
2019-20 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

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Branch Newsletter:

March 2020

The AAUW meeting for April has been canceled because of Covid-19.

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Suzanne Hagen, Branch President

These are challenging weeks for us all as we navigate the new reality of coronavirus. Please care wisely for yourself and others and know that our branch is a resource of support. I hope you received the recent emails about connections and cancellations.

1. **Connection** - We want to make calls of support to members - particularly those with health challenges, other needs or who can't regularly attend meetings. If you are willing to make an occasional cheer phone call, please contact me (suzanne.hagen.1@gmail.com or 715-425-1471).

2. **Cancellations** – These include:

- Pay Equity Day tabling (3/31)
- Our April 14 regular meeting
- The Girls in Science day (4/18) at UWRF
- The state convention (4/17-18).
- National NCCWSL conference (May 27-30)

Some programs such as Girls in Science may be rescheduled in the fall. More information may be forthcoming from national regarding the NCCWSL cancellation.

Cancelling the convention, celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage, is a particular loss. Several members (Ann Gustafson, Sue Danielson, Maureen Olle-LaJoie and Barbara Peterson) worked very hard on the planning team, and many of us looked forward to meeting in the western part of the state.

Nonetheless, our branch's work continues. As of now, we plan to hold our annual meeting and election of officers on May 12. This last program year meeting with a pot luck meal (this year at Lorraine Davis' home) is always enjoyable, celebrating our friendships and accomplishments. Currently our board is conferring on regular business via email (and on an on-line platform, thanks to Elaine Baumann!).

Finally, our membership renewal period has begun; details are given further in this newsletter. Our branch's history of outstanding, committed members continues and only grows stronger – with your on-going membership. The 2020 convention theme was "Reflect on the past; Prepare for the future." We've had a very successful, accomplished past – and together we will prepare well for a positive future.

BRANCH STRATEGIC PLANNING

At a January 25th meeting, our branch's board began a strategic planning conversation. Following a State AAUW process, we talked about the branch's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (a quick SWOT analysis). The following observations emerged:

Strengths:

- Long history of membership/members
- Lots of talented people
- Mature organization able to mentor younger women

Weaknesses:

- Difficult sometimes to link local, state and national efforts and issues
- Geography and branch location distant from larger state branch centers
- Challenge of recruiting younger members
- Issues sometimes too broad/wide; lack focus

Opportunities:

- Develop greater name recognition, expand press/media presence
- Collaboration with other organizations having compatible missions, goals
- Potential exists to recruit new members

Threats/challenges:

- Aging membership
- Challenging political climate
- Keep communication methods current; maximize variety of methods to reach varied audiences

We would like very much to hear input from you on the four topics above. Do you agree, disagree, have other insights and observations? Please email your input to Suzanne.hagen.1@gmail.com or complete and mail the feedback sheet distributed at our February meeting to Suzanne Hagen, 2464 Golf View Drive, RF. That feedback sheet will also be available at our March meeting. The more ideas we have from members, the better will be our focus, growth and impact in the years ahead. Thank you!

Girls in SCIENCE Saturday, April 18, 2020 **CANCELLED**

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 - FEB. 11, 2020

Call to order at 6:34

Welcome back, new member Arianna. She works at Amplexor as a Senior Service Mgr.

Secretary's Report - Minutes of meetings from Dec. 10, 2019 and Jan. 25, 2020 were approved, with the addition to the Jan. 25 minutes of Barb Peterson as driving/attending the state convention planning meeting in January

Treasurer's Report – state of finances listed on agenda

President's Report

At the January board meeting on Jan. 25, the board discussed strategic planning which is a goal of the National AAUW. Suzanne is seeking input on the SWOT analysis (provided on the back of the agenda).

We also have 3 offices to fill, terms beginning July 1, 2020: President Elect, Programming V.P., and treasurer. If you would like to help make calls, please contact Suzanne.

A handout of primary election dates, provided by Barb Peterson, was passed around.

