

September Meeting:

Cocktails and Conversations!

Presenter:

AAUW La Crosse leaders

When: Thurs, September 8, 2016
5-7 pm

Where: RiverPlace Apartments
1 Riverplace Drive, La Crosse

Reception Cost: Free

Menu: Variety of appetizers, wine
and non-alcoholic beverages

- Sign in at 5:00 p.m.
- Appetizers and meet and greet begin at 5:00 p.m.
- Presentation and conversations begin at 6:00 p.m.

To place your reservation for this event, please respond to your email or caller reservation person by Monday, September 5. Due to the invitations members may extend to guests for this program, late reservations will also be accepted. Please phone Silvana Richardson at (608) 788-0595 for cancellations or late reservations.

“Cocktails and conversations” will be a celebration of new AAUW members as well as an opportunity for each one to bring one so that each current AAUW member is welcome to invite a potential new member, at no cost, to a fun and casual setting where women’s issues will be discussed. In order to also thank all of our friends and relatives who helped during the art fair weekend, members are

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: New Year, New Faces

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

As the summer draws to a close, we can look back with a great sense of accomplishment, not only for the past year, but the wonderful start to our 2016/17 year. Art Fair on the Green was a great success, partly because of the glorious weather, but mostly because of the efforts all of us put into the event, both before and during the weekend. Our attendance was up from last year and we had a record number of non-member volunteers helping at our different booths.

I want to especially thank my predecessor, Carol Robertson, not only for her four years as president, but also for assuming the responsibility of leading Art Fair on the Green since the passing of Pat Staupe 3 years ago! I know she will agree with me that as leaders we couldn't do all we do without you. For several years there has been a formidable team of committee chairs; I am so grateful that many of them will continue to serve in these vital roles.

In the past ten years we have seen a growth in our branch



projects. Most notably, we have more than doubled the size of our scholarships and grants. With our grants we have forged new relationships with area organizations that complement our mission of advancing equity for women and girls, organizations such as YWCA, Hope Academy and the Self Sufficiency Program. So we want to celebrate these achievements.

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Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

6:30 pm

Location: 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

New Year, New Faces ... *(continued from pg. 1)*

On September 8th, we will have something new--a Cocktails and Conversations get-together to highlight our organization and its members. We will give new and prospective members a chance to learn more about our branch, as well as thank all our friends who helped during the art fair. I encourage you to come to our September social and bring as guests a prospective member and/or a friend/relative who volunteered on our weekend.

Silvana Richardson and Lois Gilbert have been working hard getting our meeting schedule lined up. I think you will find an interesting array of speakers and topics. Two meetings will be devoted to our involvement with the World Services Kosovo delegation arriving November 11th. I hope you all take the opportunity to get to know more about this project, assist the Kosovo committee in its work and get to meet the delegates during the week they are here.

I'm looking forward to all the upcoming events.

Thanks again for all you do!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Brenda, the daughter of **Dottie Kruse**, reports that between about Sept-March Dottie will be at the following address:

3271 Colorado Dr. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

She no longer has a land line. Her cell phone is 507-838-0512. BJ's cell is 254-291-9026. As Dottie is not using her email, Brenda suggests emails be sent through her at labsnhearts@aol.com

Patti Savarin has moved. Her new address is:

211 Coachlight Court Onalaska, WI 54650

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy goes out to **Margaret Wood** and her family on the death of her mother this summer.

Marian Ramlow passed away August 7th at the age of 96. She had a long history with our branch as her mother was a member before her. They both were a part of the study group Bookfellows. With her keen intelligence, social conscience and strong advocacy for women she made valuable contributions to our branch and to the community throughout her life. Condolences to her son and two daughters and their families. A celebration of Marian's life will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 401 West Ave. S., in La Crosse.



September Meeting *continued...*

encouraged to invite the same folks they recruited to help at the air fair to this no cost September 8th meet and greet event.

Find out how AAUW is relevant today and how you can be involved in a variety of AAUW activities. Enjoy this chance to meet and mingle and network with local AAUW members and learn about the mission of AAUW as well as the achievements of AAUW La Crosse Branch and AAUW national.

Register to win a door prize and pick a question from a hat to get an AAUW member to answer. This is your time to ask questions and find out why so many others in the area have been drawn to the AAUW mission and experience. Find out what online access to the La Crosse Branch AAUW and national AAUW can offer you.

Because the appetizers and beverages will be free for this meeting, please tell your caller or e-mailer if you will bring either an appetizer or a beverage.

