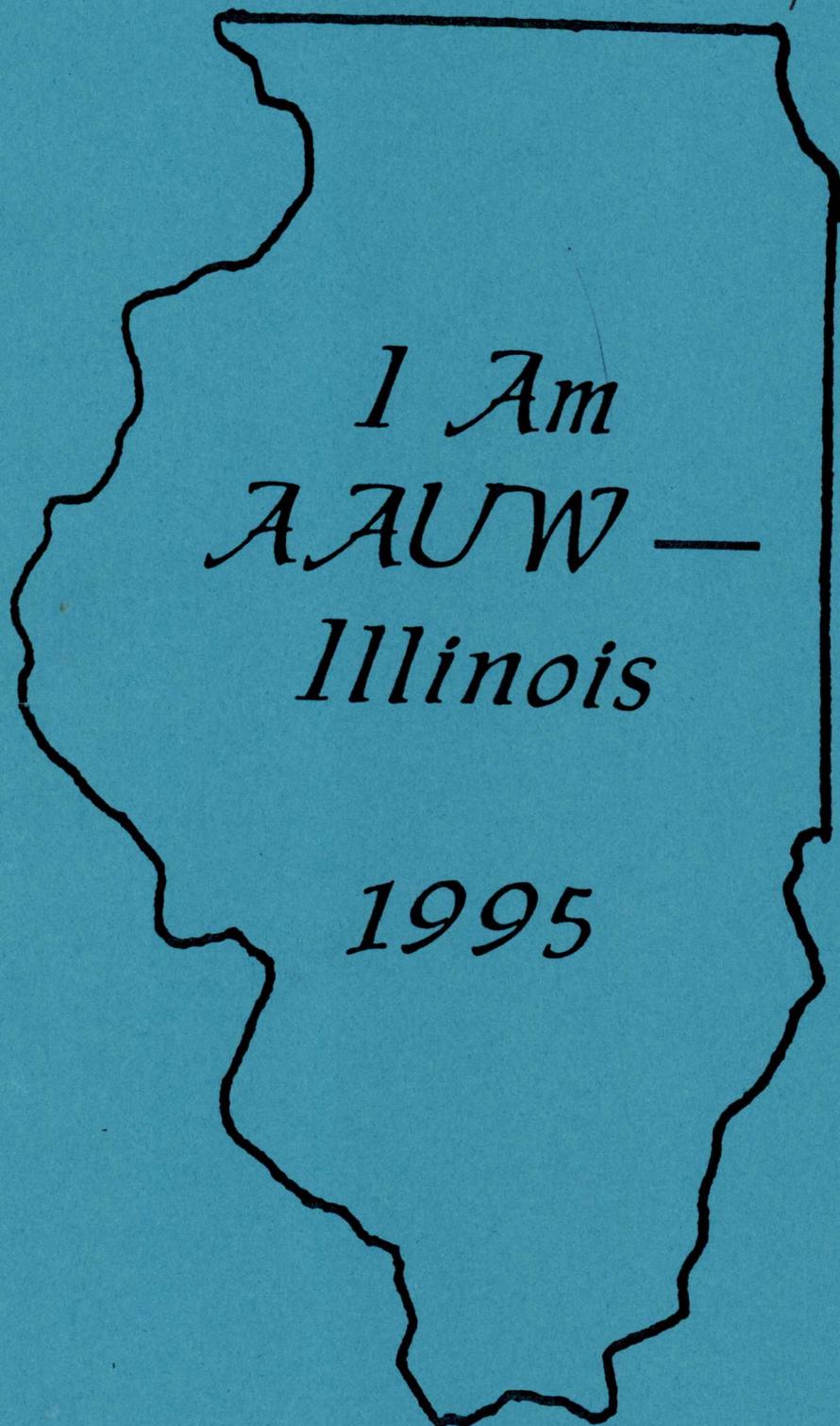


Arlene Mattus

5 star Winner

Terri Tepper



*I Am
AAUW —
Illinois*

1995

*AAUW-ILLINOIS, INC.
5 STAR BRANCHES*

*AURORA
CENTRALIA
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
CRYSTAL LAKE
DEERFIELD
DOWNERS GROVE AREA
ELGIN AREA
ELMHURST
GALLESBURG
LOCKPORT AREA
COMBARD-VILLA PARK
MONMOUTH
NAPERVILLE
OAK BROOK AREA
PEKIN AREA
PEORIA
QUINCY
SCHAUMBURG AREA
SPRINGFIELD
STERLING-ROCK FALLS
WESTERN SPRINGS AREA
WHEATON-GLEN ELLYN
WOOD RIVER
YORKVILLE*

5 STAR SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to these people from 32 branches who were nominated for their enthusiasm, participation in branch activities, leadership ability, regular attendance, and reliability to each of their respective branches in Illinois.

Arlington Heights Area Branch
MARCIA ROGERS

Marcia cares about AALLW and the Arlington Heights Area Branch. She came forward when we had an untimely resignation - our branch President. Marcia calmly and efficiently pulled the Board and branch together. She has our greatest appreciation.

Aurora Branch
DONNA ERICKSON

Donna's wealth of new ideas, approach to change, behind-the-scenes support, and dedication to public policy with action reflect the AALLW Spirit!

Barrington Area Branch
TERRI TEPPER

Terri's enthusiasm serves as a role model to encourage others to take leadership positions in our branch. She wants everyone to know how personally rewarding it feels, and everyone wants to look and feel as good as she does!

Centralia Branch
LA DONNE NEUDECKER

La Donne designed and organized a seminar to encourage freshmen girls to consider a wide range of higher education, career and personal options.

Champaign-Urbana Branch
ALICE TAYLOR

She had all the above mentioned five qualities. Members said, "Where ever there was a weakness in the organization or someone couldn't do a task, Alice jumped in to help out cheerfully."

Charleston-Mattoon Area Branch
DR. EDITH TERWILLIGER

