
2019-20 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter

aauwrf@gmail.com

November 2019

Next regular meeting will be Tuesday, December 10

Holiday Auction

The next meeting is our annual holiday auction. We will be gathering at 6:30 at Suzanne Hagen's home, 2464 Golf View Drive. **Please bring items to auction off along with a snack or treat to share.** This fundraiser is to benefit our general fund this year.

Guests are welcome.

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Suzanne Hagen, Branch President

As the holiday season approaches, my "AAUW thoughts" are less about branch business – covered in subsequent sections of this newsletter – and more about appreciation for AAUW's mission and for our branch and its members.

I value national AAUW's vision of "Equity for All" and its mission: To advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

I'm energized by our local branch initiatives such as scholarship support, college women students' leadership development, STEM education, literacy grants, economic security efforts for women, and our engaging and informative public programming.

I'm very thankful for you, our branch members. It's your time, effort, creativity, organizational skills, communication talents, and financial support that make all these initiatives possible.

Lest this all sounds quite serious, let's also celebrate our friendships. I hope you'll plan to attend our annual holiday gathering and auction fundraiser, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m. at my home, 2464 Golf View Drive, River Falls. (Look for the house on the top of the hill with win-

dow boxes fronting a red dining room!) Bring an item for auction and a small plate of appetizers/cookies to share (beverages provided). Auction proceeds grow our general fund to support existing and new initiatives. It's a great opportunity to nourish existing friendships and grow new ones. Please invite non-member friends to come also.

Lastly, as part of "relationship building," please let me or other officers or committee chairs know of member events to celebrate (birthdays achievements, etc.) or situations where support would be valued (illness, etc.). We'll then follow-up with a card, acknowledgment or perhaps a brief toast – with coffee, tea, juice . . . wine ☺ – at one of our meetings.

District IV Meeting Update, Nov. 16, LaCrosse, WI.

The recent District meeting focused primarily on planning for the **April 17-18, 2020 AAUW-WI convention** at the LaCrosse Radisson. Our planning committee representatives are Sue Danielson, Ann Gustafson, Maureen Olie-LaJoie and Barbara Peterson.

The convention theme is "Reflect on the Past, Prepare for the Future". Several good topics and speakers are being firmed up. We also had a tour of the Radisson facilities which seem to be excellent and should serve us well. It's great to have the convention only a two hour drive away!

Please put it on your calendars and plan to attend **April 17-18, 2020**. Our travel fund will provide reimbursement for lodging, convention registration, mileage and convention-sponsored meals.

The meeting also included an overview of national AAUW's 5 Star Branch Program which we've agreed to pursue. This program recognizes outstanding AAUW branches. We have already met several benchmarks for this designation.

Suzanne Hagen and Ann Gustafson will keep you updated on the 5 Star Branch Program effort.

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE - Kendra Morgan is the administrator for our AAUW branch Facebook Page. Our new page has the URL: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.RiverFalls> . Please **"like it."** by clicking at the top left side under the title. Also, if you have any events or information which are relevant, please send your postings to moke1202@outlook.com. Thank you, Kendra, for assuming this responsibility.

Also, we continue to work on making our Facebook page effective and for that we need everyone's support. If you have things to share, contact Kendra Morgan moke1202@outlook.com

RIVER FALLS BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Gretchen Toman, Secretary

AAUW Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2019 First Nat'l Bank Community Room

Meeting called to order at 6:30

Approval of Meeting minutes from Oct. approved as stand

Finance report – approved

President's Report

Suzanne explained the use of the new cards, to be found by the name tag box as we check in at each meeting. They are for us to share life events, birthdays, job successes, and anything else you would like us to know. This is in the vein of strengthening our relationships.

Sat. Nov 16 a group will drive to LaCrosse for the State Convention planning meeting. It is also a District 4 meeting.

Committee Reports

Fall Fund development- totals for the book sale and Moose brunch are not yet final, but the book sale is estimated at \$2,400.

