

Badger Briefs

empowering Wisconsin women since 1921



*Letter from the President**- Joan Schneider***Reflections on the AAUW Year**

Do you feel uplifted like I do? It is not just that it is spring but with the pandemic, that should not be dismissed! Also not to be overlooked, many of us are fully immunized. There is a feeling of **hope**.

The post **convention** mood is upbeat and technology is part of that. We had more people attending than we have had in the recent past. (No driving, no hotel, no cost to members!) Even more interesting, we had a member of each branch registered. That is the kind of participation that we want to see. The speakers were amazing. The technology was fabulous thanks to, Ann Brice, president of the La Crosse Branch. The District 1 (Beaver Dam, Monona/Madison, Fort Atkinson, and Janesville) convention committee was fabulous. There were some interesting moments as we juggled the complex technology. My branch has teased me about one moment. I went from a holding site to Room 1 then I floated into Room 2. Why stop there? I then wafted into Room 3. Good thing. I was the moderator for the breakout in Room 3 and was anxious to land. How or why did I wander around like that? Beats me!! AAUW members have shown their flexibility this entire year. We should be proud. Look at all we have learned.

One thing that we need to address is **communication**. It became very apparent as we worked on convention that we need to look into ways to improve. Branches need to submit to us the contact information for everyone on their board. You might be surprised how often we refer to that. Some changes take place with contact information and we need those updates. We want increased interaction between branch, state, and national. You can help us with that and we will be addressing it also. I sent messages to branch presidents one to four times a month. Some never got them.

At a meeting with my branch and **Kim Churches** last week, Kim mentioned that AAUW is still recommending that we continue meeting virtually. At the end of the calendar year, AAUW will inform us if there is a change in their recommendation. That reflects caution and concern for safety. I was hoping for convention in person in 2022. District 5 is responsible for that convention. How does one plan?

Then again, that is true for your branches also. I feel very responsible for our safety so I will listen to those guidelines. Is it possible to plan a convention or branch meetings with that huge chunk of uncertainty? I know last year some branches tried to plan speakers that could be in person or zoom depending on the pandemic. They ended up virtual and that was fine. Some branches arranged speakers around their own members with expertise to share so they didn't have to worry about a guest speaker and changes that may need to happen. I am curious how convention will be planned. Totally virtual? Some virtual? In person?

The National is heavily invested in the development of **DE&I (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)** on the national, state and branch level. The enthusiasm across the country and in Wisconsin is amazing. Some of us are attending meetings to discover plans, ideas, and implementation. You will certainly be hearing more about this.

Members have been asking me about **ways to get involved** in Madison. To get started, here is a site you can explore: govinfo@wisconsin.gov. Governor Evers has appointed me to the Council on Library and Network Development. I am aware that I am not representing AAUW and its mission in this committee. That is important for me to remember.

At convention I recognized **board members** that are not continuing in their positions next year. I want to take this space to thank them again for sharing their time, talents and efforts with AAUW-WI. My thank you to *Christine Ebert, Maggie Winz, Carol Surges, Christine Steiner, Deb Thiel, Donna Anderson, and Faye Binsfeld*. Many thanks!

How about you? Do you want to be in the room where it happens? Call me.

Remember, the new AAUW year begins on **July 1**. Will your materials be ready to pass on to your successor? I made sure my materials were labeled and ready all year. If I had become ill and not able to continue in my position, the LVP would have been taking my place. I let her know what I was doing to help her if needed. Does that seem over the top? I am sorry to say I could tell you a story about how that did happen, and figuring out how to move forward was a Challenge.

If your term in **office ends** this year, that would be on **June 30**.

If you are beginning a new position, your **new term** begins on **July 1**.

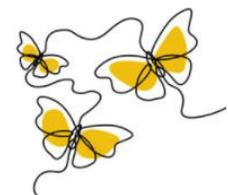
The **state board** will meet virtually in **July**.

The next **Badger Brief** will be published in **August**.



Enjoy good health and a smooth summer!

Joan Schneider
 AAUW-WI State President
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*Maggie Winz
Leadership VP*



Leadership Report: AAUW State Convention April 24, 2021

Hello AAUW Members!

One of the great disappointments of my high school days was that I did not make the Cheerleading Squad, even after weeks of practice. I even taught myself to do a cartwheel! (Well, those days are over!)

But thanks to YOU, my Dream finally became a Reality!

I'm here to report today that our AAUW Branches and Membership have been achieving amazing things, even during this challenging year of the pandemic!

