

2012-13 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter May 2014

Annual Branch Potluck May 13, 2014, 6:30 PM

On Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 PM the annual AAUW-River Falls potluck dinner will be held at the home of Lorraine Davis, 583 Devin Lane in River Falls. Please bring a meat-free dish to pass.

Directions: Take 29 S (So. Main St) to Cemetery Road; turn right (high school turn is to left); follow Cemetery Road until it veers to the right, Devin Lane forks to the left. Follow Devin Lane to the cul-de-sac at end (not Douglas Ct). It will be the red house on the cul-de-sac. Or take the by-pass toward Ellsworth to the Cemetery Road round about. Take Cemetery Road beyond the Hwy 29 S stoplight until it forks to the right. Follow Devin Lane to the left to the end, which will be a cul-de-sac, to the red house on the cul-de-sac.

There will be a brief business meeting during which time this year's officers will be recognized and the new officers for 2014-15 will be installed.

The food is tasty, the company is exquisite, and the conversation is lively so plan now to attend. RSVP to Lorraine Davis at ldavis4762@aol.com or to Elaine Baumann at elainebaumann1@gmail.com by MAY 10, 2014.

STATE CONVENTION NOTES

On April 25 and/or April 26, 11 AAUW-River Falls branch members attended the 94th AAUW Wisconsin State Convention in Eau Claire. State AAUW Conventions include the annual state business but also are filled with workshops, plenaries, and opportunities for branch members to meet and become acquainted with other members from across the state and to experience the AAUW mission in action. Following are the impressions, *AHA!* Moments, and reactions from several of the individuals who attended this year's convention.

SUE HALSETH - The opportunity to hear Catherine Hill, AAUW Director of Research, speak was one of the highlights of the convention. She, with a team of AAUW researchers, studied women's participation in "community colleges," a term defined as including Wisconsin technical colleges and other two-year and four-year institutions. The report, *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success* was published by AAUW on April 30, 2013, and can be downloaded from the AAUW website.

The study was initiated because more than ever before, women are attending community colleges for higher education and workforce preparation. The issues this report addresses are of particular concern to women (Cont. on page 2)

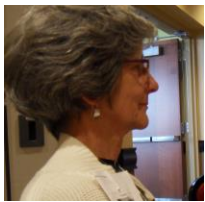
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Ruth Lee

Another year of branch meetings and programs comes to a close. On Tuesday, May 13 we will gather for a potluck meal to feed our bodies as our minds have been fed this year through the theme *WOMEN: PAST AND PRESENT*. New officers will be installed and retiring officers will be recognized for their dedication to AAUW and its mission and goals. As I reflect on the year there comes a reminder of all the books about women that are waiting to be read. Make your list and perhaps (through a suggestion) they might become part of the AAUW book group's reading list for next year.

Keep a positive outlook as we approach the 2014 -2015 planning stages. Share your ideas and visions for the next year as we implement the Mission Statement: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research*. This goal commits us to more than meetings and great programs each month. The mission requires action and our branch will evaluate how we can best achieve that.

Attending Wisconsin State Conventions are usually stimulating, educational, exhausting, as well as an opportunity to reconnect with former acquaintances and create new relationships. The convention in Eau Claire in 2014 was no exception to that expectation. It was a wonderful feeling to attend this with a total of eleven (11) members from the River Falls Branch. Each person that made the commitment and took the time to go to Eau Claire will share a moment with you. PLEASE READ THEM so you can share the experience that they had in Eau Claire.



There were so many moments and ideas that surfaced during this convention that it is difficult to narrow the scope. One thing in particular that kept coming back at me was the plethora of AAUW information that is accessible on your computer. Go to aauw.org and enjoy an exploration of AAUW by checking out some of the information that is available there. Plan to spend some time or schedule an opportunity to revisit. Surprise, you don't need to be a branch officer to check this out; only someone who wants to know more about this organization.

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State Convention Notes – cont.

at community colleges. An amazing statistic to me was the fact that U.S. Undergraduate Enrollment by Institutional Type in 2010 indicated that two-year public institutions enrolled 40% of these students while



four-year public institutions enrolled 36% of them. Some of the major findings of the report include: Child care continues to be a critical issue for student mothers. STEM careers are still underutilized by these women who continue to need support and encouragement to prepare for work in these and other male-dominated fields. We have much work yet to do in STEM and we need to partner with the technical colleges to increase the success of these women. This research report should be required reading for all branch members.

