

2015-16 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter September 2015

NEXT MEETING - The October meeting of the River Falls Branch of the AAUW will be held on **Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall of the **Congregational United Church of Christ, 110 N 3rd Street, River Falls.**

The featured program will begin at 7:30. Our speaker will be **Mr. Jamie Benson, Superintendent of the River Falls School District.** Mr. Benson will speak about the Wisconsin's school finance formula and the expansion of private and faith based school vouchers, and their impact on local public education.

Both the meeting and Mr. Benson's presentation are free and the public is invited to attend.

LEGISLATIVE DAY

The AAUW LEGISLATIVE DAY is Thursday, October 15. The opening presentation is at 8:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 East Washington Ave., Madison, WI (608) 244-4703. Speakers start at 9 a.m. Members should meet with their State Senators or Assemblyperson at the State Capitol from 1 to 3. You need to make your own appointment. Use the Two Minute Activist at WWW.AAUW-WI.net

The registration form was sent to you the week of September 21. Please complete it and mail it in if you can attend. Also tell BARBARA PETERSON if you will attend so she can help arrange car pools. Barb can also answer questions about this event. Her email is lbpeters@dishup.us

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jane Matthews, Branch President

At our September 8th meeting we made good strides in getting our year off to a good start. October is a very busy month, so I will try to highlight topics that might be covered in a regular meeting.

THE STATE OF OUR STRUCTURE

Most of our offices, committee chairs and committee positions have been filled. I am listing them here, so that they can serve as a reference throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ann Gustafson, Chair
Lorraine Davis
Ruth Lee
Val Malzacher

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rellen Hardtke
Lorraine Davis
Jeanne Zirbel

STEM COMMITTEE

Rellen Hardtke
Jane Matthews
Maureen Olle-La Joie
Kathleen Dial
Lorraine Davis
Jeanne Zirbel
Kay Montgomery

FUNDS COMMITTEE

Sue Halseth, Chair
Ruth Ann Frank
Gwen Paulson
Kay Montgomery

VANCANCIES

No one signed up for the Advocacy Committee, and our Public Policy Chair is also vacant. Val Malzacher signed up as a Public Policy member but does not wish to be chair. I hope that members who were not at the meeting will consider filling these spots. They are very important.

PLANS

LEGISLATIVE DAY

Legislative Day is October 15. You have all received a registration form for this event via email. It is also available on the state AAUW web site. Check your calendars and clear as many obstacles as you can in order to participate.

TECH SAVVY

The Tech Savvy proposal was submitted, and we should know in December if we are selected for a \$5,000 grant in support of our STEM project in April. We have support and plans for a STEM event even without the grant, but it will present a different set of challenges. This is going to be exciting.

BOOK SALE

Contact Suzie Danielson or Jeanne Zirbel with any questions about the imminent book sale. It looks as though there may still be work times available.

MOOSE BRUNCH

The Moose Brunch is November 1, so get ready to get tickets from Suzanne Hagen and sell them to family and friends.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Lorraine Davis

At our September first meeting of the year, the \$500 AAUW scholarship winner was introduced to the branch. Christine Marriott, UWRF junior and political science major, is a River Falls resident and non-traditional student. She has spent much of her life doing volunteer work wherever she lived and, upon graduation, hopes to

work for a non-profit where she can utilize her personal and academic experiences helping others. She is enjoying college and living in River Falls.

Christine and AAUW will be recognized on Sunday, October 25 at the UWRF Scholarship Event. Gwen Paulson will be our branch representative at this occasion.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ann Gustafson, Vice President-Membership

The Membership Committee has been busy during the last couple of months introducing individuals in River Falls and the surrounding area to AAUW. This included a “Getting to Know AAUW” event at Ruth Lee’s home in August and invitations to the September potluck and NCCWSL presentation. As a result we have six new members to introduce:

Amy Halverson graduated from UW-River Falls with a major in elementary education. She was recently appointed to fill a vacant position on the River Falls School Board.

