



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 84, No. 6 • December 2022

Branch Meeting

Annual Holiday Party

***Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 pm
Tsue Ostermann's Home***

Gather and celebrate the season.

Members with last names A-L bring an appetizer; members M-Z bring a dessert.

A \$10 fee collected that evening covers beverages and incidentals.

Parking is available across York Street at Cityview Community Church. Park in the driveway if walking is difficult

Reservations: Call or text
Susan Boyd 630-563-5319



December 2022

Branch Meeting & Holiday Party

December 7 - 6:30 pm
Home of Tsue Ostermann

Half the Sky

No meeting in December

Board of Directors

No meeting in December

Book Discussion Group

January 23, 2023.

The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts and Harrimans: A story of Love and War by Catherine Grace Katz
Discussion leader: Peggy Fox
Hostess: Marcia Goltermann



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

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Vision

Equity for all.

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.

ELMHURST AREA BRANCH

NEWS is published ten times a year (August/September through May) by the American Association of University Women - Elmhurst Area Branch.

FINANCIAL REPORT

October 31, 2022

Jennifer Jordan

Director of Finance

Fundraiser Fund	\$22,012.53
Conferences Fund	2,611.75
General Fund:	<u>8,754.34</u>
Total	\$33,378.62

The ERA:Where Are We Now?

By AJ Conroy, ERA Illinois

At the start of 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Notice of Virginia’s ratification was promptly sent to the National Archivist for certification. This ministerial task comes from a federal statute. It’s merely record-keeping. If you want to keep track of documents, ask a librarian. This routine process was used without fuss by Nevada, Illinois, and all the states that ratified the belated “Madison Amendment” in the 1990s.

But this routine, ministerial task is newly controversial. Just before Virginia’s ratification put the Equal Rights Amendment over the Article V threshold, Alabama, South Dakota and Louisiana filed a lawsuit to prevent the Archivist from doing his job and declaring our new amendment. The Archivist deferred to advice by the Department of Justice, and announced that he would not certify the 28th Amendment without a court order– a reversal from past custom (see 27th Amendment) and the Archivist’s prior public statements.

In response, Illinois, Nevada and Virginia filed a separate lawsuit to compel the Archivist to certify Virginia’s ratification and declare the Equal Rights Amendment as added to the US Constitution. Again, this is a clerical task assigned to the Archivist by Congress, not an extra hurdle in the ratification process.

Alabama, South Dakota and Louisiana, along with Tennessee and Nebraska, asked to join or “intervene” in the Illinois et al. lawsuit. The Illinois lawsuit was dismissed by the lower federal court for lack of standing. The district court reasoned that there was no injury to the states. The matter is currently on appeal to the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. AAUW-Illinois joined others in filing an amicus brief in support of our Attorney General Raoul. Oral arguments were heard in September 2022. All parties wait for a decision.

In the interim, the Archivist retired. There is both an acting Archivist (Debra Steidel Wall) and a nominated Archivist, Colleen Shogan. During Dr. Shogan’s confirmation hearing, the Biden appointee declared she would not publish the ERA. Her appointment is stalled by a deadlocked committee. Also in the interim, a lawsuit was filed by the group Equal Means Equal (filmmakers) and others. This suit and its appeals were eventually dismissed for lack of standing.

Complementing the litigation strategy is a concurrent legislative strategy to have Congress remove its artificial deadline. Good news! In March of 2021, the House of Representatives passed a resolution removing the Congressional ratification deadline. The Senate version (SJRes 1) has 51 sponsors. Despite having a simple majority, the measure is stuck with the filibuster. Undaunted, the House introduced HRes891 this year, a resolution which affirms the 28th Amendment is ratified, similar to a resolution passed after the 27th’s belated ratification. HRes891 needs only a simple majority in the House to pass.

The third strategy is pressuring the Biden-Harris Administration to fulfill its campaign promise to support the Equal Rights Amendment. Congress designated the Archivist to count and certify ratifications, but the Archivist deferred to the U.S. Department of Justice. Advocates hoped that the Biden Administration would revise this Trump Administration position. Instead, the Department of Justice continues to oppose the Equal Rights Amendment in court. As head of the Executive Branch, President Biden has made two statements

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Speak Up for Illinois Legislation

The Illinois General Assembly (ILGA) is likely to take up the following four issues in the Veto or Lame Duck sessions before the 103rd General Assembly starts on January 11, 2023. These are opportunities to contact your Illinois legislators to let them know what you want. (Locate your newly elected officials at <https://www.elections.il.gov>.)

