

APRIL MEETING

When: Saturday, April 10, 10 am
Where: The comfort of your home!

Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers

It's once again time to elect board officers for the coming year. As we did in 2020, you will be asked to vote yes or no for the slate of candidates when you respond to the email or phone call regarding whether you plan to attend the Zoom branch meeting on April 10. New officers will be sworn in at the April 10 meeting and will actually assume office at the beginning of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, July 1. If an office is not listed below it signifies that the incumbent has more time to serve on her term and will remain in office next year.

Slate of Candidates

Vice President-President Elect:
Andrea Hansen, 1 year

Vice President Elect-Membership:
Barb Fischer, 1 year

Vice President-Programs:
Karen Lange, 2 years
(replacing Cristina Kovacs, whose term is ending)

Secretary:
Jo Anne Revels, 2 years

Thank you to the candidates for agreeing to serve and to the outgoing officers for their work on the board.

Anyone who has questions regarding the election process may contact one of the Nomination Committee members: Michele Strange, Jan Eriksen, or Ann Brice.



April is
Sexual Assault
Awareness
Month



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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APRIL 2021



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Looking Forward

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Hello members! I hope this message finds you in excellent health and good spirits. I hope many of you were able to get at least your first COVID vaccine. I am looking forward to the time when we can all be together in person. It looks like we will have that opportunity in July at the one-day Art Fair at UWL. Though we'll still be wearing masks for the foreseeable future, at least we will be able to get closer than we do on Zoom!

I have been lucky these past few months to be able to work with AAUW members from across the state while we get ready for the virtual State Convention April 23 and 24th. It's encouraging to see so many women committed to bringing us together despite COVID restrictions. As of this writing, we have 68 members signed up, so I hope to see all our branch members' names on the list soon!

Our March program speakers were a huge hit. Cheri Niedzwiecki spoke to us about writing your family story and then Megan Preston talked to us about the importance

of estate planning for financial peace of mind. Megan's tips for planning are on page 5 of this newsletter. Both presentations were recorded. If you'd like me to share the recording with you, please email me and I will give you access via Dropbox.



During our April 10th Annual Branch meeting, we'll install our new board candidates, and we'll also congratulate our

Name Grant nominee. I hope you'll join us via Zoom that morning.

In the meantime, please stay healthy and remember to vote on April 6th.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Monday, April 5th
6:00 p.m

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

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

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

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

Vote for Barb

Barbara Fischer is the nominee for the 2021/22 board position of VP Membership elect. A fairly new member who joined in July of 2019, she volunteered her technical skills early on to work on the AAUW and Art Fair websites and is a member of the SANE Committee. Now she has agreed to learn the duties of Membership VP. She will take on the position the following year with the present VP probably not willing completely to let go.

She is running unopposed. I endorse her and am grateful.

Marilyn Hempstead, Membership VP

(who has held the position since trading places with Carol Robertson so she could become president in 2012)

2021 AAUW WI State Convention

By Jan Eriksen

The website for the AAUW Wisconsin 2021 Convention, constructed by Ann Brice, is <https://aauwstateconvention.com/>.

There you can see the full conference schedule, register for the conference, bid on auction items, purchase commemorative AAUW-WI suffrage lapel pins (designed by Erica Koonmen and her daughter Tegan Jerde-Koonmen), and download the convention program booklet.

The convention will take place over Zoom **April 23 and 24**, Friday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m.- 3:15 p.m. The virtual auction opens Thursday, April 22 at 8:00 a.m. and runs through 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27. The auction will raise funds for AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund. The fund's use ranges from developing and reporting on research that follows the gender pay gap to pivoting to respond to up-to-the-minute developments like the #METOO movement.

Although there is no cost to attend the convention, registration is still required. Members may register for just one session, all conference sessions, or any number in between.

If you would like assistance using Zoom, the website indicates how to get help. And please be sure to look at the convention program booklet, which Ann emailed to La Crosse branch members on March 19 and is also available as a link at the bottom of the first page of the website. Not only is it full of useful information about AAUW Wisconsin and the convention, but it also contains brief biographies and photos of Wisconsin women leaders of the 1920s. The stories about women activists of 100 years ago and the presentations from outstanding women of today underline the convention's theme: "Reflect on the Past; Prepare for the Future."



SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE (SGC)

by Robert Richardson & Sharon DeCicco
Co-Chairs

AAUW 2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Scholarships and Grants Committee selected ten agencies to receive \$1000 grants through our AAUW-La Crosse funds managed by the La Crosse Community Foundation. Each of these agencies has demonstrated intention to "break barriers"!