Communication - The newsletter will be a bit different. Cheryl will include just links to articles of interest to readers (formerly the whole article would be reproduced in the body of the newsletter), unless it is about a timely event. In that case, a separate email will be sent.

Program – Holiday auction December 10th 6:30 at Hagen's.

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a small item for the auction

Old Business

Literacy Fund update – we have 24 applications and \$2,300 to award. The motion passed to increase by \$100 the 2019 grant funds available for distribution. Doing this, we could give 6 awards. The \$100. Is to be taken from the operating budget.

New Business

Travel Fund Management – After discussion, the board created two motions:

- 1) Combine current state and national travel fund accounts into one travel fund, capped at \$2,500. (Current fund balance is at \$2,503.60) We won't use it for NCWSL – those dollars come out of the scholarship fund.
- 2) To place the proceeds from the 2019 Holiday auction in the general operating budget.

Both motions were approved unanimously.

We may need to think of other initiatives for subsequent years' fundraising.

Five Star Branch Status – this is a new initiative created by National. It encourages each branch to participate to raise their profile, get recognition, it helps the State level status; we also get connection into informational services. Ann Gustafson will head the committee to track our progress. Are there others out there who would be willing to help?

NCWSL Update – Feb. 15th is the deadline for applications. We need to strategize on how to get the word out to potential applicants before the second semester (the Jan. 26th start is very late)

Meeting adjourned at 7:00

MEMBERSHIP NOTES – Kendra Morgan, Vice-President Membership

Membership Note: Phyllis Jaworski, a branch member from Hudson, is sharing information about AAUW's mission and our branch activities with her networks of friends, parents, and colleagues in the Hudson area. She will be at our Dec. 10 meeting, hopefully with friends along as guests. We know you'll welcome them warmly. This is an excellent opportunity to expand our AAUW network; thank you, Phyllis!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2019-20

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for the coming year. If you have not renewed as yet, we hope you will continue to support our work on behalf of women and girls. Our 2019-20 program plans in this newsletter show the relevance, value, energy, and creativity of our work together!

Please renew your membership before Nov. 30, 2019 to keep your name on our membership roster

Membership dues are:

\$59.00 – national dues (\$56 of which are tax deductible)

\$13.00 – state dues

\$11.00 – branch dues

\$83.00 - Total

You may renew on line at aauw.org or by check, payable to AAUW-RF and mailed to:

Tina Kelly
W9908 State Rd 35
Hager City, WI 54014-8343

NEW MEMBERS BIOS

Karla Thoennes



Karla Thoennes has been part of the River Falls Community since 2014 when she became the Director of Residence Life at UW-River Falls. Prior to coming to River Falls, Karla lived in Fargo, North Dakota and worked at North Dakota State University (NDSU) for 16 years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Speech Communication from NDSU and a Master of Science degree in Counseling and College Student Personnel from Minnesota State University-Mankato. In 2017, Karla fulfilled a lifetime goal by completing her PhD in Education at NDSU. Karla prides herself on being a “tourist” wherever she goes, be it to Hudson, Wisconsin or to some of the other places she’s travelled, such as India and South Africa. Karla grew up in Freeport, a small town in central Minnesota. She loves living in River Falls

because it offers so much: a short commute to work, small town charm, friendly people, beautiful landscapes, and quick jaunt to the Twin Cities!

Thanks for welcoming me into the group!

Patrice Veit



I am in my 43rd year as a PT with a B.S. in Physical Therapy from the University of North Dakota. I started my career at River Falls Area Hospital and have spent the last 35 years in various roles in Allina's home care division. My interests have been reflected in my volunteer activities; I served on the board of directors for the Unitarian Universalist Society of River Falls, for Turning-point for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence, for the River Falls Housing Authority, and I am currently on the board for the River Falls Community Theatre. The development rights for my 30 acres were gifted 20+ years ago to the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, as I firmly support saving this special place. Traveling solo is my new adventure, mostly as it seems no one wants to go to the places I find interesting! I went around the world last year, from Beijing to Ulaanbaatar to Moscow on the Trans-Mongolian and Trans-Siberian railways. In September I traveled through northern India and Nepal. I spend most of my free time pondering where to

go next. I am grateful that my sons know me well enough that they are nothing but enthusiastic about my adventures.

