

JANUARY MEETING

Robominds at Work

Presenter: Liz Rosendale

Advisor, Holmen High School Robotics Club

When: Saturday, January 11

Where: UW-L Centennial Hall

Hall of Nations, Room 1300

Note: *This meeting is NOT at the UWL Student Union this month!*

Cost: \$12

Menu: Cheesy Hashbrown Egg bake with sausage, Blueberry cream cheese coffee cake, Fresh fruit; Assorted bakery items (including GF banana bread); Orange juice, Coffee and Tea

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, Mon. Jan 6th.

2015 was the inaugural year for FIRST Robotics Team 6166 at Holmen High School. Thorobotics allows students to develop skills in computer science, construction and engineering, while experiencing the power of teamwork and problem-solving in a competitive environment. The team's annual challenge is to build a 120 pound (54 kg) robot that can complete a task, all within 6 weeks. In just 3 short years, they have won several awards and



have qualified for the 2017 FIRST Championship in St. Louis, MS.

This new way of learning is possible not only because of

the leadership of their teacher, Liz Rosendale, but also because of the generous support of their families and local community.

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2020



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Happy 2020!

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Happy New Year!

Before I discuss 2020 events I want to review a project from late 2019. On December 14, a Christmas

cookie walk was held at our monthly meeting. The tables were laden with beautiful cookies and other treats, resulting in sales of

\$310. Ruth Ann Knapp brought a selection of her gorgeous jewelry, which netted \$190. So our branch was able to donate a total of \$500 to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) of AAUW national. LAF works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace through community outreach programs and legal case support. Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas goodies and especially to cookie walk volunteers Michele Strange, Alice Ross, Bev Bodine, Cristina Kovacs, and Nina Maxim. We are grateful, also, for Ruth Ann and her jewelry-making talents.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. It is also an important election

year. Wisconsin primary elections will be held on April 7 [we're the only state in the nation to hold primaries on this date] and the presidential election is November 3. Please put these dates on your calendar and help get out the vote.



We are holding the International Women's Day celebration on a Sunday afternoon

for the first time this year. It will be March 8 at 1:00 pm in the Bluffs Room of the UW-L student union. The planning committee is hoping that the daytime event will draw a bigger audience and will be an especially appropriate occasion

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 6, 2020

January will be an email meeting. The E-meeting will begin at noon on Jan. 6, when all board members are asked to send reports to the entire board, and end at noon on Jan. 7. All members are invited; just let Jan know, via phone (787-5946) or E-mail (jperiksen@viterbo.edu) to be included in the electronic discussions.

Happy 2020! ... (continued from page 1)

for generations (grandmothers, mothers, daughters) to attend together. Please see Chair Lois Gilbert's update on page 3.



The 2020 AAUW-Wisconsin Convention Committee, consisting of members from throughout District 4, will meet again on January 9 in Tomah. The group has been busy arranging speakers and activities for the conference. We'll be expecting a visit from suffragists Carrie Chapman Catt and Jessie Jack Hooper. A panel of university students who the state and our branches supported to attend NCCWSL will discuss their experiences at the conference. Other speakers include Sara Finger, founder and director of the Wisconsin

Alliance for Women's Health, and Carlene Bechen, fair maps organizer at Wisconsin Voices. Additional featured and concurrent session speakers are in the process of being confirmed. As a reminder the convention dates are April 17-18 at the Radisson Hotel in downtown La Crosse.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

NEW MEMBER DUES FOR 2020

AAUW has stopped offering half-year national dues for new members joining after January 1st. Persons joining January 1st through March 15 will still have 50% off the \$8 for our local branch and \$13 for the state. New members joining between January 1 and March 15 will be current through June 30, 2020.

Those joining after March 15, 2020 will become members for the rest of this year and for fiscal year 2020/21 which begins July 1st.

ADDRESS CHANGE ...Please note in your directory.

Alice Engelhard Gassere
N2036 Orchard Valley Dr.
La Crosse 54601-7123

WELCOME 2020 :
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
WOMEN BEING GRANTED
THE VOTE!



Branch Scholarships

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

Scholarships and Grants Committee reminds members of the opportunity to nominate a woman over 29 years of age for the Karen Wilson Scholarship. Members/nominees may download the application form on our branch website.

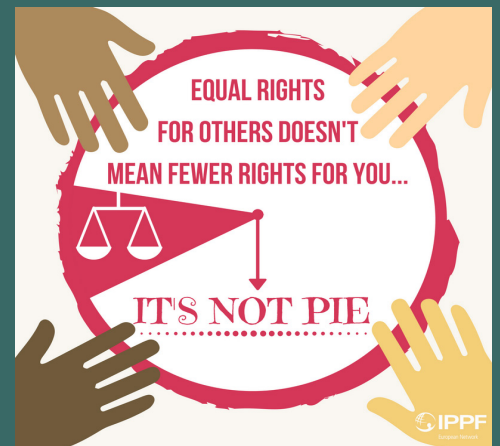
The scholarship applications for:

- High School Graduating Senior
- Holistic Nursing
- Viterbo U Students
- Karen Wilson Memorial
- Janet K. Isler Memorial

are now available on our branch website:

www.aauwlacrosse.org
for downloading.