AAUW-RF Branch members who attended WI State Convention in Eau Claire:
Back row: Chery Maplethorpe, Jane Matthews, Sue Halseth, Jeanne Zirbel, Ruthann Frank, Lorraine Davis, Lorraine Peitso; Front row: Ann Gustafson, Ruth Lee, Suzanne Hagen, and Sue Danielson

SUE DANIELSON - As usual, the state convention was informative, interesting, fun and thought provoking. One of my favorite parts was Catherine Hill's presentation on the research happening at the association level. The newest research piece is on the topic of *Women in Community Colleges*. Some eye-

opening findings were that 40% of undergraduates attend community college, that 4 million women attend community college, that most female community college students attend school part-time, that more than 1 million mothers attend community college and that less than half of community colleges have on-campus child care.

Another very useful session was the break-out on smart media use. The presenters gave tips on the use of social media and helped sort out when to use e-mail, Facebook, web pages or print media. It will be great to have our own branch web page.

SUZANNE HAGEN – A Quick Convention thought: A particularly memorable “take away” for me is the importance of involving more young women (and men) in AAUW. There were many accomplished, “seasoned” women at the conference, but the future of the organization – and our initiatives – lies with the next generation. The two UW-Eau Claire college women who attended NCCWSL conferences spoke passionately about how that conference energized them to give back to their communities and to advance actions central to AAUW’s mission. Supporting the “next generation” has kept AAUW strong for the past 123 years and is essential to maintain our vitality in the future.



Ruthann Frank, Lorraine Davis, Suzanne Hagen at Convention

RUTHANN FRANK - It was such a wonderful relaxing day with information from speakers that I enjoyed. A fun trip with the two “Lorraines.” Thanks, everyone.

CHERYL MAPLETHORPE - I attended the \$tart \$mart workshop/facilitator training on April 25. One of my *AHA!* Moments was when the college seniors attempted to make a budget so they could determine what their salary should be in order to meet that budget. They put down the correct cell phone bill and Internet bill, but had no idea how expensive rent and food would be. Also, even though their budget was low, it was still a surprise that the salary they thought they would take didn’t meet the expenses because of the taxes, social security, retirement and health care expenses that were taken out of their check before they even saw the funds. This is a very important workshop that should be offered to all college students. I hope we will be able to give this workshop to the UW and technical college students in the future.



Cheryl Maplethorpe at Convention

I also enjoyed the *GIRL RISING* film. Although I knew in theory that girls in other countries were mistreated and had limited opportunities, this film showed us the different ways in which women are discriminated against and the how difficult it is for them to escape this fate. In most cases, it was the girl’s determination in addition to another’s help. That other could be a parent, sibling, teacher or other in their world. To me, this means we need to enlighten not only the girls, but also the others in their environment.

LORRAINE DAVIS - Attending convention was an inspiring experience. It was rewarding to see the organization “in action,” listen to stimulating presentations, and be in the company of energized and articulate like-minded women.

JANE MATTHEWS and JEANNE ZIRBEL - Saturday was filled with interesting topics, thought provoking discussions and inspiring elements. We were first of all impressed, once again, with the quality of women who make up AAUW. They are dedicated, energetic, idealistic, creative and hard-working and support a cause that can truly change our world.

It is also amazing the breadth of AAUW’s focus. From education to equality, to human rights, to equal pay for equal work to employment opportunities, AAUW is willing to tackle many problems in a vigorous but thoughtful and efficient manner. To hear the amount of money that AAUW spent on grants and scholarships worldwide is truly inspiring. Being reminded of our achievements only pushes us to do more, because the job is not nearly completed.

The presentation by David Kirkwood clarified the role of the national board and verified how talented, dedicated and efficient they are. Catherine Hill's presentation was wonderful and extra meaningful to me (Jane) because I got to share with her the fact that my daughter, who teaches at a community college, used the statistic that 40% of post-secondary education takes place at community colleges to convince her students that they were not settling for second best by being where they were. And, of course, just the positive interaction with the other women helped validate our purpose and cause.

ANN GUSTAFSON – I always look forward to attending the annual state convention. As a past State President, the convention gives me an opportunity to reconnect with members from throughout Wisconsin, many of whom I served with on the State Board or met at the time of visits to their branches—it's amazing we still recognize each other! The past State Presidents who are in attendance always meet to share current information about our own lives and to support the current State President. We inevitably share memories about our experiences of "our" conventions and marvel at the dedicated, talented women who are involved in the present convention. The 2014 Convention did not disappoint—the programming, the speakers and guests, the location, the facilities, and (most importantly) the AAUW members from all corners of Wisconsin made it a memorable week-end.