Fund Raising Success!

The branch held a successful book sale during the last week of October and first weeks of November earning nearly **\$2400**. The sale has been held for over 50 years and through the years has provided scholarships for students at River Falls High School, UWRF, Chippewa Valley Technical College, and to attend NCCWSL, the special leadership conference for college women.

The committee, Jeanne Zirbel, Elizabeth Williams, Jane Matthews and Lorraine Davis, would like to thank the members for their help: collecting and schlepping books, organizing, selling, cleanup and especially responding to unexpected calls for help as plans changed. Our sale was again assisted by others in the community-- Dick's Fresh Market and Family Fresh in River Falls and County Market in Hudson where book collection took place. Both the Salvation Army and Goodwill accepted our excess. Ken Lee and Ron Zirbel helped with logistics. Finally, Candice Anderson, River Falls Food Shelf Executive Director, the organization's board, and its volunteers were so accommodating, helpful and, most of all, flexible. The former site of the Food Pantry, was an ideal location, conveniently located with amazing shelving. Everyone's involvement is so appreciated and will ensure success for scholarship funding for another year.

Our Moose brunch ticket sales netted us a **\$522.66** profit from the Moose Lodge which goes into our general operating fund. Thanks to everyone who supported this fund raiser, and special appreciation to Kay Montgomery who coordinated the work!

FINANCE REPORT

Tina Kelly, Finance Chair

Finance Report will be sent out with the December meeting reminder email.

AAUW will be cosponsoring this STEM event again this year. Please alert your friends and family of this wonderful event. Registration will be coming out in the Community Education Spring bulletin.

Girls in SCIENCE Event 2020

Seeing, Creating, Inventing, Exploring, Naming, Cooperating, and Experimenting. Meet UWRF professors, scientists, and science students; and experience four hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities. New topics added! All welcome. Light snack provided, please bring a water bottle. Please indicate t-shirt size (Youth S/M/L or Adult S/M/L/XL/XXL). Space limited. Scholarships available via Allina Health. For scholarship info, grouping requests, and questions, email rellen.hardtke@uwrf.edu or call 715.425.4230.

Date: Saturday April 18, 2020

Grades 3–6: 8:15 am–12:15 pm (8am check-in, 12:20 pick-up)

Grades 6–9: 1–5 pm (12:45 check-in, 5:05 pick-up)

Place: 160 Hagestad Hall, UWRF, 262 E Cascade Ave, RF

Fee: \$19 (+\$11 for t-shirt, optional)

Thank you, Phyllis Goldin:

Member Phyllis Golden has shared multiple copies of her father's book, [An Affair with my City](#), with the branch. Max Goldin's selected works are a compendium of his wisdom, humor and life experiences in Winnipeg and reflects the prestigious writing awards he received. Email Lorraine Davis (ldavis4762@aol.com) if you would like a copy.

PROGRAMS

Sue Danielson, VP Program Chair

Holiday Auction

The next meeting is our annual holiday auction. We will be gathering at 6:30 at Suzanne Hagen's home, 2464 Golf View Drive. Please bring items to auction off along with a snack or treat to share. This fundraiser is to benefit our general fund this year. Guests are welcome.

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 [Gretchen Toman](mailto:gretchentoman@gmail.com) (gretchentoman@gmail.com), 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. Wyman.

The cards show four views of River Falls' bridges 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!!!!

ETHEL JOHNSON MEMORIAL

Submitted by Jean Johnson, Committee Chair of **The Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund**

The Ethel Johnson Memorial honors a woman dedicated to learning. AAUW wishes to remember Ethel for her many roles of service to our organization and the community. Her life is an example of what education and a spirit of giving can inspire in all of us. The fund will be used for grants that promote literacy, such as books for the food shelf or the public school back pack program. By sustaining this memorial, AAUW continues the values by which Ethel lived as a teacher, mentor, traveler, and friend.