Committee Reports

NCCWSL for 2020 – Lorraine thanked the selection committee for their help in choosing 2 winners of the scholarship to attend in June. The winners are: Violet Penman, an environmental planning major and Alexandra Miller an agricultural science major. The committee will meet both of them for coffee. Our State AAUW may provide \$500 to one of them, which helps to keep our costs down. UWRF's Student Support Services program may send one student as well.

March 10th is the next meeting, 6:30 at the RF Public Library. 7:00 is a panel of Patty Schachtner (or a rep from her office), and the Financial Aid Directors from UWRF and WITC. It is a panel on financial aid policy, NOT a "how to apply to and finance college panel".

March 31 is Equal Pay Day. We will have booths at both UWRF and CVTC, 11:00 – 2:00. We still need volunteers for the CVTC slots.

April 18 (Sat.) is the **Girls in STEM** on the UWRF campus. Lorraine Davis needs our help providing food for the presenters. Hot dishes, salad, etc. (consider gluten free and vegetarian too). You aren't required to stay, just to drop off the food before lunch time.

At the March meeting we will recognize the **Role Model Award** – 2 recipients this year: Nancy Abrahamson and Barb de Souza for their contributions to bettering lives of women of all ages in our community and beyond.

Planning of the **State convention (April 17 – 18)** in LaCrosse is progressing nicely. Great speakers and entertainment lined up. Registration information will come out in March.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES – Kendra Morgan, Vice-President Membership

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2020-21

We are now starting the membership renewal period for 2020-21. It is particularly important in these difficult days to continue to support our work on behalf of women and girls. The economic impact of coronavirus affects everyone, but women are likely to be hit particularly hard. AAUW will continue to act, advocate and work to address these unique challenges.

Please renew your membership before June 1, 2020 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 Member: Arianna Pajdash

I grew up in Northern WI in a small town of about 250 people. My parents own a small resort, 5 cabins and a bar and grill. I participated in drama including one-act play competitions, the school musical, and forensics. My other big pass-times growing up, that have continued into adulthood, were reading and writing. I've always been a voracious reader and really started writing in middle school. I've wanted to be a published novelist ever since. Genre-wise I enjoy writing the types of things I read.



Primarily, I enjoy reading fantasy, historical fiction, sci-fi. Currently, I'm working on a young adult historical fiction trilogy that takes place in the 1660s as well as an adult-level contemporary fantasy novel. My hopes are to finish revisions of the first book in the trilogy and start looking for a literary agent soon.

My school of choice was UWRF. I started as a TESOL major but switched to International Studies in my first Spring semester. I officially graduated with a degree of International Studies with an emphasis in Culture and a double minor in Asian Studies and Political Science. I was a part of the Swing Dance Club all 4 years of school where I met some of my closest friends. I was also a part of the Global Politics Club in my Junior and Senior years, which lead me to participate in a Model UN Conference one year. I represented Myanmar on the Social and Humanitarian Committee, discussing and voting on resolutions. We also, being the nerds that we are, put on our own little Lord of the Rings themed model UN where we each represented a country or group.

Also, during my Junior and Senior years, I presented some research with a group at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research. The Global Politics the Fall Semester of 2012 saw me flying to Scotland for a semester. There are not enough

words to fully convey what this experience meant to me, but it was eye-opening and an incredible growth opportunity for me. I look forward to heading back for a visit.

Since graduating university I've been working at Amplexor, formerly Sajan, here in town. I started as an intern 2 weeks before graduating and I am now a Senior Service Manager there. I've had a number of clients in my tenure but am currently managing the account for Cisco and have been for a little over a year. In my free time, I just try to keep writing and keep up with my friends and their families. I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and working with this group.

FINANCE REPORT

Tina Kelly, Finance Chair

February 24, 2020 – March 28, 2020

Checking balance 2/24/2020	\$ 7676.26
Receipts	
AAUW Membership Dues	\$124.50
Refund from AAUW-WI	13.00
Note Card Sales	20.00
<i>Total receipts (2/24/2020 – 3/28/2020)</i>	<i>\$157.50</i>
Disbursements	
Award to Nancy Sailer	\$100.00
Award to Barbara de Sounza	100.00
<i>Total disbursements (2/24/2020 – 3/28/2020)</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>

Balances 3/28/2020

Checking: \$7633.76

Savings: \$2131.94

Total: \$9765.70

State AAUW Convention April 17-18 **CANCELLED**

MEMBER RELATIONS; Karen Brohaugh does a great job sending hand-crafted notes to members on behalf of our branch. She recognizes special events like birthdays, sends supportive thoughts, and keeps in touch with members who can't easily make meetings. Please let her know of members who should receive a card or note (brohaugh@att.net). Thanks, Karen!

