

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Virtual Social

**When:**  
Wednesday, Sept 8  
5pm-6:30pm

**Where:**  
Comfort of your home

Join us as we welcome back all AAUW members for a new season of meeting new friends, catching up with old friends, and learning something new. While this will be virtual, we hope that soon we will be able to be in person once again.



If you would like assistance with Zoom, Ann Brice will be happy to help you. Please email her at [bricea@westerntc.edu](mailto:bricea@westerntc.edu) or call 608-780-5026 if you would like her 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>.



### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

## Welcome to AAUW 2021-2022

*by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President*

Hello Everyone! I want to welcome you as we kick off another wonderful year of AAUW activities and camaraderie. I hope you had a safe, healthy summer.

As many of you know, we had a successful one-day Art Fair on the Green at Myrick Park. I was lucky enough to be able to spend the day working with so many of our wonderful members and our scholarship recipients. It was hot but we had a great turn out. Thank you to Carol Robertson and her committee and to Barb Fischer for putting together the virtual Art Fair.

I know we're all disappointed but we are going to keep our meetings as virtual Zoom meetings through December. At that point we will re-evaluate if we can gather in person. I hope you'll join us virtually this fall because our Program Chairs

Megan Preston and Karen Lange have wonderful speakers lined up for us.



In the meantime, I wish you excellent health. We don't know yet if we'll be able to meet again in person this spring, so please stay tuned as we learn more.

Even if we can meet in person, we'll continue to offer you the option to attend via Zoom.

Thank you again for your patience with me this year as I had the honor of being your branch president.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Sept 7, 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



### BEST WISHES

Betty Kruck underwent knee replacement surgery in early August. We wish her a fast recovery and look forward to seeing her with a new spring in her step.

### PAST PRESIDENTS

As Robert Richardson was editing this year's directory, he accomplished the inclusion of the first names of ALL the early AAUW presidents. Before 1978 branch communications used the title of Mrs. and the husband's name for members. It has taken several years of research, but the early identities have now been restored.

### TOGETHER AGAIN

We look forward to seeing you in this new program year, even via zoom. And keep an eye out for potential new members!

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## 2021-2022 AAUW La Crosse Board

### Elected Officers

President: Ann Brice  
 President-elect: Andrea Hansen  
 Secretary: Jo Anne Revels  
 Financial VP Chair: Michele Strange  
 Membership VP: Marilyn Hempstead  
 Membership VP elect: Barb Fischer  
 Program VP Co-Chairs: Megan Preston & Karen Lange

### Appointed Board

Art Fair: Carol Robertson  
 Historian: Marilyn Hempstead  
 By Laws: Carol Robertson  
 Publicity : Open  
 Public Policy: Ann Brice  
 Name Grants: Jan Eriksen  
 Fundraising: Open  
 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



## BRANCH DIRECTORY

By Robert Richardson

By 09/01/21, I will mail our Directories to members. If you do not receive your directory by 09/07, 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.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE

By Robert Richardson

The SGC will meet via ZOOM at 9am before the October branch meeting. Please mark your calendars. SGC plans for another great year.

We thank the many long-term committee members, and we enthusiastically welcome new members. Please let us know if you want more information about our work or if you want to join the committee.

Sharon De Cicco and Robert Richardson,  
 SGC Co-Chairs

## Fair Maps Focus

by Stephanie Malaney, AAUW WI Public Policy Chair

Your AAUW WI Public Policy Committee continues to focus on Fair Maps. There are many opportunities to participate across the state, some offered by our branches. Fair Maps is a coalition of various groups. Please remember that Fair Maps effort is nonpartisan.



Our AAUW WI Google Folder has many documents that may be helpful we have added some new pieces of information. <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1z7Kla53e9Lwwqc0fYHEubjhpudbhqort>

Fair Maps Website: <https://www.fairmapswi.com/>  
Use the tabs to find Planned Events and Take Action.

