

2012-13 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter APRIL 2014

Branch Program Focus:

The Impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Women's Health

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8 – 7:30 PM program
6:30 PM Branch Annual Meeting
River Falls Public Library, 140 Union Street, River Falls**

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) into law. The intention of this comprehensive health reform law, and of changes made to the law by subsequent legislation, is to expand coverage, control health care costs, and improve health care delivery system. The legislation is enormous – the initial bill alone was 974 pages – and only a few of the provisions have received significant coverage by mainstream media. Much of that coverage, including complaints about the so-called “individual mandate” and the troubled launch of the federal health exchange, has been negative. The reality is that PPACA provides significant benefits for women and children.

Please join us at the River Falls Public Library on **Tuesday, April 8** for a conversation with Heather Logelin about the impact of the Affordable Care Act here in Wisconsin. The program will begin at **7:30 PM** following the Branch Annual meeting which begins at 6:30 PM. The program is open to the public.

Logelin is the Foundation and Community Engagement Director for River Falls Area Hospital, part of Allina Health. In these roles, she oversees the hospital's philanthropic initiatives and provides staff leadership to the River Falls Area Hospital Foundation board of trustees. She also leads Allina Health's community engagement initiatives in western Wisconsin, working with the hospital board of trustees' community engagement committee and community partners to develop and implement community health improvement initiatives throughout the region.

In addition, Heather currently serves on the board of the Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix Counties and St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity. She is also on the executive leadership board for the United Way St. Croix Valley's "Success by 6" early childhood initiative, on the steering committee of Healthier Together St. Croix County, and is an active member of the River Falls Rotary Club.

Heather has an MBA in nonprofit management from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. She lived and studied in Russia for two years, including a year as a Thomas J. Watson Fellow. Heather is a native of Le Sueur, Minnesota and now resides in North Hudson with her husband, Greg Meyer, and two school-aged children, Jack and Addie. In her free time, she enjoys reading, canoeing, kayaking and cross-country skiing.

PRESIDENT' S COLUMN
Ruth Lee, Branch President

PRO – ACTIVE:

Have you become even more “pro-active” since listening to Superintendent Benson speak to our branch regarding the state’s school voucher program? Our legislators aren’t going to know how we really feel unless we advise them. We need to communicate with our legislators so they know our rationale on issues, whether we agree or disagree with their position. Check with your River Falls AAUW yearbook for pertinent information on pages 13 and 14.

Equity Pay Day occurs on April 8, 2014 and will be recognized by the River Falls branch of AAUW at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in the Student Center. Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women’s pay catches up to men’s from the year before. The table has been reserved, a positive committee has forged forward to organize Pay Day candy bars. Materials regarding AAUW memberships for students and graduates will be available. If you want to assist with this event contact Susan Halseth, susanhalseth@comcast.net or 715-690-7989.

April 8 is also the date of our next meeting which will be held at the River Falls Public Library. This is our annual meeting at which we will address the budget for next year and vote on the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee. Once again our Co-Program VP’s have planned an important program for all of us which is open to the public. Encourage other people to come join us for this program that begins at 7:30 pm. Every meeting/day is an opportunity for someone new to join our branch!

The Wisconsin State AAUW Convention will be held in Eau Claire, on April 25-26, 2014. This is a great year for each of us to experience the exuberance of AAUW members gathering to share and learn more regarding issues and topics that are important to them. Several members are planning to go for at least one day. There will be opportunities to car pool and share a room if you are interested in going for both Friday and Saturday. Check your *Badger Briefs* for further information.

Have you ever wondered why such importance is placed on supporting the Educational Fund? The convention provides an opportunity to witness what those dollars do when combined with money from branches across the country as we listen to the experiences of NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) attendees. Elise Whaley, a member of the River Falls branch, attended this conference in 2013 and shared her experience with the branch in September of 2013. In addition, three AAUW Fellowship and Grant Recipients will share their experiences on Friday evening. These women currently reside in Wisconsin.

AAUW Fund dollars are stretched even further through research. Catherine Hill, AAUW Director of Research, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday addressing *The Role of AAUW Research in Advocacy*. She has authored many AAUW reports including *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success (2013)* and *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year After College Graduation (2012)*.

