

## OCTOBER MEETING

### La Crosse Native Plants

**When:**  
Saturday, Oct 9  
10am

**Presenter:**  
Betty Kruck



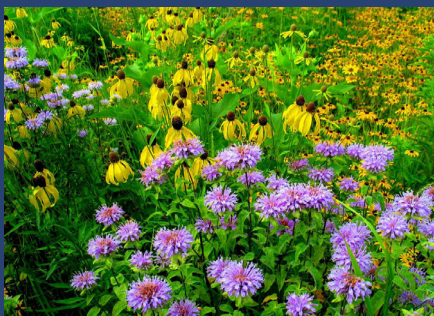
**Where:**  
Comfort of your home

Native bees, butterflies, dragonflies and a multitude of other insects, birds and wildlife are not only fascinating to watch, but are important to life on this planet. Many of our pollinators depend on native plants at one stage of their life cycle.

The native plant gardens at Myrick Center provide a habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Betty Kruck has been a coordinator and volunteer at Myrick Center Native Gardens since it began as Master Gardener project about eight years ago at what was at that time the EcoPark.

Betty will explain the project, its purpose, and the importance of native plants for a healthy ecosystem.

Join us for this informative and interesting Zoom presentation.



# AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2021

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### Happy October!

by Ann Brice, AAUW—La Crosse Branch President



I was so pleased to see so many of you at our September 8th Zoom social! I know it is getting tiring not being able to be together but hopefully, if we all continue to play it safe, we'll soon be able to be back together in person. We have some wonderful programs coming up this year, beginning with Betty Kruck speaking to us about native plants on October 9th. Last spring I ordered nine varieties of peonies from Oh My Peonies in Marion, WI. I eagerly planted them when they arrived two weeks ago. The raccoons have dug them up four times, and I'm exasperated. I'm eager to hear Betty's talk because I think it's time to replace our entire yard with native plants.

Please invite your friends to our AAUW meetings! Even if they think they might not be ready to join us yet, they might be interested in a particular program. They'll get to know us during the meeting and hear about all the wonderful things we do. A few days ago I met with Chris Ebert, our state communications chair, at the Panera in Stevens Point. Chris

told me that she has invited four different acquaintances to AAUW meetings, and all four have joined! So let's each try to invite someone to a meeting this year.

Speaking of the state board, if you are interested in serving, this is the time to let us know! The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to develop a list of members who would like to serve in a state board position. It's a great way to meet AAUW members from across the state! Contact Erica Koonmen if you are interested in throwing your hat in for a position.

Wishing you perfect health! Ann



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

### Virtual Meeting

**Monday, October 4, 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.

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

### NEW MEMBERS

Both joined online taking advantage of the short time offer of ½ price National dues for new members.



#### Pat Markos

2144 Cliffview Terrace

La Crosse, WI 54601

608 780 8623

UW Madison PhD Behavioral Disabilities

pmarkos@uwlax.edu

Pat M. is a former member rejoining. Glad to have you back with us, Pat!

#### Pat Turner

403 6th Ave N.

Onalaska, WI 54560

608 783 3882

Union Institute & U Cincinnati PhD Ed Media

pturner@eagle.uwlax.edu

We welcome Pat T. who is a retired UW-L associate professor. We look forward to your participation!

### NEW ADDRESS



**Megan Preston** became a first-time homeowner this summer. Her new address is:  
1626 Onalaska Ave, La Crosse, WI 54603.

Much enjoyment in your home, Megan!

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our Webminder and VP Membership Elect **Barbara Fischer** is the 2021 recipient of the Support of Education Award from the Graphic Communications Education Association. Having taught Graphic Design for 27 years at Western Technical College, she now contributes her professional expertise to our branch for which we are grateful.

Proud of you, Barb!



**Kristen Foehner** graduated in May from UW-Madison with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and a specialty in psychiatric mental health. Currently while going through the lengthy certification process, she is working with students at Viterbo. Kristen previously served our branch as Treasurer and Program Chair. Congratulations, Kristen, on this tremendous accomplishment! We know how diligently you have worked.

## BRANCH DIRECTORY

By Robert Richardson

If you have not received your directory, please let me know.



If you notice any corrections that I need to make in the Directory, please let me know. Publishing the Directory is always a work in progress.

## EMAIL RSVP

By Robert Richardson

Prior to ZOOM meetings, I send an invitation to each member. The invitation includes the link to the meeting.

I would appreciate a timely reply to indicate your plans regarding attendance.

## Applications Open for 2022-23 Fellows and Grantees

AAUW National announces that the application period for AAUW Fellowships and Grants is open for the 2022-2023 academic year. Follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars and trailblazers by applying for educational funding through AAUW. Deadlines run from November to December 2021.



Help spread the word!

Click [HERE](#) for details.

