

The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women Appleton, Wisconsin

Serving the Greater Fox Cities Area

Volume 40 Number 2 October 2025



What's Happening This Month...

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9/28	9/29 Book Sorting	9/30 Book Sorting	10/1 Second Choice Books	10/2 Book Sale Store Set-Up	10/3 Book Sale Set-Up	10/4 Book Sale Set-Up
10/5 Banned Books Week	10/6 Book Sale Set-Up	10/7 Book Sale Set-Up and Work Night	10/8 Book Sale Set-Up	10/9 Book Sale Set-Up	10/10 Book Sale Set-Up	10/11 Book Sale Set-Up
10/12	10/13 Book Sale Set-Up	10/14 TH Afternoon Literature Book Sale Set-Up	10/15 W Afternoon Literature Book Sale Set-Up	10/16 Book Sale	10/17 Book Sale	10/18 Book Sale
10/19 Book Sale	10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23 Book Sale	10/24 Book Sale	10/25 Book Sale
10/26 Book Sale	10/27	10/28 Social Justice	10/29	10/30 Book Sale	10/31 Book Sale Halloween	11/1 Book Sale

President's Page

Hello Friends,

Book Sale! So much work. So much time. So much organizing, stacking, packing, unpacking, lifting, carrying, hauling. It's a lot.

Each year, as we work so hard to create opportunity for women in our area, we become the embodiment of the term "labor of love." Of course it's not only Book Sale- most of us can remember saving money while growing up to give a gift to someone special. We've helped a friend or neighbor in need. Even our membership in AAUW is strongly based on its stand for women and girls' bright futures, right? We are a generous and dedicated group!

And haven't those times, those choices, been satisfying? There's a "high" from altruism that ranks right up there in life's great pleasures. No wonder most of us smile our way through October and grin broadly at our May meeting when we meet our scholarship recipients. It's heady stuff to realize you're affecting the future. I'd say it's achieving a bit of immortality.

Please, come to the Mall and give some of your precious time to AAUW. We have a great deal of work to sort books, and we need YOU!

The example of working for the good of others is in contrast to our current political climate. We hear so much talk of looking after our own best interests, as if we're not connected to the rest of the world. We hear glorification of power and control, with stories of cooperation and compassion not gaining the spotlight. Yet we know that people long for examples of goodness and character, of involvement for the greater good. No wonder our book sale has been such a great membership tool!

We loved our years of STEM workshops for area girls because it was another way to open doors to brighter futures, and a great membership draw. After a year of study, we learned that developing interest and confidence in the STEM areas is being accomplished by business and school partnerships across our area. We can change our focus to find ways to help girls grow more confident in their abilities. National and State AAUW are using the umbrella term "Leadership" to guide their efforts, and I believe we will be wise to do the same. Do you have thoughts about this? We'll want to hear them this year.

Multitasking Book Sale while thinking ahead! Saddle up! AAUW Rides Again!

See You at the Sale,

Faye Binsfeld, President



AAUW Appleton Program News



Sweet and Savory Kick Off Meeting

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came to the first meeting on September 9th of the new program year. The meeting was filled with lots of tasty food to eat, a mixture of chatter filled with laughter and informative discussion, a guest speaker- the State President Deb Thiel, small skits with elevator talk on how to talk with people about our organization, updates and information about finance, membership, the book sale, public policy, holiday brunch, as well as some fun games about the AAUW interest groups and leadership opportunities. Another huge THANKS to everyone who assisted in setting and cleaning up the meeting, especially Sylvia Bull, Jayne Heinrich, and Judy Phillips.



If you would like to add your helping hands at future program offerings, please contact Shirley Collins, the Assistant Program VP at 585-9583 or Shirley.Collins.wi@gmail.com or try the sign up genius account she set up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AA5AA28ABFD0-57831101-aauw



Book Sale Work Night, October 7 at Fox River Mall

The "work" on the book sale can begin at 3 pm for book sorting. The box lunches will be available at the 5 pm meeting at the new book sale location at the Fox River Mall (outside entrance is to the right of the Food Court entrance). The deadline for ordering the box lunches is Thursday, September 25th. The box lunches are optional. See the order form on page 8. If you would like to volunteer to help sort and set up the lunches, see the helping hands section above. Wear comfortable clothes and help heft and sort through the treasure trove of donated books before and after the meeting.

