

MAY MEETING

Scholarship Reception

Date: Thursday, May 9, 2019

Where: Viterbo University—
School of Nursing
(on the corner of Jackson &
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.

Members and guests are
welcome to attend the reception
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 Sunday, May 5th.

Please join us in meeting
exceptional students and
their families.

Plan to arrive by 6:00pm
to enjoy desserts and to talk
individually with our
recipients and meet their
guests. You will recognize
them by their name tags

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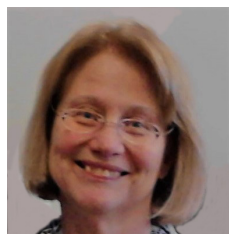


The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 9

MAY 2019



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Thanks for a great year!

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW—La Crosse Branch President

We're coming to the end of the academic/fiscal year and our monthly meetings. It has been an outstanding year, with many wonderful projects, events, and activities. I can't let it conclude without thanking the many amazing AAUW-La Crosse members who made it all happen.

First was the AAUW Art Fair on the Green, July 28-29, 2018. It made even more money than usual, thanks to Chair Carol Robertson and the countless other volunteers who worked on the fair: Marla French, Susan Fabian, Erica Koonmen, Sharon De Cicco, Betty Kruck, Bev Bodine, Lois Gilbert, Marilyn Hempstead, Susan Johnson, Karen Landstrom, Robert Richardson, Marian Schiesser, Michele Strange, and all the members, friends, and spouses who sold tickets, worked at a concession stand, provided a break for artists, staffed the raffle, or did any of a number of other valuable tasks.

Then, as fall 2018 approached, VPs for Program Silvana Richardson and Margaret Wood planned the nine months of fabulous meetings for our branch. We were blessed with high quality, informative speakers and talented singers (Dec. 8 meeting). Our branch Secretary resigned and we were fortunate to have Jo Anne Revels agree to step in to that position. Vice President-Finance Kristen Foehner balanced the books, kept track of expenditures and income, and performed all the other treasurer duties, with assistance



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NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, May 6th, 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.

Get all the CURRENT news at our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org

Thanks for a great year! ... *(continued from page 1)*

from Bev Bodine. VP-Membership Marilyn Hempstead recruited new members and kept us up-to-date about continuing members.

In October our Public Policy Chair chose to bow out of the position due to career and family stressors. Ann Brice kindly volunteered to fill that slot and has been a positive addition to our appointed board. At the December meeting Alice Ross and Michele Strange organized a cookie walk, assisted by Bev Bodine and Cristina Kovacs who weighed cookies and collected money. Ruth Ann Knapp also sold some of her beautifully crafted jewelry, with proceeds from all sales (cookies and jewelry) going to the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Late winter and spring 2019 have been extremely busy and active, especially for AAUW In Action (AIA). First was all the planning for and then holding the International Women's Day Celebration on March 7. The event, chaired by Lois Gilbert, gets even more inspiring and well-attended each year. In the meantime, Erica Koonmen and Betty Kruck interviewed and trained UWL interns to assist with AAUW projects. Robert Richardson and Sharon De Cicco and their Scholarship and Grants Committee read scores of scholarship applications and made decisions on grants.

On March 27 AIA and the public policy interns sponsored a voter information table at UWL. April 2 was Equal Pay Day when AIA, with volunteers Betty Kruck, Carlene Roberts and Marilyn Hempstead and the public policy interns, hosted an information table on the UWL campus. Thanks to all of them, plus to the members who baked cookies for the day. The WINGS workshop was held on April 12, with Erica Koonmen and Andrea Hansen as organizers of the event and several branch members providing food and beverages for breakfast and lunch.

And last, Erica is planning a showing of the film "Equal Means Equal," with a discussion following, in the auditorium of the La Crosse Public Library (Main St.) on Wednesday, May 1, at 5:30 p.m. More info on page 5.

Thank you to everyone listed here, plus many others who aren't named. You all make me very proud of our branch!

