

APRIL MEETING

Introduction of Grant Recipients & Election of Officer

When:

Saturday, April 9th
10am

Where:

Comfort of your home

Help us welcome the new AAUW officers and congratulate our fantastic grant winners.

Voting for Next Year's Officers

The proposed Slate of Officers was printed in the March issue of The Current and also appears below. All are two-year terms. Karen Lange will be serving the second year of her term.

Voting will occur when you are asked to RSVP for the April meeting. The Email message or phone call you receive will request your vote. Even if you will not attend the April meeting we still hope that you will vote.

Officers will be installed at the April 9th Annual Meeting.

AAUW La Crosse Branch Slate of Officers 2022-2023

President: Andrea Hansen

Vice President/President-Elect: open

Vice President-Finance: Ann Brice

Vice President-Membership: Barb Fischer

Vice President-Programs:
Karen Lange and Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman

Secretary: Jo Anne Revels



LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Forward Thinking

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Greetings, AAUW Members! I am writing this on Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colors. It is also known as the Festival of Spring or the Festival of Love. Holi celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna and signifies the triumph of good over evil. I don't know how you are feeling, but I could use a harbinger of more kindness in this world.



Since February 24th, we've been watching with anxiety and sadness as Russia continues to bombard Ukraine. One positive thing that has come out of this attack is it has seemed to bring people together in their disapproval of Russia's actions and their support for Ukraine. According to an article in the New York Times on March 16th, Americans across the entire political spectrum are coming together in solidarity to help Ukraine, despite sanctions that are contributing to higher prices for gas and other commodities. Though people disagree on how extensively the U.S. should involve herself in the war in Ukraine, the outpouring of offers of shelter,

money, and necessities restores some of my hope. Being part of AAUW makes me proud because I can see how our own members have stepped up to help Ukraine.

I am also especially proud of the work our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity committee, chaired by June Reinert, is doing. Understanding others begins in our own communities and radiates from there.

Thank you to all of our wonderful members who model openness, acceptance, and forward thinking every day. If you want more information about the U.S. response

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Monday, April 4th, 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

Forward Thinking... *(continued from page 1)*

to the war in Ukraine, you can visit the State Department's website. In addition, I have also included the link to the New York Times article to which I refer.

I wish you peace as we move toward spring.

<https://www.state.gov/latest-ukraine-updates/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/16/us/politics/russia-ukraine-us.html>

AAUW State Convention Update

Convention Schedule

Friday, 4/22

6:15-6:45 PM District Meetings

7:00 – 9:00 PM Convention Opening

Welcome from State President Joan Schneider

Poem from Dasha Kelly Hamilton, Wisconsin Poet Laureate

Keynote Address—Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO –

"Breaking Barriers & AAUW 140 years & Moving Forward"

140th Anniversary Video

9:15 – 10:00 PM Hosted Hospitality Rooms

Saturday, 4/23

9:30 – 10:45 AM Business Meeting & Installation of Officers

11:00 AM – Noon Keynote Speaker – Renee Gralewicz

Noon – 12:25 Lunch Break

12:30 – 1:10 PM Breakout Session 1 (4 choices)

1:20 – 2:00 PM Breakout Session 2 (4 choices)

2:10 – 2:50 PM Breakout Session 3 (4 choices)

3:00 – 3:20 PM Closing Speaker – Dr. Susan McFadden

3:20 – 3:25 PM Final Message of the Day

Quick & Easy Registration Opens Soon!

Watch for an email sent directly to you!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS



Elsie Patterson has a new e-mail:

elsiepatterson4@gmail.com

Please make the change in your directory.

A long-time member, Elsie was the Art Fair chair for several years in the 1990s.



NCCWSL 2022

by Jan Eriksen

The La Crosse Branch will be sponsoring two students with multi-cultural backgrounds to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this year. The conference will be virtual May 24-26.

The students are Nyah Brooks and Supriya Daithankar. Nyah, nominated by Silvana Richardson, is a junior Nursing student at Viterbo University, with minors in Neuroscience and Sport Science. She is a peer mentor for underclassmen through the Viterbo Student Nurses Association as well as a peer tutor for a nursing class and a business writing class. She has worked part-time as a CNA since age 16. Nyah is a student-athlete on the Dance Team at Viterbo and an active volunteer with many community organizations. She has received several of our branch scholarships, attesting to her excellence as a scholar and a leader. In her application Nyah states, "My life began as an abandoned orphan in northern Vietnam, which led to my adoption at the age of nine months" by an American couple.

