

DECEMBER MEETING

Holiday Melodies & Cookie Walk

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017

Where: UW-L Centennial Hall, Hall of Nations, Room 1300
Campus parking lots are free on weekends.

Breakfast Cost: \$10

Breakfast Menu:

Scrambled eggs with ham & sausage, Potatoes O'Brien, Assorted Breads and Muffins, Fresh Seasonal Fruit, Coffee, Hot Tea, and Orange Juice

Members and guests are welcome to attend the brunch or just come for the program. Please indicate such when you RSVP.

For late reservations or cancellations, please call Robert Richardson at 788-0595 by NOON on December 4th.

Registration.....9:30 AM

Breakfast.....10:00AM

Program10:30AM

Following presenters, a Cookie Walk fundraiser from 11:15-1:15

Join us as we celebrate this season with "Holiday Melodies." Bella Voce, which is Italian for Beautiful Voice, will entertain us with their melodic voices. They are an Early Music/ Madrigal singing group that has been in existence for a relatively short time. The group first organized in January 2016 and consists of singers who love classical and Early Music from the

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2017



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Holiday Spirit

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Once again we had a record crowd for our November program. Natalie Hackbarth gave an excellent overview of what is happening at the Tomah VA Medical Center. As Associate Chief Nurse for Mental Health, she focused on health and mental health issues for women in the military and presented statistics for treatment at the VA on a national as well as local level. We recognized the veterans in our midst as well as members who have relatives in the service.

Richardson and Sharon DeCicco for leading this effort.

The AAUW In Action Committee is working on several projects, including International Women's Day, Women's History Month and a WINGS workshop. Thanks to our public policy intern, Kathryn Draper, who is a real dynamo! She has staffed several AAUW table events in the UW-L student union this fall and is planning an elected officials panel on campus in December. Thanks



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I hope you can attend our December meeting. Holiday cheer will include wonderful Christmas music and a cookie walk. See article on this page.

Our committees are busy working on their tasks for the year. The Scholarship Committee has been revising application forms and these have gone out to schools. Thank you to co-chairs Robert

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, Dec 4th at 6:30 pm

Location:

Viterbo University Nursing Building. 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

Holiday Spirit... (continued from page 1)

to Kathryn and Carol Robertson who worked on an AAUW Start Smart workshop held on November 15th.

The Global Initiatives week kick-off event on November 3rd found Jan Eriksen and student volunteer Dana Nielson at the AAUW booth distributing literature about our organization and our international connections. Many people stopped at the table and we garnered a new member by our presence there.

I am especially pleased to announce that Alice Ross has agreed to be our Fundraising Chair. As she says, "I don't want to do it by myself." She and I will be meeting for a strategy session soon. If there is anyone else who would like to join us on the committee, please let me know. We welcome your ideas and enthusiasm!

Applications for state scholarships for the National Conference for Campus Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) have arrived. Deadline for completed forms is February 1st. I will email members the information soon and will have copies at the December meeting. I hope that we can have at least one worthy candidate to forward to our state office.

Hope all of you have a happy and safe holiday season! And thanks again for all you do.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

NEW MEMBER

Lisbeth Reynertson 5720 Hwy 14-61
La Crosse, WI 54601
608 7871982

U of Alabama BS Psych
usdk@centurytel.net

We welcome Lisbeth who joined at our November meeting. She is very active in the international student community and is a native of Denmark.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Jean Knorr 622 Bennora Lee Ct, #270 LaCrosse WI 54601
Jean is an Honorary Life member, a distinction given to people who have been AAUW members for 50 years or more.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to Phyllis Miletto who lost her mother in November.

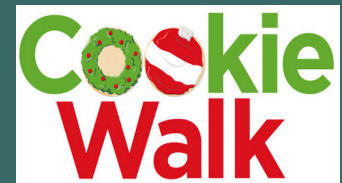


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15th - 17th centuries. Members have a strong musical background and many of them are former music educators or have been raised in households where music played a key role. They had their first full-length concert at First Congregational United Church of Christ, in May 2016. This past summer, the group participated in a Medieval Fair in Alma and sang for the first time at our Art Fair on the Green.

Members of this year's Christmas Carol group are: Bonnie Holmberg, Margo Erickson, Leslie Duesenberg, Barb Weinberger, Bridget Hill, Debra Welander, Denise Christy, Eric Kraemer, Jim Gallagher, Roy Munderloh, Jim Welander, and Glen Skewes. Their Artistic Director is Linda Lieb.