Lisa Balster, Program VP and Shirley Collins, Assistant Program VP

AAUW Appleton Membership News



We warmly welcome two new members to the Appleton Branch!

*Vicki Koerner is a retired software analyst and has already been actively engaged in book sale activities.

*JoAnn Shropshire is a retired registered occupational therapist and certified hand therapist.

Please reach out and introduce yourself to them at our next branch meeting!



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Appleton Branch member, Meredith Schoenfeld. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.



Many of you picked up your yearbooks at the September branch meeting. If you have not gotten yours yet, a friend may be delivering it to you, they will be available at book sale activities or a membership committee member will be in touch with you!

Kathy O'Connor-Membership VP

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

New Member: New Member: Vicki Koerner JoAnn Shropshire

959 Nennig Rd., Neenah 54956 3600 N. Winterset Dr., Appleton 54911 920-725-3345 920-734-5150 (h) 920-851-7744 (c)

Retired software analyst Retired occupational/hand therapist

Email updates:

Kiara West's email in the directory should be: kiarakwest@gmail.com.

Pat Hauser has a new email: hauserpat76@gmail.com.

Changes of address/phone number/email address? Report any changes to Judy Goodnight and Jane Doughty ASAP to ensure that your branch records stay up-to-date. Make sure you update your information in the national database as well.

AAUW Appleton Public Policy Update

On Saturday, August 23, six AAUW-Appleton members helped at the Women's Action Coalition table at the Appleton Downtown Farmer's Market. Our table was busy the whole time! Many stopped by to write their thoughts on what equality meant to them...and had their polaroid pictures taken as a memento of the day. National Women's Equality Day, celebrated on August 26 each year, is observed to commemorate the certification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. And full disclosure...it was a right granted to white women. It was not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that black women were included. And many who stopped by expressed concern that these basic rights are being eroded today. In 2025.

"While we celebrate the 19th amendment we should also celebrate the 1965 Voting Rights Act that made the amendment a reality for millions of black women," writes Deborah Gray White, Rutgers University Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, "and realize too that when the Supreme Court gutted the key part of this act in 2013, black women's right to the vote was again put in jeopardy."

And after the 2020 presidential election, legislators introduced more than 400 bills in nearly every state, aimed at restricting access to voting.

From AAUW National:

AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights.

Our Public Policy (AAUW National, State and our branch) will try to keep you informed as much as possible in the coming year! We hope to have opportunities for you to voice your opinions on issues that brought you to AAUW in the first place..."advocating for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination."

We have a lot of work to do. AAUW gives us that megaphone to amplify our voices. Looking forward to a new year of action! Let me know if you would like to join our committee!

Becky O'Connor, AAUW-Appleton Public Policy Chair







KEEP ON YOUR TOES - READ 2025 AAUW BOOK SALE

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

Book Sorting at Fox River Mall

Tuesdays - 9 a.m. - Noon - Thursdays - 6-8 p.m. thru Sept. 30

Sale Store Set Up - Oct. 2

Thursday 9 a.m. - Help set up tables, shelving and signs

Book Sale Work Night - Oct. 7 (Tuesday)

3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Supper and Branch Meeting at 5:00 - work times before and after supper meeting (Details in October Newsletter)

Pre-Sale Work Times

Oct. 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Oct. 4, 11, 15: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Come whenever and as often as you can.

Book Sale Shifts

Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31: 8:30-11:30, 11:30-2:30, 2:30-5:00,

5:00-7:30

Oct. 18 & 25: 8:30-11:30, 11:30-2:30, 2:30-5:30

Oct.:19 & 26: 11:30 - 2:30, 2:30 5:30

Nov. 1: 8:30-12:00, 12:00-3:30

Sign up on the chart at the Fox River Mall, or contact

Mary Grace at 920-915-6379 or mcggs@aol.com.

