

MARCH MEETING

Joint AAUW Winona and LaCrosse Branches Meeting

Road Trip to the Minnesota Art Museum in Winona

Join with other members on a carpooling* road trip to meet AAUW Winona Branch members, tour the Minnesota Marine Art Museum and stay (or not) to enjoy a box lunch and conversation. The Museum is home to a large variety of the greatest European and American masters including Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh, Cassatt, Gauguin, Picasso, Matisse, Kandinsky, O'Keeffe, Homer, Wyeth, and many more. It is through this surprising diversity that the Museum is now nationally recognized.

Date: Saturday March 16, 2019
(THIRD Saturday)

Location: MMAM (Minnesota
Marine Art Museum)
800 Riverview Drive, Winona

Gathering Location: Museum
Community Room. *Welcome
Desk will direct you to the Community
Room.* Registration with lunch
and museum entrance fee will be
collected by Winona hosts there.

Time:

- **9:00 am** Meet at selected sites if you wish to carpool from La Crosse* (see below)
- **9:30 am** Registration and light refreshments
- **10:00 am** Welcoming followed by docent lead tour of the permanent collection & current museum exhibits
- **10:45 am** Break
- **11:00 am** Fellowship time with Box lunches
- **12:00 pm** Adjourn.

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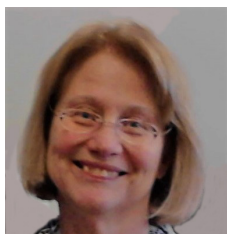


The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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MARCH 2019



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: The Special Month of March

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Happy March! I was wondering how this month became Women's History Month and about the origin of International Women's Day. So I did a little research and here is what I learned. The first National Woman's Day was celebrated in the U.S. on

February 28, 1909. The Socialist Party of America designated this day in honor of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, at which women protested their working conditions. In 1911 International Woman's Day was observed for the first time on March 19 in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In 1913 and 1914 International Woman's Day also became a mechanism for opposing World War I. In the post-1945 period the name changed from the singular "woman's" day to plural "women's" day. In 1975, International Women's Year, the

United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on its current date of March 8. IWD is now observed in more than 100 countries and is an official holiday in 27 nations.

The designation of March as Women's History Month has a much more recent beginning. The Education Task Force of

the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and carried out a Women's History Week in 1978. The week of March 8 was chosen to correspond with International Women's Day. In

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#BalanceforBetter



NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, March 11, 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.

The Special Month of March ... *(continued from page 1)*

1980 a consortium of women's groups and historians, led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance), lobbied for national recognition. As a result, in February 1980 President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th that year as National Women's History Week.

Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women's History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as Women's History Month. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

This month in La Crosse please read the inspirational women's biographies in the Tribune each day, admire the window display at Pearl Street Books, and attend the International Women's Day Celebration. Many individuals in AAUW In Action and the IWD Celebration Committee, especially Lois Gilbert and Erica Koonmen, have worked hard to make March 2019 memorable.

Sources: <https://iwd.uchicago.edu/>; <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>;
<https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/>; <https://www.womenshistory.org/>;
<http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday>

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

Condolences

Our hearts go out to Susan Fabian and her daughters for the loss of mother and grandmother. Susan is our faithful grounds person for art fair and a valued member of the branch. She has suffered losses in the recent past. We support her in the difficult healing process.



Another loss was the death of former member Elizabeth Wing. Liz led a rich life of accomplishment. She grew up in the East and was educated at Smith College with a major in journalism. On graduating she took a job at the Milwaukee Journal where she met her husband Rick.

Moving to La Crosse in 1969, she was involved in journalism doing marketing, advertising and freelance writing. She served on our board, but her primary involvement in the branch was as a Bookfellows study group member where she delivered witty, scholarly papers. Condolences to her four children and their families.

REMINDER: This is a good month to recruit a new member! After March 15 those joining will have a membership into the 2019/2020-program year.

