

January Meeting:

George C. Poage: Local Olympian

Presenter: Dr. David Waters,
professor in the Dahl School of
Business at Viterbo University

When: Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014

Where: Viterbo University
School of Nursing, Room 195

Breakfast Cost: \$10.00

Menu: Egg/potato/ham bake
(gluten free), Fresh fruit
Assorted breads/butter
Juice/Coffee/Tea

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 Pat Markos at
pmarkos@uwlax.edu or 780-8623
or Marla French at mfrench000@
centurytel.net or 782-6589 by noon
on Wed., Jan. 8, 2014.

Dr. Waters has done extensive
research on George C. Poage, a La
Crosse scholar-athlete who became
the first black medalist in the mod-
ern Olympics.

Poage was born in Missouri in
1880 and moved to La Crosse with
his family at age 4. He was the

Continued on Page 2 »

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2014



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Happy New Year!

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

As we start 2014 I am mindful of
various projects as we continue our
branch activities. Thanks to all who
contributed to the 3rd Annual Silent
Auction at the December general
meeting. We appreciate those who
donated and those who purchased.
Our thanks go to Marcia Wine for
organizing a gift-wrapping day at
the mall on Dec.
20th. Through her
efforts and those of
the volunteers who
helped wrap gifts, we
raised \$195.00.



The final financial report has been
completed for the 2013 Art Fair
on the Green. Thanks go to the
committee and all branch members
who contributed their time and
talents for another successful art
fair. Profits were over \$18,000.00
which means that a check for
\$1,844.97 has been donated to
the general fund and a check for
\$16,604.73 has been deposited in the
La Crosse Community Foundation
Scholarship Fund. There was an
additional \$1,605.00 that members

contributed to the Scholarship
Fund. It is truly a testimonial
to the leadership of the late Pat
Staupe that we were able to raise
this amount.

The memorials that were
contributed in Pat's memory
resulted in over \$1,000.00 for the
Scholarship fund.

Community Days
at Herbergers will
be held the end
of February. This
project is how we
raise funds for the Legal Advocacy
Fund. For the year 2013, we were

Continued on Page 2 »

Next Board Meeting

Monday, January 6, 2014

January will be an email/cyber-
space meeting. Carol will send out
the agenda and board members can
respond with their reports which will
be compiled into one report after the
meeting.

If you would like to place items on
the agenda, email Carol at
cfrobertson@charter.net.

Happy New Year! *(continued from pg. 1)*

able to send a check for \$1,500.00 to National AAUW to help support legal cases involving pay discrimination and address the ongoing problem of sexual assaults in the military.

Women's History Month will be observed in March and an International Women's Day Program will be held on March 6.

So as you can see, our Branch has been busy and will continue to be as we move into the year 2014. Look over the opportunities in the various projects we offer, see what interests you and decide where your talents can be used.

And lastly, I want to thank Jean Petri for her dedication in serving as our Branch Secretary for the last 2 years. Jean has accepted a position in Madison and this will be a time of transition for her. The Board will fill the position at the annual meeting in April. Thanks, Jean, for your time and diligence.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

We have a special "new" member, Joan Koonmen, Erica's mom who has just moved back to Wisconsin from New Mexico. She belonged to our branch in the 1960's and was the first chair of the art fair when our branch took it over in 1967 from the Fine Arts Association. Welcome back, Joan!



Congratulations to Jean Petri on accepting a position in Madison doing research starting this month! The good news is she will continue her La Crosse Branch membership, as she will be in Madison only during the workweek. She also will serve out her term this year as secretary with board members pitching in to take meeting notes. We wish Jean great success in this step of her career.



Half Price Dues

From January 15 to March 15, anyone joining our branch will pay half of the yearly cost of local, state and national dues. Thus dues will be \$35.00 for the 2013/2014 program year.

That will be good news to guests attending our January meeting who are interested in joining.

January Meeting (cont.)

first black student enrolled in a La Crosse high school, graduating from what is now Central High School as Salutatorian of his class in 1899.

He went on to study at the University of Wisconsin -Madison, where he also excelled in track. Poage graduated in 1903 and the following year won bronze medals in two hurdle events in the Olympics in St. Louis.

The former Hood Park, has been renamed George Poage Park in his honor.

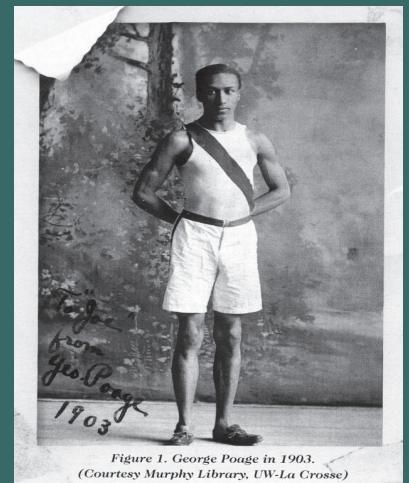


Figure 1. George Poage in 1903. (Courtesy Murphy Library, UW-La Crosse)

George C. Poage, 1903



Dr. David Waters

From the Treasurer
Michele Strange

Financial Report as of December 20, 2013

Checking Account\$12,648.36

CD's

none at this time

Scholarship Bridge\$ 724.02

Nominating Committee Needed

It's that time of year to think about filling positions for the coming year.

The Nominating Committee will meet in February to start the process.

If you are interested in being a member of the committee, email or call Carol Robertson.



Thank you ... from Arlene Staupe

To AAUW Board and Art Fair Committee:
Thank you for the lovely arrangement that Michele and her husband delivered to our home for us to enjoy. It was very thoughtful.

