

FEBRUARY MEETING

Smart Aging

Presenter: Carissa Pagel-Smith
*Director, Aging and Disability
Resource Center, La Crosse County*

When: Saturday, February 8

Where: UWL Student Union
Room 3110

Cost: \$12

Menu: Scrambled eggs with cheese and salsa on the side, Breakfast potatoes, Bacon, 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. Feb 3rd.

The local Aging and Disability Resource Center of La Crosse County provides residents with unbiased information related to aging or living with a disability, along with Elderly Benefit Specialist (EBS) Services, and Adult Protective Services (APS). Their goal is to help people maintain their independence and access available resources for themselves, their families, friends and caregivers.

Carissa Pagel-Smith, ADRC Section Manager, will present information about available programs and learning

opportunities, along with initiatives to bridge the generational gap and make La Crosse an age friendly community. As part of the Human Services Department, ADRCs serve every county and tribe in Wisconsin free of charge to its residents.



The Current

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

How Did Valentine's Day Come To Be?

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

How did the concept of Valentine's Day get started? Opinions differ on that. Some believe that it originated from the annual ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia, celebrated from February 13 to 15. Men killed dogs and goats, then used the animals' skins to hit women, a practice believed to enhance fertility. The women actually welcomed it! The festival included a tradition in which a young man drew the name of a woman from a jar, thus matching up the two.

Other stories focus on three holy men named Valentinus. The first such-named man died in Africa, along with 24 soldiers. Nothing more is known about him. The second Valentinus was a Roman priest who was arrested and put to death by Emperor Gothicus for proselytizing the Christian faith. The third third-century Valentinus was a bishop of Terni in the province of Umbria, Italy. He, also, preached Christianity and met a fate similar to that of his predecessor at Gothicus' hands. At the end of the fifth century Pope

Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day.

The romantic connotation of St. Valentine's Day didn't begin until about a thousand years later, when Geoffrey Chaucer wrote about the martyrs' feast day being a time when birds mate. European nobility began sending love notes in commemoration of bird-mating season. Shakespeare later popularized the amorous concept when Ophelia referred to herself as Hamlet's Valentine.

Verbal and hand written Valentine greetings prevailed until after the Industrial Revolution and the mass

Continued on Page 2 »



NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, February 3, 2020
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.

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

How Did Valentine's Day Come to Be?... (continued from page 1)

production of heart-shaped boxes of candy in the 1860s and Hallmark Valentine's Day cards in 1913. Today an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent annually, making it the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. Only Christmas is bigger.

So, whether the holiday is based on ancient pagan rites, Christian martyrs, bird-mating traditions, or a combination of all of these origins, it's now a positive day, full of love and peace. We all need such a day in this chaotic world.

Sources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>

<https://www.npr.org/2011/02/14/133693152/the-dark-origins-of-valentines-day>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/gory-origins-of-valentines-day-180968156/>

<https://time.com/5143563/real-st-valentine-valentines-day-history/>

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

NEW MEMBERS

Melissa Collum

409 S. Waucouta , Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Phone: 920-737-8635

BA St Norbert College, MA Education Clemson U

mcollum@uwlax.edu

Diane J Mross

1597 Medary Ln, Onalaska, WI 54650

608 397 1957

MSW U of Minnesota

diane.mross@gmail.com



Welcome! We look forward to your participation.

Melissa joined online at the National AAUW website which is another way we gain new members. National is increasingly encouraging branches to rely on record keeping and renewals through them. Our branch board is working on accommodating that.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy goes out to member Tita Yutuc and her family who lost their father and grandfather on January 15th. Wilfredo Yutuc had been a physician with Gundersen Health Care for 47 years. The W.R. Yutuc Renal Dialysis Center in Onalaska is named in his honor.



NEW PHONE NUMBER

Roz Schnick has a new home phone number: 608.783.0435.

Self Sufficiency Program

by Andrea Hansen, Director



"I wonder if I could go to college" is a question you have undoubtedly heard from clients, colleagues or friends. SSP provides support for adults to explore options, practice college level work, and make a plan.

The spring session of Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) begins February 25 (6-8 pm) and concludes on May 5 (4 Math Mondays begin in March). There is no cost for this program, free onsite childcare is provided along with a simple supper on Tuesdays. Applications are accepted anytime. Designed with single parents in mind, everyone is invited to apply. SSP students may have some college credit, an associate's degree, or have no post-high school education. The only requirement is that they have a HS diploma, GED/HSED.

