

Badger Briefs

empowering Wisconsin women since 1921



Reflect on the Past;

Prepare for the Future.

AAUW - WI Virtual Convention
April 23 & 24, 2021



Reflect on the Past, Prepare for the Future...

Can you visualize the women that came before us? Real people. Real needs. Like us but not. Think of their rights as human beings. At some times and in some places a woman couldn't own property or decide her own future. She wasn't always allowed to raise her own children. Think of the meager opportunities to earn her way in the world. How did it feel to have so little power over your own life? I know things are not always equitable now but look how far our lives have changed even in our lifetime! My grandma was born in a log cabin her dad built when he came back from the Civil War. When her son was stationed at the White House, she flew in a jet to visit. I loved her tales. Yet, we are still struggling for a good wage, representation in government, respect, equality, and work life blend. Our lives are similar enough to **reflect on the past and prepare for the future women and girls can look forward to.**

At our convention we can talk, listen, learn about the past (Suffragists!) and plan for a better future for ourselves and the women and girls of today and tomorrow. To accomplish our mission as AAUW members, we need to plan and organize. Some of that takes place at our annual meeting Saturday morning. When I look at you, I am going to picture my grandma and the log cabin. Then I will look at all of you and think of what AAUW has done for women and girls therefore for everyone including you and me. Please join me in celebrating our past and our future. (PS I need you at the business meeting! Check out the website Ann Brice set up for us!)

aauwstateconvention.com/

We have the technology our grandmas didn't have. We could use more communication between members and the state board, between branch boards and the state board, and between branches themselves. We have the ability to connect. The Covid -pandemic has highlighted our strengths. We found new ways to do our AAUW -work to make our world a better place for women and girls, therefor we didn't say, "I give up! There's no way!" Instead we found new ways to do traditional things and found traditional ways to do all of the new things. (Tech Savvy with Zoom, book groups in a park, holiday events with fundraisers, email exchanges, ideas shared between branches, programs, NCCWSL, Tech Savvy. I value the relationships and connections we form in our branches and around the state.

We can be proud of ourselves. We are flexible, willing to learn, anxious to support each other, and looking forward to our future.

Reflect on the past, prepare for the future!

See you April 23, 24 at the State Convention!



Margit Gylling, pedagogist and farmer 1914

<https://aauwwistateconvention.com/>



AAUW-WI VIRTUAL CONVENTION

**Reflect on the Past;
Prepare for the Future.**

APRIL 23 & 24, 2021

REFLECT ON THE PAST, PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

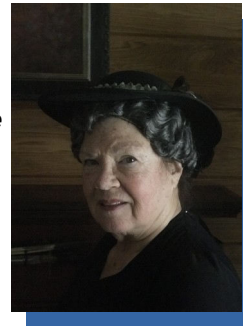
Think of all the reasons why you haven't been able to go to past AAUW conventions. Well, the 2021 Convention Committee have solved these problems for you!!

- 🕒 **Registration Fees – NONE**, it's free!!!!
- 🕒 **Transportation Costs – NONE**, no car or gas needed.
- 🕒 **Distance to Convention – NONE**, just take your computer to your favorite room in your home.
- 🕒 **Dining Costs – NONE**, just get a sandwich and favorite beverage from your fridge.

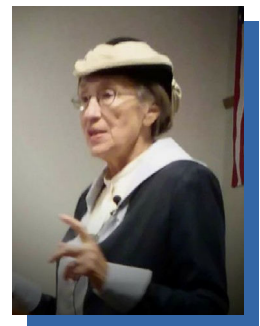
2020 has been a year of new learning experiences for all of us with many of our branches mastering how to Zoom to connect with each other in our general meetings, book clubs, projects, and holiday events. So why not with our State Convention 2021?

We have a brand new website aauwvistateconvention.com just for our state convention to make it easier for our members (and guests) to register. Unlike a live convention where you walk to the correct room for a specific event, you will register online for the specific events you want to attend. Thanks to Ann Brice (La Crosse Branch) who set up this web page and is responsible for the actual tech running of the convention itself. Check it out! It is a work in progress and **registration will start March 1**.

"The Suffrage Movement: A Remembrance by Midwesterners Carrie Chapman Catt and Jessie Jack Hooper." Portrayed by Pam Thiel and Helen Bannan respectively they will include you in a discussion of their lives. Carrie Chapman Catt, one of the most influential leaders of the national and international suffrage movement, worked tirelessly for 30 years before finally achieving the ratification of the 19th Amendment and then founded the League of Women Voters to help women develop their political skills. Jessie Jack Hooper, one of Catt's loyal lieutenants and a leader in the Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association, devoted her life to suffrage during the last decade of the struggle and helped Wisconsin become the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment.



Pam Thiel
La Crosse Branch

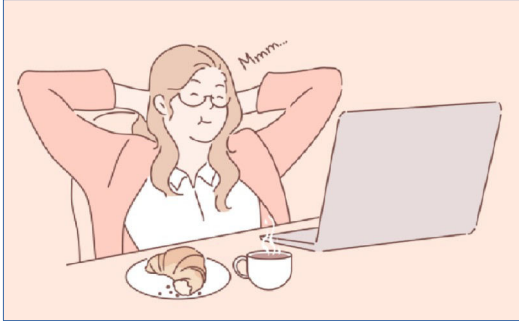


Helen Bannan
Oshkosh/MKE Branch

Jessica Michna created "Women Who Dared" for the 100th anniversary of 19th Amendment. Cristabel and Emmeline Pankhurst, Susan B. Anthony, Emma Davisson, Elisabeth Cady Stanton; some names you may recognize, others you may not. Jessica will be presenting on Saturday afternoon. Don't miss it.



Not only do we need to reflect on the past, but we need to prepare for the future. Rep Shelia Stubbs of the Wisconsin Legislature will be our featured speaker and share her story of activism and pursuit of racial equality. Two of our breakout sessions include promotion of social diversity and justice as well as climate change and action. Other breakouts focus on what we can do in AAUW to promote our membership, programs that are mission driven, and ideas for branch visibility through social media.



