

September Meeting:

Cocktails and Conversations!

Presenter:

AAUW La Crosse leaders

When: Wednesday, Sept 6, 2017
5-7 pm

Where: Washburn on the Park Apt
801 Main Street, 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.
- Brief presentation and then conversations begin @ 6:00 p.m

To place your reservation for this event, please respond to your email or caller person by Sunday, Sept. 3. Due to the invitation members may extend to guests for this free program, late reservations will also be accepted. Please call Lois Gilbert at (608)782-7204 for cancellations or late reservations.

“Cocktails & Conversations” will be a celebration of our successful 2017 Art Fair on the Green as well as a celebration of our new members. This event is an opportunity for each one of our members 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 event to introduce our organization. We also wish to thank all of our friends and

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2017



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A New Beginning

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

I must confess that I played hooky a lot this summer, but I'm back in full swing with another year of AAUW activities.

This summer has been a see-saw of temperatures with lots of rain. August is truly a puzzle; it seems more like fall than summer. Yet, we had another perfect weekend for Art Fair (two years in a row!) and that made for a good summer. I haven't seen any final figures yet, but attendance appeared to be record-breaking. I heard a lot of positive comments about the variety of artists, how well organized the event was and the arrangement of booths on the grounds. From what I saw everything went smoothly and that was due to a lot of hard work both before and during the event. A big thank you to all members, spouses and friends who helped make the weekend such a success!



Pat Staup's Quilt

Another year of programming is upon us. Lois Gilbert and Silvana Richardson have put their heads

together and come up with an excellent line-up of programs. I am looking forward to all the events they have planned. The September meeting will be a reprise of last year's Cocktails and Conversations (see article on this page). I hope that everyone will come and bring a prospective member or two.

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Next Board Meeting

Monday, August 28, 2017

6:30 pm

Location: Viterbo University
Nursing Building, Room 502
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

A New Beginning ... (continued from pg. 1)

Several groups are heading an effort to pass the Equal Rights Amendment that has languished without full ratification since 1972. You should have received an email about actions that we can take. There is more information about this under public policy on page 4.

Earlier this spring I was made aware of a gift to our branch from Arlene Staupe, mother of the late Pat Staupe, a branch member and Art Fair Chair for many years before her death in 2013. She has gifted us a handmade quilt given to Pat as a retirement gift from her colleagues at Kee High School in Lansing, IA where she taught music. It is a beautiful piece with music notations included in it. Arlene wants us to use it however we want and thought that it should be raffled off as a fundraiser. We will discuss this at our first board meeting on August 28.

I don't know what else lies in store for our organization this year, but I am excited to find out. I hope you will attend our meetings and enjoy the programs planned for you. I look forward to working with you this year. Thank you, thank you for all you do!

2017-2018 AAUW La Crosse Board

Elected Officers

President: Michele Strange

VP- Pres. Elect: Jan Ericksen

VP's – Finance: Kristen Foehner & Bev Bodine

VP – Membership: Marilyn Hempstead

VP's – Program: Silvana Richardson & Lois Gilbert

Secretary : Patti Savarin

Appointed Board

Art Fair: Carol Robertson

Historian: Marilyn Hempstead

By Laws: Carol Robertson

Publicity : *Open*

Public Policy: Pat Markos

Name Grants: Jan Eriksen

Fundraising: *Open*

Newsletter (*The Current*): Erica Koonmen

Hospitality : Jo Anne Revels

Telephone Coordinator: Sarah Stuber

E-Mail RSVP Coordinator: Robert Richardson

AAUW In Action (AIA) Coordinator: Erica Koonmen

Scholarship Co-chairs: Sharon De Cicco & Robert Richardson

Membership Directory: Robert Richardson

Scholarship Bridge: Sharon De Cicco

University Relations:

UWL - Andrea Hansen

Viterbo – Carol Klitzke

Western – Ann Brice

September Meeting continued...

relatives who helped work on art fair weekend, so please invite the same people you recruited as volunteers to this Sept. 6 meet and greet.

Register to win one of six fabulous door prizes and draw a name of another guest you can introduce yourself to, and then share with this person how you participate in AAUW La Crosse activities and projects. Find out what online access to AAUW La Crosse and national AAUW can offer you at this event.

Because the appetizers and beverages will be free for this meeting, please tell Lois at (608) 782-7204 if you can bring an appetizer or beverage to this gathering.

Amanda Coughlin, WTC student, who was awarded our scholarship to attend NCCWSL this summer, will speak on her experiences at the conference.

