

## 2012-13 Branch Officers

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# FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter MARCH 2014

**MARK THE DATE - - -**

## MARCH PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON SCHOOL VOUCHERS

River Falls Public Library  
140 Union Street, River Falls  
Branch Business meeting – 6:30PM  
Program – 7:30 PM

The program topic for the March 11 AAUW-River Falls branch meeting will be *"The Impact of Vouchers on Public School Funding in Wisconsin"* presented by Jamie Benson, Superintendent of Schools, River Falls School District. The branch business meeting will begin at 6:30 PM and the program will begin at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the River Falls Public Library. The public is invited to attend the meeting.



In 1991, Wisconsin established a voucher system designed to enable low-income students in Milwaukee to attend higher performing private school that otherwise would be financially out of reach.

Currently, there are efforts to expand the state school voucher program to include the entire state and to ease the limits of the income restrictions for families to participate in the program. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has opposed this change for a number of reasons. The River Falls School District Superintendent of Schools will explain the proposed expansion along with the DPI's concerns, and share the impact that the statewide expansion of the voucher program would have on the River Falls School District.

Jamie Benson is in his first year as the River Falls Superintendent of Schools. Prior to coming to River Falls, he was a superintendent for 15 years at River Valley School District near Madison.

\* \* \* \* \*

*'It is a tragedy that, for most of us, school is not a place for deepening our sense of who we are and what we are committed to. If it were, think of the lasting changes it would have made.*

---Peter Senge

**WOMEN: PAST and PRESENT** and the month of March **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH** need to be talked about! Most current or retired female educators have probably promoted this theme during the month of March. So why not challenge yourself now and think about as many outstanding females in your chosen profession that you can. The first person you should look at is yourself, and others who were instrumental in mentoring you along the way. Huge credit goes to our VP Program Development leaders for giving us an entire year looking at women! Look back at the programs we have already enjoyed and those yet to come.

When you go to the AAUW website there is a plethora of information about women of numerous ages in various activities and personal interests. AAUW focuses on STEM, (science, technology, engineering, and math) while some of us focus on things like the arts, and various fields in humanity.

Did you know that Amy Beach was the first female composer in the United States? She was an excellent pianist and played professionally. (Sure wish I had my "home library here in CA".) Ruth Crawford Seeger was another pianist/composer trained in the United States in the Chicago area. She was the first woman from the United States to win a Guggenheim Fellowship to study in France. (She studied with Carl Seeger, father of Pete Seeger the folk singer who passed away in 2014.) The Seeger family was instrumental in collecting field samples of folk music in the United States, recording and printing the music.

Can you imagine going to hear a professional orchestra today and not having female players present? Some of the first female professional instrumentalists were hired because they were interviewed behind a curtain so the "judges" didn't know their gender. That is no longer an issue in most orchestras. So along this thought how about the conductors of the larger orchestra are there any females? Marin Alsop, music director of the Baltimore Symphony, is the only female conductor of a major US orchestra. In fact she became the first woman to conduct the Last Night of the Proms, a 118 year-old London concert that marks the end of the city's eight-week summer season of classical music.

Well, did you complete your list or go online to check out a point of interest? Providing you actually read this little note you probably know more than you ever wanted to about women in the composer/conductor world of music. So we continue our forward journey, what a great trip it will be! Might last awhile too but together we shall enjoy each accomplishment that is acquired.

\*\*\*\*\*

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH QUIZ – Match the description with the person

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Volunteered as a nurse during the Civil War, earned the nickname "Mother," became an attorney advocating for veterans                              | a. Olympia Brown        |
| 2. United States delegate to the United Nations who championed and won approval of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948                  | b. Maria Goeppert Mayer |
| 3. First American woman to win the Nobel Prize in physics in 1963 after she discovered the structure of atoms   | c. Charlotte Ray        |
| 4. First Native American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963 for her work in decreasing infant mortality and decreasing tuberculosis | d. Eleanor Roosevelt    |
| 5. First American woman to be ordained by full denominational authority in 1864, and also campaigned vigorously for full woman suffrage               | e. Mary Bickerdyke      |
| 6. First black woman lawyer in the United States and the first woman admitted to District of Columbia bar in 1872                                     | f. Anne Dodge Wauneha   |
- \*\* Answers at bottom of the Calendar of Events\*\*