Welcome to New Board Members

At the April 13 meeting new officers were elected and installed. We welcome Susan Fabian, the new Vice President-Finance and Cristina Kovacs, Co-Vice President-Programs. Farewell and thanks for your service to those whose terms have ended and are stepping down: Kristen Foehner and Silvana Richardson. Thank you, also, to Bev Bodine who assisted Kristen with financial duties, especially membership dues. All other elected officers will continue, including Margaret Wood, who is Co-Vice President-Programs with Cristina.



MAY MEETING (continued from Page 1)

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. We ask you to sit toward the front of the auditorium and invite guests to do so as well. 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.



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

Hearth & Home

When: Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:00pm

Where: Pogreba Restaurant 1232 Avon Street, La Crosse.

RSVP: Contact Jane Wernecke by May 18th.

Email: janewernecke@gmail.com or call: 534-6330.

(Hosted by Sarah Stuber & Jane Wernecke)

Join us for a relaxing, fine dining experience at Pogreba. Their wide-ranging menu offers seasonal selections made from fresh ingredients. Check out their website for complete menu: www.pogrebarestaurant.com



AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION VOTE 2019

Your voice and your vote are vital to AAUW's future. That's why it is so important for you to participate in the 2019 AAUW National Election to elect members to our board of directors and set AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. Online voting is now open and will close on May 14 at 6:00 p.m. ET. We encourage you to vote online to ensure your ballot will be received and counted immediately. You can find more information about the [candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors](#) and the [2019-2021 Public Policy Priorities](#) on the AAUW website. An email with a link, membership # and PIN were sent to you in early April.

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**

Wednesday, May 1 (change of date):

Equal Means Equal movie

Plan to come to the La Crosse Main public library at 5:30pm to see this compelling 90 minute 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. Doors open at 5:15pm, movie starts at 5:30pm.

FREE! REFRESHMENTS SERVED!

Forward! Wisconsin - FIRST TO RATIFY

Please join LWV Wisconsin and LWV Dane County in Madison as we mark the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Gather with us from **noon- 2pm on Sunday, June 23rd**, at the Forward statue on the Capitol Square (State Street corner), Madison, for a short program highlighting the importance of Wisconsin's first-to-ratify vote, how it gave hope to many women but not to all, before marching with us in song around Capitol Square.



Families and friends can make a suffrage sash, enjoy free frozen vanilla custard, and view the Wisconsin Historical Society exhibit, The Woman's Hour Has Struck, Wisconsin: The First State to Ratify the 19th Amendment, now on display in the Capitol Rotunda.

Public Policy

By Jorie Collins, Public Policy Intern

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

As an organization AAUW believes that every person has the full right to an equal economic, social, and intellectual employment, 'according to abilities, without regard to sex,' as stated on their Affirmative Action issues page. Although there has been progress in leaps and bounds over the past few decades, there is still a long way to go on the journey to equality in both colleges and the workplace.

The programs that AAUW runs are essential to continue breaking down barriers involving women and minorities across all occupations. By effectively training, recruiting, and reaching out, AAUW will continue this admirable mission.

Here's what they've been doing lately:



In July of 2018, AAUW Chief Executive Officer Kim Churches released a public statement advising

caution to the Trump Administration's decision to retract 7 Obama policies on affirmative action guidance. Apparently, they were 'unconstitutional'. Kim Churches acknowledged the promotion of opportunities for students that these policies provided saying that, "students thrive from learning with and from individuals of different backgrounds and perspectives."

Although these changes do not affect any laws, AAUW will continue its fight towards economic security and educational equality for women and girls everywhere.

In order to increase diversity within higher education, AAUW signed on to an amicus brief in 2012 in support of an affirmative action program. This was part of a movement to persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to sustain racial preferences in university admissions.

The brief involves the University of Texas, whose admissions policy is to accept any high school senior (regardless of race or any other factor) who graduates in the top 10%. In order to promote equal education for everyone, AAUW will continue to monitor the Supreme Court's decisions.