**The Cookie Walk will be from
11:15-1:15**

We are asking each member who is able to donate 2 dozen cookies, candies or a loaf of holiday bread. Small attractive cookies work best. If you cannot attend on Dec. 9, items can be dropped off on Dec. 7 or 8 at Lois's house.

If your items contains nuts, please let the cookie elves know so that a NUTS label is attached. If it's gluten-free, please note that too. You can also attach a note stating what your item is or what it contains. Please bring your items in a container that you do not need returned.

We will be charging \$6 per pound, with breads being priced by their size.

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

HEARTH & HOME

A Savory Creations Dinner

Date: Wed, Dec 20th

Cost: \$35.00 + 15% tip

Location: Savory Creations
1230 Caledonia St

Reservations: deadline is Dec 10th; maximum of 12

Please contact Sharon DeCicco at 788-5356 or
sharon.decicco@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome!



AAUW IN ACTION

Next Meeting: Email meeting on December 19th.

While we won't be having an official collection of calendars and cards at the December meeting, if you have some to donate, we'll make sure they find a home!

The 2018 theme for International Women's Day (March 8) is **#PressFor Progress**: a strong call-to-action to press forward and progress gender parity. Our IWD Panel is looking for women native of another nation to be on the panel. If you know someone who might be interested in participating, please contact Lois at lois-and-mike@centurytel.net.

The 2018 theme for Women's History Month is **NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**. Lois Gilbert will again be writing daily info spots during March for the La Crosse Tribune. She's looking for WI and MN women to feature who fit the theme. If you have suggestions, please let Lois know at lois-and-mike@centurytel.net

Volunteers Needed! We'd like to do a display at the Valley View Mall in March, centered on the Women's History Month theme. If you enjoy designing displays or helping with the set up, please let Erica know at moogs56@hotmail.com. We need several people to work on this.



Equal Means Equal movie: there were not enough tickets sold to bring the movie to La Crosse in September, but we'd like to coordinate with other local organizations to arrange a showing next year. Janette Dean, who many

of you met at our October branch meeting, has agreed to work with our group to guide us in making this a reality. She suggests showing it on or near the annual anniversary of the Congressional passage of the Equal Rights Amendment which was March 22, 1972. We'll be working on that this winter.

Remember that in April 2018 to celebrate National Women's Health Care month, we'll be collecting hygiene products to go to YWCA and Brighter Tomorrows. Please watch for sales of deoderant, shampoo, soaps, feminine hygiene items, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc... and stock up!

We welcome new members and suggestions for events and programs.

December Highlights in US Women's History

Dec. 1, 1955 – Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white person; her arrest sparks the modern civil rights movement in the US.

Dec. 10, 1869 – Wyoming is the first territory to give women the right to vote.

Dec. 10, 1938 – Pearl S. Buck receives the Nobel Prize for Literature for The Good Earth.

Dec. 14, 1961 – President's Commission on the Status of Women is established to examine discrimination against women and ways to eliminate it.

Women In Elected Positions Panel

By Kathryn Draper, Public Policy Intern

When: Wednesday, Dec 6th 7:00pm-8:30pm

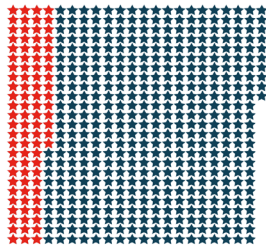
Where: Eagle Residence Hall Basement (1500 La Crosse St).
Best place for parking will be the parking ramp.

What: Women talking about their experiences running for an elected position and why it is important to have women running for elected positions. There will also be volunteers from the League of Women Voters to register individuals to vote before and after the panel.

Featuring: Rep Jill Billings, County Board Chair Tara Johnson, City Council member Jacqueline Marcou and School Board Member Laurie Cooper Stoll.

*Please join us for
an educational
& enlightening
event!*

**Women make up 51% of
the population but:**



only 19% of Congress.

SOURCE: RUTGERS

USATODAY

Directory Changes for 2017-2018

Meetings and Programs: We will meet in February on Wednesday (not Saturday); the 7th is the correct date.