EDUCATION

PROGRAM NOTES

Lorraine Davis and Elaine Baumann, Co-Chairs

The Co-chairs for Program are beginning to pull together topics, speakers and ideas for programs for 2014-15. If you have ideas or suggestions, now is the time to share them with Lorraine and Elaine. Contact them at ldavis4762@aol.com or at elainebaumann1@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

International News-MAY 2014

International Women of Courage Award

President Obama awarded the 2014 International Women of Courage Award to Dr. Maha Al Muneef who has been able to not only set up services in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but also, more importantly in some ways, been able to pass laws providing protections for women and children for domestic abuse and to provide a safe space and shelter for those who are suffering from domestic abuses.

Philippines: Supreme Court ruling bolsters landmark law on reproductive rights April 8, 2014

The Philippine Supreme Court's decision to uphold a landmark reproductive health law as constitutional is an important victory for millions of Filipino women and girls, Amnesty International said. The court's decision, which will require the government to provide free contraception to millions of the nation's

poorest women, is being welcomed by activists across the country. The ruling is a victory for the independence of the judiciary and means that millions of women and girls have a right to access medical services and information they need.

Doubling Digital Opportunities Enhancing the Inclusion of Women & Girls in the Information Society

The book, *Doubling Digital Opportunities: Enhancing the Inclusion of Women & Girls in the Information Society* frames the challenges and opportunities we face in achieving gender equality in an era of rapid technological change. It closely examines critical gender issues with respect to new information and communication technologies (ICTs) and broadband. Most important, it shows ways in which we can further advance the sustainable development agenda by promoting the use of new technologies in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. From UN Broadband Commission, ITU, UNESCO

Saudi Arabia: First woman to get pilot license- 23 April 2014, from BBC News.

Saudi Arabia has issued its first flying licence to a female pilot, it appears.

Hanadi Al-Hindi, 35, has started flying small and wide-bodied luxury planes for the Kingdom Holding Company, owned by Saudi prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the newspaper [Arab News reports](#). Hindi was already a licenced pilot but until now she could not fly within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - but the prince's support helped her to get the certification she needed.

When she applied to Jordan's Middle East Academy of Aviation in 2001, managers there were so surprised they asked her father if he was happy for her to pursue what was seen as a traditionally male career. The flying licence was given to Hindi even though Saudi Arabia has a ban on female drivers.

ADVOCACY

PUBLIC POLICY
Barbara Peterson, Chair

Following is information received from AAUW regarding the White House Report on Campus Sexual Assault

5 Takeaways from the White House Report on Campus Sexual Assault

Posted: 29 Apr 2014 11:17 AM PDT

The spotlight is heating up when it comes to ending campus sexual assault. As we [explained in March](#), new laws, increased enforcement, and additional media coverage have helped turn the attention of policymakers, school administrators, and students toward the steps that are needed to improve campus climates. Here at AAUW, we couldn't be more pleased. It's well past the time for schools to take action when it comes to ending violence on campus, and we know that the Obama administration can do more to help make this happen.

That's why it's excellent news that today the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault released its first report and set of recommendations. Many of the recommendations reflect AAUW's priorities and requests, which we shared during meetings and listening sessions over the past several months. Here are five important takeaways from today's report.

1. The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights will issue a [helpful FAQ](#) document to guide schools on how to effectively follow Title IX — including reaffirming that the [VAWA Amendments to the Clery Act](#) do not in any way alter or weaken a school's obligations under Title IX.

2. The Obama administration has created the website [NotAlone.gov](#) to compile previously scattered [best-practice resources](#), [information](#), and enforcement tools in one easy-to-use location. This new site has the potential to be a game changer when it comes to transparency and awareness. You can find information about filing a complaint, services for survivors, prevention programming, and [current enforcement activities](#) all in one place.

3. For the first time, the Department of Education will collect and disseminate the names and contact information of all Title IX coordinators. Colleges and universities must appoint someone to head up their Title IX compliance, but until now that information had not been easy to find. AAUW members have been working to develop local lists of Title IX coordinators, so we are especially gratified to see this happen on a broader scale.

