

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Virtual Social

**When:** Wednesday, Sept 9th from 5 to 7 p.m

**Where:** The comfort of your home!

In the words of Nina Simone ("Feeling Good"): *It's a new dawn, It's a new day, It's a new life for me, yeah...and I'm feeling good!*

Thank you to those of you that have volunteered to be our speakers this year. It is exciting to try something new and different, learn, but also get to know each other better with this new format.

This meeting is our AAUW Welcome Back Zoom Social, introducing a new way of meeting. We will make sure everyone can connect, cover recent business items, and hear news on early voting for November 3.

Starting in October, our virtual gatherings will take place on the second Saturday of the month, starting with a 20 minutes business segment, followed by 30 minutes of a speaker(s) taking the microphone, 5 minutes for Q&A, and finally a 10 minute wrap up. Add it all together, our meetings should not exceed 75 minutes total.

We hope that we can go back to in-person meetings in the spring, but for now, it's Zoom time! Ann Brice will assist us in setting up the 2020-21 Zoom meetings so watch for her upcoming emails, one at a time. All members will have to create an account (prior to Sep 9), in order to join the e-conversations! If you have not attended the AARP sessions on Zoom, the Zoom help center is an excellent source for short tutorials, to get you acclimated with the software. If you feel you need additional support, please let Ann Brice know-- see more info in her President's Perspective .

Megan and I look forward to a great year together with you!



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Welcome to a new AAUW Year!

by Ann Brice, AAUW—La Crosse Branch President

Hello AAUW La Crosse Branch Members! I'm writing to you for the first time in my role as your president. This will be an interesting year for us

because we will be meeting virtually. We will continue to meet monthly, but our meetings will be held via Zoom. If you have never used Zoom, I will be happy to help you learn how to use it. Please email me at

[bricea@westerntc.edu](mailto:bricea@westerntc.edu) or call me at 608-780-5026 if you would like me to show you how to use Zoom. You'll want to sign up for a free Zoom account here: <https://zoom.us/> and you may want to look at some Zoom tutorials: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-video-tutorials>. Alternatively you can use your phone to dial into a Zoom meeting if you don't have access to a computer.

I know I am not the only one who will miss the face to face contact and the camaraderie that our meetings bring. Thank you for continuing to support one another

by attending our meetings virtually. This summer has gone by quickly and has given me a chance to get familiar with some additional AAUW committees and activities.

On June 10th, Jan Ericksen and I met at JavaVino so she could give me the AAUW materials. It was too cold and windy to sit outside so we secluded ourselves at a huge table in the back and were able to practice social distancing.

On June 15th, we had a virtual board meeting to install our new officers Michele Strange as Treasurer and Megan Preston as Co-VP of

*Continued on Page 2 »*



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Monday, August 31**  
**6:00 p.m**

Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

**Contact Ann at:** 780-5026 or [bricea@westerntc.edu](mailto:bricea@westerntc.edu) to place items on the agenda and for the Zoom link to the meeting.

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

Programs and to award the name grants. I attended the virtual Public Policy Meeting on July 14th during which the group developed plans for two Public Policy Events. These events are open to everyone, so for more information and to sign up see page 5.

On June 22nd, Jan Eriksen, Carol Robertson, Robert Richardson and I had a virtual scholarship committee meeting to clarify some questions about scholarship distribution and so I could meet Jamie Schloegel, Executive Director of the La Crosse Community Foundation.

Though we were all looking forward to Art Fair on the Green, we were not able to hold it in our traditional format. Our wonderful team of Webmasters and Art Fair Coordinators put together "Virtual Art Fair on the Green 2020." Many thanks to Barb Fischer, Erica Koonmen and Carol Robertson for their hard work. The virtual art fair website allowed artists to showcase and sell their works. It will continue through December 31st so please visit [www.artfaironthegreen.org](http://www.artfaironthegreen.org) to support these artists.

I'm very much looking forward to working with you all this year, and in the meantime, I wish you good health.

## 2020-2021 AAUW La Crosse Board

### Elected Officers

**President:** Ann Brice

**President-elect:** open

**Secretary:** Jo Anne Revels

**Financial VP Chair:** Michele Strange

**Membership VP:** Marilyn Hempstead

**Program VP Co-Chairs:** Cristina Kovacs & Megan Preston

### Appointed Board

Art Fair: Carol Robertson

Historian: Marilyn Hempstead

By Laws: Carol Robertson

Publicity : *Open*

Public Policy: Ann Brice

Name Grants: Michele Strange

Fundraising: Jo Anne Revels & Ellie Hundt

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

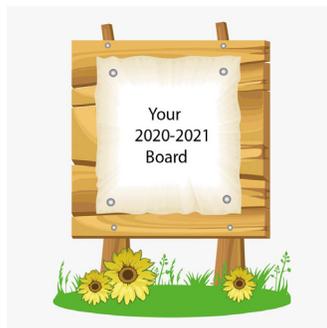
Scholarship Co-chairs: Sharon De Cicco & Robert Richardson

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

One week prior to each monthly ZOOM meeting, I will send an e-mail request seeking each member's response.



