

2017-18 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter

April 2018

Next meeting will be Monday, May 8, INSTALLATION MEETING.

We will gather for our meeting at **6:30 PM** for our AAUW business meeting at the home of **Barbara and Larry Peterson home – 548 Omaha Road, Hudson**. Pot luck hospitality. We will begin with our business meeting and then follow with the installation of new officers and the year-end wrap-up at 7:00.

PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

From Lorraine Davis

Congratulations to Suzanne Hagen—president elect, Gretchen Toman--membership vice-president, Suzie Danielson—program vice-president, and Tina Kelly--treasurer who will join the Board as newly-elected officers. I appreciate their willingness to give of their time and expertise as they serve with me and secretaries Magdalena Pela and Maureen Olie-Joie on the executive board. I will miss the assistance and wise counsel of Elaine Baumann and Ann Gustafson as they leave the board. They have been supportive, productive and creative.

Thank you to Jane Matthews, Rellen Hardtke and other branch members who made the 2018 Girls in SCIENCE program this year a success.

I was unable to attend Girls in SCIENCE because of participation at the Wisconsin AAUW convention. This event provided an opportunity to see what branches all over the state are doing and to discuss the various and unique ways that the mission of AAUW is being implemented. The speakers were inspiring and instructive.

Among the speakers was Cheryl Sorokin, National Board Secretary. She detailed the challenges faced at the national level including meeting the incorporation requirements of the District of Colum-

bia, organizational and Board restructuring and budget deficits. Strategic planning has begun. (See AAUW.org for specifics.) The plan focuses upon four main actions to achieve the mission of advancing equity: education and training, economic security, leadership and governance. To emphasize this ambitious initiative, Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Churches recently announced on CNN AAUW's plan to close the pay gap — via passing laws, working with employers to change practices, and training 10 million women to negotiate their salaries by 2022.

As a reminder: present procedure allows for all members (rather than just convention delegates) to vote on amendments to the By-Laws . Three amendments are being proposed: to create 3 year staggered board terms, open 5 of 15 positions on the board to non-AAUW members, and eliminate a degree requirement for membership. You will receive information about this vote in an email, in Outlook Magazine or on line at AAUW.org. I urge you to vote.

As the year ends, I welcome anyone who would like to be involved on next year's board. Look at the committees listed on the front of this newsletter and consider those areas which interest you. See you at the INSTALLATION MEETING.

NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Jillisia Solberg, Branch NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leadership) scholarship recipient for this year, is promoting Equal Pay Day at the Student Center at UWRF on April 10.

Scholarships available and provided by Allina Health. To register with a scholarship, to request additional information, or to request that attendees be grouped together, please email : rellen.hardtke@uwrf.edu or call 71-425-4230.

Sponsored by the UWRF Physics Department, UWRF Women's & Gender Studies Program, Allina Health, and the River Falls Branch of AAUW.

Slate of officers from the nominating committee

Submitted by Ruth Lee

The nominating committee consisting of Karen Brohaugh, Gwen Paulson, Maureen Olle-LaJoie and Ruth Lee present the following slate of officers for 2018 – 2020 biennium.

President elect: Suzanne Hagen

VP Program development: Suzie Danielson

VP Membership: Gretchen Toman

Treasurer: Tina Kelly

Their willingness to serve is greatly appreciated and they have been guaranteed that AAUW members will be willing to come forward and work with them.

UWRF AND AAUW COOPERATE FOR THIRD “GIRLS IN SCIENCE” EVENT

On Saturday, April 21 approximately 80 elementary and middle school aged girls participated in the third annual Girls in SCIENCE event at University of Wisconsin, River Falls. We are extremely grateful to the many professors from UWRF who volunteered their time and expertise in devising interesting experiments and other learning experiences for these girls. The girls were excited to be participating and, for many, this was their second or third experience with Girls in SCIENCE. They reported that they love learning in this situation, because they could be with their friends and learn things that were out of the ordinary.

Rellen Hardtke, AAUW member and UWRF Physics professor spearheaded the effort and recruited the academic staff for the event. She also recruited college students as group leaders, registrars, and helpers.

Allina Health provided a grant for equipment, support and scholarships, and County Market of Hudson and Family Fresh of River Falls, provided food and water for participants and presenters. Additional support was provided by the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

Refreshment preparation, hospitality room deployment and general support on event day was provided by AAUW members , Suzanne Hagen, Ruth Lee, Yolanda Dewar, Jeanne Zirbel, Kay Montgomery, Gretchen Toman and Jane Matthews.