Edith moved to Charleston in the summer (with her husband, both retired from the U. of I. faculty) and was "grabbed." She has attended all the meetings and always makes a contribution to the program by asking pertinent questions and giving examples - an enthusiastic, intelligent, attractive person. She has been a "member-at-large" for years, but this is the first time an active member. She has just accepted Program Vice President for the next two years!

Chicago, Inc. Branch
CATHY GABOR

Even though Cathy has only been a member of Chicago Branch since 1993, her involvement with AALLW is long-time. Her mother is an AALLW member in California, and Cathy has fond memories of attending board meetings as a child. Cathy has been an active member in our Book Club and other Branch activities. She even convinced her Women's Studies class to attend the local book-signing event for Peggy Orenstein's "Schoolgirls." This year she assumed the duties of Educational Foundation chair. Her ideas and enthusiasm for getting money from our pockets to EF's have provided us with many wonderful moments.

Collinsville Branch
MAXINE MULLINS

Maxine is the backbone of our branch. She is a past president who continues to serve as Public Policy Chair.

Crystal Lake Branch
SANDY HALL

Sandy has been a dedicated, supportive branch member for several years. She has held board positions, and chaired successful fundraisers, such as our fashion show. She is always enthusiastic and willing to assist in branch activities.

Deerfield Area Branch
JEANNE SCHWABA

Jeanne demonstrates her enthusiasm by being actively involved in many AALLW activities, including Afternoon Book Group, Investment Club, Educational Equity Committee, Great Decisions, all branch fundraisers, as well as networking with community organizations for AALLW.

Downers Grove Area Branch
IRENE C. BECK

Irene has exhibited enthusiasm for the Initiative for Educational Equity in her willingness to give presentations at a variety of institutions and has provided leadership to many of the group presentations given by the Downers Grove Area AALLW Speakers Bureau. On Jan. 26, 1995, Irene was an AALLW Illinois requested representative to the Illinois State Board of Education day-long session on Violence in School.