Shared story from *Empowering Women Since 1881*:

On a damp autumn day, sixth-grader Katie Mulich cringed at the sight of her dog, Sadie, a Labrador-German shepherd mix, tracking mud into the house. Katie knew what came next ...pulling out hoses, brushes, and buckets and trying her best to dodge the muddy water Sadie would fling as she shook herself following yet another messy cleaning episode. But then an idea came to Katie - why not build a paw-washing machine? An upcoming science project gave her the opportunity to test her idea – and the resulting prototype not only got her an A in her class but led her to receive a patent for her Paw Wash product a year later.

EDUCATION

PROGRAM NOTES

Lorraine Davis and Elaine Davis, Co-Chairs

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 PM. That is the date and time of the annual potluck dinner to be held at the home of Lorraine Davis. It is also the time when the officers for 2014-15 are installed. The food is tasty; the conversation is lively so plan now to attend.

BOOK GROUP NEWS – Ethel Johnson

The Book Group meets at the River Falls Public Library at 1:00 PM in the Library Board Room. The books to be read for the next two months are:

April 9 Paris Wife by Paula McLain

May 14 The Light Between Oceans by M L Stedman

All are welcome. You need not read the book if you want to come and check us out. We discuss the book plot and share information about the author. Reading widens one's horizons. It is also a way to put spare minutes to good use. Give it a try!

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

“WOMEN IN THE WORLD: Stories + Solutions”

Presented by Tina Brown LIVE Media,

Next week, on April 3-5, the David Koch Theater in New York City will host a powerful and exciting summit centered on live journalistic storytelling with inspiring women and men from around the world sharing their true stories of courage, resilience, and determination for progress. Featuring CEOs, industry icons, and world leaders, as well as artists, grassroots activists, and firebrand dissidents, the 3-day event makes vivid the stories of the courageous and intelligent women who are taking on the status quo in their native countries, leading peace movements in the face of war and conflict, and shattering glass ceilings in every sector.

Participants will include: Meryl Streep, Director of the IMF Christine Lagarde, Tina Brown, Ambassador Samantha Power, Cecile Richards, President Jimmy Carter, Mia Farrow, Rashida Jones, Senator Susan Collins, Katie Couric, Amb. Melanne Vermeer, . . . Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Diane von Furstenberg, . . . Amb. Anne Patterson, Barbara Bush, Lesley Stahl, America Ferrera, Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile

Mlambo-Ngcuka, Zainab Salbi, Soledad O'Brien, . . and many more to be announced. A portion of all ticket proceeds will benefit Vital Voices Global Partnership.

Two members of the dissident Russian feminist group and anti-Putin protesters Pussy Riot will join the fifth annual Women in the World Summit, April 3-5, at Lincoln Center. Nadya Tolokonnikova and Masha Alekhina head to New York after several tumultuous weeks in Russia including police detentions, interrogations and a public beating by Cossacks at the Sochi Winter Olympics. Tina Brown, founder of Women in the World, said: “We are thrilled to be joined by these passionate women at a time when the Ukraine ferment makes their stand against Putin ever more relevant.”

ADVOCACY

PUBLIC POLICY

Barbara Peterson, Chair

A Public Policy Moment

Last week I published a Two-Minute Activist regarding legislation that was being pushed through the Assembly with great haste. If you are not signed up for the Action Alerts you are missing some fast developing advocacy. Please visit our Wisconsin Activism sight and notice that you can sign up on the right side of that page <http://aauw-wi.aauw.net/>. Also read about convention details on that page.

