
2017-18 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter 2018

SUMMER

Next meeting will be September 11 at the COMMUNITY ROOM at the First National Bank, 104 E Locust Street, River Falls.

We will start our meeting at **6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner**, **6:30 PM** for the AAUW business meeting and have the program presentation at 7:00. The speakers will be by the NCCWSL delegates, Jillisa Solberg and Temitope Abiodun.

Membership Motivator!

Please come to the September meeting and bring a friend! Our first program year meeting is a great time to invite potential new members! We will have a gift of welcome and appreciation for each guest and her/his host.

PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

Lorraine Davis, Branch President

The summer has been busy. Last spring, membership was asked to vote on 3 proposed changes to the AAUW National By Laws. In June, the results of the vote were announced. With over 11 percent (6 percentage points over the 5 per cent quorum requirement) of the membership voting, only one of the proposals passed. Proposal #1 to create a staggered board terms was approved. Neither Proposal #2 "to allow non-AAUW member eligibility to the board" nor Proposal #3 "to remove the educational requirement to AAUW membership" met the required percentage to pass. If you have questions about the vote, you can reach the AAUW Connect team at connect@aauw.org.

At the national level many things have occurred that could have profound impact on the policies that AAUW has strongly supported. Still there was much to celebrate: the 26th birthday of Title IX along with the 75th commemoration of the Equal Pay Act. June will mark Centennial Year of Wisconsin ratifying the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Don't give upon our legacy of "truth to power". We have had good results.

At the state level, I have been requested to submit names of branch members who might be interested in a state position. Are you interested? This is an opportunity to work with some very impressive individuals and make a difference.

On a local level, branch members have been busily planning for next year—book sale, stem programming, membership, and preparing for our first meeting on Tuesday, September 11th. Mark your calendar. Jean Johnson has agreed to chair a new undertaking-- the development of “Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund” for the branch to honor a very special person. We can still use your ideas and assistance on any or all of these projects..

Finally, the branch received a lovely note from Rellen Hardtke, coordinator of the Girls in SCIENCE program, thanking us for our gift of appreciation for her efforts. Thank you, Rellen.

We have a new AAUW District 4 Coordinator

Deb Thiel is the new AAUW District 4 Coordinator. She is a member of the Tomah Branch.

Soon the district will be setting up a fall meeting of district branch leadership. Your thoughts and ideas for that meeting will be appreciated.

The following is the job description from the State AAUW website.

District Coordinator Role:

Term: Two years, 3 positions coinciding with the president's term and 2 positions overlapping presidents' terms

Status: Appointed and attends board meetings

Requirements: Leadership skills and experience

Duties:

- Provides communication between branches and state board
- Builds a sense of community within district
- Develops ownership, empowerment and leadership potential within district
- Advocates for branches at the state board
- Reports branch needs to the state board
- Reports state board activity to the branches
- Chairs district meetings
- Acts as resource to district's branches
- Provides articles for Badger Briefs as needed
- Submits board meeting reports as needed
- As requested by the state president

My goals for the year: Communicate Facilitate branch and membership engagement and connection to the State AAUW.

I look forward to working with you and getting to know your local branch better. Please feel to contact me anytime

Sincerely,
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AAUW District 4 Coordinator Report

July 12, 2018 was my first Wisconsin Board Meeting held in Appleton, WI.

The meeting was fun and interesting, led by Lyn Hildenbrand. Mission was front and center for our focus:

AAUW advances equity for women & girls through Research, Education, Advocacy and Philanthropy (REAP).

Learned a few things that I will highlight (these are not official minutes btw!).

- The 2019 State Convention will be held in LAKE GENEVA on APRIL 26 & 27. One of the Chairs is Gretchen McCarthy. My experience was so great at this year's conference that I hope all members consider going if they can! There will be no national conference in 2019. And District 4 (that's us) is to host the 2020 Wisconsin Conference!
- I know just a little bit more about the NCCWSL scholarships and that it's part of the responsibility of the Leadership Development VP to facilitate that process as well as help out branch presidents and district coordinators. Joan Schneider is in that role. She's available at joandschneider@gmail.com ; phone 920-734-2009.
- There are some very competent and interesting people on the board! Diane Lau transitioning to Joyce Gregg on Finance, Judy Goodnight on her 2nd term as Membership, Mitzi Dearborn on Fund Development, Stephanie Malaney on Public Policy, Shirley Metcalf on College University Partnership, Christine Yaeger on IT, and Nancy Schulz as Administrative Coordinator along with Lyn and Joan mentioned already.

