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# FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

## Branch Newsletter:

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

**JUNE 2020**

**Our next regular AAUW meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8 when Kendra Morgan, branch member and Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, will speak on Financial Security for Women. The business meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. with program at 7:00. The location and formats for that meeting are still to be determined. We will follow public health guidance to keep everyone as safe as possible. Watch for further information as our plans develop.**

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Suzanne Hagen, Branch President

### SUCCESS, ACTION, SUPPORT

We're living through difficult and challenging times right now. I hope this finds you well and "Standing Strong." That phrase is highlighted these days in National AAUW messages. It echoes our organization's 139 year history of strong women advocating for equity, security and opportunity.



**SUCCESS:** Please celebrate our branch's great work! We just reached the highest accomplishment level as part of National AAUW's 5 Star Recognition program. We met all the criteria in the areas of Programs, Advancement, Communication & External Relations, Public Policy & Research, and Governance & Sustainability. In the notification email, AAUW leaders stated, "Your branch has officially crossed the finish line as our fifth branch to achieve all five stars across the entire AAUW membership network. You should be incredibly proud of this achievement!"

With Five Star status we will receive recognition on the national website, can post the recognition badge on our website and social media, and our success story will be featured in an upcoming Membership Matters news hub. We also will have special access to on-line briefings by national AAUW leaders. **A huge thank you to all our members. Your work, creativity and commitment has made this recognition possible!**

**ACTION:** Even though we are not meeting face-to-face these days, board members are busy planning for the 2020-21 program year. You should have received an email from me recently asking about your interest in one of our branch's committees or projects (see the committee list posted later in this newsletter). I hope to hear from you soon about your involvement preferences. We have had an excellent history of shared participation and rewarding, successful work. Let's continue that in the year ahead. Please also review our strategic plan, posted on our [branch website](#), which describes our current priorities.

**SUPPORT:** Finally, please continue to reach out to each other as friends and fellow members. I know people value the occasional call, FaceTime chat, email, text or hand-written note. (Yes, many of us still do that to much appreciation!) Together we get through . . . and move forward!

## AAUW SPEAKS OUT

Please go to our updated national website at [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) for timely articles such as:

- Considering COVID-19 through a Gender Lens
- AAUW Stands United Against Racism
- Women and Student Loans in the Time of COVID-19
- Fast Facts: Moms in the Workplace
- 3 Ways to Motivate Civic Engagement: How to Get Involved in the 2020 Elections
- AAUW Urges Reversal of Title IX Rollback
- Stop Silencing Survivors of Sexual Assault

Also check out several excellent webinars at AAUW's [Equity Network](#). Scroll down on this page for webinars on such topics as 2020 Election-Voter Access and Education and Effective Advocacy During Covid-19.

No login is required unless you are managing your member account.

## AAUW INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Please consider volunteering for in one or more of these areas. Many hands make light work!**

**Communication (social, media):** messaging to and assisting, as needed, Facebook page coordinator (Kendra Morgan) and newsletter/website editor (Cheryl Maplethorpe); submitting information to area papers, etc.

**Fundraising** (e.g., notecards, Moose brunch, etc.): assisting with organizing, serving, and generating fund raising ideas

**Booksale** (assisting with scheduling, locating, publicizing, managing book collection and disposal of our major annual fund-raiser)

**Scholarships (Chippewa Valley Technical College; National Conference of College Women Student Leaders)** - informing potential applicants of scholarship opportunities, encouraging and reviewing applications, recommending recipients

**STEM** (Middle school science essay contest; Girls in Science program w/UWRF) – assisting with publicity, assessing essays and recommending recipients; assisting Girls in Science UWRF coordinator as needed (e.g., seeking grant \$\$, gathering welcome materials, refreshments)

**Membership** – generating and implementing ideas to grow our membership

**Community Outreach** – (e.g., City Sampler, Pay Equity events) – staffing tables on UWRF/CVTC campuses to share information (single day events of 2-4 hrs per day)

**Candidate Forums** – arranging public forums for candidates for local and state elections as feasible; potential coordination with RF city government and media

**Role Equity Model** – identifying women in the RF region to receiving the annual Role Model for Equity Award

**Arranging AAUW hosts** – identifying and scheduling member teams to provide refreshments for monthly meetings

**Programming** – offering program ideas; assisting Program VP with planning and arrangements for speakers, films, etc.

**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 May 12, 2020**

Our first virtual meeting on Zoom thanks to Elaine Baumann.  
Recognizing the need for continuity, it was important to still have a meeting.