Judith Green's (Nov-April) address has changed to:
1700 Mission (Apt 10), South Pasadena, CA, 91030.
Judith's phone number is now: 626.399.0240

Jean Knorr now lives at: 622 Bennora Lee Court,
La Crosse, WI 54601.
Jean's phone number is now: 791.2829

Margaret Wood's phone number was written
incorrectly. Please change the number to: 785.1361

We received a new member. Please add to your
directory:

Lisbeth Reynertson
5720 Hwy 14-61 La Crosse, WI 54601
608 787.1982 U of Alabama BS Psych
usdk@centurytel.net

Public Policy

By Pat Markos, Public Policy Chair

Wisconsin Updates:

AAUW-WI State Convention – April 20-21, 2018

Building Bridges into the Future

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino,
1721 West Canal Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233

AAUW Support for College Campus Victims of Sexual
Assault: <https://aauwwi.aauw.net/policy/platforms/>

AAUW Wisconsin resolves to authorize greater support
for:

- Educating college and university students about sexual violence on campuses;
- Supporting college and university sexual violence victims by in depth research about the issue, including support services information for victims;
- Identifying steps AAUW members can take to make a difference, including, but not limited to:
 - advocacy for increased funding for administrative staff, such as Title IX coordinators, to pursue programs for incoming students regarding their safety on campus
 - increased analysis of Title IX's role in ending sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and violence, in education;
 - increased review of campus reporting processes to ensure transparency and the opportunity for confidential reporting;
 - increased clarity about college and university consequences for perpetrators of sexual assault.

National Updates:

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is taking place May 30-June 2, 2018 in Baltimore Maryland. Those attending in the past call the conference a transformative experience. Please think about nominating a student to attend NCCWSL 2018! AAUW National will send those nominated a message about the conference and ideas for covering the cost.

Attendees will learn to break down barriers and crack glass ceilings and will hear from Women of Distinction and keynote speakers. They will practice networking and building new relationships.

Complete info: <https://www.nccwsl.org/>

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of
November 20, 2017

Checking Account..... \$10,015.21

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$743.02

2018 Branch Scholarship
Applications

The scholarship applications
for:

- High School Graduating Senior
- UWL Students
- Viterbo U Students
- Karen Wilson Memorial
- Janet K. Isler Memorial

are now available on our
branch website:
www.aauwlacrosse.org
for downloading.



La Crosse Branch Cameos

1. How did you find & join AAUW?
2. What significant changes/ improvements have you seen in AAUW over the years? OR What would you like to contribute to the branch?
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?



Lora Anderson

1. At AAUW Art Fair on the Green 2016.
2. Helping to empower women through mentorship, servant leadership and educational opportunities.
3. For women, support can change the very core of what we think of one another, choices we make and understanding that we are not alone in what we experience.

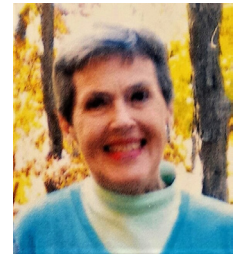
The purpose is to take time to honor our many differences and learn to create and foster a healthy woman-honoring culture.

4. To work less and travel more!!!
5. My favorite poem is *The Dash* by Linda Ellis.

Barbara Newcomer

1. When we moved to La Crosse in the mid-60's, I had never heard of AAUW. I'm sure that was due to moving so many times with medical training and Army days. I was happy to attend after being invited by a friend and found it a positive group.

2. Through the years, it has changed to keep up with current challenges. I was on the board of SSP when it first started.
3. Helping women keep up to date with public policy so they can contribute when needed is important!
4. Attending all of my grandchildren's college graduations and maybe a wedding or 2!
5. I flew solo in a Piper Cub plane when I was 14 years old.



Margaret Wood

1. I was a member of the Tomah Branch when it was founded in the 70's. I transferred my membership to La Crosse when my family moved here in 1978 but suspended my membership when there was no response by the state or local organization to the imposition of Governor Tommy Thompson's Qualified Economic Offer, limiting wages for college educated women in the teaching profession. I renewed my membership after retiring from the La

- Crosse County Board. I was very excited about the changes AAUW had made in terms of policy and advocacy.
2. AAUW has become much more relevant in the community, teaming with other organizations and providing a platform for others to be seen and heard. I like the changes that have reenergized the Art Fair on the Green. I always leave a meeting more informed and more aware.
 3. I wish there were only one issue that women could focus on that would impact every aspect of their lives. Globalization, change, and the interdependency of many systems make decision making so important. I think the ability to access education, in many forms and throughout our lives, is the fundamental issue that touches everything else.
 4. I would love to play the harp.
 5. I was very fortunate to be able to attend the two inaugurations of President Barack Obama. I saw history being made first hand.



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

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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