

## APRIL MEETING

### Celebrate Our Grants Recipients

**Date:** Saturday, April 13, 2019

**Where:** UW-L Centennial Hall  
Hall of Nations, Room 1300

Registration: 9:30 am

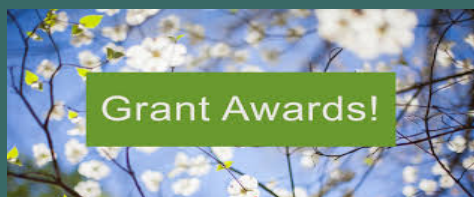
Brunch: 10:00 am

Program: 10:30 am

**Cost:** \$12 for brunch

**Menu:** Asparagus, Ham, and Swiss Cheese Quiche, Veggie Bake Yogurt Bar with Toppings, Fresh Fruit Tray, Chocolate Chip Muffins, Lemon Poppyseed Bread, Banana Bread (gluten-free), Orange Juice, Regular and Decaf Coffee, Assorted Teas

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, April 8th.



Grant Awards!

Each year our branch recognizes the work of various community agencies whose mission closely aligns with that of AAUW—advancing the education and well-being of women. This year we will be

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# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 8

APRIL 2019



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Exciting News!

*by Jan Eriksen, AAUW—La Crosse Branch President*

Happy Spring!

We recently received word that next year's AAUW-Wisconsin State Convention will be held in La Crosse. The dates are Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, 2020. This will provide the opportunity for us to showcase the good work of our branch, to highlight our beautiful geographic area, and to attend a state convention without the cost of lodging.

We'll be working with the other members in our district (District 4) and state officers to select a venue and make additional plans for the convention. We need a committee to do this and we need to begin very soon, as local hotels and conference locations fill up quickly. Please consider joining the committee: we need many AAUW-La Crosse members to assist with local arrangements.

If you can help with convention planning please contact me via phone (608.787.5946) or E-mail [jperiksen@viterbo.edu](mailto:jperiksen@viterbo.edu).



*Happy Spring!*

And that leads me to encourage you to attend the **2019 AAUW-Wisconsin State Convention** in Delavan. The dates are April 26 and 27. Registration materials must be postmarked (or completed online) by April 7 for lower cost registration fees. All the details and a registration form are published in the last issue of Badger Briefs and appear on the state website at <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net> as well as on our branch website [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org). Click on the AAUW Wisconsin link.

All members (not just officers) are welcome to attend. Attendance at the 2019 conference will not only

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## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, April 8, 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](mailto:jperiksen@viterbo.edu)  
to place items on the agenda.

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

## Exciting News! ... *(continued from page 1)*

give you an idea of the convention structure (for assistance in planning next year's event) but will also provide you access to some valuable keynote speeches and breakout sessions on topics such as human trafficking, voter engagement, and an update on Title IX. In addition, it's a great way to network with other members and to find out what's happening with AAUW statewide as well as nationally.

The AAUW In Action committee of our branch is planning several events in April. **April 2 is Equal Pay Day** (as well as Election Day), **April 12 is the WINGS** (Women Interested in Going to School) workshop, April 13 is our annual business meeting and a celebration of our branch's grant recipients, and **April 25 is the showing of the "Equal Means Equal"** film. More details about all of these happenings is contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair



### Condolences

Ruth Alice Martin, the 98 year old mother of member Pam Thiel, passed away in mid-March. Pam had moved her mom to La Crosse years ago to look after her and to have outing adventures together. You have our sympathy, Pam, for the loss of your amazing mother.

### Change in Submitting Dues

National AAUW is moving toward online application for membership and for submitting renewals. The board is currently learning how that process will work. In the meantime, we'll use the old application blanks, which new members will still fill out.

### New members?

Thanks to JoAnne Revels and Margaret Wood for recruitment efforts. Erica has referred names to me of people who have requested information through the website. We hope there are new members pending!

## 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.

## APRIL MEETING (continued from Page 1)

awarding grants to seven such organizations.