As is so often the case these days, our legislators seem to have decided that quick unannounced action on legislation is the best way to stifle expressed concern. This week, again, the Assembly gave two-days' notice to the votes for cutting back early voting hours and eliminating



weekends totally. Offices can handle absentee ballots from 9:00 AM until 8 PM (eliminating early morning hours). If you are a low-income working woman or male, hold down two jobs or have a lack of transportation or school-age children at home, these hours will not work for you. This is a blatant case of eliminating low-income voters and placing burdens on their right to vote. In case that was not enough, on the same day, the Assembly voted to extend by 7-weeks the length of time when lobbyists could con-

tribute to legislators' campaign financing. The Senate has already passed this legislation. You can read two letters to the editor in the River Falls Journal dated March 20th; written by Jim W. Pratt and Ila June Brown-Pratt and Rellen Hardtke. If you would like to express concern to Governor Walker, please feel free to contact his office, govgeneral@wisconsin.gov, or (608) 266-1212.

Two other important events are coming soon. April 8th marks the day this year when women on average will catch up to the income earned by males in 2013. We need to have a strong presence on the University campus with the phrase "\$tart \$mart". This is being arranged. Don't wait for the students to come to us at the table; move out into the flow of students and engage them in understanding the unfairness of this treatment in the workplace. Help them understand that AAUW is working to place pressure on legislators. Tell them about student membership in AAUW. And get them interested in voting for change.

The second challenge we have is interesting students in GOTV. Statistically millennials do not vote in off year elections and the difference is seen in the ballot box by the parties. At convention, there is an opportunity on Saturday to learn again how to set up GOTV programs on college campuses, technical colleges and places where millennials gather (bars, bars, or bars). I hope you will work on this project this summer and fall. The millennial vote will be particularly important in this off-year election. Remember, our AAUW issues are their issues. We need to elect candidates by issues so be watching for articles in the Milwaukee Journal sentinel (www.jsonline.com) or the Capital Times (www.Madison.com).

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP NOTES Jane Matthews, Chair

April is really the month that Membership recruitment begins for the next fiscal year. As a result, the April 8 meeting will be a *Shape the Future* event. This means that any new member who joins will be eligible to receive a 15-month membership at a half cost rate for national, state and branch dues. In other words, new members joining at that next meeting may do so at the reduced rate of \$36.50. The renewal date for these new

members will be July 1, 2015. Former members who have not been member for at least two years may also take advantage of the half-cost dues.

Members who join in April not only have the advantage of reduced cost of dues, but they also are able to become part of branch activities and programs now, including this year's April and May programs and meetings along with any summer activities. They will also begin to receive information from both the state and national offices about AAUW issues and activities.

Remember, as branch members you are each considered a member of the Membership Committee. YOU are the best way for others to learn about AAUW. Invite someone to come to the April 8 program with you and tell them why they should consider joining AAUW.



Member Spotlight by Jane Matthews

This month's Member Spotlight focuses on two experienced members and leaders—Suzanne Hagen and Jeanne Zirbel.

SUZANNE HAGEN

Suzanne Hagen became aware of AAUW in the 1980s when she was recognized for her contribution to the community as a young faculty member at UW-River Falls. The more she learned about AAUW the more she realized that her beliefs and those of the organization were closely aligned. She became a member shortly after her introduction and remained a member until her busy schedule interfered with her attendance and participation. She remained involved,



however, by becoming the liaison for AAUW and the University between 2003 and 2005. She rejoined AAUW in 2011 after she retired. She is currently co-treasurer and has recently worked on AAUW Funds.

Her teaching career began in 1972 in Dickinson, North Dakota where she taught high school English and Speech. She was also the debate coach and hauled her debate team all over North Dakota, occasionally amidst a blizzard or two.

Suzanne ultimately returned to the classroom and earned her MA and PhD in Communication Studies from the University of Minnesota. She began her

teaching career at UW-River Falls in 1977 where she taught a variety of classes including public speaking, small group communications, business communication, speech communication and interviewing.

Suzanne loved teaching both high school and college. She ultimately settled on the college level as classroom discipline was less of a problem and university students were generally eager to collaborate with her. In all instances she sought to instill in her students the concept that learning is a rewarding and positive part of life, a philosophy she carried into her personal life: she and her husband regularly took their young children to Barnes and Noble for book browsing and buying, always a celebratory highlight for the kids!

Suzanne had no idea that she would still be here 37 years after she arrived. She loves the small town atmosphere of River Falls and appreciates the location, which is ideal for a foray into a metropolitan area from time to time. River Falls is home. She is from the small town of Spring Valley, Minnesota and her husband is from a farming community in North Dakota, so they both appreciate the benefits of living in River Falls.