Local AAUW Honors Role Models of Equity



On Tuesday, March 10, the River Falls chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) honored two local women, Nancy Sailer and Barbara deSouza, with their Role Model for Equity Award. As part of their observance of Women's History Month, the local chapter recognizes women from the Western Wisconsin area that exemplify a commitment to advocacy and advancing equity for women and girls, which is the organization's prime mission. Sailer and deSouza have improved the lives of women both locally and beyond. Barbara deSouza served at the Campus Ministry House near the UWRF campus in the 1980's to provide a welcoming, service oriented and stimulating atmosphere for college students. Her commitment to service took her to Brazil where she empowered women through health services and education. A family clinic in Rio de Janeiro named in her honor. She has also authored the book When Sleeping Women Awake, Mountains Will Move. Barbara is still serving our women and families by helping resettle a Guatemalan immigrant family.

Nancy Sailer's long career in social work focused on the health and welfare of senior citizens. Most recently she served as the Dementia Care Specialist with St. Croix County's Aging and Disability Resource Center. Nancy was instrumental in creating dementia friendly communities through programming, Memory Cafes, and in assisting in the creation of the "Among Friends" dementia respite care program in River Falls.

PUBLIC POLICY

Barb Peterson, Chair

Greetings to Members,

As I write, it seems that the April 7th election is still going to be held. I believe you can request an absentee ballot until April 3rd but earlier is better. You can register online until March 30th to avoid face-to-face contact. Thanks to all the poll workers who are serving this election. Hopefully, many precautions will be in place.

Your ballot will contain several referendums and candidates. Please be informed as best you can. AAUW tried to organize a RF school board candidate forum and stream it for later viewing. When school buildings were closed, our efforts became impossible. There are 6 candidates running for 3 positions on the RF board. I live in the Hudson school district where two candidates are running for 2 positions. Hopefully the newspaper will feature some candidate information. You will also vote for non-partisan Justice of the Supreme Court. This is a hotly contested office and I suggest you do some research at <Madison.com> and <jsonline>. You will also vote for a Circuit Court Judge (one candidate and/or write-in) and a County Supervisor. This is also the Presidential Primary. You will need to designate ONE party to vote in - Democrat or Republican - and choose one candidate. The ballot has a long list of Democratic candidates, most of whom have dropped out. Do NOT vote in two Parties as this will negate your ballot.

On the back of the ballot you will find the referendum question(s). I fear that many will not discover these questions. Please VOTE these referendum questions. On my ballot the first question is regarding what is called "Marsy's Law". This is a constitutional change that will become law if passed. It sounds as though it will give victims additional rights but, in fact, may take some victim protections away. The ACLU opposes this constitutional change. Read their position here: <https://www.aclu-wi.org/en/news/marsys-law-fails-victims-it-purports-protect>

In St. Croix County, your ballot will include a second question. "Should St. Croix County request that the Wisconsin Legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district plans and maps?" After the 2020 census, the State will redistrict. It is extremely important that redistricting be done fairly and not favor one party over another. Let your voice be heard.

Links to newspaper articles about candidates:

<https://www.rivertowns.net/news/government-and-politics/5020512-Six-River-Falls-candidates-running-for-school-board>

<https://www.rivertowns.net/news/government-and-politics/5020530-QA-with-the-2-River-Falls-mayoral-candidates>

Women fought hard to ensure our right to vote. Please encourage others to exercise this right and offer rides if needed. Be well, be safe and VOTE.

Online Registration Available Until March 30, 2020

There is still time to ask for your absentee ballot. myvote.wi.gov

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATES

2020 is an election year. Our nation is 243 years old but we women have had voting rights for only 100 of those years. AAUW encourages you to exercise your voting rights!

