

**SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY, JULY 26TH.
VOLUNTEER!**

You've been hearing and reading about the Art Fair on the Green for some time. Now it's your time to take action! How would you like to participate?

If you're an early bird, your help would be appreciated with the **Saturday morning setup... 6:30am.**

With 3 entrance areas, we'll need many **greeters**. This job includes greeting, handing out programs, and MOST IMPORTANTLY, encouraging donations to the scholarship fund. Make sure folks realize that while we no longer charge admission, we depend on their generosity for the many scholarships and grants awarded to local students.

Maybe you'd like working in the **Raffle booth**. Are you an enthusiastic salesperson? Then that's a great job for you!

Cleaning up at the end of the show (5:00pm) requires some fresh bodies to help take down and put things away.

Some of you have already signed up, and I appreciate your enthusiasm.

If you haven't yet contacted me (Marla French), you may text or call me at 608-385-7432 or email me at mmfrench1959@gmail.com.

Please call me rather than waiting for me to call you.

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

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67th Art Fair on the Green

by Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair

It's that time of the year!

AAUW Art Fair on the Green will be held Saturday, July 26th, 10:00am-5:00pm at the Viterbo University Courtyard. There is no admission fee, but we will have donation boxes throughout the art fair. This event raises the money we award for Grants and Scholarships. And as we heard at the Scholarship Brunch, our recipients are grateful for what we are able to give them.

The Art Fair Committee has been working on the arrangements for the past few months. We have juried in our new artists and look forward to seeing new art from them. We also look forward to welcoming our returning artists from past years.

As you are aware, it takes many volunteers to assist on the day before the art fair and the day of the fair with set up, putting signs up, directing artists as they arrive for set up, greeters, raffle ticket sellers, booth sitters, and finishing up the day with takedown at 5:00.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered in past years! Marla French is in charge of volunteers and you can read her article with details about volunteering elsewhere in the newsletter.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to put out yard signs and for those who distribute them. If interested in a yard sign, contact Cindy Mischnick.

If you are not able to volunteer, you can still participate by contributing to the scholarship fund.

You will receive a form on how to donate. The art fair is the main source of income to support the scholarships we give each year.

This event is a great place to find the unusual gift as well as to buy original artwork for your own enjoyment.

Please check out the list of scholarship recipients for this year. These scholarships are made possible by your dedication and hard work on AAUW Art Fair on the Green.



Art Fair Concessions *by Betty Kruck*

Roncalli Newman will be returning to our art fair with their generous and delicious ice cream sundaes, root beer floats and orange creamsicles. We will also welcome the return of **Ice Cold Refreshments** with their freshly squeezed lemonade, Hawaiian shaved ice and Boba tea. The familiar whoop and clang announcing a freshly popped batch of **Cowboy Kettlekorn** will again be heard throughout the grounds.



We will welcome new food vendors **Mia's Kitchen, Tacomiendo Tacos, and Mama 88 Kitchen**. Watch for interesting new food options to try this summer. AAUW will continue to sell bottled water and a few canned sodas for \$1.



Members are encouraged to **donate water** and soda so that our sales will provide added profit to our art fair. You can bring donated items to Viterbo Friday evening from 5:00-7:00pm during setup, bring them to the art fair Saturday morning, or contact Pat Markos, p.markos@aol.com, 608-780-8623, to arrange a drop off at her home prior to the art fair.

Art Fair Contributions Needed

by Cindy Mischnick

The Art Fair on the Green is AAUW's largest fundraiser for our very important La Crosse Scholarship Fund. In 2021, because of Covid and a move off of the UW-L campus, we lost the ability to charge admission at the door, our main revenue for the fair. Although we are seeing a nice amount of funds in our donation boxes on the day of the art fair, it is YOUR donations that have helped tremendously. Please consider donating generously once again this year to the AAUW Scholarship Fund.



The Scholarship Fund Contribution Form is attached to this newsletter email. Please print it out, complete it, and send it, along with your check to: AAUW Art Fair on the Green, Post Office Box 2112, La Crosse, WI, 54602. Contributions are tax exempt and if received by July 15, we will note your name in the art fair program. You will receive a receipt from the La Crosse Community Foundation.

Thank you very much for your donation!

Art Fair Signs

by Cindy Mischnick

Help Us Get The Word Out!



