online registration is required and will begin in late February 2016. Cost is \$10 per person (girls and adults) and includes lunch.

For additional information go to:
<http://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/tech-savvy/>

Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Contact Gloria Liu at glorial@oakton.edu.



President's Message

Our January program, viewing and discussing the documentary Girl Rising, was a great kickoff for the new year, reminding us of the gender equity issues facing girls around the world. Although the focus of the movie was international, the issues are global, impacting us as well: access to education, freedom from violence, civil rights in marriage and reproduction – and the courage required to overcome the obstacles. If you were unable to attend, the attendees recommend you see the movie, which you can do by borrowing the DVD from the library.

Also in January, our book club discussed Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. While the book's focus is race and immigration, there are certainly feminist themes. And if you're looking for a quick read or viewing, the same author has a TED talk and a published essay summary, entitled We Should All Be Feminists. I'm carrying this booklet with me right now, and quoting from it, as I believe it's a twenty-first century rallying cry for gender equity.

In February we'll tackle the issue of pay equity, which is still a challenge in this country despite recent laws. We'll be discussing the book Grace and Grit by Lilly Ledbetter, including the reasons our culture and economy are not truly supportive of gender equity in pay. So get your copy of the book and read it, or just come to discuss these issues.

I personally love these discussions that get my idealism revitalized. Of course, not every program or every book we discuss is strictly focused on our mission. But much of it does, and even when the program is informative or just social, it's with a group of intelligent women who care about our common issues. That's why I love the AAUW community.

So put our programs and events on your calendar; and invite a like-minded friend. And if you have an idea for a program in the future, please advise me or one of our Program VPs. We're working to strengthen our community, with programs which interest our members, both socially and mission-based on the issues impacting gender equity.

Let's enjoy ourselves and make a difference for women and girls in 2016!

Jan Summers
Branch President