Supriya is a student in IT-Web & Software program at Western. She has taught group dances to adults and children through the Cultural Heritage Association of India and is mentoring a new student as part of Western's Mentor Collective. Her other volunteer activities include helping first graders with reading at Onalaska Eagle Bluff and selling tickets, coordinating parking, and cleaning up before and after games for the Rush Wisconsin Soccer Club. In her application, Supriya indicated that she would like to attend the conference because, "I want to develop my voice and leadership mindset ...

I will advocate for pay equity and for changes that will help improve women's access to health care, child care and education." She received the Kwik Trip IT Scholarship in January, 2022. Supriya was nominated by Ann Brice.

Celebrating Our Connections

Title IX By Andrea Hansen

In 1973, I was a 7th grader of the Big Spring Middle School in Newville, PA. An unremarkable morning announcement over the loudspeaker begins this story: "Any student interested in playing 8th grade basketball should report to the gym for a short meeting at the end of school today." There was no need to be explicit. It was understood that any student meant boys only. Sitting in homeroom, this announcement landed as a proverbial "Click!" moment for me. Coined by Ms. Magazine, "Click!" refers to the sudden insight that something unfair and ubiquitous had a name, and that name was sexism. It was the day I became a feminist. That this experience turned into a small protest still makes me proud. Throughout the day, I talked with friends about showing up at this meeting. After all, we fit the stated "any student" and most of us were interested in basketball. By the end of the day, a group of 7 or 8 girls had gathered to walk down the hall to the gym. I am sure my heart pounded as we walked toward an empty row of bleachers. I remember how quiet and serious we were in this familiar space we had come to understand was not really meant for us.

By 6th grade, my gym classes were segregated by gender. Of course, the sorting had taken shape well before 6th grade through the politics of playgrounds. Despite some objections, "Boys only" and "girls can't play" were heard and accepted. Every day and in every possible way, Ideas about gender were reinforced and internalized, and winners and losers were produced. As in most communities, the sorting and patterns of exclusion were solidified and sanctioned by adults through programs, organizations and schools. At the gym, we sat in a row, as the boys we counted as friends stared. The two coaches turned their backs and quietly conversed. Then, with a brief glance in our direction, they turned to talk of dates for physicals, summer camps and tournaments. After 10 minutes, the coaches concluded and the boys headed to the busses with a few lingering to shoot baskets. As the coaches gathered their forms and clipboards, one turned to address us, "You know this is for boys only, don't you? We don't have a girls' team." I said, "Yes, but we should." Nothing more was said. My friends and I hadn't thought to plan what would happen next.

I must have told my mom who worked as an elementary school building aide. She encouraged me to write a letter and found the address of Mr. John Pittenger, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. I don't have a copy of my letter and can no longer locate his reply although I know I kept it. What I remember is his assurance that change was coming in the form of Title IX which had passed the previous year. He thanked me for my letter.

Two years later, I was playing basketball as a high school freshman. This first season was difficult, especially when we played against the Catholic girls schools with their established basketball programs. I have a vague memory of laughter from the bleachers where the boys from the basketball team watched us as we took the court after their practice. I never felt confident of my shooting skills, but I got better. The Bulldogs Girls Basketball Team got better. Despite the continuing challenges, Title IX of the Educational Amendment to the Civil Rights Acts of 1961 changed history and continues to change lives. For more information on Title IX, including current attack on educational and athletic access for transgender youth, see the links below.

<https://www.ncwge.org/PDF/Title%20IX%20Timeline.pdf>

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/title-ix-challenges/>

<https://www.glsen.org/activity/gender-affirming-inclusive-athletics-participation>



Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, moogs56@hotmail.com

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Meeting via Zoom

Contact: June Reinert, reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu

HEARTH & HOME

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 in April, TBA.

International Women's Day 2022

We had another successful IWD program this year! 121 people joined us via Zoom to hear the 3 panelists. Even with the expanded timeframe, there were more audience questions than time allowed to answer. The event was recorded and we're working on making it accessible for those who were not able to attend that evening.

Womens' History Month Window Display

Once again this year, Pearl Street Books opened up a window for our WHM display. Thank you to Carol Robertson, Ann Brice, Lois Gilbert, Annie Allen-Wyman and Jan Eriksen for their contributions towards making the display happen. And thank you to Beth, at Pearl St. Books, for her help!



Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

The state public policy committee, headed by Stephanie Malaney, has been hard at work crafting resolutions that will be voted on at the State Convention. I will be stepping down from the AAUW La Crosse Public Policy position to take the Treasurer position, so if anyone from our branch would like to take over Public Policy, please let me know. I have learned so much by working with the state group, and I continue to be amazed at the dynamic women across the state helping AAUW stay focused on women's issues.

Shortly before President Biden's March 1, 2022 State of the Union address, AAUW joined with over 50 national organizations to send a letter to Congress, asking them to deliver on 5 policies women need to survive and thrive. These policies are:

1. Pass the Build Back Better Agenda in order to invest in affordable childcare, paid family and medical leave, maternal health care and better wages for care workers. In addition, this agenda would forge a path to citizenship for immigrants.
2. Protect abortion rights and access.
3. Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.
4. Protect voting rights.
5. Criminal legal reform: This includes ending mass incarceration and ridding the criminal legal system of any biases.

On March 16, President Biden signed into law the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), an Act for which he was the lead author and a champion as a senator in 1990. President Bill Clinton signed the bill into law in 1994. The VAWA was reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013. The signing of this law today means all current VAWA grants are in effect until 2027, many of them with increased authorization. For more information about the VAWA or about the groups with whom AAUW stands on these issues, please see the links below.

<https://usow.org/stateofwomen/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/16/fact-sheet-reauthorization-of-the-violence-against-women-act-va-wa/>

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/598472-biden-signed-reauthorization-of-the-violence-against-women-act>



Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

"WE'RE in the MONEY"

Throughout our 100 year history, raising money has been a cornerstone of branch activity to support our projects and outreach.

In the beginning there were a variety of typical sales plus a children's play and the giving of bridge lessons. From 1947-1962, a more glamorous source was the paid admission Christmas Ball held at the Stoddard Hotel's Crystal Ballroom - formal dress required. Members attended as well as local college women who invited an escort. Fashion shows were staged by members. And the earnings of college women recruited to model for local dress shops went to our branch.

In 1960 a creative innovation was the Home Tour where interesting local residences were opened to the public. This continued through the 1990's. For several years, the Children's Theater thrived with members as actresses. Later the cast was composed of students from the UW-L Theater Department. Study guides for teachers were prepared and schools paid to send busloads of children to enjoy the play in the auditorium of Morris Hall.

The branch continually came up with new ways to garner funds, often carried out during the same year.



The greatest fundraiser of all has been the Art Fair! In 1967 our branch took it over from a local arts group with Joan Koonmen being the first chair. Because of member diligence (which you all have contributed to) it kept growing and generating more profits. With other fundraisers having outlived their effectiveness, we decided to concentrate our efforts on the fair early in this century. Because of present uncertainties in our culture, the fair is now in a period of transition. With

the creativity and resolve of you, our members, and along with our Scholarship Fund at La Crosse Community Foundation, we will continue to have the resources to support our mission of aiding scholars in their education and supporting causes that benefit women.

On The Web

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



Women's History Month Biographies - If you missed them in the Tribune, click on the link below:

<https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/2021/03/01/whm/>

Our AAUW Branch's 100th Anniversary and other Special Events - use the link below:

<https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/programs-events/special-events-and-programs/>

Diversity and Inclusion updates - see the link below:

<https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/2020/08/26/diversity/>

If you have other suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Barb Fischer by calling 608-784-1949 (best to leave a message if no answer) or at fischerba@live.com.

FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of
March 21, 2022

Checking Account.....\$7,815.91

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

DUES NEWS

Normally the April issue of *The Current* includes a copy of the annual renewal form; this year is different.

AAUW National is in the middle of a database conversion which includes membership records. They're running into glitches in the conversion of branch records.

The latest information we just received said that the membership portion should be up by March 31st. Until then we have to hold off on sending renewals into National. I am hoping that this part of the database is working by then.

Stay tuned for an update in the May issue of *The Current*.

For your information, the national dues for the 2022-2023 year are \$67, the state remains at \$13 plus \$ 8 dollars for our branch. The total dues will be \$88.

Any questions?
Please contact Michele at :
mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu
or 608-781-6962.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by June Reinert, DE&I La Crosse Branch Coordinator

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**Key Terms & Concepts**

When discussing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, it is important to understand the nuances of the language we use.

Definition of diversity

- 1 : the condition of having or being composed of differing elements : variety especially : the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization programs intended to promote diversity in schools
- 2: an instance of being composed of differing elements or qualities : an instance of being diverse a diversity of opinion

Variety. That's what diversity means in essence. But it also means that recognizing what makes us different and unique is important and, without taking diversity into consideration, we run the risk of excluding some individual.

