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# FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

## Branch Newsletter

**APRIL 2015**

## Pay Equity Day on April 14

The River Falls Branch of AAUW will have a table set up at UWRF on **April 14th from 10:00 to 2:00.**

April 14th is the day for this year when women's wages "catch up" with what men make.

Women on average must work 104 days more than a man to make the same income that a man makes in 365 days? April 14 is 104 days from January 1. Three hundred and sixty-five days minus one hundred and four days is 261 days or 71.5% of 365.

Our AAUW branch will be giving out PayDay mini candy bars with a short statement about Pay Equity Day. There will also be brochures and materials available for anyone interested. We will also have laptops available so we can sign up interested students as student affiliates.

There was an interesting article in the March 25th Pioneer Press titled "Is a male nurse worth \$5,148 more than a female nurse?" **Our work is not done.**

## PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

Ruth Lee, Branch President

Upcoming events: **Tuesday, March 31**, 6:30 PM, **School Board Candidate Forum** in the City Council Chambers, 222 Lewis St. lower level.

**Pay Equity Day** April 14, 10:00 – 2:30 at UW-RF if you want to volunteer call or email Ann Gustafson.

**April 14, 6:30 PM Annual Business Meeting and election of officers at River Falls Public Library.** Program will include Speakers on Campus Safety for Women. Check the Program Development article for further information regarding this.

**April 24 - 25 Wisconsin State AAUW Convention at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.** **Title IX: Entitled to Succeed** is the theme for the convention with keynote speakers; Jessie Garcia and Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." The River Falls Branch of AAUW has been involved with implementation of this since the mid 1970's when there was strong interest in knowing that this would be addressed in all local public schools, UWRF and RFPS and the interest continues.

**April 15, 2015** marks the beginning of your opportunity to vote for Association Officer's through One Member One Vote. You can do this online or request a printed ballot and vote before May 26, 2015. Your Spring/Summer issue of AAUW Outlook

will have all candidates listed with further information. (This is available now on the AAUW web site - <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>)

What an exciting time for the River Falls Branch of AAUW to procure a candidate for NCCWSL for May 2015! Special thanks to the committee of Bob Gustafson, Judy Freund and Cheryl Maplethorpe. Check for further information in the newsletter!

The River Falls Branch of AAUW recently received several boxes of children's books from the estate of Annette Blanchette. Ms. Blanchette worked at UW-RF for 33 years and while there, she became The Story Lady at the university's preschool. This grew to include St. Bridget's School, Jacob's Ladder Preschool at Ezekiel Lutheran, Kathy's Kinder Cottage, Wellhaven Senior *Apartments*, the Lutheran Home, and others. The books are currently in storage and will be brought to the annual Book Sale in October of 2015.

There are numerous branch members that have done an outstanding job of organizing a Candidate Forum on short notice, have Pay Equity Day ready to go, developed a slate of officers for next year, and still managed to have their own winter break! One huge **thank you** for carrying on the work while your President sent many emails, thought about you while enjoying some warmer temperatures. That is the the great joy of working with women and men who say yes and carry through.

## 80 Year Anniversary Celebration

UWRF history student, Bonnie Loden, ([bonnie.loden@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:bonnie.loden@my.uwrf.edu)) is writing a history of our branch in its first 80 years. She would like to personalize it by including individual stories. Please take a few minutes and jot down some personal memories and send them to her by April 20, 2015. Also, if you know of any former members who might be able to provide this "color", please provide the names and contact information to Bonnie. If you know of a former member who would appreciate a formal invitation to our "Tea and Memories" event on May 12, Let Lorraine Davis know ( [ldavis4762@aol.com](mailto:ldavis4762@aol.com) ).

*Join us for "tea and memories" and celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the River Falls Branch of AAUW on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 in the River Falls Public Library. Wear a vintage hat in honor of those who came before us.*

*Rsvp: [dkfrank@pressenter.com](mailto:dkfrank@pressenter.com)*

## START SMART WORKSHOP

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 – START SMART WORKSHOP** - 2 – 5 p.m. UW-River Falls University Center - St. Croix Room (3rd floor). Start Smart Training for undergrads and grad students. AAUW branch members are welcome to come as observers. **RSVP** McKenna Pfeiffer ([mckenna.pfeiffer@uwrf.edu](mailto:mckenna.pfeiffer@uwrf.edu)) so they know how many copies of materials to make.