We can't casually visit with old friends and meet new friends as we would at a live convention with a hospitality room Friday night loaded with sweets, but we will have several Zoom hospitality rooms set up so small groups can chat. (You will have to bring your own beverage of choice, be it a glass of wine or hot chocolate, plus your own sweet desserts, but you will get the opportunity to meet new women and share ideas!!)

Likewise, Jean Kreul, the State Fund Development VP (Milwaukee Branch), has spent many hours designing a virtual auction through 32 auctions. Each branch is asked to donate an item(s) for the auction. When the link is set up on the website, please take advantage of looking often and bidding often. The money raised will go to the Greatest Needs Funds at National AAUW.



The District 1 committee this year, who unfortunately for them could not meet for lunch/business meetings, has been Zooming each month to put together a memorable convention: *Donna Anderson, State Convention Chair, Monona/Madison; Kleo Baruth Kritz, District 1 Coordinator, Monona/Madison; Mary Kahler, Beaver Dam; Kathy Marr and Maggie Winz, Fort Atkinson; Diane Adams and Pat Phillips, Janesville; Bobbi White, Monona/Madison; Jan Eriksen, Convention Chair 2020, La Crosse; Lyn Hildenbrand, State Program VP, Milwaukee; and Joan Schneider, State President, Appleton; plus Jean Kreul and Ann Brice named above.* The District 1 committee also wants to acknowledge the District 4 committee last year and thank them for their many touches that we were able to incorporate into our convention this year.



Be adventuresome, be entertained, be further educated by trying a new experience at our AAUW virtual convention this year to prepare for the future!!!

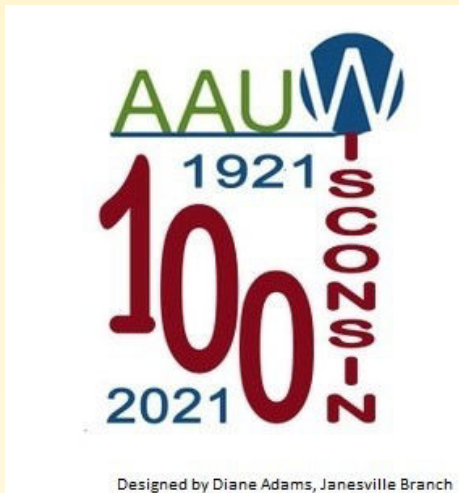
State Convention Chair Donna Anderson, Monona/Madison



District 1 Coordinator Kleo Baruth Kritz, Monona/Madison



CONVENTION AGENDA



SPEAKERS 2021



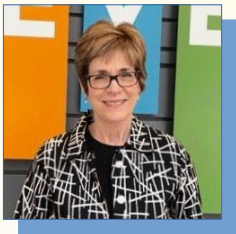
Shelia Stubbs



Dr. Laura Alwin



Whitney Townsend



Katy Grogan



Jessica Michna

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021 (7-9:45 pm)

7:00-9:45 Welcome by State President including honoring past presidents and the Legacy Circle

Video from National AAUW

Ten minute break

“The Suffrage Movement: A Remembrance by Midwesterners Jessie Jack Hooper and Carrie Chapman Catt” scheduled for 2020 Convention and performed respectively by AAUW members Helen Bannan, dual member of Oshkosh and Milwaukee, and Pam Thiel, a La Crosse member.

10:00-12:00 Hospitality rooms (small group chat rooms to connect with old and new friends)

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021 (9:30-3:15)

9:30-10:45 Business meeting and Installation of Officers,

11:00-12:00 Featured Speaker: Wisconsin State Legislator Shelia Stubbs who tells her story of activism and her pursuit of racial equity.

12:00-12:10 Ten minute break (Get your own sandwich and beverage to enjoy as convention continues)

12:10-1:00 Breakout (**3 small group**) sessions.

1. Ideas for programs that are mission driven: Lyn Hildenbrand (State Program VP) and someone from National
2. Membership retention and recruitment ideas: Christine Ebert (State Membership VP)
3. Interest group ideas, group outings/other social options: A Sharing of Ideas by Members with Joan Schneider (State President) as the Facilitator

1:10-2:00 Breakout (**3 small group**) sessions.

1. Promotion of social diversity and justice: Dr. Laura Alwin and Whitney Townsend: “The Unity Project: Building a Better Community Through Inclusion”
2. Climate change issues and action: Katy Grogan, Citizens’ Climate Lobby
3. Ideas for branch visibility through social media and other venues.

2:00-2:10 Ten Minute Break

2:10-3:15 Jessica Michna - “Women Who Dared”

Development is Fun!-damental

During past AAUW-WI Conventions, a silent auction has raised needed funds (and offered some fun bidding competition) with many branches and members supporting the effort. So, this year the Convention is virtual - what to do?! Well, what could be a better companion to a Virtual Convention than a Virtual Auction?

All branches are encouraged to participate! Think about the possibilities for an item (or items) your branch could offer. How about some local goodies from your city or town (or a talented member)? Or, a certificate to a local restaurant or site considered an "institution" around your area (that, of course everyone in Wisconsin **really** should visit) to be used when it is safe to do so? Is there an artist in your midst whose work you admire that could be showcased? It's time to get creative!

Participating branches need to complete an item Application Form plus provide a photo, and item description to be used on the auction website (see examples of descriptions and photos below).

An Application Form plus detailed information will be sent to branch leadership during the week of February 8th. The deadline for items to be included is April 12th. All funds raised will support the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.



Set of six handmade Christmas cards in a gift bag

A handmade gift bag with six different handmade watercolor Christmas cards to get you started on your Xmas card list. Cards are blank inside.



Insanely Good Granola

Kickstart your mornings with Insanely Good Granola. Organic sprouted rolled oats, sweetened flake coconut, sliced almonds, unsalted whole cashews, organic dried tart Montmorency cherries, whole dried cranberries, vegetable oil, and honey. Gluten-free! 5 ¼ cups sold in a reusable glass jar.