When I attend meetings with branch Presidents from around Wisconsin and learn of all the successes you have had, I'm here to report that there is much to Cheer about!

I will not do a cartwheel for you, but please, consider it done!

Branches have continued to give Scholarships, hold car parades to honor the Women's Right to Vote, support STEM initiatives, hold Book Group discussions (often selecting books that dealt with Racial Justice and Diversity issues), invite Speakers to branch meetings, initiate support for Fair Mapping for our state elections, held Public Policy Day with outstanding speakers, continue to support one another during this year of stay at home isolation, and so much more.

So I say a loud: Hurray!



Now I want to Cheer again for our Future Leaders!

AAUW-Wisconsin has awarded scholarships to 14 amazing college Women to attend this year's NCCWSL conference, which will be held virtually on May 25 & 26. NCCWSL stands for National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

One more Wisconsin college woman has been awarded a scholarship to attend NCCWSL from the National office!

We are so proud and honored to be sending the following 15 Wisconsin college women to NCCWSL.

Please hold your applause until the end of introductions:



From District One:

-*Gabriella Petruzzello*, majoring in Social Psychology at Central College in Pella, Iowa. Nominated by the Janesville branch.

-*Jasmine Elliott*, majoring in Philosophy at Luther College. Also nominated by the Janesville branch.

-*Eliza Lindley*, majoring in Science Communication and Environmental Sciences at UW-Madison. Nominated by the Monona/Madison branch.

From District 2:

-*Anahi Lopez*, studying Interior Design at Mount Mary. Nominated by West-Suburban-Milwaukee.

-*Mileisis Romero Morban*, studying Fashion Design at Mount Mary. Also nominated by West Suburban-Milwaukee.

From District 3:

-*Sarah Ann Weber*, triple majoring in Psychology, Philosophy, and Anthropology; with a double minor in Religion and Sociology at Ripon College. Nominated by Racine branch.

-*Tamira Story*, majoring in Nursing at Alverno. Also nominated by Racine branch.

From District 4:

-*Clara Krause*, studying Secondary Mathematics Education at UW-Eau Claire. Nominated by Tomah branch.

-*Juliana Pundsack*, majoring in Marketing Communications at UW-River Falls. Nominated by River Falls branch.

-*Emily Kupka*, double majoring in Psychology and Communication studies at UW-River Falls. Also nominated by River Falls branch.

-*Anakah Denison*, majoring in Ecology and Environmental Biology at UW-Eau Claire. Nominated by the Eau Claire branch.

From District 5:

-*Dominique Lee*, majoring in Communication with a minor in Diversity Studies at Lakeland University. Nominated by Sheboygan branch.

-*Pamela Fleming*, pursuing a BS in Nursing at UW-Oshkosh. Nominated by the Oshkosh branch.

-*Kayley McColley*, working toward her Registered Nursing degree at North Central Technical College. Nominated by the Wausau branch.

-And from the Northwoods branch, our **National Scholarship** recipient, *Samatha Bulard*, currently at Nicolet Area Technical College; planning to major in Social Welfare and Gender & Women's Studies at UW-Madison.

In addition to our state board scholarships, individual branches are awarding a total of at least 19 additional scholarships, for a Grand Total of 34 scholarships for NCCWSL attendees from Wisconsin!

Congratulations to all our NCCWSL scholarship recipients and attendees! Let's give them all a round of applause, cheers, and good wishes!
(Cheers & Applause!)

So thank you all for letting me fulfill my lifetime dream to be a Cheerleader!



- *Maggie Winz*
Leadership VP



*Kleo Baruth Kritz,
District 1
Coordinator*

WI AAUW HISTORY IS MADE!!

The 2021 WI Convention is now history! “Reflect on the Past; Plan for the Future,” the theme of our convention, looked to the past with suffragists Carrie Catt Chapman (Pam Thiel), Jessie Jack Hooper (Helen Bannan), and Jessica Michna’s “Women Who Dared” to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage passed in 1920.



But we very much looked to the future with our first virtual convention due to the pandemic. This required a totally new way of interacting with our members. We need to acknowledge Ann Brice, our technology coordinator, for her tremendous expertise, extensive time, and pleasant grace in dealing with tons of questions. She was the one who registered our website <https://aauwwistateconvention.com> (which can be used again for future conventions), set up all the information on the website, and then coordinated the online two-day convention assisted by Pat Phillips.