Book Sale Celebration - Nov. 4 (Tuesday)

11:30 a.m. - Fratello's Riverfront Restaurant.

Note: Please remember to distribute your posters and bookmarks.



BOOK SALE UPDATES

BOOK SALE REQUESTS and REMINDERS

Adopt a Table

Chris Taylor is still looking for volunteers to chair the following departments: nutrition and diet, economics, sports/exercises, foreign language, and travel. Additional helpers are needed for literature/language/writing, hobbies, and music CDs. Contact Chris to volunteer. If you are not signing up for a specific area, we have lots of places you can help!

Book Marks and Posters

We have just reordered and now have plenty of both. You will find them at the mall and at all September branch events. Next to them at the mall is a sign up sheet to let us know where you are taking them. We want to spread the word as much as possible so potential customers know where we are. We have a lot of great books, puzzles, DVDs, etc. and now we need customers.

Important dates and times

See the list which is also found in this newsletter. Record them on your calendar and try to join us whenever you can. Come whenever you can during the pre-sale work days. There is no sign up for these times. See the times for shifts during the sale and the sign up information.

Our new location

Just in case you haven't been there yet, you can find us in the former Ulta store located just to the right of the main outside entrance to the food court. Our store has an outside entrance to the parking lot.

Any questions? Contact one of the Book Sale chairs. We are all listed in your yearbook!

BOOK SALE ALERT: EXTRA SORTING DAYS ADDED!

The good news is that we have lots and lots of books! The bad news is there are more than we can sort in the time remaining before the tables arrive.

We have added the following times:

September 22 - 26 (Monday through Friday) open 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

September 29 & 30 (Monday & Tuesday) open 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Come whenever you can for as long as you wish during these times.

If we finish before the deadline we will cancel sessions and send an e-mail notice.

Join Us for a Box Lunch on Book Sale Work Night Tuesday, October 7th , 2025

Branch Meeting and optional box lunch at 5:00 p.m. at the new Fox River Mall site.

Book sorting opportunities before and after the meeting.

Menu Choices:

Box lunches are from Cousins Subs and include your choice of a sandwich along with chips, cookie, and beverage for \$11.00.

Please indicate your choice of sandwich:

Italian Special – ham, provolone cheese, bologna, salami, lettuce Ham and Provolone – ham, provolone, lettuce, tomatoes, oregano Club – ham, turkey, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, oregano Veggie – provolone cheese, spinach, cucumbers, green peppers, tomatoes

Cold Water will be provided.

MAIL your check (made out to AAUW Appleton) and sandwich choice form below to:
Shirley Collins
1359 W. Brewster St.
Appleton, WI 54914

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
Return this portion with your payment.
Name:
Sandwich Choice:
\$11.00. CASH CHECK (circle one)



SOCIAL JUSTICE INTEREST GROUP

NEW MEETING LOCATION!

Join us at the Lake Winnebago room at the Menasha Library on Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:00 pm. Bring your own beverage if desired.

We're reading & discussing "How to Read the Constitution and Why" by Kim Wehle—Part 2: Rights—Chapters 5-9.

: If you're new to the group, contact Judy Goodnight (920-729-9553 or judy@gwd.org) so Ithat you receive group email updates.

WISCONSIN ERA PRESS CONFERENCE:

On <u>Monday September 22</u>, Appleton Area NOW (National Organization for Women) will host a press conference to announce the bill introduction for the WI ERA (Equal Rights Amendment). This event will be held starting at <u>11:00 at Long Cheng Community Center</u>. This amendment is very broad and includes all groups that experience potential discrimination:

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state or by any political subdivision of the state on account of sex, gender identity, race, color, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, or any other immutable characteristic.

AAUW members are invited to attend as AAUW has been a long time supporter of the National ERA effort. AAUW T-shirts would be appropriate attire if you have one.

