

SEPTEMBER MEETING

AAUWelcome: A Potluck Social

When: Wednesday, September 11
from 5:00-7:00 pm

Where: The Community Room at Washburn on the Park, 801 Main Street, across from the Main La Crosse Public Library. A barrier-free entrance is available from the rear of the building, off the internal parking that is available to all of us. Entrance to the Washburn parking lot is behind the building on 9th Street between Main St. and State St.

Summer in Wisconsin is coming to an end! We hope you were able to experience something personally special or extraordinary to tell fellow members at our "AAUWelcome: A Potluck Social"!

Members and guests are welcome to attend .

Included in the RSVP email you will be receiving from Robert Richardson will be a link to sign up to bring an appetizer, a salad, a dessert, or a beverage to the potluck. Eating utensils and napkins will be provided. Thank you for your contribution!

The Program Co-Chairs, Margaret Wood and Cristina Kovacs, are looking forward to greeting you at "AAUWelcome" and to tell you about the rest of the programs planned for you. They are always open to program suggestions from you as well.



The Current

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Welcome to a New AAUW Program Year

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Although our branch hasn't had the traditional monthly meetings that we hold September through May, the summer has been eventful and productive. The board held its annual transition meeting, where outgoing officers pass their files and knowledge on to incoming officers, on July 1.

July 27-28 was the 61st AAUW Art Fair on the Green, including nearly 100 booths. Please see page 5 for Art Fair Chair Carol Robertson's report. Many, many thanks to Carol and all who worked on the Fair!

Also this summer Margaret Wood and Cristina Kovacs were busy putting together a fabulous program for our branch's 2019-2020 year.

AAUW-WI 2020 Convention

I know you've heard that La Crosse and District 4 will be hosting the 2020 AAUW Wisconsin Convention. But the dates have changed. The convention will be held April 17-18, 2020, a week earlier than originally announced.

This shift was made to facilitate conference venue availability.

The convention location is the Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza. The planning committee, which includes members from throughout the district, has formed and will meet in early September.



New Location for Board Meetings

The board will meet in a conference room at the Goodwill Retail Store and Training Center, 3954 Mormon Coulee Rd. (corner of Losey and Mormon Coulee), La Crosse. The meeting times and days remain the same: the Monday evening prior to each monthly general meeting, at 6:30 p.m. All branch members are welcome to attend.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2019
6:30 pm

Goodwill Retail Store and Training Center, 3954 Mormon Coulee Rd.
(corner of Losey and Mormon Coulee)
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.

Welcome to a New AAUW Program Year... (continued from page 1)

Start Smart and Work Smart

Full-time working women in the U.S. continue to earn only 80% of their male counterparts' pay. Black and Hispanic women earn even less. Even just one year out of college, women are paid 18% less than men. "While the pay gap results from many factors – including discrimination – gender differences in salary negotiation play a role," according to AAUW. Women learning to confidently negotiate their salaries will help ensure that they earn the pay and benefits they deserve.

The AAUW Salary Negotiation Program has developed two workshops, Start Smart and Work Smart, both offered at no charge face-to-face and online. Start Smart is for college women approaching the job market. Work Smart is designed for women who are already in the workforce at any career level. AAUW's goal is to train 10 million women in salary negotiation by 2022. To that end, AAUW Wisconsin has set salary negotiation as one of the priorities in its strategic plan, Vision 2019-2021. The state and national organization strongly encourage all AAUW members to take one of the online workshops and AAUW Wisconsin has mandated that branch board members do so by January 18, 2020. To find the workshops please go to AAUW.org and type "Work Smart" or "Start Smart" in the search box. Although I am retired, I found it helpful to think back to previous work situations as I proceeded through the Work Smart online module.