Planned Events: <https://www.fairmapswi.com/events>

Take Action: <https://www.fairmapswi.com/take-action-1>

**An important event that you want to participate in is the Legislative Lobby Day: Monday, September 27, 2021; 9am-5pm at the Madison Capitol.**

<https://www.fairmapswi.com/events/legislative-lobby-day>

### Virtually:

Pre Lobby Day Training #1 Friday, September 10, 2021 3-4 PM  
Pre Lobby Day Training #2 Thursday, September 16, 2021 7-8 PM  
Pre Lobby Day Training #3 Monday, September 22, 2021 7-8 PM

**Several events are being held by AAUW branches across the state:**

Fair Maps at the Iowa County Fair Friday, September 3- Sunday, September 5, 2021 Mineral Point

AAUW Geneva Lakes Branch Fair Maps Information Session Thursday, September 9, 2021 6:30-7:30

Fair Maps Information Event with the Northwoods Public Education Coalition Wednesday, September 15, 2021 6:3--7:30

Monona Madison AAUW Fair Maps Information Session Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7-8

Redistricting Reform with Green Lake Democrats Saturday, October 9, 2021 10-11 AM

"And while I'm free,  
To put on a light dress  
Have a cappuccino at the bar  
To read a book.  
To write a post on facebook.  
While I am free to oppose, to believe, to  
decide, to shout, to live.  
While I plan, project, dream.  
I think about how lucky I am to live in this part  
of the world.  
And I think, today of the women of Kabul."

Laura Aduanas



## 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 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

**Next meeting: Email meeting on Tues, Sept 21. Agenda will be sent out on Mon, Sept 20 with responses appreciated by Wed, Sept 22.**

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:

- 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!

## 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 or 608-366-1509.

## Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

As I'm writing this article, it is only three weeks until the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. The 2996 people killed that day included people from 78 countries as well as the 19 terrorist hijackers aboard the four airplanes. The United States launched Operation Enduring Freedom as a response to the terrorist attacks, an operation which would define George W. Bush's presidency.

Today, almost 20 years later, the United States is attempting to pull all troops out of Afghanistan. Though President Obama announced on December 28, 2014 that "our combat mission in Afghanistan is ending and the longest war in American history is coming to a responsible conclusion" missile and bomb strikes continued. Now that American troops are finally departing and the Taliban took control of Kabul, thousands of people are attempting to flee Afghanistan.



The United Nations warns of a humanitarian crisis, especially for women and girls who must remain under Taliban rule. How can we as AAUW members help? According to NPR, approximately 22,000 Afghans will be coming to three locations in the

United States. Fort McCoy is one of those locations. If you are near Fort McCoy and would like to help, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is asking for volunteers. Refugees will need help with meals, airport pickups, tutoring, and mentoring. You can also donate to Women for Afghan Women, the International Refugee Assistance Project, and the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee.

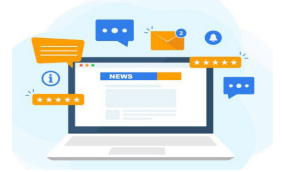
Finally, you can email the White House using this link to encourage President Biden to take actions that will protect Afghan refugees. <https://act.rescue.org/yRqHe9p>

### Sources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/9-11-attacks>  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/08/17/afghanistan-troop-withdrawal-war-on-terror/>  
<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/17/1028483700/help-afghanistan-refugees>  
<https://www.wpr.org/afghan-refugees-begin-arriving-fort-mccoy>

## On The Web

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



The Virtual 2021 Art Fair on the Green will give everyone a chance to view the artists works at least through the holidays. The site allows you to view by artist name, by booth number, by medium used, or by looking randomly using the "NEXT" links conveniently placed at the top of each page. Artists' contact information is available to you on the site. Help AAUW and the artists by sharing information about the site by suggesting it in an email, posting it on social media, or in any way you can. Please continue to visit the Art Fair on the Green site: <https://artfaironthegreen.org>

If you need to revisit a present or older version of the newsletter you can easily do so on the AAUW La Crosse site. Helpful information and useful links are also available. [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)

If you have suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Barb Fischer, at [jabs2media@gmail.com](mailto:jabs2media@gmail.com), visit [jabs2media.com](http://jabs2media.com) and leave a comment, or call 608-784-1949 (best to leave a message for me to return your call).