Name Grant Nominations

By Michele Strange, Chair

Nominations for the 2019 Name Grant are open. Nominees can be any branch member who has made significant contributions and who has not previously received the Name Grant. The list of past honorees is in the back of the branch membership directory. The deadline is April 8, 2019. Please contact Michele Strange at mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu or (608) 781-6962 with names of nominees, along with information about why you feel the individual is deserving of the honor.

MARCH MEETING (continued from Page 1)

Cost: Museum fee varies.

1. Current Paid Museum Members – no charge
2. La Crosse AAUW – if 10 or more attending \$5 per person – out of town discount for this event only.
3. Winona AAUW - \$7

Cost: Box Lunches or Salads \$13.

Lunch choices will come from Benos, a local "deli-style" eatery. Your choice will need to be made when you send in your RSVP to Robert by Sunday, March 10th at NOON.

1. **Benos Veggies special:** cheddar cheese, cucumbers, tomatoes, sprouts and Benos special sauce (oil and vinegar) on rye bread.

2. **Benos Combo:** ham, turkey, salami, provolone cheese, sprouts and special sauce. This sandwich has a Gluten free bun option.

3. **Super Roast beef:** roast beef, Swiss cheese and choice of lettuce OR sprouts on a sesame seed bun. All sandwiches contain mayo unless specified differently.

4. **Gluten free option #2:** 8 oz Garden Salad. Can order with 3 oz meat – see meats noted in the above sandwiches.

All lunches will include cookies and chips – if gluten free you can share your cookie. Water will also be provided by the caterer.

*Those who are carpooling should be ready to leave by 9:00 am from either the Viterbo School of Nursing parking lot (Silvana will be there to coordinate) or the parking lot between Office Depot & Pier One in Onalaska (Margaret will be there to coordinate).

All reservations must be made by NOON on Sunday, March 10th as our friends in Winona need a final count of attendance. NO LATE RESERVATIONS can be accepted for this event.

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.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 14th, JavaVino, 1:30pm

Beginning March 1st, watch for our branch sponsored **daily Women's history paragraphs** in the La Crosse Tribune and they'll also be featured on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Thank you to Lois Gilbert for these wonderful information spots!

Looking ahead to April: Equal Pay Day info table will be April 2nd in the UWL Student Union. We'll need help with cookies again this year!

We'll be offering the **WINGS (Women Interested in Going to School) workshop** on Friday, April 12th. More details in the next newsletter.

International Women's Day

By Lois Gilbert, Chair

Thurs, MARCH 7, 5pm-7pm. UWL Student Union, The 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

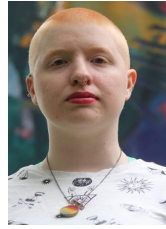
France : Eva Ewers

Bhutan : Khendum Gyabak-Kumka

Free parking in Lot C12, Cleary Alumni Center and parking ramp levels 1-3.



Meet Our Spring Semester Interns!

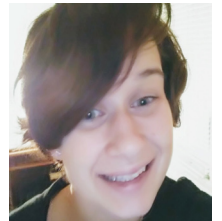


Diversity Intern: K.C. Cayo

I am studying English Rhetoric and Political Science, with a focus on social justice work—I'm interested in attending law school in the future. I am the Regional Director for Women's March WI, and actively work with them and other grassroots organizations to host rallies, trainings, intersectionality educational opportunities, and protests. As of late, I have been spending any and all free-time partaking in civil disobedience in Washington D.C., organizing activist work, backpacking, or taking care of my corn snake, Snack, the love of my life. I am AAUW La Crosse's first Diversity Intern and I aim to connect with to the Multicultural Organizations on the La Crosse campuses to discuss how to reach out to a more representative group of individuals with our work.

Social Media Intern: Madi Drayna

I am 23 years old and graduating from UW-L this spring with a double major English degree with an emphasis in Rhetoric & Writing, and Philosophy. I am minor-ing in Professional Technical Writing. As Social Media intern, I am responsible for editing and creating content for the branch FaceBook and Instagram accounts. I've also set up a Twitter account and a Linked-In page for the branch.



