

MARCH MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: A CHANGE OF PROGRAM AND LOCATION FOR THE MARCH MEETING FROM THAT PRINTED IN YOUR DIRECTORY!!

Women Writers Ink: A Passion for the Written Word

Presenters: Panel of women writers from the Coulee Region

When: Saturday, March 12, 2016

Where: Hall of Nations,
Centennial Hall, UWL

Breakfast Cost: \$10

Breakfast Menu:

Scrambled eggs, bacon, French toast, pastries, fruit, and coffee & hot tea.

Please note: Anyone with dietary restrictions should notify the person taking reservations. The food service will do their best to accommodate.

Members who do not wish to come to the brunch are welcome to attend the program portion at no charge.

Registration9:30 AM
Breakfast10:00AM
Program10:30AM

RSVP DEADLINE:

For cancellations or late reservations please call Silvana Richardson at 608-788-0595 by NOON on MONDAY, March 7th.

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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MARCH 2016



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Women's History Month

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Each March we have the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of many women throughout history. This year the theme for Women's History Month is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government." Our Branch will observe the month in various ways. On March 10, we will celebrate International Women's Day with an event at Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall, UW-L campus. There will be a panel of four women who will share their personal and often incredible journeys. Be sure to check out the details elsewhere in this issue and plan to join us for an enlightening evening.

Once again we will have a display in the windows at Pearl Street Books in which we recognize the works of women in public service.

Stop by when you are in downtown La Crosse and check out the windows.

Thank you to the group from In Action (and our interns) for their time in putting the display together.



Also, as in the past four years, the LaCrosse Tribune will publish each day in March a short summary highlighting individual women. Our thanks go to Lois Gilbert for researching and compiling these entries. These will run March 1 – 31.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, Mar 7, 2016; 6:30 pm

Viterbo University Nursing Building, Room 103. Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

Contact Carol at:

399-1751 or cfrobertson@charter.net to place items on the agenda.

Women's History Month... *(continued from page 1)*

I would like to remind you that March means the Scholarship committee is busy reading applications from deserving students for the selection of our scholarships and grants. Thanks to all those who diligently study these applicants and make the difficult choices of who receives the awards.

Thanks to all of you for your contributions to women's history.



Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

BRANCH STATISTICS

The branch membership now, as of March 2016, stands at 88. Ten of this number have the designation as life members. Of these, six qualify for having been dues paying members at national for at least 50 years! The other two have made a one-time payment exempting them permanently from having to pay national dues. (The current fee for life membership is \$980.00 for anyone interested in that option. State and local dues still are required.) And ten are new members. Four of these joined last spring. They were able to take advantage of the guideline that stipulates anyone joining after March 15 immediately receives all the benefits of AAUW with the dues being applied to the coming fiscal year. The other six joined in the fiscal year, which began on August 1. We are fortunate in having these fine members become a part of our branch, bringing to us their talents and energy.

EMAIL CHANGE:

Please make a note in your directory that Patricia Boge's email has changed to pboge@lacrosselibrary.org.

2016-2017 Branch Nominations

Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of candidates for elected Board positions for 2016-2017. They are as follows:

President: Michele Strange

President-elect: Open

Secretary: Linda Myers

Financial VP: Kristen Foehner (incumbent)

Membership VP: Marilyn Hempstead (serving for another 2 yr term)

Program VP Co-Chair: Silvana Richardson (incumbent)

Program VP Co-Chair: Lois Gilbert

We give a loud round of applause and thanks to Cindy Waltershausen, Secretary, and Sue Heuer, Program VP Co-Chair, whose 2 year terms are expiring. Carol Robertson will be completing 2 terms of service (a total of 4 years) and is most happy to turn the gavel over to Michele. Carol will serve as Art Fair on the Green Chair.

MARCH MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

Women Writers Ink is a community of writers. Formed in 1998, the organization runs writing critique groups and holds reading and workshops.