### **President's Report**

The Rev. Barb deSouza is a new member

Renewals continue on line and through Tina Kelly. Thanks to those who have already taken care of renewing their membership.

### **Several events have been cancelled due to the pandemic:**

NCCWSL – the registration fees for the students were refunded to us

WI State Convention – may be located in La Crosse next year instead of Madison

Book Sale – postponed potentially until spring of 2021

Stem Conference (Girls In Science) moved from April to next November 18<sup>th</sup>. Tentative date

### **5 Star Program Process**

We received a letter of congratulations from Kim Churches for achieving our star in Public Policy and Research. We accomplished it by having a Public Policy person in Barb Peterson, and we had Patty Schachtner speak in March.

Programming – the cancelled program for April by Kendra on Financial Security for Women will be moved to our opening meeting in Sept. whether we are virtual or face to face.

Minutes from the last general meeting were approved  
Treasurer's Report approved.

### **New Business**

5 Star Criteria – our strategic plan was attached to the email Cheryl sent out; this was based on our SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis, done with input gathered from members earlier this year.

Our goals are similar to the WI State level goals: growing our membership, getting information out to the public on who we are and what our mission is, aligning our priorities with National.

We wish to engage more with the WI State Org. We will create action teams of 2-3 people in each of the areas where we want to improve and move toward star level. We will help members to identify areas of interest where they can best become involved to carry out our plan, and ensure continuity, encourage new members and ideas as we move forward.

Motion to adopt the new strategic plan was approved

A succession plan (previously emailed to members) to encourage participation of members in branch leadership role and to provide smooth leadership transitions was reviewed and discussed.

Motion to adopt the succession plan was approved.

## **Other Business**

Read the article sent out by Cheryl Maplethorpe on How Not TO Get Covid-19. It's worth your time.

## **Installation of New Officers**

Led by Kay Montgomery reading the promise for branch officers

President-Elect Elaine Baumann

Co-chairs of Programming Catherine Flowers and Gwen Paulson

## **Continuation of officers from this year:**

President Suzanne Hagen

Membership Kendra Morgan

Treasurer Tina Kelly

Secretary Gretchen Toman

Brief discussion of program ideas for the coming year.

Meeting adjourned 7:15

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Toman

## **BOARD MEETING (Virtual via Zoom)**

June 12, 2020

In Attendance: S Hagen, E Baumann, L Davis, A Gustafson, G Paulson, T Kelly, C Maplethorpe, K Montgomery, M Olle-LaJoie, G Toman

## **Updates from Suzanne Hagen**

Our Branch 5 Star Status - currently we have achieved 4 stars. The last piece for the 5<sup>th</sup> star has been submitted, but as yet we have no confirmation from National.

Membership updates – We have 27 renewals so far, which is good.

Finances - We have roughly \$4,000 in operating funds,  
\$2,200 in Scholarship money and \$2,500 in travel funds.

It looks like the WI State Convention will be in LaCrosse next year and not Madison, to not waste the planning efforts that went into the cancelled convention from this year.

## **Potential Programming for 2020-2021**

Gwen Paulson, Catherine Flowers and Suzanne Hagen met to start the process.

Thoughts on locations for our meetings: since the RF Public Library is not taking any reservations for rooms at this time . We need more room than the community room at First National can provide, since we need to maintain social distancing.

Glen Park Pavilion is possible (\$120.00 for a reservation), but is there tech set-up?

First Congregational Church fellowship hall would be possible for an in-person meeting place, for those who want to gather, and others could connect via Zoom. But most meetings may be over Zoom. We need

this larger space for the programs that may be a wider draw for maybe the Oct. and March programs. If/when the library does begin taking room reservations, that would be our first choice for meetings next year.

It would be good to have someone come in to speak about social justice or racism given the current issues. AAUW's website does have some racism resources as well.

It was suggested that we cancel the hospitality part of our meetings, considering the difficulties that snacks create. We could serve bottled water or people could bring their own beverages, snacks Also suggested, ordering take out from a local place and have "boxed dinner" together in any location.

**Fall Initiatives**

Formation of committees

Get Out The Vote - Resources are available on the AAUW National website; committee may form this summer to work on this

The Moose Brunch - we don't know yet if it is happening, but also, their auditors were questioning the Moose Lodge sharing their funds with other non-profits. More information later on whether or not it will be possible for us to sell tickets for it. We are financially fine if we don't do the brunch this year.

STEM @ UWRF (Girls in Science) is currently rescheduled for Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, but there is no word on whether this event is possible, in the usual format given current restrictions on groups, outside groups, and a 10% budget cut at UWRF.

We will wait for details. It may end up being a virtual event.

