

61ST AAUW ART FAIR ON THE GREEN



Our AAUW Art Fair on the Green is right around the corner and committee members are busy arranging all the details.

It takes many people to make this event run smoothly so look at the volunteer opportunities Marla French, Volunteer Coordinator, has outlined on page 2. Remember, volunteers are needed to assist with Grounds, also; see page 5. Be sure to read Betty Kruck's article on food vendors on page 5.

We have a need for a garage to store the tents, etc. for the art fair. Carlene & Cam Roberts have been extremely generous over the past years letting us use their garage, but they need their garage back! If you have space, contact Carol Robertson (cfr Robertson@charter.net) (608)399-1751. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you aren't able to volunteer, you can still participate by contributing to the awards and scholarship funds. Marilyn Hempstead and Susan Johnson have outlined your options on page 2. The art fair is our main source of income to support the scholarships we give each year. This event is a great place to find that unusual gift as well as buying artwork for your own enjoyment.

Please see page 3 for the list and pictures of the scholarship recipients this year. These awards and scholarships are made possible by your dedication and hard work on AAUW Art Fair on the Green.

Come out and support us on July 27 & 28!



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 10

SUMMER 2019



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: A Busy Summer Is Ahead

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

First, I'd like to tell you how proud I was of our scholarship recipients this spring. I had the pleasure of attending three awards ceremonies: the Tribune Extra Effort event, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse honors observance, and our own scholarship reception. The scholarship recipients were bright, articulate, and very deserving of our funds. AAUW-La Crosse's Scholarship and Grants Committee did a phenomenal job of selecting the winners.

Looking ahead, this promises to be a busy summer. On July 1st, the AAUW-La Crosse board will meet to make the transition from the outgoing officers to the incoming board members. We welcome Susan Fabian as VP-Finance and Cristina Kovacs as VP-Program (joining Margaret Wood) and thank the "retiring" officers Silvana Richardson, Kristen Foehner, and Bev Bodine. The wealth of experience and knowledge that these three have will be extremely valuable to the new board members. Also the 2020 AAUW Wisconsin Convention Committee will meet

at least once to formally begin work on planning the 2020 conference, to be held in La Crosse April 24-25. The convention will be hosted by District 4, which includes River Falls, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Tomah, and La Crosse. Therefore, at least one member from each of the five branches will serve on the committee. We'll rotate the meetings around the district, so that everyone can take turns driving various



distances. We don't have any official La Crosse committee members yet, though, so please call or E-mail me to let me know of your interest.

One of the first agenda items when the group meets is to select a committee chair or co-chairs. The highlight of the summer will be the AAUW Art Fair on the Green, to be held July 27 and 28 on the UWL campus. Plans are well underway for the Fair. The committee has met, nearly all artists are registered, and food vendors are set. What we need now is YOU! Please volunteer to sell tickets (contact Marla French), to booth sit (contact Erica Koonmen), to help set up or take down (contact Susan Fabian), or to assist at the raffle (contact Karen Landstrom). More details about the Fair appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

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

Art Fair Volunteers Needed!

by Marla French, Volunteer Coordinator

Please mark the last weekend of July on your calendar (27 & 28). That's the Art Fair on the Green—our branch's biggest fundraiser of the year! Each year we award around \$30,000.00 in grants and scholarships to deserving women and organizations. For the event to succeed, we depend on all of you volunteering some time. First off, on Friday, July 26th, folks are needed to help set up the grounds. On Saturday and Sunday we need LOTS of ticket sellers, Raffle workers, and a few booth sitters (short stint allowing the artist a break.) Workers are also needed for "take down" at 4 P. M. Sunday when we close. Spouses, partners, significant others, parents, best friends, are all invited to pitch in.

If you're a veteran Art Fair worker, you probably have a favorite job and I'll do my best to get you your spot. As Volunteer Coordinator that's my job! You can make that job easier by contacting me first. If I don't hear from you, expect an email or phone call in late June, and a more panicky one mid-July if I don't have all the positions filled. There are approximately 58 selling positions plus as many hands as possible for set up and take down. Overwhelming, but not if we all pitch in!



Ticket sellers and Raffle Booth workers are assigned 2 1/2 hour shifts, starting at 9:30 A.M. both Saturday and Sunday (July 27 and 28). You'll be seated under a canopy, so the sun shouldn't be an issue. We can only hope for perfect weather. In addition to the satisfaction of helping, is all the Kettle Korn you can eat!

Please contact me (Marla French) at 608-385-7432(phone or text) or email mmfrench1959@gmail.com.