Moving, hauling, lifting, dragging help was provided by Wes Ebertowski and a helpful presenter name Kevin.

POLITICAL POLICY

Barb Peterson, Chair

LET CONGRESS KNOW

If you listen to the news regularly you know that political actions can change quite rapidly. Some think legislators pass bills quickly before the public gets wind of their actions. It's hard to know how to be heard in Washington and Madison. Let's try to make it easier for you to express your opinion prior to their voting on bills. AAUW has the perfect solution for you:

On your computer or cell phone, go on the internet to the website <aauw.org>

On that website Home page you will find "Issues" at the top of the page. Click on it.

On my cell phone I needed to click on "Menu", then on "Issues". Each cell phone displays the pages a bit different so you may need to scan the page to advance to the Issues page.

On the Issues page you will see a list on the left side. Click on "Take Action".

The Take Action page rotates on five current actions that you can take. But first, let's get you signed up for notices. Scroll down to "Become a Two-Minute Activist". Enter your email address so AAUW can send you urgent notices of actions needed on legislation. Click on "Sign Up" following your email address entry.

Now you are on the **Two-Minute Activist** page and can fill in your information. I suggest you put a check next to "Washington Update Newsletter". It is a concise newsletter telling you federal policy news. Click on "Submit".

Now back up < one page to "Take Action". You can chose from the five actions currently. Health care is the urgent issue. You should "Take Action" and CALL SENATORS TOO!!

You may have noticed that AAUW is dealing with federal policies. There are often local policies that you may want to voice an opinion on. I suggest that you use the following websites to stay current on WI politics.

madison.com - articles from **The Cap Times** and **Wisconsin State Journal**

jsonline.com - articles from the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**

wiseye.org - watch or listen to hearings, speeches, or news in review from around the state

I will also try to keep you informed. Please remember that timing is important so take action quickly so you are heard. Your involvement in political action is important!

Thank you for TAKING ACTION. <http://www.wisdc.org/op091817.php>



We have reissued notecards recreating the pen and ink drawings of past member, Helen B. Walker.

The new cards are of two of Helen Wyman's flower prints and are packaged in groups of eight.

They are available from Suzanne Hagen for \$10.00.

A great gift!!!! A great support for AAUW efforts!!!!

Many of our Branch members contribute a great deal to our community. If you know of any members who have been recognized for their achievements, let Magdalena Pala (magdalena.e.pala@uwrf.edu), our secretary, know and she will send a letter of congratulations on behalf of AAUW. Let's celebrate one another.

Financial Inequalities for Women:

<http://time.com/money/5141680/investing-finance-gender-gap-pay-inequality/>

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Ann Gustafson, Membership VP

MEMBERSHIP NOTES – APRIL 2018

One of the highlights of a program year is the opportunity to attend the AAUW State Convention held in April. Conventions are planned and held one of the Districts of the state. This year the convention was held in Milwaukee.

In addition to excellent Keynoters who spoke on a variety of relevant topics, the annual business meeting was held. Reports of State Committees were received including the Fund Development report, Finance Report, the Public Policy Statement and Public Policy Report as well as the Membership Report.

It was a proud moment when the announcement was made that the River Falls branch was recognized as tied for First Place in the Branch Growth Award for branches with 50-99 members with 13 new

members. Thank you to all our members who introduce new members to AAUW and who share membership in AAUW—it wouldn't be possible without you!

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER – **new** members who join AAUW before May 1 will be eligible to receive half-cost dues that will be paid up until June 30, 2019.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES - Yolanda Dewar, Chair

APRIL 2018 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

2018 International Women of Courage Award (U.S. State Dept. | Office of Global Women's Issues)

On March 23, Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs & Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert hosted the annual International Women of Courage (IWOC) Awards at the U.S. Department of State to honor 10 extraordinary women from around the world. First Lady of the United States Melania Trump delivered special remarks at the ceremony.

Now in its 12th year, the Secretary of State's IWOC Award recognizes women around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment, often at great personal risk and sacrifice. Since the inception of this award in 2007, the State Department has recognized more than 120 women from more than 65 different countries. U.S. diplomatic missions overseas nominate one woman of courage from their respective host countries. The finalists are selected and approved by senior Department officials.