4. As AAUW's research report [Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus](#) identified, surveying students about the campus climate is invaluable to addressing violence. The task force's report puts in place a plan to expand these surveys to more schools while working to develop a [model survey](#).

5. Colleges and universities will have access to model reporting and [confidentiality protocols](#), a checklist for school policies, and model memoranda of understanding for working with community partners and local law enforcement. Stay tuned to our blog, [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) accounts for updates as these recommendations are implemented.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP NOTES
Jane Matthews, Chair

Spring is in the air, or at least *trying* to push winter out of the way; time for leaves to bud, time for tulips,

crocus and other spring perennials to give us hints of color, and a time for graduations—a perfect time to introduce those college graduates to AAUW. Enter *Give a Grad a Gift!*

Give a Grad a Gift is the AAUW program that makes it possible for members to give a **free** one year-membership to any recent college graduate. It's really very simple. Go to the AAUW website, www.aauw.org. Put the phrase 'Give a Grad a Gift' in the 'search' box in the upper right corner. When you reach Search Results, click on Give a Grad a Gift. Once you reach the GGG page, click on *Give the Gift of AAUW membership*. After that it's a simple matter of providing information about the graduate, her/his college info, and your own member information.

Your gift to a grad will expose the grad to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization of more than 170,000 members and supporters who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls. It will expand their networking opportunities through career development opportunities and community action projects. In addition, it will keep them current on the events and people that affect their lives as they receive *Mission & Action*, *AAUW Outlook*, Action Network alerts, and more.

Who are the recent grads in your life? It might be your own daughter or son, a relative, a neighbor, a student teacher or intern at your workplace, or a student in your classroom. Recent grads are those who receive their degree this year or have received it within the past two years. Imagine the possibilities as you introduce these individuals to AAUW.



Member Spotlight by Jane Matthews

This month's Member Spotlight focuses on two experienced

members and leaders—Helen Nicholson and Ethel Johnson.

Helen Nicholson is a person who has had a varied employment history based on her skills and knowledge of business, language and science. She also has a long history with AAUW. Her introduction to AAUW came in 1961. As a college student in Rochester MN she provided day care for a person who volunteered with AAUW and was an avid supporter of the organization. After graduation, while teaching high school science, she and a colleague applied to start a branch in Granite Falls

MN. The branch did not materialize, but she finally was able to join while working for IBM in Rochester.

At IBM she was a part of the Media Development Center, again combining varied skills to produce engineering instructional manuals for students and engineers. Her next stop was teaching high school business courses in Colorado Springs. When she married a man from Rochester, she moved back to Minnesota. Her jobs there were numerous and interesting and included a stint at City Hall and the county. She eventually returned to IBM and rejoined AAUW in the early 70s.



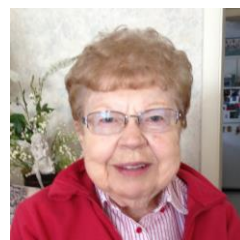
There were many home and employment venues after that, including Sierra Vista, AZ; Platteville, WI; and the Twin Cities before settling in Hudson, WI. She worked for H & R Block as well as being involved in extensive volunteer work for school and community. AAUW was a part of all these places. She also raised a family during these years.

Helen joined the River Falls Branch in 1998. Her last job before really retiring was at Fleet Farm in Hudson. Helen has two children and two grandchildren. She enjoys genealogy and Sudoku. She has traveled extensively and especially enjoyed the Panama Canal, the Inside Passage of Alaska, Denali Park and the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Her AAUW activities included many committee assignments and chairmanships, including General Gifts Chair.

In 1942 **Ethel Johnson** graduated with a two-year degree in Elementary Education. In those days one could teach with a two-year certificate as an intermediate step to earning a bachelor's degree. Ethel eventually achieved not only her bachelors but also a master's degree.

She taught in many rural school districts in St. Croix and



Burnett Counties. Teachers were expected to be generalists, teaching all grades and all subjects, as well as keeping the boiler running and tidying up the classroom. Eventually she gravitated to the larger school district of Hudson and taught there for 33 years.

She was a reading specialist and taught in many grade levels.

She was a pioneer in that she was the first Reading Coordinator for the Hudson School District, and she also organized the first summer school. As the Reading Coordinator, Ethel was involved with local, state, national and international reading associations. She ran conferences on reading and she constantly improved her skills through workshops and from her own research. She set up the first Literature Committee which enlisted experts to help teachers be better reading and literature teachers. She also set up "Battle of the Books" in Hudson, which is still utilized today. She and her husband moved to River Falls in 1959 and she commuted to Hudson for 33 years.