## BARRIERS and BIAS

### The Status of Women in Leadership

by Marilyn Hempstead



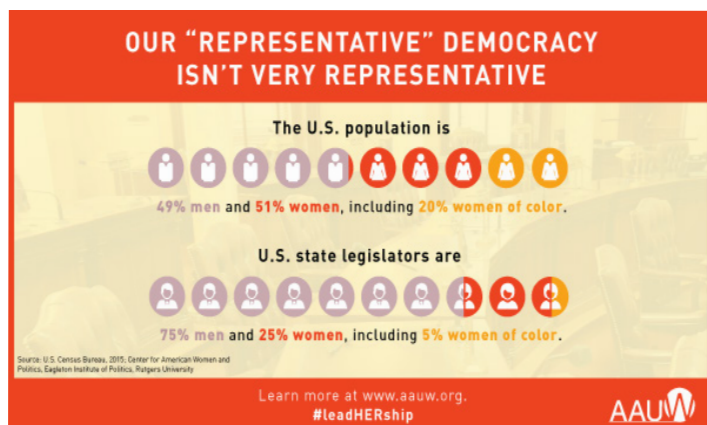
In 2016, AAUW published a book examining the gender gap in leadership. Its description of the situation and strategies for narrowing the gap are still relevant.

**Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership** examines the causes of women's underrepresentation in leadership roles in business, politics, and education and suggests what we can do to change the status quo.

There is no shortage of qualified women to fill leadership roles: Women make up almost half of the U.S. labor force. They outnumber men in earning bachelor's and master's degrees and are nearly on par in getting medical and legal degrees. Yet from corporate boardrooms to Congress, from health-care companies to the courts, from non-profit organizations to universities, men are far more likely than women to rise to the highest paying and most prestigious leadership roles.

Despite decades of investment in women's leadership programs, progress in advancing women has stalled. AAUW is committed to closing the gender leadership gap once and for all.

***Our branch has several copies to distribute at no cost. Contact me at [marizah@yahoo.com](mailto:marizah@yahoo.com) if you would like to have or give one to a school or library.***



## Study Group News

**AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)**  
See this page for meeting info  
Contact: Erica Koonmen, [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:annbrice@bricecohey.com)

## AAUW IN ACTION

*AAUW in Action is a study group that serves as a spring-board 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, Oct 12. Agenda will be sent out on Mon, Oct 11 with responses appreciated by Wed, Oct 13.**

How can we increase the visibility of AAUW La Crosse in our community? One idea is a regular column in the La Crosse Tribune with public policy, scholarship & grants and meeting information...kind of like a newsletter for the public. We'd ask for members to submit ideas and/or written columns.

Any volunteers? Thoughts?

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

## AAUW WI Board Positions Open

by Erica Koonmen, State Nominations Chair

The State Nominating Committee is beginning the search for 3 elected positions on the State Board for 2022-2024:

Vice President of Finance  
Vice President of Programs  
Vice President of Fund Development



You can read job descriptions in the latest issue of Badger Briefs ([here](#)) on page 13. If someone comes to mind who you feel would be a great fit for one of them, please send me their contact information, the reason they have impressed you and in which position you see them excelling. If you are interested in a position, please let me know! [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com) or 608-366-1509.



## Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

This past weekend, my husband and I drove to Stillwater so I could run a trail race in O'Brien State Park. Neither of us had ever been in that part of Minnesota, and we were amazed by the beauty of the water and the bluffs. We were also amazed by the variety of political signs we saw on our way up north. There were signs pledging allegiance to a former leader, signs vowing that our current leader was NOT their leader and the occasional sign that said "Feel the Bern." The signs that appeared most frequently, however, were those that called to end gerrymandering.

Working for fair maps has been one of AAUW Wisconsin's priorities for quite some time. Even if we manage to stop "cracking" and "packing" our districts, who is still willing to run for office? As of this month, 22 members of Congress have announced they are not seeking reelection. In our own community, Congressman Ron Kind has decided not to seek reelection. And in a study of 700 law students, a professor at Rutgers found that millennials don't want to run for office. Reasons include aversions to raising money, dealing with corruption, and being attacked by the media. Despite the negativity attached to political office, it is essential that we find ethical, quality candidates to run.



If you don't think you are qualified to run for office, think again! There are resources to help you cultivate your skills. Some organizations are affiliated with a particular party, and you can find more information about them by searching the internet. However, She Should Run is a non-profit non-partisan organization that works to increase the number of women in office, and they can get you started on your journey. She Should Run's motto is "If you care, you're qualified!" If you really think public office is not for you, think about encouraging the girls in your life to run for office. She Should Run has a toolkit for that, too!

