



## MAY MEETING

### Zoomception: Introduction of Scholarship Recipients

**When:**  
Saturday, May 14th  
10am

**Where:**  
Comfort of your home  
Scholarship & Grant Committee members  
will introduce scholarship recipients.

Our 2022 scholarships fall into 9  
categories:

- Tribune Extra Effort
- Karen Wilson Memorial (no nominations received this year)
- Janet Isler Memorial
- Pat Staupe Memorial (no applicants emerged this year)
- Holistic Nursing
- Scholarship Bridge
- UW-La Crosse Students
- Viterbo University Students
- Graduating High School Students.

Our recipients will provide examples of why they are deserving of our support while they are engaged in breaking barriers. Please plan to attend.

SGC members announced grant recipients at the April branch meeting.

#### Our 2022 grant recipients:

- YWCA La Crosse: Restorative Justice Circles
- Self-Sufficiency Program: Emergency Fund
- Monroe County Shelter Care Inc.: Brighter Tomorrows Program
- WTC Foundation: Pathways Scholarship
- WTC Foundation: Transition Scholarship
- WTC Foundation: Student Assistance
- New Horizons: Unrestricted
- Reconstituted Task Force to End Modern Slavery: Program support.



LA CROSSE (WI)

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 9

MAY 2022



#### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### Thank you

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

It seems like every President's message I write lately says, "It's a blustery day as I write this," and this month's message is no different. I hope by the time this newsletter is delivered, we have stopped our streak of days with high winds and low temperatures.

Though it is still chilly outside, I am writing this message with great warmth for you. Thank you for being so gracious and patient with me during my two-year term as your branch President. I know meeting on Zoom was challenging, and I appreciate your good cheer as we navigated the technology necessitated by COVID. I am looking forward to our new President Andrea Hansen's tenure and I am also looking forward to taking on my new role as branch Treasurer.



*Spriya, 2022 NCCWSL attendee and Ann at WTC graduation*

about 140 years of AAUW, Breaking Barriers and Moving Forward. We saw a short but inspiring video about what AAUW has accomplished in the last 140 years. If you didn't get a chance to see it, you can see it by clicking this link: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National/videos/2908094872832209>

Many members were excited to visit with each other during the Virtual Happy Hour Friday night, and because several people shared drink recipes, I learned a lot about Old Fashioneds, something I've never tried. Saturday morning was our Business Meeting followed by a presentation from our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Renee Gralewicz, who talked about the

*Continued on Page 2 »*

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Monday, May 9th, 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.

## Thank you... (continued from page 1)

devastating effect of Pope Nicholas V's 1452 Doctrine of Discovery on indigenous peoples. I left this session wanting to learn more. We were lucky to have our convention chair's husband Mike Goodnight to take over for the afternoon breakout sessions because I had to attend Western's graduation. I am looking forward to seeing the recordings of all our wonderful speakers.

I am hopeful that next year we will be able to have an in-person convention while continuing to offer a virtual option. Thank you again for all your encouragement and support during these two years as your president. I look forward to serving you as treasurer.

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

### CONGRATULATIONS

Andrea Hansen, our in-coming president, received the 2022 Roberta Zurn Outstanding Woman in Leadership Award at the Women's Fund Spring Fling on April 9th. It is an honor well deserved especially for her years as the director of the UW-L Self Sufficiency Program helping women obtain degrees who would otherwise not have the opportunity.

It is fitting for an AAUW member to receive the award as Roberta Zurn was an active member of our branch.

### CONDOLENCES



Lou Smith, a member who made an impact on the branch for many years, passed on March 22 at the age of 93. President from 1988-1990, she served in many other capacities. Using her writing skills, she wrote a program on our history for the 80th anniversary. Our sympathies go to her family especially to her youngest daughter Polly Marcou who has been a member.

Tom Strange, husband of our faithful member and Financial VP Michele, passed on the evening of April 25. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Michele and we offer support in any way appropriate at this difficult time.



## Save The Date

AAUW La Crosse  
100th Anniversary Celebration

Please plan to attend a special program to kick-off a year of celebrating our branch's 100th year. More details in the next newsletter!

Tuesday, September 13  
5:30pm - 7:30pm  
Myrick Park Center

## SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

Every year is a great year for the SGC.  
*NOTE: If you would like to join this dynamic group, please let us know!*

FIRST: SGC would not exist were it not for:

- 1) The Art Fair on the Green and all the many volunteers that make that event possible.
- 2) The sagacious branch leaders who invested Art Fair proceeds across 6 decades.
- 3) Stellar management of AAUW Funds at the La Crosse Community Foundation (LCF).