Next Board Meeting is presently set for October 20th. I won't be able to go. My TO DO list: 1. Review the Coordinator materials sent to me, 2. contact Joan Schneider, 3. Contact my predecessor, and 4. Reach out to District 4 Branches (River Falls, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Tomah, LaCrosse- that's you!) to establish communication and identify joint district meeting opportunity.

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.

CARDS FOR SALE



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!!!!

BOOK SALE NEWS

Jane Matthews – Chair

The book sale team has expanded. Elizabeth Williams and Jeanne Zirbel have joined me on the committee, and we, of course are always supported by our mentor and advisor, President Lorraine Davis. We have had one planning meeting are hoping to keep the book sale alive and vibrant.

Remind your friends, book clubs, and check out the remains of neighborhood garage sales!!!

Book sale dates are October 11, 12, 13 and 18, 19, 20.

Elizabeth, Lorraine and I visited a space that we may be allowed to use for the book sale, however, as with most business ventures, the owners are trying to rent it. So, we will just have to hope for the best while awaiting the decisions of others. I will continue to canvas for space. I am following leads on possible spaces and re-contacting people who have already been contacted.

If you know of hear of vacant spaces, let me know and I will contact them.

We do not currently have a space that can act as temporary book storage, but we are trying.

Jeanne Zirbel has obtained permission to place a donation barrel at County Market in Hudson. This will broaden our donation base and possibly our sales base as people in Hudson learn of the book sale through or signs and barrel.

Let's try not to be too discouraged. Keep saving your books and looking for vacant buildings.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

AAUW Dues Reminder

Dues total \$83.00: \$59.00 – national dues (\$56 of which are tax deductible)

\$11.00 – branch dues

\$83.00 – Total

- Pay on-line at aauw.org. Follow the prompts for renewal payment. You may pay the full amount of \$83 with your credit or debit card. National will reimburse Wisconsin AAUW for the \$13 state dues and will reimburse our branch with the \$11 state dues. Please use the option of paying the entire \$83 on line. There is then no need to send an additional \$24 check to our branch Finance VP, Tina Kelly, for state and local dues.

- Hager City, WI 54014-8343

POLITICAL POLICY

August 14th Wisconsin Primary - Know Your Candidates

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your correct voting district on your address so you do not need to know your Assembly or State Senate district.

You can register early or at the polls on the day of the election. You will select only one party to vote in but you DO NOT have to declare your party to get the correct ballot. You may also choose to write-in a candidate for a specific position. As AAUW members we suggest that you consider advocacy for AAUW issues as you choose your candidates.



Below please find links to each gubernatorial candidate's web page. Check them out.

Democrats for Governor

Tony Evers: <https://www.tonyevers.com/>

Matt Flynn: <https://forwardwithflynn.com/>

Andy Gronik – Has Withdrawn His Candidacy – Still on Ballot: <https://www.andygronik.com/>

Mike McCabe: <https://www.governorbluejeans.com/about/mike-mccabe-for-governor>

Mahlon Mitchell: <https://mahlonmitchell.com/>

Kelda Roys: <https://keldaforgovernor.com/>

Paul Soglin: <https://paulsoglinforgovernor.com/>

Kathleen Vinehout: <https://www.kathleenvinehout.org/>

Dana Wachs – Has Withdrawn Candidacy – Still on Ballot: <https://www.danawachs.com/>

Republicans for Governor

Scott Walker: <https://www.scottwalker.com/>

Robert Meyer: <https://robertmeyerforgovernor.org/>

Libertarian Party for Governor

Phillip Anderson: https://www.teamguv.org/phil_for_governor

Wisconsin Green Party for Governor

Michael J. White: https://mwhite4gov.com/?page_id=77

Constitution Party for Governor

No Candidate – they have a candidate for WI Attorney General

Most Parties have candidates for Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, WI Assembly, plus County Sheriff and Clerk of Court. You will want to research those candidates by googling their names. This is an important election to determine who will be on the final November ballot. Pass along this information to your friends and relatives. You could copy and paste these names and websites to your favorite email list. You are not choosing their candidates but simply offering them an opportunity to be an informed voter. BE SURE TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 14TH. Thank you.

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**

wiseeye.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.