Their presentation will include a history of the organization and a rundown of its current activities. Writers Heidi Blanke, Susan Schuyler, and Joanne Adragna Shird will also share their own writing journeys and offer guidance on how you might start your own writing journey.



AAUW WI State Convention



The 96th Annual AAUW State Convention will be held in Madison, April 22 & 23, 2016.

Check the current Badger Briefs for registration information. The deadline is April 1, 2016.

Registering? Let others know if you'd like to carpool!

STUDY GROUP	MEETING DAY/TIME	CONTACT PERSON
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Liz Wing, 782-7963
Scholarship Bridge/Card Games	TBA	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
Contemporary Authors	3rd Tuesday of month at 2:00pm	Alice Ross, 788-4206
Hearth & Home	meeting occasionally, see below for details	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
AAUW in Action	Various times & locations; please see below for current one	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

Study Group News



HEARTH & HOME



Thai Dinner!

Come enjoy another evening with friends at Savory Creations, 1230 Caledonia St, La Crosse

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$30

RSVP: Sharon at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com by Friday, March 11.

Anyone is welcome to attend!

AAUW IN ACTION

Next Meeting: Thursday, Mar 24, 1:00pm

Great Harvest Bread Co, 58 Copeland Ave, La Crosse

Upcoming activities:

- International Women's Day Panel: March 10. See below.
- Celebrating Women's History Month with displays in the Pearl St. Bookstore window AND Lois Gilbert's daily women's history blurbs in the La Crosse Tribune, Mar 1-31.
- WINGS (Women INTERested in Going to School) will be Thurs, April 28 at the Myrick EcoPark Center from 8:30am-1:30pm. Branch members are invited to help by providing snacks & lunch; a sign-up sheet will be available at the March & April general meetings. Thank you !

We welcome new members!

International WOMEN'S DAY Celebration

Thursday, March 10, 2016

5 p.m. appetizers | 5:30 p.m. program
UWL Hall of Nations | 1300 Centennial Hall

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
Lois Gilbert at 608.782.7204 or
lgilbert5@gmail.com

This event will consist of a panel of women from Congo, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Sweden discussing their personal experiences regarding women's rights and gender parity in their country of origin and in the United States.

Free Parking in Lot C10, Corner of 16th and Vine Streets | UWL Campus Map: www.uwlax.edu/map

Sponsored by the AAUW-La Crosse Branch; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration; Gunderson Global Partners; International Women's Group of La Crosse; League of Women Voters-La Crosse Area; World Services of La Crosse; UWL International Education and Engagement; UWL Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department; Viterbo University-International Student Services; Western Technical College; and YWCA-La Crosse.

Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Public Policy Chair

Equal Pay Progress, Federal and State

Seven years ago President Obama signed into law his first piece of legislation, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Celebrating the anniversary, the president directed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), in partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Labor (DOL), to annually collect summary pay data by gender, race, and ethnicity from businesses with 100 or more employees. The new proposal will cover over 63 million employees and provide critical insights into the gender and racial pay gap. It will help enforcement of equal pay laws and identify discriminatory practices across industries and occupations.

Gridlock and partisan bickering in Congress has stalled progress on the Paycheck Fairness Act. In response to the obstruction in Congress some individuals and state legislators have applied pressure. Over half of all states currently have some form of equal pay bill pending.

In Wisconsin we have lost equal pay legislation which had been established. AAUW and it's members need to keep up the pressure on state and federal levels. PLEASE LOOK FOR EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNOR.

Congressional Voting Record (CVR)

I encourage you to check out the AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record to see how our senators and representatives score on issues impacting women and families - equal pay, education, campus sexual assault, campaign finance, human trafficking, and reproductive rights. Find the information at: <https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/congressional-voting-record>. Hold the 114th Congress accountable and advocate for our priorities.

Note: Women in company leadership are tied to higher profits, says a new study of 22,000 publicly traded companies around the world. Yet, in the U.S., only 12% of board seats and 16% of executive positions are held by women. Important information to share!!

