

## 2016-17 Branch Officers

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# FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

## Branch Newsletter

September 2016

Next Meeting - **October 11** – River Falls Public Library at 7:00 following the 6:30 business meeting. **Sara Finger**, Founder and Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH).

**Please invite your friends to attend.**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jane Matthews, Branch President

### LOOSE ENDS, UPDATES, CORRECTIONS AND REMINDERS

We are off to a good start. We have chairs and members for most of our committees and projects, but, with so many activities scheduled at the beginning of the year, a review of loose ends and reminders seems prudent.

**MEETING HOSTESSES**—Four meetings have one hostess signed up. We usually have two, so each month except October needs at least one more hostess. If you cannot attend the October meeting, or, if you want to serve as hostess for a specific month, please contact me via email or phone to sign up. We also need a volunteer to call and remind people each month.

**BOOK SALE**—Book sorting is Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. Location between Bo-Jon's and the Food Shelf. We may also need sales people and volunteers to collect books from Dick's Market and Family Fresh. Watch for notices from Suze Danielson or check with Suze.

**MOOSE BRUNCH DATE**— **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016.** We still need two workers for the 9:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M. shift. I currently have the sign-up sheet, so you can claim your spot by contacting me. I will have the sign-up sheet at the October meeting as well if it is still needed.

**CHANGE OF NORMAL MEETING DATE IN NOVEMBER**—Election Day takes up the second Tuesday in November, so our meeting will be moved to the 15<sup>th</sup>.

I am sure I have forgotten some items that need attention. Feel free to remind me if you think of any.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ann Gustafson, Co-Membership VP

Jean Loudon, CO- Membership VP

The branch membership team has been active during September promoting AAUW and providing information to the community. On September 7 and 8, AAUW-River Falls had informational tables at both *City Sampler* and *Just Local* events at UW-River Falls. At the Just Local event, **23 students** signed up and joined AAUW as electronic Student Affiliates.

All under-grad students at UW-RF are eligible to be e-SAF members because UWRF is a college partner of AAUW. Student members are eligible to take advantage of AAUW's programs and will receive *Campus Connection*, a publication from AAUW national designed for student members. When e-SAF members graduate, they will receive a one year national AAUW membership

### NEW MEMBER

AAUW-River Falls is delighted to welcome **GAY WARD** as a new member of the branch. Gay recently retired from her position of Professor of Literacy and Early Childhood, a position she had held since 2001.

Gay received her BA degree from Smith College. She received a graduate diploma in Elementary Education, PreK-Grade 7, from Murdoch University in Australia. Her advanced degrees consist of an M.ED. in Montessori Education, and a Ph.D. in Education from Notre Dame University of Australia.

While at UWRF, Gay was a leader for Early Childhood Study Abroad opportunities for UWRF students. She was a recipient of the College of Education award for Outstanding Research, Scholarly or Creative Activity in 2010. She has been a Board member for Heartland Montessori and served on the site Council for the River Falls Public Schools Montessori. Although Gay is retired she maintains a number of national Professional Commitments.

Welcome to AAUW, Gay!

## PROGRAM NOTES

Elaine Baumann and Faye Perkins, Co-Chairs

The **October 11 branch meeting** will initiate our program focus for the year "Women's Health" with a presentation by Sara Finger, Founder and Executive Director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH).

Sara Finger works to advance comprehensive women's health in Wisconsin by engaging, educating, empowering and mobilizing individuals and organizations. As the Wisconsin Regional Coordinator for Raising Women's Voices and the National Women's Law Center's State of Women initiative grantee, WAWH has been recognized as Wisconsin's health care reform leader for women. Sara has raised awareness of and appreciation for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by developing resources, coordinating state partners, driving media coverage, and participating in policy development to ensure that Wisconsin implements the ACA in a way that achieves the best possible outcomes for women and their families.

The program will be held at the River Falls Public Library at 7:00 following the 6:30 business meeting.