Branch contributions to National AAUW Greatest Needs Fund: After the December auction, our branch contributed \$1,000 and individuals from our branch also donated \$1,940 !

We may be a smaller branch than some, but we are mighty (and generous).

Meeting adjourned at 12:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Toman

**FINANCE REPORT**

Tina Kelly, Finance Chair

**AAUW-River Falls Finance Report - April 28, 2020 – May 31, 2020**

Checking balance 4/28/2020	\$ 9210.93
Receipts AAUW Membership Dues	\$ 863

<i>Total receipts (4/28/2020 – 5/31/2020</i>	\$ 863
Disbursements	
Membership Dues to AAUW	\$1335
Refund dues overpayment	59
Postage/flowers	40.70
<i>Total disbursements ( 4/28/2020 – 5/31/2020</i>	\$1434.70

#### **Balances 5/31/2020**

Checking: \$8639.23  
Savings: \$2182.19  
Total: \$10821.42

### **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**

Renewal dues for life members are \$24.00 which covers state and local dues.

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

# **August 11 Election Fall Partisan Primary**

There is still time to ask for your absentee ballot at [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)  
Absentee ballots will be sent the end of June.

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

**Fall Primary - August 11, 2020**  
**General Election - November 3, 2020**

**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 go to [myvote.wi.gov](https://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), 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 fi-

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.

## Scholarship winner:

Here is the name of our CVTC Foundation Scholarship winner:

### **Aura Erickson**

She is a native of Hudson, WI, and a student in the Nursing Associate Degree program.

Aura received \$500 from AAUW. We will share more information about her in subsequent newsletters.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

### **JUNE 2020 INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

#### **From Abigail Weinberg, *Mother Jones*, May 20, 2020**

May 20<sup>th</sup> marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, who documented the reprehensible living conditions that British soldiers encountered during the Crimean War. This year, the date holds special significance in honoring the nurses who are combating the coronavirus on the front lines.

[Newsletters@motherjones.com](mailto:Newsletters@motherjones.com)

#### **World Bank Appointment, *The Economist*, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

The World Bank appointed Carmen Reinhart, a professor at Harvard, as its new chief economist. Born in Cuba, Ms. Reinhart moved to America aged ten and has written widely about financial crises, boom and bust, and contagion.

#### **Tendol Gyalzur, Refugee who founded Orphanages in Tibet, Dies**

By Stephen Kurczy, New York Times, May 15, 2020

After losing her parents during the failed Tibetan uprising, she fled to India, crossing the Himalayas on foot and on horseback to safety, became a nurse in Germany, and later worked with the Chinese government to aid needy children in her homeland. She spent decades in exile and was living in Switzerland when she returned to Tibet. The sight of children rummaging in the garbage moved her to open an orphanage, which has taken in more than 300 children.

She died May, 3<sup>rd</sup>. in Chur, Switzerland. She was believed to be 69. The cause was Covid-19, her son, Songsten Gyalzur, said.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/15/obituaries/tendol-gyalzur-dead-coronavirus.html>

## **Female Rowers in Venice Are Delivering Groceries to the Elderly by Gondola**, by Cailey Rizzo, Travel and Leisure, May 6, 2020

As northern Italy, the origin of the coronavirus outbreak in Europe, prepares to return to real life as its quarantine lockdown lifts, women in Venice are delivering groceries to elderly people in the best way they know how — by gondola.

“Row Venice,” an all-female non-profit dedicated to preserving traditional Venetian gondolier techniques, is delivering food to the elderly and families who cannot shop for themselves, according to The Associated Foreign Press.

The gondoliers row along the canals of Venice, bringing organic produce to the Venetians who need them the most. The rowers are also acting as delivery people on behalf of a farmhouse outside of Venice. Venetians can order their produce online and have it delivered.

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/volunteer-charity/venice-canal-gondoliers-deliver-groceries>

## **Gift to CARE, International Rescue Committee to Provide Support for Women and Girls in Pandemic Response**

PR Newswire, New York and San Francisco, April 30, 2020

As the global race to combat the spread of COVID-19 continues, CARE and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) today announced a \$5 million gift from Sheryl Sandberg and Tom Bernthal. This critical funding will strengthen efforts to support women and girls, who find themselves disproportionately on the frontlines battling this pandemic and will be hurt most by the virus, especially in the poorest and most fragile countries.

The pandemic is having a profound impact on women and girls, especially those living in poverty, in conflict settings, and in refugee camps, according to the findings from a Global Rapid Gender Analysis by CARE and the IRC. This gift from the Sheryl Sandberg and Dave Goldberg Family Fund will help support:

**Preventing domestic violence:** Home is not always a safe place during quarantine, especially when coupled with economic hardship.

