

## 2014-15 Branch Officers

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# FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

## Branch Newsletter January 2015

**Next Meeting will be Saturday, JANUARY 10, 2015**  
**12:00 Business meeting and Working Lunch**  
**1:30 PM PROGRAM**  
**Juniors, 414 S. Main Street – lower level**

## PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

Ruth Lee, Branch President

Welcome to the January 2015 issue of the **FALLS NOTES**. As we reflect on River Falls Branch of AAUW activities in 2014 there were many exciting events. Excellence in programming, Equal Pay Day event, City Sampler, Get Out the Vote Project, eleven members attending the WI State AAUW Convention, successful Book Sale, goal to fund NCCWSL candidate, brunch with the Moose (sounds interesting), luncheon for National Travel Fund, and a successful Holiday Auction. You fill in the blanks of things that are missing.

Once again the River Falls Branch of AAUW ended the calendar year with a very successful Holiday Auction. The talents within this branch are amazing with new and exciting additions each year plus the traditional expectations at this event. Special thanks to Suzanne and Waldo Hagen our very gracious hosts who open their lovely home which is very conducive to this event. Be sure to check the Treasurer report for the final amount raised from the auction. (This might be a record high!)

There will be numerous opportunities in 2015 to reach out and spread the mission of **AAUW**. We begin the year with our STEM program and Arriety Lowell regarding women in the STEM fields. See the Program Development article with further information. Thanks to Elaine Baumann, Lorraine Davis, Suzie Danielson, and Jean Johnson for their work organizing this. Emily Simone the Director of Corporate Community Relations for Lockheed Martin (which gave AAUW a grant for the Tech Trek program) commented: *"True innovation happens when everyone is engaged, so we are excited to work with an organization that has such a rich history of getting women excited in pursuing STEM education and careers."*

"Pay Equity Day" is Tuesday, April 14, 2015. The symbolic day, when women's earnings – 78 cents to men's dollar – finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. This is another opportunity to enlighten people about this gap in

a positive way. Are you willing to work on this one? Let your president know soon so you can become a member of the committee.

Other things to be thinking about and planning for in this new calendar year include: **Wisconsin State AAUW Convention April 24 – 25, 2015 at Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake** when the focus of the convention will be “Title IX – Entitled to Succeed”. The River Falls Branch was a leader in forming a coalition that encouraged local implementation of Title IX in the 1970’s.

This is the year for the **National Convention in San Diego, CA on June 18 – 21, 2015**. Give this opportunity some serious consideration so we have representation from our branch in attendance. Some exciting months ahead including our **80th anniversary** in May! Have you discovered some friends or acquaintances that need AAUW in their lives? Invite them to meetings and things will just fall into place and our membership will grow.

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

Lorraine Davis and Elaine Baumann, Co-Chairs

### ***WOMEN IN SCIENCE - Saturday, JANUARY 10, 2015***

**12:00 Business meeting and Working Lunch; 1:30 PM PROGRAM**  
**Juniors, 414 S. Main Street – lower level**

Arriety Lowell, who teaches at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls will be the featured STEM speaker at the January branch meeting at Junior’s.

AAUW members will meet for a working luncheon at noon ordering from the Junior’s menu. Four middle school “Women in Math and Science” essay winners, their families and the general public will join us at 1:20 with the program beginning at 1:30. We will be introducing the 4 middle school students after which they join us for the speaker, awards and dessert.

Lowell has taught Conceptual Physics, Astronomy and various math classes. She has found herself interested in alternatives to traditional lecturing that allow more student involvement and participation as well as on line learning. She is presently lab manager for the physics department and has mentored one of the student competitive teams from UWRF.

Lowell received a bachelor’s degree in Physics, at UW-RF and a Masters in Physics at Washington State University along with a Graduate Certificate in Optoelectronics. After Graduate Schools, she followed a circuitous path to teaching. She works as an independent consultant on physics and firearms related projects and serves on the board of directors for several companies and organizations.

Please RSVP By January 7, 2015 so that there is enough wait staff and appropriate seating arrangements to:  
Elaine Baumann [elainebaumann1@gmail.com](mailto:elainebaumann1@gmail.com)

## Looking Ahead

The February meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10 at the River Falls Public Library at 7:30. Jennifer Peterson, RFSD Director of Academic Services, will speak on the Common Core Curriculum. The Library is co-sponsoring the presentation.

It is 2015 and time to celebrate our 80th anniversary. In 1935 a group of twenty women from River Falls met with Mrs. Annebelle Hulton Cromwell of Almond, Wis. to discuss forming a branch of AAUW in our community. On May 22, 1935 the first meeting was held with seventeen charter members. Miss Augusta Thomas was the first president, serving from 1935-38. The Wisconsin state dues in 1937 were 25 cents and the branch paid them. Membership increased yearly and by 1940 there were 34 members.