Affirmative Action has been extremely beneficial for women and minorities all over the United States. As an organization, AAUW has been able to fund educational events, informative meetings, and various other affirmative action related policy support for many years. The previously mentioned events are only a couple examples of the most recent situations. Because this is one of AAUW's main missions, there are plenty more examples of the work they do to promote affirmative action both past and present.

Sources:

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/03/us/politics/trump-affirmative-action-raceschools.html?emc=edit_na_20180703&nl=breaking-news&nlid=58396221ing-news&ref=cta

<https://www.aauw.org/article/trump-administration-rescind-ing-diversity-and-affirmative-actionguidance/>

Branch Name Grants Awarded

By Michele Strange, Chair

Congratulations to Jo Anne Revels and Andrea Hansen for recognition of their service to our branch.



Jo Anne has been Hospitality Chair since 2018. Her seasonal table decorations have brought an added measure of hospitality as she greets members at our monthly meetings. She also stepped in as interim board secretary in spring 2018 and was elected as Board Secretary for a two-year term 2018-2020. Her dedication and willingness to volunteer has made her an invaluable member of our board.

Andrea has been the branch's liaison to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse since 2014. As director of the Self-Sufficiency Program, she has recommended several of her students for our scholarships. Her interest in encouraging women to go back to school is evident in her assistance with the WINGS program. In addition, she has been able to book rooms on the UW-L campus for monthly meetings and special events like the annual International Women's Day program.



A donation will be sent to AAUW National in their names. Thank you, Jo Anne and Andrea, for all you do!

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

NEW MEMBERS

Two new members joined in April.

Financial Report as of
April 21, 2019

Checking Account..... \$10,806.56

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$824.00

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Dues Renewal Time

This is a reminder that it is time to renew your AAUW membership for next year (2019-20).

The deadline for membership dues is June 30, 2019. Dues are \$80.00 of which \$56.00 is tax deductible.

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 scholarship reception, please mail to: Kristen Foehner
4104 Beverly Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

You can also renew online at
<https://www.aauw.org/national-member-join-renew/>

Erica renewed this way and it was quick and easy! The branch dues are directly deposited to our account and you get an email receipt.

You need your membership # and password, if you've already set up an account. If not, it takes just a minute to do that. Your membership # was emailed to you for voting. Try it!

Megan Preston
415 6th St. N.
La Crosse, WI 54601
608 774 7788
UW-L BS Finance
megan_preston99@yahoo.com

Eloda Hundt
2910 Blackhawk Place
La Crosse, WI 54601
608 788 3773
WTC 2 Yr Degree Finance
elliehundt@charter.net



Megan found us on our website, attended her first meeting in April and joined that day.

JoAnne Revels has brought Ellie as a guest to our meetings.

We welcome both and look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Lois Gilbert moved in mid April from the 20th Street neighborhood to a twin home in south La Crosse, which is handicap accessible for her husband Mike. The new address is 4310 Mariah Drive North , La Crosse, 54601
Her telephone number remains the same.

Stong Women, Strong Coffee

What: Strong Women, Strong Coffee. *Fueled by caffeine & passion, this FREE morning networking event is for women focused on achieving something fresh for their businesses or themselves. Each event features a local strong woman!*

When: Thursday, May 9, 7:30-9 a.m.

Where: Black River Beach Neighborhood Center

On Thursday, May 9, 2019, the inaugural Strong Women, Strong Coffee event will be held in La Crosse. This daybreak networking event melds business professionals with entrepreneurs and encourages building and growing meaningful connections. The program is casual and each session features a local strong woman's story of success. The featured guest on May 9 will be Betty Christiansen, the Publisher and Editor of *Coulee Region Women* magazine.

The event is FREE but registration is encouraged. [Register here.](#) If you have questions or prefer to register by phone, call 608-257-5450.





American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112

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.

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