Definition of inclusion

- 1 : the act of including : the state of being included
- 2 : the act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (as because of their race, gender, sexuality or ability).

Diversity vs. Inclusion

Diversity refers to characteristics, the dimensions that make each of us unique. Inclusion entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not. An environment that creates a sense of belonging, where everyone feels welcomed and included, is essential for the success of diversity efforts.

To be truly inclusive, we often must change the culture that in environments where people feel supported, welcomed, respected and valued are actually more productive; everyone feels a greater connection to the organization's mission.

As diversity advocate Verna Myers once said, "Diversity is being invited to the party, and inclusion is being asked to dance." If you don't have both, neither works.

Inclusion vs. Belonging

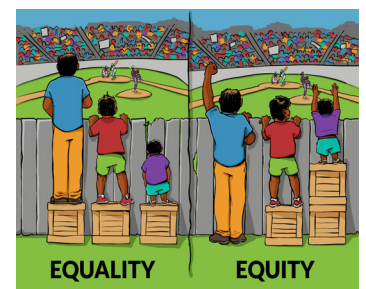
So, if diversity means the characteristics that make us unique, and inclusion refers to behaviors and actions, then what is belonging? Belonging is feeling like you are a part of something, that you actually you matter. AAUW needs all of these things together — diversity, inclusion, and belonging — for our branches to continue to grow and thrive.

Definition of equity

- 1a : justice according to natural law or right specifically : freedom from bias or favoritism
 - b : something that is equitable
- Every AAUW member should understand what we mean by equity. After all, we are the nation's premier organization fighting for gender equity.

Equity vs. Equality

Although these two words have the same root, they don't mean the same thing. They are often used interchangeably, even though they differ in meaning. Equality means everyone gets the same access to — or amount of — something. Equity, by contrast, is about everyone having equal access to what they need to be successful. And those needs can be quite different.



AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

March 7, 2022

6:00 -7:00p.m. Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. The minutes were read and approved.

Committee Reports:

Treasury Report: Michele stated that the current balance in checking is \$8004.00 and Scholarship Bridge has \$321.00. Scholarship Bridge has contacted Sharon De Cicco and Jack Hoppe and they said wait until fall for a change. They lost some members due to Covid-19. They may raise the amount to play. The board agreed to keep the account open for now.

Membership/Historian: Marilyn stated that we have no new members. She is working on a list of suggestions for the 100 yr celebration.

Art Fair: Carol had no report.

Public Policy: Ann had no report.

Name Grant: Jan reported via e-mail that she received two nominations for Name Grant. The award will be given at then April meeting.

Website: Barb had no report.

AIA: Erica reminded the group to register for International Women's Day program. She also recognized the wonderful job done by the committee by putting articles in the La Crosse Tribune.

Scholarship: Robert reported via e-mail that the committee has successfully implemented all reviews, recommended 18 scholarship recipients (plus the \$2000 Tribune Extra Efforts project), and received validation of the 18 from the independent selection committee. LCF has been notified, and we await their approval. Once approved, we will notify recipients and invite them to our 10 a.m. 05/14/2022 reception. Grant checks will be cut this month. He asked the board if they wanted to announce the grants at the March or April meeting. The board chose April. The SGC also asked the board to consider increasing the scholarship award from \$1000.

Diversity: June stated that she is making some community contacts/presenters for next year. The committee is holding meetings to do some strategic planning and meet with other program chairs.

Newsletter: Erica had no report.

Program: Karen stated that Carly Petrusky will present her stained glass this Saturday and in April the grants will be presented and new officers installed. She has not heard from AAUW in Winona about attending Saturday.

Old Business: A final decision has been made to clarify the Leadership/Ethics Sponsor for \$250.00. The board will wait until fall, due to income issues.

New Business: The nominating committee for 2022-2023 officers consisted of Ann Brice, Michele Strange, and Jan Eriksen. The slate of elected officers appeared in the March Current. Robert Richardson agreed to collect the votes when he sends out the RSVP for the April meeting. New officers will be 4 sworn in at the April meeting.

NCCWSL conference will be held on May 25-26. The cost of the conference is \$125.00 (early bird registration). Our branch will sponsor 2 students to attend the conference at a cost of \$250. AAUW Wisconsin is also offering a number of registration scholarships (10 or more). The same application can be used for both. Our three College/University Relations coordinators are notifying students at their respective institutions about the availability of registration scholarships. The deadline is March 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by JoAnne Revels