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

Student Council for Exceptional Children: Kosovo Project

Western Technical College:
Pathways Scholarships

Western Technical College:
Student Assistance Program

Western Technical College:
Transition Scholarships

YWCA La Crosse:
Restorative Justice Circles.



If you know of an agency that could benefit from an AAUW 2022 Grant, please share your nomination with any Scholarships and Grants Committee member.

30 Reasons to Celebrate in April

April 1: April Fools' Day, Jump in Muddy Puddles Day

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day, National PB&J Day

April 3: National Find a Rainbow Day, World Party Day

April 4: International Carrot Cake Day

April 5: National Deep Dish Pizza Day, Read a Road Map Day

April 6: National Library Day; Caramel Popcorn Day



April 7: ASPCA Day, World Health Day

April 8: Draw a Picture of a Bird Day, Zoo Lovers Day

April 9: National Cherish An Antique Day, Gin & Tonic Day

April 10: National Hug Your Dog Day, National Siblings Day

April 11: Global Day to End Child Sexual Abuse, National Submarine Day

April 12: D.E.A.R. Day(Drop Everything And Read), Licorice Day

April 13: National Scrabble Day, International Plant Appreciation Day

April 14: International Moment of Laughter Day, School Librarians' Day

April 15: National Day Without Shoes, World Art Day

April 16: National Stress Awareness Day, Save the Elephant Day

April 17: Nothing Like A Dame Day, National Haiku Poetry Day

April 18: National Velociraptor Awareness Day, Pinata Day



April 19: Bicycle Day, National Hanging Out Day

April 20: Volunteer Recognition Day, Lima Bean Respect Day

April 21: Chocolate-covered Cashews Day, Administrative Professionals Day



April 22: Earth Day, National Jelly Bean Day, Girl Scout Leader Day

April 23: National Picnic Day, Talk Like Shakespeare Day

April 24: World Laboratory Day, World Tai Chi & Qigong Day

April 25: National Hug a Plumber Day, World Penguin Day

April 26: National Pretzel Day, Hug An Australian Day

April 27: Morse Code Day, National Tell a Story Day

April 28: National Kiss Your Mate Day, Pay It Forward Day

April 29: International Dance Day, Poem in Your Pocket Day

April 30: National Arbor Day,
National Oatmeal Cookie Day



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 Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Thank you to all who attended the Virtual **International Women's Day** event on March 8th. We had 110 participants, several from different areas of the US. The 4 speakers were from Uruguay, Kenya, Switzerland and India. If you did attend, you'll be receiving a 2 question survey email from UWL; we appreciate the feedback we get from it so please take a minute and fill it out. While we were really pleased with the turnout and how the program flowed, we hope that next year we'll be back in person.

A new project we're looking at is to record places in our area that "Women made history" for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Saving Places initiative. We're starting by identifying physical locations in La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, Trempealeau and Jackson counties that were places where women impacted history. Eventually, we plan to write the stories and submit those with pictures to the National Trust's website. If you know of any places, please let one of our members know. If you'd like to be involved with the project, you are welcome!

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

Since President Biden took office, I have been watching with interest the changes he and his administration have been making to benefit women. On March 8th, International Women's Day, President Biden released a statement reiterating his administration's "commitment to honoring women by investing in their opportunity, security, and wellbeing." He acknowledges the devastating effects of the coronavirus on the economic gains women have had over the last several decades, and recognizes the dramatic rise in violence against women in their homes and communities.

A record number of women have been appointed to President Biden's Cabinet. They include Dr. Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury; Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior; Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce; Marcia Fudge, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy; Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence; Katherine Tai, US Trade Representative; Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US Ambassador to the UN; Dr. Cecilia Rouse, Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; and Isabel Guzman, Administrator of the Small Business Association.

President Biden's statements about women's equality and his Cabinet appointments make me hopeful for our country. However, last week I met with a college student to talk about his final programming project for the semester. The students have to base their projects on one of the UN's Global Goals. This young man decided he wanted to address inequities. During our Zoom discussion, he said, "But isn't it true that women don't make as much as men because they don't want to work as hard?" It took me a full minute to be able to respond. He was sincere in his question and I know he did not mean it maliciously. I was shocked and saddened that this 18-year old knows so little about life so far. I realized I must continue to educate students and others, and I am pleased to be part of a group like AAUW that has the same goal.