Elgin Area Branch
JANICE COX

Janice was awarded the 1994 Branch Susan B. Anthony Award for Community Service, help in advancement of status of women and work in the local branch. She also served as Art Showcase Co-Chair in 1986, 1987, 1993. In 1994 she served as Chair when the Co-Chair became ill. And she is serving now as Co-Chair for 1995. This is a major branch project involving year-long effort in cooperation with City of Elgin Arts Festival.

Elmhurst Branch
BARBARA RIMINGTON

Barb has been an exemplary EF Chair, steering the distribution of funds in worthwhile directions. To celebrate the completion of our \$35,000 Endowment, she brought all the book sale chairs together to be honored. The Branch celebrated with non-alcoholic champagne and the toast "to women who care."

Galesburg Branch
CANDACE ROSENE

An active enthusiastic individual, who is always willing to do what is necessary. Candy is in charge of "Take Your Daughter to Work" Program this year. She will be Program Vice President for 1995-97 biennium.

Glenview Branch
WENDY WALLEN and GLORIA AMIN

Graphic Designer and Editor of our Branch Newsletter, The Glenview Branch Gazette.

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Branch
SUSAN AXELROD

"Sue Axelrod glows with enthusiasm for AAUW!"

Lincoln/Logan Branch
TAMMY SMITH

Tammy joined our branch last year and has already worked on a fundraiser project, served on a "hostess" committee, introduced her boss for one of our monthly programs and volunteered to represent us at the Fall Conference '94.

Lockport Area Branch
IRENE BLATNIK

Irene is dedicated, reliable, dependable, motivated, and a real AAUW spark. She has held a number of offices and served in each capacity very well. Any time our Branch has a project Irene is there. She always goes the extra mile, or attends the extra meeting, or takes the extra time to do her part well. She is a tremendous resource for the Branch. She makes sure she is up on all Public Policy issues, her present office. Because she is so motivated others catch her enthusiasm! She is a valuable member and has a real "spirit" for AAUW.

Lombard-Villa Park Branch
LAURA VAZQUEZ

As Public Policy Chair, Laura Vazquez directed an enthusiastic and comprehensive public policy program which included a letter to the editor criticizing Sen. Pate Philip's racist remark, a candidate forum, and a candidate endorsement policy.

Marion Branch
MARGARET MCNEILLE

Margaret has been an AALLW member for 52 years. She is an enthusiastic AALLW member whose consistently regular attendance and tireless reliability (re: contacting members to attend meetings) have been exemplary.

Monmouth Branch
LILA BLUM

Lila has been an active involved member for many years. She participates in all activities with enthusiasm and shares information monthly with our branch on international issues, Art Presenters (a local AALLW program she started over 20 years ago with another Branch member), and is our branch representative on the Grace Buchanan Art Center Board. We don't know what we'd do without her.

Moraine Valley Branch
JOY FETT

This is how this member showed the Five Star Spirit:

1. One of the first people who responded to our call for prospective members to organize a new branch.
2. Attended brown bag lunches, our community service event, and the Fall Conference in Downers Grove.
3. Always been available to assist branch officers.
4. Regularly attended our branch functions.
5. A branch member we could count on to help out in any way and at any time.

Naperville Branch
KAY HOWARD

Kay has been a member for only three years and during that time has co-chaired the Used Book Sale and is now Membership Chair.

Northwest Suburban Branch
ELLEN YEARWOOD

Although Ellen is very busy with her growing law practice as well as with her responsibilities on the AALLW state level, she is a regular and faithful participant in branch activities, including board meetings.