Raven's Wish Gift Card

The opportunity you've been waiting for! Add a piece of original artwork to your home or select the perfect gift AND support local artists at the same time with this \$50 gift certificate to Raven's Wish in downtown Janesville.



Apple Box

An apple a day... Enjoy this delicious and fun collection of all things apple. The collection includes apple butter, apple cider spice, oat-n-apple muffin mix, apple-pear spike, a dish towel, apple walnut candle notepad/pen, earrings, and a clear red

apple-shaped container. All presented in a novel decorative box.



Jean Kreul
Fund development VP

Thanks to Carole Salinas, Carol Surges, and Jeanne Tondryk for their help with this effort.

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Meet the Nominees for Wisconsin State Board Elected Positions

The nominating committee, comprised of representatives from each district and a past state president (needed for the years we elect a president elect), worked well together to find leaders for the next biennium. Nominees will be elected during the virtual state convention. I would like to thank these members of the committee for their time and dedication: Bobbi White, Terri Mitchell, Gretchen McCarthy, Ann Brice, Jane Doughty, and Betty Pontius. We are proud to introduce the candidates for elected positions. Terms will begin in July of this year.

Nominees may be added to this slate if the nominator has the member's written permission and submits their name and position to Diane Adams at rjadams65@frontier.com by Feb. 25.

Faye Binsfeld, Chair

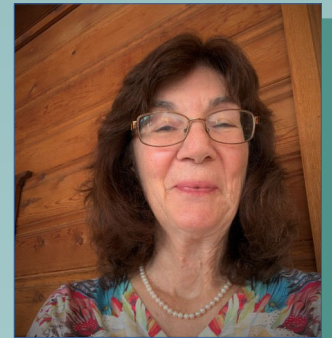
Maggie Winz (currently Leadership VP) President Elect

My name is Margaret Alice Winz, but please call me Maggie. I was born and raised in Washington, DC, and Greenbelt, Maryland, and have lived in Wisconsin since attending the UW-Madison for my BS degree and UW-Milwaukee for my MS. I'm now a proud member of "Packer Nation." I taught kindergarten for 33 years in Dousman, the same little town where we live. By the end of my career I was teaching "grand-students," aka children of my former students. I was honored to be the Wisconsin Elementary Teacher of the Year in 1992 and also was adjunct faculty at Carroll College School of Education in Waukesha for several years.

Retirement has been a gift. My husband Richard and I enjoy gardening and creative pursuits around our house: fishing, traveling, playing pickle ball, and doing volunteer work. Some of our most memorable volunteer experiences were doing hurricane relief in Mississippi after Katrina. We returned to the Gulf Coast for 10 years to do rebuilding. Richard and I enjoy being volunteer docents at Ten Chimneys in Genesee Depot, the home of actors Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, and belonging to the Whitewater Optimist Club.

Among the many people who have inspired me are my Grandma Anna, who came to America at age 15, learned to read and write English, and became a US citizen in time to vote in 1920 when women gained the right to vote; my mother Rose, who went to college against her father's wishes and became a nurse; and my AAUW friends.

Belonging to AAUW Fort Atkinson has given me a sense of purpose and belonging that I cherish. I am inspired by the many women of AAUW and am grateful to serve this wonderful organization.



Deb Thiel (currently Dist. 4 Coordinator)

Leadership Vice President

I am Deborah (Deb) Thiel, presently serving AAUW as the Wisconsin District 4 Coordinator and Tomah Branch President. I joined AAUW due to its meaningful mission, encouraged by the example of the leaders in my branch, their informative programs and community service.

I enjoyed Branch Meetings. Then later found connection with the State network of AAUW particularly invigorating and enlightening; that all started while attending my first State Convention in Milwaukee. That convention was great by the way! While there I stumbled into the role of Nominating Committee member. This turned out to be the best possible experience for me, through which I've had the opportunity to meet some of the most amazing women! Henceforth, I decided to say "yes" to any sensible AAUW opportunity presenting itself. So here I am on the cusp of an opportunity to further our mission.

My intent as VP for Leadership is to continue to form a strong communication linkage with and through our 5 District Coordinators. They are the Central Nervous System of our State Organization. The better we connect our members here the stronger our impact.

I've concluded that in this day and age, of sometimes over-connection with the whole world, it is important to find YOUR People, those like-minded accomplished, bright, giving individuals who share the same enthusiasm and passion for improving the world and helping women and girls achieve optimal educational and economic equity. This is what I've found in AAUW.

We often hear we should "Be the Change we want to see." But how do we advance change? I asked Google. Answer: "If at least 25 percent of a community's population is committed to changing what is considered the social norm..., a shift will occur, and the majority will adopt the new behavior." The take away: while we may not be able to achieve anything alone, we can certainly accomplish the change we want to see together! So here's to 2021 and the days ahead! Say yes. Many hands make little work and bring exceptional satisfaction and joy!



Carol Surges (currently Dist. 2 Coordinator)
Membership Vice President

I joined AAUW West Suburban-Milwaukee in July 2013 when I discovered AAUW's mission to advance equity to women and girls resonated with my personal beliefs. I became involved with branch activities immediately and before long I was chairing the branch Public Policy committee. In July 2015, I accepted the co-President role. I immediately worked to increase communication within the branch implementing regular e-blasts and monthly PowerPoints, assisting with the Facebook page, and more recently, managing our Zoom-based meetings. Throughout the past seven or eight years, due to dedicated, creative and enthusiastic teamwork our branch membership has grown steadily.

At the state level I worked actively on the 2018 State Convention and accepted the District Two coordinator position the following year. As the District Coordinator, I worked at building collaboration within the branches and communicating with them regularly on state and national activities. I look forward to using the same approaches to help build connections within the state's membership leaders. There are many talented membership chairs and VPs around Wisconsin and I want to support them, share their successes, and brainstorm solutions to the recruitment and retention challenges we are all facing.

