



December 2023 Branch Briefs

President's Message

Hello Members,

You are invited along with a guest to our annual Holiday Dinner at Bigfoot Country Club on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00 pm. RSVP's were due on November 30th to our treasurer, Carla. Please contact her with your check and reservation. Hope to see you there.



Introducing my new grandbaby Ramona at two months. Babies are so joyful. I am very excited to welcome two new board members. Susan Steele has stepped up to President Elect and Bonnie Diehl will take over as Communications Chair beginning next month. They shared some information about themselves in this issue.

Thank you to Joan Lagerlof who took photos at our "Hats" Fundraiser. I included a page for you to enjoy at the end of this issue.

All the best to our Geneva Lake AAUW branch members Happy Holidays and a Wonderful 2024 to you and your loved ones!

Nina Ruskey

Introducing Susan Steele - President Elect

Susan is an English and Poli Sci Major with Journalism minor from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and attained a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She's attended and received certifications from Omega Institute's Relax and Write and Mindful Writer's meditations, Yale University Certificate in Family Stories and Short Stories, Gotham Writers and Writer's Digest programs in NY.

Her work career started during high school while wearing a white uniform. First at the Fontana Bakery counter (loved those cookies), then kitchen help at Golden Years and College Camp as a banquet waitress, until she retired it for good during college after working at the Crow's Nest.

She was a feature writer for the *Madison Select* and *Madison State Journal* during college. Upon graduation, she worked in Chicago publishing, developed real estate licensing curriculum and marketing, LaSalle Street zoning and development, then divorce, products liability and medical negligence in Tulsa.

After moving to Iowa when her son was in first grade, she became a staff writer for *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* and managed the Aegon Insurance commercial real estate investment portfolio and closing and post-closing departments. In addition, developed budget, project managed, and received around \$3.0 in grants to conduct economic development and beautification projects and developing communication for community issues.

After her divorce, she received her Master's in Public Administration working as a city manager in Nebraska, New Mexico and Pennsylvania. She now provides individuals, partnerships, organizations and communities with trusted change assistance. This can be anywhere from local government and community outreach on clean water and environmental issues and project managing their economic development and infrastructure capital improvements to individual intuitive life and relationship coaching.

Other community activities include: Assisting residents at Walworth County Health Center with their life stories, Geneva Lake Conservancy Board member, Chair of Geneva Lake Conservancy Outreach Committee, Member of Geneva Lake Conservancy Advocacy Committee, Fontana Centennial Committee Member.

By Susan Steele

Introducing Bonnie Diehl - Communications/Branch Briefs

Bonnie Diehl was born and raised on a cranberry marsh in northern Wisconsin. She's been an active member of AAUW for over 30 years. Bonnie has a PhD in Biochemistry from Ann Arbor but has spent the last 40 years on the east coast. At Johns Hopkins, Bonnie developed and was Program Chair for the Biotechnology Graduate program when it was a new burgeoning field. She has a passion for science pedagogy. With three children and soon-to-be three grandchildren, Bonnie cherishes the joy and connection family brings. Bonnie dearly loves all 9 of her siblings. She plays tennis and cribbage avidly (always looking for a game, interested?), knits and reads a lot (mostly nonfiction).

By Bonnie Diehl

Starting in January, Bonnie will take over the Communications position for our branch. You can contact her at bdiehl81@gmail.com or call 908-625-0394.

A message from Karla Tildahl

I would like to thank my fellow AAUW Geneva Lake Branch members for their love and support during my husband Brent's short illness and death. Thank you for food, visits, flowers, cards, phone calls and your presence at the memorial. I have made many dear friends over the years. I have belonged to AAUW and I felt surrounded by your love.

It is also heartwarming to see all the new members and how they are stepping up to take leadership positions.

by Karla Tildahl

Save the Date - Board Meeting

Save the date for our AAUW Board Meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the Barrett Memorial Library in Williams Bay. It will start at 12:00 noon. Bring a lunch/beverage and I will provide a treat.