**Maintaining health access:** As limited healthcare resources are diverted to the crisis, there is a risk that women's health needs will be shortchanged. Women must have access to quality and safe health care, including sexual and reproductive health.

**Positioning women as leaders:** A global recession will hit hard for women and girls, yet they are often left out of decision making. Sharing the power must be a priority as economic rebuilding begins.

<https://news.yahoo.com/gift-care-international-rescue-committee-193400871.html>

## The Coronavirus Is a Disaster for Feminism

Pandemics affect men and women differently, BY HELEN LEWIS, THE ATLANTIC, March 19, 2020

For those with caring responsibilities, an infectious-disease outbreak is unlikely to give them time to write *King Lear* or develop a theory of optics. A pandemic magnifies all existing inequalities (even as politicians insist this is not the time to talk about anything other than the immediate crisis). Working from home in a white-collar job is easier; employees with salaries and benefits will be better protected; self-isolation is less taxing in a spacious house than a cramped apartment. But one of the most striking effects of the coronavirus will be to send many couples back to the 1950s. Across the world, women's independence will be a silent victim of the pandemic.

Purely as a physical illness, the coronavirus appears to affect women less severely. But in the past few days, the conversation about the pandemic has broadened: We are not just living through a public-health crisis, but an economic one. As much of normal life is suspended for three months or more, job losses are inevitable. At the same time, school closures and household isolation are moving the work of caring for children from the paid economy—nurseries, schools, babysitters—to the unpaid one. The coronavirus smashes up the bargain that so many dual-earner couples have made in the developed world: *We can both work, because someone else is looking after our children*. Instead, couples will have to decide which one of them takes the hit.

Many stories of arrogance are related to this pandemic. Among the most exasperating is the West's failure to learn from history: the Ebola crisis in three African countries in 2014; Zika in 2015–6; and recent outbreaks of SARS, swine flu, and bird flu. Academics who studied these episodes found that they had deep, long-lasting effects on gender equality. "Everybody's income was affected by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa," Julia Smith, a health-policy researcher at Simon Fraser University, told *The New York Times* this month, but "men's income returned to what they had made pre-outbreak faster than women's income." The distorting effects of an epidemic can last for years, Clare Wenham, an assistant professor of global-health policy at the London School of Economics, told me. "We also saw declining rates of childhood vaccination [during Ebola]." Later, when these children contracted preventable diseases, their mothers had to take time off work.

And this particular disruption could last months, rather than weeks. Some women's lifetime earnings will never recover. With the schools closed, many fathers will undoubtedly step up, but that won't be universal.

Other lessons from the Ebola epidemic were just as stark—and similar, if perhaps smaller, effects will be seen during this crisis in the developed world. School closures affected girls' life chances, be-

cause many dropped out of education. (A rise in teenage-pregnancy rates exacerbated this trend.) Domestic and sexual violence rose. And more women died in childbirth because resources were diverted elsewhere. “There’s a distortion of health systems, everything goes towards the outbreak,” said Wenham,

The coronavirus crisis will be global and long-lasting, economic as well as medical. However, it also offers an opportunity. This could be the first outbreak where gender and sex differences are recorded, and taken into account by researchers and policy makers.

What we do now will affect the lives of millions of women and girls in future outbreaks.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/feminism-womens-rights-coronavirus-covid19/608302/>

**Women must be at the heart of our recovery from the pandemic,** By [Lise Kingo](#),  
*CEO and Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact. Ethical Corporation, May 2, 2020*

**Comment: Our inability to address growing inequalities, not least for women, has worsened the Covid-19 crisis, but there may be a silver lining, argues Lise Kingo of UN Global Compact**

Before Covid-19, the United Nations warned that inequality is growing for more than 70% of the global population, exacerbating the risks of divisions and hampering economic and social development. Worst impacted are women. According to the World Economic Forum’s 2020 Gender Gap Report, it will take 257 years to achieve economic gender parity – or 10 generations of women.

Our failure to create a more socially just world before Covid-19 has significantly worsened the current crisis, and it could hamper our ability to recover better faster as a global community.

As we set out to rebuild a better world, the UN Global Compact urges businesses and governments to target gender equality as one of the most promising pathways towards a faster, more equitable and resilient recovery.

At the frontline of Covid-19 women play an invaluable role. They constitute 70% of the global health workforce, and bravely risk their own health and safety to care for others, often without access to sufficient personal protective equipment. Women often shoulder the domestic burden of caring for their families and sick and elderly relatives.