On a personal level, I am a retired public-school librarian/media specialist. I've been married for 45 years and have two adult children – including a daughter who is also an AAUW member – and one grandbaby with a second one due in mid-April.



In a Year of No, AAUW said YES!

Maggie Winz, Leadership VP

2020 has been a year of many challenges. But your AAUW is moving forward with ambitious goals and positive attitude, because AAUW members said "Yes!"

AAUW is saying Yes to our future leaders with our NCCWSL Scholarship:

- This year NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) will be online due to the pandemic.
- AAUW-Wisconsin will be offering twelve (12) scholarships for college women to attend this year.
- The virtual conference will be held May 25 & 26, 2021.

For more information go to NCCWSL.org.

Each branch may nominate one woman from your community who is currently enrolled in an accredited technical, 2-year, or 4-year college. It is recommended that students be in their second or third year of school, but freshman will be considered.

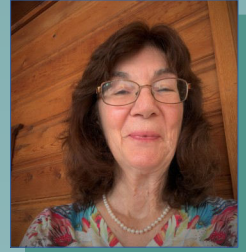
Nominations for the state scholarships are due March 15, 2021.

Each scholarship will be \$125 to cover the cost of registration.

For applications please send an email to:

Maggie Winz

mrwinzster@gmail.com



District Coordinators say Yes to successes around the State:

Kleo Baruth Kritz, District 1:

District 1 is organizing the State Convention 2021, with representatives from each of our branches meeting monthly. Branches share newsletters, fundraising, and program ideas. **Beaver Dam** and **Monona/Madison** have asked members to contribute money they would normally contribute to activities; **Fort Atkinson** and **Janesville** scheduled holiday auctions. **Fort Atkinson** and **Janesville** are hosting a virtual Tech Savvy in February. Branches held holiday Zoom parties and continue branch meetings and book groups via Zoom. For a special treat, check out **Monona/Madison's Holiday Traditions in Food** and **Janesville's Holiday Ideals**. *****Congratulations Janesville and Monona/Madison for earning 3 Stars from AAUW National.**



Carol Surges, District 2:

Lake Country remains dedicated to AAUW's mission and keeps up with state and national information at their monthly Zoom meetings.

Milwaukee has been utilizing Zoom for monthly board and membership meetings. Program topics have included Women in Engineering & STEAM, healing offered to victims of sexual assault, as well as wellness for women. The January meeting was a public policy webinar with Senator Chris Larson who updated members on what the upcoming Wisconsin legislative sessions will include. February will be a celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science. They plan to send students to the NCWSSL conference in May.

Watertown is working on a virtual March voter forum for the Senate District 13 race. Their biggest event of the year "Woman of Merit" is usually held in March but now moved to April and may end up as an outdoor event in the summer. They have been offering high school and Continuing Education (\$1,500) scholarships.

West Suburban-MKE is using Zoom for special interest group meetings, board and member meetings.

A holiday 'party' was held in December. The February meeting will be the delayed celebration of the passing of the 19th Amendment. West Suburban has continued its \$19,000 commitment for scholarships including sending five young women to NCCWSL this year. A new West Suburban Reads program began this year using the book *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult as the springboard for important branch-wide conversations on equity and racism.



Christine Steiner, District 3:

Congratulations to Geneva Lakes: 1951-2021: seventy years of community service! **Geneva Lakes** stays in touch with outdoor walks year round, a wonderful online holiday gathering, book discussions, and Great Decisions conversations. We plan to award six scholarships to local college women studying in the STEM fields. Prior to the November election, we hosted a Voters' Forum, with candidates from both major parties representing the 1st US Congressional District, and the Wisconsin Assembly.

*******Congratulations to Racine** for earning **5 Stars** from AAUW National! **Racine** stays active with monthly program meetings, study groups, community involvement, and scholarships offered to college women from our community. Our programs reflect our AAUW mission, such as Women in Politics, Financial Advocacy for Women, and presentations from recent AAUW Fellowship Winners speaking about their research. **Racine** recently co-hosted their 8th annual GEMS (Girls Empowered in Math & Science) workshop which was well attended by middle school girls to introduce them to careers in the STEM fields.

Kenosha members stay informed and connected with our Facebook page. We continue to meet monthly: outdoors until the weather turned cold, now via Zoom. Kenosha hosts an annual Public Policy Brunch in February, inviting our State Legislators and local School Board members to speak. This year we will no doubt have to hold the event via Zoom. Another annual event is held in December, when we partner with Barnes & Noble book store. Our branch raises a percentage of the online sales for our scholarships, allowing us to give two \$1000 scholarships to college women from Kenosha. In May we will continue to present our annual Educational Equity & Diversity award and Educational Excellence award to area teachers.



Deb Thiel, District 4:

*******Congratulations to River Falls for earning 5 Stars. River Falls is in process of gathering applicants for their “Role Model for Equity” award which will be presented in March! Their exciting STEM Award Program on January 23 featured Holly Dolliver, Ph.D. Professor of Geology and Soil Sciences UW-RF. LaCrosse started a new study group – SANE (Salient and Newsworthy Events) - to combat negativity in lives by engaging in educational discussion to strategize ways to make the community and world a better place!**

Tomah has awarded two scholarships to 2nd year Western Technical College to help reduce the burden for nontraditional students. They are reaching out in pandemic times to provide more self-care to members. **Eau Claire** expanded their local scholarship this year to include Chippewa Valley Technical College. They are doing something new: watching featured television programs about women leaders such as <https://www.pbs.org/video/the-codebreaker-dcbakk/> and then following up with a virtual discussion session. **Chippewa Falls** enhances their understanding of equity issues by discussing books on systemic racism. They had a program by a local organization that provides meals and hospitality to those in need in their community, which prompted members to research food insecurities in the area and they are planning ways for the Branch to assist with resources.