## Scholarship Committee

Bob Gustafson

The Scholarship Committee has selected Kao Vang, a first-year student at UW-R, to be the branch's funded participant in the NCCWSL program in Washington, DC. Her application stood out from the other applicants in all evaluated areas. Those areas were: Ability to express oneself in the application, expressed commitment to give back to the community as well as how the applicant thinks of herself in relationship to ability to be a leader, and what the applicant is currently doing in leadership roles in activities and organizations.

Kao is the middle child of nine. Her parents immigrated to the U.S. so Kao and her siblings are first-generation Americans. She graduated from Rosemount High School in Minnesota and is majoring in Business Administration. On campus she is the first-year student representative in the Student Senate, serves as a representative on Complex Council. In addition, Kao participates in National Residence Hall Honorary, the Asian American Student Association, We are One, and Student Support Services. As the co-president of We Are One, she helps coordinate dance routines with a group of six people.

After meeting her in person, I realized what a wonderful representative she will be. Although small in stature, she stands tall in leadership skills and is a person who always smiles. She is very excited about attending NCCWSL as she has never been outside Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Quoting from her application, Kao states: "This conference would increase my self-confidence, my communication skills, and expand my network to leaders from all over the world. I would be inspired and motivated by attending the conference, and I believe it would help me continue to develop the skills I need to encourage my peers to join me on the path to leadership and success."

Kao receives no financial help from her family. AAUW-RF is covering her basic expenses to the conference. I am sure, however, there will be a need to expend some money while there. **If anyone would care to donate a few dollars to help her, you can send it to me or give it to me at the April meeting.**

High school scholarship application forms are due April 1. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting soon thereafter to select the recipient of this scholarship that Jeanne Zirbel is funding.

## PROGRAM NOTES

Lorraine Davis and Elaine Baumann, Co-Chairs

### Women's Safety on Campus

Sexual assault and violence disproportionately affects college women and impedes their ability to participate fully in campus life. Educational equity for women and girls requires fair, responsive, fully developed campus sexual assault policies, knowledgeable administrators, and, ultimately, an end to sexual violence on campuses.

In 2013, Congress reauthorized the **Violence Against Women Act** and included provisions to improve campus safety. Colleges and universities will now have to report the number of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking incidents that occur on campus every year in addition to the longstanding requirement to disclose sexual assault incidents, along with other crimes. They will also have to update their annual security reports to include the institution's programs (available to all students and employees) to prevent dating violence, domes-

tic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In addition, students will now be provided with clear options and support when they report an incident of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. These new requirements are in addition to the longstanding obligations under Title IX and the Clery Act.

The River Falls Branch of the AAUW will hear from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Gregg Heinselman and Director of Student Conduct & Community Standards, Thomas Pedersen about what is being done here on campus in River Falls and beyond to create safer campuses for women.

## **HISTORY**

By Jane Matthews

### **THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF AAUW, RIVER FALLS**

The former members of the River Falls branch of AAUW left us a legacy that can instill both pride and inspiration. From their beginnings in 1935, they set goals, explored options, sought information and took action that reflected a keen desire to better our world.

Certain themes consistently run through our branch history, which defines our predecessors as visionaries but also as practical, hardworking women. They provided social outlets for themselves and the branch, through group activities such as parties, picnics, dinners, artistic activities, cultural events, attendance of special movies, scientific discussions, craft ideas, and working on local government projects. They also pulled together to get the job done. Since coffee was rationed During World War II they pooled their money to help pay for coffee, so that the hostess of the meeting would not have to deplete her family's personal coffee allowance. They cooperated in planning activities, in sharing transportation, in developing various aspects of an outing so that the job was completed in a timely and efficient manner.

They were also interested in the broader social issues of their community, state, nation and world. These capital "S" social interests included the welfare of children, education of children, women's rights, ethical government, the plight of women elsewhere in the world, poverty and instability of other countries, the lack of opportunities in other countries, the worldwide struggle for peace, and the impact of war. These themes are consistent throughout our history.

Politically, they endorsed causes that were most likely to achieve the social changes that they supported.