## EDUCATION

### PROGRAM NOTES

Lorraine Davis and Elaine Davis, Co-Chairs

REMINDER – Minnesota History Theatre event AAUW-RF is hoping to assemble a group of 12 or more members to get a group rate for tickets to the Minnesota History Theatre's production of "**The Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq** - A timely and evocative play about the experiences of eight soldiers who served in Iraq, told in their own words."

The performance will be Saturday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the History Theatre – 30 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul

To reserve your tickets, email Elaine at [elaine.baumann1@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.baumann1@gmail.com) by **FEBRUARY 28**.

### BOOK NEWS – Ethel Johnson

The AAUW Book Group will meet on March 12, 1:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the River Falls Public Library. The book to be discussed is *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean. All are welcome to join the group. It is not necessary to have read the book at the first attendance at a meeting.

### INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

#### *International Women's Day*

**2014 Theme: INSPIRING**

**CHANGE--Excerpt -from "The Guardian".**



**Women's equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action.**

Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. *Inspiring Change* is the 2014 theme for our [internationalwomensday.com](http://internationalwomensday.com) global hub and encourages advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way. It calls for challenging the status quo for women's equality and vigilance inspiring positive change.

The first International Women's Day was held in 1911. Thousands of events throughout the world occur to mark the economic, political, and social

achievements of women. Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day to inspire women and highlight achievements.

### *Symbols*

***The International Women's Day logo is in purple and white and features the symbol of Venus, which is also the symbol of being female. The faces of women of all backgrounds, ages, and nations are also seen in various promotions, such as posters, postcards and information booklets, on International Women's Day. So make a difference, think globally and act locally!! Make every day International Women's Day. Do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.***

### **Why 2014 is a key year for women's rights and gender equality-From "The Guardian"**

In February, "The Guardian" launched a women's rights and gender equality section to provide a specific focus on the pressing issues affecting women, girls and transgender people around the world, and the critical work being carried out by women's rights movements.

In September 1994, the **International Conference on Population and Development**, which met in Cairo, for the first time shifted the emphasis on population control from government efforts to reduce numbers through family planning, to look more broadly at women's empowerment and how their lives can be improved.

As the UN looks to mark the 20th anniversary of the Cairo agreement this year, women's rights organizations are, more and more, having to concern themselves with fighting reactionary policies that seek to chip away at hard-won rights.

This year is gearing up to be a key time for women's rights and gender equality. The UN Commission on the Status of Women, being held in New York in March, will discuss progress against the millennium development goals and crucially look at how women feature in what comes next.

We want to create a global platform for discussion that amplifies the voices of women's rights advocates

who are normally left out of decision-making or not heard in mainstream media.

Help us create a global platform for discussion that amplifies the voices of women's rights advocates around the world. Tell us what you think and what you would like to hear more about. Email us at [development@theguardian.com](mailto:development@theguardian.com)

## ADVOCACY

### PUBLIC POLICY

Barbara Peterson, Chair

During this long winter it is easy to get depressed. To buoy your spirits, remind yourself how far women have come since 1949:

*Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual – 1949*

*Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference predominates.*

*Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores do these first so your mind is free to enjoy you sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag full of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor will drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.*

Humor aside though, we still have much to change. For months, groups like AAUW, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and others have been trying to get the Wisconsin legislative leaders to hold hearings on redistricting reform. Every 10 years the legislative districts are redrawn to slant towards the party in power.

In these “safe districts” it has become virtually impossible to win an election if you are not in the majority party. For example, since parts of St. Croix County are quite conservative, the recent redistricting took the areas north of River Falls away from Rep. Ron Kind (Dem) and gave that area to Rep. Sean Duffy (Rep). You can find the new district map by Googling and you will see a prime example of gerry-

mandering. This process starts at the state level and can be changed at the state level. However, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Republican – Burlington, said “Nobody cares,” as he tried to dismiss suggestions by the Wisconsin State Journal Editorial Board that he should convene a public hearing on redistricting reform. State Rep. Vos and other members of his party are against the notion of creating a nonpartisan redistricting process, a system that other states, such as Iowa and California, have put in place to avoid the type of partisan-driven gerrymandering that is taking place here in Wisconsin. So we need to let them know that WE CARE about redistricting reform.

