



# Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

## CONGRATULATIONS

Andrea Hansen, director of UW-L Self Sufficiency Program has been cited by the University for her 13 years of service to the La Crosse Area Diversity Council. We're proud to have you as a member, Andrea.



## GET WELL WISHES

Speedy healing to Sharon DiCicco who broke her collar bone while skiing.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Barbara Roberts  
W5576 Southdale Drive La Crosse, WI 54601  
Phone: 608-799-6197 barbroberts608@yahoo.com



## EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES



Please make a note in your directory of these new addresses:  
Katie Webster: skwebster4459@gmail.com  
Carol Taebel: Caroltaebel@gmail.com

# AAUW WI State Convention

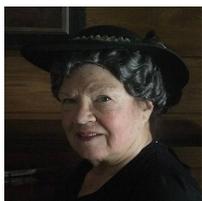
By Jan Eriksen

Did you know that this year marks the 100th anniversary of AAUW in Wisconsin? Please plan on joining us as we toast our first 100 years of AAUW in Wisconsin. We hope that the activity of our many statewide members will secure the future of AAUW for many years to come.



It is time to get serious about making plans to attend our virtual convention April 23rd and 24th. Registration opens on March 1st. Be sure to visit the convention website and sign up for the sessions you wish to attend. More information is being added daily, and a digital copy of the convention book will be arriving in your email soon. AAUW WI – April 23rd and April 24th. Visit [auwwistateconvention.com](http://auwwistateconvention.com).

Even if you choose not to attend any sessions, read through the convention program and learn about the many women in our state who have taken on leadership roles and what they are achieving. All members have an opportunity to purchase the commemorative AAUW pin. You will also be able to participate in the on-line auction that will take place from April 21 – 27. Many of us are getting pretty good at navigating Zoom meetings, so we hope that you will join us during our convention.



Pam Thiel (left) will portray Carrie Chapman Catt in a conversation with Helen Bannon (right) as Jesse Jack Hooper on Friday, April 23rd.



# Name Grants 2020-2021

by Jan Eriksen, Chair

Final call for Name Grant nominations!



A nominee should have provided service to the branch and cannot have received the honor previously. For a list of past recipients, dating back to 1960, please see the end pages of your membership directory.

Please E-mail or call Jan Eriksen, Name Grant Chair, with your nominee's name and brief information about her or him by the deadline of March 20.

# SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE (SGC)

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

Scholarships and Grants Committee thanks our branch members who nominated deserving women, non-traditional students for the Karen Wilson Memorial Scholarship. The committee thanks the high school counselors and collegiate financial aid officers for their efforts to ensure that their students knew about our scholarship. And, the committee also thanks Erica and Barb for their work announcing our scholarships in the Current and on our branch website.



WPR has reported that scholarship applications have fallen this year by 66%. This is not applicable to AAUW-La Crosse. Thank you, one and all for all of your support for our Scholarships and Grants program.

The Scholarships and Grants Committee meets via Zoom at 6pm on 03/02 -- one of our most exciting meetings of the year. The six subcommittee chairs report the findings of the application reviews. We receive applications from amazing students breaking all kinds of barriers.

## My Heroines

by Marge Piercy *Submitted by Andrea Hansen*

When I think of women heroes,  
it's not Joan of Arc or Molly Pitcher  
but mothers who quietly say  
to their daughters, you can.  
Who stand behind attempts  
to open doors long bolted shut  
to teams or clubs or professions.

I think of women who dress  
respectably and march and march  
and march again, for the ability  
to choose, for peace, for rights  
their own or others. Who form  
phone banks, who stuff envelopes  
who do the invisible political work.

They do not get their faces on  
magazine covers. They don't get fan  
mail or receive awards. But without  
them, no woman or liberal man  
would ever be elected, no law  
would be passed or changed. We  
would be stuck in sexist mud.

It's the receptionist in the clinic,  
the escorts to frightened women,  
the volunteers at no kill shelters,  
women sorting bottles at the dump,  
women holding signs in the rain,  
women who take calls of the abused,  
of rape victims, night after night.

It's the woman at her computer  
or desk when the family's asleep  
writing letters, organizing friends.  
Big change turns on small pushes.  
Heroes and heroines climb into  
history books, but it's such women  
who actually write our future.



