

MAY MEETING

Scholarships and Grants Reception

Please join us in meeting exceptional students and their families as well as representatives of programs serving the diverse needs of our community.

Thursday, May 4, 2017
Viterbo's School of Nursing.

Reception begins at 5:00pm
Program begins at 5:35pm

Cost: \$10 for appetizers, desserts,
beverages.

RSVP DEADLINE:

For cancellations and late reservations please call Silvana Richardson at 608-788-0595 by NOON on MONDAY, May 2nd.

Donations are welcomed to cover the cost of our recipients and their guests.

Please plan to arrive at 5pm to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and to talk individually with our recipients. You will recognize them by their name tags adorned with a white banner with the word "Recipient."

In our tradition, we ask AAUW members to consider "sponsoring" a recipient (and perhaps the recipient's guest). By covering these costs, we do not need to rely on the branch budget. You may mail a sponsorship check to our branch treasurer or you may take care of that upon your arrival at the event.

When we gather the recipients

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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MAY 2017



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Not to say that our previous programs this past year haven't been excellent, it's just that our May Scholarship Reception represents the culmination of our hard work on the Art Fair weekend. This year on Thursday, May 4th, we will be awarding \$25,350 in scholarships and grants! I always look forward to the stories of our scholarship winners. It's truly inspiring! I hope you will join me at the reception (see program information on this page) and please consider helping defer our costs by paying for one or more of our guests.



speaker about the upcoming vote for a national dues increase. Please see my article on this topic on page 4.

Also remember that our big summer event, Art Fair on the Green, is ramping up. We need your help in making this year's fair a great success. Assistance is needed from Friday afternoon for set up through Sunday afternoon for take down. Please contact Marla French to sign up for spots at the ticket booths as well as other duties. It's so nice that members we don't often see at

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 1, 2017

6:30pm

Viterbo University Nursing Building, Room 103. Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

Contact Michele at: 781-6962 or mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu to place items on the agenda.

Saving the best for last...(continued from page 1)

meetings come out to support this fundraiser. It's truly an all-out effort on the part of our membership. With your help I know we will have another wonderful art fair.

This year seems to have gone by in a whirlwind and I want to thank everyone who made this year such a notable one. From all who helped with the Kosovo visit to all of the hard working board members, naming such a list would take pages. You all know who you are and I am very grateful for your assistance. It has been wonderful working with you this past year and I look forward to another year of fellowship as we work towards our goal of advancing equity for women through advocacy education, philanthropy and research.

Thank you for all you do!!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

NEW MEMBER

Marsha Erickson
3536 East Ave. S. #B La Crosse, WI 54601
608 738 5759
U-W Stout Home Ec Ed
Marsha.erickson@gmail.com



Marsha attended our February meeting. We are happy she has joined our branch after returning from trips in the last 2 months. Welcome!



Member Roz Schnick was recently honored as the recipient of the Philanthropy Award at the YWCA Circle of Friends Luncheon. We are proud of you, Roz, for your generosity and involvement in support of women.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy goes to the family of member Mary Funk who passed on in April. Mary was branch president from 1958-1960 and a 1969-1970 Name Grant recipient.



Reminder:

Please complete the survey about what you would like to see for programming for next year and return it (or just send your ideas) to Lois (lois-and-mike@centurytel.net) or Silvana (sfriedrichson@viterbo.edu).

MAY MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

for their group picture at 5:29pm, AAUW members can begin to move into Room 196, the Auditorium. You may take refreshments with you to enjoy as you hear the recipients' stories. Individuals with mobility concerns will want to take the elevator to the basement and enter Room 196 from the bottom of the hall. Note: You will find restrooms on that lower level.

As any of the scholarship application readers can attest, our recipients deserve this celebration! And, it provides proof that we expend valuable efforts to make the Art Fair a success.

Name Grant Awarded

Congratulations to Jan Eriksen on her recognition as the 2016-2017 Name Grant! Jan has been a member of our branch for around 20 years and served in many board positions: Program VP, Secretary, Educational Foundation VP, Fund Development and Name Grant Chair. Jan has also been a long time volunteer at the Art Fair on the Green. We look forward to her assuming her new position: President-elect. Thank you for all you do, Jan!



Carol Robertson (L) congratulates Jan Eriksen (R) on her award.