The District 1 committee this year zoomed each month to put together this historical convention: Donna Anderson, 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; Ann Brice, Technology Coordinator, La Crosse; Jan Eriksen, Convention Chair 2020, La Crosse; Lyn Hildenbrand, State Program VP, Milwaukee; Jean Kreul, State Fund Development VP, Milwaukee; and Joan Schneider, State President, Appleton.

And for our AAUW’s future, Jean Kreul’s silent auction online raised \$1,910 for National’s Greatest Needs Fund. Jan Eriksen’s sale of anniversary pins celebrating 100 years of Wisconsin AAUW raised \$1,297 for our State AAUW.

It was a steep learning curve for all of us, the 13 member convention committee as we learned how to manipulate technology and the WI membership who learned how to register for the sessions they wanted and then sign in the days of the convention. Were mistakes made? Definitely! This was our first experience with setting up a virtual convention. But we did learn from our mistakes for any future conventions that use virtual elements!

No travel time or transportation fees or lodging costs or registration fees resulted in 236 individuals registering for this convention, a landmark number for our convention. The 2019 convention had 160 registrants, which was thought to be one of the larger recent conventions.

Thanks to District 4 for the ideas they were planning to use in Convention 2020 and best wishes to District 5 as they begin their trek towards Convention 2022!



*Jean Kreul,
Fund Development
VP*

AAUW WI Convention 2021 Fund Development Report



Despite lockdown, social distancing, and Zoom madness, a constant for 2020 was AAUW Wisconsin's commitment to financially supporting AAUW's mission.

Thank You to all who made contributions. more members respond to AAUW

National's call for gifts to the Greatest Needs Fund. The AAUW National web site states the Fund, "allows AAUW to focus on the pressing and most critical needs facing women today." Our giving level decreased from prior calendar years; considering the circumstances, it remained strong:

2020	\$75,605.60
2019	\$87,866.39
2018	\$79,085.41

The top five branch contributors include:

#1	AAUW Racine	\$14,157.00
#2	AAUW Appleton	\$10,126.00
#3	AAUW West Suburban	\$ 8,389.00
#4	AAUW Monona/Madison	\$ 5,054.00
#5	AAUW Oshkosh	\$ 4,784.00

Thirteen (13) Branches made contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund as well.

Traditionally during the Annual Convention, funds have been raised for AAUW by offering T-shirts to "basket" auctions. This year was no different – sort of. Our Virtual Convention included a Virtual Auction! This year's effort supporting AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund saw 57 members bidding on 24 items featuring everything from A (visit an art museum in Wausau) to Z (visit zebras at the Milwaukee County Zoo). Member donations of \$150 plus \$1,760 from the auction raised a total of \$1,910.

Many thanks to the 2021 Convention Committee along with the following members who helped make the Virtual Auction successful (and possible):

Convention Auction Sub-Committee: *Carole Salinas, Carol Surges, Jeanne Tondryk;*

Joan Schneider, President, Maggie Winz, Leadership VP and the Fab Five (our State District Coordinators) for communicating auction details with branch Presidents:

District #1	<i>Kleo Baruth Kritz</i>
District #2	<i>Carol Surges</i>
District #3	<i>Christine Steiner</i>
District #4	<i>Deb Thiel</i>
District #5	<i>Judy Goodnight</i>

Branch presidents who passed along auction information so members could join the fun.



Mitzi Dearborn,
Bylaws Coordinator

A NOTE from AAUW-WI BYLAWS COORDINATOR

This year AAUW-WI Bylaws were reviewed, and the bylaws filing process has been updated to include filing of branch and state bylaws with national AAUW for electronic online access. Bylaws Coordinators do not have access to the state and branch bylaws through the national website but all Branch and State Presidents have been granted access to Bylaws by national AAUW. The presidents can access branch bylaws and can download the bylaws for the Bylaws Coordinator as needed. When I attended the Midwest Regional AAUW Virtual Conference in January, bylaws access was discussed. We are hopeful that in the future branch bylaws chairs may have direct electronic access to the branch bylaws on the national membership database.

Please know that I am available to consult with Branch Bylaws Coordinators as needed and will be glad to assist. I also have been busy creating a Bylaws Coordinator Folder to assist now and in the future.