## Study Group News

### AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, moogs56@hotmail.com

### HEARTH & HOME

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

### SANE (SALIENT AND NEWSWORTHY EVENTS)

Contact: Ann Brice, annbrice@bricecohey.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

**Next meeting: Email meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021.**

The **International Women's Day** event will be March 8, from 7-8pm via Zoom. The 4 speakers are from Uruguay, Kenya, Switzerland and India. They will speak about their experiences with women's rights in their home country and in the US. Because Zoom is limited to 300 participants, we are asking that you preregister at: <https://www.uwlax.edu/calendar/?e=23736>. The link is also on our branch Facebook page; please share the event with your friends and encourage people to attend. The theme is **#ChooseToChallenge**. Read more about that on page 5 of this newsletter.

**Women's History Month**, as you know, is March. Continuing a tradition started by branch member Lois Gilbert, our branch again sponsors daily articles in the La Crosse Tribune featuring women and men around the theme "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced." Because this theme is a carry-over from last year, we've found lesser-known people; we think you'll discover some interesting folks! These daily "blurbs" will also be on our Facebook and Instagram pages so please share those. Thank you to Jan Eriksen, Erica Koonmen, Betty Kruck and Pam Thiel for researching and writing the items.

## Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

While running for the Presidency in 2020, Joe Biden proposed a number of items that would help women. His promises included improving economic security, specifically by insisting on equal pay, expanding access to high quality, affordable health care, and tackling health inequities. He also promised to help women navigate work and families by expanding affordable child care and care for older Americans and people with disabilities. He also proposed providing paid leave and other important workplace benefits and protections.

How  
are we doing?

How is President Biden doing on these promises so far? Shortly after taking office, President Biden created a Gender Policy Council, which is a reformulation of President Obama's White House Council on Women and Girls. This council had been disbanded shortly after President Biden's predecessor took office in 2017. Biden's council hopes to restore and expand reproductive rights, combat gender-based violence, reduce maternal mortality and add the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. As I write this, it's hard for me to believe that the Equal Rights Amendment is STILL not part of the Constitution. Conservative groups like the Eagle Forum in Illinois claim the ERA would remove all restrictions on abortion and would cause harm to women by placing gender-neutral signage on public restrooms. Coincidentally, this pro-life group is opposed to COVID-19 vaccinations.

President Biden has also included economic proposals designed to benefit women. These include paid family leave, more subsidies for child care, and a \$15 minimum wage. These proposals are all part of his coronavirus recovery plan. "The Biden plan includes checks for most households; expanded jobless benefits and rental assistance; money to accelerate vaccinations and reopen schools; and a paid sick-leave program to encourage people to stay home when they're ill." [5] These proposals may not name women specifically, but the economic devastation of the coronavirus has hit women hardest. Therefore, any proposal that addresses health care and economic disparities can only help women.

- 1) <https://joebiden.com/womens-agenda/>
- 2) <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/534893-biden-and-harris-announce-formation-of-white-house-gender-policy>
- 3) <https://eagleforum.org/topics/era/10-reasons-to-oppose-equal-rights-amendment>
- 4) <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/04/963639440/biden-administration-resurrects-office-to-help-women-at-the-breaking-point>
- 5) <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/15/briefing/biden-stimulus-indonesia-earthquake-impeachment-vote.html>

## On The Web

by Barb Fischer, Branch Web Manager



**The Art Fair on the Green** website has lots of interesting art pieces and will be available to view until at least May 31st. Please visit: [artfaironthegreen.org](http://artfaironthegreen.org)

**SANE**, the new study group, has links of interest and last month meeting notes on the web: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/sane/>

- **Issue:** Some waitresses asked to take their masks off by customers.  
**Solution:** Both downloadable and printable cards are available online to give to those customers. (see article below)
- **Issue:** Treatment of women is not always what it should be.  
**Solution:** Strong and relevant articles are posted online.
- **Issue:** Talking across the divide.  
**Solution:** Rogerian Argument, poems, and articles posted online.
- **Issue:** Many people are voting on abortion issues only.  
**Solution:** Develop a Pro-Family image. More ideas at next meeting.