Meet Our New Interns!

Public Policy:

Hi! My name is Natalie Leuck, and I am a senior at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. I will be graduating this May with a double-major in Communication Studies and German Studies. After graduation, I have hopes of finding a career within the public relations or marketing fields. I am looking forward to my last semester at UW-L, as well as coordinating with AAUW to promote their mission across campus. Interning with AAUW will give me knowledge for any future career I hold, and will also allow me to learn about topics that I am truly passionate about.



Social Media:



My name is Chloe Loomis and I'm a senior at the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse, obtaining a degree in communication studies. I'm from Milwaukee, but love the city of La Crosse with all that it has to offer from the aesthetics of the bluffs and marsh to the active lifestyle on the UWL campus. This semester I am grateful for the opportunity to be working with the AAUW La Crosse as their Social Media Intern!

Mothers of Invention

They say necessity is the mother of invention. But mothers are the mothers of these inventions for kids.



<u>Invention</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Year</u>
Alphabet blocks	Adeline Whitney	1882
Ansa baby bottle	Nickie Campbell	1984
Baby Einstein videos	Julie Aigner-Clark	1997
Baby jumper	Jane Wells	1872
Barney (the purple dinosaur)	Sheryl Leach	1988
Careerpals dolls	Linda Stockdale	1991
Diapers	Maria Allen	1887
Disposable diapers	Marion Donovan	1951
Flexible kite	Gertrude Rogallo	1951
Folding crib	Sarah Neal	1894
Infant carrier (Snuggli)	Agnes Auckerman & Ann Moore	1962
Movable doll eyes	Beulah Henry	1935
School desk	Anna Breadin	1889

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of February 20, 2016

Checking Account\$9,914.24

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$900.02

Women Moving Ahead

Save the date for Saturday, April 2 for a one-day conference for women of all ages.

Women Moving Ahead is a coalition of various university and community groups (of which we are a part). This conference "Making It!" will be filled with stories, practical information and networking opportunities.

Even if you are not in the workforce, come and share your experiences with younger women as they start their journeys.

The flyer is attached with this issue of The Current.



Art Fair on the Green

The Art Fair on the Green will be held the weekend of July 30 & 31. Be thinking of what you would like to volunteer for that weekend. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone! Especially needed is another committee member to work with the artists.

New this year is a Sweepstakes package offered in partnership with Explore LaCrosse. Check out their website and if you have friends coming for the weekend, they can win a package that includes dinner at The Mint and a 2 night stay at Holiday Inn Express downtown.



Name Grant Nominations

It's time for nominations for the 2016 Name Grant award. Your candidate should be an AAUW La Crosse Branch member who has been an active contributor to the association and the branch. Members are permitted to receive the honor only once (the back of the 2015-2016 directory has past recipients). The Name Grant award funds are contributed in the awardee's name from the branch to the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. The mission of the fund is "to support educational and lifelong learning opportunities that give women a chance for a lifetime of success." Please let Jan Eriksen know of your nominee(s) for the grant. She can be reached at 796-3398 (office), 787-5946 (home), or jperiksen@viterbo.edu. You may leave a message at either of the telephone numbers. Please indicate why your candidate is deserving of the honor.

The deadline is March 19. The recipient will be announced at the annual meeting on April 9th.

AAUW Annual Art Contest

AAUW National hosts an annual art contest to get women artists the equal attention they deserve. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring.

AAUW received over 200 submissions to the 2016 AAUW Art Contest from member artists all over the country.

Here's what you can do: go to <http://www.aauw.org/contests/>.

Choose your 10 favorite works of art. Look carefully because you only get one chance to vote. Submit your votes.

Members are required to log in with an AAUW member ID number to vote. Remember, when you vote, you will automatically be entered in a raffle to win a gift card for ShopAAUW.





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 DesignTegan 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