### **EDUCATION**

It is not surprising that there are many, many references to the importance of education in our archives. Over the years this branch purchased library books for schools, gave books to children as Christmas gifts and donated to the Children's Book Fund. They also participated in school programs that were designed to promote literacy and purchased science discovery kits for use in our elementary schools. For many years during the 30s and 40s there was a standing committee on education. A quote from one meeting in 1942 summarizes their attitude. "Study and research must go on if civilization is to advance"

They wholeheartedly endorsed education but were aware that all people did not. They were alert to these challenges, and in 1951 the topic of one program was, "The Attack on Our Public Schools—Who and Why."

In 1959 the need for educational reform was seen as urgent, because The Soviet Union launched their satellite, Sputnik into space before we could get ours off the ground. Politicians saw this as a sign that our educational system was failing and experts were hired by the government to tell us how we could improve. The River Falls AAUW members did not get swept along; they debated the merits of the recommendations made by both Conant and Hutchenson and decided for themselves, privately, who had the best plan. Sputnik also led to the “The National Defense Education Act”, which eventually became our current student loan program, possibly helping some of their children attend college.

These women supported public education but they also educated themselves. Over the years they explored the gap between science and the layman, the New Math, the nature of DNA, the new architecture, modern dietary theories, scientific consumer purchases, rural education, child development, understanding how we learn, the importance of art and music in education, local national and world economics and the importance of foreign languages, among many other topics.

## **WOMENS RIGHTS**

In 1940 a new standing committee was added —The Economic and Legal status of Women, and by November, 1941 this topic was being discussed formally and informally at branch meetings. Our branch strongly believed in improving women’s rights and believed that access to quality education was a major way of achieving this goal. As early as 1941 they advocated for quality education for all women and girls. Education could lead to better employment, which could lead to better financial security, and they were ready to lend a helping hand there, by making investment information available through branch workshops and programs, and possibly even an investment club.

They were not only concerned about their own rights, but the rights of other women as well. They reached out to women in prison, to European refugees after World War II and to Hmong women after the Viet Nam War. The brutal impact of war on women and children was apparent, and they endorsed a National Peace Academy to promote world peace. In more recent times, AAUW supported the Equal Rights Amendment and reproductive rights. Today, access to scientific and technical jobs that were previously reserved for men, are more available to women now, but informal pressures still discourage women and girls from that career path. Equal work for equal pay still resonates with us today and we have done informational meetings at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls about **Equal Pay Day** over the past few years. **Universal, unencumbered voting rights were often uppermost in the minds of our former branch members.**

## **LOCAL POLITICS**

References to involvement in local politics are scattered throughout our history. One particular event stands out as a representation of the type of commitment the AAUW – River Falls branch made to good government. At one point volunteers from the branch joined with other local women in redefining city government. **At the end of their efforts new departments and commissions were organized and job descriptions were developed, resulting in the following divisions of city government.**

Intergovernmental Council  
Community Relations Board  
Volunteer Fire Department  
Emergency Medical Service

City Clerk/Treasurer  
Library Board  
Street Commission  
Utility Commission

Parking Meter Commission  
Animal Control Officer  
Housing Inspector

City Forester  
Board of Health

A quote in the report about these activities is most telling. "This project is totally handled by the women who volunteer 3 to 6 hours per week of their time (intelligence, judgment and skills) to it."

## STATE POLITICS

From the first year of branch existence, members brainstormed about what legislative policies AAUW should support. They often listed the House bills that needed attention and listed the politicians' addresses to guarantee that contact could be made. Legislative visits became an integral part of branch activity. Topics for discussion with legislators included empowerment of women, fair wages for women, the need for refugee assistance, families and work, world hunger and world peace, education equity in the world. They lobbied for educational reform again, again and again. They discussed appropriate interventions for chemical dependency treatment and juvenile delinquency. They supported effective rural education and lobbied for guaranteed access to quality education.