If "Salient and Newsworthy Events" interests you, contact Ann Brice at: [annbrice@bricecohey.com](mailto:annbrice@bricecohey.com)

**More info online at:** <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net>  
**Suggestions for the web are welcomed.** Please contact Barb Fischer at: [jabs2media@gmail.com](mailto:jabs2media@gmail.com) or [fischerba@live.com](mailto:fischerba@live.com)

Barbara Fischer,  
Web Manager for AAUW La Crosse  
Web Designer for Art Fair on the Green

## A New Harassment Problem

"Take off your mask," the diner instructed the waitress while she took his order one afternoon. "I want to see your beautiful smile." "If I do it, it makes me seem like I have no respect for myself," she thought, weighing her options. "But if I don't, he's going to leave me a bad tip."  
40 percent of respondents to a One Fair Wage study said that harassment- always an issue in an industry in which low-wage workers rely on tips had gotten worse during the pandemic. The mask, meant to protect essential hourly workers, had instead become a doorway to harassment. It is one group of people announcing, in the starkest possible terms, that their viewing pleasure is more important than another group's personal safety.

I can not remove my mask.  
I can not lose my job.

**Thank you**  
for understanding.

The cards, mentioned above, were created by Barb Fischer as a response to the SANE discussion about this. A solution we came up with was to create a simple straight forward statement that could be given out to people. This allows the waitress to not worry about what she might say or in what tone she says it. Hopefully it keeps them from losing their much needed tips. Please print these and give them to waitstaff that you know or tell them about our website where they can print them for themselves. Find them at: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/sane/>.

Source: [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

## FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

### Financial Report as of February 22, 2021

Checking Account..... \$9,466.96

CDs .....none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$321.00

## AAUW National Dues Increase



This is a notice to let you know that AAUW National is raising dues for the coming year and for two consecutive years thereafter. The following is an excerpt

from an email written by Julia T. Brown, AAUW Board Chair at the end of October.

“At its October 16, 2020 meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively.

All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.”

State and local dues will remain the same at \$13 and \$8. More information about dues renewal and the renewal form will be found in the April Current.

## AAUW Art Fair on the Green

by Carol Robertson, Chair



As in everything else over the last year, we have had to be creative in how we do things and Art Fair is no different. The following plans are contingent on County recommendations but as of now, we will plan to hold a one day only Art Fair on the Green on Saturday, July 24, 10:00 am-4:00pm.

It will be held at Myrick Park due to the fact that UW-L is not hosting outsider events (currently they are not).

There will be no admission charge as we just want to allow the artists to exhibit and, hopefully, make some money as they have suffered over the past year due to all the cancellations. By not having admission tents, people will not bunch up as they enter and volunteers will not be subjected to sitting and taking money from attendees. Most likely we will have donation jars for those who want to contribute.

Details are being worked on and the art fair committee will be meeting virtually to finalize our ideas. We still plan on having some food booths/trucks that day. We can spread out the booths and allow people to wander the grounds. The expense will be less under this format, also.

All of this depends on whether we get the go ahead to hold outside events. I have been in touch with LaCrosse Parks and Recs and they are willing to work with us. We will keep you posted as the planning continues.

## #ChooseToChallenge



The theme for the 2021 International Women's Day is **#ChooseToChallenge**: We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality.

We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world. From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge.

Community members are encouraged to raise their hands high to show they're in and that they commit to choose to challenge and call out inequality. Community members also are encouraged to take a selfie with their hand raised and send it to Miranda Panzer at mpanzer@uwlax.edu. We'll be posting selfies on the International Women's Day social media.

## Suits For Success: Clean Out Your Closet



Every year, Western Technical College's business management students help organize and create Suits for Success, a one-day free shopping experience held on campus. The event is open to the community, offering individuals a chance to pick out professional clothing at no cost.

Students in the class are collaborating with area organizations to collect gently-used professional clothing for women or men. Donations are being accepted ahead of time at Altra Federal Credit Union, Associated Bank and Firefighters Credit Union in La Crosse and Onalaska.

Students will also be collecting clothing in a drive-through format on Friday, March 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Parking Lot C on Western's main campus, 400 7th St. N., La Crosse.



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 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)