

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Kick - off Social for Our Centennial Celebration

Program:

Advocacy Through the Years:
100 years of AAUW La Crosse

When:

Tuesday, Sept 13

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm
6:00 Program

Where:

Myrick Park Center
789 Myrick Park Dr. La Crosse

Who: All past and prospective
AAUW members and friends

RSVP by Sept 6th to Sharon at
608-452-4571 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com

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.

Marilyn Hemsptead, 100th
Anniversary Celebration
committee chair and branch
historian, will present a look at
our branch's history through
the decades, highlighting
branch accomplishments
and honoring members
contributions.
Period outfits and a
historical display will
round out the presentation.
Refreshments will be served.

**Members are asked to bring
a plated savory finger-food
appetizer to share.**

If you can provide a ride share
or would like one, please contact
Sharon at 608-452-4571.

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

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VOLUME 62, ISSUE 1

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Happy 100th Anniversary

by Andrea Hansen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

I am glad to serve as president of our wonderful Branch for the next two years. It is quite a privilege to be president in a year that marks our Centennial Year and the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Our 100th Year Celebration starts with the September 13th reception!

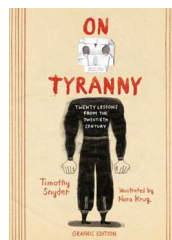
Telling the stories of progressive social change and the people and organizations working for change is critical. Taking time to celebrate the work and the victories, both large and small, is as important. Both are needed now, not only to feed our spirits, but as a path that can challenge divisive and harmful ways of thinking and acting. AAUW has many great stories and people to share and much to celebrate!

Historian Timothy Snyder's small book, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* (2017) places our work as central to democracy. Two lessons are particularly relevant to me as I think about my participation in AAUW and the role we have in our community and beyond:

Number 2. Defend Institutions.

Snyder writes "It is institutions that help us to preserve decency"

and they need our help. He writes that institutions "fall one after the other unless each is defended from the beginning." (p 22). AAUW was formed to defend education and our work is centered on this, in our community, state, and on a national level.



Number 15. Contribute to Good Causes. Snyder writes, "One element of freedom is the choice of associations, and the defense of freedom is the activity of groups to sustain their members." (p 93) Whether organized around wine or books, biking or birding, politics or education, being with others allows us to express ourselves and builds civic life. Our members contribute talent, time, and treasure to so many good causes.

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

No September 2022 meeting.

Board meetings will be conducted via Zoom.

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

To place items on the agenda or confirm your attendance, contact

Andrea at 608-487-5571 or
ahansen@uwlax.edu

Get all the CURRENT news at our website:

www.aauwlacrosse.org

Happy 100th Anniversary ... (continued from page 1)

In fact, I would posit that AAUW members set the standard for practicing and strengthening democracy in our communities.

When I am overwhelmed by both the private and the collective struggles of life, these larger understandings inform and encourage me. Of course, it is good and often necessary to rest and step away at times. Isn't it reassuring that AAUW isn't going away when we do? Isn't it great to know new folks are waiting to be invited into this good work?

A heartfelt thank you to our members for helping AAUW accomplish so much in these incredibly challenging political and pandemic years. You have provided steady participation and leadership with kindness, flexibility, and willingness to try new things. Many of our members, if not most, have experienced personal losses and struggles, too, in these years. I have witnessed the empathy and care members experience and express for each other.

"There is no social change fairy. There is only change made by the hands of individual," Winona LaDuke writes. Thank you for your open hands, hearts, and minds. It is going to be a good year.