From July 2020 through April 2021 I served as Chair of AAUW-WI Committee on AAUW-WI Bylaws, Policy Sheet and Board Positions. *Connie Polley* served on the committee with me, and I appreciate her dedication and helpfulness in this project. Each document was reviewed and relevant input was incorporated. Bylaws involved adjustment of wording for clarification, correction of typos and grammar with no substantial corrections. Bylaws in Article XIII Section 5 were corrected to be consistent with national AAUW filing requirement. Bylaws Article VIII Nominations and Elections section will need to be reviewed later this year. The AAUW-WI Board Positions document was reviewed and updated according to input from current board members in their positions. State Communications and IT Coordinator descriptions were updated, and STEM Coordinator position description was added. Policy Sheet also was updated with corrections for typos, capitalization and improved clarity and improved flow. In the Policy Sheet the Bylaws section was corrected to be consistent with national Bylaws filing requirement. The word Coalitions was changed to Collaborations to be more consistent with national terminology. The AAUW-WI Bylaws, State Board Positions, and Policy Sheet were approved unanimously by the Board on April 10, 2021. These documents have been posted on the AAUW-WI website.





Stephanie Malaney,
Public Policy chair

AAUW WI Public Policy



On **Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30**, the Public Policy Committee will present our webinar, *Fair Maps: We All Count*. Every citizen should be able to exercise their right to vote for candidates that represent their communities of

interest. Webinar panelists will talk about their organization's work on the Fair Maps initiative. The Public Policy committee will highlight the toolkit they created for members. Committee members are available virtually for branch programs. Register: <http://bit.ly/AAUW-WI-FairMapsWebinar> The recording and toolkit including slides will be available on the AAUW WI website <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/>

Wednesday, May 5 was Mom's Equal Pay Day. This is the day that women earned the same salary men earned at the end of 2020.

AAUW wants members to help get the **Paycheck Fairness Act and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act** passed. A toolkit on Paycheck Fairness has been created for members. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/pfa-toolkit/> This act has passed the House for the fourth time and the goal is to convince 60 senators this is important. Be sure to sign up for Two-Minute activist to stay informed on these acts. <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

If you missed, ***Can You Hear Us Now?*** panel discussion on Thursday, April 29, 2021 sponsored by the Appleton League of Women Voters and Appleton AAUW Branch, it can be viewed on the Appleton LWV website:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKF3_uEcF0k

Panelists featured were Susan Peters and Jim Cricchi (co-producers), Sheila Plotkin (We the Irrelevant), Senator Hanson, and Tony Phillips (People's Maps Commission).

The film ***Can You Hear Us Now?*** is available on Amazon. "In Wisconsin, where extreme partisanship has become the norm, voters are finding their lives increasingly irrelevant to state lawmakers. Through the stories of four determined women, *Can You Hear Us Now?* unravels the ways that years of one-party control have reshaped democracy in a state in the crosshairs of American politics."

People's Map Commission website is <https://govstatus.egov.com/peoplesmaps> You can sign up to create your own version of a Fair Map.

Fair Maps Coalition <https://www.fairmapswi.com/>



Chris Ebert,
Membership VP

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In this report, we'll examine a Member Chart which examines the "status" of Membership Longevity for each branch. In the Break-Out Presentation, I discussed examining this criteria versus Level of Participation (which might range from "very active participation" to "rarely participates"). Only the individual branch would be able to measure that. However, this chart does provide that longevity piece.



In terms of a "healthy branch," a growing and active membership is a key aspect. This chart lists the total number of members, new members (0-2 years, which includes 2019-2021), regular members (3-14 years), long-term members (15+ years), and our Life Time Members (as designated by the National database). These are the entirely arbitrary designations that I chose to simply examine what the membership numbers might tell us. However, I do think they can be useful.

Attracting new members is clearly vital and most of our branches do an excellent job, both those with larger branch memberships and many of those with smaller ones. However, the break-down between what I called "Regular Members" with 3-14 years and "Long-term Members" with 15+ years is an important and interesting statistic. Just as new members slowly become more active and take-on leadership roles, our long-term members may also become less active and pass on those roles. Thus, it is important to pay attention to the relationship (the proportion between the two) and maintain a healthy balance. Again, this is a somewhat arbitrary designation, but let's say that the number (proportion) of "new" and "regular" members to the total should be greater than 50%. For the Appleton Branch, as an example, that would be $(12 + 78) / 139$ which is 64.7 %. Each branch can do this for themselves and all will receive an individual analysis shortly.

This should in no way diminish the contributions of all our active, designated members of 15+ years. As I've written many times, membership is and should be about celebrating the contributions of all the talented and dedicated women in our branches, which includes all of these categories. And as someone who has spent many years teaching mathematics and statistics, there is always the question of what else can this data tell me. I truly do hope it can be helpful for each branch as they consider moving forward, as we all emerge from our relative isolation and continue to do the excellent work of AAUW in Wisconsin.