## NATIONAL POLITICS

Our branch saw many changes after its founding in 1935. The main challenge of the 1940s was, of course, World War II. National AAUW and our branch endured the rationing and inconvenience of shortages of just about everything. The National Convention was cancelled in 1943, presumably because of gasoline shortages. In 1943 the branch offered financial support for a plaque honoring local servicemen in the war effort. In 1944 a bill was introduced in Congress proposing that women be drafted. Our branch was generally against it, but National AAUW seemed to offer support. I could not learn how far the bill got and what the final disposition was. Also, in 1944 our branch came down squarely on the side of a national office of education. In the 1950s there was political upheaval based on the negative impact of McCarthyism. This was a topic of concern with the members and they sought to learn more. By 1953 the branch was discussing the vital necessity of Freedom of the Arts, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Education, Freedom in the Academic World and Freedom of Literature. They also had a guest speaker present a program on "American Politics—Outlook for a Free World." In the 60s ecology was a new topic, generally ignored or scoffed at by those in power but embraced by those who saw themselves as socially responsible. Once again, the River Falls branch decided to read *The Web of Life* as a way of learning more and being better able to take a stand. They attempted to get Rachel Carson as a speaker, but I could not find any record about whether they were successful or not. They knew the trends and added a radio and television committee in 1951-52. They also talked about high fidelity and the polio vaccine in 1955. But, of course, the crowning political coup was to engage Eleanor Roosevelt's as a speaker in 1963. Her topic—"Is America Living Up to its Role as World Leader?"

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The second meeting of the River Falls Branch was titled, "The International Scene Today," so this group was off to a flying start in contemplating how we, here in the Midwest, could better understand and influence our world. During three separate years, all of the scheduled meeting programs were focused on one geographic area. In 1941—42 it was South America, in 1957 it was France, and in 1950 -- 1951 it was India. The programs covered all aspects of life in the chosen region --literature, recent history, philosophy, art, music, foreign and domestic policy, place in the world, etc.



The branch made a habit of studying the political situations in other countries. They assessed the history and effect of political movements, both on the governments and ordinary people. They did not shy away from complex problems. During World War II they discussed peace, the economic and political methods of achieving peace, and the possibility of peace from every angle.

Well before the outbreak of World War II, our branch members were attempting to inform themselves about the situation in Europe by attending programs on Germany and Great Britain. They informed themselves about the effect of fascism on European women. Foreign policy and international relations were often subjects of programming. The branch was far sighted, and in 1943 they were already discussing what would be necessary to rebuild Europe and what would contribute most to establishing and maintaining world peace.

Nothing could have been more important politically in the 1940s and 50s than the formation of the United Nations. Branch members went to extraordinary lengths to inform themselves about the United Nations Charter, dissecting possible flaws in the design but endorsing the basic premise of a world body that might prevent some future conflicts. They speculated about the group dynamics of the organization and also about possible difficulties.

They were aware of currents and cross-currents as China emerged as a Communist country, The Soviet Union engaged in the cold war and many colonies were breaking away from their former masters. Economic factors were playing an important role in political stability, and contributing to the possibility of peace.

**These women were consistently ahead of the curve.** Many of the same challenges they faced still exist. The current assault on education and the pay equity gap are but two of the topics that will likely keep our branch busy for a while.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

### Thousands of Indian Schools Implement Gender Classes to Fight Inequality

The Huffington Post, by Robbie Couch (Edited excerpt) Posted: 03/23/2015

In more than 12,000 Indian public schools, students now have classes that discuss gender roles incorporated into their learning experience through government partnerships with advocacy organizations, Reuters reported. Efforts between one such school in a slum area of Mumbai and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) helps students understand how double standards play out.

Teachers talk about how boys and girls are equal as human beings, but somehow girls are treated differently. For example, girls are not allowed to play cricket or watch as much television as boys because they have to do housework or because it is not safe outside for them. Activists believe discussing topics that expose gender inequality in everyday life -- like housework and cricket -- will prevent domestic abuse down the road.

"If today's boys are taught to question gender abuse now, they are less likely to be violent when they become men tomorrow," Ravi Verma, Asia director at ICRW, told Reuters. "And if girls are taught to speak out now, they will be less likely to endure it as adults."

## The classes come as India aims to curb rising gender-based violence.

Earlier this month, India banned a documentary that featured a woman's story, "India's Daughter," The New York Times reported. The work includes interviews with one of the convicts from the case, which led officials to block its airing. Although the ban has yet to be lifted, hope for gender equality lives on in thousands of classrooms across India, where students are learning progress is up to them.