This link below is to a fine discussion by Matt Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign in Madison. It's a fast read and very informative.

<http://www.wisdc.org/op091817.php>

Information about immigration from Eric Pavri, an immigration lawyer from Colorado Springs, Colorado:

He is a well-informed immigration lawyer for the past 8 years, the past six of those in Colorado, and currently the Director of Family Immigration Services at Catholic Charities of Central Colorado.

First, why young people who have DACA haven't just become citizens:

To become a U.S. citizen (other than by birth), one must first become a Lawful Permanent Resident ("green card" holder). Only after five years as a Permanent Resident can you apply to become a citizen. Thus, the obvious next question: how does a person become a Permanent Resident? There are three primary options to do so:

1) Family-based petitions. This means that a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident parent, spouse, adult child, or sibling files a "petition" for you. Depending on the category that you fall into, the wait will be anywhere from 1 – 22 years (yep) before you can use that petition to take the next step – applying to become a Permanent Resident (background checks, medical exam, more fees, etc.). That works for people living outside the U.S., but for those who have been here, it may not be possible if they entered the U.S. illegally, even if they were minor children when they did so.

2) Employment-based petitions. A U.S. employer can similarly sponsor you, but generally only if you are in a profession requiring an advanced degree or unique skills (doctors, software engineers, world-class athletes to coach professional sports teams, etc.). Even then, the potential employer must generally also prove that they made good-faith efforts to hire a U.S. citizen for the position, but no qualified applicants applied.

3) Diversity visa lottery. Every year, the U.S. government selects 50,000 people worldwide who enter a lottery and pass background checks to come to the U.S. as Permanent Residents. This lottery, however, is only available to people from countries that traditionally send few people to the US – so, for example, people from countries such as Mexico, the Philippines, China, Guatemala, India, El Salvador, and other countries that send larger numbers of immigrants to the U.S. do not have this option.

Extra note: The current Administration has actively sought to eliminate or dramatically limit Options #1 and #3. The new term being used in the attempted re-branding of Option #1, family-based immigration, which has

been the basic principle of U.S. immigration law for over a century, is “chain migration”. If those two options are in fact eliminated or curtailed, legal immigration to the U.S. will be significantly reduced.

The KEY POINT to all of the above: If you do not qualify for one of these 3 options, then there is no “line” to get into to legally become a Permanent Resident and eventually a U.S. citizen. So, if you are not fortunate enough to have, say, a U.S. citizen spouse or a graduate degree in computer science, you very likely can never become a citizen of the United States.

Second, one commenter above asked why President Obama, when he established DACA in 2012, did not just create a path to citizenship for these young people at that time. The answer: earlier that year, Congress had for the 11th year in a row failed to pass the Dream Act, which would have done exactly that. The President acting through his authority as head of the Executive Branch cannot create a path to Lawful Permanent Residency (and eventual US citizenship). Only a law, passed by Congress and then signed by the President, can accomplish that. So President Obama on June 15, 2012 created the more limited DACA program through Executive Action – which is why President Trump, as the new President, was able to end the program, also without an act of Congress, last fall.

Finally, as to the question of immigrants receiving public benefits, only a U.S. citizen or a Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder) can receive almost all types of public benefit – including Medicaid, Medicare, SSI disability, Social Security payments for seniors, TANF, and food stamps. The irony: most undocumented immigrants work under made-up Social Security numbers and so receive a paycheck from which Social Security, federal income taxes, and state income taxes are withheld, and of course they pay the same local sales and property taxes as anyone else through retail purchases, pass-through costs of apartment leases, etc. Same of course goes for the 800,000 current DACA recipients, who are authorized to legally work in the U.S. But none of those employees, despite paying IN to the system, will ever receive those public benefits listed above, that are paid for by the money withheld from their paychecks. So they are propping up our federal and state government entitlement programs because they pay in but won’t ever take out.