We look forward to seeing you for this casual celebration with cocktails and conversations on Wednesday evening, Sept. 6, from 5-7!



Art Fair Report

By Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair



The 59th annual Art Fair on the Green was held the weekend of July 29 & 30 with great weather and great crowds. Even with the construction on the UW-L grounds, we were able to fit in all of the 90 artists and 8 food vendors and a music group! The new layout and new gate by the bell tower were well received.

The preliminary financials show that we took in revenue of \$14,928 for gate receipts, raffle and water sales. Additionally, we have approximately \$ 10,000 in vendor fees. These numbers do not include the money donated to the scholarship fund. Overall, I feel confident that we will have another very successful year and that we will be able to award our generous amount in scholarships and grants next May.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time this year. I appreciate your willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure that everything is handled. Everyone is willing to jump in when asked and I am thankful for all of you.

A special word of thanks goes to the Art Fair Committee:

Artists: Erica Koonmen, Sharon De Cicco & Cindy Mishnick

Awards: Jan Erikson and Marilyn Hempstead

Concessions: Betty Kruck and Michele Strange

Grounds: Susan Fabian, Sarah Koehler and

Robert Richardson

Hospitality: Mary Hall

Program: Robert Richardson

Publicity: Marian Schiesser

Raffle: Karen Landstrom

Volunteers: Marla French

Treasurers: Lois Gilbert and Bev Bodine

A special shout out goes to Bev's grandson, Nick, and to our Garbologists, George and Charlie!

And now the planning begins for the 60th annual art fair--July 28 & 29, 2018!

Reminder for the Art Fair Committee:

Wrap up meeting on Monday, Sept 18.
Details will be emailed.

Thank you from the Art Fair Awards Committee

By Marilyn Hempstead & Jan Eriksen, Co- Chairs

Thanks so much to all the members who made contributions to the Scholarship Fund, Artists' Awards, and Purchase Awards. Scholarships are the entire purpose of the Art Fair. The Artists' Awards fund enables AAUW to provide cash incentives to the artists for Best Two-Dimensional, Best Three-Dimensional, and Best Green art, along with the People's Choice award. These awards not only increase the professionalism of the fair but also encourage artists to return year after year. And, lastly, Purchase Awards are an honor to the artists and give them a designation to display in their booths. We are deeply grateful for your generosity!

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

- Best Two-Dimensional: Phyllis Martino, painting
- Best Three-D: Darryl & Delores Heiden, jewelry
- Best Green: Steve Miller, Wood
- People's Choice: Jay Rasmussen, photography.



Each academic year AAUW selects 10 inspiring college students to serve on the AAUW National Student Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC is a unique feminist team that advises AAUW staff and leads campus activism projects to promote gender equity. SAC members also serve as campus ambassadors and as peer leaders during the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

Fill out the form at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/nominate-a-student-to-apply-sac/> to nominate an inspirational student you know!

We'll send that student a customized message with more information about the SAC and how to apply.

Applications to serve on the 2017-18 SAC close on September 25, 2017, at 11:59 p.m. PT

Public Policy

By Michele Strange, Branch President

Watch this column in the October issue for contributions from Pat Markos, our new Public Policy Chair. She is excited about researching and sharing information from AAUW National and other sources that impact our mission. Pat is a new member this year, but held membership several years ago and was Program Co-Chair.

Below is a repeat of the news emailed to you recently about the effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. This information was forwarded to us from Peter Nelson of the La Crosse League of Women Voters.



Equal Rights Amendment advocate, Janette Dean, who graduated from La Crescent High School in 1984 has returned back to the area from the West Coast to help take care of her aging parents now in Caledonia, MN.

Janette was the lead grassroots organizer for Nevada ratification of the ERA on March 22 this year as the 36th state to do so of 38 needed. AAUW was one of the strongest organizations in Nevada supporting the effort. We now need just 2 more states of the 14 left for the required ratification of the ERA by 3/4 of 50 states.

