

2016-17 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter

AUGUST 2016

First meeting this year will be September 13

We will gather for our meeting at **6:30 PM** for our AAUW business meeting and pot luck salad dinner at **United Church of Christ at 110 N 3rd Street**. We will begin with our business meeting and then follow with our program presentation at 7:30.

PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

Jane Matthews, Branch President

Ready or not it's a new season of AAUW. The fall that looked so far away in May is now bearing down upon us in full force. In spring it is easy to believe that all the ground will be nicely prepared, research done, decisions made and loose ends tied up neatly so that a well-planned roster of events can go forward. And they will. But there are always a few moments of anxiety mixed with the anticipation of new vistas and challenges, at least on my part. What have I forgotten? Did I ask the right questions? Did I misunderstand information that was passed on to me? In spite of the momentary anxiety, I know we will move forward. We always have, and we always will—perhaps not with grace and aplomb, but achievements count even if we cross the finish line stumbling and disheveled.

We will have a good year and do good things, because we have a history and a calling. Who else will speak out about empowering women and girls, if not us? Who else will speak out about the issue of sexual assault on campus and the military if not us? Who else supports universal access to birth control, and who else understands the absolute and critical need for women's leadership in business and politics, if not us. We are part of a national and international organization that believes in fostering positive changes for women who will, in turn, foster positive changes in all aspects of society.

I know we are ready.

BOOK SALE NEWS 2016

The annual used book sale will again be in the **Boles Property Building, 109 N. Main, on the lower level (the same location as last year)**. We will be able to put out a sign on Main St. and people can get there by going down the stairs or by going in on the river side. This is all contingent on the building

not being rented before then. The sale will be the **2nd two weeks in October, the 13th through the 15th and the 20th through the 22nd**. We can sort books on **Saturday, Oct. 8th**.

Now for your opportunities to help - here are the JOBS AVAILABLE:

1. **People to collect books** at both Family Fresh and Dick's and bring to the sale spot. The Boles Office is open during regular business hours, so we can pick up a key and then drive around to pick up books and drop them off in the bottom sales location.

We need people to sign up for the following weeks:

Sept. 6-10

Sept. 11-17

Sept. 18-24

Sept. 25-Oct. 1

Oct. 2-8

2. Since the Journal is no longer in town, we **will need even more tables**. If you have tables, but can't transport them, we can pick them up. (Although it is even nicer if you can deliver them.)

3. Plan to come to help **sort books on Saturday, October 8th at 9:00 a.m.**

4. Sign up to help sell books. See the attachment sent with this newsletter for time slots.

5. Help us think of **ways to publicize** the sale besides our usual picture in the paper and flyers. Think about being on a publicity committee for this.

Please look over the jobs and find one or two that you can fit into your schedule. Call or email **Sue Danielson** if you can help (**715-425-9082 or suzied40@hotmail.com**). More updates will be coming.

Thanks for anything you can contribute.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ann Gustafson, Co-Membership VP

Jean Loudon, CO- Membership VP

Our branch membership continues to grow because members invite others to join and because of the interesting and relevant branch programs. Six new members have joined since May. Please join in welcoming them to the branch.

Four new members joined in May:

Judy Anderson received her education at UW-River Falls where she received both her bachelor and master's degrees. She now volunteers at Westside Elementary School where her grandchildren attend.

Jill Berke graduated from Eastern Kentucky University where she received her B.S. degree. She completed additional course work at OSU and UW-River Falls. She received her master's degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Jill is active in the community serving on the St. Croix County Board and chairing the Troy Township Park Board. Jill is also known for the fruits that are grown at Blue Ridge Growers, which she owns.

Cindy Holbrook received her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and her M.S. degree in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Psychological and Sociological Dimensions of Sport from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. She is part of the academic staff at UW-River Falls in the area of Health and Human Performance. She is the head coach of the UW-River Falls women's basketball team which won their third WIAC conference title in 2016. Cindy was named the Coach of the Year for the All-Central Region.

Theresa Jonas received her bachelor's degree in biology, English, and secondary education from UW-River Falls and her master's degree in elementary teaching and learning from St. Mary's University, Winona, MN. Throughout her career she taught in the River Falls school district--one year in 9th grade and the remainder of the time in third grade. Teresa says "kids and animals were my hobby." She and her husband started the Pierce County Humane Society.

At the membership event held in **early August, two new members** became part of our branch:

Janet (Jan) Gerber earned her B.S. from Northland College with majors in history, psychology and secondary education. For more than 20 years she worked with students with Emotional Behavior Disorders (EBD) in the River Falls School District. Jan says she "always worked with people with disabilities" including as an employment specialist in the Ashland/Bayfield area and as a vocational program aid in Ironwood, MI. Jan "loves being retired." She is part of a quilting group and also likes to play Mahjong. She said she has a large house with a large yard plus a dog that likes to go for walks that keep her busy.