Oak Brook Area
SANDI WOZNIAK

We feel Sandi has shown excellent leadership ability serving as Program Vice President, President of the Branch, and this year our EF Benefit Chair. Sandi's enthusiasm has radiated. Her commitment to performance has caught the attention of all who work with her. Sandi has definite leadership abilities. She is a reliable participant, dedicated to her cause, and a gracious lady. She has proven and continues to prove her Five Star Qualities!

Pekin Area Branch
JONI PARKS

Joni volunteers to help where she can. She is our Historian and can be seen with a camera in hand most of the time. When she takes on a task, you know it will be done!

Schaumburg Area Branch
ANDREA SVEAN

Andrea is one of our newer members. She volunteered to be on the "Young Women in Math and Science" committee in March '94, and the "Choices for Success" committee in the fall of '94. Now she is serving on our EF annual plant sale committee.

Springfield Branch
HELEN HEBRON

Helen spent many hours of many days organizing and selling quilt raffle tickets at state agencies, branch meetings, the Arts and Crafts Fair, the House Tour to raise over \$2500 for EF. She also organized other sellers of tickets and kept the books for the entire year. She is all of the five points listed above. Her dedication and commitment is outstanding. This was Helen's second year to handle this project.

Western Springs Area Branch
MARGARET TRUCKENBRODT

Margaret chaired the issues task force committee and actively served as an active member throughout the two years following her presidency.

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch
KAREN BONDY

Karen Bondy is THE member of our branch that members call when they are not sure where else to turn. Karen has maintained a leadership role in our branch for the past ten years. She has served as President, Program VP, Membership VP, and most recently, as the Director of our branch's Divorce Project Update. As Membership VP Karen single-handedly was able to turn a membership downturn into a membership upturn and to consistently attract new and vital members. She spearheaded the solicitation of advertisers for our branch newsletter and was instrumental in revamping and modernizing the newsletter format. Karen consistently attends branch activities and is a member of the Illinois State Board as well. The members of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch collectively nominate Karen Bondy as our "Emerging Star."

Wood River Branch
DEBBIE SIMS

Debbie is a past president and current District 1 reporter who is energetic and creative. She chaired the branch EF project when we sold our famous Cornish Pasties at Heritage Days and the Lincoln-Douglas Debate. She is enthusiastic and reliable, as well as a motivator.

Yorkville Area Branch
GAIL GAEBLER

Gail was instrumental in forming our branch back in 1980 and served as the first president for 2 1/2 years. She was president again from 1986-1988 and has served in many offices and on committees too numerous to mention. She is very reliable, attends regularly and participates in all branch activities. It is with pleasure that we nominate her for our Five Star Spirit Award!

Alton
Jennifer Potisch

She is one of our most faithful members. She comes up with good ideas for something "different" to spark the group. She can always be counted on to do what she says she will do. She had a grasp of what AALLW was all about only a few months after joining and she is still a relatively new member.

Ottawa
Grace Clifford

She is 86 years old and never misses a meeting and participates in every activity that is planned.

Brilliant Branch Moments

These branches share their power and their pride as branches of AAUW-ILLINOIS, INC.

Arlington Heights Area Branch

"Our branch celebrated its 35th anniversary in September, 1994, with a terrific party attended by many current members and "alums"."

Aurora

"Marion Talbott, founder of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (1881), which later became AAUW (1921), came alive along with all the presidents of the Aurora Branch, either in person or through impersonation, at the gala celebration of the Aurora Branch '75th Diamond Anniversary' (1919-1994) on December 3, 1994."

Barrington Area

"We are proud of our 'Live Auction' during the summer luncheon which filled coffers for EF/LAF by auctioning off members' services and the beginning of the Computer Club to help members or anyone in the community learn more about our high-tech world of computers."

Batavia/Geneva/St. Charles

"Our membership has dropped along with participation from all of the members, but this branch will celebrate its 30th year in 1995, and we are working hard to revive this branch and reclaim the energy and 5-Star Spirit of past years!"

