

FEBRUARY MEETING

A Collaborative Approach to Regional Success

Presenter: Chris Hardie
CEO, 7 Rivers Alliance

When: Saturday, February 9

Where: UWL Centennial Hall,
Hall of Nations, Rm 1300

Cost: \$12

Menu: Scrambled eggs with cheese and salsa on the side, Oatmeal bar, Country ham, Fresh fruit, Assorted breakfast bakery, (including gluten free), Coffee and assorted teas, Orange juice

Registration: 9:30 AM

Breakfast: 10:00 AM

Meeting & Program: 10:30 AM

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 Monday, Feb. 4th.

Employers and educators

across the nation are exploring new approaches to ensure the next generation is career, college and community-ready.

The February AAUW program features Chris Hardie, Chief Executive Officer of 7 Rivers Alliance. This organization focuses

Continued on Page 2 »

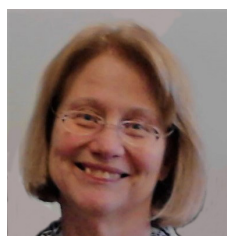


The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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FEBRUARY 2019



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: **Important Dates to Remember**

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

There are several committees and individuals working on upcoming events and projects. As a result, March through July will be busy months for AAUW-La Crosse as well as for AAUW Wisconsin.

I want to highlight the happenings so that you can mark your calendars.

March is Women's History month. The theme for 2019 is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence." Lois Gilbert is heading up a group that is planning a number of activities.

Thursday, March 7 is the International Women's Day celebration, to be held from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Bluffs Room on the second floor of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse's (UWL) Student Union. Lois' article elsewhere in this newsletter provides more information.

Saturday, March 16 is the March branch general meeting. We will be traveling to Winona to meet the members of the AAUW – Winona branch, share a meal with them, and tour the Minnesota Marine

Art Museum. We'll be making arrangements for car-pooling.

Tuesday, April 2 is Equal Pay Day. AAUW – La Crosse will be sponsoring a table in the UWL Student Union to raise awareness about the pay differential that still exists between men and women in the workplace.

Continued on Page 2 »



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 4, 2019
6:30 pm

Viterbo University Nursing Building, Room 502. Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

Contact Jan at: 787-5946 or
jperiksen@viterbo.edu
to place items on the agenda.

Important Dates to Remember ... *(continued from page 1)*

Saturday, April 13 we'll be celebrating our grant recipients at the April general meeting.

Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27 is the AAUW Wisconsin State Convention in the Lake Geneva area. All members (not just officers) are invited and encouraged to attend. Please see page 5 of the January Current or visit the AAUW Wisconsin website for additional information.

Thursday, May 9, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. is the annual reception at which we'll be honoring our scholarship recipients.

Saturday, June 8 is Artspire. AAUW – La Crosse sponsors a booth to help publicize our Art Fair on the Green and to inform the public about the mission of AAUW.

Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28 is the AAUW Art Fair on the Green.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

Congratulations

Here are follow up details about Carol Taebel's award announced last month in the CURRENT: She received the 2019 Distinguished Service Award at the La Crosse Public Education Foundation Grants Award Luncheon held Friday, January 18. Carol, a retired public school educator, was also our branch president 1980-82.



In the News...



Member Margaret Wood, as a friend of Governor Evers, was a hostess for the inaugural reception at the governor's mansion. She and Tony Evers taught in the Platteville school district in the 1970's.

Margaret, Gov. Tony Evers, Daryl Wood

FEBRUARY MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

on regional economic development in the tri-state area, which includes La Crosse. One of their initiatives is called Inspire 7 Rivers. This initiative links education and industry to help students and job seekers achieve their goals and to address workforce development needs. Mr. Hardie will share the details of this initiative.

Hardie took over the Black River Area Chamber of Commerce in March 2015 after more than 30 years in the newspaper business. He worked with local leaders to help establish a Jackson County Economic Development Committee, organized a pop-up retail program with the Black River Falls Downtown Association, and owns/operates Brambleberry Country Inn and Winery. Hardie has also served on various regional boards, including the Tomah Area Chamber of Commerce, the Village People in West Salem, the Greater La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce, the La Crosse Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and served as president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.



