

APRIL MEETING

Human Trafficking & Installation of Officers for 2017-2018

Presenters: The La Crosse Taskforce to Eradicate Modern Slavery

When: Saturday, April 8, 2017

Where: JOIN US as we meet in the brand new Student Union at UW-La Crosse, in room 3314.

No fee parking! From La Crosse St, if you are traveling west, turn left just before reaching Cleary Alumni & Friends Center; park in Lot C-12 or in the parking garage in levels 1-3. The new Student Union is directly across from Lot C-12.

If you are on La Crosse St. traveling east, turn right after you past the Cleary Center and you will see Lot C-12.

Menu: \$10. Pancakes, Specialty breads, Scrambled eggs, Coffee, Tea & Juice.

RSVP DEADLINE:

For reservations please call Lois by NOON on Wednesday, Apr 5th.

Human trafficking is on the verge of surpassing the drug trade as the most lucrative organized crime in the world. To define human trafficking, tell us of the major trafficking hubs around the Midwest, and why it is so difficult to prosecute, expert speaker on the topic Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, will be the presenter.

Continued on Page 2 »



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 8

APRIL 2017



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Spring Into Action

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Spring is in the air and I'm hoping we have turned the corner on cold weather.

Fortunately, Saturday March 11th was a beautiful day for 13 of us to travel to Winona for our joint meeting with our AAUW

colleagues there. The day started out at the Watkins Company Museum and Gift Shop, where the curator gave a fascinating history of the company. We were then free to wander in the museum and pick up our gift bags in the shop. After that, we went to the Blue Heron for lunch. There were so many of us that we took up two long tables of the cafe. We mingled with the Winona members and exchanged ideas, programs and practices. I think everyone agreed that it was a very enjoyable visit. Next year it will be their turn to visit us!

During March, AAUW Scholarship Committee members have been very active, choosing

winners of our scholarships and grants. Art Fair on the Green

Committee has met and begun plans for this summer's event. And, of course, we have Lois Gilbert to thank for making our 4th annual

International Women's Day panel presentation such a success. She and Carol Robertson set up our Women's History Month display in the windows of Pearl Street Books. Lois, with the help of her daughter Liza, completed the daily bios on notable women for the La Crosse Tribune.

Continued on Page 2 »

Spring
into
Action

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 3, 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.

Get all the CURRENT news at our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION

See below 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

Hearth & Home study group meets periodically to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings. If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon.

Dinner with Patti and Chef Mark Tennie

Date: Wed., April 5th, 2017 **Time:** 6 p.m.

Place: La Crosse Country Club 300 Marcou Rd, Onalaska
All are welcome, you don't have to be a member of Hearth & Home.

To RSVP, ask any questions or let us know of special dietary needs, call Sharon at 788-5356 before March 24th.



The La Crosse YWCA is sponsoring its annual Circle of Friends awards luncheon on Wednesday, April 19th. One of our members, Roz Schnick, will be honored for her service. The lunch is from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the La Crosse Center—South Hall Ballroom.

Tickets are \$25 each. I will collect the money and send in the names.

Won't you join me for the event? I would like to fill a table of 10. Please RSVP to mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu or by phone (781-6962) by April 8th. You can pay me at our April meeting or you can mail the money to me at 2442 Redwing Road, La Crosse, 54601. Please indicate if you have dietary needs: Vegetarian; Gluten Free; or Other (Please Specify items).

AAUW in Action

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: May potluck, details in May's newsletter

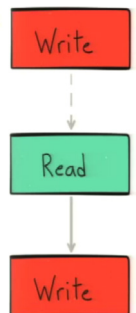
Our Public Policy Intern, Kathryn Draper, has coordinated an **Equal Pay Day Event on April 4th from 10am-2pm** at the UWL Student Union. Branch members will handout information as well as cookies with a bite out representing women's income disparity. If you can bake cookies to donate, please let Betty Kruck know!

At the April 8th meeting, we'll be helping out the **YWCA Teen group by collecting arts & crafts supplies like beading, paper, paints, markers, crayons.**

WINGS is back this year! Thursday, April 13th, Myrick Park Center. 8:30am-1:30pm
We are asking branch members to help with providing lunch again this year. If you would like to contribute, please let Erica know and she will send you an email with the details.
Thank you!



Marilyn Hempstead coordinated the new **Write Read Write** program with Hamilton Elementary school. 10 branch members were matched with a student and exchanged letters about themselves and their reading interests. Members purchased a book and presented it to their student in person on Friday, March 24th. It was delightful to meet the students and see their excitement in receiving their books! We look forward to hearing back from the students once they've read the chosen books.



Did you miss our **4th International Women's Day Celebration** on March 8? It was a terrific crowd of 251 people at UW-L's Hall of Nations with an excellent panel



of speakers from Bulgaria, China, Iceland, Ukraine and Syria. If you were unable to attend the program, you can still listen to the panelists from Iceland, Ukraine, and Syria who were interviewed by WPR La Crosse. They spoke of their journeys, growing up in their native land, coming to the United States, women's rights in the world, and recent attempts at travel bans against entire nations when they were interviewed by Hope Kirwan on WPR. Simply go to:

<http://www.wpr.org/shows/newsmakers-march-9-2017>

Scholarships & Grants

By Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

- 1) All the subcommittees met to read the plethora of applications. (e.g., 64 e-applications for the UW-L scholarship, 37 applications from high school seniors).
- 2) The committee of the whole met to finalize scholarship recommendations to the independent Validation Committee (required by the LCF) and to finalize grant recipients.
- 3) The Validation Committee met to validate the scholarship recipients.
- 4) The LCF received all lists to authenticate.
- 5) The committee chairs are now notifying recipients and inviting them to participate in our reception.
- 6) The committee and the program planners invite YOU to plan to meet the recipients at our reception commencing at 5:00pm on Thursday, May 4, in the School of Nursing at Viterbo University.

