

## JANUARY MEETING

### The Backyard You Didn't Know You Had

**Presenter:** Maureen Kinney; founding member, board member and Mississippi Valley Conservancy attorney

**When:** Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018

**Where:** Viterbo School of Nursing, Room 195

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10

**Breakfast Menu:**

Egg bake with veggies and potatoes, Sausage links, Fresh fruit, Assorted breads, Coffee, hot tea

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 January 8th.

**Registration**.....9:30 AM  
**Breakfast**.....10:00AM  
**Program** .....10:30AM

We always say our area provides great recreational opportunities, but I wonder how many of us know what the Mississippi Valley Conservancy provides us for recreation. Wisconsin author Ben Logan, who wrote *The Land Remembers*, always said, "If you save the land, you save the people."

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# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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JANUARY 2018



### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

## Happy New Year 2018!

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

On Saturday, December 6th over 35 AAUW members and guests captured the holiday spirit at our December Brunch. We were entertained by the singing of Bella Voce, a local group, whose a cappella performance rendered lovely Christmas tunes. Afterwards we enjoyed our first-ever cookie walk. Members brought wonderful cookies, candies and bread to sell. I would say it was a great success.

Cowgill and Bev Bodine. They did a great job in setting up, running the sale and cleaning up afterwards. We may want to do this again next December!

I am looking forward to our great programs scheduled for 2018. The Scholarship committee will swing into high gear soon and our AAUW In Action Committee is already planning for our March events celebrating Women's History

*Continued on Page 2 »*

Our attendees appreciated the opportunity of buying homemade treats to give to family and friends. The buyers included about 20 UW-L students. Thanks to our intern Kathryn Draper who posted flyers on campus advertising the event. Thanks so much to Lois Gilbert, who spearheaded the event and her helpers Bobbie



### NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, January 8, 2018**

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

**Contact Michele at:** 781-6962 or [mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu](mailto:mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu) to place items on the agenda.

Get all the CURRENT news at our website: [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)

# Happy New Year 2018!... (continued from page 1)

Month. Mark your calendars for our International Women’s Panel on March 8th.

I already have received one application for the state scholarship to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) and am expecting another application as well.

I hope that all of you had a good holiday season and will have a fulfilling 2018.

Thanks again for all you did in 2017 and will do this year!

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Dottie Kruse’s daughter, BJ, let us know what Dottie has moved into a memory care facility as of the end of November. Her new address is:

Stoney Brook  
1808 Martin Luther King Jr Drive  
Dottie Kruse, Room 303  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522



Dottie would love to receive cards and notes from our members!

## Cookie Walk Thank You

by Lois Gilbert, Program Co- Chair



Thank you to all of the bakers and cooks who donated to our AAUW Cookie Walk on December 9! We hadn’t tried this type of winter fundraiser before, but our proceeds totaled \$360.50 and

were made possible by our members who were so generous in their contributions and their purchases. We hope it saved some members from baking in December which always turns into a busy month. Special thanks goes to cookie elves Bev Bodine and Bobbie Cowgill who helped with the planning, set up, and clean up, and to Bev and Carol Robertson who handled the cashier weighing and paying station. And thanks to our President Michele Strange who got the word out on the UW-L campus so that students could also come to our cookie walk and to Silvana Richardson who arranged for a wonderful holiday concert beforehand by the talented madrigal group Bella Voce.

Items that did not sell out at the cookie walk were donated to the Salvation Army and to Catholic Charities Warming Center on 4th Street in La Crosse.

## JANUARY MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

Mississippi Valley Conservancy is a non-profit land trust organization centered in the Driftless area of Wisconsin. Our goal is to protect native lands and farmlands from development and destruction so that they may be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Our mission is “conserving native habitats and farmlands through voluntary action, for the health and well-being of current and future generations.”

Mississippi Valley Conservancy helps to conserve the land and promote conservation in three separate ways: outreach and education, land protection, and land management. We build outreach and education through a number of programs.



**Maureen Kinney**



## 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

## AAUW IN ACTION

**Next Meeting:** Email meeting on January 16th.

If you are interested in joining us for a meeting, or just knowing what we're planning, please ask to be on our email list by sending an email to Erica at [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com)



**Save the date:** Thursday, March 8th.  
Annual International Women's Day Panel. UWL Centennial Hall. 5pm-7:30pm

**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](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com). We need several people to work on this.

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

We welcome new members and suggestions for events and programs.

## HEARTH & HOME

Hearth & Home study group meets periodically to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings. If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon



# \$3.7 MILLION

was awarded to women and community projects.



# 270,000

messages were sent to lawmakers by AAUW members and supporters.

## AAUW 2017 National Impact



# 17,000

people learned to negotiate their salary through AAUW workshops.



# 35 STATES

held AAUW STEM programs.

## Make Change Film Series and Community Conversations

Make Change is a new film series and community conversation program. Each event will consist of a popular documentary covering an important community issue. Following the film, participants will debrief and engage in reflection as we challenge all to think about ways we— together—can make change in our community. A light dinner will be provided. We ask participants to bring change or a small donation, if able. All of the donations will go to the community action project determined by participants of the film series and implemented together in the fall of 2018.



**Film:** Milwaukee 53206 <https://www.milwaukee53206.com/>

**Where:** Western Technical College Integrated Technology Center 325 8th St N, La Crosse  
-- Free Parking in the ITC Lot (Lot B)

**When:** Jan 23 @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Doors open at 5:30pm.



## 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?



### **Marla French**

**1.** I was invited to a meeting by Natalie Hartigan, but didn't join immediately. Then Eileen Muth asked me to sell tickets at the Art Fair — I was hooked! I'd found my niche in the organization.