Chris Hardie

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

HEARTH & HOME

Contact: Sharon De Cicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon De Cicco, 788-5356

AAUW IN ACTION

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

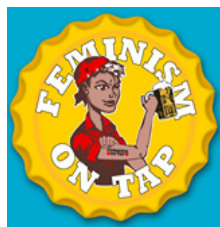
If you are interested in joining us for a meeting, please ask to be on our email list: Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 12th, place/time TBA

We welcome 2 new interns to our branch: K.C. Cayo, Diversity intern and Madeline Drayna, Social Media intern. We'll also have a Public Policy intern this spring. Learn all about them in the next newsletter!

Beginning March 1st, watch for our branch sponsored daily Women's history paragraphs in the La Crosse Tribune. Thank you to Lois Gilbert for these wonderful information spots!

FEMINISM ON TAP NEXT MEETING:



Wed., Feb. 6 from 5-7 p.m. at Gracies Gyros & Wraps, 1908 Campbell Rd (across from UWL). The topic is **Breaking Barriers in Education**, and we will have representatives from UWL (staff and students) speaking about experiences and challenges in higher education through the eyes of

women, especially women of color.

5 p.m. Social/food & drink ordering (optional)
5:30 p.m. Program

International Women's Day

By Lois Gilbert, Chair

Thursday, MARCH 7, 5pm-7pm. UWL Student Union, Bluff Rm
Free and open to the public!

We have an exciting panel lined up for the annual International Women's Day event this year:

U.S. Territory – Puerto Rico : Dr. Maribel Bird

Uganda : Sister Sarah Nakyesa

France : Eva Ewers

Bhutan : Khendum Gyabak-Kumba



The new location, UWL Student Union, Bluff Room, will give us more room. Full details will be in the next newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will have some volunteers from other sponsors helping also, but could use AAUW members in these areas:

- ◆ 1 or 2 people to drive over to St. Rose Convent to pick up panelist Sister Sarah at about 4:15pm and bring her to the program, and then drive her back home after the program
- ◆ Timer person to let panelists know how much time they have left to speak from 6:00pm-6:45pm
- ◆ Someone to assist AAUW member Cristina Kovacs in greeting panelists as they arrive and distribute their name tags, 4:30pm-5:00pm
- ◆ Someone to assist Marilyn with the AAUW display table 4:30pm-5:00pm
- ◆ 1-2 persons to work with university students (students under the supervision of university staff) to distribute and collect audience member question cards and pencils

If interested and available, please email Lois at:

lois-and-mike@centurytel.net

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THIS IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENT RUN SMOOTHLY!

Another International Women's Day Event!

Date/Time: Friday, March 8, 2019 at 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Location: Hackberry's Bistro, 315 5th Avenue South, La Crosse

Hackberry's Bistro will be the place for lively discussion as we celebrate women—women's lives, women's work and women's value! A panel of women who farm will share their perspectives on women in agriculture

worldwide. Join your friends for delicious hors d'oeuvre, a cash bar, and the best conversation in the tri-state area! Doors open at 6 p.m., panel at 6:30. Event is free and open to the public.

RSVP suggested: call 608-784-5798.

Donations to the Land Stewardship Project will be accepted.



Public Policy

By Ann Brice, Chair

Effects of the Government Shutdown on Women and Children

AAUW has long advocated for women in the areas of civil rights, economic security, education, and Title IX regulations. This advocacy has never been more important than today, in a time when the government shutdown drastically affects women and children. For example, 3% of the American population lives in HUD (Housing and Urban development, or “public housing”) housing. Of those families living in HUD housing, 75% of them are headed by women. As of today’s writing, the HUD website states that HUD is closed due to the government shutdown. This means that after pre-authorized money runs out, there will be no more funds allocated to HUD tenants. Funding for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Food and Nutrition Service, a program that provides food assistance to more than 7 million low-income pregnant women, new mothers, and young children only has funding to last through January. SNAP benefits (food stamps) which are received by 38.5 million Americans will only be able to continue through February, according to the USDA.



The shutdown affects women’s reproductive health and the health of their newborns. Dr. Tracey Woodruff is a professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive services at the University of California San Francisco. One of the things she studies is how prenatal exposure to pollutants and other chemicals can adversely affect prenatal development. She said that the government shutdown affects grant funding, which causes delays in research.