The AAUW office has been proactive in holding “How To” conference calls. I recently listened to a one-hour conference call on “How to Organize an Equal Pay Day Event”. Equal Pay Day is April 8<sup>th</sup>, the symbolic day when a woman would finally have earned as much income as a man did in 2013.

Directions were shared on how to organize a petition signing table or a letter-to-the-editor campaign. We could ask restaurants to give women a 23% discount on their meals that day or give female college students a 7% discount, since this is how much difference there will be in male/female wages in their first job out of college. We could hold a cocktails and convo session at “unhappy hour” with a speaker on the topic or have the mayor sign a proclamation for Equal Pay Day.

There are a variety of brochures and trinkets free from AAUW to hand out at events on campus (and elsewhere). Jane Matthews is organizing an event for our branch and I am volunteering here and now to join her. Won't you join us in spreading the word about pay equity?

## MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Jane Matthews, Chair

Membership in AAUW-River Falls Branch continues to grow steadily thanks to our *Shape the Future* events and the stellar programs offered to the community.

This month we present our second installment of Member Spotlight by featuring two long term members, Lorraine Davis and Sue Halseth. We hope to



feature profiles of newer branch members in the next newsletter.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### LORRAINE DAVIS

Lorraine Davis brings a wealth of experience and education to her current role as Co-Program Vice President, and AAUW reaps the benefit by having interesting, cogent and inspiring programs for members and community.

A native of Indiana, Lorraine was educated through high school in Indiana public schools. She received a BA in history from Indiana University, an MA in history from UC Berkeley and an EdD in Social Studies Education from Indiana University.

Her career spans teaching at the middle school, high school and university levels. She taught middle and high school social studies in Indiana and Wisconsin. After retiring from River Falls School District in 1998, she and her husband moved to Washington D.C., where she was an adjunct professor at American University, George Mason University and Shenandoah University. In addition to teaching, Lorraine served as Director of Instructional Services, Curriculum Coordinator and Classroom Management Instructor. She also taught at UW River Falls before moving to Washington D.C.



Her long standing interest in women's issues is evidenced by her PhD dissertation titled *Perception of Gender in High School Students* and her work on the State of Wisconsin Gender Equity Cadre. She was also chair of CHOICES for Girls, which was co-sponsored by AAUW and the River Falls School District. Lorraine was actually drawn to AAUW because she saw it and the school district as possible partners in helping define and promote advances for women and girls.

Lorraine is married and has two sons, two grandchildren and a wonderful daughter-in-law. Her hobbies include reading, friends, grandchildren and travel when possible.

### SUSAN HALSETH

Sue Halseth joined the River Falls Branch of AAUW in 2005 but was active in the Eau Claire Branch for many years previous to that. Her sister suggested membership in the Eau Claire Branch and, since she agreed with all the principles, she said yes. Sue

served that branch as Membership Vice President and served on the WI state AAUW board as Education Representative during those years. At River Falls she has served as newsletter co-editor, Secretary, President Elect, and President. She has also worked on Bylaws revision and the Pay Equity Day event at UWRF.



Sue received her BS and Master's degree in Speech and Language from UW Eau Claire in 1973 as a returning adult student and single parent of four growing children. She worked for several school districts in western Wisconsin as speech and language clinician and

in curriculum development. She also worked as a personnel administrator for Xcel Energy, but her desire to return to education took her back to UW Madison, where she earned her PhD and obtained a School Principal's license in 2000. She worked in both the Monticello School District and the Boyceville School District in that capacity.

She retired as the Middle School Principal/Curriculum Coordinator at Boyceville, Wisconsin in 2005 but has continued to work part time in Speech and Language for several western Wisconsin school districts. Sue is a life-long learner, especially interested in languages. She has taken conversational Spanish classes through community education and, until recently was auditing a Spanish class at St. Thomas University.