Please send your monetary support to Tina Kelly, W9908 State Rd 35. Hager City WI 54014 or donate at our monthly AAUW meetings.

Ethel Johnson Literacy Grants

The first set of Ethel Johnson Literacy Grants has been announced by the River Falls Branch of AAUW. Twenty-four excellent grant applications were reviewed by a committee of Jean Johnson, Sue Danielson and Lorraine Davis. There were requests of over \$8000 for the available \$2400. Eight grants were awarded on merit of objectives and population served.

Requests were from both Pierce and St Croix Counties and varied in grade level, school location, and curriculum. Not all literacy program proposals were school based.

The grant was named after AAUW member Ethel Johnson who taught in the public schools until she was 70. She touched the lives of many and in honor of her memory; her friends have established this fund to promote her greatest educational love, literacy.

The awards committee is grateful to those donors who made this project possible. Additional donations to sustain the fund can be made in her honor to Ethel Johnson Fund, c/o Jean Johnson, N8048 1094th St, River Falls WI 54022



Attention AAUW Members: There is still time to place your order for the navy blue AAUW t-shirts. They are regular cotton t-shirts with the white AAUW logo printed on the front (see photo). The shirt is optional but will be used to increase awareness at our tabling and volunteer events. The cost per shirt is \$10 which can be paid by cash/check to Kendra before or at pick-up.

* * * Please contact Kendra Morgan at 715-450-6870 or moke1202@outlook.com with your size if you are interested in getting an AAUW t-shirt. She has three orders waiting and will send in the order when she gets a total of 12 orders, so help out your fellow AAUW members and order an AAUW t-shirt now.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

NOVEMBER 2019 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Graduate Women International celebrates International Day of Rural Women by publishing an advocacy toolkit

Observed annually on 15 October, the *International Day of Rural Women* celebrates the limitless potential of rural women and girls around the world. Following the 2019 theme “Rural women and girls building climate resilience”, GWI published a [press release](#) calling for the voices of rural women to be heard and their leadership potential recognized. In addition, GWI published an [advocacy toolkit](#) featuring facts and figures concerning the situation of rural women, linking them to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and delivering an account of the corresponding GWI advocacy campaign of 2019. Moreover, the toolkit contains an in-depth portrayal of the GWI [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) project, which enables young rural women in Uganda to obtain a university degree and become teachers themselves, which in turn inspires the next generation of rural girls to strive for higher education. GWI encourages you to download the toolkit [HERE](#).

Obama Foundation Girls opportunity Alliance One Year Anniversary, by Natasha Pinon, Mashable, Oct.11, 2019

After celebrating “The day of the Girl’ and the one year anniversary of the Obama Foundation Girls Opportunity Alliance, former first lady Michelle Obama and Jenna Bush-Hager and other guests will go to Vietnam in December to share stories of girls pursuing their education they will meet on the trip.

Girls Opportunity Alliance will be partnering with Room to Read to “shine a light on important efforts to empower girls.”

<https://www.pressherald.com/2019/11/07/more-celebs-join-michelle-obamas-voter-outreach-drive/>

Ranking Women, Time Magazine Oct 21/28, 2019

Female members of the UK royal family now take precedence in the line of succession over younger males, following a change in legislation. The law also allows royals to marry Catholics.