Lesley Williams is a graduate of Durham University, Durham, England. She received her B.S. degree in geology and an M.S. in Special Education. She and her husband came to the U.S. in 1975 with a plan to stay five years. They lived in California for seven years before moving to River Falls where her husband took a teaching position at UWRF. Lesley taught special education classes in River Falls until a year ago when she retired which she is really enjoying. She likes to garden, cook, and bake. Lesley says she believes "everyone has a right to vote." After working at the polls in the most recent election, she became convinced free IDs should be included for everyone.

We are delighted to welcome you--Judy, Jill, Cindy, Teresa, Jan, and Lesley--to the River Falls branch. We hope you will find being a branch member very fulfilling and enjoyable.

Add These New AAUW Members to Your Membership Book:

715-425-8289 Jill Berke

715-425-7500 Judy Anderson

715-425-7340 Theresa Jonas

715-425-3250 Cindy Holbrook, Office: 123n Hagestad Hall Phone: 715-425-3250 cindy.holbrook@uwrf.edu

715- 426-9704 Janet Gerber

715-425-1323 Lesley Williams

PROGRAM NOTES

Elaine Baumann and Faye Perkins, Co-Chairs

September 13 Meeting - We will gather for our meeting at 6:30 PM for our AAUW business meeting and pot luck salad dinner at United Church of Christ on 3rd Street. We will begin with our business meeting and then follow with our program presentation at 7:30.

Our speaker will be our 2016 NCCWSL branch scholarship winner, **Tori Schneider**. She will relate her experiences at the June AAUW -- sponsored leadership conference in the Washington D.C. Upon her return, Tori wrote "NCCWSL completely blew my expectations out of the water and I can't wait to tell everyone about it." We will have the opportunity to share Tori's enthusiasm and energy as she tells us about the various workshops she attended, networks she created and speakers who inspired her at the four day event.

Tori is a junior at UWRF with a major in journalism. She served as the chief photographer for The Student Voice and was a co-host of a public affairs radio show on WRFW. While Tori was at UW-Fox Valley (from which she transferred last year), she was an active member of Students for Sustainability and has maintained her commitment to this effort as a part of UWRF's Environmental Corps of Sustainability. She is a student member of AAUW.

The remainder of the year's programs will focus on issues in Women's Health. See the Calendar of Events at the end of the Newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

RISE IN NEPAL WOMEN TRAFFICKED TO CHINA, SOUTH KOREA – RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORTS

KATHMANDU. (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Thousands of Nepali women are being trafficked every year as sex workers and bonded laborers, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) reported.

Up to 17,000 Nepalis were trafficked in the two fiscal years ending mid-July 2015, a number swollen by the disruption caused by earthquakes in April and May last year. India remains the biggest destination country, but rising numbers of women and girls are also being trafficked to China and South Korea after being tricked into marriage with the promise of a better life. Unfortunately, most are living in slave-like conditions. A number of local and international charities are working on the rehabilitation of trafficked women: "They must be given counseling, so they can open up and seek justice".

UNDERCOVER SQUAD MAY MEAN MORE COVERING UP FOR TEHRAN WOMEN.

Tehran police chief recently announced his department had deployed 7,000 male and female officers for a new plain clothes division — the largest such undercover assignment in memory. Authorities said the division, will patrol major Tehran streets and intersections, policing transgressions including harassment against women and excessive car honking and engine noise. Critics fear the unit's main focus, however, will be enforcing the government-mandated Islamic dress code, which requires women be modestly covered from head to toe. They see it as the latest flashpoint in the struggle between relative moderates and establishment hard-liners who fear looser social norms will weaken the Islamic Republic's values and principles.

INDIA- PANIC BUTTON ON PHONES TO BE REQUIRED (Minneapolis Star-Tribune)

Mobile phones sold in India will be required to have a “panic button” after Jan. 1, 2017, part of the government’s efforts to address women’s safety in a country where incidents of rape continues to rise. “It’s a game changer,” said Maneka Gandhi, minister of women and child development.

THAILAND ENDS MOTHER-TO-CHILD HIV, SYPHLIS TRANSMISSION: UN

Thailand is officially free of mother-to-child transmission of both HIV and syphilis, making it the first country in Asia to achieve such a health feat, according to the U.N., and other involved agencies.

The rate of HIV transmission dropped to 1.9 percent last year, down from 10.3 percent in 2003, according to the Ministry of Public Health. Transmission is considered “eliminated” once a rate falls below 2 percent, according to the World Health Organization.

WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE 2016

In mid-May Copenhagen was host city to the Women Deliver Conference. It was the world’s largest global conference on the health, rights, and well-being of girls and women in the last decade. The U.S. Embassy and several other parts of the U.S. Government participated in the conference, which focused on women’s rights, inclusion of women in all aspects of society and investing in girls and women’s education to make countries more prosperous and stable.

The conference had about 6,000 attendees. That included around 2,000 Organizations from over 150 Countries. Among these attending were some 1,200 young people, 500 Journalists, private sector representatives from multiple industries as well as UN Agencies and government representatives, including ministers and parliamentarians from over 25 countries.

TOKYO ELECTED ITS FIRST FEMALE GOVERNOR

Yuriko Koike of the Liberal Democratic Party—which did not support her in the race—was elected to become Tokyo's first female governor. As the capital’s first female governor, Koike vowed to pursue policies that will promote better conditions for women in the city of over 13 million residents.

U. N. LEADERS CALL FOR A WOMAN TO REPLACE SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON IN 2017

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently said he should be replaced by a woman. It is "high time" a woman lead the multinational organization". "In 70 years, the U.N. has never had a female Secretary General," the U.N.'s Assembly President, Mogens Lykketoft said before adding that the long-held excuse that there "are no qualified female candidates" will no longer fly. Frontrunners are, **Helen Clark**, former New Zealand prime minister and head of the UN development program, **Susana Malcorra**, who had served as chief of staff to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon before becoming Argentina’s foreign minister, Bulgaria’s **Irina Bokova**, the director general of UNESCO, and **Vesna Pusić**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia and a women’s rights and peace advocate. Other possible female candidates are Lithuania’s President **Dalia Grybauskaitė**, Bulgaria's **Kristalina Georgieva**, European Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, and **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, first woman leader of Liberia and Africa's first female head of state. **Angela Merkel**'s name has also been floated as a "dream" candidate. Also, former Moldovan Foreign Minister **Natalia Gherman**, and Costa Rican **Christian Figueres**, former Executive-General of the U.N.'s Framework Convention on Climate Change.

A new Secretary General candidate will not be announced until mid-2016, after the Permanent Five (Britain, France, Russia, China, and the United States) agree unanimously on a nominee who can be appointed by the 193 member nations of the General Assembly. The new Secretary General would assume his—or her—duties after Ban Ki-moon steps down December 31, 2016.

FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Reports – June through August, 2016

June 15, 2016

Checking balance 5/15/2016	\$ 3471.71
Receipts:	
2016-17 Dues Payments	292.00
2016-17 Dues Payments	462.00
<i>Total receipts (5/15-6/15/16)</i>	754.00
Disbursements:	0
<i>Total disbursements (5/15/16-6/15/16)</i>	0

Balances 6/15/2016

Checking: 4225.71
Savings: 1656.73
\$ 5882.44

July 15, 2016

Checking balance 6/15/2016	\$ 4225.71
Receipts:	
2016-17 Dues Payments	219.00
Checkbook recording error	1.00
<i>Total receipts (6/15-7/15/16)</i>	220.00
Disbursements:	
AAUW Natl Dues	686.00
AAUW State Dues	195.00
AAUW Funds Natl contribution	400.00
<i>Total disbursements (6/15/16-7/15/16)</i>	1281.0

Balances 7/15/2016

Checking: 3164.71
Savings: 1656.73

\$ 4821.44

August 20, 2016

Checking balance 7/15/2016	\$ 3164.71
Receipts:	
2016-17 Dues Payments	112.00
<i>Total receipts (7/15-8/20/16)</i>	112.00
Disbursements:	
AAUW Natl Dues	147.00
AAUW State Dues	39.00
<i>Total disbursements (7/15/16-8/20/16)</i>	186.00

Balances 8/20/2016

Checking: 3090.71

Savings: 1656.73

\$ 4747.44

Encumbered funds:

Branch Scholarship Funds:

March scholarship fund balance = \$2609.88

April scholarship balance \$2609.88 – 1000 (NCWSSL payment) = 1609.88

May scholarship balance = \$1609.88

LAF = \$12.00

Travel

State = \$1161.00

National = \$6.78

Total encumbered funds: \$2789.66

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

AAUW Board Meeting - August 3, 2016 - River Falls Public Library

Meeting called to order at 1:32 PM

Present: Ann Gustafson, Suzanne Hagen, Jane Matthews, Yolanda Dewar, Barbara Peterson, Rellen Hardtke, Maureen Olle-LaJoie, Cheryl Maplethorpe

Financial Issues (Suzanne Hagen)

The standard monthly report will be sent to Cheryl Maplethorpe for the next newsletter. There is a \$3,276 checking balance. We currently have a working balance of \$487 after taking out money for travel and scholarships. As voted at the May 2016 meeting, an additional \$400 was sent to AAUW Funds prior to July 1st.