Knitting, reading, "raised bed" vegetable gardening, and exercising are her favorite hobbies. She keeps toying with the idea of writing children's books. Hopefully, that will happen.

Her interest and passion remains women's equity, women's education and opportunities, and language acquisition in children.

## PHILANTHROPY

Suzanne Hagen  
Finance Co-Chair

### PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Philanthropy Committee has been brainstorming fund raising ideas to continue financial support of our key branch initiatives. Being a sponsor of River Falls' Moose Lodge monthly community breakfasts is one very feasible and productive opportunity for our organization. The committee is recommending that we work with the Moose to sponsor the Sunday, Nov. 2

breakfast, the earliest available date in 2014. This will involve selling tickets (150 sold tickets will garner us 55% of the profits; a \$500 profit to us is not an unreasonable estimate) and having some branch members work to clean up after the breakfast. After discussing a variety of fund raising options, the committee felt this would be quite "do-able" this year in terms of labor, would gain us a reasonable return on our efforts, and would give our branch some community visibility. (Special thanks to Suzie Danielson for

gathering information and being our liaison to the Lodge organizers.)

We continue to pursue sponsoring a community Garden Tour, potentially for the summer of 2015. The committee is enthusiastic about the idea, but it will require considerable time and energy to plan, coordinate, and implement. Committee members will be doing further information gathering and planning of this initiative in the coming months and will keep you all updated on our progress.

## BRANCH BUSINESS

### MINUTES OF BRANCH MEETING

February 11, 2014

Karen Brohaugh, Co-Secretary

Program Vice-President Lorraine Davis called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as printed in the February newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved as printed in the February newsletter.

**President's Report:**

- Lorraine Davis, Sue Halseth and Sue Koosmann are on the nominating committee and Sue Koosmann encouraged members to volunteer this evening for the open positions in order to eliminate phone calls.
- Sue Danielson circulated a sign-up sheet for the state convention April 25 and 26 and encouraged our attendance. She explained Friday's **Start Smart** program on negotiating salaries, ideal for students nearing graduation. Suzanne Hagen will get a notice out through the university.
- Newsletter deadline is Saturday, February 15.

**Program Development:**

- Superintendent Jamie Benson will speak about vouchers at our March meeting.
- Send \$22 to Elaine Baumann or Lorraine Davis if interested in seeing **The Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq**, at the History Theatre, Saturday, March 29 at 2:00 PM.

**Membershp:**

- Jane Matthews explained **Member Focus**, her plan for getting to know our members. She would like to interview all branch members and make the information available on-line.

**International Relations:**

- No report

**Philanthropy:**

- Suzanne Hagen reported that the committee met earlier in February.
- Our branch will sponsor a breakfast at the Moose Lodge, Sunday, November 2.
- Garden Tour planning will continue for the summer of 2015.

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- Sue Koosmann announced the River Falls Reads Program February 25, **The Roots of the Second Wave: Feminist Activism in the 60s**.
- The Scholarship Committee will meet in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

# FINANCE REPORT

Kay Montgomery, Co-Finance Chair

## AAUW-River Falls Finance Report February 14, 2014

Checking balance 1/20/2013: \$2,236.61

### Receipts:

None

### Disbursements

None

### Balances 2/14/2014:

Checking: \$2,236.61  
Savings: \$1,954.87  
\$4,191.48

### Restricted Accounts:

UWRF Scholarship \$500.00  
High School Scholarship \$300.00  
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-RIVER FALLS PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2014-2015

Receipts (as of February 8, 2013)	<u>Proposed 2013-14</u>	<u>Actual 2013-14</u>	<u>Proposed 2014-15</u>
Dues for FY2013-2014	\$3,016.00	\$541.00	00.00
Dues for FY2014-2015 (based on 45 members)	00.00	00.00	3,089.00
Association*, State, Local			
Book Sale	2,300.00	1,475.01	1,500.00
Travel (State)	100.00	791.00	700.00
Travel (Assn.)	200.00	25.00	100.00
Branch Meals	150.00	216.00	150.00
Interest***	1.00	.50	1.00
LAF (Advocacy)	50.00	00.00	50.00
AAUW Funds	50.00	24.00	50.00
Misc.**	20.00	0.00	30.00
Philanthropy	<u>00.00</u>	<u>00.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$5,092.00	\$3,074.51	\$6,170.00