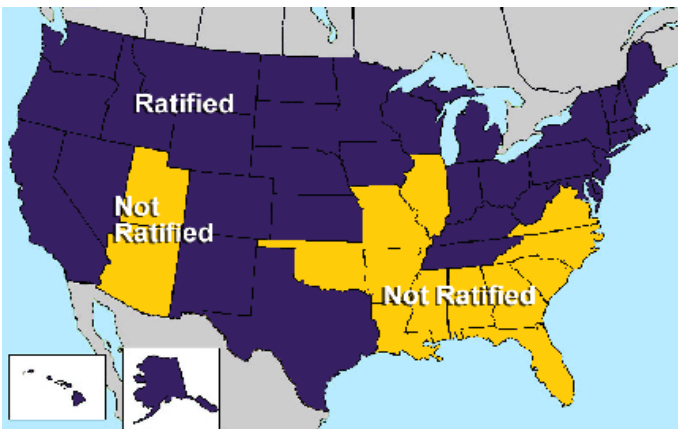
In addition, Janette and ERA proponents want Congress to lift the old 1982 deadline on ratification of the ERA to better encourage and validate the final ratifications. Just like liberty or justice, equality in a democratic Constitution should have no deadline!

Janette is therefore asking for our regional help and has two requests:

1) She would like as many people as possible to read, print and sign the letter she wrote for U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley from Iowa. It asks him as Chair of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee to fairly allow a hearing on Senate Joint Resolution 5 for Congress to eliminate the ERA ratification deadline. Janette is asking that it be mailed or faxed to his Des Moines office during Congress' August recess. The letter can be found on our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org.

FYI: There will be an ERA rally in D.C. on Women's Equality Day on August 26, and Janette will also be speaking about the ERA in the unratified state of Missouri that same day in St. Louis.

2) Janette would also like to ask AAUW members and La Crosse area women and men to join her at special screening of the new documentary film about the ERA called "Equal Means Equal." The film will be shown on Wednesday, September 13 at Marcus La Crosse Cinema at 2032 Ward Avenue from 7:30-9:40 pm which includes Janette's brief 10 minute introduction and Q&A afterward. At least 67 tickets need to be reserved by Sept. 6 so she is requesting that we each preview the film trailer and make our own online reservations for \$10 ticket(s) if we can come.



Thank you on behalf of Janette. We are proud she is working hard to help the U.S. complete ratification of the ERA and will also host the new documentary about it in our area on September 13. Hope to see you there!

Copies of the letter to sign will be available at AAUW events and other venues in La Crosse, including at the Marcus Cinema on September 13th.

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

AAUW in Action

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 12 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 the YWCA
- Celebrating Equal Pay Day

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.

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.

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.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

New Members

Welcome to three new members who joined in June:

Susan Johnson
2530 29th St. S. La Crosse, WI 54601
608 788 0075
U of Minnesota MSW
susankjohnson@centurytel.net

Karen Lange
2505 Smith Valley Rd La Crosse, WI 54601
608 781 2029
UW-Madison MLS Library Science
dllange@charter.net

Lora Anderson
5605 Meir Ct. La Crosse, WI 54601
319-936-1327
Western Illinois U MS Instructional Tech/Telecommunications
lmckeeanderson@gmail.com

And welcome to two new members who stopped by the AAUW information booth during the art fair:

Lisa Olson
1404 Cass St La Crosse, WI 54601
417 761 4421
U of Nebraska MS Emergency Medicine
lisa_olson@live.com

Jacqueline Olson
1404 Cass St La Crosse, WI 54601
417 576 4732
UW-Milwaukee MS Psychology
JOLSON65714@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you for being a part of our branch. We look forward to getting acquainted!

BEST WISHES



Joan Koonmen is in the hospital recovering from hip surgery after a fracture. Erica reports her mom is doing well. Plans are for her to be home by early September.

Carol Taebel is up and about after back surgery this summer. We hope she is feeling fine and that we will see her at our meetings.



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 each month, 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?

Karen Landstrom



1. My husband Jim, our son Sam (then 3 years old) and I moved to LaCrosse December 1998. I had to resign my teaching job in Iowa and was substitute teaching in the LaCrosse School District. My mother-in-law, Patricia Landstrom, introduced me to her college classmate, Lou Smith. Lou took me to several AAUW

meetings. Attending the meetings gave me the opportunity to network with a variety of people, many of whom were teachers. The acquaintances and friends I made at AAUW, contributed to me being hired as a teacher at Hintgen Elementary School.

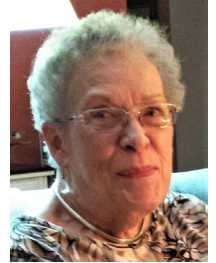
2. I am a member of the Art Fair of the Green committee but would like to attend more monthly meetings.

3. I feel the most important issue facing women today is poverty. Women experience higher rates of poverty because they are more likely to be under-compensated. Reducing poverty for women will require us to invest in support systems, employment initiatives, and most importantly, education.