Patty enjoyed being a member of the AAUW.

Thanks, too, for all the cards and memorials.

Sincerely,

Arlene and Lynn Staupe

LAF Gift Wrapping Fundraiser Report

By Marcia Wine, Chair

On Friday, December 20 we launched our first gift wrapping fundraiser at the Valley View Mall. We took in \$195.37. Our biggest tip was \$25.00.



All our supplies were donated; thank you to everyone who contributed! Kudos to our intrepid wrappers: Jan Eriksen, Sharon De Cicco, Susan Fabian, Carol Robertson, Erica Koonmen, Pam Thiel, Silvana Richardson, Carleen Roberts & Sarah Stuber. It was amazing to have so many people volunteer.

A special thank you to Catherine Bulera, who brought me bags of ribbons, bows, boxes & rolls of wrapping paper from a previous gift wrapping project at her work. She also provided valuable advice on what works and what doesn't from her experience.

It was an enjoyable day. While the profits are modest, many of the customers asked who we represented and what AAUW was about. And the wrappers said they would like to do it again.

2014 AAUW ART FAIR ON THE GREEN

By Carol Robertson



Financials are completed and thanks go to Lois Gilbert, Art Fair Treasurer, for her work on this. In my Perspective column, I have listed the amounts that were raised.

It takes an entire committee to organize and plan the Art Fair. We do have an opening for a Publicity Chair or Co-chairs. This position can be done mostly through emails and computer work. If you are interested, contact Carol Robertson or Erica Koonmen. We would be happy to explain the position and its duties to you.

The next art fair will be on July 26-27, 2014.

Scholarship News

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

The La Crosse Branch of AAUW will award scholarships at our May Branch Meeting (called the “Scholarship Brunch”). If you know of an interested/potential applicant for any of these scholarships, please refer that person to our website or direct the person to the high school guidance office or the college/university scholarship website. We must receive all completed applications by March 1, 2014.



All ***Karen Wilson Scholarship*** applicants must arrive with a nomination by a branch member. These nominee-applicants must be non-traditional students.

You probably know one or more individuals who meet the following criteria:

- 1) An applicant must be female and age 30 or older.
- 2) An applicant must apply credits earned with the help of this scholarship toward a specific educational goal. A person taking graduate courses toward a Master’s Degree can apply. A person taking courses in order to update or change careers can apply. A person taking courses for personal enrichment will not be considered.
- 3) An applicant must plan to enroll for the next academic year in an institution of higher education (excluding proprietary schools).

The applicant must complete all parts of the application as indicated on the form, which can be found on our website or by contacting the scholarship committee at aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com.

Public Policy

letter from Patricia Fae Ho, 2013-2015 AAUW President

What we did in 2013:

2013 began with the launch of our bold new logo proudly featuring our history of empowering women since 1881. This set the tone for another year of outstanding education, programs, advocacy, legal support, and the research on which we base so much of what we do — all thanks to our members and donors. Your time, talent, and gifts truly bring about life-changing experiences for thousands of women and girls every year!



In June we recharged at our national convention in New Orleans, learning more about how we are inspiring women of all ages nationwide; programs engaging a new generation of AAUW members: our hugely successful National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, on-campus programs like Elect Her and \$tart \$mart salary negotiation workshops, and branch programs serving more than 10,000 girls across the country in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). All these amazing programs have tremendous impact, and they rely on significant local member engagement.

We also celebrated a philanthropic milestone in 2013: the 125th anniversary of our fellowships and grants program. The \$3.7 million we gave nationally to women graduate students — on top of branch and state scholarships — once again made dreams of a higher education a reality for thousands of smart, deserving women.

What is it about AAUW that has kept us going for more than a century? Why does our public policy engage activists from all walks of life, age groups, and political perspectives? I firmly believe that the indomitable will and the spirit of collaboration among us form the backbone of our triumphs.

You, the members, supporters, and staff of AAUW, are a truly remarkable force. Most important, I thank you for what you do every day — our work takes passion, unflinching energy, the willingness to get back up after a defeat, and vision. Those qualities you have in abundance.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Patricia Fae Ho
AAUW President

Study Group	Meeting day/time	Contact person
AAUW in Action	2nd Saturday of month, after the general meeting	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509
Hearth & Home	3rd Wednesday of month, evenings	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
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Liz Wing, 782-7963

Study Group News

Hearth & Home ...

does not meet in January.

The next meeting will be in February; details in the next issue of *The Current*.

Fun at Savory Creations

From Hearth & Home's December meeting at Savory Creations in La Crosse....



Chef Sharon helping prep the dinner while the rest of us watch and enjoy!

AAUW in Action

*Next Meeting: Saturday, January 11, 2014
right after the general meeting*

- YWCA Transitional Housing

Program: On Dec. 17th, we provided snacks and craft activities for this group. We made snowman hot chocolate gifts with donated baby food jars (thank you Sue Heuer!) and decorated cookie and gingerbread cutouts. This was an opportunity for us to share AAUW's mission with the young women and let them know of scholarship support we offer.



- International Women's Day Program: save Thurs, March 6, 2014, 5:30-7pm for this presentation featuring 4 women from different cultures sharing their stories.

- We are working on a WINGS (Women Interested In Going to School) program in conjunction with UWL's Self-Sufficiency Program to be held April 12, 2014. This program helps women gain the confidence to pursue higher education. It will be a half day event providing information on returning to school and starting the process.

Do any of the above sound like something you'd be interested joining in and helping? Come to our next meeting... ***New members are always welcome!***



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 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