Benton

"Using local artist' drawings of our Courthouse, Civic Center, and High School, we had notecards printed to sell; this became our branch's most successful fund raising project."

Champaign-Urbana

"We are proud of our 13% increase in members and our terrific programs - especially the one with Judy Ikenberry (U. of Ill. President's wife) and the second one with candidates for State Representative - Rick Winkel and Laurel Prussing."

Chicago, Inc.

"Chicago Branch's brilliant branch moment was having 32 new members this year!"

Collinsville

"We gave \$250 to our local library for the purchase of books helpful to women and girls."

Crystal Lake

"Our new Adventures Study Group has enjoyed great success, taking advantage of cultural opportunities in nearby Chicago every other month, including visits to museums and a backstage tour of the Lyric Opera."

Deerfield Area

"On February 25, 1995, Deerfield Area AAUW and School District 109 held a Career Conference for Girls, Grades 5-8, wherein 10 successful working women encouraged girls to pursue careers in math and science."

Downers Grove Area

"Downers Grove Area AAUW became a pioneer in education when it provided 24 one-hour presentations to approximately 250 high school sophomores on sexual harassment."

Elgin Area

"The Elgin Area Branch conducted its 35th annual Art Showcase which draws many artists and viewers from surrounding areas and enhances AAUW visibility."

Elmhurst

"We are proud of the completion of our \$35,000 endowment which we celebrated at a branch meeting that included a new and prospective members' coffee."

Galesburg

"Having the new Monmouth College President, Dr. Sue Huseman, as the speaker at our combined meeting with the Kewanee Branch was wonderful."

Glenview

"Excellence and diversity in programs have helped us increase membership and attendance at meetings."

Jerseyville

"In its eighth year, the CHOICES career program brings together a coalition of Jerseyville Branch members, Jersey Community H.S. faculty and students, the Regional Superintendent's office, and career women to provide information and guidance for junior girls from seven area high schools. It has become the model for other career programs in our area, and has been applauded by local teachers, parents, and media, but most importantly, by the girls we reach."

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff

"We are proud of our celebration honoring Virginia Fiester Frederick for her many accomplishments and we are proud of completing our Virginia Fiester Frederick Research and Project Fund."

Lincoln-Logan

"Senator Penny Severns, candidate for Lt. Governor, spoke at our fall dinner meeting and expressed her whole-hearted support for AAUW-endorsed issues and projects."

Lombard-Villa Park

"Our branch raised a record \$11,280 from our book sale for EF and local scholarships enabling us to start a second \$35,000 EF endowment with a 20% 'down payment.'"

Lockport Area

"During the summer of 1994 we planned a follow up to our 1993 Gender Equity Roundtable. The goal was to share accomplishments in gender equity over the past year. We featured the Lockport High School Equity Project because our branch played a significant role in it. During the previous year we worked with the superintendent to develop an instrument that would measure gender equity and equal treatment of diverse populations. After the instrument was administered, we helped evaluate the results, and finally, reported our project and goals to the Board of Education. Another participant at the 1994 Roundtable was a representative for "Building Fairness," a group funded to promote gender fairness. As a result of this

Lockport (continued)

meeting, the high school administrator contacted the Building Fairness consultant to provide a teacher inservice. Part of the inservice, which was held in January, 1995, included discussion groups. Our branch members became involved in this project by becoming the discussion group facilitators. All of the AAUW information, programming, and materials that we had used over the past few years provided our members with the information, training, and confidence to carry out this role."

Marion

"The Marion Branch has joined hands with others in an annual celebration of Black History Month."

Monmouth

"The Monmouth Branch of AAUW is very proud to have celebrated our 70th Anniversary this year with a special luncheon featuring Dr. Sue Huseman, Monmouth College President, as our speaker. This resulted in her joining our branch as well as the college re-joining as a college/university member."

Moraine Valley

"We are proud of the 150 students and community members who attended the three free lectures on gender equity and sexual harassment that our branch presented as a community service in the fall of 1994."