The following are the public benefits that undocumented immigrants can receive in United States:

- 1) Public education for children in grades K-12. This was definitively established by a 1982 Supreme Court case, *Plyler v. Doe*. The Supreme Court in its reasoning explicitly stated that it would not serve the overall public good of the U.S. to leave many thousands of children uneducated.
- 2) Emergency room services, but only to the point where the patient is considered “medically stable”, at which point he/she is released. These services are not free, however, as in my job I meet hundreds of immigrant families who sacrifice over years to slowly pay off high emergency room medical bills.
- 3) WIC assistance. This is for milk, food, etc, and available only to pregnant mothers. The rationale is that the children in the womb will be U.S. citizens when born, and therefore it is in the long-term economic best interests of the nation to ensure that they receive adequate prenatal nutrition to improve their chances of being productive citizens in the decades to come.
- 4) Assistance from police if they are the victim of a crime and call for help. To their credit, the vast majority of our Colorado Springs law enforcement officers take their duty to protect all people seriously. Chief Carey of the CSPD and Sheriff Elder of the EPCSO have made clear that their officers can’t do their most important job – keeping us safe by getting dangerous criminals off our streets – if a whole class of people (undocumented immigrants) is afraid to call 911 to report crimes that they witness or are victim to.

5) Assistance from a fire department. Rationale, besides the obvious moral one: If your house was next to that of an undocumented immigrant family, would you want the firefighters to let that house continue to burn, putting yours at risk of catching on fire too?

And that's it. Those, to the best of my knowledge, are the only public benefits that an undocumented immigrant can receive in just about any part of the United States. As someone who directs a small office that works with hundreds of low-income immigrant families per year, know that when I see the precarious economic situation of many of these families, I'd help them access other benefits if they could. But they simply can't. Now, children of undocumented parents, born in the U.S., are U.S. citizens under the 14th Amendment (the one that declares that all human beings born on U.S. soil are citizens – this was passed immediately after the Civil War to forever end the legal argument that African Americans were not U.S. citizens). As such, those children can qualify for the same public benefits as any other U.S. citizen, if they qualify through economic need or disability. But their parents or undocumented siblings cannot.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

JUNE 2018 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

About the “New” Saudi Arabia...

Don't be fooled by the warm and fuzzy headlines about Saudi Arabia [opening cinemas](#) and allowing women to drive. The recent arrests of several rights activists suggests that conservative forces still hold sway – and that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman might not be as committed to reform as first thought, suggests Simon Henderson for *The Atlantic*.

“What is happening in the kingdom? The Crown Prince may want to discourage any popular protests seeking additional social or political changes,” Henderson writes. “His reforms were always likely to provoke opposition from within Saudi Arabia's male-dominated, hierarchical society, which follows a strict interpretation of Islam. The apparent need to arrest women activists suggests that MbS is having to rethink his grand plans.”

“In 1990, several dozen women were arrested for driving through Riyadh. But today's Saudi Arabia is meant to be different, and MbS is supposed to be a different kind of royal. The world's hopes are on him to create a modern Saudi Arabia, able to detach itself from its conservative theocratic underpinnings. After these latest arrests, his ability to satisfy those hopes is in doubt.” The new law...dovetails with the monarchy's ambitious economic changes that aim to wean Saudi Arabia, OPEC's top producer, from dependence on oil and to diversify the economy—shifts that require women to be workers and consumers,” writes Margaret Coker in *The New York Times*. (from CNN Fareed's Global Briefing.)

Still, “a bright red line keeps them from equality—the restrictive guardianship system. It is a mix of law and custom under which women remain dependents of male relatives—a father, husband, brother, uncle or son—their whole lives.

“Guardianship ensures that the gender balance of power at home, work and perhaps even on the roads favors men by allowing them to consent—or not—to letting their women work, travel or receive medical care.”

GWJ co-hosted a side event during the 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

The 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) took place in Vienna, Austria from 14 to 18 May 2018. As contributors to this 27th session, GWI co-hosted a side event on cyberbullying with Zonta International and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW). Cyberbullying has become a fast-growing problem in our societies, severely affecting the social and psychological wellbeing of an increasing number of young people. The panel, titled *Make Young People Aware of and Protect Them from The Dangers of Cyberspace*, included a contribution from Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice President Membership. Mrs. Focke-Bakker gave a comprehensive speech emphasizing that the subject is of great importance and crucial concern to GWI, and recalled Resolution 1 on cyberbullying, passed during the 32nd GWI General Assembly in Cape Town in 2016. Eileen rightfully pointed out that the importance of education at all levels as a first line of defence against cybercrime in all its forms. *"Maximizing the opportunities that the internet brings to girls and young women while also closely managing the threats and dangers will be one of the main challenges our future generations will face"*, said Mrs. Focke-Bakker. *"Young women must be made aware of what these threats are. But it is of importance that they also know what measures to take"*, she added. Educational measures should be implemented at all schools to address all forms of bullying including cyberbullying. GWI strongly emphasizes that education is the key to achieving full awareness and involvement to mitigate the above threats.