Rellen Hardtke recently rejoined the River Falls AAUW branch after spending last year in Scotland. She received her B.S. degree from M.I.T. in Cambridge, MA and her PhD in Particle Astrophysics from the University of Wisconsin. She currently is a professor in the physics department at UW-River Falls.

Marilyn O’Korn Owens is a graduate of the University of Minnesota where she received a B.S. in Medical Technology and was employed in that field for a number of years. Marilyn and her husband moved to River Falls in 2000 to be closer to one of their sons and grandchildren. They also liked River Falls as a small town with a beautiful library and a university.

Faye Perkins is part of the Health and Human Performance graduate faculty at UW-River Falls. She received her B.S. in Health Education and M.S degree in Exercise Physiology from Iowa State University and her PhD from the University of Utah with a major in Health Education.

Debra (Deb) Quist grew up on a farm in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. degree in distributive studies. She has been part of the staff at Treasures of the Heart in River Falls for six years. She enjoys gardening and is a Master Gardener plus she likes singing and traveling.

Gretta Stark became familiar to branch members when she wrote an article about the branch’s 80th anniversary last May. She received her B.A. degree in communication studies at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. She is currently a reporter for the *River Falls Journal*.



Pictured are new members (l.to r.) Deb Quist, Rellen Hardtke, and Marilyn Owen. Photos of the three additional new members will be printed in next month’s *Falls Notes*.

Our newest members represent the wide variety of backgrounds and interests that are AAUW. Please join

the Membership Committee in welcoming each of these individuals to AAUW-River Falls.

October is a good time to invite additional prospective members to become part of our branch. The October meeting will feature school Superintendent Jamie Benson as speaker. This will be a *Shape the Future* program where new members or former members who have been non-members for two or more years are able to join at half cost dues.

PROGRAM NOTES

Barbara Peterson and Elaine Baumann, Co-Chairs

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 13. For information on future meetings see the calendar at the end of the newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

Saudi Women Register to Vote for The First Time Ever...But the country is still far from establishing equal gender rights. Lydia O'Connor Associate News Editor, The Huffington Post Posted: 08/21/2015

Women in Saudi Arabia began registering to vote this week for the first time in the municipal elections as voters and candidates in the nation's history. But the roadblocks to voting they still face are a reminder of how much progress the country has yet to make on gender equality.

The late King Abdullah announced in 2011 that women would be allowed to run for office and vote in municipal elections, which take place every four years. Registration for the upcoming election, to be held Dec. 12, began this past Sunday.

At least 70 women intend to run for office, and more than 80 registered as campaign managers, Arab News reported last month.

While the legal barrier to voting has been lifted, other Saudi laws and culture could complicate women's efforts to cast their ballots.

Saudi women still have to contend with limits on their freedom of movement, and since it's illegal for them to drive, many of them will have to rely on male members of their family to take them to register and to vote. Male relatives who oppose female voting rights could also be a barrier. The government also requires voters to have personal ID cards, and many Saudi women do not.

"To make serious headway on women's rights, Saudi authorities should scrap the male guardianship system, under which ministerial policies and practices forbid women from obtaining a passport, marrying, traveling, or accessing higher education without the approval of a male guardian," researcher Adam Coogle said in a Thursday article for Human Rights Watch. "Only then will Saudi Arabia's women be able to contribute to society on an equal footing with men."

SOMEONE IS GASSING GIRLS IN SCHOOL IN AFGHANISTAN- September 3, 2015

Kabul, Afghanistan (CNN) Mysterious fumes in two Afghan schools have sent more than 300 girls to a hospital this week -- and officials suspect the incidents were deliberate.

115 girls, ranging in age from between 9 and 18, from a school in Herat city were hospitalized after they were poisoned with some type of gas, Herat Regional Hospital spokesman Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai said.