The AAUW UW-La Crosse scholarship applications are available through the UWL Outside Scholarship Database: <https://www.uwlax.edu/scholarships/scholarships/database/>



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

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Holiday Celebration

Date: Monday, January 20, 2020, 7:00 pm

Location: Viterbo University – Fine Arts Center, Main Theatre

Keynote Speaker: Lynda Blackmon Lowery,
Author of "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom"



Lynda Blackmon Lowery has been a witness and participant in some of our nation's most consequential civil rights battles. She began her civil rights activism in the early 60s. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) activists organized Lowery and other area children and teenagers to participate in the civil rights movement. In the front lines of the struggle, the young Lowery marched on "Bloody Sunday" and "Turn Around Tuesday," and is the youngest marcher to walk every step of the successful March from Selma to Montgomery. Lowery was beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965; that day is now known by a more descriptive name, Bloody Sunday. Lowery's early involvement in the struggle against Jim Crow, American apartheid, has been the foundation for her civil and human rights work throughout her life. A much sought-after speaker with a compelling personal story of civil rights activism, Lowery has presented at conferences across the country.

Free and open to the public, this lecture is part of the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and sponsored by the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership.

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: January email meeting. Agenda will be sent out on Jan. 9th with responses appreciated by Jan 10th.



Please remember to sign the Bronze Ceiling petition at:
<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/320/777/023/aauw-bronze-ceiling-project/>



International Women's Day Panel, Sunday, March 8, 1:00 pm in the Bluffs Room of the UW-L student union.

Update by Chairperson Lois Gilbert:

I am pleased to announce that 3 of our 2020 IWD nominees for panelists have been interviewed and confirmed as participating this year. They are:

- Lema Kabashi, from Kosovo, Associate Professor in Education Studies at UW-L, with a specialization in Special Education, training future teachers to work with students with disabilities.
- Maira Sarfraz, from Pakistan, who works in the financial sector and is employed at Marine Credit Union in Collections, who has an important message about girls and education and arranged marriages in Pakistan.
- Dr. Wah Wah Htun, from Myanmar (Burma), an interventional cardiologist at Gundersen, definitely a woman in a man's field, who has a very important message about ethnic unrest and wars in her native region.

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.

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

Limiting our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers

Since 1881, AAUW has been striving to improve the lives of women by advocating for equal opportunities in education, finance, health, and leadership. More than a century after AAUW's inception, women still face significant issues that impede equity. Women carry a disproportionate amount of student loan debt, and they also continue to earn significantly less than their male counterparts in equitable roles. As of December 2019, 13 states have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. On top of all this, women face ongoing sexual harassment both in the workplace and on campus, an issue that AAUW focused on in their November 2019 publication: *Limiting our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers*.

According to a 2018 survey by the nonprofit group Stop Street

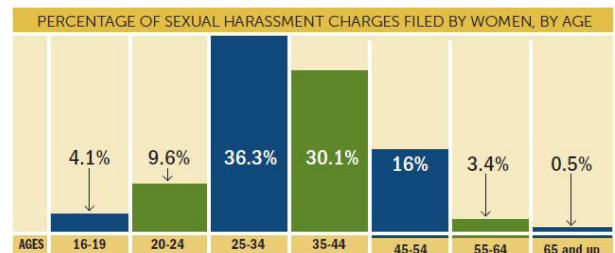
Harassment, 81% of women have been sexually harassed. Women are not only harassed in the workplace, but on college campuses as well. In October 2019, Harvard Magazine reported that of 33 public and private colleges surveyed, reports of nonconsensual sexual assault have risen since 2015, and in addition, 39.3% of respondents reported experiencing harassing behavior. AAUW's *Limiting our Livelihoods* report explains how workplace sexual harassment impacts women's lifetime earnings, prospects for career development, and physical and mental health. College sexual harassment can produce the same negative impacts. Since 1964, sexual harassment in the workplace has been addressed by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and since 1972, sexual harassment of students on campus has been addressed by the Title IX educational amendments to the Civil Rights Act.

Despite these laws and despite the severe effects of sexual harassment, women may find it more difficult to obtain remediation from harassment in the near future.

Under proposed changes by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, the definition of sexual harassment is more strictly defined as "unwelcome conduct on the

basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it denies a person access to the school's education program or activity." This is much more restrictive than the definition under the Obama administration, which defined harassment as "unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature." DeVos believes that the current way sexual harassment cases are handled "are skewed in favor of the accusers" and she proposes allowing the accused to directly confront their alleged victims. This change, says sexual assault victim advocates, could subject survivors to more trauma and discourage them from coming forward.