[The bios of the 2018 awardees are located here and names listed below:

<https://www.state.gov/s/gwi/iwoc/2018/bio/index.htm>]

Roya Sadat of Afghanistan, Aura Elena Farfan of Guatemala, Dr. Julissa Villanueva of Honduras, Aliyah Khalaf Saleh of Iraq, Sister Maria Elena Berini of Italy (nominated by the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See), Aiman Umarova of Kazakhstan, Dr. Feride Rushiti of Kosovo, L'Malouma Said of Mauritania, Godelive Mukasarasi of Rwanda, Sirikan Charoensiri of Thailand.

Following the official award ceremony and meetings in Washington, D.C., the IWOC honorees will travel individually to Austin, Cleveland, Dallas, Pensacola, Phoenix, Raleigh, Salt Lake City, or San Antonio on the International Visitor Leadership Program. American organizations and businesses will host the IWOC awardees and collaborate with them on strategies and ideas to empower women both in the United States and abroad. The awardees will reconvene in Los Angeles for a closing ceremony before returning to their home countries.

Bill and Melinda Gates Pledge \$170 Million to Women's Economic Empowerment

by Alanna Vagianos (From The Huffington Post)

“When money flows into the hands of women who have the authority to use it, everything changes.”

The money, from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will be spent over four years “to help women exercise their economic power,” Melinda Gates wrote in an Op-Ed in Quartz that research shows economic power is the “most promising entry points for gender equality.”

Gates broke down how women’s economic empowerment is key to gender equality, saying families benefit when women control household finances.

“Research shows ... that women are much more likely than men to buy things that set their families on a pathway out of poverty, like nutritious food, health care, and education,” Gates wrote. Additionally, she noted, when women have economic power, communities begin to rethink the roles women play in society.

“Women acting on their own can do what all the philanthropic organizations in the world can never accomplish: change the unwritten rule that women are lesser than men,” she wrote. “Our role, as we see it, is to make targeted investments that give women the opportunity to write new rules.”

According to the op-ed, the donation will fund a three-pronged approach to economically empowering women: First, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will support and organize female farmers so they can sell their products at competitive prices; Second, the foundation will work in eight countries, including India, Pakistan and Tanzania, to promote women using digital bank accounts; And lastly, the foundation will facilitate self-help groups allowing women and girls share information about “everything from launching a small business to raising healthy children.”

GWI attends the 10th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy (From Global Women International)

Helen Lom, GWI UN Representative in Geneva attended the 10th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy, a one-day annual event. Among various panels, interviews and presentations, Ruth Dreyfus, the first woman president of Switzerland, presented the prestigious Women’s Rights Award to Julienne Lusenge, a grassroots activist from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who founded the Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development (SOFEPADI), a coalition of women’s organizations fighting rape in eastern DRC.

Ms. Lusenge’s central message in her inspirational acceptance speech and in her work is “From Victim to Agent of Change”. The award to an activist fighting rape takes place at a moment of unprecedented world attention to sexual harassment and violence against women. When war erupted in eastern DRC in 1998, Ms. Lusenge was a journalist who heard first-hand from victims of abuses by warring parties, including rape and sexual slavery. An estimated 48 women are raped every hour in the DRC, a country known as the “rape capital of the world.” Outraged, she founded the Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development (SOFEPADI), a coalition of 40 women’s organizations in eastern DRC. Today,

Ms. Lusenge and her group help survivors of sexual violence in the DRC to bring perpetrators before courts and promote reintegration of survivors into their communities.

Equal Pay Day? Latinas Wish...And Black Women...And Mothers (from CNN Fareed's Global Briefing)

Tuesday, April 10, marks Equal Pay Day. But per Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner on CNN Opinion: “Despite the fact that women make up nearly half of the workforce and receive more college degrees than men, they earn significantly less. Today, on average, women earn just 80 cents to a man’s dollar, with Latinas earning only 54 cents, black women only 63 cents and mothers only 71 cents.”

NOTE: The five Bs. According to the World Economic Forum’s most recent Global Gender Gap Report. The country doing best on female participation and opportunity in the workforce? Burundi. Rounding out the top five in the category were Barbados, the Bahamas, Benin and Belarus.

America, the Paid Leave Laggard (From The Economist)

The United States was once a rich world leader in the share of women in the workforce. But a new report from the International Monetary Fund underscores how an almost unique failure on family leave has left it looking increasingly like a laggard, The Economist writes.

“In 1985, 70% of American women aged between 25 and 54 were in the labor market (either in work or looking for it). That compared with 57% in Australia and 59% in Germany. But the IMF’s latest **World Economic Outlook**, published this week, shows how these countries have caught up with America and overtaken it. While the proportion of ‘prime age’ women in the labor market in the United States is now 74%, in Australia it is 76% and in Germany it is 83%. In France, which was close behind America in the mid-eighties, the share is 84%,” *The Economist* says.