“A cascade of effects can happen as we wait to make decisions about chemicals that can be influencing people’s health,” Woodruff says.

The third example of how the shutdown affects women involves cessation of funding for programs that help crime victims, stop sexual violence against women, and prevent sexual assault. The Department of Commerce has stopped getting federal reimbursement for these programs, and funding for the Violence Against Women Act has also stopped due to the government shutdown. This puts women’s lives in danger, according to Toni Van Pelt, President of the National Organization of Women. About one in three women and one in six men in the U.S. experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One in six women and one in 19 men in the U.S. experience stalking at some point during their lifetime. Since the #MeToo movement began, organizations that serve assault victims are reporting record numbers of people seeking help.

Now more than ever, it is important to stand with AAUW as our organization continues to campaign on behalf of women during this time fraught with threats to women and children.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/10/politics/shutdown-effects-list/index.html>

<https://www.npr.org/2018/12/23/679652640/how-the-partial-government-shutdown-could-impact-you>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/longest-ever-government-shutdown-affecting-public-health/>



Name Grant Nominations

By Michele Strange, Chair

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Name Grant. Nominees can be any branch member who has made significant contributions to the branch and who has not previously received the Name Grant. The list of past honorees is in the back of the branch membership directory. The 2019 Name Grant awardee will be announced at the April 13th meeting. The deadline for nominations is April 8, 2019.

Please e-mail or call Michele Strange with names of nominees, along with information about why you feel the individual is deserving of the honor. Michele's e-mail address is mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu and phone is (608) 781-6962.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

Financial Report as of
January 20, 2019

Checking Account..... \$12,582.16

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$804.00

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AAUW Annual
Art Contest

The annual AAUW Art Contest is underway, and it's a terrific opportunity to display your work!

This year, we will give special preference to entries that reflect AAUW's mission, vision and values:

- Advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy
- Equity for All
- Nonpartisan, fact-based, integrity, inclusion and intersectionality

Through February 7, submit an electronic version of your design to the AAUW Art Contest web page. Your entry can be photography, a digital photo of your painting, drawing, sculpture, or any other form of visual art.

For more information, to submit artwork, and to see last year's art gallery, please visit <https://www.aauw.org/contests/>

Women's March in Madison 2019

By Margaret Wood



Twenty three women and men from La Crosse traveled by coach to Madison, February 19, for the WOMEN'S WAVE WISCONSIN 2019. This was the third year for the Women's March.

They disembarked at 10:00 AM to temperatures in the single digits with a wind speed of 12 mph. There was no place to shelter from the frigid weather outside. However, organizers had prepared a room on the second floor of the Capitol, right off the rotunda, where the live-stream video of the speakers outside could be viewed. It was very much appreciated by this writer after an hour and a half in the elements! I commend the majority of the estimated crowd of 700 who weathered the cold and were acknowledged for their constancy by each speaker!

Among the many issues highlighted were immigration, education, healthcare, equal pay, gender neutrality, religious freedom, xenophobia, indigenous rights, race, class, abuse, sexual orientation...all the things that are present in our state by policy and action, impacting the experiences of many during their lives.

Speakers included State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski who referenced voters' rights when she said, "We need fair maps. In states that have fair maps, not only are women running for office, they are WINNING! Let's put an end to gerrymandering!" The speaker who was an exemplar of the injustices suffered by many in our nation was Rhiannon Plotkin, a twelve year-old girl who was delivering her first political speech. She told of her mother who was deported when Rhiannon was a small child living in Arizona. She and her father now live in Waukesha, still hoping that her mother will some day join them to recreate their family. Many other activists were there representing organizations, cultures, and professions in Wisconsin.



Margaret and WI State Treasurer
Sarah Godlewski



The rally moved into the Capitol building to deliver the Womens' Agenda around 12:30 PM while giving voice to various chants emblematic of the causes for which we gathered. People were present around all three levels of the Rotunda where we vigorously declared our beliefs. Then the rally dispersed while joining the Raging Grannies in their protest songs.



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 Mary O’Sullivan (maryo@centurytel.net)
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