2022-2023 AAUW La Crosse Board

Elected Officers

President: Andrea Hansen

President-elect: *open*

Secretary: JoAnne Revels

Vice President Fiance: Ann Brice

Vice President Membership VP: Barb Fischer

Vice President Membership VP elect: *open*

Vice President Program VP Co-Chairs: Karen Lange & Marlene de la Cruz-Guzman

Appointed Board

AAUW In Action (AIA) Coordinator: Erica Koonmen

Art Fair: Carol Robertson

By Laws: Carol Robertson

DEI Chair: June Reinert

Membership Directory: Robert Richardson

E-Mail RSVP Coordinator: Robert Richardson

Fundraising: *open*

Historian: Marilyn Hempstead

Hospitality : JoAnne Revels

Membership Directory: Robert Richardson

Name Grants: Jan Eriksen

Newsletter (The Current): Erica Koonmen

Publicity : *open*

Public Policy: *open*

STEM Coordinator: *open*

Telephone Coordinator: Sarah Stuber

Scholarship Bridge: Sharon De Cicco

Scholarship Co-chairs: Sharon De Cicco & Robert Richardson

University Relations:

UWL - Andrea Hansen

Viterbo – Silvana Richardson

Western – Ann Poteet



BRANCH DIRECTORY

By Robert Richardson

I coordinate the updating and publishing of our branch directory. The 22-23 edition will be available to you at our first meeting 09/13. If you detect any errors, please let me know.



EMAIL RSVP

By Robert Richardson

In advance of each meeting, I send each member an e-mail message requesting a response to indicate your plans to attend, to purchase brunch, to bring a friend, or to not attend. Please reply as soon as you determine your plans for meeting attendance.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE

By Robert Richardson

Sharon DeCicco and I co-chair the Scholarship & Grants Committee. This committee will meet for the first time this year in before our October branch meeting. We welcome any branch member to join our committee. Let either of us know if you would like more information or if you would like to join the committee.



You may know a woman (30 years or older studying or planning to study at any level) who you could nominate to apply for a **Karen Wilson Memorial Scholarship**. The only way a student/potential non-traditional student may apply for this scholarship is through branch member nomination. The nominator writes a letter of recommendation; the nominee provides the other application materials by the early-February deadline.

Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

WELCOME and THANKS TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Amy Poteet is our new Western Technical College Liaison.

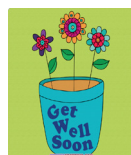


WELCOME BACK

Lema Kabaski is back from Kosovo and is at her same address.

GET WELL WISHES TO JUNE AND MICHELE

Cards and notes can be sent to members' temporary addresses below. Both June and Michele are recovering from falls.



June Reinert

215 Mississippi St, La Crosse, WI 54601
She can also access her email: reinert18@yahoo.com

Michele Strange

Mulder Health Care Facility
713 Leonard St No, West Salem, WI 54669.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SEVERAL MEMBERS

Diana Elena Moran Sanchez Thundercloud received several Awards - International Leadership Award. MEXICO, Caballero de AGUILA AWARD, and an Azteca-Nahuatl Naming.

[Read more](#)



Andrea Hansen for a great article printed in the Tribune (Aug.16) [Read it here](#)

Sarah Stuber for receiving the WXOW's Jefferson Award (Aug.1) [Read & watch video here](#)

THANKS ROBERT FOR OUR NEW DIRECTORIES (Coming soon)

There are several changes, so be sure to check the new directory carefully when you get it. Below are some examples of changes.

- New emails: Annie Allen-Wyman (therosyorb@tcc.coop), Ann Brice (annbrice@bricecohey.com), & Elsie Patterson (elsiepatterson4@gmail.com)
- New phone numbers: Sharon DeCicco, Phyllis Miletto, & Barbara Newcomer
- New addresses: Karen Lange, Barbara Newcomer, Judith Green & Megan Preston

THANKS TO ALL

— 4 keeping us informed. Future membership information can be sent to Barb Fischer at fischerba@live.com or phone 608-780-1601.

— 4 adjusting to the new methods of paying membership and helping us connect with everyone. (My apologies for some duplicate messages.)

— 4 visiting the artfaironthegreen.org site that I created. You can still use it to purchase items throughout this year.

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

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're 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: Thursday, Sept 29, 1:00pm, JavaVino

Some of the activities that we'll talk about for the year:

- Celebrating our Connections
- 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 Reacts to Student Loan Debt Cancellation

AAUW applauds President Biden's recent announcement to forgive \$20,000 of student loan debt for Pell Grant recipients, \$10,000 for many other borrowers, and to extend the federal student loan payment pause for all borrowers. We are pleased that the Administration heeded many of the recommendations in a recent [AAUW report](#), but women and their families need more.