We look forward to seeing you for cocktails and conversations on September 8!



Art Fair Report

By Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair

Preliminary financials are in and once again, it looks as though we had another successful Art Fair. The revenue from the slightly lower number of artists was offset by the attendance. This year's gate receipts indicate that we had 3200 people attend in 2016 vs. 2600 in 2015. These figures combined with increased raffle and concessions revenue help to keep us in line. Almost all the bills are in and the good news is that the Grounds bill was a little less than 2015! We received some discounts that UW-L says will not apply in 2017, but we'll wait until next year to address that issue.

Adding to our income is the income that goes directly to the Scholarship Fund at the La Crosse Community Foundation. Those numbers are separate so that members and businesses contributing are able to claim the tax deduction, but are counted in the final tally of proceeds. Lois Gilbert has worked diligently to keep the numbers up to date.

Even though we can't take credit for the weather, we are all thankful that there were no storms, rains, cold, or extreme heat this year!

Thanks go to our great Art Fair Committee, members who volunteered their time, and all the non-members who graciously offered to help (or were "volunteered" by family members. A special shout out goes to our "garbologists" - Charlie & George). The art fair takes the efforts of many people and for that I thank you all.

Artists Co-Chairs: Erica Koonmen & Sharon De Cicco
Awards Co-Chairs: Jan Eriksen & Marilyn Hempstead
Concessions Co-Chairs: Betty Kruck & Michele Strange
Grounds: Susan Fabian, Carlene Roberts, Sarah Koehler
Program: Robert Richardson
Publicity : Marian Schiesser, Erica Koonmen, Joan Gundersen
Raffle Co-Chairs: Karen Landstrom & Marcia Wine
Student Art: Joan Gundersen
Treasurer: Lois Gilbert, Bev Bodine (assistant)
Volunteer Coordinator: Marla French

Thank you to a wonderful crew.

Save the dates for 2017 – July 29 & 30! (Another 5th weekend)

Generations Working at the Art Fair

Working at the AAUW Art Fair on the Green has become a generational thing! Below is a picture of some of the mothers and daughters (and even a grandson) who helped out this year:



Front row: Ruthann Knapp; Joan Koonmen; Nick (grandson of Bev Bodine)

Back row: BJ Taylor (daughter of Dottie Kruse); Dottie Kruse; Laurie Gabrielson (daughter of Ruthann Knapp); Erica Koonmen (daughter of Joan Koonmen); Carol Robertson; Lisa Hoskins (daughter of Carol Robertson); Bev Bodine



Art Fair Awards Report

by Jan Eriksen & Marilyn Hemstead, Awards Co-Chairs

We are pleased to announce that the following amounts were received in direct donations through solicitations by the Awards Committee: Scholarship Fund \$2,310; Artists' Awards Fund \$1,465; and Purchase Awards \$300. Thank you to the many La Crosse Branch members who contributed generously to these funds! Several area businesses also made donations.

The award winners, as chosen by the judges and the fair goers on Saturday of the fair were:

- Best Two-Dimensional, Karri Jamison, painting
- Best Three-Dimensional, Laurel Grey, glass
- Best Green, Sharlene Bohr, fiber
- People's Choice, Paul Hatlem, photography.

The award-winning artists each received a certificate and a check for \$250.

Because Democracy is not a Spectator Sport!

Contributed by the La Crosse League of Women Voters



The League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area invites AAUW members to join in our mission to “Make Democracy Work” and ensure that citizens’ voices are heard on Election Day, November 8th.

How you can help:

1) Election Inspectors: The City of La Crosse Clerk’s Office needs more than 85 Election Inspectors to work at the polls every election. You can join this team to ensure this basic right of citizenship--to vote in a fair, free election. Eligibility and application materials are on the City of La Crosse website: <https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/elections>

2) Special Registration Deputy (SRD): Volunteer as an SRD to register voters this fall and on Election Day. Teri Lehrke, La Crosse City Clerk, will offer required SRD training this fall. Contact the City Clerk’s Office lehrket@cityoflacrosse.org for SRD training dates and times. If you have current appointment as an SRD and would like to be notified about LWV sponsored voter registration drives and outreach, send a message to Voter Service Committee at league@lwvlacrosse.org.