GWI stands with displaced women on World Refugee Day

On World Refugee Day, held annually on 20 June, GWI draws attention to the 65.5 million people worldwide who are displaced from their homes. As a result of this crisis, refugee children are five times more likely to be out of school than the global average, and only 1% pursue further education. Moreover, GWI recognises that refugee girls are arguably the most vulnerable when displaced from their homes. This is because girls are more likely to encounter human trafficking, smuggling, sexual violence or be forced into marriage. To contribute to helping girls and women advance their education, GWI's Hegg Hoffer fund provides grants for displaced graduate women who wish to continue their education or professional development. On 20 June, GWI calls attention to the UNHCR #WithRefugees petition campaign urging governments to ensure every refugee child has an education, every refugee family has somewhere safe to live and every refugee work or develop new skills to make a positive contribution to their community.

The big picture: Women around the world are fighting for abortion rights

On June 14th, the Argentine Congress took a step towards legalizing abortions after the lower house of its legislature sent a bill to the Senate that would allow the procedure in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy, Haley Britzky, of the BBC, reports.

The big picture: Women in countries around the world are fighting for abortion rights, but the Guttmacher Institute reported that 42% of women of reproductive age worldwide still live in countries where abortion is "highly restricted," meaning it's entirely illegal or only allowed to "save a woman's life or protect her health."

Progress remains elusive for women in India

A protest against rape culture in Mumbai shows women in India are concerned.

India is the world's largest democracy, a hub for economic growth and innovation, and, by some measures, one of the worst places on earth to be a woman.

The big picture: Policy changes to improve conditions for women are starting to take effect, but repressive cultural norms make progress slow. In fact, as India's economy has grown, women's labor force participation

has actually declined. That's unusual for a rapidly developing economy, according to Shamika Ravi of Brookings India. "It's about safety," she says.

Accessing the job market requires good safe public transport and work spaces," Ravi explains. And parts of the country remain extremely unsafe, with the capital, Delhi, being among the worst.

- Horrific stories of rape and violence against women and girls in India have made headlines around the world, most recently when an 8-year-old Muslim girl was raped and murdered in Kashmir and some Hindu nationalist politicians stood by the accused.
- **Rates of violent crime** against women have gone up, though that's largely due to an increase in the reporting of rapes, says Ravi. For decades, rapes would go unreported, especially in rural India, because women feared they would be ostracized.

Steady, but slow, progress

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made improving the condition for women in India a priority, says Ravi.

- **'Beti bachao, Beti padhao'**, which means "Save our daughters, teach our daughters," is his flagship initiative for women and girls.
- **At the village level** — in local "Panchayats" — 50% of seats in governing bodies are reserved for women. There's a bill to make that the standard at state and national levels, too — and it has the support of the ruling party.
- **India's toilet initiative**, under which the government is trying to install 75 million public toilets by 2019, is not on its face a women's rights move, but it will increase women's access to sanitation materials, Ravi says. There's also a national effort to provide pregnant women with healthy food options.

But policy changes can only go so far to address the problem. The bigger issue is deep-seated cultural biases against women, Ravi says.

- **Due to high rates of female infanticide** in rural areas (families value male babies more than female babies), India has a serious sex ratio problem. Men outnumber women by tens of millions, reports the Washington Post.
- **"The consequences of having too many men**, now coming of age, are far-reaching: Beyond an epidemic of loneliness, the imbalance distorts labor markets ... and parallels increases in violent crime, trafficking or prostitution in a growing number of locations," the Post's Simon Denyer and Annie Gowan write.

One piece of good news: The rate of child marriage for Indian girls has fallen significantly, due in part to the fact that more girls are getting an education.

Want Less Corruption? Vote for Women: Study. From Fareed Global Briefing, CNN.

Want to reduce corruption in your country? Vote more women into office, a new study cited by PsyPost suggests.

“In a cross-country analysis of over 125 countries, this study finds that corruption is lower in countries where a greater share of parliamentarians are women. The study further finds that women’s representation in local politics is important too – the likelihood of having to bribe is lower in regions with a greater representation of women in local-level politics in Europe,” PsyPost reports.

Why? “An extensive body of prior research shows that women politicians choose policies that are more closely related to the welfare of women, children, and family.”