Suzanne encourages people to request reimbursement for travel to the state convention. Registration, gasoline, and lodging are reimbursable expenses.

The Board is adding an item on the September agenda to discuss the Helen Wyman seasonal notecards fundraiser.

Membership (Ann Gustafson)

The membership committee has been working this summer. There is a gathering for prospective and brand new members tomorrow at Tea Room in River Walk on 8/4/2016 from 4:30 to 6:30. Invitations were sent by e-mail and letters. A lot of people are not able to attend so membership will be sending out letters about the September meeting as well.

The committee is working on survey for the membership to gather contact information and area(s) of interest and events. This will help us with committee appointments and getting people to volunteer for events. Rellen is getting contacts of parents from STEM event for AAUW.

We have 55 members right now; 13 are those who were members last year who did not pay their membership dues.

Public Policy (Barbara Peterson)

Barbara Peterson is looking to form a committee.

The Board discussed holding a candidate forum. This will need to be discussed at the September 13th meeting. The forum would be for candidates for State Assembly and State Senate. A potential date would be Tuesday, October 18th. Barbara will recommend a date, time, and contact the candidates prior to the September meeting.

The Board also discussed whether or not to get involved with Get Out the Vote. This effort is talking about issues, not registering voters.

International Relations (Yolanda Dewar)

There was a question of term of office. Yolanda pointed out that there is a maximum of two 2 year terms unless or until someone has been named and replaced. The Board does not feel this is an issue as no one has shown an interest in replacing Yolanda.

Program (Barbara Peterson for Elaine Baumann and Faye Perkins)

The theme this year will be focus on women and health.

Here is a draft schedule:

9/13: Potluck at Congregational Church; NCCWSL scholarship winner Tori Schneider

10/11: Sara Finger, Executive Director and Founder of Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (open to the public with River Falls Public Library)
11/15: Place at the Table, Nutrition for Adults
12/13: Holiday Party
1/10: STEM, Sue Danielson is arranging this
2/14: Alzheimer's (may reschedule)
3/14: Mental Health
4/11: Allina is sending a physician: Research in Women's Health; vote on officers
5/9: Picnic and installation
STEM Event: 4/15

Vacancies

Funds Chair: Sue Halseth does not want to do this; need one person

By-Laws Committee: Suzanne Hagen moved that the By-Laws review be conducted by the Board of Directors. Ann Gustafson seconded.

Discussion: We still need someone as point person to make sure we incorporate changes.
Suzanne amended the motion to read, "The Board be responsible for the rewrite of the by-laws and monitoring and informing members of proposed by-law changes."
The Amended motion passed.

Communications Committee: Cheryl Maplethorpe

Fund Raisers

Book Sale: We have a location for the October event.
Moose Lodge: November
Holiday Auction: December

Officers and Directors Insurance

During the by-law rewrite national office highly recommended that officers and directors get liability insurance. This is being taken out of the by-laws next year since they cannot do anything about this.
State AAUW sent Jane Matthews information on this issue as well. Diane Lau, AAUW WI Finance VP, advises that it would cost \$260-\$295 a branch based on membership. Jane is willing to talk with Diane again.
Lorraine Davis talked with the Forward Foundation and got information on liability insurance. The Forward Foundation felt such insurance was not necessary since our events are in concert with other organizations.
What would liability cover? Wrongful acts. If any board member or officer willfully committed a wrongful act, the branch could be held liable.
Since national is backing off of their recommendation and we are unsure of the scenarios of what liability would cover (financial maleficence, accidents at book sale or event) the Board will investigate this further but does not feel such insurance may be necessary for our organization.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM

2016-17 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meetings begin at 6:30 and programs begin at 7:00 at the River Falls Public Library unless otherwise noted.

September 13 - Meet at United Church of Christ on 3rd Street for our business meeting at 6:30 PM and pot luck salad dinner, program presentation at 7:30 by 2016 NCCWSL branch scholarship winner, Tori Schneider.

October 11 – Sara Finger, Founder and Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH).

BOOK SALE - October, the 13th through the 15th and the 20th through the 22nd

November 15 (week after the election - note change of date) Public viewing of the documentary - [A Place at the Table - Food Insecurity in America](#)

November – Moose Lodge Breakfast Fund raiser

December 12 - Holiday Gathering – Auction – Location to be determined

January 14 (Saturday) - STEM Award luncheon – Noon – Location to be determined

February 14 - Nancy Abrahamson - Dementia and Care Giving

March 14 - Addiction and Mental Health

April 11 – Speaker to be named

May meeting - installation of new officers and year wrap-up



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.