“European countries have introduced and expanded laws that require companies to give parents paid time off after the birth or adoption of a child. Employers in the EU must offer a minimum paid maternity leave of 14 weeks; many countries mandate for more than that and also provide paternity leave, thus reducing companies’ reluctance to employ women of childbearing age. America has remained almost the only developed country to have no national paid parental leave at all.”

US Mission to the UN Verified account @USUN Mar 15

The United States was proud to join the Group of Friends for the Protection of Journalists at a #CSW62 panel on the unique threats that women journalists face and how the international community can do more to #protectjournalists. @pressfreedom

First International Women's Issues Conference

The first International Women's Issues Conference at the University of Central Florida was held Feb. 21-22, to foster discussion about issues affecting women through education, technology and the transformation of leadership skills.

About 50 speakers from the United States, Canada, India and Iran are scheduled to present at the Morgridge International Reading Center. The theme of the conference is *Women at Crossroads: Literacy, Leadership, Power and Technology*.

The keynote presentations were:

- Susan Ricci, an instructor in the College of Nursing, spoke on "Women's Global Health,"
- Three administrators from Florida International University presented on its National Science Foundation STRIDE grant to encourage women and minorities in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics). Leaders of the session are: Yesim Darici, director of the university's Center for Women's and Gender Studies and associate professor of physics; Suzanna Rose, executive director of the School of Integrated Science & Humanity, associate dean in the College of Arts & Sciences, and a professor of psychology and women's and gender studies; and Pete Markowitz, a professor of physics and a Fellow of the FIU Honors College.

The conference was organized the College of Education and Human Performance's Higher Education and Policy Studies; the College of Arts and Humanities' Women's Studies Program; course development at UCF, and the International Policy Analysis Center.

New Zealand's leader is unmarried, pregnant and going on maternity leave

(Cynthia Ma Fadden, NBC News)

Women in New Zealand could vote two decades before American women, the country is on its third female prime minister — and now the current officeholder, an unmarried 37-year-old named Jacinda Ardern, is about to give birth.

In June, Ardern, the world's youngest female leader, will become just the second woman in history to give birth while an elected head of state. She'll become the first elected leader ever to take maternity leave.

She'll have help with childcare from the baby's father, Clarke Gayford, her partner of four years. Gayford, host of a popular fishing show called Fish of the Day, is planning to be a stay-at-home dad.

Ardern agreed to give the leader of New Zealand First, Winston Peters the post of deputy prime minister. He will be in charge of the country during Ardern's maternity leave.

FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report

April 17, 2018

Checking balance 3/20/2018	\$ 5197.91
Receipts: --	
Dues (E. Williams)	83
AAUW natl dues reimbursement	11
	94
Disbursements:	
J. Solberg (NCCSWL registration/travel)	985
<i>Total disbursements (3/20/18-4/17/18)</i>	985

Balances 4/17/2018

Checking: 4306.91
Savings: 1658.62
\$ 5965.93

Encumbered funds:

Scholarship fund balance = \$533.77 (reflects 2016-17 balance of \$981.77 + 2017 book sale profit of \$2082 less \$1000 to AAUW Funds, \$525 to CVTC, and \$985 NCCWSL payment)

LAF = 12.00

Travel

State = \$1351.00 (State balance added to national travel fund at end of fiscal year)

National = \$500.38

STEM grant = \$500.00

Total encumbered funds: \$2917.15

General operating funds: \$1389.76

Suzanne Hagen, Treasurer

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Maureen Olle-LaJoie and Magdalena Pala, Co-Secretaries

AAUW River Falls Branch Meeting - River Falls Public Library - April 10, 2018

Lorraine Davis called meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Lorraine thanked Diane Crist for providing the refreshments for the meeting. Beck Hite introduced Sophie and Fleur, two students from UWRF. Lorraine introduced Jillisa Solberg, a UWRF criminology major, as the recipient of the NCCWSL scholarship.

President's Report

Lorraine informed the chapter that the Outstanding Western Wisconsin Women award winners both decided to pay their awards forward to other charities.

The state convention is on Saturday, April 21st. Lorraine and Ann Gustafson will be attending and need to bring a branch board.

AAUW Bylaws Amendment Voting Begins April 25

Two of the votes are procedural and the third vote concerns eliminating the AAUW membership requirement of a college degree. Members will receive voter guides in the spring *Outlook* in later April.

The minutes from the March 2018 meeting and financial report were accepted without corrections.