In the next four months the members of the anniversary planning committee will be writing articles for the newsletter. We will try to give the highlights of 80 years of programming and projects and how political and social changes affected the branch's activities. The founding women were an ambitious group and were involved in many aspects of life in River Falls and beyond. Not only were they involved in many projects in our community, they did a great job of documenting their activities in scrapbooks. These books are in the archives at the university and are very interesting. As reported at our last meeting there has been no new material, except the newsletters, put in the archives since 2003. If you have pictures, posters or news clippings, bring them to Anne Anderson.

At our May meeting we plan to have a tea. Our plans aren't finalized yet, so watch the newsletter for further information.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

### International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 Days of Activism

Press Statement, John Kerry, Secretary of State Washington, DC. November 25, 2014 (excerpt)

November 25<sup>th</sup> was the ***International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women***, and the start of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. Over the next two weeks, U.S. embassies and missions around the world were all working to raise awareness of the irreparable harm caused by gender-based violence.

The sad truth is that one in three women will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime. This violence knows no class, religious, or racial boundaries. And it comes at a terrible cost – not only for the woman or girl, but for families, communities, and entire countries. Preventing it is the only way to achieve a future of peace, stability, and prosperity.

We will not turn away in the face of evil and brutality. We stand up, and we reaffirm that sexual violence will be not be tolerated. Not now, not ever.

**SOME FACTS: Based on studies worldwide (From International Federation of University Women –IFUW- WEB Page)**

1. In the European Union 15.5% or higher education institutions are headed by women
2. In Tanzania, one third of women-more than 4 million women in total-are illiterate
3. Less than 20% of landowners worldwide are women
4. Girls living in poor households are almost twice likely to marry before the age of 18 as girls in higher-income households, as are girls from rural areas versus their urban counterparts
5. Only 40% of Pakistani women over the age of 15 can read and write compared to 70% of men
6. Worldwide women account for less than 22% of Parliamentarians and fewer than 5% of Mayors
7. Social norms influence which occupations men and women work in and how markets work-who is trusted, who is hired, and how contracts are entered into
8. In Africa, 25% of researchers are women and 1 in 7 holds a leadership position in African agricultural research institutions
9. Research has shown that women do not consider STEM careers to be family-friendly
10. Only 11% of Latin American female graduates of tertiary education are in STEM fields
11. Only 2 out of 130 countries have achieved gender parity at all levels of education
12. Lebanese women must prove that they have completed their elementary education to vote. There is no such restriction for Lebanese men
13. Male evaluators penalize female candidates more than male candidates for initiating negotiations for career positions
14. Global GDP could be increased 18 billion by bringing 600 million additional women and girls online
15. 64% of female prisoners in the United States have not completed their secondary education
16. 10% of the world's women live with some form of disability
17. Acts of violence among women aged 15-44 cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined
18. On average, women's wages represent only 85% of men's wages
19. 1 in 10 children worldwide go through life without a basic education
20. Rwanda remains the only country in the world with a majority of women in Parliament
21. A 15 minute reduction in time spent collecting water can result in increased girls' school attendance by 8% to 12%
22. Women own less than 15% of property worldwide
23. Only 139 of 193 national constitutions guarantee gender equality
24. In the European Union 15.5% of higher education institutions are headed by women
25. Over 69 million adolescents are not attending primary or secondary school
26. Globally, women's labor force participation has fallen since 1990's from 57% to 55%
27. In Europe one third of science researchers are women. While women account for 45% of PhD STEM graduates, they represent only 35% of associate professors and 18% of full professors
28. There is a financing gap of US\$26 billion per year to achieve basic education in low-income countries
29. In Africa 34% of science researchers are women
30. Women perform 66% of all hours worked in the world

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ann Gustafson and Jennifer Willis-Rivera, Co-Chairs

It's the start of a New Year and the most frequently asked question in just about every setting is "Have you made any resolutions for the New Year?" A new take on that question for AAUW branch members might be "what can I resolve to do to help the AAUW-River Falls branch grow?"