Changing demographics: ageing and its implications for gender equality

GWI attended a side event hosted by France, Italy, Germany and civil society representatives to address the topic of ageing and the implications for gender equality. The event highlighted key challenges and solutions in promoting gender equality in the older population as well as addressing methods to be adapted to the elderly population. Alfredo Ferrante, President of the Italian Council of Ministers, stated that the proportion of people aged 80 years old and more is predicted to more than double in the next century due to medical advancements. With this prominent change in demographics, the issue of gender equality pertains since women are generally seen to live longer than males. Common key challenges addressed in this session included the lack of prevention for domestic violence against older women, the negative perception of the elderly as unproductive or burdensome, leading to less working hours and wages resulting in the pension gap. One main reason to explain the lack of attention to older women can be due to the lack of adequate inclusion of the elderly in research and surveys that are used to create policies, which generally only includes people up to the age of 65. To address these issues, the discussion called for more flexibility in compensation and pension rights, division of work and life balance in addition to unpaid care work for both genders and stronger government involvement in implementation of policies adapting to the older population. The UNECE is currently creating policy addressing ageing that is expected to be presented in an upcoming conference.

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/13-November-Update-Geneva-Peace-Week-.pdf>

Geneva Peace Week opens with a motivational speech by UNOG Director-General, Tatiana Valovaya

From 4 - 8 November 2019 the Geneva Peace Week (GPW) took place at the Maison de la Paix and the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Switzerland. GPW is a flagship initiative of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform in collaboration with the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Hereby, around 40 events serve as a platform for in-depth discussions. Graduate Women International (GWI) had the pleasure to participate in several of these events during the GPW. An open roundtable touched upon multiple aspects such as peacebuilding in Europe, multilateralism and humanitarianism. Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, spoke about the global perspective on peacebuilding while others spoke about the need to visualise issues for funding, and the flexibility of international organisations to complement each other's efforts for sustainable peace. GWI encourages the inclusion and participation of women in establishing sustainable peacebuilding by advocating for the empowerment of women through quality education and training up to the highest levels. Find out more about GPW 2019 [HERE](#).

— Other information and events —

17 November	International Students Day, Global
19 November	World Toilet Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children's Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
28-30 November	FEMU International Seminar, "Empowerment of Girls and Women through Education, Mexico City, Mexico
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Global
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day, Global
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day, Global
6 February 2020	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Global
11 February 2020	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global

River Falls Branch: 2019-20 CALENDAR OF EVENTS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 campus, 11-1 p.m. AAUW table on mall will share information.

September 10 - Pot Luck Dinner and business meeting **6:30, 7:00** program presentation National Conference for College Women Student Leaders speaker – UWRF student Faith Velez, COMMUNITY ROOM at the First National Bank, 104 E Locust Street

Early September – Book donation barrels placed in Family Fresh, Dick’s Grocery store and County Market in Hudson.

October 8 – Business meeting: 6:30, 7:00 - Iron Jawed Angels film co-sponsored w/library. River Falls Public Library

Book Sale dates – two successive weekends in October (possibly Oct. 11-13 and Oct. 17-19)

November 10 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. River Falls Moose Lodge Breakfast Fund raiser

November 12 - Business meeting 6:30 p.m., Program at 7:00 p.m. - Civil Conversations – speakers Krista Cleary and Grace Coggio, First National Bank Community Room

December 10 – Holiday gathering at 6:30 p.m. at Suzanne Hagen’s House, 2464 Golf View Dr., Brief business meeting and auction (**Please bring auction item and appetizer or cookies to share.**)

January 25, 2020 (Saturday) – Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Program at 1:30 - Women in STEM – guest speaker (TBD), Presentation of Women in Science essay awards, River Falls Public Library

February 11 - RF Food Shelf update and tour, Time and Location TBD

March 10 – Business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Program at 7:00 p.m. – Student Debt: Update and Implications for Students, Parents and Grandparents – Panel discussion. Role Model for Equity Award presented River Falls Public Library

March 31 - Equal Pay Day

April 14 – Business (Annual) Meeting at 6:30 p.m. (Election of officers for 2020-2021) Program at 7:00 p.m. – Economic Security for Women – Speaker: Kendra Morgan, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones.
River Falls Public Library

STEM Program: Girls in SCIENCE at UWRF – Date to be determined

April 16-17 - State AAUW Convention in LaCrosse, Wisconsin

May 12 – Year-end business meeting and pot luck dinner, Installation of officers and Celebration, 6:30 p.m. at Lorraine Davis’s House



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.