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## 2019-20 Branch Officers

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## **PROGAM LEADERS**

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# FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

[aauwrf@gmail.com](mailto:aauwrf@gmail.com)

## Branch Newsletter:

**April 2020**

**The AAUW meeting for May 12 has been changed to a virtual meeting because of Covid-19.**

The AAUW Board agreed it's important for us to stay connected -- and informed. We will hold our regular May meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, May 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will install new officers for the coming year and view a webinar from the national AAUW website on Effective Advocacy during Covid19.

Finally and very importantly, we will see friends' faces and share greetings. Every act of support helps!

**You will receive an email** with meeting login instructions the week of May 4 through 8. You will be able to access the meeting by video or by phone call-in.

We hope you'll be able to join the gathering.

## **PRESIDENT' S COLUMN**

**Suzanne Hagen, Branch President**

My past columns have focused mainly on specific branch topics: upcoming programs, special projects, state initiatives, building member relations, etc. In these difficult weeks, I've shifted my attention to national issues, more specifically challenges for women today and AAUW's national advocacy. [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) has just had a major website upgrade. The home page posting, "AAUW & COVID19: Standing Strong through Crisis," immediately caught my attention with these data points:

- The female labor force accounts for a large proportion of service jobs: 80 percent of waitstaff, 65 percent of retail cashiers and 65 percent of hotel and hospitality workers - fields most likely to face furloughs and layoffs.

- Close to 30 percent of working Americans have no sick leave and have to choose between a paycheck and potentially losing their job or risking exposure to infection.
- Women comprise more than 70 percent of the healthcare industry, including more than 85 percent of nurses. They are on the frontlines, putting themselves and their families at risk.
- Women in college and graduate schools will be entering a dire economy, while still holding two-thirds of the nation's \$1.3 trillion of student debt.

These facts are a striking reminder of how important AAUW's advocacy is for women – not just during crises but week to week and year to year.

So my suggestion – when all your closets are cleaned and spice drawers alphabetized – please visit and explore AAUW.org. (To read materials you no longer need to login. Login is only necessary to handle member business, such as renewals. See information on that later in newsletter.) Read and take pride in the many issues AAUW supports to improve life for girls and women – now and in the future. Consider a personal donation direct to AAUW national or signing up as a One Minute Activist to let your voice be heard on legislative issues.

And, as always, continue your involvement with our great River Falls' branch. Our officers and board aim to keep our local programs and initiatives moving forward. Take care and be well as we move forward together.

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.

Thanks to our contact team who are making calls of support to members. If there are particular ways our branch can be helpful to at this time, please contact me ([suzanne.hagen.1@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.hagen.1@gmail.com) or 715-425-1471).

NOTE: 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!

**Girls in SCIENCE** is now rescheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2020.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:moke1202@outlook.com)

# RIVER FALLS BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

Gretchen Toman, Secretary

## AAUW MEETING, MARCH 10, 2020

Call to order at 6:32

**Visitors** – Ali Miller one of our 2 NCWSSL scholarship recipients. She is an Ag Bus. Major at UWRF

**Secretary's Report** – the minutes for Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved

**Finance Report** – Totals from Feb 24: Checking Balance \$7,676.26 (of which \$2,180.21 scholarship), Travel \$2,503.60, and Operating \$2,992.45

Tina is also working on the budget for next year. More details to come in April.

### President's Report

Ann G. and Suzanne are working as a nominating team for the 3 positions to be filled this spring: Programming, Treasurer, and President Elect. Send suggestions to either of them.

Membership renewal for next year is coming up soon.

### Committee Reports

School Board Candidate Forum on Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. It will be held at the RF High School Media Room and will be videotaped. All of the candidates will be there to speak.

All Women's Equal Pay Day March 31, 2020; we will host an informational table at UWRF in the University Center from 11:00-2:00 and at CVTC on March 30, also 11:00 – 2:00.

We could still use 2-3 more people to help with the tables, especially at the CVTC on Monday.

Our April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is 6:30 at the RF Public Library. Kendra Morgan will talk to us about Economic Security for Women.

STEM Program April 18 at UWRF – Lorraine passed around a sign-up sheet to help provide hot dishes or salads for the presenters. No time to cook? Lorraine will accept cash donations to purchase food for the event. Contact Lorraine if you can help with this event.

AAUW Wisconsin Convention – Friday and Saturday, April 17-18; Radisson Hotel, LaCrosse, WI  
Contact Suzanne if you think you might be joining us, so we can co-ordinate transportation.

Barb Peterson encouraged us to get informed as we move into elections.

Elaine B presented the Role Model Awards to Nancy Seiler and Barbara de Souza for their contributions and impact on women's lives in our community and beyond!