Judy Goodnight, District 5:

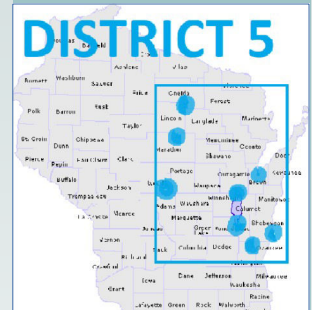
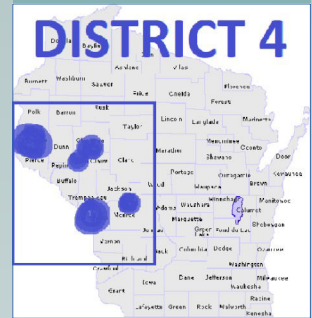
*******Congratulations to Appleton for earning 5 Stars from AAUW!**

Thanks to a successful online auction and generous donations, **AAUW Appleton** will be able to offer scholarships to local women for the 2021-2022 year. A Social Justice focus this year led to programs on Gendered Racism and a report from the state Committee on Racial Disparities & Police Reform along with our first All-Branch Read & discussions of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

Green Bay: Some of the topics being addressed by the **Green Bay** branch include Treatment Courts, Dr. Julie Mead’s presentation on *How School Privatization Opens the Door for Discrimination*, and the movie “*The Hate U Give*.” Public Policy, interest/study groups, and some interesting Zoom socials are keeping members involved.

Northwoods: Zoom has been a boon for the **Northwoods** branch eliminating travel time during wintry weather. Recent programs include a December Holiday Program, The Economic Realities of Immigration Policy in January, and a February presentation by the Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Civil Rights Memorial on The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity. We have been able to maintain all of our scholarship commitments this year and had a successful Zoom fundraiser and holiday party, raising just over \$2300.

Oshkosh: Programs this year have been on diverse topics such as Implicit Bias, Housing & Health, a virtual String Quartet Concert, Women and Science, and coming up in March – The Global Effect of COVID on Women



Sheboygan: Zoom programs are going strong in **Sheboygan** such as January's program "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" with Jessica Michna's portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt. **AAUW Sheboygan** will be sponsoring candidate forums for the April election. Study groups such as the Evening Book Review and Global Connections are keeping members involved via Zoom.

Wausau: In January, **AAUW Wausau** invited Jane Graham-Jennings, the director of a non-profit organization, The Women's Community, to do a presentation on how they are meeting the challenge of their mission during the COVID-19 pandemic. In February, Emily Johnson, a young climate activist, will be sharing information about local climate action and how to implement change.

West Bend: Zoom is allowing this branch to stay in touch with its members as well. Coming up in February and March, branch members will be sharing about pre-pandemic travels to Cuba and then Australia & New Zealand.

Fond du Lac is focusing during the pandemic on educating ourselves on issues and reviewing our branch bylaws and policies. We have invited a community group to share information on various aspects of Diversity . This will help us to decide what action our branch will take in the future. Our branch members stay in touch and active for meetings and book discussions via Zoom. We hope to re-schedule our annual Used Book Sale for May or October, as it's an important community event and scholarship fund raiser.

Let's call 2021 the year of YES!

Thanks to the branches, the state board members, and the leadership of state board president Joan Schneider.

Thank you to everyone who has said **Yes** to AAUW and our mission to empower women since 1881.

I hope to see all AAUW members at our first ever **virtual convention** April 23 & 24, 2021.

YES!

Maggie Winz



A Tribute to Barbara Meier

AAUW-WI President 1991-'93

It is with great sadness that I share with you Barbara's death on December 10 (2 days after her 82nd birthday). Barbara, probably influenced by her mother's membership in AAUW, became very active in the Appleton branch in the early '70s. A person who could always see "the big picture," she continued to serve AAUW as AAUW-WI President (1991-'93), AAUW National Board Program Committee Member ('93-'95), and Great Lakes Regional Director ('95-'97).

Those of us AAUW-WI Past Presidents before the turn of the century – yes, way back then – through the early 21st century have very fond memories of Barbara, of which, I only have room to mention a few.

Two quick responses, *"Yes, I do have fond memories of Barbara."* (Barbara Bouffard-Jenkins, '75-'77) and *"This is sad news, indeed."* (Anne Lee, 2010-'12). These, as did many others, requested further information. (See * below).

Image:

*Appleton Post-Crescent
from Dec. 17 to Dec. 20, 2020.*



*"The characteristic of Barbara that I remember best is her wonderful sense of humor. I always looked forward to any presentation and/or workshop that she gave – they were such fun. I also remember one year that the State Board meeting was held in Appleton at the Paper Valley and it was interrupted by a tornado warning. We were told to take shelter **now**. Once the all clear was given, Barbara reminded us that we were all still invited to her house for dinner, if she still had a house. What a character!"* (Marge Mueller, '06- '08).

"I remember Barbara as calm, creative, and resourceful. At a Regional Conference in the Chicago area when she was the Regional Director, the keynote speaker was Carol Moseley Brown, the first female black senator. The senator was very late in arriving and also Barb's granddaughter was having a diabetic reaction. Barbara had us each get up and talk about some topic and then as an ending and hope that Ms. Brown would arrive soon, she had us do physical activity by walking around the room in a big circle". (Pam Thiel, 2000-'02).

"When I wrote to Barb awhile back, I referred to her (and husband John) as the squished generation. While raising two children, a diabetic granddaughter, and having concerns about aging parents, Barb worked as an Academic Counselor at Fox Valley Tech for 29 years. She handled all that responsibility while being active in AAUW." (Dido Nash, '87-'89).

"She is so much a part of my state AAUW memories. Now it's time to celebrate and laud the work she did for years for AAUW." (Jan McCarthy, 79-'81).

Personally, I will remember Barbara for her resilience, perseverance, and ability to see "the big picture," and I thank her for trusting me as her friend and confidant for nearly 50 years. We shared:

- family victories and challenges;
- branch projects and activities;
- traveling to and rooming together at conferences and conventions;
- a thought-provoking presentation by Maya Angelou;
- a performance at the JFK Center;
- a two-year term with her as State President (with big, wonderful ideas) and me as Admin. Assistant (gathering details to help "get it done"); and
- these last 10 years enjoying fun, heart-warming lunches with several long-time AAUW friends. (Betty Pontius, 1998-2000).