Morton

"In honor of Women's History Month, three members of the Morton Branch presented costumed first person monologues to children in one of the local elementary schools. The women portrayed were: Emma Lazarus, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Sandra Day O'Connor."

Naperville

"Initiative co-chairs Paulette Goodman and Theo Renken have been invited to present a paper on the Initiative project, 'A Visit with Marie Curie' at the Association Convention in Orlando."

Northwest Suburban

"After a presentation by a speaker from the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence and discussion of the number of gun dealers operating in the suburban area, the branch voted to join the ONTARGET COALITION, thereby adding our voice to the more than 200 other organizations in the state who support control of handgun sales."

Oak Brook Area

"Through collective efforts of our members in our tenth anniversary year, we succeeded in raising enough funds to complete our \$35,000 endowment and simultaneously initiate a named unit."

Pekin Area

"Our first Five-Star Award last year was a tribute to our members!"

Rock Island-Moline

"We have increased our membership to 103%!"

Schaumburg Area

"Our brilliant branch moment - 'Young Women in Math and Science... You can Count on It!', program for junior high girls (March 1994)."

Springfield

"We are so proud that Springfield, the largest branch in the state, succeeded in reaching the goal of 5% increase in membership this year. This means that if we, the largest branch, can do it, then any branch can do it."

Western Springs Area

"Ann Matasar, Association Finance Vice President, spoke about the 'Education Foundation and its Role' to jump-start our year at the September Welcome Back Tea!"

"Ruth Sweetser informed us about the gender equity and sexual harassment issues at a well-attended evening meeting."

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn

"The Educational Forum which our branch sponsored this winter was a pivotal event because (1) it enabled us to broaden the focus of the Educational Equity Initiative beyond the classroom and (2) it provided us with an opportunity to reach out to the community with an action project that enabled us to begin a new dialogue with community members, educators and professionals."

Wood River

"Wood River hosted our new WOMAN senator at a public meeting - Evelyn Bowles. She addressed AAUW issues and plans to work with us to achieve our goals."

Yorkville Area

"The Yorkville Area Branch is very proud of the 'Picnic with the Past' held in June which featured a box lunch, a sunflower craft boutique sale, and a program in which members portrayed five women in history - Sacajewea, Elizabeth Blackwell, Beatrix Potter, Miep Gies, and Maria Tallchief. (These programs are also presented in the schools at various grade levels.)"

Alton

"We are ALWAYS proud of our EF donation, especially since we are a small branch with many older members. We have one of the highest per capita amount in the state."

Ottawa

"We are proud of our on going annual book sale - well over forty years - which raises money for EF."

Waukegan Area

"The Waukegan Area Branch had 70% member participation in a fund raiser bake sale at the Victory Memorial Hospital Festival of Trees in November '94."

AAUW Illinois, Inc.
1995 Newsletter Awards

District 1: Centralia

District 2: Springfield

(Branches over 100)

Champaign-Urbana

(Branches under 100)

District 3: Galesburg

District 4: Elmhurst

(Branches over 100)

Aurora

(Branches under 100)

District 5: Waukegan Area

(Branches over 100)

Glenview

(Branches under 100)

1995 AGENT OF CHANGE
is
DR. MARCELLINE BARRON
Aurora Branch

*Subject of Project - The Initiative -
Educational Equity for Women and Girls*

The INITIATIVE and Marcelline are almost synonymous in Illinois. Marcelline took on the Initiative at its inception in 1991 and has chaired the AAUW-IL Task Force for the past four years. Her unselfish efforts have advanced change at all levels - State, branch, Association, community, and in her position at IMSA (Illinois Math and Science Academy).

Marcelline brings the message of AAUW and the Initiative to each and every presentation and workshop she gives. She has done many presentations and trainings at conferences, conventions, branches, and to schools, organizations across the state and at the Great Lakes Regional Conference.