Suzanne has two grown children, a daughter who works in Washington D.C. for the Department of Defense and a son who works in audio production in the Eau Claire area.

Suzanne enjoyed teaching, but she also loves the slower pace of retirement. For her, reading is the epitome of a good time. She also knits, quilts and cooks when the mood strikes her. She has recently begun to work on her family history which is intriguing. She enjoys driving trips and has visited every state except Hawaii. She and her husband have also visited Europe, especially Scandinavia, several times, and spent four months living and teaching in Scotland. Her future plans include more travel, more family history, and, of course, continuing in AAUW.

JEANNE ZIRBEL

Jeanne Zirbel's enthusiasm for AAUW and teaching young children began at the same time. She attended an AAUW tea at Senior Day at the UW-Platteville in 1965. She was drawn to the organization because it focused on helping women achieve their educational goals. Having grants, fellowships and scholarships as a part of AAUW's mission solidified her attraction and she joined.

When she started teaching, Jeanne sought a local branch and joined the Manitowoc /Two Rivers (WI) Branch. She taught for six years in Manitowoc. Although she took time off from teaching to have a family, she never took time off from AAUW. At each new location she made her way to AAUW, eventually becoming a member of the Shakopee/Burnsville and River Falls Branches. She joined the River Falls Branch in 1977 and started teaching in River Falls in 1979. In AAUW-River Falls she has served twice as president, twice as Program vice president, newsletter editor and long term Book Sale co-chair, with Suzie Danielson.

Her love of teaching was based on observing how so many elements of life—learning, history, social interaction, a sense of community and a sense of achievement -- mesh in the classroom. She became an avid history fan and considered it a special reward when she was able to teach Wisconsin history to fourth graders, American history to fifth graders, and the history of River Falls to third graders.



Even though she retired from the River Falls School District in 2007, she still gets her history "fix" by serving on the River Falls Historic Preservation Commission, which keeps her involved with the community and allows her to continue to learn about the history of River Falls. She has been involved in helping preserve the power plant smoke stack and in ushering the Academy Building toward 24 apartments rather than demolition. She is also involved in preservation efforts for the Glover School Project, combining her passion for the past and education.

She has observed many changes in the way children are taught and believes that technology may have had the most dramatic effect on the classroom. However, she does not discount the importance of teachers and advises the new teachers she observes to learn all they can about children and all their complexities.

A past AAUW convention introduced Jeanne to the concept of "nutritious friendships." She savors those as she participates in her church, community and activities. She has many interests, such as quilting, reading, skiing, snowshoeing, gardening and any other activity that will take her outdoors. She also enjoys the Guthrie, The Minnesota Orchestra, Children's Theater and the History Theater. She has two children and two grandchildren who help keep her involved in new developments and new skill acquisition.

BRANCH BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEETING – April 8, 2014

Election of Officers:

Information for members regarding the election of officers for the 2014-15 fiscal year:

The election will be held at the April meeting and the installation of new officers will be held at the May meeting. Officers to be elected in even numbered years include President-Elect, Membership Vice President(s), and Finance Vice-President(s)

“Officers shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected or appointed and assume office.” “The term of each officer shall begin on July 1.” “There shall be a nominating committee of three members selected by the president at least two months prior to the annual election. They shall prepare a list of nominees to be presented at a branch meeting one month prior to the election, or in writing to each member at least two weeks before the election. Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of election, provided written consent of the nominee has been obtained.”

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

March 11, 2014

Committee Members: Susan Halseth, Lorraine Davis, Susan Koosmann

The following members have agreed to have their names placed in nomination for the following open board positions for 2014-2015:

President-Elect: Jane Matthews
Treasurer: Suzanne Hagen
Co-Membership VP's: Ann Gustafson, Jennifer Willis-Rivera

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Halseth, Committee Member.