Barbara's life will be honored in The Memorial Gardens of the First Congregational Church in Oconomowoc, WI.



*Memorials are being received at AAUW's education programs <http://www.aauw.org/issues/education> and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation <http://www.jdrf.org/fundraising>.

*Betty Pontius,
Appleton branch*



AAUW WI Public Policy Statements and Resolutions

Under the Public Policy umbrella are Resolutions and the AAUW WI Public Policy Statement. These documents direct the work of the AAUW WI Public Policy Committee.

The AAUW WI Public Policy Statements are updated by the committee every two years and presented to the convention for approval. The statement advocates in these three categories: 1. to preserve a strong system of public education promoting equity and diversity, 2. to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, and 3. to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

Resolutions are single issues that members or branches submit at a convention for consideration. A resolution has multiple statements supporting an issue. A resolution passed at a convention is used to develop our AAUW WI Public Policy Statements as well as giving directions to branches through a variety of ways such as programming, public policy lobbying, or other collaborative efforts. Some of the most recent resolutions passed at conventions are: Fair Maps (2015), Sexual Assault (2017), and Water (2017).

Current Work of Public Policy Committee

This year the committee did two webinars with speakers from other organizations to increase awareness and understanding of issues impacting members. Members then devoted their time to assist with voter registration and getting people to the polls in their local communities.

With the presidential election over, the committee decided to brainstorm issues we thought were important to address at the state level. After prioritizing the list, the committee decided the most pressing issues are: 1. Fair Maps and 2. the State budget as it relates to women's issues, education, Title IX, and student debt. Branches can expect the committee to disseminate information on these issues and at times to give a call to action.

The Public Policy Committee is committed to be attentive to impact of racial equity and inclusion in our work.

The committee is also supporting the Caregiving Task Force started on the UW campuses that several Oshkosh members serve on.

Paycheck Fairness Act

AAUW national is focused on the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act. I encourage members to sign up for the Two Minute Activist at <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Upcoming

The committee is planning webinars in the spring on Hot Issues. Watch for more information.

Thank You

Stephanie Malaney, Chair

AAUW WI Public Policy



I want to thank the Public Policy Committee who have been working tirelessly. If you want to join the committee contact Stephanie Malaney, or (920) 740-9632.

Badger Brief Membership Article

Balancing Membership Goals, Hopes and Realities in 2021

Today as our Badger Brief Articles are prepared and submitted, we are reminded that February 1st begins a month focused on Celebrating Black History. Even more so this year as we understand and applaud AAUW's renewed focus on Racial Equity, we should consider how our branches are engaged in this work. Many members of our state board attended a Regional AAUW meeting on Saturday in which we were honored to hear from Kim Churches. I was especially impressed and moved by her statement that each day with respect to a "to do list," she asks herself, "What am I doing to bolster racial equity" within AAUW. So let us all consider asking ourselves the same question with respect to our branches.

And now let us turn our attention to membership and our goals, hopes and realities for 2021. On the most basic level, membership means *belonging*. We choose to join and belong to AAUW because we believe in its Mission and Goals to protect, defend and expand the rights and opportunities of women and girls. Moreover, we cannot over-emphasize the benefits of being a part of a larger organization that defends and promotes women in leadership and is now part of a coalition of several other women's groups to advise the President's Gender Policy Council (co-chaired by Jennifer Klein and Julissa Reynosa). Hence, now AAUW's priorities are "at the table."

At the branch level, we share the same Mission, Goals and Priorities, which are supported by the excellent programs for education/advocacy. We know that we have a strong and compelling argument for membership – what some of us think of as our "elevator speech" – what you would say to someone in a few words on an imaginary or real elevator to invite them to join AAUW and your branch in particular. We actually talked about this at our "break-out" session on Membership at the Regional Meeting – given the current state of affairs in the US – perhaps a revised "elevator speech" and a useful exercise!

Often we think of membership purely as a number and naturally seek to increase the number of members by attracting new members and retaining current members. Recently (after November 30th), I've reported on current membership and the # of new members for each branch as well as retention rates. However, these numbers are really just a "snapshot" in time and especially true given the realities of Covid-19, social distancing, Zoom meeting, etc. Of equal importance is the recognition that the membership total for each branch represents *individual women with a wide variety of gifts for leadership, organization, and communication that must be recognized and encouraged through personal connections and mentorship*. It doesn't matter how many "younger" or "recently retired" women who join if we don't create a welcoming, supportive environment for them to share their gifts. The ultimate goal must be a "healthy" branch as measured by several criteria.

Membership is also about *relevancy*. This is even more important in the current climate following the 2020 election and the siege of the Capitol on January 6th. We have a lot of work to do on both a national and local level. To that end, Kim Churches also shared the AAUW "Wish List" with us. It includes:

- Covid Relief and Rehabilitating the Economy
- Women's Economic Security [Pay Equity; Min. Wage; Fair Scheduling; Child Care Access; Combating Workplace Harassment]
- Educational Equity [Title IX; STEM Programs; Student Loan Debt Relief]
- Focus on Racial and Gender Equity [Criminal Justice Reform]

While not all of these are new, the recognition and focus combined with the current state of disinformation creates an increased level of urgency. All of these issues provide options for programs and book club discussions. We need to turn our advocacy into action through myriad ways that demonstrate the relevancy of AAUW. So what are our Goals and Hopes for 2021 given the realities of Covid-19, Economic Recovery (needed), and Racial and Gender Inequity? A sign I saw recently said "I missprecedented times." Don't we all! Our Goals are to share the work of AAUW with more women and to engage them in this work in our communities through membership. Our Goals are to truly address the issues of Racial and Gender Inequity and seek equity in our communities. [Note the Diversity and Equity Toolkit on the AAUW website.] Our Goals are to support local businesses (especially those owned by women) to assist their recovery. Our Hopes are to stay safe and well and productive until we can all be together again.