Ethel taught until she was 70, believing it was a shame not to use her education. She joined AAUW in 1984, after she retired. She has served the branch as President, co-president and as secretary.

Ethel has 3 children 7 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

She enjoys travel and has cruised the Rhine River. She has also explored Budapest, Costa Rica, the Mayan ruins at Cozumel, London, Norway and Boston. She is invited along when her children or grandchildren travel, and she usually accepts the invitation, because she knows she will be traveling with good company.

Her main hobby is reading, which is always a joy. She stays healthy by consistent exercise, both cardio and stretching. She eats healthy and enjoys the positive consequences of her efforts.

BRANCH BUSINESS

FINANCE REPORT

Kay Montgomery, Co-Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report April 20, 2014

Checking balance: 3/7/2014 \$1886.61

Receipts

Dues	\$ 656.00
Travel (Assn.)	26.00
Interest (Savings)	<u>.24</u>
	\$ 682.24

Disbursements

Postage	\$ 49.00
	<u>\$ 49.00</u>

Balances 4/20/2014

Checking:	\$2519.61
Savings:	<u>1955.11</u>
	\$4474.72

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

Restricted Accounts:

UWRF Scholarship	\$ 500.00
High School Scholarship	\$ 00.00
AAUW Funds	\$ 472.01
LAF	\$ 00.00
Travel	
State	\$ 791.00
National	\$ 51.00*

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

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2014

River Falls Public Library

President Ruth Lee called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

President's Update

- Deadline for convention registration extended to April 11
- Elise Whaley accepted a position in Duluth, has appreciated her AAUW experience

Secretary's Report

- Approved as printed in newsletter

Treasurer's Report

- Filed for audit

Program Development – Lorraine Davis

- Katie Chaffee is interested in co-sponsoring a film during Women's History Month 2015.
- President Obama signed the Gabriella Miller "Kids First" Research Act on 4/3/14 in the presence of Gabriella's family. We wrote notes to Gabriella at our December 2012 meeting. Millions of dollars will be put into pediatric medical research. To see the video of the signing, go to www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2014/04/03president-obama-signs-gabriella-miller-kids-first-research-act.
- Lorraine Davis will host the May picnic on the April 13. Vegetarian food only, please.
- Be thinking of programming ideas and bring them to the May meeting.

Membership – Ann Gustafson

- ***Shape the Future***, 15 month membership for \$36.50 for new members today only. We have qualified for three free memberships through ***Shape the Future***.
- ***Pay Equity Day*** today at the university. The banner, ***Empowering Women Since 1881*** drew many students to our table.
- Contact our senators about pay equity

Committee Reports

International Relations – Yolanda Dewar – See article in newsletter

Newsletter – Ann Gustafson – Deadline is 4/20, space will be available for convention news.

Pay Equity – Sue Halseth – Very good experience, possible plan for a shorter length of time next year, refreshing to speak to students who show interest in AAUW issues

Business

Convention Update – Sue Danielson – Gave definite times for registration, hospitality, room set-up and facilitators for break-out sessions

Budget – Suzanne Hagen and Kay Montgomery presented the budget. Sue Halseth made a motion to adopt the presented budget for 2014-15. Second by Yolanda Dewar. Motion carried.

Election of Officers – The following officers were elected and will be installed at the May meeting:

President-Elect	Jane Matthews
Treasurer	Suzanne Hagen
Membership	Ann Gustafson
	Jennifer Willis-Rivera

Announcements

Kay Montgomery asked that we pay our dues this evening or at the May meeting.

Kay distributed voucher forms for convention expenses: registration, lodging and mileage.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Submitted by Karen Brohaugh, Co-Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9	Opening of <i>Celebrate Provocative Art</i> at Gallery 120, 120 North Main Street, River Falls, 4 – 8 PM; Cheryl Maplethorpe is one of the exhibitors
May 13	Branch potluck supper at Lorraine Davis' home 6:00 PM, Recognition of officers and installation of 2014-15 officers <i>This is a good time to pay your 2014-15 dues so you don't miss any information about AAUW activities. See attached form</i>
July 1	New fiscal and program year begins



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-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!!



RIVER FALLS (WI)
BRANCH