### Disbursements (as of February 8, 2014)

Dues (based on 45 members)

Association\* \$1,960.00 \$ 330.75 \$2,009.00  
State 572.00 133.75 585.00  
Newsletter 00.00 00.00 20.00  
Postage 60.00 11.42 70.00  
Travel (State) 00.00 00.00 250.00  
Travel (Assn) 200.00 00.00 300.00  
Room rent 25.00 45.00 50.00

High School Scholarship	300.00	00.00	300.00
UWRF Scholarship	500.00	00.00	150.00
Math/Science awards	100.00	100.00	100.00
Publicity	25.00	00.00	25.00
Program	150.00	52.94	75.00
Book sale	30.00	65.00	40.00
Directory	65.00	34.25	60.00
Forums	10.00	00.00	10.00
Membership	75.00	00.00	50.00
LAF	50.00	65.00	50.00
AAUW Funds	1,500.00	500.00	1,000.00
Misc.	00.00	00.00	100.00
Philanthropy	-----	-----	<u>50.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$5,832.00	\$1,337.61	\$5,404.00

Comments on the proposed budget:

- Postage line includes mailing dues notices, mailing four newsletters per month, etc.
- \*Four paid life members do not pay national dues
- \*\*Includes reimbursement of Public Library deposit
- \*\*\*Savings account

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 25	River Falls Reads 2014: <i>The Roots of the Second Wave: Feminist Activism in the 60s</i> , River Falls Public Library with Michelle Parkinson, 7:00 PM
February 28	Deadline to reserve tickets for MN History Theatre's presentation of <i>The Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq</i>
March 11	AAUW-RF Branch meeting, River Falls Public Library; <i>The Impact of Vouchers on Public School Funding in WI</i> , Supt. Jamie Benson; 6:30 PM Branch business meeting; 7:30 PM Program
March 16	Begin to pay dues for FY 2014-15 – See notice at end of newsletter
March 29	MN History Theatre, <i>The Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq</i> , 2:00 PM
April 8	Equal Pay Day – event at UWRF; details to follow
April 8	AAUW-RF Branch meeting, River Falls Public Library; 6:30 PM branch annual meeting, election of officers; 7:30 PM Program
April 25-26	AAUW-WI State Convention, Eau Claire
May 13	AAUW-RF Branch meeting, 6:30 PM Pot Luck; Installation of Officers

Answers to Women's History Month Quiz: 1-e, 2-d, 3-b, 4-f, 5-a, 6-c. Source: Nat'l Women's History Month



## AAUW-River Falls Dues for FY 2014-15 may be paid BEGINNING MARCH 16TH

We are anticipating that you will be renewing your AAUW membership for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. (For those of you who did not renew for 2013/2014, by paying your dues now you are considered a renewing member, not a new member.) One thing to keep in mind: *\$46.00 of the \$49.00 national dues are tax deductible.*

\$49.00 national dues (\$46.00 are tax deductible)  
\$13.00 state dues  
\$11.00 branch dues (\$1.00 goes to LAF)  
\$73.00 total dues

If you are a renewing Life Member and do not pay national dues, your dues total is \$24.00.

AAUW national dues are to be sent to the national office by June 30. Therefore, payments will need to be received **by Tuesday, June 17** in order to be processed and both national and state dues sent in on time. **Thanks for your prompt payment.**

The following information will be used for the branch directory. If the information has not changed from the last printing, you may fill in your name only.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number\_\_\_\_\_

Email address\_\_\_\_\_

College/University\_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this form and your check to our April or May meeting, or send to:

Suzanne Hagen  
2464 Golf View Drive  
River Falls, WI 54022

**THANKS!!**



### 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.