Programs for Next Year

by Margaret Wood & Cristina Kovacs, Program Co-Chairs

Thank you for your participation in this year's programs. Once again, we ask for your input as we plan for the 2019-2020 AAUW programs. Even if you have not attended many Saturday meetings, please share your input and suggestions by emailing Margaret Wood (pixielacrosse@hotmail.com) or Cristina Kovacs (ck@GHrealtors.com) by May 31. Topics or individual presenters with contact information are welcomed, as are comments about the menu. We will be meeting in early June.



FYI...For the latest in audio-visual technology and HOT coffee, we will be moving our meeting site at UW-La Crosse to the new Student Union where we held the International Women's Day panel. Get your car trained to go to a new parking spot over the summer!

Art Fair Awards

by Marilyn Hempstead & Sue Johnson
Awards Committee

It's that time again to think about donations for the art fair. A letter explaining options and a contribution form is being sent by mail or email to each member. Following are opportunities for you to support the art fair.

Artists' Awards

Member contributions are a primary source of funding for the four artist awards. A pair of art experts determines three of the awards. The fourth, the Peoples' Choice Award, is chosen by vote of fair attendees. In total, \$1000 of award money is given to the artists helping to maintain the high quality of exhibitors at the Art Fair on the Green. It is an incentive to new art fair participants as well as to returning artists.

Scholarship Fund

This fund is replenished each year through both Art Fair ticket sales and direct contributions. In 2019 the fund is providing close to \$30,000 in scholarships to area students as well as in grants to non-profit educational organizations.

Another way members can contribute is to suggest local businesses or corporations that would be likely to donate. Please send suggestions by June 15th to Marilyn at marizah@yahoo.com. We will follow up in communicating with the organization. Some members obtain the contribution personally.

Thank you!
Marilyn & Susan

Scholarships & Grants 2019

Because of the dedication of our members and our efforts to host “AAUW Art Fair on the Green,” annually our branch replenishes AAUW Funds in the La Crosse Community Foundation which makes possible the awarding of substantial and generous awards. This year: \$9,000 in Grants and \$20,000 in Scholarships. It’s pretty darn amazing, and we should all feel the significance.

NCCWSL: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Grants presented to:

Kendra Whelan – University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Rebecca Lawrence – University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

GRANTS -- awarded April 13

WESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Endowing Student Assistance and Pathways Scholarships

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS of SPARTA

Empowering Individuals to Create a Safer Personal Environment

HOPE ACADEMY – Family & Children’s Center

Providing Teen Parents the Opportunity to Complete a High School Credential and Raise a Healthy Child

NEW HORIZONS

Advocating Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Providing Scholarships and Assisting during Emergencies

YWCA

Supporting the Teen Lead Program

TASKFORCE TO END MODERN SLAVERY

Combatting Human Trafficking



2019 Scholarship recipients attending the May 9th reception

SCHOLARSHIPS -- awarded May 9

LA CROSSE TRIBUNE EXTRA EFFORT AWARD: Amanda Chandler – Black River Falls HS; Kiara Updike - Arcadia HS

JANET ISLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Amanda Hemersbach - Viterbo University

AAUW BRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP: Sara Pederson – Western Technical College

HOLISTIC NURSING SCHOLARSHIP: Alla Sambur - Viterbo University

KAREN WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Melissa Toeche - UW–La Crosse ; Jess Larivee - UW–La Crosse

PAT STAUPE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Dane Wiskow - University of Wisconsin–La Crosse

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Mikayla Fechner – West Salem High School; Nyah Brooks - La Crescent High School; Krystal Grosskopf – Logan High School
Heather Opitz – Central High School

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – LA CROSSE SCHOLARSHIPS

Natalia Frinak; Bailee Golisch; Lillian Minor; Emily Verata; Megan Wallen

VITERBO UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Melissa Edgar; Samantha Merkel; Salma Muslim

Public Policy

By Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

Equal Rights Amendment

On Tuesday April 30th, 2019, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held an official hearing on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for the first time in 36 years. Congress passed the ERA in 1972 by a two-thirds majority vote in the House and Senate, but in order for the amendment to become part of the constitution, three-fourths of the states (i.e. 38 states) must vote to ratify the amendment.



The hearing on April 30th was prompted by two states ratifying the amendment - Nevada in March 2017 and Illinois in May 2018. This brought the total number of ratifying states to 37. Recently five states (Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, Utah, and Virginia) have introduced ERA bills into their legislatures, but they have not yet been approved. Congress

voted to extend the original March 1979 deadline for approving the amendment to June 30, 1982. Representative Jackie Speier (D-California) asserts that this deadline is arbitrary, and introduced legislation that would remove the time requirement from the ERA and allow it to be added to the Constitution once it is ratified by the 38th state. "[It] should send chills down the spines of each and every one of us, that discrimination is not prevented against women in the Constitution of the United States," Speier said at the hearing.