AAUW continues to advocate for women by keeping the awareness of the effects of sexual harassment in the forefront of their work by publishing reports like *Limiting our Livelihoods* and *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus*. These publications are available on the AAUW website.



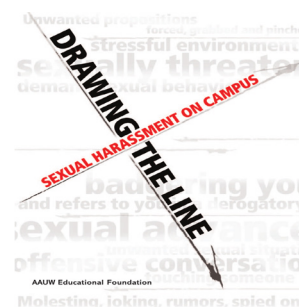
<https://harvardmagazine.com/2019/10/2019-sexual-assault-survey>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/betsy-devos-poised-to-issue-sweeping-rules-governing-campus-sexual-assault/2019/11/25/f9c21656-0f90-11ea-b0fc-62cc38411ebb_story.html

<https://www.bizjournals.com/bizwomen/news/latest-news/2019/12/damage-from-sexual-harassment-extends-to-womens.html>

<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/know-your-rights-on-campus/campus-sexual-assault/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwoway/2018/02/21/587671849/a-new-survey-finds-eighty-percent-of-women-have-experienced-sexual-harassment>



FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Report as of
December 21, 2019

Checking Account..... \$12,812.50

Scholarship Bridge..... \$556.00

Host Families Needed

In 2018, UWL and the School of Education hosted our first Bi-annual Luoyang Winter Academy. The 2nd Bi-annual Luoyang Winter Academy will take place January 18 - February 1, 2020, where we will welcome 30 middle school students from Luoyang, China. As part of the Academy experience, students will attend classes on campus, go off campus for excursions, and participate in a homestay during their entire two-week stay in La Crosse and the surrounding region. More information can be found at <https://www.uwlax.edu/ex/luoyang-host-families/>.

We are still looking for a few host families. Families may host more than one student if they feel that it will be a better fit for them (for example, families with adult children no longer living with them). Guest students may share a room, as long as they each have their own bed.

Please let me know if this is something that you might be interested in. I would be happy to meet with potential host families as an opportunity to answer further questions that you/they may have.

Milandrie Wakim, Program Manager,
Extended Learning | UW-La Crosse
mwakim@uwlax.edu | 608.785.6509 |
205F Morris Hall

Top 10 Ways AAUW Made the World Better for Women in 2019 from aauw.org

With our members' help, this year AAUW has:

1. Trained women everywhere to "Work Smart."

Thanks to a \$500,000 grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, we trained more than 102,000 women in salary-negotiation skills through our Work Smart and Start Smart programs.

2. Empowered women leaders.

The grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation also enabled us to implement Empower, our new leadership development and networking event. We hosted programs in Atlanta, Chicago, Charlotte, Boston, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

3. Raised funds to advance our mission.

AAUW is thankful for our members across the country who gave their time and treasure to the organization, particularly AAUW Champions – individuals & branches that have given \$5,000 or more. These gifts support our Greatest Needs Fund. AAUW is proud to partner with many organizations, including alliantgroup, BAE Systems, The Coca-Cola Foundation, GEICO, LinkedIn, Morgan Stanley, Starbucks and the U.S. Secret Service.

4. Advocated for equity on Capitol Hill.

AAUW led the effort to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in the House of Representatives last spring. And we delivered testimony to Congressional committees on the Equal Rights Amendment, LGBTQ anti-discrimination protections, and paid family leave, as well as sending letters to Congress in support of the Building Blocks of STEM ACT for women and girls and on ending workplace harassment.

5. Shifted the state legal landscape toward fair pay.

We helped 11 states pass equity legislation, nearly double the six states that passed such laws in 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015. Nearly every state now has some form of equal-pay legislation in place.

6. Championed the next generation of women.

More than 800 young women from 307 colleges and universities gathered to learn and be inspired at the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), the country's premier leadership event for college students.

7. Produced groundbreaking research.

We updated "The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap" with new census data showing that women still get about 82¢ for every \$1 paid to men. In our report "Deeper in Debt", we show that women hold almost two-thirds of the country's \$1.4-trillion student debt. In November, we released a new report, "Limiting Our Livelihoods", indicating that sexual harassment can have long-term repercussions on women's health, economic security and access to leadership positions.

8. Provided millions in fellowships and grants.

For the 2019-20 academic year, AAUW awarded more than \$4.3 million in fellowships and grants to 270 recipients to advance educational and professional opportunities for women around the globe.

9. Spread our message far and wide.

AAUW's work in 2019 was covered by more than 140 media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, MSNBC, Time, Newsweek, Money, Fortune, The Oprah Magazine and more. We raised our profile on social media, garnering over 5 million impressions on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

10. Prepared for 2020—a pivotal year for women.

Next year, we'll commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act by launching a project called "Every Voice. Every Vote."



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 (aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)

Webminder*Position 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