If you 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 – manageable, but cumbersome.

Either way, I appreciate your reply. Given our exciting virtual format, I will set reply dates closer to meeting dates. Thank you!

## BRANCH DIRECTORY

by Robert Richardson

Via USPS in early September, I will send your personal copy of the branch directory. If you find any errors, please let me know. I will publish a corrections' listing.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE (SGC)

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

AAUW – La Crosse Branch will award scholarships and grants in 2021! Our virtual Art Fair continues, and the La Crosse Community Foundation continues to accept donations on our behalf. Thank you to those who have contributed since June. If not yet, please consider making a donation in any amount; you may send it directly to LCF with a note that it's for the AAUW Fund.

The SGC will meet via ZOOM directly after our Branch ZOOM Meeting in October. If you would like to join this committee, please let me know. We always welcome new members to participate in decision-making and/or to review scholarship applications (as part of one of our subcommittees consisting of 3-4 members).

## 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.*

Currently on hiatus, the group is looking for ideas and at ways to do activities.

Please contact Sharon at [sharon.decicco@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.decicco@gmail.com) for more information.

## 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. This year, of course, we'll be doing all of the

work by Facetime or Zoom so you can do it all from the comfort of your own home!

Please let me know if you are interested:  
Erica at [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com)

**Next meeting: Email meeting on Tues, Sept 15. Agenda will be sent out on Mon, Sept 14 with responses appreciated by Wed, Sept 16.**

For this meeting, we'll be talking about ways to continue our events virtually and looking at different ways to effectively promote AAUW's mission, to include:

- Get out the Vote
- International Women's Day Panel
- Women's History Month window display
- Promoting Equal Pay Day

We'd love to hear your ideas too. Please join us!



## 19th Amendment Podcasts

Suggested by Andrea Hansen

In honor of the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote, the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, the National Park Service, and public media org PRX have partnered to present 2 podcasts inspired by the courageous suffragists who worked to secure the right to vote for American women.

**The Magic Sash** is a journey back in time hosted by gold medal gymnast and advocate Aly Raisman. Join Lotty and Isaiah, two very modern fifth graders, as they meet iconic heroes of the movement for women's right to vote and experience big moments in women's suffrage first-hand.

[Click here for episodes of The Magic Sash...](#)



"Men their rights and nothing more; women their rights and nothing less." Written by suffragists Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, women's rights activists used this rallying cry to demand voting equality. But the suffrage movement included far more voices than these two

well-known names: throughout the fight for women's right to vote, generations of diverse activists demanded full access to the ballot box. Hosts Rosario Dawson and Retta guide us through this seven-part series **And Nothing Less**, bringing us the stories we didn't learn in our history books.

[Click here for episodes of And Nothing Less...](#)

# Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

I had the honor of working as a Chief Election Inspector for the first time during the August 11th Fall Primary Election. I have been an Election Inspector (also known as a poll worker) since the November 2016 election, but this was my first time as a Chief. My polling assignment was the UWL Student Union, and I was lucky enough to be trained and mentored by Pat Strittmater, a long-time Chief.

The experience was fascinating and challenging. Pat and I pre-numbered absentee ballots on Saturday, August 8th, and as I was leaving, Deputy City Clerk Nikki Elsen gave me a heavy tote with materials for the Chief. Despite having the training and the materials, I had no idea what went into setting up a polling place. I am so grateful that Pat was with me, and in true Pat fashion, remained calm during my many gaffes. We had six other election inspectors on our team that day. Five of them had served as poll workers in the past, and one was a UWL college student who was brand-new.

You might be wondering why I am writing about this experience. I'd like you to be aware of and share some information I learned.

## ABSENTEE



## VOTE

One, if you can vote absentee, do it! You can request your ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/VoteAbsentee>.

Because of the current situation with the USPS, you'll want to mail your ballot back as soon as you get it, or better yet, drop it off at City Hall before the November 3rd Election Day.

Two, if you are voting in person, make sure you know where to go. In April, polling places were combined because of COVID-19.

On August 11th, we had voters coming to the Student Union like they did in April, not realizing they were supposed to go back to their original polling place of Myrick Park. They were discouraged and frustrated. So look up your polling place before you vote! You can do this at :

<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/FindMyPollingPlace>.