**Please invite your friends to attend.**

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

The **BBC** aired a fascinating story of the post-Olympic homecoming of Sakshi Malik, **the first Indian woman wrestler to win an Olympic medal and one of only two Indian- both women- to win a medal in Rio.**

As the reporter spoke, the camera panned to show dozens and dozens of women and girls watching as Malik, a young woman who broke stereotypes and overcame financial barriers to make it to Rio, is celebrated in an Indian state working to overcome barriers to eliminate female feticide and educate girls. The scene represents the true potential of the Olympic Games to achieve its lofty goal of promoting peace and prosperity. As more and more women compete -- and bring their communities and countries glory and pride while doing so -- the world will see exactly what women are capable of when they're given the opportunity.

### **Egypt is strengthening Anti-female Genital Mutilation Laws** (Huffington Post)

The Egyptian Cabinet approved a draft bill that would enact a punishment of five to seven years in prison for anyone who performs FGM, according to Ahram Online. Previously, the penalty was three months to two years.

**Graduate Women International (GWI)** brought together education, gender and human rights stakeholders at its 32nd Triennial Conference in Cape Town, 24-26 August 2016. The conference examined the critical juncture between education and industry and the need to encourage educational activities which promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. Reportedly, women are likely to work more hours than men, for less money, perpetuating gender inequality at every level of economic and social empowerment. Labor markets and the demand for skills are changing, requiring education systems to adapt to meet changing employment demands. Entrepreneurship promotes economic opportunity and serves as an agent of social justice. Through quality education, girls and women can gain entrepreneurial skills to help them invent their own careers and have the confidence to lead others.

**10 years. 60 countries. Nearly 100 women.** That's the milestone the State Department marked when Secretary of State John Kerry presented the 2016 Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award during a ceremony at the U.S Department of State. To mark the milestone, Vice President Joe Biden delivered remarks during a forum following the ceremony. The forum also included panels and presentations featuring past and present winners of the Secretary's International Women of Courage Award. Admiral Michelle Howard, who is the first woman to be promoted to four-star Admiral and the first African-American woman to attain a four-star rank in the Department of Defense, also spoke at the forum, and the artist Sonita Alizadeh performed.

### **About Women for Women International-** June 29, 2016, Washington, D.C.

The Board of Directors of Women for Women International (WfWI) announced the promotion of Laurie Adams, Vice President for Programs, to the position of President effective July 1st.

Recruited by WfWI CEO Jennifer Windsor, Ms. Adams joined the global headquarters of WfWI at the beginning of 2016. As Vice President for Programs, Adams has been leading new efforts to enhance the impact of WfWI's economic empowerment programs and cultivate institutional donor support and partnerships.

Since 1993, Women for Women International (WfWI) has provided more than 447,000 women survivors of war and conflict with training, support, and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and economic self-sufficiency. WfWI's innovative programs are guided by a vision to create a world in which all women determine the course of their lives and reach their full potential.

WfWI works in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Sudan. To learn more, visit [www.womenforwomen.org](http://www.womenforwomen.org).

**Egypt's Women Keep Showing Power in Protest** By: **Jessica Gray** Egypt's revolution is now often described as hijacked and women's legal rights are seen as vulnerable to an Islamic-style promotion of marriage and family. But in a show of their own force, women keep braving the deadly dangers of street protests.

**More Women elected to Parliament in Jordan** – (News Service- as printed in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. 9/23/16) The opposition Muslim Brotherhood said it won 15 of 130 seats in parliament, roughly in line with its own predictions. The number of female legislators rose to 20, from 18 in the outgoing legislature, the Independent Election Commission said. About 1.5 million Jordanians cast ballots.

## FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

### AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - September 20, 2016

<b>Checking balance 8/20/2016</b>	<b>\$ 3090.71</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>	
2016-17 Dues Payment	36.50
<i>Total receipts (8/20/16-9/20/16)</i>	36.50
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
UWRF City Sampler table rent	50.00
L. Davis (membership event fee)	25.00
T. Schneider (NCWSSL expenses)	305.11
<i>Total disbursements (8/20/16-9/20/16)</i>	380.11

### Balances 9/20/2016

Checking: 2747.10  
 Savings: 1657.15  
 \$ 4404.25

### Encumbered funds:

Branch Scholarship Funds:

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

September        "        1609.88 – 305.11 (NCWSSL payment) = 1304.77\*  
LAF =                                12.00

Travel  
      State =                        \$1161.00  
      National =                        \$6.78

Total encumbered funds:                \$2472.55  
General operating funds:                137.33

*Suzanne Hagen*  
*Treasurer*

\*\$1500 = Total 2016 available NCWSSL funds (\$1000 allocated from RF Branch, \$500 from State AAUW scholarship). T Schneider received \$1305.11 for registration, travel & expenses, leaving \$194.89 retained in Branch (NCWSSL) scholarship funds.

## **BRANCH MEETING MINUTES**

AAUW Meeting River Falls Branch September 13, 2016 United Church of Christ, 110 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, River Falls

Business meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The financial report from the August newsletter was accepted as published.

The May branch meeting minutes were amended to correct the spelling of Susan Koosmann's name. The amended minutes were accepted.

The August board meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

### **Membership (Ann Gustafson)**

There have been 4 new members. AAUW had a table at both the Just Local and City Sampler events. Twenty three students signed up at Just Local and we talked with a number of graduate students who can join at a reduced rate.

Faye Perkins introduced her guest, Peina Xie, a visiting professor from China and Tai Chi instructor.

### **Fundraisers (Suzanne Hagen)**

The Moose Lodge fundraiser will be on November 13th.

There was a motion to undertake a project to have Helen Wyman cards reproduced. There was discussion on potential sales locations, packaging, and pricing. There was also a suggestion that there be an acknowledgment on the card of the artist and AAUW. The motion passed. Jeanne Zirbel volunteered to help with this project.

AAUW River Falls received a thank you letter for our \$1800 in donations to AAUW Funds this past fiscal year.

**Public Policy (Barbara Peterson)**

AAUW will run the candidates forum for State Assembly and State Senate. A location and moderator have been lined up as well as taping by Channel 16. The date of the planned forum is October 6th from 7pm to 8:30pm. The Optimist Club will partner with AAUW. Candidates still need to be contacted and confirm participation.

AAUW has been a friend of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. This week the WDC filed an ethics complaint against Dean Knutson and the Wisconsin Liberty Fund.

**Book Sale Update and Worker Sign Up (Suzie Danielson/Jeanne Zirbel)**

The book sale will be located at 222 N Main Street, between Bo Jon's and the Food Pantry. There are two slots for weeks to pick up books. There are also slots to volunteer for the actual sale. Unsold books go to various locations. Tables are needed for the book sale. There are flyers members can pick up to post around town.

**STEM (Lorraine Davis)**

Rellen Hardtke did an excellent job this past April. This year the event will be held on April 22, 2017 with 4th and 5th grades meeting in the morning and the middle school participants meeting in the afternoon. The costs will be \$16 per participant and will include a T-shirt and swag bag. Registration will be through Community Education. There is a small \$70 balance from last year's event. The Branch is trying for a grant from Allina. Our group is also looking for donations of items for swag bags and snacks. AAUW will provide lunch for presenters again.

It was suggested that AAUW give scholarships to this event to award recipients of the science essay contest.

**New Business**

National Organization's By-Laws Challenge (Jane Matthews)

On May 10th we conditionally accepted the new by-laws. Over summer the national by-laws went through a major edit thus we have to update ours. Seven articles from national by-laws are not touchable. We need to get our by-laws in line with what is legal in the state of Wisconsin. Jane is consulting with state AAUW for advice. There is a sign up for a by-laws committee.

Congratulations to member Faye Perkins for her appointment as Interim Provost at UW-River Falls starting July 1st for a two-year term.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Speaker: Tori Schneider, NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) scholarship recipient.

## 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.

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

**BOOK SALE** – October 8 sort books, sell books the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>

**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 2** – Girls and Women in Sports Recognition – UW-RF

**February 14** - Nancy Abrahamson - Dementia and Care Giving

**March 14** - Behavior 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.