3) Poll Greeters: On Election Day, be a greeter at the polls. Contact Teri Lehrke to volunteer. lehrket@cityoflacrosse.org

4) Election Monitors: LWV Wisconsin is seeking volunteer election monitors who will be trained and placed at the polls. You don’t need to be a League member to volunteer! Find the Election Observer Volunteer Form on the LWV Wisconsin website: <http://www.lwvwi.org/Vote2016.aspx>. This website also has information that will keep you informed about the changes in Wisconsin Voter Photo ID law.

Save the Date: La Crosse City Clerk Teri Lehrke will present a “Voting Update” at LWV’s Tuesday, September 13th meeting at the Radisson Hotel. Join LWV members for lunch at 11:30am. Program at Noon. (RSVP required for optional \$13 lunch. Contact league@lwvlacrosse.org for more information)

Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Public Policy Chair

Our media have been dominated this summer by 2 events - the Olympics and political campaigns.

We can be proud of many athletes that represented the U.S., and there is an increasing number of women in a variety of sports.

But our news reporting still contains sexist remarks, reference to appearance and age, marital and parental status, just as with women in other areas of public life. Which media do you use? Please let them know when you see sexist reporting.

There are so many aspects of our campaigns and our democracy to think about.

VOTING RIGHTS changed when in 2013 the Supreme Court invalidated parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. As a result many states have created more restrictive voting laws - especially Wisconsin, North Carolina, Texas and North Dakota. These effect students, minorities, women, the elderly and disabled, and lower income citizens. There are promising decisions from U.S. Court of Appeals to turn this around.

GERRYMANDERING has limited the power of the ballot for minorities and lower socio-economic voters.

VOTER REGISTRATION has become more difficult with increased ID requirements, shorter time periods and fewer locations to register.

GOTV or GET OUT THE VOTE is something we are all responsible for as citizens. Do you know someone who hasn’t registered? or someone who needs transportation or child care to get to the polls? or someone who isn’t connected to non-partisan information about candidates?

VOTER EDUCATION - AAUW is a great resource through the website AAUW.org, Action Fund, Voter Issue Guide, and candidate positions. Information on candidates for U.S. President and Vice President, and an increasing number of Congressional and Gubernatorial races is available. PLEASE share this with neighbors, friends & family.

COMMUNICATION WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS - AAUW.org, Action Fund, Two Minute Activist is a wonderful concise source of timely updates on legislation. The weekly AAUW Washington Update gives a broader view of what AAUW is doing in D.C. and around the country. Also, it provides news on issues affecting education, women and their families. In September ‘AAUW in the Statehouse’ begins a monthly E-bulletin, with a focus on state level issues and legislation. PLEASE sign up for all these e-mail connections during this important election cycle, and contact our legislators to express your views and concerns

That’s AAUW.org, Action Fund for

- Two Minute Activist for issues as they arise
- AAUW Washington Update for weekly political news
- AAUW in the Statehouse monthly for more local/state issues and legislation

Remember, when women vote we change the conversation.

Study Group News

Study Group	Meeting day/time	Contact person
AAUW in Action	please see below for details	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509
Hearth & Home	meeting occasionally, see below for details	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
Contemporary Authors	3rd Tuesday of month at 2:00pm	Alice Ross, 788-4206
Scholarship Bridge/Card Games	TBA	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

Hearth & Home

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.

Last spring there was interest in going on the LaCrosse Trolley tour sponsored by the Visitors Center in Riverside park.



We are looking at a tour on Friday, Sept 23rd OR Saturday, Sept 24th at 10:30am. It lasts 90 minutes. The cost is \$9 for adults, \$8 for 62+. We could go out to lunch afterwards.

Please respond by Friday, Sept 9th with the date that's best for you to Sharon: 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.

If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.

Study Group Ideas Needed



We are looking for people with interests they are willing to share or people who would like to get together and learn something new. There are lots of great ideas for study groups and all it takes to get one going is someone to step up and set a date for a first meeting!

Our branch has a book club that's full so maybe another one would be a good idea. Other ideas include: an Art Appreciation group, Game Nights, Ukelele band, Movie Goers.... whatever you'd like to make happen!

Please let Michele Strange know of your interests and plans.

AAUW in Action

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept 22 2:00 pm
JavaVino: 2311 State Rd La Crosse

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

This coming year, we'll be continuing several events:

- International Women's Day Panel
- Women's History Month window display
- Working with YWCA's Transitional Housing
- WINGS (Women INTERested in Going to School)

Please join us at the first meeting of the year as we set plans in motion and look at new activities.

We welcome new members and suggestions for events and programs.



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 several 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 (for 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?