Please join us in meeting representatives of programs serving the diverse needs of our community. The efforts we expend to make the Art Fair a success result in these valuable rewards.

This meeting will also include the election and installation of officers for the 2019-2020 year. Please see the article on page 5 for the slate of officers.

Our Diversity Intern, K.C. Cayo, will present a short talk on diversity awareness and what that means for our branch.

## Remember to VOTE on April 2nd!



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.

***Vote Yes for Fair Maps on April 2!***

## 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

## Running Start/Elect Her

The Running Start/Elect Her training offered on March 2nd was quite a success! It was coordinated by Katherine Draper, last year's public policy intern.



## Women's History Month Window at Pearl St. Books

Thank you to Lois Gilbert and Karen Lange for putting together the terrific display this year.



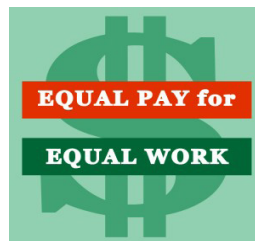
## AAUW IN ACTION

*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: Annual Potluck dinner, Erica's house  
Thursday, May 23, 5:00pm**

April is a busy month for our group!

### Tuesday, April 2: Equal Pay Pay



Our public policy interns, Jorie and Ellie, will be hosting an information and awareness table at UWL's Whitney Hall from 11 am-1pm and from 1pm-3pm at the Student Union. In addition to handouts, they will have a computer to sign up students as

e-affiliates. They will also be giving students a cookie with a bite out to represent the gender pay gap. If you can bake cookies, please contact Betty at [krux.mwt.net](mailto:krux.mwt.net) or 608-689-2222 for details.

### Friday, April 12: WINGS

We are offering the **Women Interested in Going to School** workshop again this year. It will be at Myrick Park Center from 8:30am-1:30pm. The workshop is free, lunch is provided as is free childcare. Thank you to branch members who have signed up to bring lunch items!



### Thursday, April 25: Equal Means Equal movie

Plan to come to the La Crosse Main public library at 5:30pm to see this compelling movie about how



women are treated in the United States today. It reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a

persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. Janette Dean will be the after-viewing facilitator for questions and comments.

# Public Policy

By Ellie Miller, Public Policy Intern

## Women's Healthcare

The observed Equal Pay Day for 2019 fittingly falls in April, which is also National Women's Healthcare Month. As healthcare is intrinsically tied to earnings and women earn about 80% of men's wages on average, this makes access to healthcare particularly a women's issue.

Though all people are affected by policy decisions regarding healthcare, women often utilize more healthcare services than men and make decisions about the healthcare their children should receive. As women often earn less than men, this means that women are more likely to rely on Medicaid, face healthcare insecurity, or choose less comprehensive healthcare plans to save money. As of 2014, 25 million women received healthcare from Medicaid, making up 58% of total adult beneficiaries. The pay and wealth gap also leads to many women qualifying for publicly funded contraceptives through the Title X Family Planning Program.



Recently, a new rule governing the Title X Family Planning Program was released. This program is the only federal source

of funding providing family planning services to low-income people. The new domestic gag rule blocks providers from giving patients full information. It also allows providers to skip over providing information on abortion, and bans them from referring patients for abortion. Finally, the rule will naturally favor clinics that only offer abstinence and awareness method counseling, affecting women's decisions regarding pregnancy, sexual health, and contraception. As of March 4th, 21 states have filed suit to block the new rule. Without blocking, the rule will go into effect in May.

Publicly funded family planning programs, including Title X:



Save taxpayers  
**\$7 for every \$1**  
invested



Save federal and  
state governments  
**\$13.6 billion**

Back at home in Wisconsin, Governor Evers' new budget proposal allocated \$28 million to a "Healthy Women, Healthy Babies" initiative, which aims at improving women's access to health exams and addressing racial disparities in maternal and child health.

This proposal would also reopen the flow of government funding to Planned Parenthood that was blocked by Scott Walker. Additionally, the proposal would increase state money afforded to the minority health grant program, which works to decrease the high infant mortality rate for African American babies in Wisconsin.

