

## OCTOBER MEETING

### Update: Ending Homelessness in La Crosse

#### Presenters include:

- Sister Karen Neuser, FSPA
- Erin Healy, NY consultant hired by Gundersen Health System
- Julia McDermid, Project Manager of the Collaborative
- Joan Waniger, Co-Director of The Exchange

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017

**Where:** UW-La Crosse,  
Centennial Hall, Room 1300  
(Hall of Nations)

*(If you need directions, please contact Robert Richardson at 788-0595)*

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10

#### Breakfast Menu:

Scrambled eggs with side of bacon, fruit, bakery, juice, coffee and tea.

Members and guests are welcome to attend the brunch or just come for the program. Please indicate such when you RSVP.

For late reservations or cancellations, please call Robert Richardson at 788-0595 by NOON on Monday, October 9th.

**Registration**..... 9:30 AM  
**Breakfast**..... 10:00AM  
**Program** ..... 10:30AM

We are fortunate to have with us for our October meeting a panel of bold innovators and change agents from The Collaborative

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# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2017



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### A Fitting Tribute

*by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President*

The big news this month is that one of our members, Betty Kruck, has been chosen as one of the 2017 honorees by the YWCA for their La Crosse Tribute to Outstanding Women. The League of Women Voters and our AAUW Branch co-nominated her for the honor.

The YWCA's nomination form asks those presenting a nominee to speak to these points: how the candidate is aligned with the Y's mission to eliminate racism and/or empower women; how she serves as a role model and/or mentor to women and/or people of color in the community; how she has exhibited and demonstrated leadership, teamwork, integrity, dedication and motivation in the community; how she has demonstrated sustained excellence, accomplishment and creativity in her volunteer service.

Needless to say, Deb Lutjen,

president of LWV of La Crosse, and I (as well as other individuals) had no problem listing her activities, filling up 4 full pages. Her tireless efforts on behalf of voting rights and women's issues as well as other state, local and national policy

issues are abundantly clear from the testimony in the nomination form and letters of reference. We nominated her for the volunteer position, but she will be honored as an activist. No one in our organization is more deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations, Betty!

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## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, Oct 9th at 6:30 pm

Location:

Viterbo University Nursing Building  
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](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)

## A Fitting Tribute... (continued from page 1)

Betty will be recognized at this year's banquet, which will be held on Thursday, November 9th at the La Crosse Center Ballroom. We already have an AAUW table of 10 filled for the event. If you are interested in attending, please contact the YWCA at info@ywcalax.org or call 608-781-2783. Please consider joining us in honoring her service.

I have invited Janette Dean as my guest for the October meeting. She is spearheading a campaign to assure that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is finally ratified. She will bring a letter written to U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley for our signatures. I hope you will consider signing this document.

Jan Eriksen and I will travel to Osseo on October 1st for an AAUW-WI District 4 meeting. Every so often, the districts around the state meet to discuss upcoming events, plan for the AAUW-WI annual convention and share ideas and activities from our respective branches. I will report on our meeting in the November issue.

Thanks for all you do!

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

### Membership and Dues Statistics

AAUW is growing. The National Organization has 170,000 members in 1000 branches. Each member contributes \$49 to national. There are 800 College and University partners. All three of our higher ed institutions belong for a fee of \$250. Wisconsin branches together have 1,798 members. Our membership fee to state is \$13. The La Crosse Branch has 85 members but the number for the 2017/18 year isn't final. Only \$8 of the yearly dues stays in our treasury.

Last year's membership increase outpaced attrition so far thanks to members who invited prospective members. We will keep up the good work. Here's to having a report of new member information in next month's newsletter.



*Congratulations* to Joan & Ned Koonmen, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on September 9th!

You are invited to our 13th Annual  
**SSP Locally-Grown Scholarship Breakfast**

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Granddad Ballroom, Student Union, UW-La Crosse

**2017 Speakers: Sue (Sullivan) Lee & Adrian Lee**  
**'Growing Dreams & Degrees Together'**

Please RSVP by October 12, 2017

Email: uwlaxssp@gmail.com ; Phone: 608.785.8733

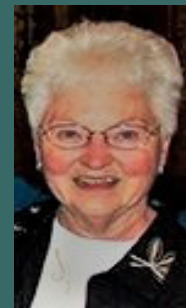
No cost to attend the Breakfast



## OCTOBER MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

to End Homelessness in La Crosse. The group is comprised of over 30 community organizations and community members working together to better the lives of those facing homelessness. In consultation with Erin Healy from New York, the collaborative set ambitious goals to end veteran and chronic homelessness. The first goal to house all veterans in 100 days was achieved last Christmas. The second "sprint" was achieved on August 24th when the 20th person experiencing chronic homelessness signed a lease for housing. Join us to hear their progress report and future goals for our community.