[https://ballotpedia.org/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_Congress\\_incumbents\\_who\\_are\\_not\\_running\\_for\\_re-election\\_in\\_2022](https://ballotpedia.org/List_of_U.S._Congress_incumbents_who_are_not_running_for_re-election_in_2022)

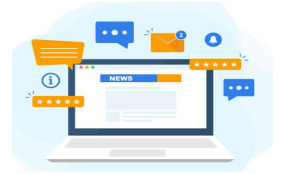
<https://www.sheshouldrun.org/help-her-lead/>

<https://sheshouldrun.org/starter-kit/26-common-barriers-to-running-for-office/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/01/millennials-running-for-office-shauna-shames/514493/>

## On The Web

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



On the Art Fair on The Green virtual site, artists' work and contact information is available to you for any shopping needs. Please do not forget to visit the Art Fair at: <https://artfaironthegreen.org>

On the La Crosse AAUW site, [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org), please check the section "Links to Great Articles". Under number 11 you will find great videos and webinars. Below are a few samples.

Videos such as "Social Justice Through Entrepreneurship" and "Understanding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" can also be found at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/Webinars/?emci>

Some valuable Webinars and their links are listed below along with their direct links.

— "Social Justice Through Entrepreneurship"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2P0kPnxvs4&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK\\_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2P0kPnxvs4&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2)

— "Equitable Recovery: Transforming Business Beyond COVID-19"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRCiff2wEsk&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK\\_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRCiff2wEsk&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2)

— "Creating Inclusive Perspectives"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWA4rTjAphg&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK\\_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWA4rTjAphg&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2)

— "In Conversation with Dr. Koritha Mitchell: From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemade Citizenship in African American Culture"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6SiN49jXzw&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK\\_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6SiN49jXzw&list=PLT-L0yfGgwGXMyK_sroxekKh4StRXtW3aN&index=2)



## Help Fight for Paid Leave

It's long past time for the United States to catch up with other developed countries and provide meaningful paid leave and childcare to workers. This is why AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that paid leave and other child care supports are included in the budget reconciliation process.

*Where we are now:* The Senate and House both voted in August 2021 to advance a budget resolution that includes paid leave and child care in the framework. The Build Back Better Act—the budget resolution in its legislative stage—now advances through committee markups. In a significant victory, on September 9 the House Ways and Means Committee approved a universal paid family and medical leave plan.

Take action now by clicking [HERE](#).

## FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of  
September 22, 2021

Checking Account..... \$ 8,442.32

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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Apply for Election to  
AAUW Board

Between now and October 29, AAUW is accepting applications for election to its Board of Directors. Board members share our passion for advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Key Dates:

Friday, October 29, 2021:

Deadline to submit applications for elected board positions

Monday, February 21, 2022:

Candidates are notified if they will stand for election

April – May 2022:

Member voting period

Wednesday, May 18, 2022:

Candidates standing for election are notified of voting results

Learn more [HERE](#) and apply today.

## HERstory

## A Monthly Video Chat Sponsored by the Military Women's Memorial

## About the Military Women's Memorial

They are the leading memorial and education center honoring women's contributions to the service of our nation. As the only historical repository documenting all military women's service, they educate and inspire through innovative and interactive exhibitions, world-class collections, and engaging programs and events for all generations. They honor the commitment, contributions and experiences of every woman who serves in, or with, the Armed Forces.

## About HERstory

Staying true to their mission, HERstory programming explores the lived experiences of women veterans throughout American history.

## August 2021:

## Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, USAF (Ret.)

Military Women's Memorial (MWM) President Phyllis Wilson sits down with Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, USAF (Ret.) in this recorded video. Not only did Helms serve in the U.S. Air Force, but she was also a NASA astronaut. She has been to space five times for a total of 211 days. She graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1980 and became a weapons separation engineer and test pilot before joining NASA. While with NASA, she flew aboard the Space Shuttles Endeavor, Discovery, Columbia, and Atlantis, and served aboard the International Space Station. She and Army COL James Voss hold the world record for the longest spacewalk at 8 hours and 56 minutes. She returned to the Air Force in 2002. Helms also served as the 45th Space Wing Commander and was responsible for processing and launching government and commercial satellites. She retired from the Air Force in 2014. Watch the chat [HERE](#).



For links to all the interviews on the MWM Youtube channel, go to : <https://womensmemorial.org/index.php/herstory/>

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## Conference on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Join us from the comfort of your home or office for the 2021 Toward One Wisconsin Conference, held **virtually October 12-13, 2021** with the theme **Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges**. Wherever you are on your Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) journey, there's something for you at Toward One Wisconsin.

Whether you're just starting out and overwhelmed, or you're a leading activist in your community, this conference will provide best practices, insights and implementation tools to help you take the next steps. Across all sectors of business and life in Wisconsin, parallel efforts are underway to prioritize DEI. We may be in different places based on the diversity of our experiences, but we're all traveling the same journey: Toward One Wisconsin. Please mark your calendar and join us virtually to continue to exchange ideas, dialogue, reflect, connect, and take action!



There will be four conference tracks where attendees will discover collaborative and innovative approaches, best practices, cutting edge research, and/or success stories that addresses job entry, creating united communities that welcome all residents, embracing a healthy climate for youth in our schools and neighborhoods, and promoting health equity initiatives across Wisconsin.

For complete details, schedule and to register, click [HERE](#).



LA CROSSE (WI)

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)  
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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)