

NOVEMBER MEETING

Propaganda in Education

Presenter:

Dr. Greg Wegner,
Professor Emeritus, UWL



When: Saturday, November 9

Where: UW-L Student Union

521 East Ave N. , Room 3110
Free parking is available in the Cleary Alumni Center lot and in the parking ramp, both across the street from the student union. There is an elevator to the 3rd floor.

Cost: \$12

Menu: Quiche Lorraine: spinach, ham, Swiss cheese; Gluten Free Veggie Bake: asparagus, mushrooms, peppers, tomatoes, cheese on the side; Fresh fruit; Warm mini-croissants with butter and jam; Pumpkin bars, carrot bread; GF banana bread; Orange juice, Coffee (incl decaf), teas.

Margaret and Cristina welcome your feedback and suggestions concerning programs and menus throughout the year.

Registration: 9:30 AM

Breakfast: 10:00 AM

Program: 10:30 AM

Members and guests are welcome to attend the brunch or just come for the program. For late reservations or cancellations, please call Robert Richardson at 788-0595 by end of day, Sat, Nov 2nd.

We have invited Dr. Greg Wegner, UW-L Retired to our November meeting. He was a professor in the History Department and has done extensive research on the Holocaust, locating primary sources and conducting personal interviews. Dr. Wegner was named the 2011 Wisconsin Professor of the Year. He will share his extensive knowledge in a presentation "Propaganda in Education".

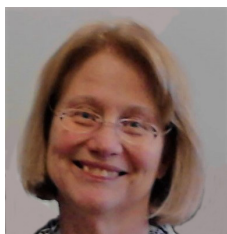


The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2019



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Branch Updates!

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

I'm pleased to announce that we have a new logo for the 2020 AAUW-WI Convention, designed by Tegan Jerde-Koonmen, Erica's daughter. It will appear on all conference pre-publicity and convention materials. Tegan has also created a smaller, simplified version of it to go on nametags and other less sizable items. Thanks so much to Tegan for her work! As a reminder, the 2020 AAUW Wisconsin Convention will be held here in La Crosse at the Radisson Hotel downtown on April 17-18. The conference theme, as the logo indicates, is a celebration of 100 years of women's right to vote. More information will be announced as it becomes available.

On another note, AAUW Wisconsin has just released news about 2020 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarships. Please see page 5 of this

newsletter for more information.

Three of us from the La Crosse Branch – Ann Brice, Pam Thiel, and I -- will be attending AAUW Wisconsin's Public Policy Day on Saturday, November 2 at the Madison Technical College Truax Campus. The theme for the day is getting out the vote, especially as we approach the important election year 2020. The event is being held from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The morning session



AAUW-WI STATE CONVENTION '20

Reflect on the Past;
Prepare for the Future.

APRIL 17 & 18 | LA CROSSE, WI

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 4, 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.

Branch Updates... (continued from page 1)

will feature three speakers: Matt Rothschild from Democracy Campaign sharing information on why voting matters and representatives from the Wisconsin Alliance of Women's Health and Wisconsin Public Education Network highlighting issues that impact women and girls with a focus on Wisconsin legislation. The afternoon session allows participants the opportunity to work on advocacy strategies.



And our branch is fortunate again this year to have a strong nominee for the 2019 YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women. Our talented candidate is Lois Gilbert, former VP of Programs; chair for several years of the committee to plan the annual Women's Day Celebration; and a recipient of the 2012-2013 AAUW-La Crosse Branch name grant, among other volunteer work and honors. The awards event is Thursday, November 7, 4:45-8:00 p.m., at the La Crosse Center South Hall B. The YWCA is handling it differently this year

by not announcing winners until the evening of the tribute. Please see the article to the right regarding purchasing tickets for the awards dinner.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Cheri who joined at our October meeting. It was at the art fair she became interested in joining.

Cheri Niedzwiecki
923 Windhill St Onalaska, WI 54650
608 781 6995
cniedzwiecki@eagle.uwlax.edu
PhD U of NE-Lincoln PhD Communications
M.Ed. U of Alaska-Fairbanks
B.S. U of NE-Lincoln



DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

- The notice for the Scholarship Celebration should read Saturday, May 9 – morning, room 3310
- Lora Anderson's name was wrongly spelled Laura.

CONGRATULATIONS



Susan Fabian has already received a promotion in the job she began a few months ago. More information is in the column to the right. Proud of you, Susan!

BRANCH OFFICER NEEDED

We recently received some wonderful news: Susan Fabian, our branch's Vice-President of Finance, has received a well-deserved promotion at work. Congratulations and all the best to Susan and her daughters! The unfortunate result is that she will be putting in more hours on the job and doing more traveling, precluding her from continuing to serve in the VP-Finance/Treasurer position.