New Zealand Prime Minister gave birth to a baby girl

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern became just the second elected world leader to give birth while holding office. (Benazir Bhutto, from Pakistan, was the first head of state to do so 30+ years ago) Many hope the 37-year-old will become a role model for combining motherhood with political leadership.

Tributes have come in from around the world, including from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and from Google, which posted an image in the shape of a heart on its New Zealand homepage along with the message "Congratulations!"

Ardern's partner Clarke Gayford spent Thursday night with Ardern at the hospital. He plans to become the primary caregiver for the baby girl when Ardern returns to work following a leave of six weeks. Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters has taken over as the acting prime minister.

Women in Cabinets, from *The Economist*

Feminists were delighted by Justin Trudeau’s response when he was asked shortly after becoming Canada’s Prime Minister, why half of the members of his Cabinet were female. “Because it’s 2015”, he said. Three years on, not many countries have followed his lead. In France, last year, Emmanuel Macron named a cabinet in which half the 22 cabinet posts went to women. Spain’s new leader, Pedro Sanchez, has unveiled a striking female cabinet, with 11 women out of 18 ministers, the highest share in the EU. Most other governments, however, remain largely male. Europe still has a way to go: Hungary’s cabinet has a grand total of ONE woman.

Iranian women watched the World Cup in a stadium for the first time in nearly 40 years, By Madeleine Ngo, VOX

But the ban restricting women from attending men’s sporting events is still officially intact.

For nearly 40 years, women in Iran have been barred from attending certain men’s sporting events, including soccer.

But recently, female spectators flowed into the Azadi Stadium in Tehran to watch Iran play Spain in the World Cup. It was the first time women were let into a stadium to watch a soccer match since 1979.

Before the match took place in Russia, local news agencies reported on Tuesday that Iranian women would be allowed to enter the Azadi stadium and watch a live broadcast of the game in Tehran — alongside crowds of male fans. But just hours before the game was set to take place, officials shut down the event, telling people not to come because of “infrastructure difficulties.”

That didn’t stop female or male soccer fans from showing up to the stadium.

While police lined the building, fans clad in their team's colors protested for about an hour before they were finally let in. When they entered, some women took selfies and blew horns in celebration.

To be clear, the ban against women attending men's sporting events is still officially intact, and the consequences are pretty serious — women could be arrested, fined, or even imprisoned. And while the event was monumental, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani hasn't announced any official statement lifting the restriction. The event was symbolic for Iran

Although Iran lost the game against Spain 1-0, that didn't stop spectators from erupting in applause and celebration whenever their team played well. The official Twitter account of Iran's football team tweeted a photo of an Iranian woman standing in the middle of a crowd, smiling and proudly holding up the country's flag. The tweet, written in Persian, says, "Azadi Stadium, now!"

FINANCE REPORT

Suzanne Hagen, Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report

July 10, 2018

Checking balance 5/15//2018	\$ 3893.31
Receipts:	
Dues	249
Dues (natl reimbursement)	11
Dues (natl reimbursement)	11
Dues	439
Dues	547
Contribution (E. Johnson memorial fund)	25*
Contribution (E. Johnson memorial fund)	500*
<i>Total receipts (5/16/18-7/10/18)</i>	1782
Disbursements:	
L. Davis-STEM coordinator honorarium	100
L. Davis-STEM presenters gifts (10@\$40)	400
Wiesen-Martin dues reimbursement	59
AAUW natl/state dues	72
AAUW natl/state dues	877
<i>Total disbursements (5/16/18-7/10/18)</i>	1508

Balances 7/10/2018

Checking: 3642.31
 Savings: 2183.83*
 \$ 5826.14

*E. Johnson Memorial Fund contributions placed in saving account

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 = \$980.85 (State balance added to national travel fund at end of fiscal year)

National = \$500.38

STEM grant = \$462.30 – 500 = -37.70

Total encumbered funds: \$2027.00**

General operating funds: \$1615.31

Suzanne Hagen, Treasurer

****Note: Addition Error May report - Total encumbered funds on May 2018 report should be \$2520.30.**

General operating funds for May, 2018 should be corrected to \$1373.01

BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Maureen Olle-Lajoie and Magdalena Pala, Co-Secretaries

Minutes of the **River Falls AAUW Affiliate Executive Board meeting** - June 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 am by Lorraine Davis at her home.