Francie Ball



1. I found AAUW at the 2015 Women's Day celebration at UW-L. I liked what I learned about the organization, its activities and its mission.

2. I am most interested in working with the scholarship committee.

3. I think that education and opportunities for learning are the most important issues facing women today.

4. My bucket list is full of dreams and plans for travel in Europe.

5. What you don't know about me: I was once on the Ski Patrol at Cascade Mountain. Downhill skiing was my passion until I discovered cross-country skiing: quiet and no lift lines!

Ann Brice



1. I was introduced to AAUW by my dear friend, Marilyn Hempstead. I had heard of AAUW in the past but thought it was Campus Dames.

2. I would like to be a worker bee, for now. I think AAUW is a wonderful organization,

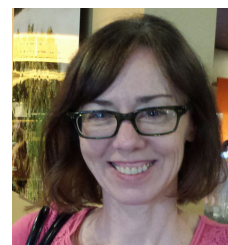
and I'd like to become more involved as time goes on. Right now, though, I'd like to be an on-call person for when there are events. I'd also like to help Western staff and faculty become more aware of and involved in AAUW.

3. Of the many challenges facing women today, I think the most immediate are violence against women and the surge in anti-abortion measures.

4. I plan on doing Ironman Wisconsin 2018 when I finish my Ph.D. at Cardinal Stritch University. I'd also like to visit St. Petersburg, Russia as well as Krakow, Poland.

5. I make fantastic she-crab soup and triple-chocolate oat cookies!

Linda Myers



1. I was attending Artspire and found the AAUW booth and the people working there were very friendly and had lots of information about AAUW. And I talked to Marilyn about joining.

2. (Linda serves as branch secretary.) I am most interested in public policy and I would like to bring my energy to work in the public policy area. (Linda is a lawyer at Fort McCoy and has been employed in federal government for 23 years, primarily in labor employment law.)

3. I'd like to see women in developed countries become much more aware of our sisters in other countries who are just struggling to survive and live and don't even have basic human rights. I would like to promote more global awareness and calls for action to help women in other lands.

4. I would like to travel to India and after I retire I would like to live at least 2 months of the year in Greece.

5. I have taken classes in boxing and ballet and I have done dog sledding.

Patti Savarin



Patti Savarin has been in our area for just a few days over 1 year. She moved here from the Iron Mountain Michigan area where she was an AAUW member for 16 years.

She has been active in our Hearth & Home activities and really enjoys them.

Patti has 3 children and is the Retail Materials Manager for Ingersoll Rand (Trane Co.)

Patti would like to share her enthusiasm and also some ideas that were used in her previous AAUW group.

She is interested in serving on the scholarship committee, but does not believe scholarship applications should be rewarded based solely on need.

From the Treasurer
Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of August 20, 2016

Checking Account\$7,925.24

CD's

none at this time

Scholarship Bridge\$400.02

Dues Reminder

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2016-17, 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, 2016, 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

NCCWSL Thank You

by Dedra Petersen, 2016 conference attendee

I just wanted to express my many thanks to the local AAUW branch for providing me with a scholarship to go towards the conference.



It was very empowering to be surrounded by other individuals who shared common experiences but possessed different traits and a variety of opinions and values. I am grateful for that opportunity to be in such a space - all thanks to you all. I can understand why other scholarship recipients expressed similar thoughts and feelings.

Thank you, I truly appreciate it.

Scholarships & Grants

by Robert Richardson, Scholarship & Grants Committee Co-Chair

Soon, the Scholarships and Grants Committee will meet to review our processes and our applications. We target December 1st as our date to release applications and nominations. We welcome any AAUW member to join our committee. During our first meeting of the year...the "acquainting" meeting during which we get to mix and mingle and converse, talk to any of our present committee members.

The S & G Committee:

Alice, Betty, Carol, Diana, Francie, Marilyn, Mary, Michele, Robert, Sangeetha, Sharon, & Silvana

Branch Directory

by Robert Richardson, Chair

Again, we tried with diligence to produce an error-free Membership Directory. However, perfection eludes us. Please let us know if we have erred in any way. We will distribute the new, updated directory at the September meeting! Kristen, Michele, Robert, Sangeetha, Sharon, & Silvana

Electronic Meeting Notices

by Robert Richardson, E-reminder Chair



If you receive a message from me, I would like to receive a reply from thee.

Some respondents send me a separate, new response message; most simply reply to my original message.

I prefer the reply option because I can keep all responses in one thread.

However, I will take a reply any way I can get it!



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

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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