The start of a new year is a good time think about that question; here are some suggestions on how to answer the question:

1. Take a friend, neighbor, colleague to coffee and tell them about AAUW
2. Talk about AAUW's programs, policies, and research that advance equity and help break through barriers for women and girls
3. Show the winners of the Women in Science essay contest and their families that AAUW-WI cares about women in science and the work their students have put into their essays by attending the luncheon on January 10
4. Invite and then bring the friend, neighbor, or colleague to the January 10 luncheon as well as to other programs
5. Tell potential members that if they join at the January program, they will be able to receive a six-month membership for half of the regular half cost dues—an ideal way for individuals to learn more about AAUW
6. Become a mentor to new members to help them feel welcome and a part of AAUW

**This is the time to make 2015 a banner year for AAUW-River Falls.**

## FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

A big thank-you to those who generously bid on the many lovely auction items at our annual holiday party. The auction, led by our skilled and persuasive auctioneers Bob Gustafson and Bill Montgomery, garnered \$1012 for the state travel fund and an additional \$12 for the Legislative Action Fund.

**AAUW-River Falls Finance Report**  
**Dec. 20, 2014**

<b>Checking balance 11/15/2014</b>	<b>\$ 3320.08</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Moose payment additional profit	40.00
National Travel Fund from Luncheon	275.00
State Travel Fund from auction	1012.00
Legal Advocacy Fund	12.00
<i>Total receipts (11/15-12/20)</i>	1339.00
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
State Dues (correction)	39.00
AAUW Funds (#4320-K Teska fund)	1800.00
<i>Total disbursements (11/15-12/9)</i>	1839.00

**Balances 12/20/2014**

Checking: 2820.08  
Savings: 1655.60  
\$ 4475.68

Restricted Accounts:

UWRF Scholarship = \$00.00  
High School Scholarship = \$300.00  
NCCWSL = \$1000.00  
AAUW Funds (formerly EF)  
\$472.01 (Carry over)  
\$2000.00 (Booksale)  
\$559.02 (Brunch)  
\$3031.03  
Legal Advocacy Fund = \$12.00  
Travel  
State \$1012.00  
National \$61.91\*  
\$ 275.00  
\$1,348.91

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

**BRANCH MEETING MINUTES** - Submitted by Karen Brohaugh

**AAUW River Falls Branch Meeting - December 9, 2014**

**Home of Suzanne Hagen**

President Ruth Lee called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Secretary's report approved as printed in the December newsletter.

Financial report approved as printed in the December newsletter. Treasurer Suzanne Hagen noted that the book sale proceeds were \$2000.

Additional Discussion:

- December 31 is the deadline for AAUW Funds. \$1,000 was established as the amount given by our branch. Do we stay with \$1,000 or add to it? We have \$1,650 in savings.
- AAUW WI has established the **Katherine Teska Fund** which will fund grants to support research. The goal is \$75,000; \$50,000 has been raised and the current goal is \$25,000 over the next three years.
- Bob Gustafson made the motion to donate \$1,800 to the **Katherine Teska Fund**. Suzanne Hagen seconded the motion. Motion carried. Suzanne will send a check before the end of the year.

**Program Development** - Lorraine Davis

- January 10, 12:00pm, STEM Luncheon and speaker at Junior's Restaurant  
1:30 recognition of students  
See program notes for details

**Membership** – Ann Gustafson

- Current membership is 46
- Invite a friend to the January luncheon and encourage their membership.

**Public Policy** – Barb Peterson

- Current issue is Right to Work.

**NCCWSL** – Bob Gustafson

- Currently working with university contacts
- No applicants so far
- **March 1 is deadline**
- Put it on the website
- Possibly check with Student Senate
- Our branch has \$1,000 budgeted for NCCWSL which should cover air transportation
- Held in Washington DC, June 2015

Old Business: Shoebox gifts to Halfway House residents, personal care products, bring to UCC this week

New Business: None

Announcements

- Newsletter deadline - Dec. 20
- WI-State Convention – April 24,25
- AAUW-Association Convention – June 18-21, San Diego, CA

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Thanks to Bill Montgomery and Bob Gustafson, auctioneers for our Annual Holiday Auction. Over \$2,000 was raised. Thank you to Suzanne and Waldo Hagen for hosting a most enjoyable evening .

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 10** - JUNIORS lower level - Business meeting/lunch 12:00; Program 1:30 STEM Speaker: Arriety Lowell

**February 10** - Business meeting 6:30 Program 7:30  
The Common Core: Jennifer Petersen, RFSD Director of Academic Services

**March 10** - Business Meeting 6:30 Program 7:00  
Wisconsin Nazi Resistance: The Mildred Fish Harnack Story – film of the Wisconsin woman Hitler executed for involvement in the Berlin resistance.

**April 14** - Annual meeting and election of officers. Business Meeting 6:30 Program 7:30  
Speakers on Campus Safety for Women

**April 24-25** - **WISCONSIN STATE AAUW CONVENTION** at Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

**May 12** - 80th Anniversary Celebration and Installation of officers. Location to be determined.

**June 18-21** - **AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION** in San Diego, CA



### 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.