SGC meets in October to:

- 1) review scholarship application templates to make sure that our applicants provide us the information that we need to make informed decisions during the review process AND
- 2) design the process by which we review grants-awarded and grants-to-consider.

SGC co-chairs distribute scholarship applications on November 1st. Branch members look for women students 30 years and older to nominate for the Karen Wilson Scholarship.

SGC members research grant recipients and nominations November through January. Grant consideration is given only to those agencies which align with the AAUW mission.

SGC co-chairs confer in January with the Art Fair chair, the branch Board, and the LCF to determine funds available to award in grants and scholarships.

SGC members meet in February to:

- 1) review research findings and determine grant recipients and
- 2) begin meeting in subcommittees to review scholarship applications (due by the first Sunday in February).

SGC co-chairs prepare materials and recommendations for the Independent Selection Committee to review. ISC validates our scholarship recipients, as required by the LCF.

SGC members announce grant recipients at the April branch meeting.

## 2021-2022 Name Grant Awarded

by Jan Eriksen, Chair

At the April 9 meeting, Joan Koonmen was awarded the 2021-2022 AAUW La Crosse Name Grant in recognition of her work for the branch. Joan first joined the branch in 1956 as a young mother of two. She was active over the next several years, participating in study groups as well as sewing outfits for her daughter to model in AAUW fashion show fundraisers and designing posters for AAUW children's theater productions. Most notable, however, is that Joan served as the first chair of Art Fair on the Green.



Joan and her family (which now included five children) moved away from the area in 1968. She returned in 2013 and re-joined AAUW La Crosse. The 2021-2022 Name Grant Committee -- consisting of Betty Kruck, Carol Robertson, and me -- thought it especially appropriate to recognize Joan and her contributions to our branch's legacy as we celebrate our 100-year anniversary.

The Name Grant has been awarded annually for the past 61 years to a branch member who has provided exemplary service to the La Crosse Branch. A donation is sent to the national office of AAUW in the recipient's honor. Previous Name Grant honorees are listed near the end of each year's membership directory.



## Art Fair on the Green

Yes, it's time to start thinking about our annual scholarship fundraiser!

Once again, this year will be a 1 day event with no admission charge. Please mark the date on your calendars and think about volunteering to help. The Summer issue of The Current, which comes out at the beginning of June, will contain all the details and ways you can contribute to making the 64th Annual AAUW Art Fair on the Green a success!

**Saturday, July 30th**

**10am - 5pm**

**Myrick Park**



## 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: End of year potluck picnic--TBD

When the AAUW In Action (AIA) group started in 2010, we brainstormed many ideas about how we could do activities in our community that would support women and girls, as well as other local organizations supporting them, and increase our branch visibility. During the past 12 years, we've done quite a few initiatives: WINGS workshops, Cyberbullying awareness workshops, 25 Books for 25 years, bringing the *Equal Means* movie to La Crosse for a community showing and discussion, Profiles of Women programs, Women's History Month newspaper biographies, Women's History Month window displays, International Women's Day events, Smart Start workshops, Equal Pay Day tablings at UWL, providing activities and dinners with YWCA women and teen programs, sponsoring community viewings of the *Ironed Jawed Angels* movie, doing most-needed item collections for New Horizons and Brighter Tomorrows, setting up an internship program with UWL for Public Policy, Social Media and Diversity, and a few more. Everytime we asked branch members to help--by providing food, supplies or funds-- you've all stepped up and given generously! Thank you!! We have A LOT more ideas and hope that we'll be able to get going on those this coming year after the past 2 years of lockdown (being AAUW Inaction, instead of In Action). 😊

Please think about joining us and sharing your ideas and talents. Traditionally, our May meeting is a potluck where we review the year and enjoy good food and company. We invite you to attend this year. Please send me an email at moogs56@hotmail.com and I'll let you know as soon as we've set a date.



## Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

The State Public Policy committee met many times over this past year to develop two resolutions on which members voted before the state convention last weekend.

One topic of interest was Climate Change Awareness Resolution. Though there are many areas on which AAUW WI can focus, the committee decided that a sustainable and health environment is critical to women and girls achieving equity. Members voted almost unanimously to support this resolution.



