

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2014

September Meeting:

Meet the Mayors :

Tim Kabat & Joe Chilsen



When: Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014

Where: Ward Room,
Cartwright Center, UWL

Breakfast Cost: \$10.00

Menu: Choice of Garden Vegetable
or Broccoli Cheddar Quiche,
Bacon, Assorted scones and muffins
Mixed fruit tray Coffee, Tea, & Juice

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 Wed, Sept. 10.

The program for our first meeting
this fall will be presented by two
VIPs of our communities--Mayors
Tim Kabat and Joe Chilsen of La-
Crosse and Onalaska, respectively.
These gentlemen will give us an
informal overview of how our cities
are working together for the com-
mon good, and will be willing to
answer your questions as well.
No doubt we'll learn a bit of how
teamwork is beneficial to both
communities.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Looking Forward

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

September is upon us
again with the restart
of school, general
meetings, book clubs,
community projects, and
all those activities that
took a hiatus during the
summer. Hopefully, you
were able to enjoy time with family
and friends.



As in summers' past, our branch
had another successful Art Fair on
the Green. Preliminary numbers
look good so that we will be able to
continue our tradition of awarding
numerous scholarships in May of
'15. A huge thank you goes to
all of you for helping to make this
event possible. From the members
of the Art Fair Committee to those
members who volunteered to set up,
take down, clean up or collect the
attendance fees, the art fair could
not be accomplished without your
willingness to help. I am always
impressed with the response we get
from members, friends, spouses,
family members, and visiting
relatives who are so willing to

donate their time to
do whatever it takes to
make art fair weekend
as successful as it is
each year.

Marla French and
Sue Heuer, Program

Co-chairs, have been busy this
summer arranging programs/
speakers for our general meetings.
Thanks to them, we have an
interesting and informative list of
people to enlighten and educate us.

In this issue, you will see a list
of Board members for 2014/1015.

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Next Board Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2014

River Place Apartments
1 River Place Dr.

Meetings are open to any member
who is interested in attending.

Contact Carol at: 519-0548 or
cfrobertson@charter.net to place
items on the agenda.

Looking Forward... *(continued from pg. 1)*

I thank all of the new and returning members for their commitment to their respective duties and look forward to another productive year. A big thank you goes to Robert Richardson for compiling the Membership Directory once again this year. You will be able to pick up your copy of the new directory at the general meeting on September 13.

Be sure to check out all the information contained in this Current and I look forward to seeing you at the September general meeting.

Your 2014-2015 Board

President	Carol Robertson
VP – Finance	Michele Strange
VP – Membership	Marilyn Hempstead
VP's – Program	Marla French & Sue Heuer
Secretary	Cindy Waltershausen
Historian	Marilyn Hempstead
By Laws	Dottie Kruse
Publicity	Betty Kruck
Public Policy	Carlene Roberts
Co-Chairs, Development Fund	Jan Eriksen, Name Grant (ED) & Marcia Wine, LAF (Community Days)
Newsletter (Current)	Erica Koonmen
Hospitality	Mary Hall
Telephone Coordinator	Sarah Stuber
E-Mail RSVP Coordinator	Robert Richardson
In Action 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: Silvana Richardson
.....	Western – open

2014-2015 Directory

By Robert Richardson, Chair

We will print the new AAUW La Crosse Branch directory on Sept. 6. If any of your contact information changed recently, please notify Michele or Robert.

Each month, Robert contacts members on his e-list seeking replies regarding meeting attendance.

He uses the e-mail addresses listed in the directory and trusts their accuracy.

A Note About Programs

By Sue Heuer, Co-VP Programs

Welcome to the 2014-15 program year.

Thanks to all of your suggestions, our year of programs has fallen into place quite easily. We appreciate your many suggestions and hope you will keep them coming. We were given so many good ideas we already have a start on next year's programs! Don't hesitate to let us know as you come across additional ideas throughout the year.

A huge thank you goes to Andrea Hansen, Jan Eriksen, and Silvana Richardson for all their help in procuring sites for our meetings. Our meetings will be held at both Viterbo and UW-L. We did look into several other locations, but none were able to meet our needs for size, accessibility, and cost. If you have any suggestions for other meeting places please let us know.

We will be trying something different this spring when we host our scholarship recipients. Instead of the traditional brunch we will be hosting an evening reception on Thursday, April 30. Watch for further details in future newsletters.

Sue Heuer & Marla French
Program Co- Vice Presidents



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	3rd Wednesday of month, evenings	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
AAUW in Action	Second Saturday of month, after general meeting	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

Study Group News

Hearth & Home

AAUW Welcome

& Toast to another year!

Date: Wednesday, September 17

Time: 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

Location: Wineguyz

122 King St,

La Crosse

(608) 782-9463

Host: Joanne Revels

Cost: \$20 per person (includes 6 tastings and food pairings)

Please RSVP by **September 9th** to Joanne at

jarevels@yahoo.com or 608-782-1975



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!

All new branch members are invited to attend this meeting to see what we're all about and meet other members.

Please join us at The Wine Guyz!

AAUW in Action

*Next Meeting: Saturday, September 13, 2014
right after the general meeting*

Alright...ready to get started on another year of great activities promoting AAUW and women's issues in the community? So are we!

Please stay after the general meeting and join us!

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

Our meeting on Sept.13th will be a planning meeting for programs and projects for this year. This is your opportunity to be involved with a local organization or community cause.

New members are always welcome!

What are Study Groups?