Opponents to the ERA argue that the ratification of the amendment would expand access to abortion. Representative Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, stated "the people's right to protect the unborn would be eliminated if the ERA were to pass." Speier and Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) took umbrage with Johnson's remarks, with Maloney saying "With all due respect, the Equal Rights Amendment has absolutely nothing to do with abortion; Saying so is just divisive and a tool to try and defeat it, so please don't ever say it again."

According to Bonnie Grabenhofer, Vice President – Education, National Organization for Women Foundation, and Jan Erickson, Director of Programs, National Organization for Women Foundation, many people wonder if the Equal Rights Amendment is as relevant in the 21st century as it was in 1975. To answer that question, they state women are still disproportionately poor, suffer from widespread gender-based violence, endure extensive regulation of our reproductive lives, experience sex-based pay discrimination in all occupational categories, are sexually-harassed and subjected to biased consideration in hiring and promotion, subjected to discriminatory treatment by employers in pregnancy and motherhood, among numerous other practices that seek to subjugate women.

AAUW continues to fight for women's constitutional equality to men. "Women in the United States have waited long enough for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and constitutional equality with men," said Kimberly Churches, CEO at the American Association of University Women (AAUW). "AAUW thanks Rep. Maloney for her years of outspoken leadership and dedication to fighting for this issue. We look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to ensure a path towards ratifying the ERA."

Sources:

1. https://www.equalitynow.org/era_hearing_april2019
2. <https://now.org/resource/is-the-equal-rights-amendment-relevant-in-the-21st-century/>
3. <https://reed.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2787>
4. <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-is-sues/equal-rights-amendment/>
5. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/05/18/louisiana-gov-edwards-democrat-says-hell-sign-abortion-bill/3719328002/>

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

Graduation

We are proud to announce that Ann Brice - member, Public Policy Chair and branch liaison with WTC – has completed a milestone in her career. In May she graduated with a Ph.D. in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service from Cardinal Stritch University. Her dissertation has a very long title, but reported her research on service learning and computer science students. Ann is the Program Chair of the IT, Web and Software Department at Western Technical College.

Congratulations, Dr. Brice!



Return to health

Welcome back to Carol Robertson who has now recovered from her April emergency surgery. We are grateful for her return to health and thankful for all she contributes to our branch projects. Think especially Art Fair.

We also look forward to Cindy Mischnick's participation on the art fair committee as she recovers from her surgery.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

Financial Report as of May 22, 2019

Checking Account..... \$13,474.08

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$324.00

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 attached form and a check for \$80 made out to AAUW La Crosse Branch before June 30th. Mail to: Kristen Foehner
4104 Beverly Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

If you prefer, you have the option to pay your dues online this year.

Go to the AAUW national website, <https://aauw.org>. Click on the "Membership" tab. Under "Branch Members" click "join/renew." You will be renewing your branch membership, please do not join as a new member. The button to renew says "Log into the MSD now." This is an abbreviation for Member Services Database. You will need to enter your AAUW member ID number. If you do not remember your ID number, there is an opportunity to look up your number. Once you enter the MSD, you will be able to use a credit card to renew your membership.

Art Fair on the Green Information

Concessions

By Betty Kruck, Concessions Co-Chair



AAUW will continue to sell bottled water at the art fair. Donations will be appreciated. They can be dropped off at the art fair grounds during art fair set up on Friday, July 26th, when you come to the art fair, or contact Betty Kruck for a drop off location prior to that date.

It looks like we will have a variety of good food options from our food vendors participating at the fair. Look forward to an ice cream Sundae or root beer float, crepes and pastries from Jean Luc, fresh squeezed lemonade, strawberry lime juice or orange mango juice, savory and dessert crepes, Asian food, and pork rib sandwiches and cold salads.



Art Fair Grounds Help Needed

By Susan Fabian, Grounds Chair

Spring is in the air, summer isn't far off, and the Art Fair is fast approaching. The grounds committee needs help in these areas:

- 1-set up on Fri. morning
- 2-closing fences at the end of Fri. and Sat.
- 3-opening restrooms each morning
- 4-helping artists & food vendors with their grounds needs Fri.- Sun.
- 5-collecting garbage at the end of the day on Sat.
- 6-take down at the end of the fair on Sunday.
- 7-directing artist traffic Fri afternoon and opening & closing on Sat & Sun

We have a wonderful crew of volunteers, and 'many hands makes light work', but we could still use a few more to help direct traffic, especially on Sunday. Set up, on Friday, 26th, involves measuring and staking out artist spaces, placing tables and chairs where needed, putting up the AAUW tents and placing signs around the neighborhood.

We still need people for Sun. the 28th take down from 4 to 5 or 6 p.m. Spouses, teen or young adult children, and friends have been a great addition in the past.

I look forward to hearing from each of you so we can build our teams. Please reply by e-mail to me or to Marla, the Volunteer Coordinator.

Thank you!

Susan Fabian, Grounds Chair : susa530@gmail.com



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