AAUW—Wisconsin Badger Briefs

After one attempt at sending Badger Briefs directly to each Wisconsin member, communications chairs are once again being asked to handle distribution to their branch members. If you did not receive your copy of the September 2025 Badger Briefs, you can read it directly on our AAUW Appleton website or download it to your own computer to read at your leisure. Here's the link:

https://appleton-wi.aauw.net/files/2025/09/Badger-Briefs-September-2025.pdf

November newsletter articles will be due October 15th.

Send articles to Judy Goodnight at <u>judy@gwd.org</u>.

AAUW Reads



We are close to launching our next book in November! The AAUW Reads book for 2025-26 was a recommendation from the AAUW-Appleton Social Justice group. The topic is timely: immigration. From Kirkus Reviews: A New Yorker staff writer examines the tragedy of Central America against the backdrop of U.S immigration policy. From the beginning, the U.S. has meddled in the affairs of Central American's nations, some of them autocracies. This tinkering, particularly in the Reagan years, led to murder, civil war, and, decades later, a stream of migrants desperate to flee rampant poverty and violence. "For more than a century, the U.S. has devised one policy after another to keep people out of the country," writes Blitzer. "For more than a century, it has failed." It's a sorrowful yet urgent topic, and Blitzer navigates it with both journalistic rigor and compassion. A sobering, well-reported history in which no one emerges a winner.

As always, AAUW Reads tackles difficult topics with heartfelt enthusiasm and courageous discussions. There will always be an in-person and a Zoom option. We will have discussions in November, January, February, March and April.

You can purchase this book in any way you wish. If you want to order a book from The Book Store, a local business (and a great supporter of our book sale each year), email Becky at bandboc@gmail.com. The cost (you can pay later) will be \$15.75 if we have 5 or more orders.

Please get your order in by October 6 if you choose that option.

The November sessions are:

Monday, Nov. 17 at 1:00 at Becky's home (500 E. Timberline Drive, Appleton). Please RSVP to Becky O'Connor if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, Nov. 24 on Zoom. Please RSVP to Judy Goodnight if you plan to attend.

November: Intro and Part 1, Chapters 1-18 (151 pages)

January: Part 2, Chapters 19-31 (123 pages) February: Part 3, Chapters 32-38 (70 pages) March: Part 3, Chapters 39-47 (69 pages) April: Part 4, Chapters 48-54 (39 pages)

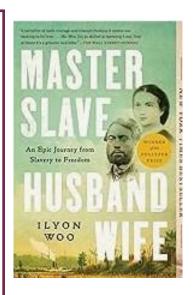
Becky O'Connor and Judy Goodnight

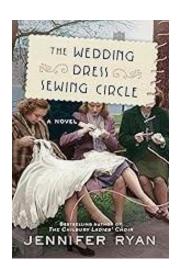
SECOND CHOICE BOOKS

Our October book is *The Messy Lives of Book People*by Phaedra Patrick.
We'll meet on **October 1st** at **1:00 pm.**RSVP to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org or 920.729.9553
by September 28th to get the location.
RSVPs are a must when we meet at restaurants!

Our November book is *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo.

Second Choice Books is open to all members of the branch.





AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Our October book is *The Wedding Dress Sewing Circle*.

Author: Jennifer Ryan

Wednesday group is meeting on 10/15 at JaneAnne McCabe's.

Discussion Leader: Laurie Leonard

Thursday group is meeting on **Tuesday**, 10/14 at Liz Lokensgard's.

Discussion Leader: Volunteer Needed! **RSVP to the host or to Judy Goodnight by Sunday**, 10/12.

If you are not a current member of this group & are interested in joining, contact Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org.

THURSDAY EVENING LITERATURE NEWS:

October 9th: NO Meeting due to prepping and setup for the book sale.

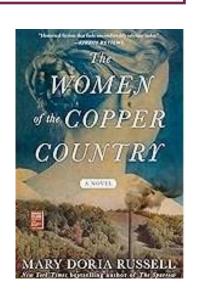
Next meeting: Thursday, November 13, 6:30 PM

Book: The Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell

Host: Joan Moeschberger

Discussion Leader: Grace Fuller

RSVP to either Joan or Donna Cook by November 12th.