Meeting adjourned at 6:55

Respectfully Submitted,

## FINANCE REPORT

Tina Kelly, Finance Chair

### AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - March 28, 2020 – April 28, 2020

Checking balance 3/28/2020	\$ 7633.76
Receipts AAUW Membership Dues Refund from Cancelled NCCWSL Conference Participants	\$670.50 970.00
<i>Total receipts (3/28/2020 – 4/28/2020)</i>	\$1640.50
Disbursements Pay Day Expense Flight Plan Cancellation refund to Violet Penman (NCCWSL)	\$39.33 24.00
<i>Total disbursements ( 3/28/2020 – 4/28/2020)</i>	\$63.33

#### Balances 4/28/2020

Checking: \$9210.93  
Savings: \$2182.19  
Total: \$11,393.12

## 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.

Unless you are a life member, joined as a first time member after March 1, or renewed this spring, your current membership expires June 30, 2020.

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](http://aauw.org). Here is the easiest renewal "path" on the new website: From the new home page, click on "membership" in upper right. On the menu below with blue arrows, click on Member Services Database. Then login in as usual. Next look at the menu on the left and, go down near the bottom. Click on "renew my membership." Then you'll be able to pay the total \$83 with credit card and renew membership at all three levels, national, state and local.

You may also renew with a check for \$83, payable to AAUW-RF, and mailed to:

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

If paying by check, please mail your renewal before June 1, 2020 to allow processing time.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

Barb Peterson, Chair

# **May 12th Election for persons in St. Croix County**

There is still time to ask for your absentee ballot at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) but you can also vote in person at your clerk's office

## **Reminder of important election dates:**

**Final Election for 7<sup>th</sup> District Representative - May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Fall Primary - August 11, 2020**

**General Election - November 3, 2020**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** - St. Croix residents will vote on the 7<sup>th</sup> District Representative.

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

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020** - Presidential Election

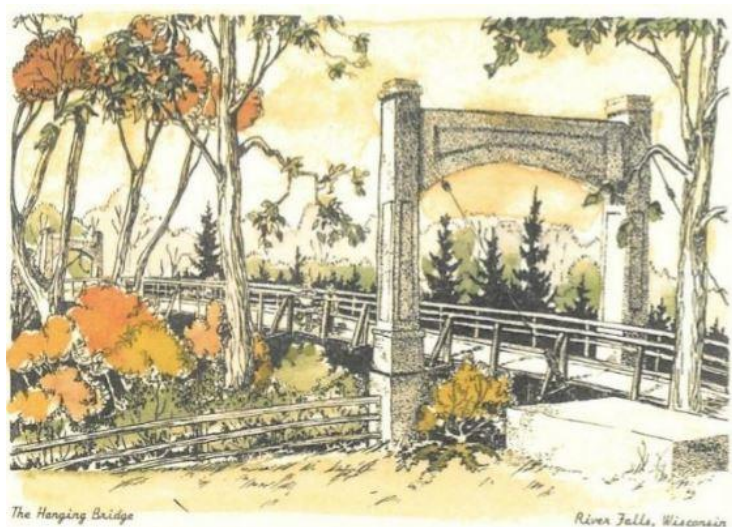
Did you know that you can check [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) to check your past record of voting. It tells you in which elections you registered a vote.

# There is ample time for you to get out the vote for candidates that represent your issues. Volunteer to make calls to remind voters of the election.

## 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](mailto:ldavis4762@aol.com)) if you would like a copy.

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](mailto: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 mail cash/check made out to Kendra Morgan at 229 W Charlotte St #3 for \$10. As we are not having any events or meetings, Kendra will bring the t-shirts when we are able to hold meetings in person.

## More From Kendra Morgan :

### FINANCIAL FOCUS - Tax-deferred Accounts Get (Temporary) Boost from CARES Act - April 14, 2020

You need to primarily rely on yourself to protect your health during the coronavirus. But from a financial standpoint, you may have gotten some relief – or at least some flexibility from the recently passed \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Retirement account holders, including owners of IRAs and 401(k)s are usually required to start taking distributions from these accounts once they reach age 72. The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions (RMDs) for all employer plans and IRAs in 2020, with the exception of defined benefit plans. If you've already taken your distribution for 2020, you can put the funds back in your retirement account if you meet certain requirements.

Of course, if you needed – or will need – the money from the RMD for your cash flow needs, you won't have to return it. But if you don't really need the money, avoiding an RMD in 2020 or returning an RMD to your retirement account will give the funds more time to grow on a tax-deferred basis before the RMDs are once again required in 2021.

Another CARES Act provision allows for the 10% early withdrawal penalty to be waived for withdrawals up to \$100,000 from qualified retirement accounts, including IRAs and 401(k)s, for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief. Qualifying individuals include those who are diagnosed with COVID-19, have a spouse or dependent who is diagnosed with COVID-19 or experience adverse financial consequences as a

result of COVID-19, including quarantines, layoffs, business closures or child care responsibilities. Income tax on the distribution would still be owed but could be paid over a three-year period. Employer plan participants also may increase the amount that can be taken as a loan from a qualified retirement plan from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for 2020. While the CARES Act allows these penalty-free withdrawals and increased plan loan amounts, you will need to contact your plan administrator to determine whether these options are available in your plan.

