



# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2014

## November Meeting: The Local Homeless Problem

**Presenter:** Kim Cable & Members of the Homeless Coalition

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014

**Where:** Ward Room  
Cartwright Center, UWL

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** Eggs, Bacon, Fruit tray, Assorted breads, Juice, Coffee

Members who do not wish to come for brunch, are welcome to attend the program portion at no charge.

Registration ..... 9:30am  
Breakfast ..... 10:00am  
Program ..... 10:30am

For cancellations or late reservations contact Marla French at [mfrench000@centurytel.net](mailto:mfrench000@centurytel.net) or 782-6589 by noon on Wed, Nov 5th.

Kim Cable of Couleecap will lead a panel discussion focusing on the Local Homeless Problem. In addition to Kim, the panel will consist of staff from local agencies working with individuals and families within the community who are experiencing homelessness. Kim will provide us with an overview of what homelessness looks like in our area and the services offered through Couleecap. Mary Fitzpatrick from Catholic Charities will inform us of the services provided by the

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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV)

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

AAUW is encouraging all members to not only vote on Nov. 4 but to remind others how important it is to take an active role in democracy. Study the issues and make sure you are aware of how candidates stand on policies and issues that are important to you. AAUW does not endorse parties or candidates but we do endorse issues such as: better public education and financial aid for college; equal pay and equal benefits for women; reproductive choices; and ongoing social security reform. Remind others that they will not need to show ID to vote as this obstacle has been removed. Check to see if neighbors, friends, colleagues need a ride to the polls and offer to take them or arrange one for them. Democracy works when we all have a voice.

Once again the collective efforts of our Branch members have resulted in another successful AAUW Art Fair on the Green. The final numbers are in and we raised \$19,149. Annually we deposit 10% into the General Fund (\$1915) which results in \$17,234 being deposited in the LaCrosse Community Foundation for the scholarship and grants funds. Thanks go to Lois Gilbert for deciphering all of the notes, deposits, and checks to complete the treasurer's report. And thank you to all members for your contributions, whether in time or

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### Next Board Meeting

Monday, November 3, 2014

6:30 pm

River Place Apartments  
1 River Place Dr.

Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

Contact Carol at: 519-0548 or [cfrobertson@charter.net](mailto:cfrobertson@charter.net) to place items on the agenda.

## GOTV... (continued from pg. 1)

money, to ensure our ongoing success. Save the date for next year's art fair: July 25 & 26, 2015.

The topic of our November general meeting, "The Local Homeless Problem" is another reminder of how much we have to be thankful for in our own lives. Homelessness is a problem not only for urban regions but for all areas. Come and hear what is being done in our region to address this issue.

Enjoy this time of the year with thankfulness and remember the needs of those who are struggling with illness or poverty.

## Membership News

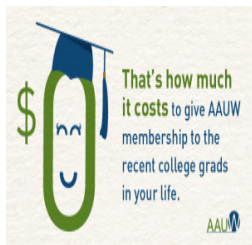
by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Condolences to the family of Marian Ford, who was an honorary life member of AAUW. That designation signifies she had been in AAUW for over 50 years! We honor her memory and the contributions she made to our branch.

### GIVE A GRAD A GIFT

AAUW has a fine offering to interest younger people in AAUW: a free membership for a year in National for students who have graduated from a degree or associate program within the last year. It is "Give A Grad A Gift".

Brittney Long, the young woman our branch sponsored for the 2014 NCCWSL, (See Carol Robertson's article on 2015 candidates.) indicated to Betty Kruck that she would like to be a member of AAUW. Although Brittney has moved from La Crosse, we were able to provide her with a national membership. The application was filled out and one more member was added to AAUW.



If you have someone in your life who graduated in the past year that you would like to honor and introduce to AAUW, the process is fairly easy. Following is the link:

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>.

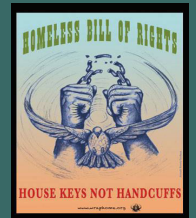
This will take you to the site where you will click through several pages of forms, etc. If you don't have your member number handy, you can fill in your name and other info. You will need the name, address, phone number, email and graduation information of the grad you want to sponsor.

Susan Fabian, a NCCWSL alum who is now a branch member, first joined via this program. I signed up my May 2014 graduate granddaughter, now in Florida studying sharks in a masters program. However, if you don't have anyone this year, this is a wonderful opportunity to keep in mind!

