

MAY MEETING

GRANTS &
SCHOLARSHIPS

Reception

Please join us in meeting exceptional students and their families as well as representatives of programs serving the diverse needs of our community.

When: Thursday, May 10, 2018

Where: Viterbo University—
School of Nursing --on the corner
of Jackson and 10th Streets

Registration: 5:45pm

Reception begins: 6:00pm

Program begins: 6:30pm

Cost: \$10 for desserts, fruit,
and beverages Donations are
welcomed to cover the cost of
our recipients and their guests.

In our tradition, we ask
AAUW members to consider
"sponsoring" a recipient (and
perhaps the recipient's guest).
By covering these costs, we do not
need to rely on the branch budget.
You may mail a sponsorship check
to our branch treasurer or you may
take care of that upon your arrival
at the event.

Plan to arrive by 6:00pm to enjoy
desserts and to talk individually
with our recipients and meet

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 9

MAY 2018



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A Different Perspective

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Having just returned from
AAUW-WI state convention in
Milwaukee, I am eager to share
several points of information
with you. The theme this year
was "Building
Bridges into the
Future." This
dovetails with
AAUW National's
strategic plan
draft that you
can weigh in on
through a survey sent to you
recently by email.



and raising the unrestricted funds
balance and level of endowments.
She is dedicated to transparency
and accountability in the
organization. I felt more confident

with the direction
that National
is moving,
particularly in
light of their dues
increase. Please
take some time
to look at the

strategic plan priorities and respond
to the survey sent by Ms. Churches.

Fund raising at the convention
went to National's legal advocacy

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, May 7, 2018
6:30 pm**

Viterbo University Nursing Building,
Room 502. 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

A Different Perspective ... (continued from page 1)

fund (LAF). One of the keynote speakers was Susan Daria Landino, a LAF recipient. She told an incredible story of her harrowing experience as a whistleblower, when she went up against Yale University citing Title IX violations regarding reporting of campus rape statistics. With the Legal Advocacy support from AAUW, her case was resolved favorably. It was sobering to hear how it has adversely affected her life.

I enjoyed all the speakers as well as networking with other members across the state. It gives you a new perspective when you compare notes with other branches. We have a very active branch with a record number of new members considering our size. Many are amazed at how much we are able to give in scholarships and grants. All of you should be very proud of your efforts.

I hope that you are looking forward to our Scholarship reception on May 10th as much as I am. See you there!

Thanks again for all you do!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

Welcome to our first new member for the 2018/19 fiscal year!

Cristina Kovacs
3166 33rd St S
La Crosse, WI 54601 608-386-4586
Oakland Comm College MI Assoc Business Adm
ck@GHrealtors.com



Cristina was a panelist for our International Women's Day program in March. Thanks to Lema Kabashi for recruiting her. We look forward to Cristina's participation in the branch

New Address & Phone Number

Joan Koonmen has moved into Marycrest Apartments. Her new info is:
401 S. Water St, Apt 203
Sparta, WI 54656 608-269-0140

Installation of 2018-2019 Board



Left to right:

Bev Bodine-Financial VP Co-Chair;
Margaret Wood, Silvana Richardson-
Program VP Co-Chairs;
Marilyn Hempstead- Membership VP;
Jan Eriksen-President;
Lora Anderson-Secretary.
Missing: Kristen Foehner- Financial
VP Co-Chair

MAY MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

their guests. You will recognize them by their name tags adorned with a white banner with the word "Recipient."

When we gather the recipients for their group picture at 6:29pm, AAUW members can begin to move into Room 196, the Auditorium. Please take refreshments with you to enjoy as you hear the recipients' stories. Individuals with mobility concerns will want to take the elevator to the basement and enter Room 196 from the bottom of the hall. Note: You will find restrooms on both the first floor and the lower level.

As any of the scholarship application readers can attest, our recipients deserve this celebration! And, it provides proof that we expend valuable efforts to make the Art Fair a success.



And while we're on the subject, oh yes, it IS time to start thinking about the art fair! Jury day for new artists was held in April; 16 new artists will be joining the 80 + returning artists.

Please contact Marla French, volunteer coordinator, at mmfrench1959@gmail.com or 608-782-6589 to find out about all the wonderful opportunities there are to contribute to our 60th annual art fair.

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

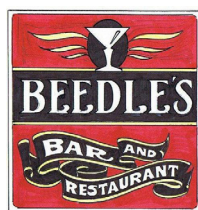
HEARTH & HOME



We will meet on **Wed. May 16** to visit the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and then have a 6 pm dinner at Beedles in Centerville.

Meet at 4:15 pm at the Centerville Curling Club to carpool to the refuge.

Bring binoculars if you have them and comfortable shoes for a walk weather permitting.



Please RSVP to Jane Wernecke at janewernecke@gmail.com or 608-780-1121 by **Monday, May 14** so a dinner reservation can be made.

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.

If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.

AAUW IN ACTION

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

Next meeting: Thursday, May 31, 2018 5:30pm
Annual year-in-review potluck at Erica's!

Thank you to all for the generous donations of toiletries and hygiene products at the April general meeting! We have a wonderful assortment of items going to New Horizons, YWCA and Brighter Tomorrows.

Equal Pay Day table at UWL, April 10: Students were able to sign up for a free e-membership with AAUW, sign up for Two-minute Activist digital alerts and get a free cookie. Betty did a great job with procuring current pay equity fact sheets, charts, booklets, handouts, and stickers from national, all providing great information and research about pay equity.