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

by Leslie Brunsell, AAUW WI DE&I Co-ordinator

As you read in the recent Badger Briefs, I have been appointed to the Board of Directors of AAUW-WI as the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator for the next two years. This is a newly created position to promote DE&I and connect with other coordinators across the country and share ideas on how they have been educating their membership. We are fortunate to have the DE&I Tool Kit created by our National AAUW to assist us in this endeavor. One of my goals is to find state-wide branch members who are interested in working on DE&I issues and making connections with like-minded groups in their communities. Before we attempt to enlighten others we need to become familiar with the concepts, educate ourselves and then our membership.

I would like to find a member from each branch willing to participate in a statewide DE&I committee and become familiar with the Tool Kit created by National. Are you one who is willing to accept this position and work with me in developing this concept? There would be no travel involved but you would need to have a computer or smart phone as I would like to connect through Zoom and emails.

If you are committed to diversity programming in your branch, please contact me by Sept 10th: Leslie Brunsell, 608 201-2100 or [lrbrunsell@aol.com](mailto:lrbrunsell@aol.com)

# FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

## Financial Report as of August 22, 2021

Checking Account..... \$ 8,403.32

CDs .....none at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00



## District 4 Zoom meeting

Suzanne Hagen, the new District 4 Coordinator, invites you to attend the District 4 Fall meeting:

Thursday, Sept 9th, 3:00pm-4:30pm

Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83533748836?pwd=a2kxQ1F0SEpybSs4K3I3al03RHpvZz09>

### Agenda:

- Welcome and brief introductions
- Branch Updates: (Please note a couple of your recent accomplishments and one of two challenges you're currently facing) Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, LaCrosse, River Falls, Tomah
- Recent Updates from State
- Collaboration Discussion: What may be some opportunities for collaboration among our district branches? What resources or processes are needed to effectively collaborate?
- Problems, Questions or Concerns to be addressed?
- Other Business
- Adjournment

# Art Fair Report

by Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair

63rd AAUW ART FAIR ON THE GREEN...  
JULY 24, 2021



We did it!

Our AAUW Art Fair on the Green was held successfully on July 24th and as usual it was hot!!

It took many people to make this event run smoothly and I thank all of you who helped in the planning and were there on the day of the Art Fair. From the Art Fair committee to all the volunteers who helped set up, put up signs, sold water (lots of it), handed out programs, sold raffle tickets, answered questions, bought lemonade, and supported the food vendors, I am grateful for all of you .

Even if you weren't able to volunteer, many of you were generous in your donations to the Scholarship Fund. You can still participate by contributing to the scholarship funds. Marilyn Hempstead and Jan Eriksen will gladly accept any further donations. The art fair is our main source of income to support the scholarships we give each year and because we made the decision not to charge admission this year, the proceeds will not be what they have been in previous years. The financials are not finalized but we will let you know when they are.

### Art Fair Committee:

- Artists - Erica Koonmen, Sharon De Cicco
- Awards/Scholarships – Marilyn Hempstead, Jan Eriksen
- Concessions – Betty Kruck, Francie Ball
- Grounds – Carol Robertson
- Program – Robert Richardson
- Publicity – Cindy Mishnick, Cheri Niedzwiecki
- Raffle – Karen Landstrom, Sarah Stuber
- Treasurer – Bev Bodine, Michele Strange
- Volunteers – Marla French
- Website – Barb Fischer

If you didn't make it to the Art Fair, check out the great virtual art fair on our website. Thanks, Barb!

Looking forward to 2022! Thanks to all.





LA CROSSE (WI)

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)  
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)