## November Meeting continued...

Warming Center, Meredith McCoy of the YWCA will provide information about their Transitional Housing Program and Kelley Bundy of the Salvation Army Emergency Shelter will talk about their efforts helping folks secure permanent stable housing. Rounding out the panel will be Rochelle Jones from Legal Action of Wisconsin with information about their work with keeping people in housing and Ann Kappauf from New Horizons speaking about domestic violence and how that affects families who face homelessness as a result.

Join us and become better informed about Homelessness in our area, what is being done about it, and what more needs to be done.



You will learn how we interface at the local, state, and national level on public policy and make a difference for sexual harassment and discrimination in work places and on campuses.

## Silent Auction in December

The popular Silent Auction will be back for the December 13th general meeting. Start getting your items together now to donate! We ask that you bring Art Fair-type fine arts such as paintings, ceramics, artisan jewelry, etc... Proceeds benefit branch programs.

Study Group	Meeting day/time	Contact person
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Liz Wing, 782-7963
Scholarship Bridge/Card Games	TBA	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
Contemporary Authors	3rd Tuesday of month at 2:00pm	Alice Ross, 788-4206
Hearth & Home	3rd Wednesday of month, evenings	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
AAUW in Action	Second Saturday of month, after general meeting	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

## Study Group News

### Hearth & Home

No event has been planned for November.

If you are interested in being a host for any of the months February-May, please contact Sharon DeCicco at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com

The next Hearth & Home will be December 2014.

Hearth & Home study group meets monthly to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings!

### What are Study Groups?

Study groups provide an opportunity for members to grow intellectually and creatively, broaden their involvement in topics of interest, become agents for intelligent community action and meet people who share similar interests. Please note that anyone is always welcome to attend any of these groups – no strings attached! Drop in, and bring a friend, to experience fellowship and the pleasures of lifelong learning.

### AAUW in Action

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 13; 11am.  
Mc Caffrey's coffee shop, 1808 State St, La Crosse

**Remember to bring your holiday cards (new and used), ribbons & bows, gift wrap and 2015 calendars (the freebies you get in the mail!) to the November 8th general meeting.** We're collecting those again this year to donate them to the YWCA, Coulee Cap and Brighter Tomorrows. Thank you!

Upcoming activities:

- *YWCA Transitional Housing group:* we'll be doing dinner and a holiday craft with the group on Dec. 9th

- *International Women's Day program:* our 3rd year of celebrating this with a panel of international women sharing their stories. Thurs, Mar. 5, 2015. UWL

- *WINGS (Women INterested in Going to School)* will expand to a full day program this year. Tentative date is Saturday, April 18th.

- *Celebrating March as Women's History Month.*  
The theme is: "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives"

***New members are always welcome!***

## Nominations needed for NCCWSL

Our La Crosse AAUW Branch has the opportunity to nominate college woman student leaders to receive a \$500 state scholarship to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. This conference focuses on leadership and career development for college women. AAUW –WI is offering two \$500 scholarships but we can submit only one name from our Branch.

We have sponsored attendees for the last several years and feedback from them has been overwhelmingly positive. This year the LaCrosse Community Foundation has awarded our branch a \$1000 Grant from the Bob and Jean Marck Family Fund to cover the expenses for an attendee. We are thankful for their contribution. These funds give us an opportunity to send more than one person.



Next year's conference will be May 28-30, 2015, at the University of Maryland College Park. Young women from across the country and around the world will participate in a wide variety of workshops and networking opportunities.

If you know of a young college woman student leader you would like to nominate, please send the name to Carol Robertson by December 15. Eligible nominees must be enrolled in a program leading to an Associate degree (or equivalent), Bachelors degree, or Master's degree at a technical school or other 2-4 year public or private college/university.

Please include the following:

Name, educational institution attending, and enrollment status of nominee

Awards, recognition, or honors received by the nominee  
Major area of study being pursued by nominee and why  
How attendance at the conference would further the nominee's goals

For more information on the conference, please check the website AAUW.org or contact Carol Robertson: cfrobertson@charter.net or call: 608-519-0548.

## Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Chair

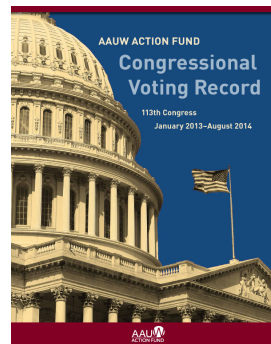
### PUBLIC POLICY IMPACTING POVERTY

We are invited to join League of Women Voters La Crosse on Thurs. Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m. to hear Dr. Lonnie Berger of UW Madison speak on Public Policy Impacting Poverty. The event will take place in the Marycrest Auditorium, 2nd floor of Mayo-Franciscan Hospital. Women and children are impacted disproportionately by poverty due to policies in our state and nation. Please attend this event to increase our awareness and response as AAUW members and individuals to this issue.



### VOTING RECORDS AVAILABLE

The Congressional Voting Record (CRV) for the 113th Congress is out. AAUW Voter Education has created a



score card which includes votes on legislation to strengthen equal pay laws, raise minimum wage, protect LGBT workers from discrimination, protect pregnant women from job discrimination and other important issues that fall within our mission statement. Sen. Ron Johnson received a 0% score. Please use this information to contact him

and encourage him to support legislation that increases equality and opportunity for women and their families. Also, use this resource to follow our other elected federal officials.

And please check out AAUW Action Fund's 2014 Wisconsin Gubernatorial Voter Guide to learn where Mary Burke and Scott Walker stand on AAUW's priority issues. To quote Lisa Maatz, AAUW V. Pres. of Government Relations, in her Huffington Post op-ed, "We need to know where our candidates stand so that we can identify those who would best represent our values and those who would roll back our rights".

*From the Treasurer  
Michele Strange*

**Financial Report as of  
October 24, 2014**

Checking Account .....\$11,934.73

**CD's**

*none at this time*

Scholarship Bridge .....\$1,470.02

*Notes from Robert Richardson*

**Email RSVP's:**

Just a note to thank all of the members on my e-mail list. Your prompt responses make my work light. Thank you!

**Membership Directory:**

One correction to this year's directory: Joan Koonmen is an Honorary Life Member as well as a Paid Life Member.

Thanks go to Michele Strange and Marilyn Hempstead for maintaining the accurate records that I use to assemble the listing of members. Thanks to the other officers for providing the programming and detail information that I include in the directory. Special thanks to Carol Robertson who provides the oversight necessary to accomplish this branch publication.

## Congratulations, Andrea!

La Crosse branch member, Andrea Hansen, will be honored at the YWCA's Tribute to Outstanding Women with the Activist award.

The Tribute to Outstanding Women Celebration will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2014, 5:00-8:30 pm, at the La Crosse Center's South Hall Ballroom.



The cost is \$55 per person. AAUW is not sponsoring a table, but if you would like to attend, please let Carol Robertson know and we can arrange for fellow AAUW members to sit together.

## Gift Wrapping

*by Marcia Wine, Chair*



Last year, for the first time, we participated in the gift wrapping program at the Valley View Mall on the Saturday before Christmas from 10 AM to 6 PM. We were located in the food court, and had two or three "wrappers" per 2 hour shift, which worked out well. Our supplies were donated by AAUW members. At the end of the day we cleared \$250. Most said they enjoyed it would like to do it again.

I will set up a time with the Mall office, hopefully the Saturday before Christmas again, and bring a sign up sheet to the December AAUW meeting.

## Scholarship Committee

*by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair*

The Scholarship Committee will meet early in November to finalize the application process and determine our calendar.

We release our scholarships the first week of December.

Last call: Any branch members who want to join this committee can contact either of us: Robert Richardson or Sharon DeCicco.

## Self-Sufficiency Breakfast



Please join us for the annual SSP Locally Grown Scholarship Breakfast on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 7:30- 9:00 a.m. Great Hall, Cleary Center, UWL. 615 East Ave. N.

No cost for this event! We will be celebrating SSP graduates and the friends of SSP who support the scholarship fund and programming needs. Please plan to attend.

RSVP by November 7: uwlxssp@gmail.com.

Contact: Andrea Hansen 608.785.8733; ahansen@uwlax.edu



**American Association of University Women**

*La Crosse Branch*

P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112



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### 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 Editor** .....Erica Koonmen (moogs56@hotmail.com)

**Webminder** .....*Position Open!*

**Newsletter Design**.....Tegan 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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)**