Study groups provide an opportunity for members to grow intellectually and creatively, broaden their involvement in topics of interest, become agents for intelligent community action and meet people who share similar interests. Please note that anyone is always welcome to attend any of these groups – no strings attached! Drop in, and bring a friend, to experience fellowship and the pleasures of lifelong learning.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

We welcome two new members who joined this summer and look forward to greeting them at our meetings.

Christine Clair

128 29th St So
La Crosse, WI 54601
792 9746
UW-Madison, JD
cjclair29@gmail.com



Mary M. Garves

1520 30th St. South
La Crosse, WI 54601
608 788 1128
UW-Eau Claire, MS Communicative Disorders
rgarves@aol.com

And there has also been sad news. Sincere condolences to June Reinert on the loss of her husband.



On June 30th long time branch and Bookfellows member Ruth

Nixon-Davy passed away at age 98. She served as our president in the 1960's and was on the faculty of the Spanish Department at UW-L through most of her academic career. Condolences to her family and friends.

Art Fair Thank You

by Jan Eriksen & Marilyn Hemstead, Awards Co-Chairs

Thank you so much to all the AAUW La Crosse branch members who donated to the purchase award, artists' award, and scholarship funds at the 56th annual Art Fair on the Green! Your generosity helped make 2014 another successful year for the art fair.

A full report on the 2014 AAUW Art Fair on the Green will be in October's issue of The Current.

Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Chair

Democracy for All Amendment

Labor Day is about celebrating the contributions of American workers who teach, build, protect, pay taxes and keep America running.

But a trend in recent decades is trying to drown out the voices of everyday Americans in the political process, giving power to corporations and individuals with great wealth.



Supreme Court decisions have dismantled our countries campaign finance laws. We need a "Democracy for All"

constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment rights of everyday Americans and reject the idea that a corporation has the same political rights as citizens.

AAUW members were right when they voted in 2013 to add a simple line to the Public Policy program: "We see an urgent need for meaningful campaign finance reform". A constitutional amendment is the best way to meet this urgent need. The Senate is expected to vote on the Democracy For All amendment as soon as Sept. 8th. A petition will be delivered later this week.

Please sign the petition by going to the AAUW website, selecting the Action Network and finding the Two Minute Activist.



I hope you were all able to vote in the Aug. 12 primary. Please think of ways you can honor Women's Equality Day, when we received the right to vote on August 26, 1920. How about GOTV - getting out the vote - especially among young women who may not be connected yet with the process of educating themselves about candidates and voting on election day November 4th?

From the Treasurer
Michele Strange

Financial Report as of
August 20, 2014

Checking Account\$11,283.08

CD's

none at this time

Scholarship Bridge\$984.02

Dues Reminder

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

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

If dues are not received by October 31, your name will be removed from the local and national rosters.

Please mail your dues to:
Michele Strange
2442 Redwing Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601

Searching for Scholarship Committee Members....

The Scholarship Committee invites any member to join the committee. We meet once in October, once in November, once in January, and once in March. We sit on selection committees to review applications.

Several members have decided to leave the committee, so we need some members to volunteer to serve on the committee. Contact Robert, Sharon, or any committee member!



Brittney, kneeling front right, with other attendees

A Report from NCCWSL

by Brittney Long, student attendee sponsored by our branch

The conference was nothing short of amazing; I wish more opportunities like it existed. It was uplifting to hear from the women of distinction, but most of all, I was inspired by the young women I met. I met my goal of connecting with graduate students in an anthropology program, and they have already provided me with direction. So many women there were like me; trying figure out where they're going and if they're doing it right. I made friends and found support for my research. This conference is something everyone should be able to experience and I deeply appreciate that I was able to attend. I have AAUW La Crosse branch to thank for that. I hope we embrace and encourage young women, especially young women of color. I plan to support AAUW; it's a great way to connect women, careers, and social justice.

Women Moving Forward

by Betty Kruck

AAUW La Crosse has been invited to participate in a campus/community initiative called Women Moving Forward. The purpose is to raise awareness about the challenges and opportunities that all women face worldwide in all socioeconomic, cultural and geographic situations. The committee working on this initiative includes representatives from UW-L, AAUW, YWCA, La Crosse Public Schools, La Crosse Public Library, UW-L Student Association, Western Technical College. A representative from Viterbo, the Women's Fund, Girl Scouts, Franciscan Spirituality Center, and other community groups have been, or will be invited to participate. Pam Thiel has agreed to represent AAUW on this committee.

The goal of the group is to provide a multiple day event in La Crosse mid-April 2015. The group has also created a **Lean In Circle** for anyone who is interested in joining discussions sparked by Sheryl Sandberg's book *Lean In*. If you are interested in joining a Lean In Circle or would like more information, please contact Larry Sleznikow at lsleznikow@uwlax.edu or Teri Holford Talpe at tholford-talpe@uwlax.edu. These Circles will begin this fall.



Hello, Dolly! *by Marla French*

On Saturday, Nov. 1st, there will be a bus going to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater to see the matinee performance of Hello, Dolly! The cost of the trip (includes lunch, 1 ticket for the play, and the bus) will be between \$88 and \$90, depending on whether we have a full bus. Contact me ASAP (788-6589) if you are interested in joining us.

The bus will leave the Mitchell Hall parking lot (Campbell Rd.) at 8am, arriving at the theater ~11:00. Following the show, we have a few hours shopping at Southdale and Galleria. If you're not interested in shopping, there are several restaurants available for dinner. The bus leaves for La Crosse at 7 pm, arriving home by 10:00.



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 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