Marcelline is truly an agent of change.

HONORABLE MENTION

MARY BEAUMONT

Springfield Branch

**Subject of Project - Expanding Your Horizons
Workshop (EYH)**

EYH is an opportunity for young women to learn more about careers in science courses throughout the high school and college years. The workshops are taught and sponsored by women in the math and science fields. They also serve as role models for the girls. EYH speaks directly to educational equity by encouraging the seventh and eighth grade girls to continue course work in science and math and to develop that spark of enthusiasm for nontraditional courses. Many felt the Springfield Branch was the perfect sponsor for this activity.

HONORABLE MENTION

KATHLEEN BRENNIMAN

Lombard-Villa Park Branch

Subject of Project - 1994 Annual Book Sale for EF

Kathleen's leadership and organizational skills resulted in record proceeds of over \$12,000 that enabled the Branch to contribute \$6,800 to EF, to begin a 1995 Research and Projects Endowment with a first payment of \$6,350 (almost 20% of the total \$35,000 needed), and \$450 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. The book sale has brought visibility to AAUW. With their Educational Equity Roundtable in the community, membership grew by 35% in eighteen months.

This undertaking is only the tip of the iceberg. Kathy's contribution to her branch and the community are many and too numerous to list here.

HONORABLE MENTION
PAULETTE GOODMAN/SHER RENKEN
Naperville Branch

Subject of Project - A Visit with Marie Curie

This project targeted attitudes of sixth graders in two school districts. It provided positive role models of women in science and encouraged students to consider careers in science. Students often had the misconception that all scientists were men. The project made them aware that women of many backgrounds are scientists, too. Girls, as well as boys, can succeed in science.

The project received media attention in newspapers and on the local cable channel.

The project has been selected by the Association to be presented in a paper prior to the opening of the Association Convention in Orlando.

HONORABLE MENTION
JUDY JOBE
DeKalb County Branch

Subject of Project - Women's History Month

Judy worked with a group of 30 women at Elgin Community College - students, support staff, faculty, administrators - and integrated them in a planning process. Everyone worked together and functioned equally with no regard for an organizational chart. Everyone took responsibility for the event, and all played a role in letting that happen. The more sophisticated helped mentor the less sophisticated members. The historical and the current contributions of women were highlighted. The women took a lot of heat as they planned and executed the project. The grew stronger as a unit as the opposition grew.

At the close of the project, the focus was on a Margaret Meade quote - "Never doubt that a single group of thoughtful, committed citizens (women) can change the world - indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Judy's contribution was to mobilize the group and empower them to achieve a great month.

HONORABLE MENTION

SUSAN MEYER

Downers Grove Branch

Subject of Project - Women in Action

Susan initiated a community "Women in Action" project in the fall of 1994. She wanted to communicate with other women's organizations that address the same issues as AAUW - education and women's health. Even though the final goal of the workshop was not realized, the planning was well under way. In contacting these organizations, the Downers Grove Branch has shown other women's groups AAUW's willingness to work toward the betterment of women's lives.

The stage has been set to continue, once meaningful health care reform becomes a part of the agenda in Congress.

HONORABLE MENTION

JOAN TUNNELL

Rockford Branch

**Subject of Project - Women in History Contest for
School Children**

The Women in History Contest provides an opportunity for fifth through eighth grade students throughout the Rockford area to learn about the lives and times of women and women's history. Each student interviews a woman who is at least 40 years older than the student. He/She then writes a 300-500 word essay telling the woman's life story along with a poster displaying photographs and memorabilia of the subject. AAUW works through the schools and teachers to promote the contest.

Judges review the projects and select the winners. Parents, teachers, and the women about whom they wrote are invited to an awards ceremony.

The contest focuses on all women in their "ordinary" lives - not just famous women. The entries are displayed at the local libraries during Women's History Month.