The second topic of interest this year was our response to Critical Race Theory (CRT), a legal term often used incorrectly. The term CRT is being used by political groups to prevent school districts from changing the traditional curriculum to include women and traditionally underserved diverse population. AAUW WI's members voted again almost unanimously to support culturally responsive and inclusive curriculum.

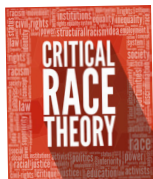
AAUW's CEO Gloria Blackwell-spoke to us Friday night at our state convention, reminding us of our 140 year legacy and of the work ahead of us. A few weeks before the convention, Blackwell commended Ketanji Brown Jackson for being confirmed by a bipartisan vote as associate justice to the Supreme Court of the United States. Blackwell stated that AAUW has been there to see Sandra Day O'Connor become the first female Supreme Court Justice, to see Nancy Pelosi elected speaker of the House of Representatives, to see Hillary Clinton run as the first female nominee for President, and to see Kamala Harris become Vice President of the United States. Blackwell reminded us of the fight for women's equality in which AAUW has been involved for 140 years.



Judge Brown Jackson

You can read Blackwell's full statement here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-celebrates-a-historic-moment-senate-confirms-justice-ketanji-brown-jackson/>

Finally, this will be my last Public Policy article for a while. I have been the Public Policy Chair for our La Crosse branch for a few years now, and I'm stepping down to take on the role of branch Treasurer. ***If anyone would like to step into this interesting role, please let me know.***



### What is Critical Race Theory?

There are many articles, podcasts and videos about this topic--it's overwhelming! In this short PBS clip, University of California, Berkeley sociology professor Prudence Carter notes that critical race theory is a legal framework that explains how structural and racial disparities persist in American society. Carter makes the distinction between teaching critical race theory – a concept most often introduced to students at the graduate level – and taking a critical approach to teaching about race and racism in American history.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdxrkwpPKc>

## Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

### Scholarships & Grants: Awarded and Funded

As May is our month to honor our scholarship recipients, following is a brief history of this branch tradition.

The 1930's saw the establishment of a \$1000 fund with the State Teachers College Foundation. The annual interest was usually sufficient for a scholarship, but when interest was too low the branch made up the difference. During the 1940's, the fund was increased. With more fund raisers in the 1950's our own fund was created which initially gave \$200 scholarships to seniors at local high schools.

When keeping accounts by the branch treasurer became too cumbersome, the La Crosse Branch Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation in 1967. As assets grew, more high school scholarships were given and scholarships for Viterbo and Technical College students were introduced.

Later, a scholarship for women over age 30 was created honoring member Karen Wilson who was a professor at UW-L and passed away too young. We joined the La Crosse Tribune's Extra Effort Award program donating two scholarships. When long time art fair chair and music teacher Pat Staup died, we added a scholarship in her name for a student in Arts Education.

Grants were given to organizations supporting women. An example is the Self Sufficiency Program which helps single mothers to obtain an education. Sending students to the AAUW National Conference for Women Student Leaders near Washington, D.C. is another.

By 2010, when managing the branch foundation was becoming too cumbersome, a fund was established within the La Crosse Community Foundation. Under that umbrella principal grew and we give close to \$30,000 in scholarships and grants per year. As LCF manages accounting and distribution, we are freer to concentrate on fundraising and choosing recipients.

In our 100 years we have given many more scholarships and grants than have been included. This ever-constant need will continue to be addressed by our branch far beyond its first century of accomplishment.

## AAUW National Election



Voting opened Wednesday, April 6, and will close on Monday, May 16, at 5 p.m. ET. Please check your email on opening day and vote because every voice matters in the [AAUW National Election!](#)

For this vote, members are asked to elect members to the national AAUW Board of Directors and vote on changes to the bylaws that would streamline the nominations process and ballot administration.

## FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of  
April 26, 2022

Checking Account.....\$7,783.22

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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## DUES NEWS

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

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.

I will send out an email with renewal information as soon as I get it.

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&amp;I La Crosse Branch Coordinator

Intersectionality and Unconscious Bias

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

**Intersectionality**

1: the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups

Legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term intersectionality in her work Mapping the Margins. She noted that scholars often look at outcomes for women or for African Americans, but never look at what happens to African American women whose lives are impacted by the ways these multiple sources of oppression interact. Understanding intersectionality gives us a way of understanding the cumulative effect of discrimination and oppression on people. That's not that one person's oppression is greater than another's; it's a way of recognizing that our experiences may not be the same because inequality is a complex phenomenon.

