

*May Meeting:
Scholarship
and Award
Brunch*



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 9

MAY 2013

When: Saturday, May 4, 2013

Where: Viterbo University,
Reinhart Center, Room 107

Breakfast Cost: \$10.00

Menu: Scrambled eggs, Bacon,
Breads/scones, Fruit tray,
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 or 782-6589 by noon on Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

Our guests include the scholarship/grant recipients and their invited guests.

We invite you to consider sponsoring a recipient/guest by covering the cost of the meal(s). Please contact Michele Strange at : mstrange@uwlax.edu or pay at the brunch.

Thank you for your generosity!

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Branch Highlights

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President



The month of May brings the culmination of our fundraising efforts – the awarding of scholarships at the annual brunch. On Saturday, May 4, we will be giving out approximately \$24,000 to deserving students. My thanks go out to the Scholarship Committee and Co-Chairs Sharon De Cicco and Robert Richardson for their work. It is always gratifying to hear the recipients' stories and I look forward to meeting all of them.



I would like to highlight a member of our branch this month. Pam Thiel is running for AAUW Director at Large and will be attending the National Convention in New Orleans, June 9 -12. Pam has been a member of the National Fundraising and Membership Committees, served two terms as Great Lakes Regional Director, WI State President, Membership and Educational Foundation Vice-

President, and as our Branch President and Program VP. Pam recently retired as Supervisor for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in a 5 state area. She is eminently qualified to serve in this capacity as Director and the board and I encourage you to vote for her.

Elsewhere in this issue is a "how to" on voting. Check it out!

Pam will be attending the State Convention in Racine along with Betty Kruck and I the last weekend of April.

Continued on Page 2 »

Next Board Meeting

There will be no board meeting this month. If any items come up, they will be handled via email. We held the Annual Business meeting in April so no business will be conducted at the Scholarship Brunch.

Questions or concerns may be directed to Carol at: 519-0548 or cfrobertson@charter.net

What to do with those extra bras?

See page 5!

Get all the CURRENT news at our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org

Branch Highlights *(continued from pg. 1)*

We intend to heighten the awareness of our fellow WI branches and encourage their members to support Pam also.

The Art Fair Committee members are busy preparing for Art Fair on the Green, July 27 & 28. New artists have been juried and notified of their acceptance. Volunteers are needed in various capacities. See Marla French's notice in this issue as to how you can participate in this year's art fair.

Thank you to all of you for another successful year of programs, projects, and events. Each of you contributes as to your own interests and talents and it is very much appreciated.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

We welcome new member Janet Kusch who signed on with us at the salary negotiation workshop.

Janet Kusch
1717 Sunset Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
788 4657
janet.kusch29@gmail.com



As we congratulate our recipients at the Scholarship Brunch, it is good to keep in mind that those who attend UW-L are eligible to be free e-members of national AAUW. The student members receive all communications online.

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Community Days

By Bev Bodine, Chair

The final numbers are now in - and they are even better than anticipated. After receiving the bonus check from Herberger's for \$574.20 and deducting expenses from our sales of coupon books, the total raised this year for LAF is \$1,204.43.

A check will be sent in the Fall to the Legal Advocacy Fund to support their mission of combating sexual discrimination in higher education and in the workplace.

Again, thank you for your help - and LAF thanks you also!!!

How to Vote in AAUW National Election

All AAUW members are now eligible to elect candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors and vote on other items of business, instead of just the members that attend national convention. Help direct the future of AAUW by participating in the One Member, One Vote process.

Online voting is encouraged and runs from April 15 to June 10. Go to www.aauw.org/onevote. You will need your Member ID and Voter Pin that are located on the back cover of the latest issue of Outlook. You will also need a password, but if you don't already have one, the system will prompt you to do so. More detailed voting instructions can be found in the Outlook on pages 22 and E-2, and on the website.

You can also request a paper ballot at connect@aauw.org or 800-326-2289. The paper ballot request period ends May 2 and they must be postmarked by May 17.

Our own Pam Thiel is running for a Director at Large position and would appreciate your support!

On line voting began April 15 and continues until June 10.

If you have questions about your member ID, password, or voter PIN, please email: connect@aauw.org or call: 800-326-2289.

This is your opportunity to be a part of the Convention and have your voice heard.

Study Group	Meeting day/time	Contact person
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Pat Sheehan, 788-3808
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	Pat Staupe, 788-7439
AAUW in Action	3rd Thursday of month at 6:00pm	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

Study Group News

Hearth & Home

Tour of Ft. McCoy's Commemorative Area by public affairs officer, Linda Fournier.

Date: *Wednesday, May 15*

Time: *6:30 p.m. at Main Gate.*

Hostess: *Erica Koonmen*

There is no charge for the tour, but you will need to present a photo ID card.

The Commemorative Area consists of World War II-era buildings representative of the type found in the cantonment area when it was constructed in 1942 and help to depict soldier life during the 1940s. The Equipment Park is an outdoor area used to display historical and present-day equipment representative of the types used on the installation. The tour will take about an hour.



After the tour, we'll go back to Erica's house for dessert and beverages.

Please RSVP by May 10th to Erica at 608-366-1509 or moogs56@hotmail.com.

AAUW in Action

*Next Meeting: Thursday, May 30, 2013
1214 Jefferson Ave., Sparta
Potluck dinner/ year end re-cap meeting*

We're wrapping up another year of fun events and programs. Some of the past months highlights are:

- **25 Books for 25 Years.** Thank you for your support of this program! We were able to donate 85 books to four community organizations. They were thrilled to receive them and will use them to inspire women in their programs.