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

HEARTH & HOME

See below for meeting info

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

HEARTH & HOME

Trempealeau Refuge and Wine Tasting

Date: Wed., May 17th, 2017

Time: 4:30pm to visit the refuge; 6:00pm for the vineyard



If interested in the refuge, meet at Jane's house in Trempealeau at 4:30pm to carpool to the Trempealeau Refuge. We could see

their new educational building and outdoor playscape and take the wildlife drive through the refuge.

We will be going to Elmaro Vineyard in Trempealeau at 6:00pm for a private Educational Tasting. This will be conducted by the owners and is approximately 2 hours. It includes tasting seven of their wines served with light food pairings and a talk about wine pairings, how to taste wines, a tour of their winery and its history. (Maybe even a tank tasting or two!) The cost is \$30. Check out their website www.elmarovineyard.com to learn more about this family owned winery/vineyard. They recently were named the 2016 Wisconsin Winery of the Year!



Please RSVP to Jane -janewerneck@gmail.com- or Sarah-sjz212@charter.net -by Thursday, May 11th. Indicate if you plan to carpool from Jane's house for both activities, or if you just plan to meet us by 6:00 at Elmaro.

AAUW in Action (AIA)

AAUW in Action is a study group that serves as a springboard for community service activities for our branch that promote AAUW's mission.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 18. 5:30pm

The year in review and Potluck dinner at Erica's. Please come, meet this great group of ladies and enjoy dinner! Please RSVP to Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com by May 15th. Open to all!

Our Public Policy Intern, Kathryn Draper, coordinated an **Equal Pay Day Event on April 4th from 10am-2pm** at the UWL Student Union. Kathryn, fellow UWL students and branch members handed out information as well as cookies with a bite out representing women's income disparity. Many students were engaged and informed! Thank you to all who provided cookies and time at the table.



Kathryn, left, and fellow students with the display



WINGS

The WINGS (Women Interested in Going to School) workshop was successful again this year. 10 women learned about the steps needed to further their education, spent some time talking

about their futures with representatives from UWL, Viterbo and WTC and enjoyed a great lunch provided by branch members. All of the attendees cited the personal stories shared by women who had been in their shoes as one of the best parts of the workshop. Thank you to all of you who helped with the meal!

Interns

Both our Social Media intern, Rachel Cain, and Public Policy intern, Kathryn Draper, will finish their internships at the end of April. We appreciate the time and effort both women have given us this semester and hope that they've gained knowledge and insight into working with a non-profit organization that they can use in the future. And we hope that they will stay involved with AAUW! Thank you Rachel and Kathryn.

Art Fair on the Green

Look for complete information on how you can participate in our major branch fundraiser in next month's issue of *The Current*. We ask that you start considering now some options: being a "Purchase Award" donor, talking to your business contacts about being a "Corporate Sponsor", making a donation to the "Artist Award" fund and volunteering to work at the art fair. You will be receiving a letter with an explanation of these options but please contact Carol Robertson if you have questions.



ArtSpire help needed

by Carol Robertson



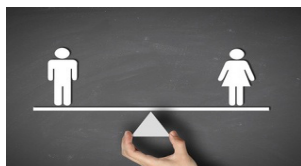
Once again AAUW is participating in Artspire which is being held on **Saturday, June 10** in the downtown area by the Pump House. It runs from 10:00-5:00. If you would like to help promote both our Branch and Art Fair on the Green, contact Carol Robertson at: cfrobertson@charter.com or 608-399-1751.

Any amount of time would be appreciated. Thank you in advance!

Feminism Fest a Success

by Jenna Ives, UWL Student

I would just like to personally thank AAUW for attending our feminism event last week. It meant so much to each of the organizing individuals to have members from the organization take time out of their daily lives to attend and give out valuable, important, and interesting information to all attendees! From our survey that participants took, having AAUW there really helped people learn about feminist organizations in the community.



AAUW National Dues Increase

by Michele Strange, Branch President

You may have seen information from AAUW National about a possible dues increase, which is slated to begin on July 1, 2018. The increase does seem steep; \$10 represents a 20% increase. AAUW emphasizes that there have been no dues increase in the past 10 years and costs have far outstripped income.

Our Board has been discussing this via email during the past month and most comments reflect dismay at the amount of the proposed increase. Erica Koonmen did some research and found that in a comparison of AAUW to a similar national organization, AAUW's administrative costs were only 3.9% of income with the other association's costs totaling 17.5%. It appears that AAUW is operating at a very efficient level, particularly in light of all their programs and activities.

Below are some comments from our board members:

"I don't think national has made a compelling case of an increase and I would like to see a better connection between an increase and how money will be used."