Reminder of important election dates:

Spring Election & Presidential Preference - April 7, 2020

Final Election for 7th District Representative - May 12th, 2020

Fall Primary - August 11, 2020

General Election - November 3, 2020

April 7th is the Wisconsin presidential primary. This is also the date for the non-partisan city, township and county elections and the WI Supreme Court.

May 12th - St. Croix residents will vote on the 7th District Representative.

August 11, 2020 Fall Partisan Primary to select candidates for the General election.

November 3rd 2020 - Presidential Election

There is ample time for you to get out the vote for candidates that represent your issues. Please remind people of these election dates.

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 Lorraine Davis 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. 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.

AAUW T-SHIRTS



Attention AAUW Members: AAUW t-shirts are in! Please pay Kendra Morgan cash or check (made out to her) if you ordered a shirt. Shirts will be available for pick up at our next monthly meeting. If you don't remember if you ordered contact Kendra at 715-450-6870

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

MARCH 2020 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8 is International Women's Day, which celebrates women's achievements around the world with everything from conferences to fun runs to festivals.

This year, the theme of International Women's Day, which began during the early years of the 20th century, is #balanceforbetter, advocating for a more gender-balanced world.

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme>

Let's all be #EachforEqual.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"When women do better, countries do better, communities do better, and families do better." USAID Administrator Mark Green

Throughout the month of March, and especially on International Women's Day (March 8), USAID will celebrate our contributions to advance gender equality and women's empowerment around the world.

Women's empowerment is a core USAID development objective that is fundamental for the realization of human rights, and key to fulfilling the Administrator's vision for USAID development outcomes.

This year, we are highlighting ways that USAID transforms families, communities and countries by economically empowering women and girls.

On International Women's Day, we recognize the often unacknowledged contributions of women and girls—from **energy entrepreneurs in Uganda (link is external)** working to advance clean cooking solutions, to **scientists healing plants to feed a nation in Kenya**, to a widow growing a **thriving flower business in Bangladesh**.

<https://www.usaid.gov/international-womens-day>

Why Women's History Month is in March, by AJ Willingham, CNN, March 1, 2020

March is National Women's History Month, but since women are pretty historic year-round, it begs the question: Why March? Is this month significant to women's history, or is it just an arbitrary month on the calendar?

The answer involves a little bit of history and a little bit of coincidence.

From day to week to month

Women's History Month, which is observed in the US, UK and Australia in March, and in October in Canada, began with a single day. International Women's Day is March 8, and it has been observed in some shape or form since 1911. It was officially commemorated by the United Nations in 1975 and was officially recognized by the UN two years later.

In the 1970's, local groups and municipalities began celebrating Women's History Week. According to the National Women's History Museum, one of the most notable celebrations was organized in Santa Rosa, California, by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in 1978.

The movement was so popular, people began lobbying for a more formal observance, and in 1980, President Jimmy Carter designated the first official National Women's History Week, beginning on March 8 of that year.

Schools, universities and local governments came to realize that this period of time allowed them to not only celebrate the achievements of women, but look critically at equality and opportunities for women, and educate people on women's history. It was only a matter of time before the week became a month.

According to the National Women's History Alliance, states began declaring the whole month of March as Women's History Month all the way up until 1986, when a more national push finally made headway. The following year, Congress declared March 1987 as the first official Women's History Month.

Besides International Women's Day, March holds a few more important milestones for women's history:

- Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in all federally funded education programs, was passed by the Senate on March 1, 1972. It became law later that year. In fact, the educators who formed the first Women's History Week a few years later did so to help schools comply with Title IX regulations.
- The Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment which guarantees rights regardless of sex past those assured by the 19th Amendment, passed the Senate on March 22, 1972. (P.S. -- it's still not fully ratified.)
- Earlier in the 20th century, two significant women's suffrage events took place in March. The first major suffragist parade took over Washington, DC, on March 3, 1913, and the National Woman's Party, a political group dedicated to women's suffrage, was officially formed in March 1917.