Seeking Art Fair Sponsors

by Robert Richardson



If each of our branch members were to solicit one business owner, family member, friend, or acquaintance, we would benefit from 80 new sponsors or art purchases! Maybe your neighbor really really appreciates the arts and wants to support arts initiatives. Or, maybe your dentist needs to decorate the office! Oh,

and, maybe someone you know would like to contribute to our scholarship fund – the beneficiary of our art fair efforts. There are a number of ways to support our Art Fair on the Green and you will receive a letter from the Awards Committee (Jan Eriksen and Marilyn Hempstad) with details about ways you personally can contribute, or ways to encourage others to donate.

One of the ways for businesses to help support the art fair is by being a sponsor. Following is information about sponsorship levels.

Sponsorship

Our fund raising goal is \$5,000, and we are asking for sponsorships of \$250, \$500, or \$1000 from businesses, family and/or friends. Sponsors make checks payable to: AAUW Scholarship Fund. Sponsors will be acknowledged in our Art Fair program, on the Art Fair grounds, and in our publicity. The deadline for sponsorships is June 1st. Donations from sponsors are tax-exempt. Please contact Carol Robertson for a Sponsorship letter with complete details to give or mail to your contact. The letter explains that the funds donated will be used toward rising costs of things like publicity, parking and grounds rental. The letter will also be available soon on our website for members to print out.

Public Policy

by Linda Myers, Chair

Protecting your investment



In February, a federal judge upheld the US Dept of Labor Fiduciary Rule after a challenge from the US Chamber of Commerce and other groups. The rule requires financial advisors to act in the

interest of their client when providing retirement advice. In late March, the plaintiffs request to block the rule while the case is on appeal was denied. If the new administration takes no action, the Fiduciary Rule will go into effect Apr 10, 2017.

Protecting Equality, State by State

On March 22, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the Equal Rights amendment, 45 years after it was passed by Congress and sent to the states.



Fighting for Access to Justice

Class action litigation is an important tool in achieving justice for individual victims of discrimination, but also policy changes and other systemic remedies.



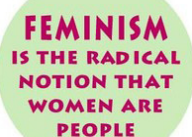
On March 12, the House passed the Fairness in Class Act Litigation Act (HR 985), severely undermining class action in civil rights cases. The Act adds years to a lawsuit by adding automatic appeals to the certification of a class of plaintiffs, and more delays in discovery of documents. The Act effectively denies access for those seeking justice, and fails to deter those who engage in illegal discrimination. Contact Senators Baldwin and Johnson to vote no to this critical erosion of civil rights enforcement. See AAUW legal advocacy webpage for more information.

UWL Feminism Fest

Monday, April 10, 2017 6:00pm-7:30pm

UWL Student Union, The Bluffs Rm

Feminism Fest offers a chance for the community to interact and enjoy a night filled with fun, friends, and feminism. The event will include booths by the La Crosse AAUW branch, the Pride Center, College Feminists, and other organizations. We have speakers attending, including Representative Jill Billings, along with others. There will be informational handouts, prizes, and crafts!



FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner



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?

Financial Report as of March 20, 2017

Checking Account\$9,134.32

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$958.02

.....

Dues Reminder

Think Spring: April showers;
May flowers; and June AAUW
dues renewal time (sorry, I'm the
Treasurer, not a poet).

You may now begin renewing
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:

Kristen Foehner
4104 Beverly Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

Thank you !

Sue Heuer



- 1) I first heard of AAUW when I was in college in CO. I was given a small scholarship by the Greeley Branch. Sometime in the 80's I was asked to be part of an education panel for one of the La Crosse Branch programs and I decided to join.
- 2) We have fewer ways of supplementing our budget with fewer fund-raisers and fewer members. Our programs have been extremely relevant and thought provoking and have helped us to be more involved and visible in the community.
- 3) Both health issues and wage disparity are important issues for women today.
- 4) I would love to do more traveling. The Greek Isles, Ireland, and Australia are all places I would like to visit. Who knows???
- 5) My best friend and I once were late for a flight that was held for us. Chief Justice Earl Warren was on board and said, "Glad you could make it girls!"

Marilyn Hempstead



- 1) When we moved to River Falls, WI, in 1973, AAUW was a way to become acquainted with like-minded women. Then most of us were young stay at home moms who were grateful for a stimulating outlet. Our branch is the 5th one I have belonged to as I sought out AAUW wherever we moved.
- 2) AAUW in general has become somewhat broader in its activism, but the basic philosophy, the camaraderie are the same. Our branch has grown stronger, overcoming several difficulties, since I came in 1990. Now the cohesive core group of dedicated members provides a firm base for the future.
- 3) Our country sorely needs more strong women in government and we already have many. The gains from the Women's Movement of my generation are in danger of being eroded. Also younger women need to know of the struggles of countless heroines who have paved the way for them.
- 4) I just want to continue to work to make a difference in my small sphere.
- 5) In the 60's and 70's I was active as a feminist. I was hired to set up a Women's Resource Center at UW-River Falls and wrote a grant to establish a domestic violence project at a time of denial that any need existed.

Jan Eriksen



- 1) I lived in Buffalo, NY for a couple of years and was a member of AAUW there. Then, after moving to La Crosse about 20 years ago, the Art Fair on the Green attracted me to the local branch.
- 2) It seems that AAUW has become a little less social and more political.
- 3) I think that the current political climate is difficult for women; for example, the threat of disbanding Planned Parenthood.
- 4) I've never been to Hawaii and have always wanted to go there.
- 5) Our "kids" are our 2 cats, Steely and Georgie.



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