Sherzai said this is the third incident of its kind this week in the same police district of Herat.

On Monday, 140 girls were hospitalized from a different school in the city after smelling a similar gas, Sherzai said.

On Wednesday, 68 girls fell ill at the same school where Monday's gas incident took place.

Aseeluddin Jami, the deputy governor of Herat province, said he believed the incidents were deliberately caused, but did not say who may be responsible.

Attacks against schoolgirls in Afghanistan happen with alarming frequency, often by militants who believe girls should not go to school.

Afghanistan: Men throw acid into girls' faces 'for going to school'

In July, assailants on a motorbike threw acid in the faces of three teen girls on their way to school in Herat province.

Two of the girls were critically injured, Herat province education head Aziz-ul-Rahman Sarwary said.

The girls, ages 16 to 18, attended one of the biggest girls' schools in the area.

Jamal Abdul Naser Akhundzada, the head of the local Noor hospital, recalled what the girls said the assailants told them after pouring acid on them:

"This is the punishment for going to school."

2 Sisters Sentenced to Be Gang Raped and Paraded Naked By an Unelected All Male Court BBC reports: Sep 01, 2015

More than 100,000 people have signed a petition by Amnesty International after allegations that a village council in India ordered that two women be raped as punishment because their brother eloped with an upper caste woman. It has even led to calls by British MPs for action. But local police and officials say no such order was given. The BBC's Sanjoy Majumder travelled to Baghpat in northern India to investigate.

Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry

UN Women's regional office for Eastern and Southern Africa, in collaboration with the Australian High Commission and other partners, is pleased to announce that it will host a "Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry: Building on Good Practices" in Nairobi, Kenya from the 13th to the 15th of October 2015. The Gender Equality in the Extractives Industry Sharefair builds on the success of the 2014 Rural Agricultural Technologies Share Fair which brought together over 350 participants and 90 exhibitors from across the region

The valuable extractive resources in Africa – oil, gas and minerals – are driving immense economic and social development and have the potential to drastically reduce poverty levels on the continent. However, barriers exist that prevent women from actively and profitably benefiting from the extractives industry in Africa. It will promote technologies, innovations, best practices and policies that support women working in the extractives. It will have a substantive South-South component and will bring together women miners, women living and working in the extractives from around the region and large-scale mining companies. It will also offer a platform for governments, policymakers, researchers, academics, private sector (mining, oil, and gas), community groups, civil society, technology innovators and others to interact with women in the extractives and discuss and uncover some of the good practices and challenges in the sector.

Save the Date: Graduate Women International's 32nd Triennial Conference 2016

Graduate Women International's triennial conference taking place in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2016, is a leading conference focusing on the confluence of education, gender and human rights. It is the occasion to discuss pertinent issues and to network with a wide variety of stakeholders, ranging from Ministers of Education, Ministers of Finance, to Deans and Trustees of Secondary schools, universities, technical colleges and other institutes of higher education, international organizations such as UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, UN, UNHCR, ILO, CARE, PLAN, education and human rights NGOs as well.

PUBLIC POLICY

Submitted by Barb Peterson

When will they stop! Our legislature just continues to pass legislation that makes life harder and harder for women and children, particularly hard for single mothers living near the poverty level.

In 2013 our Governor Walker and the Legislature turned down hundreds of millions of dollars that would fund the expansion of Medicare. It has been said that he was trying to position himself as a potential presidential candidate (we know how that ended up) at the expense of healthcare in Wisconsin. Then they culled the BadgerCare list of eligible people, leaving between 30,000 and 70,000 additional people without basic healthcare coverage. Last month, both houses of the legislature voted that abortions after 20-weeks would be illegal. They also have made it harder for women to sue their employer for gender discrimination in Wisconsin. The members of the legislature refused to increase minimum wage in Wisconsin. The majority of minimum wage workers are women and they are NOT all young women – have you been to a fast food business recently in the middle of the day?