"Change will only come if parents change and people's mentality changes," one girl featured in the video above said. **"First we need to change ourselves."**

## Germany's New Boardroom Gender Quota Could Be a Model for Other Countries

The Huffington Post by Alexander C. Kaufman. Posted: 03/07/2015

Germany on Friday (February 27) approved a new quota that will force some of Europe's largest companies to increase the number of women in their boardrooms to 30 percent by next year. The measure was backed by Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party and the Social Democrats. Opponents, who said the quota system didn't go far enough, abstained.

Women claim just 15.5 percent of boardroom seats on companies listed on the S&P 1500 -- an index of U.S. stocks -- fewer than the combined number of positions held by men named John, Robert, William or James, according to a report from Ernst & Young.

Germany fares slightly better, with women in 22 percent of boardroom seats.

"You have to be sparing with the word 'historic,'" Justice Minister Heiko Maas said of the decision, according to the New York Times. "But I think today we can apply it."

He called it the "greatest contribution to gender equality" since German women won the right to vote in 1918.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs did not respond to a request for comment on Saturday.

The move marks the latest in a string of such quotas. In 2008, Norway became the first country to enact a quota of 40 percent, threatening to dissolve publicly traded companies who did not comply. France, Iceland and Spain soon followed. The Netherlands and Malaysia set non-binding targets of 30 percent. Australia, Britain and Sweden have threatened to enforce quotas if companies did not voluntarily give more corporate supervisory seats to women.

Some say such quotas fail to empower women in management positions. None of Norway's 32 biggest companies has a woman as chief executive and just 5.8 percent of general managers at its public companies are women, according to the Wall Street Journal. Other critics say it does little to close the gender wage gap and empowers less experienced women who amount to little more than "window dressing" in a room full of seasoned businessmen.

"Board quotas may seem like a convenient shortcut to workplace equality, but they are not -- nor are they a long-term solution," Carrie Lukas, managing director of the nonprofit Independent Women's Forum, wrote in



an op-ed published last December. "A distraction at best, they may undo women's historic gains by suggesting that we cannot succeed on our own."

Still, Germany is Europe's largest and most powerful economy, with companies such as BMW, Deutsche Bank, Siemens and Volkswagen. Some of the country's workplace policies could serve as models for other countries.

Wolfsburg-based Volkswagen, the world's second-largest automaker, has begun offering apprenticeships at its plant in Tennessee (similar to the vocational training many German students receive) in hopes of cultivating more highly skilled factory workers because there is a shortage in the U.S.

Last August, Germany's labor ministry began work on potential legislation that would bar employers from emailing workers after hours.

Germany's workplace protections for women are particularly strong. Women are guaranteed six weeks of maternity leave, and it's illegal to fire a female worker for becoming pregnant. It's also illegal to require a worker to perform tasks that could endanger her pregnancy, such as lifting and carrying heavy objects or handling toxic or radioactive material.

**It probably helps that Germany is led by Chancellor Angela Merkel, the most powerful woman in the world.**

## International Women's Day

Press Statement, John Kerry, Secretary of State, Washington, DC, March 8, 2015

On International Women's Day we celebrate the courage and contributions of women and girls around the world. The fundamental truth is that no society can reach its full potential if it leaves 50 percent of its people behind. **The State Department highlighted this fact last week when it honored 10 extraordinary leaders with our International Women of Courage Award.**

Women are peacemakers bringing together warring sides to work for reconciliation. They are nurses treating Ebola patients despite the risks. They are journalists exposing corruption and countering violent extremism. And they are activists taking a stand against violence and discrimination in the workforce, the home, and the city square.

Every day these leaders are out there advocating for universal rights and aspirations. They are standing up and fighting so that every woman and child can lead full, healthy, and productive lives. Unfortunately, this extraordinary work sometimes puts a target squarely on their backs. By fighting for others' safety, they jeopardize their own.

So while we honor these women's courage, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving gender equality. It's a commitment we will, and we must, keep as the global community shapes the **Sustainable Development Goals** for the next 15 years.

Our path forward is clear. We must prevent and respond to gender-based violence. That's not only essential for our collective humanity; it's critical for our collective security.

We must open the doors for women to fully participate in society – as farmers, entrepreneurs, engineers, executives, and leaders of their countries.

And we must invest in the next generation of women by making sure girls can go to school in a safe environment. They should be able to graduate – empowered to be part of their community, diploma in hand.