AAUW Appleton
"Return to Winter Wonderland"
Brunch Fundraiser

Saturday, December 6th 8:30 AM Bridgewood Resort Hotel, 1000 Cameron Way, Neenah

Good food, great friends, bag raffle, silent auction, and live auction!

Please consider donations of gift baskets, art, homemade treats, children's gifts, or other items that can raise funds to help support the AUW mission. If you need ideas, check out the poster at the October meeting. Perhaps you can work with a friend, or friends, to compile a basket.

We are also in need of oral auction donations. Suggested donations include jewelry, antiques, art pieces, small furniture items, or extralarge gift baskets.

Ontact Jeanne Seitz (920-734-4944) or Sue Taylor (920-716-3439) With any questions.

"To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy"

AAUW Appleton Branch Meeting September 9, 2025 Prince of Peace Fellowship Hall

The meeting was called to order by President Faye Binsfeld at 6:00 PM, opening with a video from a national board AAUW member reminding us of the mission of our group.

Deb Thiel, AAUW-WI president, presented the 5-star certificate of recognition to President Binsfeld honoring the work done by the Appleton branch in the past year. She informed us of some of the changes in the direction of the state board, e.g., the STEM coordinator will now also include student leadership/empowerment, linking AAUW events to other events scheduled in our communities. She also encouraged us to use the entire phrase Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity rather that the initials, made a plea for members to join the AAUW-WI nominating committee, encouraged everyone to join the Legacy Circle, and reminded us of the April 17-18, 2026 AAUW-WI Convention in Madison.

Kathryn Herzog, treasurer, noted that we were able to give out \$44,000 in scholarships this May.

Chris Taylor, nominating chair, asked for a member to step forward or nominate a candidate for assistant membership vice-president as that position is still open. She is also looking for members to step up to be assistant membership vice-president for 2026-27 and assistant finance vice-president for 2026-27.

Lisa Balster, program vice-president, included all members present in a game of AAUW Bingo.

Kathy O'Connor, membership vice-president, introduced our newest member and 3 prospective members at the meeting.

Becky O'Connor, public policy chair, encouraged everyone to note the poster display of the past summer activities of members and to watch for future activities, including links with League of Women Voters, AAUW Action Alerts, and 5 Calls App.

She also noted that the AAUW reads book is "Everyone Who is Gone is Here" and pointed out the free book to be given away and a sign-up sheet to order a copy. The first discussion dates are Nov. 17 at Becky's home, and Nov. 24 on ZOOM.

Sue Taylor and Jeanne Seitz, co-chairs of the holiday brunch, invited all to consider some of the basket themes they presented as donations to this fundraiser scheduled for Dec. 6, 2025.

The book sale committee distributed bookmarks and posters, asked for additional help with picking up donations and for help with the set-up of tables, etc. on Oct. 2. Members were also asked to supervise the organization of tables for the sale that needed help. Everyone was thanked for all of the help to date and reminded to watch for notices in the newsletter and possible extra Mailchimp notices as needs arise. Emphasis was given that books must be picked up and delivered to the sale site and not dropped off at the site by the public.

Continued on the next page

Judy Goodnight, communications chair, reminded everyone that replies to Mailchimp are never answered in a timely manner. Replies are to be made ONLY to the address given in the notice.

Faye reported that a committee has been working on the branch Strategic Plan this summer with focuses including education/training, leadership, program that aligns with mission, sustainability, and developing a brief talk about AAUW to prospective members.

Nancy Samson encouraged all to participate in Ethnic & Elegant if they want.

Faye asked for a volunteer to participate in a community Trunk or Treat event as a community outreach activity for the branch.

The non-partisan stand of AAUW was reiterated as we work on the book sale and interact with the public. Although we never take a stand for a particular candidate as an AAUW member we do support issues as AAUW members.