- **Profiles of Women.** Our audience was small but the 8 of us who presented had a great time! We had participation from our branch members as well as a UWL student and La Crosse public librarians.

- **Start Smart: Salary Negotiation Skills Workshop for Women.** This program was attended by 11 women who learned how to determine what employers are paying for the job she wants when she graduates and how to negotiate to be paid what she is worth doing that job. It was a valuable experience that we hope to repeat again next year.

New members are always welcome!

2013 AAUW ART FAIR ON THE GREEN

By Pat Staube, Chair



The Art Fair is rapidly approaching so this is a reminder to keep July 27 & 28 open. We will need many volunteers for the various jobs and you will have plenty of new art work to enjoy. This is a great event to shop for special gifts for family and friends.

Artists report: by Erica Koonmen and Carol Robertson
21 new artists were juried in for this year's fair. There's an exciting variety of sculptors, painters, jewelers and mixed media...plus many of your favorite returning artists. And remember that gift certificates are available for Mother's Day or Father's Day!

Concessions: by Betty Kruck

Our branch will be selling water and pop again this year. We welcome donations of both. Please contact Betty: 608-689-222; kruk@mwt.net or Michele : 608-781-6962; mstrange@uwlax.edu to donate.

Volunteers: by Marla French

Volunteers are needed for several positions at the Art Fair on the Green. This is our organization's biggest fundraiser of the year, but it requires many volunteers to successfully accomplish it.

From set up to take down, with ticket sellers, concession workers, raffle booth workers and booth sitters, there are approximately 70 positions to fill. Many of you volunteer in several positions, as well as volunteer your husbands and daughters. Last year we discovered a new source in our scholarship award winners. All of this together permits us to have a successful event.

If you are able to help this year, please call or email **Marla French. (782-6589 or mfrench000@centurytel.net)** Help is needed as early as Friday, July 26th for set up and as late as 4:00 P.M. when the fair closes at on Sunday and until the final trash bag is carried away and the tents are packed up. In between are shifts of sellers in the different areas. These are generally 2 1/2 to 3 hours .

DATES: JULY 27-28, 2013

Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Chair

AAUW's Public Policy

AAUW's Public Policy Program is established every 2 years through our every-member vote process. This establishes federal action priorities and advocacy efforts. This process begins and ends with members.



First we complete surveys online or through every-member publications.

Staff recommends likely congressional action. The Public Policy Committee develops a proposed program based on viability, critical need and strong member support. A draft is posted online for comments and revisions. The final proposal is reviewed, amended as needed and approved by the AAUW Board of Directors. This is returned to members for a vote.

The proposed 2013-2015 Public Policy Program can be found in the AAUW Outlook Magazine, Special Convention Issue. It also contains information on candidates for the Board of Directors - including our own Pam Thiel - and proposed Bylaws amendments.

The voting period is April 15-June 10.

Let your voice be heard and happy voting!!

Branch Executive Board Elections

By Carol Robertson, Branch President

Congratulations to Carol Taebel, Co-VP, Program and Michele Strange, VP-Finance. They were elected at the April general meeting.

Returning are: Carol Robertson, President, Marilyn Hempstead, VP-Membership, Marla French, Co-VP, Program, and Jean Petri, Secretary.

Thank you to Pat Markos for her term as Co-VP, Program. We appreciate her time and efforts in selecting and arranging programs in the past 2 years.

From the Treasurer
Michele Strange

Financial Report as of
April 20, 2013

Checking Account\$14,461.72

CD's

none at this time

Scholarship Bridge\$364.02

More from the
Treasurer...

Dues Reminder

Please remember that now is the time for renewing your AAUW dues.

Dues are \$70; of which \$46 is tax deductible.

Attached to the newsletter is a renewal form. Please either give it to me at the general meeting on May 4th or mail it to me at:

Michele Strange, Finance VP
2442 Redwing Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601



Bras Needed!

Free The Girls (freethegirls.org)

May is women's health month and Options Clinic is sponsoring many events/activities. One of these is for the Free the Girls non-profit organization. Their goal is to provide jobs to women rescued from sex trafficking. One way they do this is by collecting bras and giving them to these women to sell. A bra can be sold in other areas for up to 5 times the minimum wage! Therefore your old bras are worth a lot!

What's the problem?

Currently 27 million men, women and children are being held as slaves around the world—more today than in any other time in history. 80% of those slaves are women and girls. There are a number of amazing organizations that are helping to rescue these women out of a life of prostitution, but what happens after they are rescued?

What's our solution?

In Spring 2011, working alongside our first safe house partner, Project Purpose, freethegirls.org launched a pilot program in Mozambique, Africa. The results of the pilot

program were very promising—the women made 3-5x minimum wage selling bras.

By partnering with safe houses and after-care facilities, we provide an opportunity for women rescued from sex trafficking to earn a living selling second-hand clothing while going to school, getting healthy, and caring for their families. The women in our program receive their starting inventory as a donation, and are then able to buy additional inventory from Free The Girls for below wholesale value to help maintain their competitive edge on the marketplace. Revenue from inventory sales helps subsidize overseas program costs.

Why Bras?

Let's face it, ladies: the back of your underwear drawer is most likely a graveyard of bras you don't wear anymore or that never fit right in the first place. By contrast, second-hand clothing is a profitable market in many countries around the world. Bras are sought after items. And even better, bras provide an opportunity for these women to work with other women, since they have a history of being abused and used by men.

What can you do?

Donate your gently used bras by **bringing them to the May 4th meeting**. We'll collect them and give them to Options Clinic in Sparta where they will be donated to freethegirls.org. **Thank you for your "support"!**





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