2019-2020 AAUW La Crosse Board

Elected Officers

President: Jan Eriksen

President-elect: open

Secretary: Jo Anne Revels

Financial VP Chair: Susan Fabian

Michele Strange, Treasurer, Scholarship Bridge Account

Membership VP: Marilyn Hempstead

Program VP Co-Chairs: Margaret Wood & Cristina Kovacs

Appointed Board

Art Fair: Carol Robertson

Historian: Marilyn Hempstead

By Laws: Carol Robertson

Publicity : *Open*

Public Policy: Ann Brice

Name Grants: Michele Strange

Fundraising: Alice Ross

Newsletter (*The Current*): Erica Koonmen

Hospitality : Jo Anne Revels

Telephone Coordinator: Sarah Stuber

E-Mail RSVP Coordinator: Robert Richardson

AAUW In Action (AIA) Coordinator: Erica Koonmen

Scholarship Co-chairs: Sharon De Cicco & Robert Richardson

Membership Directory: Robert Richardson

Scholarship Bridge: Sharon De Cicco

University Relations:

UWL - Andrea Hansen **Viterbo** – Silvana Richardson **Western** – Ann Brice

ELECTRONIC RSVP

by Robert Richardson

Prior to each monthly meeting, I send an e-mail request to respond.



If you could simply reply to my message, I can keep all replies together in a stream. If you send a separate reply, I must maintain a collection of replies which is manageable but cumbersome.

Either way, I appreciate your reply. I need to give the program VP's a final count at noon on the Monday prior to any Saturday meeting.

Thank you!

BRANCH DIRECTORY

by Robert Richardson

At our September meeting, you will receive your personal copy of the branch directory. If you find any errors, please let me know. I will publish a corrections listing.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

by Andrea Hansen, Director



The fall session of the Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) begins Tuesday, September 17, 6-8 pm.

SSP is a 13-week pre-college program for adults who are interested in going to college. Designed with the needs of single parents in mind, it offers on-site childcare and a simple supper. Everyone is welcome to apply.

Contact Andrea Hansen at ahansen@uwlax.edu or 608.785.8733. Apply online at : www.uwlax.edu/ssp

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

HEARTH & HOME

See below for meeting info

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

HEARTH & HOME

Hearth & Home study group meets monthly to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings.



Date: Wednesday, Sept. 25

Program: Begin at River View Vineyard & Winery at 5pm
32882 County Hwy 1, La Crescent

Dinner to follow at 4 Sisters Restaurant
100 Harborview Plaza #100, La Crosse

Hosts: Ellie Hundt and JoAnne Revels

RSVP: JoAnne Revels: jarevels@yahoo.com or (608) 782-1975

Mentor an Intern!

Our branch offers 3 internships each semester: Diversity, Social Media and Public Policy. You've probably met some of our past interns and found them to be thoughtful, dedicated young women. They do wonderful things for our branch and enjoy meeting you as well as getting to know about AAUW. We are looking for members to work with our Diversity and Public Policy interns. Time commitment is around 1-2 hours a week and most of it is done by email. We have some activities and ideas but would love to hear yours! Please let me know if you are interested: Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

AAUW IN ACTION

AAUW in Action 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, or just knowing what we're planning, please ask to be on our email list by sending an email to Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

Next meeting: Thursday, Sept 26; 1:30pm

Panera Bread, Crossing Meadows, Onalaska

This coming year, we'll be continuing several events:

- International Women's Day Panel
- Women's History Month window display
- Promoting Equal Pay Day

as well as looking at new & exciting happenings.

Please join us!

SSP Breakfast Invitation

by Andrea Hansen, Director SSP

The 2019 Self-Sufficiency Program's Locally Grown Scholarship Breakfast is **Thursday, October 17, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Bluffs in the Student Union at UW- La Crosse.**

Open to the community and campus, the free Breakfast celebrates the accomplishments of SSP graduates who attend area colleges and to award the fall scholarships.