Branch	Total Members	New Members 0-2 yrs 2019-2021	Regular Members 3-14 yrs	Long-term Members 15+ yrs	Life Time Members As Designated
Appleton	139	12	78	38	11
Beaver Dam	37	1	16	19	2
Chippewa Falls	25	0	9	16	1
Eau Claire	38	4	11	17	4
Fond du Lac	27	1	7	14	3
Fort Atkinson	60	1	20	28	4
Geneva Lake	92	12	84	25	1
Green Bay	47	11	17	19	4
Janesville	45	8	11	18	8
Kenosha	35	7	7	18	3
La Crosse	70	6	31	28	4
Lake County	7	0	5	4	1
Milwaukee, Inc.	42	10	27	19	4
Monona-Wausau	45	7	21	27	10
Northwoods	48	6	23	18	1
Oshkosh	47	7	10	14	14
Racine	195	14	82	77	20
River Falls	65	13	20	17	6
Sheboygan	92	8	33	32	19
Tomah	19	4	9	6	1
Waterloo	37	6	11	22	1
Wausau	34	6	11	12	6
West Bend	20	0	6	11	4
West Suburban Milwaukee	192	27	104	44	18
Total	1485	173	618	546	148

[Click text to view branch membership data](#)



IS NATIONAL AAUW IGNORING YOU?

Some of you may wonder why you are getting no emails from National and you got a paper ballot that said, "Your email is invalid or you are unsubscribed." That is what happened to me! My email was correct and after phone calls to National I found out somehow I was unsubscribed.

Go to <https://www.aauw.org> then tap "Membership" in top right corner, then tap "Membership Services Database." You will need your AAUW ID number, which your membership VP has if you don't know it, to log in. A white box comes up with a big white rectangle and tap "Enter Member Services Database." Then "Your Contact Information" page comes up. If email is incorrect (or anything else) first line says "To make any changes to the information below click here" so click.



If you need a tax record for the \$59 that are tax deductible, you can copy and paste the information from "Your Contact Information."

If you have been unsubscribed go to your email and type in connect@aauw.org and request to subscribe again.

Just for the record, Joan Schneider, our WI AAUW President, learned she was unsubscribed, too!!!!

- Kleo Baruth Kritz, District 1 Coordinator



PUTTING TOGETHER NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM?

In preparing to plan your Programming for next year, please consider hosting a "STEM" related Speaker. A professor from your branch College/ University partner, a STEM/Science teacher/administrator from your District, or a person from a Women in Science group from a local STEM business would make excellent resources. If any are Zoom meetings, please share the Invitation with all branch STEM chairs.

- For the Girls, Jeanne Tondryk, AAUW WI STEM Coordinator



Jessica May,
IT Coordinator

Technology Updates

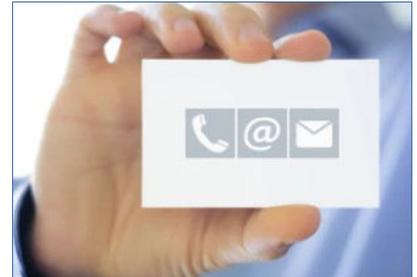
Zoom Pro License Still Available to Branches

AAUW Wisconsin purchased a Zoom Pro license, this past year, which was available for branches and committees to use for meetings of up to 100 participants. As you plan for next year, please know that the state's Zoom Pro license will still be available until August 2021; and then for 2021-22, we will be upgrading to a Zoom Business license, which will allow up to 300 participants in a meeting. If you need access to the state's Zoom Pro/Business account for a branch or committee meeting, please contact Jessica May, IT Coordinator, at jessicalmay@gmail.com.



Update Your Contact Information with AAUW

With so much communication from AAUW national, state and local branches now coming via email and mail, it is more important than ever to make sure that your contact information is correct in the Membership Services Database. Take a few minutes to login and verify that your information is up-to-date, using the directions on the AAUW Wisconsin website at <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/>.



Editor's Corner

Ha! It's me! Your friendly Badger Briefs' editor. Starting from the next issue (August) we've been planning to start highlighting a random branch every month.

I'm thinking your key busy people in the branch, most popular activity, and a link to your newsletter and/or program URL. Facebook is alright. If you do it, let's put a link in to that.

So yeah! I might be dropping an email in the future and asking things about your branch. No pressure! I'm talking LOW KEY effort here!

Also don't call me! I don't speak English!

Have a kickin' summer y'all!!



Fanny Behrens,
Badger Briefs editor



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