Also, it might be a coincidence, but seeing as how demonstrations and public displays were an integral part of the women's suffrage movement, the month of "March" certainly seems to fit.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/01/us/womens-history-month-why-march-trnd/index.html>

A brief history of Women's History Month, By Brenna Williams, CNN, March 2, 2017

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/02/politics/womens-history-month-politics/index.html>

Scotland to Approve Free Sanitary Products for All Women, Reuters

The Scottish parliament on Feb 25 approved plans to make sanitary products freely available to all women - the first nation in the world to do so.

The legislation would make products such as tampons and sanitary pads free for all women in Scotland, available at designated public places such as community centres, youth clubs and pharmacies.

The Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill was proposed by Scottish lawmaker Monica Lennon, who first submitted a draft proposal in 2017.

Scotland in 2018 was the first government in the world to provide free sanitary products in schools, colleges and universities.

Sanitary products in the United Kingdom are currently taxed at 5%. Former Prime Minister David Cameron's government said it wanted to end that "tampon tax", but that its hands were tied by European Union rules which set tax rates for certain products. The government announced it would drop the tax in 2016, but this has not happened yet.

<https://malaysia.news.yahoo.com/scotland-approve-free-sanitary-products-131543279.html>

We need to talk about women's issues during pandemics, by Amrie Cruz, March 20, 2020

The Philippines has adopted an enhanced community quarantine similar to that of China's Hubei province. This month, a nonprofit organization based in Hubei reported an alarming statistic: 90 percent of the cases of domestic violence were related to the COVID-19 pandemic. How can we prevent the same thing from happening here? The lockdown also gave rise to panic buying, leaving some women without access to sanitary products. We got to discuss the gender issues that emerge during outbreaks with Charisse "Chang" Jordan, national project officer of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women's (UN Women) Safe and Fair Programme and artist and women's rights activist Nikki Luna.

Compromised under COVID-19

Women are at a higher risk than usual in the time of a pandemic. According to Chang Jordan, it's because they are care work front-liners at work and at home. Women are often employed as nurses, caregivers, teachers and other pink-collar roles. In addition to being responsible for individuals

outside their family, they often put their children and spouse first. For communities reliant on them for care, women are extra vulnerable to the virus' stealthy transmission.

Jordan adds that under the lockdown, threats of violence and harassment against women (both in public and private spaces) are also a big concern. From checkpoints to their very own homes, they are exposed to potential harm. The lack of safe transportation is an added factor. Those who are in abusive relationships may be subjected to heightened instances of domestic abuse if unable to find an alternative to staying with their perpetrators during the quarantine.

Public health measures should consider the living conditions of the general public. Local government units need to look out for the safety of women and girls in and out of their homes. "Women should not fear unwanted and unprotected sex. Girls should not fear being touched inappropriately," says Jordan.

Lack of access to sanitary products

Women have specific, gender-differentiated needs often neglected in crisis response. Not only have prices soared for medical supplies, businesses and individuals are also selling pricier sanitary products and hygiene kits. "This relates to how the needs of women and girls are overlooked—when they are the ones who are putting the needs of their families first," says Jordan. This is also a reflection of the state of our sexual and reproductive health rights. It is important to have strong gender-conscious policies that address this.

Access to sanitary products is a human right. For women and girls, a huge part of health and overall well-being is dependent on feminine hygiene products. Male policymakers must consider the plight of women when crafting humane public programs. Jordan asserts, "It's about recognizing that women's and girls' needs are of equal significance to other basic necessities."

Put yourself in her shoes

How can we show our support for underprivileged women during the lockdown? Jordan says the best way to know what their needs are is to try to imagine being in their shoes. Those in low-income communities and working in informal economies struggle to afford basic necessities without a source of income. When taking part in donation drives, ask organizers to include sanitary pads in care packages. Power in Her Story is an example of a group that is organizing a donation drive to provide marginalized girls and women access to sanitary pads. Jordan also suggests supporting petitions for allowing business process outsourcing (BPO) employees, many of whom are women, to work from home.

Most kasambahays are women. Nikki Luna warns us not to disregard their emotional needs. They may choose to remain with you for financial reasons but their thoughts are probably with their

loved ones. Reaching out to them, lending an ear and offering to help them with their work provides them with the support they deserve.