We hope you've noticed our colorful Art Fair on the Green signs scattered throughout La Crosse County during the month of July! We always can use help getting the signs posted around the community. If you would like a sign for your yard or business, please send me (cydnick7@gmail.com) your name and address and I will deliver the sign to you right after July 1st, AND pick it up immediately after the art fair. You don't have to live

on a major thoroughfare to help get the word out, each neighborhood matters. Here's to another successful year for our Art Fair on the Green!

Juneteenth Event!

We'll be there, will you?



Art Fair Publicity



The Art fair ad is now out in the new Coulee Region Women's magazine. It is on Channel 8 & 19, the Tribune, and Explore La Crosse's calendars.

Art fair posters and bookmarks have been posted and distributed in La Crosse, Onalaska, West Salem and La Crescent, MN. They will also be up in Sparta, Bangor, Stoddard and Genoa.

Do you have a location that you know will provide good visibility for a poster and are willing to hang it up? Do you have contacts with businesses that would display a poster or have a place to put out bookmarks? Please contact Cheri at cheriandtony@charter.net

CAROL TAEBEL RECEIVES FOREVER FRIENDS AWARD

On June 4, 2025, the La Crosse Area Community Foundation honored **Carol Taebel**, a beloved educator, volunteer, and lifelong advocate for community and compassion, with its 2025 Forever Friends Award recipient.

A retired elementary teacher and active volunteer, Carol has quietly and consistently shaped the community through a lifetime of giving — of her time, resources, and deep empathy.

Branch president for 1980-1982, Carol received the branch Name Grant Award in 1983. Throughout her life, Carol has embraced causes that align with her values: education, equity, animal welfare, and inclusion.

Congratulations, Carol!



Branch members Sue Heuer, Erica Koonmen, Sharon DeCicco and Robert Richardson congratulate Carol Taebel and friend Colleen Shaw.

Sona Kazemi Receives Teaching Excellence Award

This year, UWL's Provost Office received hundreds of nominations from students hoping to recognize their favorite faculty. From these, a university committee selected six faculty to receive **2025 Eagle Teaching Excellence Awards**.



Congratulations to branch member **Dr. Sona Kazemi** for being one of the awardees!

Sona is in UWL's Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies Department, and teaches racial and ethnic studies, women's and gender studies, disability studies, and sexuality studies.

Favorite part of teaching: Watching my planted seeds turn into blooming flowers and trees creating shade, fruit and beauty for everyone crossing their paths.

Scholarships & Grants

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

SGC Members: Cindy Cassellius, Sharon De Cicco, Betty Kruck, Robert Richardson, Silvana Richardson, Carol Robertson, and Sandy Sechrest. SGC Sub-committee Members: Ann Brice, Jan Ericksen, Marilyn Hempstead, and Michele Strange.

Managed by the La Crosse Area Community Foundation, the La Crosse Branch of the AAUW awarded 19 scholarships (\$19,000) to students in our area high schools and at the three higher education institutions in La Crosse. Each year these awards are funded by the investment of art fair profits including the generosity of member-donors, art fair attendee donors, and corporate sponsors.

Our annual AAUW Scholarship Celebration (this year on May 3rd), always proves truly inspiring. The SGC selects and awards amazing scholars — all with established records of breaking barriers or convincing plans to do so. Fifteen of our scholarship recipients attended in-person with their guests and three greeted us through videos created specifically for us. The two Joan Koonmen Memorial Scholarship recipients would have pleased Joan. ***If you feel called to join this committee or for more info, contact any of the members.***

SCHOLARSHIPS Awarded in 2025

High School Graduates: Sierra Fried— Central HS; Ella Madsen— Central HS; Bree Schol— Central HS; Lindsey Becker— Holmen HS



Emily Rowe, Carol Robertson, Lindsey Becker

AAUW Bridge Scholarship: Emily Rowe— Holmen HS

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse: Sydney Geroux, Hephzibah Ohihoi, Payton Schueller, Kendra Smits, Lauren West, Mina Xiong.

Viterbo University: Maia Irvin, Raina Nava

Western Technical College: Rosie Hernandez, Jessica Withers

Holistic Nursing Scholarship: Danica Rynes - Viterbo University

Janet Isler Memorial Scholarship: Camille Olson — Viterbo University

Joan Koonmen Memorial Scholarship

Casidy Yates — UW La Crosse; Nancy Vang — Western Technical College



2025
Scholarship
Recipients
attending the
May 3 brunch

GRANTS Awarded on April 12, 2025

Cia Siab, Inc
Fostering Success for Independent Scholars
Hope Restores
Monroe County Brighter Tomorrows Program
New Horizons, La Crosse
Self-Sufficiency Program
Western Technical College Foundation
YWCA La Crosse



Are You Receiving AAUW Emails?