Participants learn about UW-L, Western, and Viterbo programs, practice college skills, and begin to develop their education/career plans. SSP graduates are also eligible for SSP's "Home-Grown" scholarships which help them in their first semesters at college.

The SSP application is online at www.uwlax.edu/ssp. If you have questions or would like to talk further, my phone number is 608.785.8733; email is ahansen@uwlax.edu.

**Not. A. Single. Woman.
Was. At. The. White.
House. Meeting. On.
Women's. Health.**



Room Full Of Men Decides Fate Of Maternity Coverage

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

Central High School F.E.M. Club T-shirt Sale

Once again, the Central HS F.E.M. club will be at the International Women's Day event on Sunday, March 8 in the Bluff's room of the UWL Student Union!

They'll be selling a new t-shirt this year:



Long Sleeve - \$15

Short Sleeve - \$10

White, Black, and Pastel Blue, available in long and short sleeve ; Mint Green and Lavender available in short sleeve.

"THIS IS WHAT A FEMINIST LOOKS LIKE" shirts (last year's design) will be available for the bargain price of \$5 each.

This is a great way to support the club and of course, these make wonderful gifts!

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.

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, Feb 13, Myrick Park Center, 2:00pm

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

At the International Women's Day celebration, AIA will be collecting gently used bras for the organization **Free The Girls**. Free The Girls provides an economic opportunity for survivors of sex trafficking. Free The Girls is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that collects gently used and new bras that are then used as inventory for formerly trafficked women to launch their own business selling bras in their local markets. We do this in partnership with organizations on the ground in Mozambique, El Salvador and Costa Rica, doing the hard work of reintegration with these women. Our unique model provides a safe and sustainable living wage while they rebuild their lives. We provide the antidote of economic independence, further limiting their risk of falling vulnerable to future exploitation. Not only for themselves, but also for their children. The ripple effects are amazing.



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 Betty Kruck

Voting 2020

If you are like me, you can't help but reflect on the significance of voting in 2020 as we celebrate the centennial year of women finally gaining the right to vote.

Thinking of this history I realize my mother was born in 1910, ten years before women could vote. In fact it occurred to me that I was born a mere 22 years after the 19th Amendment was ratified. Considering this, it makes the ability to cast a ballot almost sacred.

There are four opportunities to vote in 2020. Please mark these on your calendar.

- **February 18:** Primary for WI Supreme Court candidates, and primary for local offices if necessary.
- **April 7:** Wisconsin Supreme Court, Presidential Preference, and local contests.
- **August 11:** Primary for state and national offices if multiple candidates.
- **November 3:** Presidential election and state and national offices.

State Supreme Court elections are ones that are easily ignored which is certainly not consistent with the impact these 10 year terms have on all areas of our lives. Each of the three candidates, Justice Daniel Kelly, Ed Fallone and Jill Karofsky offer different experiences and perspectives, so please be sure to check their information.

Yard signs such as the one pictured are being distributed by the La Crosse League of Women Voters. The nonpartisan vote signs will be available at the February branch meeting, or you can request one by contacting Chris Haskell, 608-788-4200, cshaskell@gmail.com. The date of each election can be attached to the sign so the sign can be kept current. Displaying a sign is one way to remind the community of election dates.



The Wisconsin government website <https://myvote.wi.gov> is a wonderful site to check your registration status, election dates, polling place, registration instructions, and what is on your ballot. <https://www.vote411.org/wisconsin> is a nonpartisan site with election information supplied by the League of Women Voters.

Please be aware if you are helping others get official documents such as birth certificates or marriage licenses from out of state, that there might be a lengthy wait. I proudly took my birth certificate and marriage license to the DMV to update my driver's license with the Real ID star. I was told that they were invalid. To get an official embossed birth certificate from Missouri, I found it would be 16 weeks or the expedited process 4-5 weeks.

11th Annual Wisconsin Women's Health Advocacy Summit

On Monday, March 9th, people throughout Wisconsin who care about advancing women's health, safety, and economic security will once again convene in Madison for a full day of education, engagement, and empowerment. Our 11th Annual Wisconsin Women's Health Advocacy Summit will again offer a unique opportunity to network and build alliances, to be enlightened and equipped to make positive change, and to refill your cup with resilience, hope and opportunities.