Present: Lorraine Davis, Ann Gustafson, Suzanne Hagen, Maureen Olle-Lajoie, Tina Kelly, Gretchen Toman, Suzie Danielson, Elaine Baumann, Cheryl Maplethorpe, Magdalena Pala.

Lorraine passed around the copy of Directory for corrections.

Discussion involved:

1. Summer newsletter (to be published around third week of July)– it should contain information about August 14th primary elections.
2. City Sampler is scheduled for September 5. Suzanne will reserve a table; it would be good to have UWRF students present.
3. Dates for the book sale are October 11-13 and 18-20. Jane Matthews and Jeanne Zirbel are looking for a location.
4. The Moose Lodge brunch is scheduled for November 11 (Veterans Day). Suzanne Hagen will check if there is a date change.
5. Elaine suggested to have a science speaker during STEM event instead in January on the Science Essay award day. Discussion followed. No decision was made
6. Rellen Hardtke is reexamining her volunteer time commitment to the STEM event organization. Some combination of financial compensation and additional help is needed in order to continue the endeavor.

Suzanne and Lorraine will look for other volunteers/options. Motion (Suzie Danielson/Elaine Baumann) to provide \$100 gift certificate in appreciation of Rellen's involvement with STEM passed.

7. We should have more than one event during Women History Month (movie, speaker, award).

8. We will keep the same meeting schedule for next year , 6:00 potluck, 6:30 pm business meeting, 7:00 pm program, at River Falls Public Library.

9. Suzanne offered to host the September 11 meeting with a wine tasting before the potluck. Lorraine Davis volunteered to host the holiday meeting in December.

10. We need a chair for Equal Pay Day.

11. Suzie Danielson presented program options. A theme of “Women’s Voices” was proposed.

12. Ethel Johnson’s family supports the idea of a memorial in her name. Suzanne suggested that we establish “A Memorial Fund” with funds to be used for different memorials as needed. Maureen will talk to the River Falls Public Library director and will find out what we could donate to the library in Ethel’s memory. A committee will address these issues.

The next board meeting will be at the River Falls Public Library on July 31 at 12:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

Respectfully submitted by Magdalena Pala and Maureen Olle-LaJoie, co-secretaries

River Falls Branch: 2018-19 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 5 – City Sampler at UWRF, 11-1 pm

September 11 - Regular Meeting: COMMUNITY ROOM at the First National Bank, 104 E Locust Street, **6:00** Pot Luck Dinner, our business meeting at **6:30 PM**, program presentation at **7:00** by our NCCWSL delegates, Jillisa Solberg and Temitope Abiodun

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

October 6? - Sorting of book donations, 9-noon - TBD

October 29 (Monday) – Regular Meeting: 6:15 promptly at the River Falls Library. 7:10 – Presentation by Craig Dudnick about Alice Tregay, unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement. Film and Discussion.

October 11 - BOOK SALE - October 11, 12,13 and October 17, 18, 19

November 6 – Election Day

November 11 – Sunday Moose Lodge Breakfast Fund raiser

November 13 - Regular Meeting: Speaker, Madeline Uraneck, author of a book about her friendship with a Tibetan family.

December ?? – Deadline for Middle School Science Essay contest

December 11 - Regular Meeting and Holiday Auction at Lorraine Davis' House, 583 Devin Lane. Bring a meatless appetizer or cookies to share. Starts at 6:30.

January 20, 2018 (Saturday 1 p.m.) – Regular meeting and STEM presentation with Science and Math Essay Awards at the River Falls Library.

February 12 - Regular Meeting at 5:01 at Junior's (to take advantage of HAPPY HOUR). Grace Coggio and Krista Cleary will help us learn about Radical Civility.

March 12 - Regular Meeting and Women's History Month presentation in conjunction with the River Falls Public Library. There will also be a presentation of the Role Equity Award. Ruth Bader Ginsberg film to be shown and discussed.... Not finalized.

April 9 – Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Program is Agnes Ring, Executive Director of the Family Resource Center of St. Croix Valley.

April 14 – Equal Pay Day

April 13 – 2019 STEM Girls in SCIENCE TBD

May 14 – Installation and Celebration 5:00 Wine Tasting Fund Raiser, 6:30 Pot Luck Dinner at Suzanne Hagen's house, 2464 Golf View Drive.

June 10 – 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by Wisconsin



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.