Luna urges, “Social media is a powerful tool, one must reflect before posting during a pandemic crisis.” Don’t assume that everything available to you is also within the reach of everyone else. Uploading photos of how you’re “enjoying” the lockdown with pandemic-related hashtags is insensitive, elitist and classist. We should be even more cautious of flaunting privilege.

For Luna, we can aid women and girls in abusive homes by learning the value of collective caring. Support organizations that help poor girls and women through legal assistance and shelters.

Jordan expressed that while health reminders are important, we should also include a reminder to share the burdens that come with staying at home. Men and boys should help out at home. “This could be a chance to create a healthier relationship for the entire family,” she says.

In a time like this, it’s important to remain vigilant. Let’s also be especially attentive to the needs of women under the enhanced community quarantine.

<https://preen.ph/107412/pandemic-policies-womens-issues>

Power Africa celebrates women and girls in science

Women in Africa Power (WiAP), brings together women working in the energy sector, including engineers, who are promoting innovations to address the continent’s energy access challenges.

Inspired by the “Sun Queen” who built the first house heated by solar energy in Massachusetts, women in Africa are accelerating electricity access through residential solar power. Members like Charity and Daisy contribute to creating an environment that encourages women and girls’ full participation in the sector by increasing interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and providing young professionals with role models.

<https://www.usaid.gov/international-womens-day>

Encouraging Asia's young women to pursue science and technology: women scientists strengthen network in Lower Mekong

In collaboration with Intel, Cisco, Microsoft, the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Science Envoy Program, the **USAID Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training** (USAID COMET) project brought together college-level women from the Lower Mekong sub region for a Women in Technology workshop in Vietnam. Participants broadened professional skills, shared challenges and opportunities for women in science and technology, and strengthened their professional network in the region.

Chi Nguyen, the general manager of Mobext Vietnam, served as a mentor at the workshop. “This network of mentorship does not only benefit the young women—it helps us mentors to learn and get inspired from the youth as well,” she said. “It’s incredible what inspiration, determination and a bit of coaching can do to help young women fulfill their potential in science and technology.

<https://www.usaid.gov/international-womens-day>

Woman-owned clothing company keeps migration in check

Lilia Ranogaet didn’t start out wanting to be a clothing designer. She had studied law, and for years she ran a consulting company that helped Moldovan citizens find work abroad. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe, and good jobs at home can be hard to find. Thousands leave the country each year seeking employment elsewhere to better support themselves and their families. Ranogaet explained that her experience helping people leave Moldova made her realize how important it is that they stay. “I wanted to think of how we can keep Moldovans here,” she said. “I was thinking, we can’t bring construction or certain other jobs here—but we can bring production here.”

Ranogaet had limited experience in production processes when she started her business in 2001. But over the past 15 years, she has worked hard to strengthen her knowledge of the industry. Her efforts have paid off as her company, Portavita, now boasts three clothing factories—one in Chisinau, one in Balti and one in Ghindesti—and employs about 380 people. Portavita is one of more than 100 companies from light industry that have received assistance from the USAID-funded Moldova Competitiveness Project aimed to help move them from low-value to high-value manufacturing.

<https://www.usaid.gov/international-womens-day>

— Other information and events —

9-20 March	Commission on the Status of Women 64th session, New York
7-8 May	Generation Equality Forum Mexico
19 May	5th Edition of the Swiss Olympes de la Parole, Switzerland
25 May-5 June	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
7-10 July	Generation Equality Forum Paris
18-20 September	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)

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 River Falls City Engineer, Crystal Raleigh, Presentation of Women in Science essay awards, River Falls Public Library

February 11 - RF Food Shelf update and tour, business meeting will be at 6:30 and at 7:00 there will be a tour and update and Location 705 St. Croix St. and is just behind the American Legion.

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 -- CANCELLED

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 -- CANCELLED

April 18 - STEM Program: Girls in SCIENCE at UWRF -- CANCELLED

April 17-18- State AAUW Convention in LaCrosse, Wisconsin -CANCELLED

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.