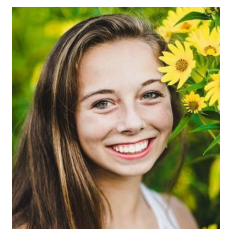
Public Policy Intern: Jorie Collins



Hi! My name is Jorie Collins, I'm in my fourth year at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse and I am currently majoring in Public Administration. Throughout this upcoming semester, I will be working with AAUW by getting familiar with their branch activities and doing projects for Equal Pay Day and Women's History Month. Ellie and I will also be promoting AAUW affiliate memberships and trying to get people involved in that way as well as promoting policy on campus and spreading the word. I am so excited to be a part of this nonprofit organization!

Public Policy Intern: Ellie Miller

My name's Ellie and I'm currently a senior at UW-La Crosse. I'm studying Sociology and Psychology and minoring in French. As a Public Policy intern this semester I will be writing public policy articles for the newsletter and helping to plan events for AAUW on campus, including International Women's Day and Equal Pay Day. I'm excited to learn more about how policies affect women and to raise awareness for women's issues in politics on campus!



Public Policy

By Ann Brice, Chair



Encouraging Women to Run for Office

Out of over 500,000 elected offices in the United States, fewer than 1/3 of them are held by women (Source: <https://www.sheshouldrun.org/>). Even though women make up 50.8% of the United States population, they only account for 19.6% of the U.S. Congress, and 25% of the U.S. Senate. Since Hillary Clinton's loss in 2016, women have shown a renewed interest in running for office. AAUW advocates for women's rights in education, reproductive health, and economic security. One way AAUW continues to promote these rights is by sponsoring programs that can help steer women towards politics. AAUW recently incorporated their program Elect Her into an existing program Running Start, founded in 2007. **Running Start** is a non-partisan organization specializing in supporting high school and college women. Their Young Women's Political Leadership Program helps young women in high school develop leadership skills and expand their political interests. Running Start also hosts a political caucus that allows women to learn about public policy and to make connections. There are other organizations designed to introduce women to running for office. **She Should Run**, a nonpartisan, not for profit organization based out of Washington DC, has helped 26,000 women run for office. The organization's goal is to have 250,000 women in office by 2030. Since its inception in 1985, **Emily's List** (short for Early Money is Like Yeast, i.e. it makes the dough rise) has helped elect twelve governors, twenty-three senators, one hundred and sixteen House representatives and over eight hundred women to state and local office. Like She Should Run, Emily's list also hosts candidate trainings for women who want to run for office. **The National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)**, founded in 1971, has 25 training programs for progressive, pro-choice women. These programs cover topics like time management, confidence building, and online fundraising. Some of the candidates endorsed by the NWPC include Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warrens, Donna Shalala, and Dianne Feinstein. **The Women's Campaign Fund (WCF)**, founded in 1974, supports women who can demonstrate the ability to reach common ground in their life's experiences, and who are viable for election. This means the WCF seeks women "whose gifts include strong basic competencies, plus guts, street sense, situational awareness, and resilience." They support candidates who demonstrate that they respect different perspectives. Some of the candidates the WCF endorses are Stacey Abrams, Heidi Heitkamp, and Veronica Escobar.

If you are thinking about running for office, or if you know someone who could be encouraged to run for office, AAUW and other organizations can give you the support and knowledge you need. Please see the next item for a workshop coming to La Crosse on March 2nd!

Running Start/Elect Her Training

Saturday, March 2, 2019, 9:30am – 3:00pm,
UWL Student Union Rm 3310

A daylong, non-partisan training for high school and college women on how to run for student government and public office.

Amy Budner Smith – Facilitator; Kathryn Draper, Coordinator.

The training is free and lunch is provided.

Please pre-register at [Elect Her Registration](#).

