

ART FAIR ON THE GREEN

by Carol Robertson, Chair

AAUW members,

On page 5 of this newsletter is the letter that was sent to Art Fair on the Green Artists and Food Vendors announcing the cancellation of our 2020 Art Fair.

We were disappointed to have to make that announcement and saddened to make the decision. I would like to thank the Board and the Art Fair committee members for their guidance and support throughout this decision making. Members were willing to offer their opinions as to the pros and cons for holding or cancelling the art fair and I appreciate that willingness. I would also like to thank all of you for your continued willingness to volunteer at the art fair each year and I know you would have done the same for 2020.

Even though we have cancelled the 2 day event, we will be featuring our artists on both our Facebook page and AAUW website. Thank you to Erica Koonmen, Ann Brice, and Barb Fisher for organizing this endeavor. More details will follow as information is compiled.

Thank you all for your continued support.

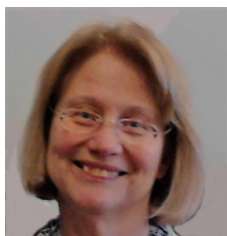


The Current

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Good News, Help Wanted, and Thanks

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Students and Member Recognized at UWL Commencement

I was honored to have the privilege of attending the virtual commencement ceremonies of UWL's Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department on Saturday, May 16. Kendra Whelan was the graduation speaker; received the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CASSH) Recognition of Excellence Award; and was acknowledged as the recipient of the AAUW 2019 NCCWSL scholarship. Student Dana Nielsen was announced as the 2020 AAUW NCCWSL scholarship winner. AAUW-La Crosse member Andrea Hansen received the CASSH Recognition of Excellence Award for Community Engagement. Congratulations to all!

Appointed Board Officers Needed

As we look ahead to the 2020-2021 program year, two positions need to be filled on the Appointed Board of Directors for the La Crosse

Branch. They are the Publicity/Communications Chair and the new position of STEM Chair. The Publicity/Communications officer is responsible for correspondence with individual members, as needed, as well as for publicizing branch events

with the local media.

The STEM coordinator raises awareness among members and the general public about gender bias in schools, Title IX, women and student debt, and gender stereotypes in education.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Zoom Meeting

Our annual Transition Meeting, consisting of both incoming and retiring board members, will be held **Monday, June 15, 6:30 – 8:00 pm**. Meetings are open to all members. We will begin with awarding of the Name Grants, Installation of Officers, and then follow the regular agenda. Name Grant awarding and Installation will be saved and subsequently posted on our branch's website and Facebook pages.

If you would like to add items to the agenda and/or receive the E-mail link to join the Zoom meeting, please contact Ann Brice at bricea@westernnc.edu.

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

Good News, Help Wanted, and Thanks... (continued from page 1)

If you are interested in either or both of these offices please contact incoming President Ann Brice or me.

Thanks for a Great Two Years!

As my two years in office come to an end I'd like to thank you for all your support and encouragement and to welcome Ann Brice to the presidency. She will make a wonderful branch President! My hope is that health conditions in our local area will be such that we'll be able to hold meetings in person later this year and in 2021.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

New Address

Francie Ball and Mary O'Sullivan have moved to their newly built home. The address is:
1716 Colorado Court
La Crosse WI 54601

Francie's cell number is 608-799-0466.

Her new email is francieball@gmail.com.

Best wishes as they enjoy settling into their new surroundings!



Recognitions

Andrea Hanson has received the CASH Recognition of Excellence Award for Community Engagement. Andrea is the Self Sufficiency Program Director of the UW-L Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Department.



Karen Landstrom is retiring from her kindergarten-teaching career spanning 34 years. Twenty-one of those years were with the La Crosse School District. Karen also has long experience in coordinating the Art Fair raffle.

Congratulations to both for their stellar achievements!



AAUW 2020 Gender Policy Agenda

As a non-partisan organization, AAUW does not endorse specific candidates, but throughout our 140-year history, we have been a staunch advocate for policies that improve the lives of girls, women and their families. Here's what AAUW would like to see implemented to advance gender equality in education and the workplace.



Economic Security

1. Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work.
2. Implement Paid Leave and Paid Sick Days.
3. Stop Harassment in the Workplace.
4. Raise the Minimum Wage and Eliminate the Tipped Minimum Wage.
5. Close the Retirement Gap.
6. Protect Pregnant Workers.



Education

1. Defend and Strengthen Title IX.
2. Reduce Student Debt
3. Expand Opportunities for Women and Girls in STEM.



Foundational Rights

1. Expand and Protect the Right to Vote.
2. Ensure Access to High-Quality Healthcare.
3. Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

To read the complete agenda with specific goals, please click

[**HERE.**](#)

Announcing the 2020 Scholarship and Grant Recipients

by Robert Richardson, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

Long, long ago (last July), AAUW-La Crosse hosted the 61st Art Fair on the Green. Of course, through many members' efforts, the Art Fair was successful. And, in tandem, many members and non-members contributed directly to our AAUW La Crosse Scholarship Fund.