Right now, right this very minute, the WI Assembly and Senate are holding hearings on a bill that would take Title X funds (Public Health Services Funds) away from Planned Parenthood clinics in Wisconsin. Conservatives argue that there are other clinics in Wisconsin that will serve indigent patients for their female healthcare needs (PAP smears, breast exams, and birth control). The fact is that many areas of Wisconsin will not be served by any other clinics that give treatment based on a woman's ability to pay. Some clinics will not even provide free or reduced cost contraceptives. In the recent state budget, Planned Parenthood funding was eliminated. This has already required that four PP clinics close; none of them performed abortions. Now they want to take Title X funding away from remaining Planned Parenthood clinics across Wisconsin. This is total disregard for women's health and flies in the face of family values.

Many of us know and love the exuberance of Sara Finger, executive director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. Several days ago she wrote on Facebook, "Despite some politicians' claims to the contrary, no network of health care providers has come forward to serve the women who will go without health care if Planned Parenthood goes away. In fact, 250,000 women in need of affordable reproductive health care in Wisconsin already go without. Access to quality preventive care can mean the difference between stage one and stage four cancer. It can mean preventing the transmission of an STD or HIV, or the prevention of a pregnancy before a woman is ready to start a family."

As you read this, won't you stop for a moment to call Senator Sheila Harsdorf ? (608) 266-7745. It is so important that we stand up for women and families across Wisconsin. Please call immediately. Leave your message with her staff.

While you're at it, you may want to contact our federal Senators too. They are discussing similar legislation that has already passed in the House. They are threatening to shut down the government by refusing to pass a budget unless Planned Parenthood is unfunded. Contact Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson.

Remember Sara Finger's wise words, "If you're not in the kitchen, you may be on the menu!" Be an advocate!

ANOTHER ATTACK

Governor Walker has been back in Madison for less than a week and already he is attacking yet another group of workers, WI civil service employees. Historically, Gov. Robert La Follette set up the rules for civil service employees to eliminate the patronage system which allowed political appointees to be made. For the most part, political appointees lead to corruption in the administration of government business.

According to the Wisconsin State Journal, a bill to redefine civil service hiring practices will be introduced next week in Madison by two Republican Assemblymen. Your voice is needed so our legislators know that this flies in the face of progressive governing. We will also plan to speak to our Assemblyman in Madison during Legislative Day, October 15th. Please read the details at the website below.

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/republicans-plan-to-overhaul-state-s-century-old-civil-service/article_c370801f-fb31-55fa-8651-9838722d69fe.html

FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - August 31, 2015

Checking balance 7/20/2015	\$ 647.79
Receipts:	
Membership dues (Baumann)	73.00
Membership dues (Peterson, Okorn-Owen)	109.50
Total receipts (7/20-8/31)	182.50

Disbursements:	
AAUW National dues (Baumann, Halseth)	98.00
AAUW State dues (Baumann, Halseth)	26.00
UWRF Outreach Table	50.00
<i>Total disbursements (7/20-8/31)</i>	174.00

Balances 8/31/2015

Checking: 656.29

Savings: 1656.31

\$ 2312.60

Encumbered funds:

UWRF Scholarship = \$00.00

High School Scholarship = \$00.00

AAUW Funds (formerly EF) = \$231.03*

NCSWL = \$77.50

LAF = \$12.00

Travel

National = \$6.78

*As of Jan. 31, 2015, \$1231.03 was encumbered for AAUW Funds/scholarships, \$1000 of which designated locally for NCCWSL support. \$922.50 has been paid to date for NCCSWL, leaving \$77.50 remaining encumbered for that program and \$231.03 in the Funds/Scholarships "pot."