Left to right: Sydney Vian, UWL student volunteer; Betty Kruck, branch Equal Pay Day coordinator; Kathryn Draper, UWL student & branch Public Policy intern 2018

Equal Means Equal film: We are looking at August for the showing of this movie but in the meantime, our group purchased 12 copies of the 30 minute version to donate to local groups. Our branch has a copy too. If you'd like to borrow and watch it, please let Erica know. You can watch a trailer at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OakMqyZzyxM>

Public Policy

By Pat Markos, Public Policy Chair

AAUW Washington Update



Did you know that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month? We need to be talking about how to prevent sexual harassment and violence, especially in our schools. Students on college campuses are being affected disproportionately and it is negatively impacting their ability to fully participate in educational programs. Title IX, the legislation in place to protect students from unlawful sexual harassment and sexual assault, has recently been rolled back by the Department of Education. This is of great concern for all of us. There are potentially other pieces of legislation in the works to weaken Title IX even more and very soon the U.S. Senate may vote to confirm Kenneth Marcus as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. Mr. Marcus has a history of supporting policies not in line with AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. Additionally, during his confirmation hearing he did not commit to strong enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws. AAUW is asking members to call their legislators to ask them to protect Title IX and vote to not confirm Mr. Marcus.

In The Statehouse In Healthcare News, States React Differently to Attacks on Obamacare



There are many positive changes that have taken place because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) like increasing the number of Americans who have access to preventive services and also lowering the rate of uninsured women. Unfortunately, Congress is still taking steps to undo the law. Some states are taking measures to strengthen the law, while others are rejecting it. In New Jersey two bills were passed, one creating a reinsurance plan and the other requiring everyone have insurance or pay a penalty. A few states are considering expanding Medicaid. Other states are actively working to withdraw from the mandates of the ACA. The Iowa legislature just voted to offer smaller plans with inferior benefits. Of note is that AAUW members in Idaho are advocating to expand Medicaid through a vote on a ballot measure. The measure failed and AAUW continued the fight by working to pass legislation to close the coverage gap and provide insurance for thousands of individuals who cannot currently afford it, including a large percentage of women.

Name Grant 2018 Award

The 2018 Name Grant award was given to Karen Landstrom.

Karen's nomination noted that while her teaching job limits her ability to participate in branch activities during the school year, she has been a long and faithful member of the Art Fair on the Green committee.

Karen has been the raffle chair or co-chair for many years. She has not only organized the collection and labeling process but also changed the layout to make it more efficient and visually appealing. The raffle as a fundraiser has grown both in scope and funds raised.



Congratulations, Karen!

Feminism On Tap Event



Save the date!

Feminism on Tap

Wed., May 2, 2018

5 pm social, 5:30 presentation & discussion

@ The Wine Guyz 122 King St., La Crosse

"Our Continued Fight for Constitutional Equal Rights"

Presenter: Janette Dean

www.facebook.com/FeminismOnTapLaCrosse

May Dates in US Women's History

- May 1, 1950 – Gwendolyn Brooks becomes the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.
- May 5, 1938 – Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen presents results of her medical research identifying the disease cystic fibrosis at a meeting of the American Pediatric Association.
- May 10, 1872 – Victoria Woodhull is nominated as the first woman candidate for U.S. president for the Equal Rights Party.
- May 21, 1973 – Lynn Genesko, a swimmer, receives the first athletic scholarship awarded to a woman (U of Miami).
- May 29, 1977 – Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to qualify for and complete the Indy 500 car race.
- May 29, 1943 – "Rosie the Riveter" by Norman Rockwell appears on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

Financial Report as of April 11, 2018

Checking Account..... \$12,042.87

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$900.00

It's renewal time

by Kristen Foehner, Treasurer

To be great at anything
you can't avoid
a fundamental law:

**You have to pay your
dues**

Joe Pane

This is a reminder that it is time to renew your AAUW membership for next year (2018-19). The deadline for membership dues is June 30, 2018.

Dues are now \$80.00 of which \$56.00 is tax deductible. Additional information on the breakdown of dues can be found on the membership renewal form (sent last month) or by contacting Kristen.

Please submit the form and a check for \$80 made out to AAUW La Crosse Branch before **June 30th**.

If you are unable to return it at the May meeting, my mailing address is:
Kristen Foehner
4104 Beverly Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

Thank you!



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?



Carol Robertson

1. I belonged to AAUW for a short time in the Chicago area when my children were young but didn't keep up my membership. When I moved to La Crosse in 2008, I attended the art fair, spoke with Pat Staupe, and joined AAUW again.
2. AAUW has been more active in addressing the social justice issues and while not endorsing candidates, takes definite stands on current concerns.
3. Equality in pay is still the issue that affects all the other issues including education, career advancements, and retirement.
4. Oh, so many places to go and things to see! I just want to keep traveling...
5. Some of you may have heard my story, but I lost my home in a fire when my kids were 10 & 14 in 1984.

Marian Schiesser



1. I've known of AAUW for many years, and joined the organization when I retired. I became involved through my neighbor, Marilyn Hempstead, because of her work on membership and Art Fair on the Green. I've been on the Art Fair committee since joining and most recently have been Publicity chair for the past several years.
2. AAUW's role is more important today than ever. AAUW is becoming more active in fighting for equal pay. Providing workshops to train women in salary negotiations is excellent, and needed, to help women gain confidence and achieve their full potential. Equal advancement and more women in leadership roles will help women and families, and help prevent harassment in the workplace.
3. I think the most important issue facing women today is respect in the workplace and in society as a whole. It's been a problem for hundreds of years, and has only gotten marginally better. We also see this need for respect as it relates to people of color, the disabled, and sexual orientation.
4. On my bucket list are plans to travel with my husband, both within and outside the USA, visit my daughters who seem to like the coasts, and in general, continue to grow in retirement.
5. Something you don't know about me is that I like to sail, and I like to bike in the Driftless Region.



American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
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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.

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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