1. Vote Centers allow any voter within that jurisdiction to vote regardless of their assigned polling location. This avoids confusion for voters in areas where polling locations are different from election to election. Vote Centers may be addressed in the ILGA Veto session Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, 2022. Tell your legislators you want to make the Vote Center requirement of permanent part of Illinois election law.

2. The Pretrial Fairness Act is part of the SAFE-T Act that was signed into law in Feb. 2021. One element of this act is the elimination of cash bail. Access to wealth should not affect your ability to remain free before your trial. Cash bail undermines family and community structure and does not increase the likelihood of people showing up for their court hearings.

Lengthy laws like the 700-page SAFE-T Act are often clarified with additional “trailer bills”. Tell your legislators to oppose trailer bill SB4228 because it has provisions that will undermine the essential features of the Pretrial Fairness Act. Instead, tell your legislators to pass a trailer bill that will 1) maintain the essential features of the Pretrial Fairness Act; 2) retain presumption of release unless the accused can be shown to be a flight risk or danger to the community; and 3) ensure that people currently jailed for the inability to post cash bonds could request a hearing to evaluate their eligibility for release. This issue may be addressed in the ILGA Veto session Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, 2022.

3 Illinois has some of the most robust protections for abortion care in the country. However, the anticipated influx of care-seekers from neighboring states will push Illinois providers beyond their capacity. Illinois lawmakers are looking for ways to expand licensing provisions as a way to increase service capacity (allowing physicians assistants and other providers to be licensed). They are also expected to propose legislation to strengthen licensing protections against claims from other states and strengthen extradition and privacy protections from care-seekers.

Legislation will likely be proposed during the Lame Duck Session that meets before January 11, 2023. Tell your legislators that you want reproductive healthcare protections in place for Illinois providers and patients.

4. Immediate action to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines is the number one priority of the gun violence prevention movement right now. Gun violence organizations (more than 200 in Illinois) have come together in a coordinated campaign (Halt the Assault) to advocate for a statewide assault weapons ban. It is expected that legislation will be brought to the floor during the Lame Duck Session (before January 11, 2023), when a simple majority is needed to pass legislation. Tell your legislators you want assault weapons banned in Illinois.

Source of all information presented above: League of Women Voters of Illinois

Jane Jegerski, Public Policy

A Word of Thanks from Carolyn Heiney

Some of you know that our President Moira Murray nominated me for a 2022 City of Elmhurst Outstanding Senior Citizenship award for my work on our annual used book sale. When I was contacted about the award, I was very surprised, because I think of the book sale as a branch effort that relies on the wonderful work of many to make it successful.

I was hoping that I would have the opportunity to say just that at the awards program, but we weren't given a chance to speak, so to all of you who sort books, carry boxes and bags, touch moldy, smelly books, work on publicity, deliver boxes and then cut them down, set-up and move tables, walk several miles each day around those tables, and search and find possible treasures, I say thank you! The way I see it is YOU, our Elmhurst Area AAUW book sale volunteers, who just won an award. Thank you!!!

Carolyn Heiney accepting Outstanding Senior Citizenship Award. Congratulations!



ERA (continued from page 2)

supporting the Equal Rights Amendment and pointing to Congress as the responsible entity for its delay. The Archivist is a presidential appointee, as is the Attorney General.

What happens next? There are several possibilities. Like so many things in recent history, nothing like this 1 USC 106b. There would still be lawsuits, but the posture of those lawsuits would change for the better. A second possibility is for the Senate to reform the filibuster for Congress to officially remove the time limit, after which the Archivist would publish. A third path is for the Court of Appeals to reverse the District Court, after which the Archivist would publish. Regardless, there will be litigation. Fear of lawsuits should not hinder progress. Certification by the Archivist is similar to publishing a new statute in that it provides notice. The ERA is ratified, but without publication, it is difficult for attorneys to use it in court. Think of an unrecorded deed. It transfers property, but without public notice, it can be hard to enforce.

What to do during this purgatory? ERA advocates should both call on the White House to publish, and on Congress to affirm the 28th Amendment (SJR1/HR891). Either way, we know that all the requirements of Article V have been met. Never before has an amendment been ratified by three-fourths of the states and not been eventually recognized as part of our US Constitution. This current uncertainty existed during Reconstruction, and after the suffrage amendment.

Our grandchildren will look back at this period and wonder how anyone doubted the ERA was not part of the US Constitution.

Stay up-to-date by following Facebook pages for ERA Coalition, VoteEqualityUS and ERA Illinois (@ERAillinois).

DO ONE THING

Call your state representative about HJRes94. Ask that they co-sponsor this resolution affirming the 28th Amendment. A quick link for their number:openstates.org

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