Treasurer Report

Suzanne Hagen presented a proposed budget. She reminded the membership that national dues are now \$59. There is also a new line item for STEM grant in the budget. The budget was approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Membership - Ann Gustafson – we currently have 60 members. Dues for next year are \$83. There is an option to renew online. Elizabeth Williams was our branch's first renewal! Ann informed the undergraduates attending the meeting that they are eligible for free membership to AAUW.

Public Policy - Lorraine thanked people for participating at the candidate forums on behalf of Barb Peterson.

Equal Pay Day – There were tables at UWRF and Chippewa Valley Technical College. Jillisa setup the UWRF table with Desiree Wiesen-Martin, Sociology and Criminal Justice Assistant Professor.

Old Business

The membership held elections and approved the following slate:

- President: Suzanne Hagen
- Program Vice President: Suzie Danielson
- Membership Vice President: Gretchen Toman
- Treasurer: Tina Kelly

Jane Matthews provided an update on Girls in SCIENCE. AAUW is providing some bars in the hospitality room in Hagestad Hall. Suzanne Hagen will welcome the participants on behalf of the branch. Patty Schachtner, District 10 Wisconsin State Senator, highlighted this event in the District Events section of her April newsletter update.

New Business

Beck Hite is working with Sophie and Fleur to create a charter for an AAUW chapter at University of Wisconsin-River Falls. They approached the Feminist Organization on campus but the visions are too different to merge the groups. Beck is interested in looking into special grant projects on the AAUW website for such a chapter.

Announcements

The Community Arts Base has \$25-\$35 tickets available for the Gala on Saturday, April 21, from 6pm – 11pm at the River Falls Golf Course. The theme is Woodstock. Costumes are encouraged. There will be art for sale, a silent auction, and a raffle.

The next meeting will be held at Barbara and Larry Peterson's house, 548 Omaha Road, Hudson, Wisconsin. There will be an end of the year pot luck and the installation of officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

The meeting was followed by a presentation "Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Debt" given by Cheryl Maplethorpe, previous Director of the Division of Student Financial Aid Services at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Olle-LaJoie, co-secretary.

2016-17 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly meetings are usually the second Tuesday of each month September to May with business meetings at 6:30 and programs open to the public at 7:00 at the River Falls Public Library. Exceptions are noted.

September 6 – City Sampler at UWRF, 11-1 pm

September 9 – Coffee and Scones New Prospective Membership Event: 9:30-11, Riverwalk Deli

September 12 - Regular Meeting: COMMUNITY ROOM at the First National Bank, 104 E Locust Street, 6:00 Pot Luck Salad Dinner, our business meeting at 6:30 PM, program presentation at 7:00 by Michelle Stage, our NCCWSL delegate.

Early September – Book donation barrels placed in Family Fresh and Dick's Grocery store.

October 7 - Sorting of book donations, 9-noon, Riverwalk, Main Street level

October 10 – Regular Meeting: Speaker, Dr. Cynthia Kernahan - Implicit Bias

October 12 - BOOK SALE At River Walk, October 12nd through the 14th and 19th through the 21st

November 12 – Moose Lodge Breakfast Fund raiser

November 14 - Regular Meeting: Speaker, John Suzukida - American Japanese Internment during WWII.

December 4 – Deadline for Middle School Science Essay contest

December 12 - Regular Meeting and Holiday Gathering – Auction Fund Raiser– Suzanne Hagen's house, 2464 Golf View Dr. Bring an appetizer or cookies to share.

January 13, 2018 (Saturday) - STEM Award luncheon – Noon – Women in Science at Juniors. Guest speaker is Heidi Meilke Popelka, a graduate of UW Madison with degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering. He work experience has included and internship with a major petroleum company, General Mills and is currently working for EcoLabs. Heidi is married to a River Falls HS graduate, Mike Popelka and is the mother of two children, Jordy and Aubrey.

February 13 - Regular Meeting: Speaker, Jay Mattchet - Director, Our Neighbors' Place

March 13 - Regular Meeting: Jamie Benson – District Facility Needs

April 10 – **ANNUAL Meeting**: Deeper in Debt – Cheryl Maplethorpe and Equal Pay Day

April 20-21 - 2018 WI State Convention in Milwaukee

April 21 – 2018 STEM Conference – Girls in SCIENCE event at UWRF

May 8 – Installation Meeting - installation of new officers and year end wrap-up – Hosted at the Barbara and Larry Peterson home – 548 Omaha Road, Hudson. Pot luck hospitality.



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.