- 2.** I like the variety of programs we've had in recent years—also how the scholarship program has grown.
- 3.** Juggling a career and family is a huge challenge, so a supportive employer/company is a must. That includes family leave time as well as quality child care.
- 4.** My bucket list includes lots of travel. Greece was a big one that got fulfilled last year, but each trip begets more trips. African Safari, Argentina, Australia ....(that's just the A's)
- 5.** In my teens and early 20's, I was a certified Red Cross swimming instructor.

## Public Policy

By Pat Markos, Public Policy Chair



Many women and men have come forward recently talking about their sexual harassment experiences. I'm going to speak specifically about the impact this has on women. The pervasiveness of sexual harassment and sexual assault impacts women's lives and has major implications for them in terms of their workplace. In listening to all of the recent stories coming out about sexual harassment and assault, it's important to realize that this is really less about sex and more about women's equality in the workplace. It's about the power structures that makes it harder for women to do work because too often the whole thing is tipped toward men. Sexual assault is one outcome of this balance, although it's not the only one. The stories we are hearing are about women looking for work, not for dates or relationships. Instead what they encountered was nonconsensual contact, violent physical and sexual threat, rape, and assault.

Have you ever left a career to avoid harassers? I have. Have you received less pay for the same exact job as a man in the same position? I have. Have you ever faced retaliation for speaking out and telling supervisors about the harassment? I have. For those women who do, there are serious lingering mental and physical health repercussions.

As women and men, we all struggle with the current public reckoning on sexual harassment and assault. AAUW is here to help by providing resources and advocacy opportunities. Remember, we are stronger together!

## Name Grant Nominations

Nominations are open for the 2018 Name Grant. All AAUW La Crosse Branch members are eligible for the award, as long as they have not previously received a Name Grant. The list of past honorees is listed in the back of the branch membership directory. Your nominee should have contributed to the work of the branch. The 2018 Name Grant awardee will be announced at the April 14 meeting. Please E-mail or call Jan Eriksen with names of nominees, along with information about why you feel the individual is deserving of the honor. Jan's E-mail address is [jperiksen@viterbo.edu](mailto:jperiksen@viterbo.edu) and phone is (608) 787-5946



## FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

### Financial Report as of December 19, 2017

Checking Account..... \$12,447.86

CD's .....none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$878.02

## AAUW Annual Art Contest

We hear about the gender gap all the time — in salary, in math and science fields, in leadership. But one of the most glaring and long-standing gaps is in the art world. For centuries, women artists were unrecognized, unencouraged, or even discredited simply because they were not men.

Today, things have changed ... some. Still, in 2012, only 4 percent of artists on display at the Metropolitan Museum were women. There is just one major museum in the world dedicated solely to women artists. That's why we host an annual art contest to give 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.

Submissions open January 4, 2018.

For more info:  
<http://www.aauw.org/contests/>



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**Ginny Brochhausen**

1. When I was a senior in high school, my aunt invited me to an AAUW meeting and it seemed like it would be good to be a member.
2. The changes and improvements that I notice are that younger women are receiving more attention for their education and greater opportunities.
3. The most important issues facing women today are educational opportunities, greater respect and societal value.
4. Number 1 on my bucket list is to complete the book of poems I am writing.
5. We spent our 35th wedding anniversary visiting and touring China and took a cruise on the Yangtze River.

**Bonne Olson**

1. After college I was invited and decided the concept of AAUW working for women was my concern. Also, I would meet likeable members.
2. Many changes, but many more needed. Member involvement continues to be an issue.
3. Sexual misconduct.
4. I would like to go to the Galapagos.
5. I love the outdoors and live in the best area of the country.



**Jane Wernecke**



1. I joined the LaCrosse Branch of AAUW in the 1980s after attending a general meeting with a friend who was a member. I became involved in helping with the various projects at that time including Art Fair, Home Tour, and Children's Movies. I also joined Hearth and Home study group and enjoy our get togethers.
2. The biggest change I have seen is more collaboration with other community organizations which has given us more visibility. Our branch has also greatly expanded its scholarship program to include grants for programs such as the Self-Sufficiency Program.
3. Equality issues for women including equal pay.
4. My bucket list includes continuing to explore and hike more of the national parks. I would love to experience Yellowstone in the winter!
5. Something you might not know about me is that I had a tarantula named Charlotte as a pet in my second grade classroom for twelve years.



American Association of University Women

La Crosse Branch

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<b>THE CURRENT</b>	a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch
<h2>AAUW's Mission</h2> <p>AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.</p> <p>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.</p>	<h2>Newsletter Contact &amp; Deadlines</h2> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> .....Erica Koonmen (<a href="mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com">moogs56@hotmail.com</a>) <b>Webminder</b> ..... Mary O'Sullivan (<a href="mailto:maryo@centurytel.net">maryo@centurytel.net</a>) <b>Newsletter Design</b> ..... Tegan Jerde-Koonmen (<a href="mailto:jerdet@gmail.com">jerdet@gmail.com</a>)</p> <p><b>Newsletter content submission deadline:</b> Please send all content for <i>The Current</i> to Erica by the 20th of the month.</p> <p><b>Problems receiving the CURRENT? Let us know at:</b> <a href="mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com">aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com</a></p>