Sister Karen  
Neuser



Erin Healy



Julia  
McDermid

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of  
September 20, 2017

Checking Account..... \$9,070.16

CD's ..... none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$552.02

Dues Reminder



If you have not already renewed your membership for 2017-18, now is the time to send in your payment. Please make your check payable to AAUW - La Crosse Branch.

Dues are \$70.00, of which \$46.00 is tax deductible. If your dues are not received by October 31, 2017, your name will be removed from the local and national rosters.

Please mail your dues to:  
Kristen Foehner  
4104 Beverly Dr.  
Onalaska, WI 54650

You may email me with any questions regarding your dues at:  
K\_Foehner@Yahoo.com

AAUW La Crosse 2017-18 Budget

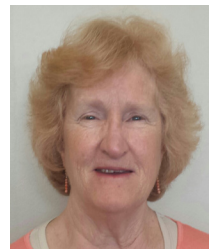
The following budget was approved by the AAUW La Crosse Branch Board at their meeting on August 28, 2017. Please contact Kristen Foehner at K\_Foehner@Yahoo.com with any questions related to the budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <u>Income</u>   |                  |
| Art Fair  | \$1,700.00       |
| Branch Dues   | \$700.00         |
| Meals   | \$0.00           |
| Fundraisers (book sales, quilt raffle, cookie walk, etc.) | \$894.00         |
| Miscellaneous   | \$50.00          |
| In Action Projects  | <u>\$200.00</u>  |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                       | <b>\$3544.00</b> |
| <u>Expenses</u>   |                  |
| Board Tools   | \$75.00          |
| Convention  | \$350.00         |
| Current (printing, postage, supplies)                     | \$125.00         |
| Legal Advocacy Fund Donation                              | \$500.00         |
| Other Donations (memorials for scholarship, NCCWSL)       | \$550.00         |
| Hospitality   | \$15.00          |
| Insurance   | \$500.00         |
| Membership  | \$15.00          |
| Miscellaneous (Global Initiatives, etc.)                  | \$50.00          |
| Name Grants   | \$500.00         |
| Organization (directory, PO box, website)                 | \$257.50         |
| Program (room rent, honoraria, technical support)         | \$450.00         |
| Scholarship Expenses                                      | \$15.00          |
| In Action Projects  | <u>\$500.00</u>  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                     | <b>\$3902.50</b> |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>                                      | <b>\$-358.50</b> |



La Crosse Branch Cameos

(continued from page 3)



Carlene Roberts

1 - I heard about AAUW from other women I met when we first moved to LaCrosse. It was a great way to connect and make friends when we were new in town and I was primarily at home with children - just working very part time.

2 - The 2 changes most valuable to me are the increase in promoting Public Policy including specific simple ways to respond, and our broadened use of scholarship moneys in the community - i.e. Self Sufficiency Program, Hmong Association projects, etc.

3 - There has been slow progress in equality for women, but we still have a ways to go in wages, the glass ceiling, domestic violence, women in elected office, and general level of respect and value in society.

4 - My bucket list is pretty much seeing as much of the world as possible while I still can. We are making progress!

5 - 35-40 years ago I tried my hand at playing bluegrass banjo with Tom Pfaff as my teacher. Then I had a third child and that was the end of that.

## Farewell to World Services

By Betty Kruck



Thanks to World Services of La Crosse for their years of forging friendships and understandings and

fostering the exchange of knowledge and skills between emerging leaders in many countries and people in many United States communities.

What started as a cooperative partnership between our two local health care organizations and La Crosse's Sister City program with Dubna, Russia, expanded to include technical assistance projects and cultural exchange programs designed to promote peace and mutual understanding in countries throughout the world. As a hosting agency for Open World Leadership program, World Services La Crosse arranged visits with more than 1100 international visitors from 16 countries hosted by volunteer professionals and families in 23 states. The focus of the delegates' U.S. visits has included health care, education, social services, environment, government and cultural topics.

AAUW La Crosse was proud to be involved in hosting delegates from Kyrgyzstan and Kosovo. The experience was one that was personally exhilarating and insightful. Many thanks to Sandra McCormick, Mary Anderson, Maureen Jameson and Deborah Lutjen for their years leading World Services.