Faye and Lisa concluded the meeting with a demonstration of an "elevator speech" one might use with a non-member to explain what AAUW is and does.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Connie Polley, Secretary



BANNED BOOKS WEEK—October 5-11, 2025

The 2025 theme for Banned Books Week is:

Censorship is So 1984, Read for Your Rights.

October 11, 2025 is Let Freedom Read Day.

For more information, visit here:

https://bannedbooksweek.org/banned-books-week-2025-theme-unveiled/

Support AAUW—Become a Legacy Circle Member

For more information:

https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/ways-to-give-aauw/leave-a-legacy/

Appleton AAUW Income and Expense Statement					
July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026				Budget	
	As of 8/30/2025			2025 - 2026	
INCOME:					
		677.00			
Membership Dues 2025-2026	\$	677.00		2,025.00	
Membership Dues 2026-2027		0.00		0.00	
December 2025 Brunch Net Income		0.00		1,229.00	
Advertisement		50.00		50.00	
Misc		0.00		-	
Interest	53	\$0.19		0.00	
			16		
Total Income			727.19		3,304.00
		_		-	
EXPENSE:					
Membership/Recruiting		71.74		400.00	
Financial Assistance (2)		0.00		154.00	
Newsletter		0.00		0.00	
Programs		475.00		800.00	
Yearbook		397.46		400.00	
Insurance		0.00		400.00	
Public Policy		0.00		100.00	
Historian's Expense		0.00		50.00	
President's Expense		0.00		100.00	
Finance Expense		86.91		150.00	
General Expenses		0.00		100.00	
Women's Action Coalition		50.00		200.00	
Brunch		0.00		100.00	
Special Events		0.00		300.00	
Diversity		0.00		50.00	
	13				
Total Expense		85 <u>-</u>	1,081.11		3,304.00
		_		_	
Revenue Less Expenses		25_	(353.92)		
		-			
General Checking Account					
Leadership Development		\$6,168.89			
General Fund		16,844.83			
Total Checking Account		23,013.72			
Scholarship Money Market Account*					

Book sale expenses to be reimbursed at the end of book sale

*Includes \$4.40 in monthly interest

\$185.00

\$34,565.95

FAYE'S POETRY CORNER



by Nikki Giovanni

I killed a spider

Not a murderous brown recluse

Nor even a black widow

And if the truth were told this

Was only a small

Sort of papery spider

Who should have run

When I picked up the book

But she didn't

And she scared me

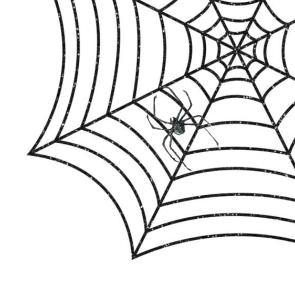
And I smashed her

I don't think
I'm allowed

To kill something

Because I am

Frightened



MERCY

by Rudy Francisco after Nikki Giovanni

She asks me to kill the spider. Instead, I get the most peaceful weapons I can find.

I take a cup and napkin,
I catch the spider, put it outside
and allow it to walk away.

If I am ever caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, just being alive and not bothering anyone,

I hope I am greeted with the same kind of mercy.

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

The Apple Branch is a publication of the Appleton, Wisconsin Branch of AAUW, the American Association of University Women.

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Membership Outreach

Member Outreach is a way for our AAUW community to stay connected and reach out to members during significant times in their lives.

AAUW member, Laurie Leonard creates beautiful cards for occasions such as:

- * Thinking of you
- * Congratulations
- * Get Well
- * Illness



If you know of a member who we should reach out to in this way, please contact JaneAnne McCabe. E-mail: jamforever02@yahoo.com, Text: 920-382-0031

Michael Goodnight and Associates, LLC



1406 Fieldstone Court Neenah, WI 54956

Phone: 920.215.0014

E-mail: Mike@michaelgoodnight.com

Michael L. Goodnight & Judy Goodnight

Owner



OF THE FOX VALLEY

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Audio, Video, Photo, & Slide Converting to Digital Files - PC Computer Support