In recent months, there has been increased attention on maternal mortality rates, as the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate of developed countries, with about 700 women per year dying in childbirth. This rate is about 3.2 times higher for black women nationally, but 5 times higher than the rates for white women in Wisconsin. The budget also includes a \$3.18 million in funding for a home visit program for high risk mothers.

In a contradictory time when there are simultaneous successes and losses regarding the healthcare amenities and access for women, it is important to stay educated about what is happening at a state and national level, use your voice to advocate for the voiceless, and stand with AAUW in their efforts to benefit women's healthcare.

### GOV. EVERS' HEALTHY WOMEN, HEALTHY BABIES INITIATIVES:



INCREASE ACCESS AND COVERAGE



CREATE AN INFANT MORTALITY  
PREVENTION PROGRAM



EMPOWER WOMEN AS THEY MAKE  
THEIR OWN HEALTH DECISIONS

### Sources:

<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/health-care/>  
<https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/432451-new-domestic-gag-rule-limits-the-health-care-women-receive>  
<https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/fact-sheet/medic-aids-role-for-women/>  
<https://www.wpr.org/evers-pitches-28m-womens-health-re-stored-planned-parenthood-funding>

## FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

### Financial Report as of March 23, 2019

Checking Account..... \$10,181.11

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

Scholarship Bridge..... \$804.00

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## Dues Renewal Time

Hello AAUW-La Crosse Branch members,

As the snow continues to melt, you are probably anticipating warmer days and thinking about the renewal of life. Speaking of renewal, don't forget to renew your AAUW membership. The deadline for membership dues is June 30, 2019.

For the 2019-20 year, dues are \$80.00 of which \$56.00 is tax deductible. Additional information on the breakdown of dues can be found on the membership renewal form (attached to the newsletter email) or by contacting Kristen.

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

You may return the form and remit your dues at our April branch meeting or mail the form and your payment to:  
Kristen Foehner  
4104 Beverly Drive  
Onalaska, WI 54650

Thank you!

## Slate of Candidates for Elected Board Positions 2019-2020

By Jan Eriksen

Vice President-President Elect (2 year term) .....\* Open  
Vice President-Finance (2-year term).....Susan Fabian  
Co-Vice President-Program (2-year term).....Cristina Kovacs

\*If you are interested in running for the Vice President-President Elect position please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Michele Strange, Carol Robertson, or Jan Eriksen.

The other elected board positions (Vice President-Membership, Secretary, and President) are completing the first year of two-year terms. Silvana Richardson is ending her term as Co-Vice President-Program and Margaret Wood will be continuing for the second year of her term.

After the election at the April 13 meeting the new officers will be installed.

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## Branch sponsors a table at YWCA's Circle of Friends

By Michele Strange



Our branch is once again sponsoring a table at the 2019 YWCA La Crosse's Circle of Friends luncheon on Wednesday, April 17 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The event will be held in the La Crosse Center-South Hall Ballroom. Tickets are \$25 per person.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Michele Strange at 608-781-6962 or mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu.

I have almost filled up a table for 10, but I will send in additional names and request a nearby table if we have more people. RSVP deadline is April 9th, but I would like to get the names in by March 29th, so let me know as soon as possible.

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## American Women's History Initiative at the Smithsonian

The Smithsonian began efforts on the American Women's History Initiative last fall and things are moving quickly now; the initiative is up and running!

**Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence** opens at the National Portrait Gallery on March 28, 2019. This groundbreaking exhibition will celebrate the 100th anniversary of American women's suffrage.

**Smithsonian American Women's History 100** will showcase the institution's rich collection of art and artifacts that tell the story of women's contributions to art, history, science, culture and education in a beautifully produced book to be published in Fall 2019.

To ensure you're hearing the latest announcements and updates on the Smithsonian Women's History Initiative, you can simply get on their mailing list via <https://womenshistory.si.edu/join-the-community>.





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.

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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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)