Joan has changed perceptions by contributing to children's understanding of the often neglected history of "ordinary" women. The women interviewed are grandmothers and other relatives, teachers, neighbors and other acquaintances who relate to a "new" generation the joys and sorrows, accomplishments and struggles of their lives in other eras. The young people learn to appreciate the virtues which enabled these women to survive, to thrive, and often to succeed. They can relate what they see and hear to their own lives.

Joan has helped girls and boys understand, appreciate, and honor the women in their lives. In particular, for the girls, she has helped them find role models and to further develop pride in their womanhood.

HONORABLE MENTION

KATHY WIAND

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch

Subject of Project - Learning Respect Day

The branch was invited to develop and organize a component of the Wheaton-Warrenville South High School's Learning Respect Day. Kathy met the challenge and coordinated the effort to identify and present sixty volunteers who met with groups of 25 - 30 students throughout the day. The objective of the project was to prepare high school students for the working environment, which is increasingly diverse and will require a greater understanding of other cultures and points of view.

The project brought visibility to the branch through the local newspapers and a school newsletter to parents. The sixty volunteers were made aware of AAUW's mission for equity and diversity in the workplace. Through Kathy's efforts, the branch received a Distinguished Service Award by the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLIC POLICY AWARD WINNERS

Two branches receive public policy awards for 1994-95, each of which has done outstanding work in several areas and has also maintained an effective overall public policy effort.

Downers Grove Area Branch,

Public Policy Chair Pamela Erhart, contacted its state representatives regularly on gender equity and domestic violence. Erhart was appointed to Rep. Meyer's Women's Agenda Task Force. Branch members regularly contacted their Congresspeople on health care reform and also contacted them on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The branch hosted a community meeting on sexual harassment attended by school administrators. Branch member Erhart co-presented the legislating equity workshop at the state AAUW fall conference. Branch members served on the library board, the district 68 marketing committee, and the school board caucus. The branch facilitated district 68's Jefferson Junior High being chosen to be studied by an AAUW research team, and the branch implemented a non-partisan endorsement policy.

Lockport Area Branch, Public Policy Chair Irene Blatnik, contacted its state representatives on state health care reform, the Equal Rights Amendment, and education funding. Blatnik traveled to Springfield numerous times to lobby representatives and present testimony on ERA. Branch members contacted their Congress people on women's health concerns under reform, signing of CEDAW, long term care, universal health care, the Kerry report on entitlements, and the balanced budget amendment. The Branch participated in Women's Lobby Day in 1994 and provided registrars and a committee chair for school district referendums. One member was elected to a local

school board. The Branch held a candidates night before the November election and distributed public policy brochures there. The public policy chair attended the AAUW district meeting for leaders. Local legislators' records were published in the newsletter and also at candidates night.

Honorable Mention goes to **Lombard/ Villa Park Branch,** Public Policy Chair Laura Vazquez, which contacted its state representatives, scheduled a public policy branch meeting, held a candidates night for county board candidates, endorsed a referendum for school district 87 improvements, took a position on state senator Pate Philip's anti-minority comments in letter to the editor which were printed in three newspapers including the Chicago Tribune, had a member run for DuPage County Board, published newsletter articles on each branch member holding elected office to encourage others to run, adopted a non-partisan endorsement policy and issue endorsement policy, planned a program on school vouchers jointly with the Lombard PTA, distributed public policy brochures, and publicized the voting records of candidates in the newsletter.

Honorable Mention also goes to **Aurora Branch,** Mary Bernard, President, and Lauralyn Theodore, Public Policy Chair, whose members include two state representatives and the administrative assistant of the Women's Committee of the state senator. The branch held a candidates night just before the November election, participated in Women's Lobby Day, endorsed the local bond and rate referendums for school district 129, participated in city council meetings, had members who successfully ran for school and county boards, has a non-partisan endorsement policy, publicized AAUW voting records, and worked hard on passing the Equal Rights Amendment.