

## Public Policy Committee Notes

Hard at work, great strides are being made. At the last meeting of the Public Policy committee, final edits were made on a letter addressed to area newspapers asking them to interview candidates running for local school boards. Included in the letter are suggested questions to ask candidates including one question concerning book banning. The Public Policy committee is chaired by Kathy Walsh who keeps us abreast of policy issues relevant to AAUW. To get the Facts About Public, Private and Charter Schools, Homeschooling, Vouchers and Accountability, visit:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Mkb9a0ArX84ZNkuEbTi\\_LOqLc1g8Vy2/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Mkb9a0ArX84ZNkuEbTi_LOqLc1g8Vy2/edit)

We encourage members to write to their representatives. Consider using this format:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zGKwvONjnZM5bMAt17z0I0IszX8yM5S4/edit>

## 2023 Holiday Party Fun

There was singing, laughing, spirits and good cheer! Carla and Doris greeted us and sold raffle tickets. We mingled, snacked and enjoyed a beverage or two (or three). Music was provided by David Rasmussen and Steve Sremac. We enjoyed a delicious meal and warmly welcomed our new President-Elect, Susan Steele. Then the real fun began under the direction of Sue Greben where we sang many a Christmas carol including hand, wing and fin gestures. Check out photos throughout the newsletter.



President Nina Ruskey



Kathy Walsh

## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Public Policy and Holiday Party.
2. Message from our President, Legacy Circle and Board Members.
3. Editor's note and GO-SIP
4. STEM and Bluestockings
5. Photos from Holiday Party



Carla and Doris

Made with Visme



## Message from President Nina Ruskey



As we welcome in the new year with reflection and resolutions, it is fitting to recommit to our AAUW mission of equity for all. AAUW strives to reach equity in education, economic security and leadership.

"AAUW's policy work connects and rallies advocates at the local, state, national, and global levels to empower women and girls. We use lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women."

Our AAUW State Convention will be April 26 and 27th in Racine County. I am looking forward to meeting members from various branches, National leaders and others who will present topics of interest. I am enjoying being on the planning committee and hope you will join me at the conference this spring. Our logo is Architects of our Future.

Although our Geneva Lake Branch does not meet in January, February and March for monthly programs, there is good work being done by various committees. The programs and membership committees continue planning for 2024. I recently was in touch with Valerie Schmitz who said that the Scholarship Committee has begun their work of promoting the availability of our Scholarship to high schools in Walworth County. I have also been in touch with Pattie Stejskal who is organizing the Great Decisions Program this winter. Morning and evening discussion groups will be meeting soon. Culinary Questors will resume in February and Bluestockings, Public Policy and Lunch Bunch will continue monthly. I am so inspired by the work we do and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

### LEGACY CIRCLE

Bonnie Diehl is one of the representatives for the state of Wisconsin at national Legacy Circle. Legacy Circle is an AAUW organization whose members have bequeathed funds to AAUW through planned estate giving. You are encouraged to join because 19% of AAUW funding is derived from its Legacy Circle members. Join today. It's easy! Contact Bonnie.



Susan Steele



Sue Greben

### Board Members

- President: Nina Ruskey 262-745-1351 nruskey16@gmail.com
- President Elect: Susan Steele 814-571-7616 steeles203@gmail.com
- Past President: Sheila Venteicher 262-245-9178 s@venteicher.org
- Secretary: Pattie Stejskal 847-477-9227 pattiestejskal@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Carla Olson 989-600-0287 AAUWGLtreas@gmail.com
- Co VPs Programs:
  - Mauri Zinni 630-639-8280 zinnim@att.net
  - Paula Jarzemsky 608-445-6108 pajarzem@wisc.edu
- Co VPs Membership:
  - Suzanne Edwards 630-202-0703 sedward8910@gmail.com
  - Louise Zitzler 262-745-9144 lzitzler@yahoo.com
- STEM:
  - Valerie Schmitz 920-205-4116 valerie@wiredx4.com
  - Sheila Venteicher 262-245-9178 s@venteicher.org
- Branch Briefs:
  - Bonnie Diehl 908-625-0394 bdiehl81@gmail.com
- Website Manager:
  - Judy Moser 262-394-5047 judithmoser@gmail.com
- Facebook Manager:
  - Mary Winingham 608-395-5485 marywiningham@gmail.com







Warmest welcome to Volume 24 Issue 1 of the AAUW Geneva Lake Branch Briefs. I am excited to be your new Editor. What a warm welcome I received at the Holiday Party, starting right at the front door where Carla greeted me and assured me that she received my check! Nina showed much appreciation for new members stepping up to the plate to volunteer. It was great to connect with our new President-Elect, Sue whose sister-in-law was my best friend in grade school! Small world. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms. Any missing notes or dates will be included in the next issue (i.e. program committee)

Your new Editor  
Bonnie Diehl, PhD

## 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!

## IMPORTANT DATES

January 8th, 12:00 noon: AAUW Board Meeting  
(Barrett Library, Wms Bay)  
January 10th, 6:30 pm: Public Policy  
January 11th, 10:00 am: GO-SIP  
January 16th, 12:00 noon: Bluestocking  
January 24, 12:00 noon: Lunch Bunch at Two Sisters Thai  
RSVP Janice Lyon  
708.899.2734 (text)



Make an Impact!  
Join AAUW  
Legacy Circle

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Contact: Lucy Harvey [lois3545@aol.com](mailto:lois3545@aol.com); Bonnie Diehl [bdiehl81@gmail.com](mailto:bdiehl81@gmail.com)



## STEM COMMITTEE MEETS

The Geneva Lake AAUW STEM Committee is responsible for coordinating and communicating our STEM Scholarship each year. This work may include serving as a liaison to a school as their point of contact for questions and to encourage applicants to apply, reviewing scholarship applications at the end of April, presenting scholarships at school scholarship award ceremonies, helping to coordinate our STEM luncheon in the summer or helping to create and send care packages to recipients at the end of the first semester as they prepare for finals! A majority of our work is via email/zoom/digital tools so that even those who travel for winter are able to participate (although we are happy to make accommodations for everyone!) If you are interested in being a part of this work, please provide your information below. Scholarship application information was sent out on December 13th, 2023. Our next tasks will include encouraging women to apply, reviewing applications, and coordinating/presenting the scholarships!

If you are interested, please complete the very short form: <https://forms.gle/ktkUuLvmw3dXLbUK6>

You can also email Valerie Schmitz:  
[valerie@wiredx4.com](mailto:valerie@wiredx4.com)

## BLUESTOCKINGS

Bluestockings will meet at noon on Tuesday, *January 16* in the Smith Room at the Lake Geneva Library. Please bring a sack lunch and drink for yourself, as there are no kitchen facilities.

Host Nina Ruskey and cohost Doris Mosser will provide dessert and coffee. There is free parking on the street. Emily Hummel will lead the discussion of Being Mortal by Azul Gawandfe, MD.

Please let Nina know if you will attend:  
[nruskey16@gmail.com](mailto:nruskey16@gmail.com)  
or (262) 745-1351.



Looking forward:

*February 20: Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides. Sheri DeWeerd, Discussion Leader; Roberta Killian, Host; Emily Hummel, Cohost

*March 19: The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. Roberta Killian, Discussion Leader; Carla