Here's an example familiar to AAUW members: Pay equity. We know that men and women are paid unequally for equal work: on average, women make 82¢ for every dollar that a white man makes. But did you know that moms make 70¢ on that same dollar? Or that Latinas make just 55¢? These are just a few examples of intersectionality and how parental status, or ethnicity intersect with gender to impact pay equity.

**Unconscious Bias**Definition of unconscious

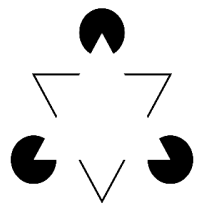
- 1 : not marked by conscious thought, sensation, or feeling
- 2 : not knowing or perceiving : not aware
- 3 : not consciously held or deliberately planned or carried out

Definition of bias

- 1 : an inclination of temperament or outlook especially : a personal and sometimes unreasoned judgment : prejudice

We all know what overt biases are, but we all have unconscious biases, too. These are biases that might be inconsistent with our values, that we would never knowingly act on and that we weren't even aware we had. And having them doesn't make us racist or sexist or homophobic, etc... At any given, moment we are bombarded with lots of information, but our brains can only process a fraction of it at once. To help us try and make sense of the world around us, our brain uses short cuts. Those short cuts are shaped and informed by our experiences. But, because sometimes the things we need to make sense of are unfamiliar, bias can enter the picture.

For example, here is an image, what do you see? Triangles, circles? This is the Kanizsa Triangle. Most people see a solid white triangle pointing upwards, an inverted triangle pointing downwards, and a set of black discs. But the fact is, none of these shapes are present in the figure; this image is of "pac-men" and V's, not triangles and circles. This is an example of our unconscious mind using familiar information to try and make sense of what it sees, because in the absence of complete information, our mind needed to rely on something to help us figure it out. So, what can you do?



- 1. Self-awareness is the first step
- 2. Create safe spaces to have open discussions about the biases you have
- 3. Increase your contact with people who are dissimilar
- 4. Set realistic expectations

We're not going to be able to change our unconscious mind over night, but we will be able to make progress. Only when we confront our biases are we able to truly recognize the value diversity brings to an organization like AAUW. It's important for our continued growth and sustainability as an organization to make a concerted effort to be inclusive and create spaces where everyone feels welcome.

# AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

April 4, 2022 Board Meeting  
6:00-7:00 p.m. Via Zoom

Ann called the meeting to order at 6:01. The minutes were approved.  
Committee Reports:

Treasury: Michele reported that the checking account currently has \$7,783.22 and Scholarship Bridge has \$321.00.

Membership: Marilyn reported no change.

Historian: Marilyn made a request for a budget. Some discussion ensued. The issue was tabled until a later time.

Art Fair: Carol stated that 45 applications were received so far. The committee will jury 9 artists.

Public Policy: Ann reported that some resolutions were to be discussed at the convention.

Name Grant: Carol, Betty and Jan chose the recipient. Jan will announce it on Saturday.

Web Site: Barb had no report.

AIA: March was a busy month with the bookstore window and the daily women's history articles in the Tribune. Erica encouraged members to share their *Celebrating our Connection* stories.

Scholarship: Robert had no report.

Diversity: June stated that her committee was coming up with short-term and long-term goals and objectives. She was also looking for ways to diversify the membership of AAUW LaCrosse.

Old Business: A question was asked about the vote count on the new officers.

New Business: Ann has 2 meetings on Saturday, April 9 so she will need a cohost. Past President Betty Kruk will install new officers on Saturday.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by  
JoAnne Revels

AAUW LaCrosse Branch  
General Meeting  
April 9, 2022 10:00-10:50 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Ann Brice. 21 persons attended the meeting. Robert reported that 57 votes were cast by the membership for the new officers. Betty Kruk installed the newly-elected officers:

President-Andrea Hansen  
V.P. Finance-Ann Brice  
V.P. Membership-Barb Fisher  
V.P. Program-Karen Lange and Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman  
Secretary-JoAnne Revels

Robert and Sharon reported the Grant recipients (\$1,000.00 each): YWCA, UW-L, (3) WTC Foundation, New Horizons, FSPA, and CASA. Appreciation was expressed to retiring board members.

Respectfully submitted by JoAnne Revels