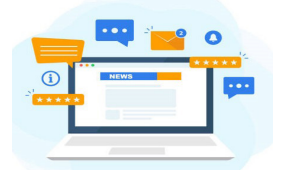


<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/08/statement-by-president-biden-on-international-womens-day/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/cabinet/>

On The Web

by Barb Fischer, Branch Web Manager & Art Fair on the Green Web Designer



Please visit Art Fair on the Green at: <https://artfaironthegreen.org>. The site has lots of wonderful art pieces to look at.

New on our branch site are previous Public Policy articles and their useful links all in one place. Although it only goes back one year for now, the plan is to add more versions soon.

The Public Policy articles can be found on the main page under "Great Articles" or go to: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/2021/03/04/public-policy/>

Also, the Women's History Entries are a great read and will remain on the site in a new location. If you have not read them, check them out on the main page under "Great Articles" or go to: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/2021/03/01/whm/>

To visit the branch site go to: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net>. If you have ideas, suggestions or comments, please contact Barb Fischer at: jabs2media@gmail.com or fischerba@live.com.

Art Fair on the Green Update

by Carol Robertson, Chair



The Art Fair on the Green will look a little different in 2021! It will be a one day event on Saturday, July 24, 2021, from 10:00 - 4:00 at Myrick Park.

There will be no admission fee and the artists will be able to spread out along the parkway and in the open spaces.

Food will still be available.

We are receiving artists' registrations and we will conduct a Jury Day for new artists, although the new artists from 2020 will be noted this year as new artists since we had to cancel last year.

We will still need volunteers but how that looks, we will have to keep you posted. Help spread the word to your friends that the Art Fair is on and come out and support the artists!

Remember to keep checking the website <https://artfaironthegreen.org> as well as <https://www.facebook.com/AauwArtFairOnTheGreen> for information!

FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of March 20, 2021

Checking Account..... \$9,474.96

CDs none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$321.00

AAUW National Dues Increase

It's time for AAUW membership renewals again! As in the past few years, you have a choice of renewing directly online with a credit/debit card through AAUW National's database or sending me a check. The total dues this year is \$83.

For those who want to renew online, I will need to send you an email directly from AAUW National. Just email me a request and I will send you the form. You will be renewing for national, state and local. Your state and local dues will be paid automatically into the Wisconsin and La Crosse branch bank accounts. I will receive a notice from national when your renewal is processed.

For those who want to renew with a check, there is an email attachment with the 2021/22 renewal form included with this month's Current. This includes all the information you need to renew. Please mail the form and your check to me. If anyone has questions about this process, please contact me at mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu or 608-781-6962.

Planning For The Future

by Megan Preston, Program Co-VP

Raise your hand if you...

- Have a Will
- Know what your Will says and have things the way you want it
- Know where your Will is, and for those of you who have a POA and/or a trust, know where those documents are
- Know who your executor/POA/successor trustee is
- Your executor/POA/successor trustee know that they are going to serve in those roles

Congratulations to those who still have a hand up. Now it's going to get a little bit harder.



Keep your hand up if...

- Your executor/POA/successor trustee knows where to find your original estate planning documents
- For those who have those documents locked in a safe, file cabinet, or a safety deposit box, your executor/POA/successor trustee has a key/passcode/etc. to access those documents
- For those who have a preference for their funeral arrangements or end of life celebration arrangements, your executor knows what those preferences are.
- For those who have a medical POA, your POA knows your medical history, current medications, allergies, and any other pertinent medical info on you.

For anyone who still has a hand up, congratulations! You have done a lot to make sure your wishes are met and have alleviated so much future stress from your loved ones.

5 Steps to better peace of mind:

Step one: check your beneficiaries on bank accounts, investment accounts, retirement accounts, life insurance, and any other assets that have beneficiaries. If you need to make any changes, it's usually very simple.

Step two: know what your estate planning documents say and where you keep the originals. If you need to make changes to your documents, contact an estate attorney ASAP.

Step three: tell your executor/power of attorney/successor trustee where you keep your original estate planning documents and give them a key or passcode if you have them locked up somewhere.

Step four: write stuff down! This helps direct your loved ones on what you wanted after you passed away. This can be information on your kids or pets, what you want at your funeral, who should receive the family heirloom, etc. Those you leave behind make a lot of decisions after you pass, but you can help them by writing things down now.

Step five: communicate your current situation and wishes. Tell your executor what your estate plan is and any final wishes you have. Tell them about your financial situation so they aren't surprised by bills or forget about a bank account. Tell your medical power of attorney your medical history, allergies, and current medications. If there's something that your trusted people should know, tell them now! You're not helping them or yourself by not sharing this vital information.



American Association of University Women

La Crosse Branch

P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112



THE CURRENT

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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 (moogs56@hotmail.com)

Webminder Barb 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