Third, you may be worried about COVID-19 if you vote in person. I worry about COVID-19 as well, and was pleased to see how many precautions we took to keep our voters and our workers safe. Workers wore masks, there was Plexiglas in front of each station, we sanitized each station and voting booth repeatedly, we practiced social distancing, and we gave each voter their own pen.



Finally, working at the polls gave me a new respect for the care taken by our poll workers and our city clerk's office to ensure voting laws are strictly followed to ensure legitimacy. Before I became a poll worker, I could not understand why workers seemed so regimented and serious. Now

I understand the significance of upholding the dignity of our voting process. It is an honor to be able to serve our country and our community in this way. Please consider working at the November election if you are able. You can find out about opportunities at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PollWorker>.

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

### CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy goes out to Sharon DeCicco whose husband John C. Goldstein passed on in June. Sharon is a long-standing branch member who has served in many capacities including branch president.



### BEST WISHES



Bev Bodine is recovering from recent knee surgery. We wish her rapid healing during her recovery.

And in these strange times we currently have no new members. If you know anyone who is interested in our branch, they would be very virtually welcome.

## Potential dues increase in July 2021

The AAUW National Board of Directors will consider and vote on a change in Individual Member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 16, 2020. Any increase would take effect on July 1, 2021. The Board will consider two different options:

- An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between \$3-\$10.
- An increase to take effect on the 1st of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between \$3 -\$10 each year.

You should have received an email from National with complete details about the proposal.

Please send any comments regarding this dues increase to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) no later than Friday, September 25, 2020. All comments will be reviewed by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the Board's vote.

# FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

## Financial Report as of August 24, 2020

Checking Account..... \$10,632.13

CD's .....none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$257.00

## Dues Renewal.

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2020-21, now is the time to send in your payment. Please make your check payable to AAUW - La Crosse Branch.

Dues are \$80.00, of which \$56.00 is tax deductible. If your dues are not received by October 31, 2020, your name will be removed from the local and national rosters.

Please mail your dues to:  
Michele Strange  
2442 Redwing Rd.  
La Crosse, WI 546501.

If you have any questions about your renewal, you may email me at [mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu](mailto:mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu).



# Art Fair Report

By Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair



In any other year, this article would be the one in which I would give my thanks to all who worked on the Art Fair.

Well, as we all know, this is not like any other year, but I still want to express my gratitude for all of you. You were there when we first started planning for 2020 and you were there when we made the painful decision to cancel for 2020. You were there to support our decision to hold a virtual art fair and you are still there to support the artists by buying on line from them. You supported the virtual silent auction in which the quilt given in honor of Pat



*Maggie Rewald  
quilt winner*

Staupe raised \$300.00. Our thanks go to the winner, Margaret Rewald, who was so touched by her story that even though the winning bid was \$275, she gave a check for \$300. Thanks to Elli Lund and JoAnne Revels for proposing the idea of holding the auction.

I would like to give a special round of thanks to Barb Fischer and Erica Koonmen for their tremendous efforts in creating the website pages for the virtual art fair. And even though, Ann Brice keeps saying she didn't do anything, I know she helped with it also. Thank you, Erica and Barb, for your many hours of work to ensure that Art Fair on the Green could still be held in some way

for 2020. Thank you also to Marian Schiesser for arranging for the great article that appeared in the La Crosse Tribune which promoted the virtual art fair.

Thanks are in order for Marine Credit Union which sent us a \$500 donation to the Scholarship Fund in honor of the Art Fair. And thanks to all of our members who are still supporting our scholarship efforts by donating. You can still donate to the art fair scholarship fund by sending to La Crosse Community foundation or to Art Fair on the Green at PO Box 2112, La Crosse 54601.

My appreciation goes to all of you for your continued support of the Art Fair. Save the date, July 24 & 25, for the 2021 AAUW Art Fair on the Green!

## Virtual Art Fair on the Green 2020 Continues

The Virtual Art Fair on the Green website will be up and running now through December 31, 2020. Barb Fischer, our branch webminder, created the website to be fun as well as informational. There are 3 ways to view it: click on an artist's name to see images of their work and to access links to their personal website and/or email address. Or click on "By Media" to search that way. Clicking on "By Gate" will give you more of the traditional art fair feel as you browse by booth number. Please contact the artist directly about how to purchase their art and if you have questions for them. We'd appreciate if you would help spread the word about the website by email, Facebook, Instagram or any other avenue. We are not charging the artists for this "event", just hoping to send a bit of business their way!

The website is: [www.artfaironthegreen.org](http://www.artfaironthegreen.org); our facebook is: <https://www.facebook.com/AauwArtFairOnTheGreen/> and Instagram is: <https://www.instagram.com/artfaironthegreen/>.



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 Editor** .....Erica Koonmen ([moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com))

**Webminder** ..... Barb Fischer ([fischerba@live.com](mailto: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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)