Retention Rate for Membership Report

AAUW Wisconsin

February 2019, 2020, 2021

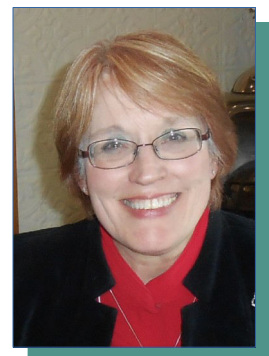
Branch	2/1/2019	2/1/2020	Rate 19-20	2/1/2021	Rate 20-21	Rate 19-21
Appleton	164	156	95.12	138	88.5	84.2
Beaver Dam	48	45	93.7	37	82.2	77.1
Chippewa Falls	27	25	92.6	25	100.0	92.5
Eau Claire	43	39	90.7	39	100.0	90.7
Fond du Lac	32	31	96.9	29	93.5	90.6
Fort Atkinson	59	56	94.9	53	94.6	89.8
Geneva Lake	105	107	101.9	93	86.9	88.6
Green Bay	50	58	116.0	51	87.9	102.0
Janesville	57	56	98.2	51	91.07	89.5
Kenosha	33	44	133.3	38	86.4	115.0
La Crosse	85	82	96.5	75	91.4	88.2
Lake Country	9	10	111.1	10	100.0	111.1
Milwaukee	70	74	106.0	60	81.1	85.7
Monona-Madison	70	68	97.1	67	98.5	95.7
Northwoods	54	56	103.7	48	85.7	88.9
Oconomowoc	21	17	80.9	1	n/a	n/a
Oshkosh	44	48	109.0	46	95.8	104.5
Racine	217	217	100.0	195	89.9	89.9
River Falls	51	48	94.1	53	110.4	103.9
Sheboygan	94	97	103.2	91	93.8	96.8
Tomah	21	22	104.8	19	86.4	90.5
Watertown	39	41	105.12	39	95.12	100.0
Wausau	36	30	83.33	34	113.33	94.44
West Bend	23	21	91.3	20	95.2	86.9
West Suburban-Milwaukee	204	209	102.5	192	91.9	94.1
Total	1656	1657	100.0	1508	91.0	91.06

On a final note, I will be speaking/sharing at a breakout session at our state convention in April and sharing several charts with membership data, retention rates and analyses, all of which will also be in the Convention Book (online, of course).

Chris Ebert

cebert@udel.edu

906-358-4246



THE AAUW PROGRAM

AAUW Wisconsin's Five Star Branches

Do you remember the first time you read the requirements for a Five Star Branch? Frankly, I was a little overwhelmed. Then I started taking a closer look at the requirements and our state and branches. Couldn't we already see that we were meeting some of the qualifications and others would only enrich AAUW WI? It was attainable! We needed to look at Programs, Advancement, Communications, Public Policy and Governance! Then national said they would give us a little extra time to accomplish this! That was it! The following branches have been recognized:

Five Stars: Appleton, Racine, River Falls

Three Stars: Janesville, Monona/Madison

I am sure those branches would answer your questions if you have any. I also have a great resource person that I would be happy to share with you if you contact me!

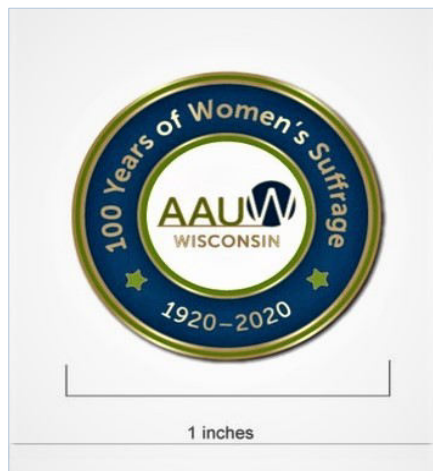
Joan Schneider
joandschneider@gmail.com
920.734.2009



AAUW PINS—A WAY TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SUFFRAGE

DONATE TO AAUW WISCONSIN

We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's rights (1920-2020) at our convention this year since last year's convention was cancelled due to the pandemic. The 2020 Convention committee had 500 high quality enamel pins (one-inch diameter) created for the convention. There are no registration fees this year for Convention 2021. Consider making a donation to AAUW Wisconsin, and you will receive an AAUW pin in gratitude for each donation of at least \$10 (for example, one pin for a \$10 donation, two for \$20, three for \$30, etc.). The pins would make great gifts for your AAUW friends or for future speakers at your branch meetings!! Even if you can't attend the convention, you can still get a memorial pin! Send your check made out to AAUW Wisconsin along with and the completed form to Jan Eriksen, 3503 Crown Blvd., La Crosse, WI 54601. Questions? Email: jperiksen@viterbo.edu



*Designed by Erica Koonmen,
La Crosse AAUW Branch,
and Tegan Jerde-Koonmen,
Graphic Designer*

COMMEMORATIVE AAUW-WI SUFFRAGE PINS

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

(We will only contact you if we have questions about your donation/pin request.)

Amount of check enclosed (made out to AAUW-WI) _____

Number of pins requested _____

Please send to: Jan Eriksen, 3503 Crown Blvd., La Crosse, WI 54601.

AAUW WI Committees 2020-2021

Convention Committee

Donna Anderson, Monona/Madison, chair; Kleo Baruth Kritz, Monona/Madison, District 1 coordinator; Mary Kahler, Beaver Dam; Kathy Marr, Fort Atkinson; Maggie Winz, Fort Atkinson; Diane Adams, Janesville; Pat Phillips, Janesville; Bobbi White, Monona/Madison; Jan Eriksen, La Crosse, Convention Chair 2020; Lyn Hildenbrand, State Program Vice President; Jean Kreul, Fund Development Vice President; Joan Schneider, State President; Ann Brice La Crosse, Tech Support.

Communication Coordination

Carol Surges, West Suburban-Milwaukee; Mary Messerlie, West Suburban-Milwaukee; Deb Thiel, Tomah; Jessica May, Milwaukee.