Because of present and past AAUW leadership, the art fair profits and the donations are invested in the La Crosse Community Foundation where the AAUW Fund grows. And, this year, AAUW-La Crosse awarded nine \$1,000 grants to familiar service agencies and twenty-two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving local collegians and to graduating high school seniors in our branch service area.

Thank you to all our branch members, all our volunteers, all our donors, and all of our community for supporting the long standing AAUW-La Crosse effort. We have made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals.

Robert Richardson and Sharon DeCicco
Co-Chairs of the Scholarships and Grants Committee

Let's celebrate!



GRANT recipients received award letters in March.

The Committee selected familiar and deserving recipients.

- FSPA: Task Force to End Modern Slavery
- Monroe County Shelter Care Inc.:
Brighter Tomorrows Program
- New Horizons: Program Support
- Self-Sufficiency Program Emergency Fund
- Self-Sufficiency Program Scholarships
- WTC Foundation: Pathways Scholarships
- WTC Foundation: Transition Scholarships
- WTC Foundation: Student Assistance Fund
- YWCA La Crosse: Restorative Justice Circles

SCHOLARSHIP recipients received award letters late April.

We know that these recipients super-appreciated these exciting announcements – given our otherwise not-so-exciting times and cancelled “programs.”

HOLISTIC NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Allyson Von Haden at Viterbo University seeking
Doctorate in Nursing Practice
- Abigayle Holets at Viterbo University studying Nursing

HIGH SCHOOL Class of 2020 SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Sausann Al-Jawhar from Central High School to
UW-Madison to study Biology
- Mari Hauschildt from Logan High School to
UW-Madison to study Zoology
- Mercer Phlegar from Onalaska High School to
Carroll U or Wartburg C to study Teacher Education
- Vibsake Thao from Central High School to
UW-Oshkosh or UW-Eau Claire to study Nursing
- Simone Toribio from Central High School to
UW-Madison to study Physics or Neuroscience

HIGH SCHOOL Class of 2020 TRIBUNE EXTRA EFFORT SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Jessica Reyes-Candelas from Arcadia High School to
Chippewa Valley Technical College preparing to
be a flight attendant
- Joleen Tollefson from Whitehall High School to
UW-River Falls to study Spanish

KAREN WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

(member-nominated/non-traditional female students):

- Sarah Andelin at Viterbo University studying Nursing
- Lisa Ehlers at UW - La Crosse studying Psychology
- Sarah Pederson transitioning from WTC to
UW - La Crosse to study Radiation Therapy
- Melissa Touche at UW-L studying Women's Gender &
Sexuality Studies AND Public Advocacy

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **AAUW Bridge:**
Monica Bertucci at UW - La Crosse studying Microbiology
- **Pat Staupe Memorial:**
Lauren Dochnahl at UW - La Crosse studying Theater Arts
- **Janet Isler Memorial:**
Samantha Hillehiem at Viterbo University studying
Elementary Education and Special Education

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – LA CROSSE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Julie Fleegal studying Biology with Chemistry & Spanish
- Cameron Heiman studying Psychology
- Charlene Schmidt studying Physical Therapy with
Nutrition

VITERBO UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Brooklynn Becker studying Biology
- Melissa Edgar studying Biology, Ethics, & Spanish
- Laura Weidemann studying Dietetics & Nutrition



AAUW National Statement

by Kimberly Churches, Chief Executive Officer

We stand united against racism.

During this troubling time in our nation's history, I hope you are being kind to yourself and others. It feels almost unbearable to witness the anger and anguish erupting in our cities as we also endure a relentless pandemic and economic downfall. The murder of

George Floyd serves as a tragic reminder of centuries of racism, violence and lack of humanity for Black people. We join the country in mourning his loss as well as the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color who have been unjustly killed.

ENOUGH.

MAKE A STAND AGAINST RACISM

But while we are deeply sad, we mustn't feel helpless. Now is the time to fight for justice. Here are some suggestions for how to move forward:

Listen: Understand that many Black and Brown people are struggling with enormous pain and despair. Open your hearts to them and listen when they speak - without expecting them to work for the benefit of your learning.

Learn: Read our [recent statement](#) highlighting AAUW's stand against racism and the [Washington Post article](#) by 2016–17 AAUW American Fellow alumnae Keisha Blain about the problematic history of policing in this country. AAUW will work to advance the systemic changes needed to create a [fairer criminal justice system](#) as a proud member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Speak Up: People of color often experience discrimination at the ballot box. This comes in the form of voting restrictions implemented under the guise of preventing "voter fraud," which is extremely rare. With a pivotal election ahead, persuading policymakers to [expand voting rights](#) is a powerful way to support marginalized communities. Other issues that disproportionately affect Black women and their families are student-loan debt, pay inequity and the lack of a livable minimum wage — all parts of [AAUW's 2020 Gender Agenda](#) you can take action on.