For more info, contact Kathryn Draper at draper.kathryn@uwlax.edu

HELP WANTED

The AAUW-La Crosse Nominating Committee is currently working to identify local members who may be interested in serving in various positions on the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee members are Michele Strange, Carol Robertson, and Jan Eriksen. Open elected positions are: Vice President-President Elect, Vice President-Program (one position open), and Vice President-Finance. These are all two-year terms, beginning July 1, 2019. The Publicity/Communications Chair appointed board position is also open. If you would like more information about the duties of any of the positions, or to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members. Our annual election and swearing in of officers takes place at the April meeting.

Victory Over Violence Gala

Victory Over Violence, presented by Gundersen Health System, is a community coming together to help end domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Victory Over Violence Gala & Auction is many things—

including New Horizons' largest fundraiser of the year! We hope you will join us on **Saturday, March 23rd at the Cargill Room at the Waterfront Restaurant & Tavern, 5:30pm-9:30pm**. We'll have live music, delicious food, amazing items to win, and incredible finds on the live auction! Tickets are \$40; available at [Tickets](#) or from Carol Robertson.

Dave Skogen, Chairman of Festival Foods and advocate of Servant Leadership will be the keynote speaker.

The dress code is cocktail attire and we'll have a professional photographer set up to take your photo on the "purple carpet" as you enter the Cargill Room.

Complete info at: <http://www.nhagainstabuse.org/events/victory-over-violence-gala-auction/>



FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foechner

Financial Report as of February 23, 2019

Checking Account..... \$10,969.16

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$804.00

Not Receiving Badger Briefs?

Badger Briefs, the AAUW Wisconsin newsletter, is now being distributed electronically only. The change from paper and postage saves some trees and helps our state organization utilize our dues in more effective ways.

The first (and only) issue to be sent electronically was the Fall 2018 edition. We've heard from our District 4 Coordinator, Debbie Thiel, that not all members received it. She indicates that the state uses the member E-mail addresses registered with AAUW national to send the newsletters. She suggests that members who missed the newsletter check their E-mail addresses on the AAUW website (AAUW.org). If the E-mail address is incorrect it can be easily changed online by the member.

Badger Briefs can also be accessed on the AAUW Wisconsin website at <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/>.

The newsletter is published four times annually.

Vote Yes for Fair Maps on April 2

By Pam Thiel

The League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area asked the La Crosse County Board to vote on putting the question, "Should the Wisconsin Legislature create a non-partisan procedure for preparing legislative and congressional redistricting plans?" on the April 2 ballot as an advisory referendum. The County Board voted unanimously to place this question on the ballot. The same redistricting referendum will be on the ballot in Vernon County. Six other Wisconsin counties have previously passed referenda on redistricting.

Redistricting is a non-partisan issue and falls under AAUW's public policy priorities of citizen participation and accountable administration and advocating for public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions.

The next step for the League along with other non-partisan partners is to educate voters about the redistricting referendum before the April 2 election. Following the April election, the groups will continue to actively follow this issue with continued public education and advocacy efforts with the goal of persuading Wisconsin legislators to act on redistricting reform during the 2019-2020 session, ensuring a new non-partisan process is in place prior to the 2021 redistricting.



To help educate the public, the League and our partners are hosting a forum at **7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 27 in Collins Auditorium at Viterbo University's School of Nursing Building** (next to the Fine Arts Center). **Parking is available in the Fine Arts Center lot along Jackson Street.**

Erin Gunze, Executive Director for the Wisconsin League of Women Voters, and Matt Rothschild, Executive Director for Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, along with Tara Johnson, La Crosse County Board Chair, will serve on the panel.

Fair maps are the cornerstone of our democracy, reduce political gridlock, make elections meaningful, and save taxpayer dollars.

Please help us spread the word and Vote Yes for Fair Maps on April 2!

99th AAUW WI State Convention

April 26-27, 2019, Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI.



Registration is now open. Please go to <https://host.regform.com/aauwwisconsinstateconvention/> for more information and the registration form. There will also be full info in the next Badger Briefs. Deadline for lowest price is April 7.

Special convention rate available. Bring a friend or family member and make it a weekend in the country!



American Association of University Women

La Crosse Branch

P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112



THE CURRENT

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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

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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