I will never forget the story of a young woman named Haleta Giday, who I met last year at President Obama's Summit of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. She had graduated from one of the best schools in Ethiopia. She could have had her pick of jobs. She chose to represent women and children who were the victims of violence. And when Haleta saw how many widows went bankrupt after they lost their husbands, she began a campaign to educate women about their legal and financial rights.

Women like Haleta, women like the ones we honored last week, they are pushing forward progress for gender equality.

Today of all days, the United States reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that this vital progress continues – that women and girls everywhere enjoy the same freedoms and rights as anyone else.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

By Barbara Peterson – Public Policy Co-Chair

### **Wisconsin Election April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Finding information on statewide candidates is sometimes overwhelming and takes time. This year I need to fill out an absentee ballot. I am looking for information on the web regarding WI Supreme Court candidates. AAUW does not endorse candidates but we do support issues that help women and children, advocate for education and healthcare and much more. I am using information I found online and letting you make a decision on the candidates.

The WI League of Women Voters of Dane County posted candidate answers to several questions: <http://www.lwvdanecounty.org/supreme-court-justice>

WisconsinWatch.org has an article with background on the candidates: <http://wisconsinwatch.org/2015/03/supreme-court-candidates-differ-on-campaign-funding-recusal/>

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel posted this article today: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/high-court-candidate-daley-says-hes-not-running-as-a-partisan-b99465009z1-296792861.html>

And this comes from the joint efforts of WI Public Radio and WI Public Television: <http://wisconsinvote.org/>

NOTE: You can link to these articles by either clicking on the underlined website which will take you to that page OR by highlighting the website address, hold down "Control" and "C" simultaneously, move your cursor to the address bar of your internet program and hold down "Control" and "V" to copy the address into the internet. Hit "Enter" and the webpage should open.

You may also be interested in this article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel regarding Rep. Dean Knudson's position on giving the UW campus system more public authority and the proposed budget cuts to the system. <http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/2-gop-leaders-favor-smaller-uw-cut-with-no-public-authority-b99465010z1-296781601.html>

Wisconsin voters are asked to vote on a Constitutional Amendment that will change the procedure for selecting the Chief Justice on the WI Supreme Court. Currently the Chief Justice is the longest-serving judge. This amendment would change the process to an elected position. The seven judges would elect their own Chief Justice. In this case the conservative majority may select a conservative. Shirley Abrahamson is the current Chief Justice and is considered a liberal justice. Some see this as an effort to drum her out. If reelected, Ann W. Bradley would be the next in line for the chief justice position when Abrahamson retires. **This amendment would change that process.**

**Referendum Question 1:** Election of chief justice. Shall section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution be amended to direct that a chief justice of the supreme court shall be elected for a two-year term by a majority of the justices then serving on the court? Yes or No

Wisconsin Public Television offered this report: <http://video.wpt.org/video/2365414807/>

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel posted this article with some bill history on Oct. 29, 2013: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/constitutional-amendment-would-let-court-select-chief-justice-b99130796z1-229741271.html>

The Madison based Cap Times ran this article in January, 2015: [http://host.madison.com/news/local/writers/jessie-opoien/wisconsin-senate-approves-supreme-court-chief-justice-amendment/article\\_7fdaee0-7ceb-5d55-ae57-b91ecfd302f2.html](http://host.madison.com/news/local/writers/jessie-opoien/wisconsin-senate-approves-supreme-court-chief-justice-amendment/article_7fdaee0-7ceb-5d55-ae57-b91ecfd302f2.html)

You may find other articles online. Do your research.

I have a sweatshirt that says, **“Bad politicians are sent to Washington by people who don’t vote”**. We don’t have to tell people how to vote, we just need to inform them on the issues. **We live in an area of Wisconsin where it is hard to get solid voting information. Help your friends and neighbors know the issues.**

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ann Gustafson and Jennifer Willis-Rivera, Co-Chairs

March 16 is a very important date (especially for membership vps) because it is that date after which any dues collected are payment for the next fiscal year. **What this means is that anyone joining after March 16 is a paid member through JUNE 30, 2016!**

**April is a very good month to introduce individuals to AAUW membership.** It is the ideal time for new members to join. In addition to receiving a 15-month membership, new members joining at the **April 14** program will be able to **join for half cost dues**. Thanks to the *Shape the Future* membership program any new member joining at a program that is open to the public is eligible for the lower rate. The bottom line for these new members who join the River Falls branch on April 14 is that they will be able to do so for **\$36.50. That amount will cover national, state and branch dues until June 30, 2016.**

Re-read the information for this month's program and then invite the people that you know to come to the program on April 14. Share AAUW with everyone you know. Need a conversation starter? How about Equal Pay Day and the fact that AAUW will have a table at UW-RF on April 14, the same day as the branch meeting? You can probably take it from there. . .