FINANCE REPORT

Kay Montgomery, Co-Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report March 7, 2014

Checking balance: 2/14/2014 \$2,236.61

Receipts:

None

Disbursements:

Veronica Baillargeon (RFHS scholar) \$ 300.00
UWRF (Equal Pay Day table, UC) \$ 50.00
Total \$ 350.00

Balances: 3/7/2014

Checking: \$1,886.61
Savings: 1,954.87
Total \$3,841.48

Restricted Accounts:

UWRF Scholarship \$ 500.00
High School Scholarship \$ 00.00
AAUW Funds \$ 472.01
LAF \$ 00.00
Travel
State \$ 791.00
National \$ 25.00*

(Book Sale total income, minus expenditures = \$1410.01)

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

AAUW Branch Meeting Minutes March 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Ruth Lee at 6:35 p.m. The President's report was given. Ruth expressed her appreciation to Elaine Baumann and all the helpers that made the Candidates' Forum a success. The secretary's report was accepted as printed in the newsletter. The financial report that appeared in the newsletter was accepted and filed for audit.

Elaine Baumann and Lorraine Davis, Program Development, reported. Elaine thanked all those that helped with the Candidates' Forum and named those that assisted. Lorraine Davis announced that a trip to the History Theatre was being planned for March 29th. The play will be *The Lonely Soldiers*. Everyone is welcome but should let Lorraine Davis know if they plan to attend.

Jane Matthews, Membership Chair, reported that we have done well this year. She asked for recommendations for the two free memberships that have been earned this year. A decision must be made by the end of June.

Yolanda Dewar, International chair, was traveling but sent a quote: "For most of history, anonymous was a woman".

Suzanne Hagen reminded members that tax forms are due on April 15th and suggested members consider a tax exempt donation to AAUW next year.

Ann Gustafson reminded everyone that newsletter articles are due the 20th of each month.

Old Business: A reminder that the State Convention will be held April 25-26, 2014, in Eau Claire, WI was given. A discussion took place regarding sending someone to the Start Smart training. A name was received from the audience and this person will be sent to receive the training. One part is for girls (college students) and the second part deals with how to be a facilitator. The training is free but the Convention registration is \$50.00.

New Business: Sue Halseth, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the work of this committee has been completed. The following members have agreed to have their names placed in nomination for the following open Board positions for 2014-15:

President Elect: Jane Matthews

Treasurer: Suzanne Hagen

Co-Membership VP's: Ann Gustafson and Jennifer Willis Rivera

Sue Halseth reported about Pay Equity Day which is April 8. A table has been reserved at the University Center. The prime hours are from 10 AM until 2 or 3PM. A sign-up sheet to identify volunteers to be workers that day was passed. Pay Day candy bars are to be given out. 120 candy bars are available to be given to those who visit the table for information. Materials about AAUW will be on hand and a lap top will also be used to sign up free student affiliate members.

Susan Koosmann announced that the Coalition for a Compassionate Community will have an open meeting to discuss a free Mental Health Clinic to address the needs of women. This will be held at St. Bridget's Church, March 18th, at 10:00 a.m. It will cover harassment in the workplace and will be specifically geared to people in St. Croix and Pierce counties. Members were urged to attend.

Ruth Lee announced that there would be a Board meeting before the April meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ethel Johnson, Secretary, pro tem

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 5	Branch Board meeting - 10:10 AM, River Falls Public Library Board Room
April 8	Equal Pay Day – table at UW-RF Student Center; 10 AM -2 PM; hand out <i>Pay Day</i> candy bars and ESAF materials
April 8	AAUW-RF Branch meeting, River Falls Public Library; 6:30 PM branch annual meeting, election of officers; 7:30 PM, Program – The Impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Women, Heather Logelin, RFAH Director
April 25	AAUW-WI State Convention, Eau Claire –1:00-5:30 PM \$tart \$mart workshop, salary negotiation training; 6:00 PM Opening session
April 26	AAUW-WI State Convention, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM (see <i>Badger Briefs</i> for details)
May 13	AAUW-RF Branch meeting, 6:30 PM Potluck at the home of Lorraine Davis; Installation of Officers
July 1	New fiscal and new program year begin

REMINDER: Pay your 2014-15 dues now



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.