This year's Summit will feature:

- A keynote by new TIME'S UP Healthcare Executive Director - Dr. Lauren Powell
- Our powerful S.H.E. Speaks series offering effective advocacy examples from six amazing Wisconsin women
- A presentation by Sally Bean with Zonta Club International on "Achieving Global Impact through Local Action"
- The opportunity to connect with 50 exhibitors and sponsors
- A panel of individuals working to defend our democracy in a critical election year
- A menstrual product collection drive led by the Zonta Club of Madison

Space is limited so reserve your seat today! Treat yourself to some self-care and surround yourself with other advocates who share a positive and powerful vision for a better Wisconsin for women and girls!

Individual registration is \$50.

Location: Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Madison

[Register Here](#)

OR (<https://supportwomenshealth.salsalabs.org/summit20/index.html>)

FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Report as of
January 20, 2020

Checking Account..... \$12,048.94

Scholarship Bridge..... \$657.00

Planned Parenthood

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.



Planned Parenthood provides affordable, critically needed, and quality preventive health care to 2.7 million women and men across the country. The health centers provide routine checkups, cancer screenings, contraceptive services, and HIV and STI testing. And for many low-income women and women of color, Planned Parenthood is their main health care provider. During the 114th Congress, lawmakers attempted to remove or limit federal funding for the health care provider. AAUW opposes attacks on Planned Parenthood's federal funding sources. If they succeed, millions will lose the care they rely on each year .

Tell Congress you're a part of the overwhelming majority who opposes "defunding" care at Planned Parenthood health centers. Tell Congress you're ready to fight like hell to protect reproductive health and rights in this country. Tell Congress you stand with Planned Parenthood.

Please sign this [petition](#) to show your support!

AAUW La Crosse Budget 2019-2020

The following budget was approved by the AAUW La Crosse Branch Board at their meeting on January 6, 2020. Please contact Michele with questions related to the budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Income

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Art Fair..... | \$2,100.00 |
| Branch Dues | \$680.00 |
| Meals..... | \$0.00 |
| Fundraisers (book sales, cookie walk, jewelry)..... | \$524.00 |
| Miscellaneous (NCCWSL)..... | \$1,000.00 |
| AIA Projects..... | <u>\$900.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$5,204.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Board Tools..... | \$125.00 |
| Convention..... | \$350.00 |
| The Current (printing, postage, supplies)..... | \$95.00 |
| Legal Advocacy Fund Donation..... | \$500.00 |
| Other Donations (memorials, NCCWSL)..... | \$575.00 |
| Hospitality..... | \$30.00 |
| Insurance..... | \$500.00 |
| Membership | \$40.00 |
| Miscellaneous..... | \$0.00 |
| Name Grants | \$800.00 |
| Organization (directory, PO Box, website) | \$322.00 |
| Program (room rent, honoraria, tech support) | \$350.00 |
| Scholarship..... | \$15.00 |
| AIA Projects..... | <u>\$400.00</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$4,102.00 |

OVERALL TOTAL \$1,102.00

Invitation to Lunch & Learn

Feb. 14th is the 100th Birthday of the League of Women Voters. We hope you can join us to celebrate at Lunch & Learn on 2/11/20. Come in period dress if you'd like, and enjoy cupcakes from The Meringue Bakery for dessert.

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Lunch at 11:30, Program at 11:45. The Waterfront, The Banquet Room (entrance from the north parking lot)

Program: The History of Women's Suffrage in Wisconsin

Presenter: Theresa Kaminski, *Emeritus Professor of History*

This illustrated presentation traces the fight for women's voting rights in Wisconsin from statehood to the founding of the League of Women Voters in 1920. It highlights Wisconsin women Ada James, Olympia Brown, and Theodora Youmans, with cameo appearances by movement stalwarts Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

RSVP to reserve a lunch by 2/4 (cost \$15). We cannot accept payment at the door and we cannot receive reservations for lunch after the RSVP deadline. Unfortunately, prepaid lunches are nonrefundable. You may respond and pay for your lunch via PayPal [here](#) or <https://www.lwvlacrosse.org/> or by mailing a check for \$15 to: LWV La Crosse Area , PO Box 363, La Crosse, WI 54602-0363





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