We look forward to seeing each of you and your guest(s) on April 14.

## FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

### AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - March 20, 2015

Checking balance 3/20/2015	\$ 2372.33
Receipts:	0.00
<i>Total receipts (2/20-3/20)</i>	0.00
Disbursements: AAUW-NCCSWL	515.00
<i>Total disbursements (2/20-3/20)</i>	515.00

### Balances 3/20/2015

Checking: 1857.33  
Savings: 1655.60  
\$ 3512.93

### Restricted Accounts:

UWRF Scholarship = \$00.00  
High School Scholarship = \$00.00  
NCSWL = \$485.00  
AAUW Funds (formerly EF) = \$1231.03  
LAF = 12.00  
Travel  
State \$1,012.00  
National \$336.91  
\$1348.91 (Any funds left in State travel after the State convention are added to the National travel fund)

## BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

AAUW River Falls Branch Meeting - March 10, 2015, River Falls Public Library

Submitted by Karen Brohaugh

Jane Matthews called the meeting to order and read a thank you to all members from our branch president Ruth Lee. Ruth thanked the members for carrying on business and replying to emails while she is on vacation.

Secretary's report was approved as printed in the March newsletter.

Financial report was approved as printed in the March newsletter. Suzanne Hagen noted that the checking balance to date is \$1857.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Program Development:** Lorraine Davis shared information about the April 14 meeting which will focus on safety of women on the UWRF campus.

**Membership:** Ann Gustafson announced that our current membership is 47. April 14 will be a Shape the Future meeting and anyone joining will pay ½ the cost of dues for 15 months.

**Public Policy:** Barb Peterson encouraged attendance at a Public School Funding program Thursday, March 26, 6:45 pm at the Congregational Church.

**International Relations:** Yolanda Dewar noted that National Women's Day was just celebrated.

**Newsletter:** Cheryl Maplethorpe asked that all newsletter items be submitted to her by March 20.

**NCCWSL:** Bob Gustafson announced that three applications were submitted and our scholarship recipient for this spring's conference is Kao Vang.

## OLD BUSINESS

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – A tea will be held at the library May 12. Lorraine Davis circulated a sign-up sheet asking for teapots, teacups, and refreshments. All are encouraged to invite guests. Pictures and personal stories about why AAUW membership is important should be sent to Lorraine Davis. A power point presentation will be shared at the May celebration.

## NEW BUSINESS

- RFSD Candidate Forum to be held March 31 at the City Hall. A sign up was circulated for those willing to help with the forum.
- Sue Danielson recruited volunteers to assist with Pay Equity Day on campus, April 14.
- The nominating committee has prepared a slate of officers to be voted on at the May 12 meeting. The following have agreed to serve:

President	Jane Matthews
Co-Secretaries	Maureen Olle-LaJoie
	Magdalena Pala
Co-Program Development	Elaine Baumann
	Barb Peterson

Treasurer Suzanne Hagen and Membership Ann Gustafson will continue for their second year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

The program for the evening was the film “Wisconsin’s Nazi Resistance” which told about the life of Mildred Fish-Harnack. Professor Kurt Leichtle gave background information before the film and led a discussion following the film.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 8 – Start Smart WORKSHOP** - 2 – 5 p.m. UW-River Falls University Center - St. Croix Room (3rd floor). Start Smart Training for undergrads and grad students. AAUW branch members are welcome to come as observers. RSVP McKenna Pfeiffer ([mckenna.pfeiffer@uwrf.edu](mailto:mckenna.pfeiffer@uwrf.edu)) so they know how many copies of materials to make.

**April 14 - EQUAL PAY DAY** - 10:30 - 2:30 at University of Wisconsin-River Falls

**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. Join us for “**TEA AND MEMORIES**” and celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the River Falls Branch of AAUW on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 in the River Falls Public Library. **Wear a vintage hat** in honor of those who came before us.

**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.