**Any funds left in State travel after the State convention are added to the National travel fund.

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - September 20, 2015

Checking balance 8/31/2015	\$ 656.29
Receipts:	
Membership dues (Frank, Quist)	109.50
Membership dues (Loudon, Perkins, Halvorson)	182.50
9/8/15 Meal donation	55.00
<i>Total receipts (9/1—9/20)</i>	347.00
Disbursements:	
AAUW National dues (Peterson, Okorn-Owen, Frank, Quist, Loudon, Perkins, Halvorson)	269.50
AAUW State dues (same as above)	71.50
Change for Booksale	50.00

<i>Total disbursements (8/31-9/20)</i>	391.00

Balances 9/20/2015

Checking: 612.29
 Savings: 1656.31
 \$2268.60

Encumbered funds:

UWRF Scholarship = \$00.00
 High School Scholarship = \$00.00
 AAUW Funds (formerly EF) = \$231.03*
 NCSWL = \$77.50
 LAF = \$12.00
 Travel
 National = \$6.78

*As of Jan. 31, 2015, \$1231.03 was encumbered for AAUW Funds/scholarships, \$1000 of which designated locally for NCCWSL support. \$922.50 has been paid to date for NCCSWL, leaving \$77.50 remaining encumbered for that program and \$231.03 in the Funds/Scholarships "pot."

**Any funds left in State travel after the State convention are added to the National travel fund.

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from AAUW River Falls Branch meeting

September 8, 2015 at Ezekiel Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by Branch President, Jane Matthews, at 6:35 pm.

The minutes and finance report were approved as printed in Falls Newsletter.

Suzie Danielson provided update on book sale and book collection. Sign-up sheet for book sorting and selling was passed around.

Update on Moose Brunch from Suzanne Hagen included report that last year we raised about \$600 and that we need three people for each of the two shifts this year. The sign-up sheet was passed around.

Val Malzacher provided report on two events held by AAUW on campus: City Sampler on Wednesday, September 2, and Local on Thursday, September 3. The e-affiliation for AAUW was promoted and 37 students signed up for mailing list.

The AAUW district was re-organized. We are now in District 4 with Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Rhinelander, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids. The district meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 19 in Osseo.

Rellen Hardtke provided information regarding STEM Project. There is a lot of support for it at UWRF. It will take place on campus on April 9, 2016. Its final form depends on receiving a grant.

Membership drive in August was quite successful according to Ann Gustafson. Two new members and one returning member were present at the meeting.

Elaine Baumann distributed program notes for the rest of the year.

Sue Halseth suggested that we need to explore ways of raising money for local projects/use.

The sign-up sheets to fill the following vacancies were circulated:

- Public Policy chair/co-chair

- STEM working group

- Advocacy Committee chair/co-chair

- Education Committee chair/co-chair

The recipient of the AAUW scholarship was introduced by Lorraine Davis.

Flyers about book sale were available for passing around at gatherings and/or placing in different locations.

The business part of meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

The rest of the evening consisted of a potluck dinner and presentation by Kao Vang, who was a NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) scholarship recipient.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 2015 - 2016

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 – Jamie Benson- School Finance Update

Thursday, October 15 – Legislative Day in Madison

November 10, 2015 – Veterans Day Theme – Sisterhood of War with Author Kim Heikkela and Mary Beth Crowley Co-sponsored by the River Falls Public Library

December 8, 2015 – Holiday Gathering

January 9, 2016 (Saturday) – STEM Luncheon and Essay Awards

February 9, 2016 – Mike McCabe – author of *Blue Jeans in High Places – the Coming Makeover of American Politics*

March 9, 2016 – Human Trafficking – It Is a Local Problem - Katie Ryan – Turning Point

April 12, 2016 – Annual Meeting (Election and Budget) Business Meeting 6:30 Program 7:30
Title IX – After 40 Years – How Are We Doing?

May 10, 2016 – Officer Induction and Pot Luck – Location TBA



AAUW's MISSION STATEMENT

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

AAUW's VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

VISION STATEMENT

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

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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.