I'd also like to acknowledge that, as an organization, AAUW has its own work to do — and I'm committed to doing it. So I'll be listening, learning and speaking up right alongside you.

Our Scholarship & Grants Process

by Robert Richardson, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

It all begins with the AAUW-La Crosse leaders who volunteer to serve in various capacities. For 62 years, a succession of members has served as chair of the Art Fair Committee.

Branch members volunteer to serve on the Scholarships and Grants Committee. Between October and December, the committee meets to update the applications, revise the rubrics, create the review process, and volunteer to fulfill various roles. Some committee members research past grant recipients' uses of our awards while others investigate other organizations/agencies with needs that align with AAUW initiatives. We are always looking to assist another group striving to break barriers.

Around January 2, the committee chair confers with the Executive Director at the LCF for the AAUW Fund values; the committee chair uses a long-standing formula to determine the amount available for AAUW distribution.

The committee meets in February to share grant-research findings, to discuss highest-need organizations/agencies, and to determine the recipients. The committee then turns to scholarships; six subcommittees review scholarship applications which take a month to complete.

In March, the committee meets to receive the reports of the subcommittees and to make recipient recommendations. These recommendations are reviewed by an independent committee of people not affiliated with our branch. In April, the committee notifies high schools and colleges/universities of our recipients. Committee members volunteer to make presentations to our recipients. And, then, our branch hosts our Scholarship Reception in May.

The committee takes great pride knowing that through our review process we provide support for amazing and deserving students destined to break barriers.

This year, because of our dedicated pandemic response, we could not make in-school presentations or host our reception. Instead, we sent videos to schools to include in their virtual programs. We sent congratulatory letters to our recipients.

The committee welcomes new AAUW members to join us in our exciting work. We want and need new perspectives and energies. Please consider joining us; we promise that you will benefit from great revelations of the good things happening in our community and of the special students who are preparing to assume leadership roles in our society.

In the early years, our branch awarded several \$500 scholarships. In 2020, we awarded \$31,000 — nine \$1,000 grants and twenty-two \$1,000 scholarships.

FROM THE TREASURER

by Michele Strange

Financial Report as of May 28, 2020

Checking Account..... \$10,173.70

Scholarship Bridge..... \$257.00

Final Call

by Michele Strange, Treasurer



Here is your final notice to renew your 2020-21 AAUW membership before the deadline of June 30th.

This has been a very trying time for all of us.

We don't know what the next year will bring, but AAUW National will survive and I think we all want our branch to survive as well. We may be able to give some scholarships next spring, despite the cancellation of the Art Fair.

I'm hoping that you will renew your membership for the coming year. I miss our brunch meetings and talking to all of you. I think everyone will miss seeing a majority of our members during the art fair week-end. It was always a way to re-connect during the summer.

If you would please send me a check for \$80 made out to AAUW-La Crosse Branch by June 15th, it would really help me close out the financial year. The renewal form is included with this email. If you have no changes in your contact information, you do not have to include it with your check. My address is:
Michele Strange
2442 Redwing Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601

Thank you for your continuing support of our mission. Please have a good summer and stay safe.

Art Fair Letter to Artists and Patrons

The following letter was sent to all our AAUW Art Fair on the Green artists in May to let them know of the decision to cancel the art fair this year. The responses from the artists have been very understanding & supportive.



Dear Artists and Food Vendors,

We are sad to announce that because of the uncertainty of gathering in large crowds due to Covid-19, AAUW Art Fair on the Green will be cancelled for 2020. We did not come to this decision lightly and honestly, didn't want to make it but for the safety of artists, food vendors, volunteers and our patrons, we felt there was too much unknown to continue with the planning.

We understand that many other art fairs have also been cancelled; we know you were hoping we could hold this one as much as we were.

The city and county along with the health department are following the Badger Bounce Back guidelines and that guided us as we made our decision.

If your check has been cashed, we will send you a refund; if you want us to carry it over to 2021, please let us know. The majority were not deposited and we will be shredding those checks.

New artists that were juried in for 2020 will not have to re-jury for 2021. We look forward to enjoying your work then.

On a more positive note, Art Fair on the Green will be featuring each of you (including the new artists) and your website on our Facebook page as a virtual way to showcase your talents. We'll be sending out a separate email with details on that soon.

Art Fair on the Green has been a tradition in La Crosse for 61 years and we are disappointed not to host number 62 in 2020, but we definitely plan to be back in 2021.

Thank you all for your support and save the date for July 24 & 25, 2021!

Erica Koonmen and Sharon DeCicco, Artists Co-Chairs
Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair





American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112

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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)
WebminderBarb Fischer (fischerba@live.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