Borrowers cannot plan effectively without knowing how long the payment pause will remain in effect, and \$10,000 is not enough to make an impact for most women, particularly Black and Hispanic women and low-income individuals. Moreover, debt cancellation should extend to all borrowers without an income cap.

Student loan debt remains an enormous obstacle to both gender and racial equity. According to new data from an [AAUW survey](#) of more than 1,500 women in New York City, women of color are encountering the "perfect storm" of challenges repaying student debt, due to the combination of the racial wealth gap, the gender and racial pay gaps, and economic instability caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by June Reinert, DE&I La Crosse Branch Coordinator

Allyship

Definition of allyship:

1: the state or condition of being an ally: supportive association with another person or group. "An active, consistent, and arduous practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person in a position of privilege and power seeks to operate in solidarity with a marginalized group."



Anyone can be an ally, but it's not a passive role. It means speaking up and taking action not just claiming the title. Mistakes are inevitable, but being open to listening, learning, and doing better is an important part of allyship.

Listening is a vital skill for an ally. Additionally, examining our own perspectives and prejudices is also important to allyship. Everyone has biases. Learning about our own can help to mitigate their harmful impacts and can be a step towards unlearning actions that may harm others.

Speaking up might look different depending on the situation, but ideally it also includes amplifying the voices of others who are being oppressed. You are not an ally because you know best; you are an ally because you have privilege, and you are using that privilege to amplify the messages of others who are marginalized.

Privilege

Definition of privilege

1: a right or immunity granted as a peculiar benefit, advantage, or favor. The notion of privilege is not new; it has been around for many decades. It seems that these days, because we've gained some ground in terms of equality, the notion of privilege is no longer applicable. But, in fact, it is.

The sense of privilege can also be tied to any aspect of diversity. Other types of privilege may be for straight individuals, men versus other genders, those who belong to a certain religious group, and/or members of a given political party. Examples of these types of privilege include only allowing heterosexual couples to marry and medical care differences and laws founded on one religion.

If you are in a privileged group, it is possible to use your privilege to help others by becoming an ally. Most importantly, be mindful of your actions. You may not mean to speak over others, particularly those you want to support. But, if you speak for them instead of taking their lead, you may cause more damage than good.

Any member that is interested in serving on the La Crosse Branch of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, please contact June Reinert: reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu or 608-881-0456.

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

Our branch has been thriving for 100 years! And there is a lot to celebrate. A committee has been meeting throughout the summer to plan our celebration activities. Your historian is the chair: Betty Kruck, Erica Koonmen, Sharon DeCicco, Ann Brice and Karen Lange (Program Co-Vice President) are hard working members.



"Equal pay for equal work
Assistance for needy students
Women on boards – local, state and national
Education for intelligent voting."

Sound familiar? Those were the proposed study objectives for the new 48 member branch in 1922. That philosophy formed a basis which is relevant for today. Throughout the year, beginning with the social on September 13th, we'll explore how we built on that base and evolved with changing times. We'll recognize our multitude of accomplishments. We'll honor those who contributed their talents, intelligence and energy to carry on the mission and the torch of education, equity, philanthropy and research vital to AAUW.

AAUW T-shirts available

by Jan Eriksen

Approximately two years ago, just before the pandemic came on strong in La Crosse, I shared information at a branch meeting about generic AAUW T-shirts. Some of you signed up for a shirt, with the money to be collected when the tees arrived. These printed shirts were being ordered in conjunction with the AAUW-River Falls Branch. The T-shirts were shipped to my home a few days after the meeting. However, all of our branch meetings since then have been held via Zoom. So, I have stored all of these shirts at home.