Strategic Plan Review

Maggie Winz, Fort Atkinson; Deb Thiel, Tomah.

Technology

Jessica May, Milwaukee; Mitzi Dearborn, West Suburban-Milwaukee; Connie Russell, Eau Claire; Deb Thiel, Tomah; Judy Goodnight, Appleton.

Bylaws, Policy Sheet, Job Description

Mitzi Dearborn, West Suburban-Milwaukee; Connie Polley, Appleton.

Nominating

Faye Binsfeld, Appleton, chair; Bobbi White, Monona/Madison; Terri Mitchell, West Suburban- Milwaukee; Gretchen McCarthy, Geneva Lake; Ann Brice, La Crosse; Jane Doughty, Appleton; Betty Pontius, Appleton, Past President.

Facebook

Jessica May, Milwaukee; Judy Goodnight, Appleton; Marlene Salley, Racine.

Public Policy

Stephanie Malaney, Appleton, chair; Andrea Waxman, Milwaukee; Susan Barbee, Racine; Carol Watson, Janesville; Bobbi White, Monona/Madison; Ann Brice, La Crosse; Brigid Heydt, Lake Country; Christine Ebert, Northwoods; Consuelo Lopez, Monona/Madison; Nancy DeCono, Watertown; Frankie Fuller, Fort Atkinson; Mary Hayden, Eau Claire; Jacqui Klimaszewski, Appleton; Janet Nortrom; Julie Konik, Sheboygan; Kathy Walson, Geneva Lake; Karen Urban, Racine; Barbara Peterson, River Falls; Margaret Tungseth, Racine; Mary Beth Petesch, Oshkosh; Ann King, Chippewa Falls; Marge Willms, West Suburban-Milwaukee; Nancy Arnold, Janesville; Patricia Markos, Pam Taylor, Northwoods; Rita Pachal, Wausau; Sharna Ahern, Geneva Lake; Sarah Harder, Deb Thiel, Tomah; Wanda Nelson, Monona/Madison; Judy Goodnight, Becky O'Connor, Appleton; Suzanne Hagen, River Falls; Alicia Johnson, Oshkosh; Jean Kreul, Milwaukee; Carole Salinas, Janesville; Jessica May, Milwaukee.

Joan Schneider Jan, 2021



AAUW WI Foundation Inc. 501(c) 3

Stephanie Malaney, Board President

The Foundation was established so branches could apply for donations from corporations and other donors that are 100% tax deductible. Originally the Foundation was started to raise money for Tech Savvy but is available for all Wisconsin branches. The AAUW WI Foundation cannot be legally connected to the AAUW WI so it is its own identity governed by a separate board and Bylaws.

Each branch who chooses to use the Foundation would have their own line-item account within the AAUW WI Foundation. A branch would need to request their money. The Foundation has no rules governing how a branch uses the funds as long as it does not violate its 501(C) 3 status. Funds deposited in the account cannot be moved back and forth between other branch accounts.

Why did we need the AAUW WI Foundation, Inc?

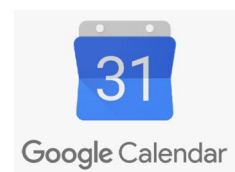
All branches and AAUW WI are categorized as a 501(c)4 which allows us to participate in nonpartisan activities, but we cannot give donors a tax deduction for funds or goods.

When the AAUW started Tech Savvy at the national level they established a 501(c)3 account so branches planning Tech Savvy events could give donors 100% tax deductions. When AAUW stopped supporting Tech Savvy at the national level we lost our 501 (c)3 account. Appleton and Oshkosh who had been hosting Tech Savvy under the national program explored other options such as Community Foundations but found they were not going to work. So, the AAUW WI Foundation Inc was established first for Appleton Oshkosh Tech Savvy but was set up so other branches could use it.



SAVE THE DATE!

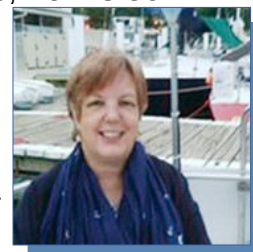
Hello STEM Representatives,



2020 was quite disappointing for AAUW branch STEM events, but many branches have successfully pivoted in 2021 thanks to virtual technology.

I have planned a Virtual STEM Meeting by Zoom on Saturday, March 6, from 8:30-9:30am. We will talk about what we are accomplishing and trying to accomplish, and we will share ideas with each other. An invitation email will be sent in 2 weeks so please Save the Date.

Jeanne Tondryk
AAUW-WI STEM Coordinator





Midwest Regional Meeting

Saturday, January 30 Michigan Hosting

Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan,
Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin

Special Guest Speakers: Kim Churches and Malinda Gaul

The Regional meeting was a valuable experience as we listened to informative speakers and had conversations between counterparts. Kim spoke specifically about how we will “never go back to the old normal”! She talked about the violence in DC, Covid, economic recovery, student loans, Title IX, pay equity, and racial equity. She reminded us to...

- *Ask ourselves what we are doing to encourage inclusivity.
- *Work on the 5 Star Program and work on AAUW
- *Ask what we are doing at the branch level and with family and friends towards equity.
- *Attend national webinars.
- *Vote. Remember there is an election this spring.

Kim is an activist with her attention and actions focused on our mission.

Malinda cautioned that we need to watch for opportunities to vote on Bylaws changes. (The educational requirement could be dropped and dues could increase.) Explore the Equity Toolkit. Remember our mission: equity and education. Vote on AAUW issues.

States have developed many new ways to operate because of the pandemic. One state board meets every month because of the ease of meeting with zoom. Other states have turned their focus on operational matters that need updating or tweaking like Bylaws, policy, voting, phone trees, Diversity, CU relations, Lobbying, and the Equity Toolkit.

State Board Attending: Joan Schneider, Chris Ebert, Maggie Winz, Carol Surges, Jean Kreul, Stephanie Malaney, Kathe Bogden, Kleo Baruth Kritz, Jessica May, Mitzi Dearborn, Ann Petersen, Joyce Gregg, and Deb Thiel.



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