*Kemesha Harper
(Jordana Snyder photo)*

The speaker is Kemesha Harper, Strong Families Program Consultant at the Parenting Place in La Crosse. As a single mother with her infant daughter MacKenzie, Kemesha successfully completed SSP's Spring 2012 semester. Despite disappointments and setbacks, Kemesha persisted in her drive for an education. In April 2019, Kemesha graduated from Western Technical College with honors. In 2019, Kemesha was selected to represent WTC at the National Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. as an advocate for education programs, like Project Proven, that supports people with criminal records to attain their educational goals. Kemesha was honored by the YWCA as a "Young Woman of Promise" in 2018.

Please RSVP at uwlaxssp@gmail.com by Friday, October 11, 2019. For more information, please call Andrea Hansen, SSP Director at 608.785.8733.

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

Many populations have been negatively affected since the 2016 election. The Human Rights Watch, originally founded as the "Helsinki Watch" in 1976, reports in their 2019



newsletter that the Trump administration has passed a plethora of laws, implemented regulations, and carried out policies that violate or undermine human rights. These actions affect criminal sentencing, racial disparity in criminal justice and drug policy, the people targeted by hate

crimes, and the rights of non-citizens to name a few. Women and girls, especially low-income and uninsured women, have also felt the effects of these laws, regulations, and policies. For example, in March of 2019, Trump's Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposal recommended flat-funding Title X at \$286.5 million. "Current funding levels are less than 40% of what is needed to meet the need for publicly funded family planning in this country," according to analyses published in the American Journal of Public Health, which found that Title X would need \$737 million annually to meet the need for its services. Facilities that receive Title X funding provide critical preventative health care services. Of the clients served by Title X facilities, 78% of them have incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level.

In another example, as the #MeToo movement expands, the Senate confirmed Brett Kavanaugh to a lifetime seat on the Supreme Court despite allegations of sexual assault. At the same time, the administration moved to eliminate domestic violence as a reason for granting asylum as well as redefined domestic violence to include only physical harm that constitutes a felony or misdemeanor. Psychological abuse, coercive control, and manipulation are no longer considered domestic abuse. Holly Taylor-Dunn, a researcher in sexual and domestic violence said, "It is quite scary how quietly it has happened. It is a massive step backwards. We have literally gone back to the 70s. We have worked so hard since the 60s and 70s to get domestic abuse and sexual violence understood as being about more than physical violence. Changing the definition to take it back to being about physical harm completely undermines what domestic abuse is about."

During these challenging times, it is vital that we continue to support AAUW in their work championing women's rights. 2020 is a critical election year. **You can learn to help get out the vote and advocate for AAUW's issues by attending the AAUW WI Public Policy Day on Saturday November 2, 2019 at the Madison Technical College Truax Campus.** The event runs from 9 to 3 and includes presentations by Matt Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, and a speaker from the WI Alliance of Women's Health.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair



CONDOLENCES

We note the passing this summer of two former members:

Dorothy Dedo (98) was an ensign in the Navy during WW II before moving to La Crosse with her husband. Here she was involved in numerous community activities, including serving terms as our branch and as state president. Her last days were spent in Florida near her family.

Beverly Mach (84) worked in Career Services at UW-L and served two terms on the La Crosse County Board as well as engaging in other community activities.

We hold in our thoughts Bev Bodine whose husband Paul passed on August 4, after a long illness. Throughout his productive life he held various positions as a minister in the Presbyterian Church. At retirement he and Bev moved to Onalaska. Sincere sympathy to Bev and family.

NEW MEMBERS (On a happy note)



Lora Anderson

5605 Meir Ct. La Crosse, WI 54601
319-936-1327

Western Illinois U MS Instructional Tech/Telecommunications
lmckeeanderson@gmail.com

Lora has rejoined after a year off due to family commitments.

Barbara J. Fischer

402 22nd St N La Crosse, WI 54601
UW-L MEPD Ed Professional Development
fischerba@live.com

At Lois Gilbert's invitation, Barbara, another librarian, joined after attending our scholarship reception in May.

Thanks to both Lora and Barb for jumping right in and working at the art fair! We are so glad to have you with us.