"I agree that National has not made a compelling enough case for the increase and that the increase is too much. When we have valued local members reconsidering their membership because of the increase, how do we expect to recruit new members?"

"I agree that we need to remain accessible to as many community members as possible. Some of our members have a difficult time paying the current level of dues each year, but contribute in other valuable ways to our group. I'd really like to see the diversity of our group continue to expand and I think that the increase would be a barrier to more people."

"I do respect the increase in dues since in the current national climate, I suspect more cases and more legal advocacy may be needed, especially with legislation that rolls back women's rights."

"I support the increase in dues. AAUW national dues remain lower than the other national organizations to which I belong. It's true that any dues increase causes alarm among local leaders and branch members."

Below you will find a statement from Pam Thiel, a member of our branch, who serves on the National AAUW Board of Directors:

For the past two years, the AAUW Board, a Resource Sustainability Task Force, and staff have been reviewing the organizational and financial status of AAUW. The findings led the Board to 1) realign budget priorities with mission priorities through budget cuts in 2018, and

2) propose a dues increase that will help cover operating expenses and keep up with inflation. Advancing equity for women and girls means changing with the times, focusing on our impact, and making sure our work is sustainable. The proposed dues increase will allow us to continue implementing our critical and timely mission and reach our positive financial goals.

The National Board will not vote on this issue until June 13, 2017 and I would like to send a statement to them. So if anyone wants to contribute to this discussion, please send me your comments at mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu. For more information about this proposal, please check the AAUW website at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/membership-dues-update/>

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of April 20, 2017

Checking Account\$11,574.92

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$458.02

Dues Reminder



This is a reminder that it is time to renew your AAUW membership for next year (2017-18). The deadline for membership dues is June 30, 2017. Dues are still \$70.00 of which \$46.00 is tax deductible. Additional information on the breakdown of dues can be found on the membership renewal form (attached to the newsletter email) or by contacting Kristen.

Please submit the form and a check for \$70 made out to AAUW La Crosse Branch before June 30th. If you are unable to return it at the April meeting, my mailing address is below:

Kristin Foehner
4104 Beverly Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650



La Crosse Branch Cameos

"Cameo: a short descriptive literary sketch that neatly encapsulates someone or something."

In an effort for each of us to get to know fellow branch members, we'll be featuring members in the monthly issues this year, answering these questions:

1. How did you find & join AAUW?
2. What significant changes/ improvements have you seen in AAUW over the years (older members)
What would you like to have the opportunity to contribute to the branch? (for newer members)
3. What do you think is the most important issue facing women today?
4. What's on your bucket list?
5. What's something we don't know about you?

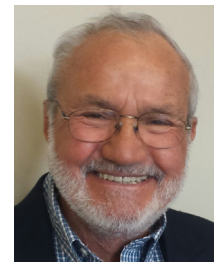


Ruth Ann Knapp

- 1) I helped with the house tours for many years but I had other commitments so couldn't always be a good participant.
- 2) Joining forces with other groups and pooling money to make things happen for women, especially the law fund.
- 3) To be recognized for the same level of well-done work by equal pay.
- 4) To live to see my 8th great-grandson, who was born in Frankfort, Germany.
- 5) How far I will go to leave less of a footprint on this earth.

George Kruck

- 1) Through my wife and the Art Fair on the Green.
- 3) A. Women's rights
B. Equality
C. Health issues
- 4) Trying hard to not kick it.
- 5) I am a very humble individual.



New Board Installation



Betty Kruck installs the 2017-2018 board members who were in attendance at the April meeting.

L-R: Betty Kruck, Michele Strange, continuing President; Kristen Foehner, incumbant Co-Finance VP; Bev Bodine, incoming Co-Finance VP and Jan Eriksen, President-elect.

We're In The Outlook!

Have you read the latest issue of AAUW's National magazine, *Outlook*? The Spring 2017 issue should be in your hands by now. Page 24 features a write-up of our branch's work with the Kosovo delegation last November. It's great to see our branch get national recognition for our work!



American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112

THE CURRENT

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

AAUW’s Mission

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

For 130 years, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day: educational, social, economic, and political. Our commitment to our mission is reflected in all aspects of our work.

Newsletter Contact & Deadlines

Newsletter EditorErica Koonmen (moogs56@hotmail.com)
Webminder*Position Open!*
Newsletter DesignTegan Jerde-Koonmen (jerdet@gmail.com)

Newsletter content submission deadline:
Please send all content for *The Current* to Erica by the 20th of the month.

Problems receiving the CURRENT? Let us know at:
aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com