Women are hit hardest by the social and economic impact of Covid-19. ILO, the International Labour Organization, recently estimated that over the next three months we will see the loss of the equivalent of 200 million full-time jobs. And the World Bank has predicted that close to 50 million people will be thrown into extreme poverty, wiping away 20 years of work towards its eradication. Most at risk are the 2 billion poor workers, most of them in emerging and developing countries,

many of them women. They live at the brink of extreme poverty without any rights or social protection.

Many businesses right now are fighting for their survival, and a looming global recession is forcing companies to think very short term. But it is important to underscore that economic recovery and sustainable development are not opposites. We need to avoid a scenario where companies say: “We’re dealing with Covid-19 now; we’ll return to our commitment to gender when we can.”

### **Economic parity between men and women could add as much as \$28tn, or 26%, to global annual GDP**

Gender inequality is not only a pressing moral and social issue, but also a critical economic challenge. According to McKinsey Global Institute, economic parity between men and women could add as much as \$28tn, or 26%, to global annual GDP.

As part of our Target Gender Equality programme, designed to accelerate progress on women’s participation in top management and supervisory boards, and inspired by the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs), we have looked at how companies can recover better and faster:

**Give women a seat at the table** - For every three men quoted in the media about Covid-19, only one woman is quoted. To ensure equal representation of men and women in decision-making, a primary step that all companies can take is to ensure that women’s perspectives are represented on everything from taskforces on Covid-19 response efforts and recovery strategies, to the board and executive committee of the company.

**Promote equal division of domestic and care work** - Businesses can promote equal division of domestic and care work by supporting working parents through equal parental leave and flexible workplace policies. They can apply lessons learned from telecommuting and flexible work during the Covid-19 lockdown to create a “new normal” and develop long-term working arrangements that support all employees

**Promote women-owned businesses** - Let’s ensure that women business owners get at least 30% of all the recovery and bailout funds that are being announced by governments around the world. Businesses can actively support women-owned businesses and entrepreneurship when re-establishing and growing their global supply chains.

**Support decent work in supply chains** - Work with global suppliers to ensure that women workers have access to decent work, social protection and equal opportunities without fear of discrimination, abuse or loss of freedom.

The Covid-19 pandemic is sweeping the world in the same year that the United Nations is commemorating its 75th anniversary. There is a lot of hope in that. It reminds us that we, as a human community, are able to lift ourselves up from our deepest and darkest hour to rebuild a new and better world on a set of shared values and principles.

The UN was founded in the wake of two devastating world wars with the understanding that to save future generations from the atrocities of war, nations must come together in multilateral co-

operation to protect the dignity and worth of every human being. That vision is as relevant and important in the wake of this pandemic as it was then.

While we are all navigating uncharted waters, one thing is for certain: to build back better, we must build back more gender-inclusive. Together, we can disrupt gender stereotypes and show that leadership and decision-making should be shared responsibilities. Let's create a world where the worth of men and women count equally. It will be a better world for everyone.

<http://www.ethicalcorp.com/women-must-be-heart-our-recovery-pandemic>

### — Other information and events —

28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour, Global
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global
20 June	World Refugee Day, Global
23 June	International Widows Day, Global
25 June-3 July	Human Rights Council, 44th session, United Nations, Geneva
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
18-20 September	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)

### Articles of Interest:

Talk about women in STEM! This young woman solved a 50 year old math problem that no one had been able to figure out! See the article [HERE](#) (put cursor over the word and hit CONTROL+click).

Talent is wasted because of race and gender bias. Click [HERE](#).

## **River Falls Branch: PRELIMINARY 2020-21 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 p.m. Location to be determined.

**September 8** – Kendra Morgan on financial security for women

**October 13** – Alison Page (CEO of Western WI Health; previously chief safety officer for Fairview Health Services) on health care issues/responses/projections in pandemic era

**November 10** - Carole Mottaz on strategies for community action

**December 8** – Holiday gathering and fundraiser, details to be determined

**January 16 or 23, 2021** (Saturday) – Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Program at 1:30 - STEM program & present awards to Middle School essay contest winner(s)

**February 9** – To Be Announced

**March 9** – Jane Hoffmann, River Falls educator/Historical Preservation Committee member - “Down on Main Street: A Historical Tour”. Local History/Video presentation (& model unit for engaging elementary students)

**April 13** – Gay Ward & Margaret Phinney (UWRF Education Dept. faculty) Teaching Social Justice (Also our annual business meeting to elect officers & approve next budget)

**May 11** – Final gathering of program year and installation of officers. Details to be determined.



### **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.