Sources for Public Policy article:

- * <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/united-states>
- * <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/issues/health-care-equity/title-x>
- * <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/04/17/trump-administration-wants-to-shut-door-on-abused-women-218005>
- * <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/trump-domestic-abuse-sexual-assault-definition-womens-rights-justice-department-a8744546.html>
- * https://www.nationalfamilyplanning.org/title-x_budget-appropriations

FROM THE TREASURER

Susan Fabian

Financial Report as of
August 19, 2019

Checking Account..... \$9,275.87

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$324.00

Coffee and Conversation

*Hosted by Always United,**an Affinity Group for those in & approaching retirement.*

Great Rivers United Way is putting on the coffee and inviting you to learn more about issues affecting you and our community.



Thursday, September 5
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at United Way on
1855 E. Main St. in Onalaska.
This is a free event.

We provide coffee and a sweet treat; you join the conversation. On-site parking and an elevator are both available. RSVPs aren't required but allow us to be better-prepared. Thanks for helping out!

Our September topic is Transitions.

Times of change can cause stress and uncertainty. If you are newly retired, a new grandparent, recently widowed or divorced, downsizing, or living with a loss of independence, you know what we're talking about. Abe Weber, an EAP Specialist from Gundersen Health System, will join us with suggestions on how to make the most of a new situation.

Here is the link to register:
www.gruw.org/coffee

Art Fair Report

By Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair



Thank you to all who worked on the art fair committee, and all the volunteers who sold raffle tickets, worked the admission gates, sold water, helped set up or take down, put up signs, handed out programs, counted money, and picked up garbage (thanks George! & we missed you, Charlie!). Art Fair can not be accomplished without the extraordinary efforts of all of you!

The preliminary financial numbers are looking good but lower than in the previous few years. We should be able to continue in a similar way with scholarships, but maybe not as many as last year. There are still some outstanding bills we are waiting for so we will have a more detailed report at a later date.

Attendance was approximately 2500 which is lower than last year. Saturday was a hot day & that is usually our largest attendance day.

My utmost appreciation goes to the members of the Art Fair Committee. Thank you to all of you for your diligence in making sure we have a successful art fair! I am grateful for your willingness to serve.

Art Fair Committee:

Artists: Erica Koonmen and Sharon DeCicco

Awards: Marilyn Hempstead and Sue Johnson

Concessions: Betty Kruck and Michele Strange

Grounds: Susan Fabian and Robert Richardson

Hospitality: Mary Hall

Program: Robert Richardson and Erica Koonmen

Publicity: Marian Schiesser and Cindy Mischnick

Raffle: Karen Landstrom and Sarah Stuber

Volunteers: Marla French

Treasurers: Bev Bodine

A special shout out goes to Bev's grandson, Nick & his girlfriend Abby. Our condolences to Bev & Nick on the death of Paul, Bev's husband & Nick's grandfather, on Aug . 4.

Also, special thanks to the group from Central High School's National Honor Society who helped with set up & takedown.

Thank you to Jan Eriksen for her support as President & her assistance with artists awards.

I would like to extend my thanks to Susan Fabian for her untiring efforts as Grounds Chair. Due to her duties as our Financial VP, she will be stepping down from her duties as Grounds Chair. She persevered through some difficult situations, especially this year & I appreciate her tireless work in getting us through those times. Thank you, Susan!

And now the planning begins for the 62nd art fair--July 25 & 26, 2020!

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being mentors and role-models, workers and organizers, advocates and champions of the transforming power of education for girls and women. Your generosity and commitment motivate and inspire us. On behalf of SSP students and the WGSS Department at UW-L, thank you for supporting the work of SSP and the student-parents in our community. I am honored to be an AAUW Name Grant recipient and grateful for the recent grant to SSP.

Writer Toni Morrison (1931-2019) gave this advice to her students, "If you are free, you need to free someone else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody." I think she would see this guiding the work and members of the AAUW-La Crosse Branch.

With a grateful heart,

Andrea Hansen, AAUW member and SSP Director



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

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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