Thus, we are seeking a new VP-Finance for the La Crosse Branch. To volunteer for the position or to find out more about it please contact Jan Eriksen at (608) 787-5946 or jperiksen@viterbo.edu; or Michele Strange at (608) 781-6962 or mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu. Michele has agreed to serve as Interim VP-Finance and will remain as Treasurer for Scholarship Bridge.

Tickets on Sale



The YWCA 2019 Tribute to Outstanding Women will be held Thursday evening, **November 7, 4:45 – 8:00 p.m. at La Crosse Center South Hall B.** AAUW-La Crosse member **Lois Gilbert** has been nominated for one of the awards. The event celebrates women who have demonstrated a commitment to the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. The YWCA is doing things a bit differently this year: instead of naming the honorees ahead of time, winners in each category will be announced at the event itself. Keynote speaker for the evening is Amanda Florence Goodenough, an ongoing human rights advocate.

To purchase tickets for the 36th annual event please go to <http://ywcax.org>. Tickets are \$65 per person. You will have the opportunity to name with whom you wish to sit, please type in **AAUW-La Crosse. The deadline to buy tickets is October 31.** We may not end up with a full table of 10, but we're hoping that several members can attend in support of Lois.

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.

If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.



Hearth & Home group from October 2019 enjoying an outing to River View Winery in La Crescent.

L-R: Sarah Stuber, Sharon DeCicco, Carol Robertson, Jane Wernecke, Pam Thiel, JoAnne Revels

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: TBA, please check the website

Thank you for all the donations at the October general membership meeting for New Horizons. They are greatly appreciative of everything received!

We are already working on the March Women's History Month and International Women's Day Panel events. Mark your calendars for the Annual International Women's Day panel...Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Kendra Whelan Uses NCCWSL Skills

Kendra is one of the UWL students our branch sponsored to attend NCCWSL this past June. She spoke at our September 2019 Potluck Social meeting, sharing her experiences and excitement about bringing all she learned back to the La Crosse community. She's wasted no time putting her activism to work! UW-La Crosse senior Kendra Whelan has stood at Hoeschler Tower every day for over a month in protest of the university's response to sexual misconduct complaints. Kendra has requested that Chancellor Joe Gow schedule a public forum on the university's responsibilities under Title IX and the Clery Act.



You can read Kendra's Letter to the Editor of the UWL campus paper here:

<https://theracquet.org/6791/letter-to-the-editor/letter-to-the-editor-open-letter-to-chancellor-gow/>

Kendra delivered a petition to Chancellor Gow asking for an open forum to discuss Title IX at UWL on Oct 14th. Her protest has been covered in newspapers, radio and online. "I've gotten a lot of support from students, faculty, and staff," she says. Way to go Kendra!

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

Student Debt

AAUW advocates for equity in education, making sure that everyone has equal access to higher learning. Four-year universities and two-year technical or community colleges come at a cost. Student debt in the United States is currently \$1.6 trillion, and Forbes estimates that the average college student will owe about \$34,000 upon graduation. However, women and minorities can incur even higher costs due to gender and socioeconomic barriers. In May 2019, AAUW reported that Black women have the highest student loan debt of any racial or ethnic group. In addition, women take about two years longer than men to repay their debt. According to AAUW research, women — particularly African American women — “tend to be more likely to take out college loans, face a challenging wage gap when they find work, and struggle to repay their student loans.” Deborah Vagins, senior vice president of public policy and research for AAUW states “It’s a troubling reminder that we have significant gender and racial gaps. People often don’t think about student debt as a gender issue.”

Compared with people who are debt-free at graduation, people who carry student debt tend to enter the housing market later, live with family for longer periods of time, and are less likely to take out car loans. In addition, the Survey of Consumer Finances reports that people carrying student debt are less likely to start their own business.

There are institutions working to reform student debt. The Institute for College Access and Success and the Center for American Progress are just two of these groups. However, because 2020 is such an important election year, it is imperative to understand how each Democratic candidate proposes to address student debt.

Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Julian Castro favor tuition-free public college. Warren proposes cancelling \$50,000 in debt for households making up to \$250,000 a year, Sanders proposes eliminating all student debt, and Castro proposes expanding loan-forgiveness programs for low-income students. Both Warren and Sanders plan to increase funding at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

Corey Booker, Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg, and Beto O’Rourke all favor debt-free public college. Booker proposes a “baby bond” that children will be awarded at birth. This bond amount will grow based on family income and can be used to pay for education in adulthood. Harris has signed on to legislation that funds debt-free college, supports free technical college, and plans to forgive student loans for entrepreneurs in underserved communities.