4. One item on my bucket list is to own a therapy dog and visit nursing homes and hospitals.

5. You may not know that I have taught Kindergarten or First Grade in 4 different states: South Dakota, Arkansas, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Joan Koonmen



1. When I graduated from college, a representative came and spoke about AAUW, suggesting we join a branch. I moved to La Crescent in 1957 and saw an ad for an AAUW La Crosse branch meeting in the La Crosse Tribune so I went.

2. There have been so many changes! When I first joined, 2 yr degrees were accepted as associate members, then that was dropped but now it's back. STEM programs and reaching out to young girls to make them aware of opportunities, to see women in these roles and learning how to move forward are all changes. Also the Legal Advocacy Fund is a great addition.

3. Equal pay! A lot of women have broken the "glass ceiling" but there are many capable women with potential stuck in positions of training men to take leadership roles instead of being promoted themselves.

4. I've done everything on my bucket list so the rest is just icing!

5. As a college student, I sculpted the prototypes for the Dutch boy and girl lawn ornaments.

Pat Markos



1. Dr. Robert Richardson told me about AAUW and thought I would like being involved in the organization and the many programs and initiatives available for members.

2. When I first joined our La Crosse AAUW Branch I became involved in helping to organize the monthly programs. I really enjoyed that and with Marla French was able to get a number of wonderful speakers.

3. There are so many important issues for women today, it's hard to name just one. My whole professional life I've advocated for women who are homeless or living in poverty. The issues of homelessness and poverty bring with it many problems that women face day in and day out such as low paying jobs, inability to further their education, affordable day care, discrimination, and inadequate health care. Looking at all of these issues,

I would have to say that "equal access" is a major issue for women. Access to health care (including mental health care), education, and affordable day care to name a few.

4. I'd like the opportunity to travel more internationally. There is so much we can learn from other cultures in terms of high quality education and health care. One summer, several years ago I traveled to China and Ireland. What struck me was how much all three country's (the USA, China, and Ireland) were alike. Most people want the same thing, making the world a better place for their children.

5. I love to dance! Twenty some years ago I even won a few dance competitions.

From the Treasurer
Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of
August 23, 2017

Checking Account..... \$9,163.89

CD's
none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$401.02

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

Scholarships & Grants

by Robert Richardson, Scholarship & Grants Committee Co-Chair

This committee always welcomes new members!
We meet in October and February for planning purposes (4 hours).
We meet during March to review applications and nominations (6-8 hours).
Please let us know if you would like to join us.

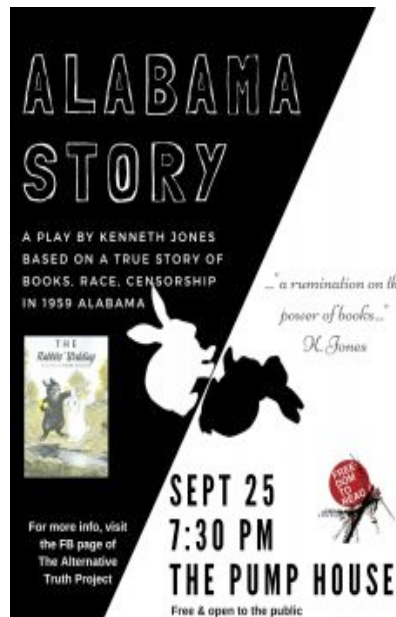
YWCA Executive Director Opening



Candidates must have a passion for the YWCA La Crosse mission, strong leadership skills and first-hand experience related to the goals inherent in the mission. A bachelor's degree or equivalent non-profit leadership experience is required. In addition, the candidate must have a track record in branding and promoting an organization, be an empowering and visionary leader, and have a passion for racial and social justice.

We invite you to learn more about this career opportunity by visiting <http://ywcalax.org> and clicking on the Executive Director Search button. Interested applicants should review the detailed job description and email their resume and cover letter to YWCAIaxsearch@gmail.com by Sept. 15, 2017.

The Alternative Truth Project: Alabama Story



Alabama Story is a play about books, censorship, race, and the American South of 1959. Written in 2015 by Kenneth Jones, it was inspired by true events when an innocent children's book written by Garth Williams, *The Rabbits' Wedding*, was published. Convinced that the book has hidden evil messages, Alabama state legislators bully the State Librarian, Emily Reed, and try to force her to ban and burn the book throughout the entire state. This is the latest in the series of monthly play readings by The Alternative Truth Project, or La Crosse's post-election resistance through theater movement. The reading will be followed by a discussion.

The Pump House
Sep 25 @ 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm



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)

WebminderPosition 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