By Nina Ruskey



Interest Groups

Bluestockings

Bluestockings will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 12th at Noon. They will discuss, *West with Giraffes* with Karen DeFalco facilitating. The location is at Kathy McCarville's at N 7258 Country Side Lane in Elkhorn. Please bring a sandwich to share with soups, dessert and beverage provided. Kindly RSVP by Dec. 8th to KathyMcCarville21@gmail.com or plfdrawles@aol.com

By Kathy McCarville

Culinary Questors

Culinary Questors is seeking hostesses for their monthly themed dinners February through December of 2024. Please contact Carolyn Langner at cjlangner@gmail.com or Karen DeFalco 815-953-5979 or kdefalco1@gmail.com. You are encouraged to discuss your idea or date with them. CQ meets for lunch from October through March and in the evening during the months of April through September. It is usually the first Wednesday of the month.

Public Policy

The next Public Policy meeting is December 12th at 6:30 (note the time change) at the home of Kathy Walsh, 775 Brickley Dr., Fontana.

We will be finalizing a letter that will be sent to local news publications asking them to send several questions to local school board candidates. Our goal is to get information on a candidate's stand on important issues to give voters a chance to compare.

The bookmarks we had printed, providing election information and a link to MyVote to direct them to their representatives, local, state and national, have been positively received. These will be available at various AAUW events in December. If you would like to pass them out to others outside our membership, TERRIFIC! Let me know!

Kathy Walsh
Public Policy Chair
kath3032@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on **Wednesday, December 27th at Grand Geneva Cafe at Noon.** The holiday decorations will still be displayed which are so festive. Here is a link to the menu for the Grand Cafe which is where we will have lunch.

<https://www.grandgeneva.com/restaurants/grand-cafe/lunch-menu>. Please RSVP to Nina Ruskey at nruskey16@gmail.com or text her at 262-745-1351.

Lunch Bunch meets the last week of the month with Barbara Lucksinger as the chairperson. If you would like to propose a future lunch meeting, contact Barb at bluck10@gmail.com

Go Sip

GO-SIP" II (Get Out, Socialize, Initiate and Participate)

Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 11th, 10:00-Noon!

Barrett Memorial Library (65 W. Geneva St. Williams Bay)

Topic: LAUGHTER!

A spin off from our Program Meeting: Aging with Attitude, we will meet in January (just when we need to focus on more laughter, as it is the best known medicine) to connect and discuss this important and fun topic!

Everyone is welcome as our own AAUW Member, Emily Hummel (Certified Laughter Yoga Instructor) will lead us in discussion on The Benefits of LAUGHTER as well as guiding us in gentle Laughter Yoga Exercises! (No exercise clothing is necessary! LoL!)

Bring your own coffee, tea or water to SIP on and your energy! We have a wealth of knowledge in our group and we want to listen, learn and laugh with each other. If you plan on attending this gathering, please RSVP to Emily via text (include your name) to 815-751-3479 so we may have a rough idea of how many to expect. Thank You!

By Patti Stejskal

AAUW Board Members

President: Nina Ruskey 262-745-1351 nruskey16@gmail.com

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Website Manager: Judy Moser 262-394-5047 judithlmoser@gmail.com

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Calendar

Dec. 6 - 12:30 Culinary Questors - Nina Ruskey's

Dec. 7 - 6:00 pm. Holiday Party - Bigfoot Country Club

Dec. 12 - 12:00 Noon - Bluestockings - Kathy McCarville's

Dec. 12 - 6:30 pm. - Public Policy Meeting - Kathy Walsh's home

Dec. 27 - 12:00 Noon - Lunch Bunch -Grand Geneva - Grand Cafe

Jan. 8 - 12:00 Noon - Board Meeting -Barrett Memorial Library

Jan. 11 - 10:00 a.m. Go-Sip - Barrett Memorial Library

Jan. 16 - 12:00 Noon - Bluestockings - Lake Geneva Public Library
(hosted by Nina, bring sack lunch/drink, coffee, dessert provided)

April 26-27 - AAUW State Convention - Mt. Pleasant (Racine) -
Delta Hotel



Make an Impact!
Join AAUW
Legacy Circle

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Contact: Lucy Harvey lois3545@aol.com; Bonnie Diehl bdiehl81@gmail.com