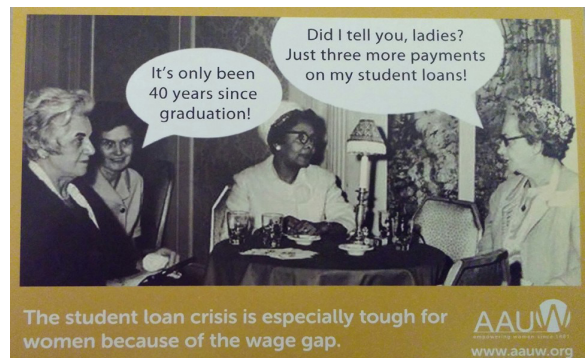
Regional AAUW Conference Dates and Location Announced

Due to the increasing cost of travel and constrained budgets, AAUW national has announced that it will stop holding annual conferences. Instead, national conventions will be held every two-to-three years, with regional conferences in between. Thus, there will be a regional conference held at Hyatt Place in East Moline, Illinois (part of the Quad Cities), June 17-19, 2020. Hyatt Place is a new hotel overlooking the Mississippi River.

More details will be provided as they are released.

Buttigieg proposes forgiving debt for students who attended sub-par colleges and plans to tie student debt forgiveness to public service. O’Rourke also supports tuition-free community college, cancelling student debt for public service work over time, and also plans to cancel all student loan debt for public school teachers.

Amy Klobuchar, Andrew Yang, and Joe Biden all support tuition-free community college. Klobuchar proposes allowing students to refinance their debt at lower rates. Yang would consider partial student debt forgiveness, and income-based repayment plans. Biden too, proposes reduced payments based on income but he proposes forgiving student loans for public service.



Sources for Public Policy article:

- * <https://www.freep.com/in-depth/money/personal-finance/susan-tompior/2019/10/10/student-debt-crisis-us-black-women/2233035001/>
- * <https://ticas.org/our-work/student-debt/>
- * <https://hope4college.com/>
- * <https://www.forbes.com/sites/traversmark/2019/10/17/the-student-debt-crisis-is-crushing-entrepreneurship/#74f87e767610>
- * <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/student-loan-debt-policy-proposals-n1051451>
- * <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-postsecondary/reports/2019/06/12/470893/addressing-1-5-trillion-federal-student-loan-debt/>

FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Report as of
September 19, 2019

Checking Account..... \$10,101.19

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$609.00

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, November 7
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at United Way on
1855 E. Main St. in Onalaska.
This is a free event.

Age Appropriate Exercise

Move it or lose it is common advice for people entering their retirement years. If you are young in spirit but a little older in the knees and hips, you're invited to join Great Rivers United Way for Coffee and Conversation on Thursday, November 7 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. United Way will provide the coffee and a snack; you provide the conversation. Cheryl Killilea, the owner of Changing Lanes Fitness and Nutrition, will join the group and will try to answer any questions you have. This is a free event. Registrations are helpful but not required. To register, contact Julie Nelson at jnelson@gruw.org or call 608-796-1400 or www.gruw.org/coffee

Global Initiatives Week

by Michele Strange

In 2013, Global Initiatives Week was launched by a diverse group of local businesses and organizations in an effort to develop a community with a deep sense of global responsibility and engagement. It is not only a celebration of the cultural, social, and economic value of our community worldwide, but it also informs and educates about the vital global ties that exist within our community and the tremendous impact of these connections on the Greater La Crosse Region.



This is the fifth year that AAUW La Crosse Branch will have a table at the Kick-Off Event, highlighting local and national AAUW work related to international affairs. This year it will be held on Friday, November 8th from 4-7 p.m. at North Woods International School, N2541 Sablewood Rd, on CTH B East. There will be free shuttle bus service available with pick up locations at Hamilton Elementary, La Crosse Public Library Main, Emerson Elementary, and Logan Middle School. Here is a link to all the week's events: <https://www.uwlax.edu/committee/global-initiatives/events/>

We hope that you will participate in some of these activities and please consider coming to the kick-off event. Besides tables showcasing local groups and organizations that have international impact and interests, there will be excellent food from around the world as well as international entertainment.

NCCWSL Scholarship Opportunity

AAUW-Wisconsin is pleased to announce two \$500 scholarships to two Wisconsin students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), pronounced "nick-whistle".



The conference will be held at the University of Maryland College Park campus May 27-30, 2020.

To learn more about the conference: www.nccwsl.org or www.aauw.org.

Eligible nominees must be currently enrolled in a program leading to an Associate degree, Bachelor's degree, or Master's degree at a technical college or two-or four- year public or private college.

Candidates must be nominated by an AAUW Branch with a limit of one nominee per Branch.

Branches are also encouraged to provide additional support to their nominee for air fare and other expenses beyond registration.

Branches are asked to complete a Scholarship Nomination Form for their nominee, which will be sent upon request.

Please email requests, questions and completed nomination forms to Maggie Winz, AAUW-WI Leadership VP at: mrwinzster@gmail.com. Nominations must be received by February 15, 2020. The winner will be notified and payment sent as soon as possible, to ensure a space at the conference.

For more information and an application, please visit our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org



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)

WebminderPosition Open

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