Even though you may be able to access these funds penalty-free, it doesn't necessarily mean you should do so. Try to exhaust some of the other provisions in the CARES Act first, such as the mortgage or student loan relief, or using the direct payment to bridge the gap on current expenses before taking a distribution or loan from your retirement account. If you decide to take a withdrawal or loan, work with your financial advisor to consider developing strategies to contribute/pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

Please consult with your tax professional before making any CARES Act-related moves with your retirement accounts. Partnering with your tax and financial professionals can help in the decision-making process. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy and keep looking forward to brighter days ahead.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

### **FROM Graduate Women International News (GWI),** March 25, 2020

We are writing to you during these anxious times as the economies of our respective countries react to the daily news, and as we all make adjustments to our deeply entrenched social habits to flatten the curve of the virus. We realize that we are all trying to "hang in there" as the news remains fluid and familiar community institutions are locked down.

As we are all watching our world face an unprecedented public health challenge in the fight against COVID-19, GWI stands in solidarity with all of you and particularly those who are most vulnerable during uncertain circumstances like this. Although the safety and well-being of everyone requires us to physically separate from one another, the GWI Board, Committees, and Office remain committed to our global membership community of graduate women. Through this unprecedented period, GWI will continue doing what it knows best: raising the voice of graduate women around the world and working for the preservation and improvement of women's and girls' fundamental right to education.

GWI knows that in crises, pre-existing social inequalities and injustice are often deepened. We are concerned that girls will be impacted the most by school closings in many countries. They are least likely to return to school and in many areas most vulnerable to drop out. For this reason, GWI is resolutely focused on continuing to pursue its mission as routinely as possible in support of our almost 15,000 members across the world and to remain engaged and energized through this evolving global challenge.



When we come out on the other side of this pandemic, a lot of things will look the same, but, as countries and as a planet, we will be changed forever because we will have been through a profoundly transformative experience.

Dramatically changed conditions can be distracting, but rest assured that GWI remains united and committed to pursuing our mission. Thank you all for your support in these difficult times. Our thoughts are with you in uncertain circumstances like these.

Sincerely,  
GWI Board, Committees and Office

## **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights “COVID is a colossal test of leadership”**

On 9 April, GWI participated in the UN Human Rights Council virtual informal conversation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Michelle Bachelet**, on the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this first ever virtual informal conversation, the High Commissioner said that, COVID “is a colossal test of leadership”. She urged global unity to promote strong, multilateral, cooperative COVID-19 exit strategies to ensure that extensive economic and social measures were taken in every country to minimize the further growth of inequalities. She noted that the continued funding to civil society organizations was particularly important so they could continue their human rights-based work. She also noted that, while school closure in many countries raised concern about deepening educational inequalities, the situation also presented an opportunity to address those very inequalities and provide access to education for all children. Summaries of the discussion in English and French can be found on the UN Office at Geneva News and Media [page](#).

## **Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Gender Lens Article Research**

CFUW has published an article that includes helpful tips and recourses for how CFUW members can apply a gender lens to their research. Using a gender lens is essential for the advancement of gender equality because it allows for greater insight into social issues. A gender lens raises questions of why social processes, standards, and opportunities differ systematically between men, women, and gender diverse people. Contact the CFUW Web page to access the article. Graduate Women International (GWI) commends CFUW for their continued work towards the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life and the advancement of gender equality to the top of national and global agendas

## **Global Women International VP Marketing, Glenda Hecksher, receives tribute to 40 years of career**

The Mexican National Lottery honoured GWI Vice-President (VP) Marketing and Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) Coordinator of International Relations (CIR), Glenda Hecksher, with a tribute for her 40 years of career by publishing a complete series of lotto tickets featuring herself and her artwork. These tickets were nationally distributed for one full day. GWI wholeheartedly congratulates Ms. Hecksher on this very important recognition.

## — Other information and events —

23 April	Generation Equality Forum Mexico
23 April	UWE Meet & Greet- "Illuminations & Inspirations," Dublin
7-8 May	5th Edition of the Swiss Olympes de la Parole, Switzerland
15-17 May	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
19 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global
25 May-5 June	World Day Against Child Labour, Global
28 May	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global
12 June	Global
19 June	World Refugee Day, Global
20 June	International Widows Day, Global
23 June	Human Rights Council, 44th session, United Nations, Geneva
25 June-3 July	Generation Equality Forum Paris
7-10 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
15 July	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)
18-20 September	

## 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 – CANCELED** – was going to be 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 – CANCELED - was going to be** - 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

**April 18 – CANCELED** - STEM Program: Girls in SCIENCE at UWRF

**April 17-18- CANCELED - State AAUW Convention in LaCrosse, Wisconsin**

**May 12 – Meeting via Zoom 6:30 p.m.**



### **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.