There are a lot of informative emails and action alerts sent from AAUW National that you may be missing out on if your email address is incorrect or not on file. You can check it or sign up by clicking [HERE](#). Once you enter your email address, you'll be emailed a link that will take you to your AAUW account to verify or correct your email as well as sign up to receive emails if you haven't been getting them.



Good Reading

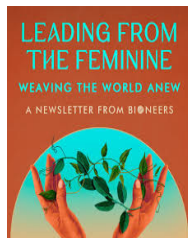
Looking for something new to read this summer? Everyone has a recommendation but if you want to browse yourself, take a look at **NoveList Plus** available through the Winding Rivers Library system.



NoveList Plus is a database with expert reading recommendations and book lists. NoveList Plus includes audiobook recommendations, non-fiction recommendations, and reviews on 70% more titles than in basic NoveList. Check it out on your library's home page, under "Online Resources". Thanks to Susanne Koehler for passing that info on!

For some online reading, go to the **Bioneers** website.

Bioneers is an innovative nonprofit organization that connects people with solutions and each other. Of special interest to our members is the Everywoman's Leadership Program. Inspiring, strengthening and connecting the leadership of women – across cultures, orientations, generations, sectors and disciplines-- the program operates through media, educational materials, and online conversations. Their radio, podcast, broadcast and social media are readily available to educators and lifelong learners on the website. Their free newsletter "*Leading From the Feminine*" is available by signing up [HERE](#). Thanks to June Reinert for that tip!



My Last Issue!

Where did the time go? After 19 years of editing this newsletter and working with 8 branch presidents, I'm excited to pass this job on to Susanne Koehler. Susanne has taken the survey feedback you've given her and come up with a great new format that will make it easier to read the newsletter on electronic devices.



Thank you for reading the newsletter. I've appreciated all the positive feedback you've given me through the years! It's been a pleasure but I'm sure I'll find something to do with the last half of each month now!

The official hand-off of the newsletter!
Susanne (L) and Erica (R)

Medicaid Community Forum

Along with the LWV of La Crosse, AARP and Aptiv, our branch is co-sponsoring a panel discussion **Focus on Medicaid** to help area residents understand the broad impacts expected by Congressional budget actions affecting Medicaid members and providers. **June 25, 6:30-8:00pm, UWL Cleary Center.** The event is being designed to offer attendees

- 1) factual (nonpartisan) information,
- 2) an opportunity to share their stories and concerns
- 3) actionable suggestions on ways the community can direct concerns to local decision makers.

Seating is limited, so advance registration is suggested.

Register by clicking [HERE](#).



Community Forum: Focus on Medicaid

Your Community. Your Voice.

Wednesday, June 25

Learn about Medicaid from local experts.
Share your Medicaid story.

UWL Cleary Center, 6:30-8:00pm

Jenny Felty
President & CEO, Aptiv Inc.
Nathan Franklin
Executive Vice-President,
Emplify Health

John Manke
Manager, La Crosse County
Integrated Support &
Recovery Services

Carissa Pagel-Smith
Manager, La Crosse County
Aging and Disability
Resource Center

Wanda Plachek
Executive Director, La
Crosse County Long Term
Care & Residential Services



A Trip to Northern Thailand

Branch member Lin Rausch, Assistant Professor at the Viterbo University School of Nursing, recently took a group of students on an exploration of Northern Thailand.

This travel immersion opportunity is the culmination of a three-credit course offered at Viterbo University. The course, Living in a Diverse World Study Away, includes a comprehensive overview of Hmong history in La Crosse and Wisconsin. The course and travel connect the Hmong diaspora

with those of recent asylum seekers, helping students understand various aspects of cultural identity.

Read about their adventure on their [FACEBOOK PAGE](#).



Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Denise Christy

1020 Sunrise Court Onalaska, WI 54650-2101
414-378-5828 email: dnschistry@aol.com

Denise Christy is a retired educator from Milwaukee High School of the Arts. In La Crosse, she is the producer of the dramatic reenactments portion of "The Enduring Families Project", an ongoing project created in 2018, to give a voice to the stories of 19th century African American residents of the La Crosse area. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Syracuse University and a Master's Degree from Kent State University.