*Mission Statement: World Services of La Crosse is a leader in the development and implementation of international partnerships designed to advance health, civil society, public administration and the environment, to promote peace and mutual understanding in countries throughout the world*

## Meet our new Public Policy Intern



Hi! My name is Kathryn Draper and I am the Public Policy Intern this fall. I am a Junior at UWL and I am a double major in Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Ethnic and

Racial Studies. This semester I will be putting on events on campus and focusing on reaching out to more college students and spreading the word about AAUW.

## Public Policy

By Pat Markos, Public Policy Chair

As the new Chair of Public Policy, I thought it would be helpful to review the AAUW Public Policy Principles and Public Policy Priorities. The 2017-2019 Priorities are in step with:

"AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research and speak to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span"  
(AAUW Resources, Public Policy Priorities, 2017).

AAUW's Public Policy Principles come from over 130 years of positive activism at the local, state, national and international levels. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals. The assumption is that there are appropriations necessary to meet needs, that there is an administration that is effective and accountable, and that everyone has the opportunity to participate. AAUW strives for transparency where everyone has a voice and participates in making decisions about these principles. It's important to note that AAUW's public policy efforts are based on the consideration that true equity entails "a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community"

AAUW's Public Policy Principles state:

- High quality education is the basis for gender equity and economic prosperity.
- Economic, social, and physical well-being of all individuals is endorsed.
- Individuals have the right to privacy and freedom from violence.
- Improving racial, ethnic, and gender justice is a priority.
- Global interdependence mandates policies against human trafficking at the national and international levels.

The 2017-2019 Public Policy Priorities are as follows:

- To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.
- To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.
- To guarantee equity, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

I'm excited to be part of our La Crosse chapter. You can see there's a lot of work to be done. I'll keep you informed of AAUW national trends and initiatives. I look forward to working with our intern, Kathryn Draper, Andrea Hansen, and Betty Kruck.



## Study Group News

### AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

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

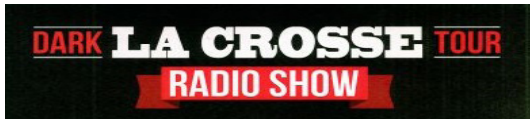
Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

### SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

## HEARTH & HOME



Join us in learning about the seedier side of La Crosse's past in this stage production in the format of an old-time radio show!

Date/Time: Friday, Nov 3, 2017 7:30 pm \$15.00

Location: The Pump House

Any one who wants to join us please contact Sharon DeCicco at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.

## AAUW in Action

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov 14, 2:00 pm; Cabin Coffee (1202 Cty Rd PH, Onalaska)

Work has begun on International Women's Day.

Save Thursday, March 8th for this panel discussion.

We'll be offering WINGS workshop in April 2018.

We welcome new members and suggestions for events and programs.



## La Crosse Branch Cameos

1. How did you find & join AAUW?
2. What significant changes/ improvements have you seen in AAUW over the years?
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?

### Dottie Kruse



1. Miss Pat Staupe got me involved in AAUW
2. I am glad to see that there is more involvement and concern about women's equality, pay, responsibility, jobs, etc. I am glad to see more young women getting involved. Also I am happy that the legal and legislative parties are getting more involved in women's rights.
3. Being thought of as an equal peer and not as something less than the rest.
4. Seeing The Grand Canyon was on my list, but Don and BJ took me there last year. It is beautiful.
5. The best man in my wedding owns an award winery on the Oregon Coast. It is called The Flying Dutchman.



### June Reinert

1. I always was aware of AAUW, but never took the time to investigate it while I was employed at UWL as the Director of Disability Services. Michele Strange worked down the hall from me at UWL and took me to a meeting. When I attended the meeting, I thought that this would be a wonderful organization for me to get involved in since I had retired and I was so supportive of their mission. The scholarship presentations are awe inspiring.
2. I have been a member for three years and am constantly amazed by the topics of the presentations; as well as the conversations. I have become much more aware of the many issues that women face in society. I am impressed at both the progress as well as the obstacles that face women in today's world.
3. I think that there are many issues that face women today. Some of those issues are health care, equal pay and a place at the table for women from minority groups. Certainly, there continual issues with women being in power positions, so that their voice is heard.
4. I would like to visit more of the national parks, as well as see Hawaii.
5. I have 11 grandchildren, ranging in age from 1-16 years.



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 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)