I will bring the T-shirts to our branch's September and October meetings, if you would like to purchase one. I have long since lost the original sign-up sheet. The tees are 100% heavyweight cotton, crew neck, with short sleeves. The background color is navy blue, with white lettering on the front, which contains the AAUW logo and the line, "empowering women since 1881" below it. There is no other printing on the tees.



I have a variety of sizes. The cost is \$10 each.

FROM THE TREASURER

Ann Brice

Financial Report as of
July 22, 2022

Checking Account..... \$ 9,461.56

CDsnone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

.....

Caffeinated Conversations
for Hope

Learn how violence is affecting our community and what you can do to prevent it.



New Horizons invites you to join them [via Zoom](#) to learn about how to get involved with their agency as well as learning about a topic related to their mission.

Two conversations are scheduled:

Friday, September 23 8:30am
Topic: 2021 Wisconsin Homicide Report

Friday, November 18 8:30am
Topic: Understanding the Intersection of Homelessness and Domestic Violence

Attendees registered 10 days prior to the event will receive a coupon in the mail for a free 16 oz coffee from Bean Juice!



Register **HERE**. A Zoom link will be emailed to all registered attendees one week prior to the event. Please contact Development Coordinator, Sierra, with any questions at dev@nhagainstabuse.org or 608-791-2610 ext. 1305.

Art Fair Report

by Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair

64th AAUW ART FAIR ON THE GREEN...
JULY 30, 2022

We did it!

Our AAUW Art Fair on the Green was held successfully on July 30. 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. We will gladly continue to 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 again this year, we are relying on donations to fund our scholarships.

The financials are not finalized but we will let you know when they are. The good news is that the donation boxes were much fuller than last year - 2021 the total in the boxes was \$1807 and in 2022 it was \$4032. Also the total for donations from members and friends of the art fair plus a donation from Marine Credit Union contributed another \$4710. Raffle proceeds were \$1131.

Thank you to everyone and especially to the Art Fair committee:

Artists - Erica Koonmen, Sharon De Cicco
Awards/Scholarships - Marilyn Hempstead, Jan Eriksen
Concessions - Betty Kruck, Francie Ball
Grounds - Carol Robertson, Robert Richardson
Program - Robert Richardson
Publicity - Cindy Mishnick, Cheri Niedzwiecki, Pat Turner
Raffle - Karen Landstrom, Sarah Stuber
Treasurer - Bev Bodine
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 2023! Thanks to all.



AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

Transition Meeting
1 River Place
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

June 12, 2022 5:30-7:30p.m.

Members present included: Ann Brice, Bev Bodine, Marlene De la Cruz-Guzman, Sharon DiCicco, Jan Eriksen, Barb Fischer, Andrea Hansen, Marilyn Hempstead, Erica Koonmen, Karen Lange, Megan Preston, JoAnne Revels, Robert Richardson, Silvana Richardson, Carol Robertson, Michele Strange and Sarah Stuber.

Ann called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Jan, as past president, gave Ann a thank-you gift. Each board member stated which position they held, what the position detailed and if they were retaining the position or not.

Transitions included were:

- Ann from President to Treasurer, Michele retired Treasurer.
- Andrea becomes branch President for the next 2 years.
- Barb takes over Membership, Marilyn retired from Membership. Marilyn will remain as Historian.
- Marlene to Program, Megan left the board to become VP Finance for the WI State AAUW, Karen will stay with Program.
- JoAnne will retain Secretary and Hospitality.
- Robert and Sharon will continue Scholarship.
- Jan will retain Name Grants.
- Carol will continue to chair the Art Fair.
- Erica will continue newsletter/online communications, AIA which includes International Women's Day and co-chair artists on the Art Fair committee.
- Barb will continue Art Fair Website.
- Sharon will continue as co-chair for artists on the Art Fair committee.
- Robert will continue Scholarships and Directory.
- Sarah will continue as Telephone RSVP Coordinator.
- Public Policy, President-elect, STEM and Fundraising are currently open.

Marilyn reminded us that the 100th anniversary celebration of the branch will be the first meeting of the year on September 13th. It was suggested to hand out directories at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by JoAnne Revels