Sue Hammersmith

620 Bennora Lee Court, Apt. 522
La Crosse, WI 54601 920-227-3145
email: sue.hammersmith1@gmail.com

Sue Kiefer Hammersmith has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Indiana University. She is retired President of Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities, former Provost at UW-Green Bay, Dean at Ferris State University and Ball State University, tenured faculty at Indiana University-Indianapolis, and Research Associate at the Alfred C. Kinsey Institute for Sex Research. Sue is new to La Crosse and looks forward to meeting you.



Congratulations

Carol Taebel, a life long volunteer and educator, was named "2025 Forever Friends Award" recipient from the La Crosse Area Community Foundation. Read more on page 3.



Sona Kazemi, received the "2025 Eagle Teaching Excellence Award". Dr. Sona Kazemi presently teaches at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Read more on page 3.

Membership Renewal

June 30th is the renewal date for most of you. If you renew on-line, that is great. If sending a check, please mail it to Noreen Holmes. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Recognition at September Meeting

The Membership Committee plans to recognize all present Honorary Life Members and those with 25 years or more of membership at our September Social.

On The Web

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



ART FAIR ON THE GREEN

The AFoTG 2025 website will be completed in early July
www.artfaironthegreen.org

Branch Opportunities

This summer, while you're relaxing by the pool and pondering what you could do to help the branch next year, we have a few suggestions for you!

These positions are appointed, not elected, so they usually have a 1 year commitment but are not limited to that. They are a great way to be part of something positive in our branch and work with people you already know you like! Everyone on the board is very willing to help you settle in to a position and provide aid and encouragement as needed.

Publicity: This person is responsible for getting the word out to the community about who we are and what we're doing. You'd work with the president and the board for content and use print, radio and social media. This position would work well with 2 people sharing duties.

Fundraising: Responsible for coming up with ways to generate funds for the branch. This would be a good committee job so grab a couple of friends and work together on it.

Internship Coordinator: Works with Ugetconnected to post 3 internships for UWL, Viterbo and WTC. The internships are for Social Media, Public Policy and Diversity. Each of these has its own branch mentor what works with the intern; the coordinator helps the mentor find the best candidate.

Social Media Coordinator: The perfect position for someone who enjoys posting on Facebook and Instagram! We have branch FB and Instagram accounts as well as Art Fair on the Green FB and Instagram accounts. This person would also work with a Social Media Intern from one of the universities.

Art Fair on the Green Committee: This very organized committee needs help with leaders for Grounds and Concessions. The Grounds person works closely with the Art Fair Chair to arrange the site, equipment and provide artist traffic control. The Concessions person finds food vendors, works with Viterbo to meet their needs and coordinates water sales.

If it's difficult to choose which one excites you most, talk with president Lema or any board member for more information. Orientation to the positions can begin this summer and actual responsibilities begin in September. C'mon, it'll be FUN!



Hearth & Home

Hearth and Home is on summer vacation and will resume on the third Friday in September. Watch for information in the September newsletter.

At our May meeting, we had a good time browsing at Crazy Franks in Readstown and lunching at the St. Francis Hermitage near Gays Mills.

Join us in September!

AAUW La Crosse Transitional Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Annie Allen-Wyman, Carol Robertson, Erica Koonmen, Susanne Koehler, Lema Kabashi, Noreen Holmes, Robert Richardson, Silvana Richardson, Maggie Rivera. (special thanks to Carlene Roberts who opened the meeting place for us!)

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Begin: Potluck 5:30pm

Meeting 7:00pm

Updates

- June 16th, 10am – 2pm, Marine Credit Union offered AAUW-La Crosse opportunity to meet community during monthly open house. Annie is contact person. Discussion. Agreed by voice vote. Annie, Barb Fischer & Carol Robertson will staff table.
- League of Women Voters planning community forum about Medicaid, and requests AAUW co-sponsorship. June 25th 6:30 pm, UWL Cleary Alumni Center. Discussion. Lema already said yes. Board agreed; unanimous voice vote.
- Viterbo University hosting Hispanic Heritage Month Networking and Mariachi Community. October 1st. Time TBA. Marlene De La Cruz requests AAUW co-sponsorship. Discussion. Carol: Motion to co-sponsor, Erica: 2nd. Motion passed.

Transitioning Officers

Annie Allen-Wyman has been elected as President-Elect and will assume those duties in July 2025.

Diana Moran Sanchez Thundercloud has served as Public Policy chair and is now transitioning to STEM. Annie Allen-Wyman has served as STEM chair but will have to stop when she is President. Diana also wants to work with DEI.

Silvana Richardson finished her term as Programming chair and will now assume Public Policy chair. Maggie Rivera and Lin Rauch will serve as Programming co-chair for 2025-2026.

Jan Erickson has served as Name Grants chair and NCCWSL chair. Erica Koonmen will now serve as Name Grants chair. Erica will be leaving as Newsletter editor; Susanne Kohler will take over.) Last newsletter deadline for Erica as Editor – June 10th.

Newsletter Survey - Susanne Koehler (pronounced KAY-ler)

22 people responded to the email/online survey. 4 people volunteered to proofread. The current format is hard to read on a cellphone – Susanne is exploring other technologies. Discussion of 5 people who get hard copies; Barb Fischer has agreed to print and deliver/mail. Discussion of email distribution of newsletter – a BCC protects individual emails, but is not as secure as emails in the software that are not seen by any recipient. Susanne will keep same deadlines for articles.

Programming Survey -- Silvana Richardson

The survey results indicated that most popular topics include gender discrimination, local government, community resources, La Crosse Foundation, DEI/equity, Project Proven, women's history, environmental issues, other local groups with similar values, and inspiration. Note: La Crosse hosts the joint meeting with AAUW-Winona in March 2026.

Wisconsin AAUW Questionnaire -- Lema Kabashi

This two page questionnaire from AAUW-WI's membership chair was completed by the whole group. Lema will type up her notes, deliver to Erica, who will (as state secretary) deliver it to AAUW-WI membership chair.

Five-Star Form – Lema Kabashi

This annual form has not previously been submitted by our branch, and we probably have qualified! The reward is recognition by AAUW-National on their website and by AAUW-WI at the annual convention. At least three items must be affirmed in each section: Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, Communication and External Relations. Discussion. Our branch qualifies for all five stars! Discussion about the need to appoint a person to be responsible for keeping tabs on the requirements through the year, filling out the form and submitting it annually.

Continued on page 7...

AAUW La Crosse Transitional Board Meeting Minutes...continued from pg 6

State Board Issues for Discussion – Erica Koonmen

- 1) Should we set up a non-profit status (501 C 3) for our Branch? Many branches have one. The Art Fair is a non-profit. This status would allow people to deduct donations on their itemized taxes.
- 2) Personal Information (ex: phone number) in directory and newsletter and website. Concern advanced by AAUW-National. Discussion. Suggested that Directory form include "Opt Out" to delete all but the name from the directory listing. Remind people of "Members Only" tab on our Branch website, to access information with a password.
- 3) Dues. National has raised its dues, so total Local/Branch/National will equal \$97.00. Some branches are raising their local dues to equal total \$100.00. Discussion. No decision.
- 4) Summer meetings for socializing only, not programming. Discussion. No decision.

Next Meetings

- Board of Directors. Sept. 2nd ZOOM BOD will meet 2nd Tuesday 5:30 (except Dec & May)
- "Social" (with recognition of new members and Honorary Life Members) Sept 9th

Directory Deadlines

Robert needs for Directory:

- Officers names & contact info by: August 8th
- updated membership list by: August 15th
- list of programsby: August 22nd

New Business –

1. Robert Richardson asked if we should we defer extra money donated to Scholarship Reception (we received more than was needed) until 2026 event. Discussion: Yes by voice vote. Mark these funds in accounting books
2. No Shows for Breakfast. The email says "Yes. Will Attend for Breakfast" and the person does not show up to eat breakfast. Discussion: does that person need to pay for the missed meal? Voted by voice vote to deal with it on case-by-case basis. People could be billed or not, depending on the circumstance. Silvana reports that breakfast at Viterbo will increase from \$12.19 to \$13.00 next year. All donations at breakfast (above \$12.00 fee charged) go to programming.
3. Scholarship/Grant Survey -- Robert Richardson
 - The most important criteria for awarding scholarships, per the survey, is Situational. 2nd: Breaking Barriers.
 - The most important criteria for awarding grants, per survey, is Pressing Need. 2nd: Impact on individual.

Adjourned: 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Allen-Wyman