

Public Policy Committee Notes
Chair Kathy Walsh

The committee has been hard at work. First, check out the book marks (p. 2) that have been distributed state-wide. The book mark highlights four very important election dates in 2024. Get out the vote! Secondly, school board elections have a major impact on our local communities. To that end, the committee has finished drafting a letter that will be sent to our local newspapers asking for surveys and interviews with school board candidates. Finally, check out the resources on p.5. Get active!



Kathy Walsh

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Important Dates

GO-SIP – February 8th, 1-3 pm

Public Policy Meeting – February 15th, 6:30pm

Bluestockings – February 20th, 12:00 pm

Lunch Bunch – February 28th, 12:00 pm

The 2024 [STEM Scholarship Application](#) is live! If you know of a high school senior who is enrolling in a STEM program in college, please share. ~Valerie



President's Message

I hope you have passed the cold weather of January by reading a good book or watching a movie, winter projects at home, snuggling in your favorite blanket and sipping some hot chocolate. The deep snow cover, azure blue skies and sunny days were the winter highlights of the month for me.

Your AAUW Geneva Lake Branch had a productive board meeting in January covering many items of discussion. Sharna Ahern helped to update our branch bylaws which we will share in the spring. The Program Chairs presented their 2024 Program Schedule which is included in this newsletter. We will resume these monthly branch meetings in April. We approved the date of our Annual Fundraiser which will be the Soup and Signing Luncheon on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at Horticultural Hall. Mark your calendars with all these dates.

A Nominating Committee was formed and will begin reaching out to our membership this month to assess your interest and goals in serving on a committee or board position starting in June of this year. Do you want to continue in your current role? Are you curious about another committee, interest group or board position? **Now is the time to say Yes, I can.** The personal benefits of volunteering are learning new organization and leadership skills, making new friendships and connections with others and the sense of purpose you gain from the shared vision of serving others as we support the mission of AAUW. Our slate will be announced in April and the vote taken in May.

The annual AAUW Convention is April 27 and 28th at the Delta Marriott Hotel in Mt. Pleasant (Western Racine). Please consider attending. A group of our members are planning to attend and spend the weekend. Our branch is composing a raffle basket "Lake Life" coordinated by Janice Lyon and Susan Steele to raffle off for Convention. More info to follow on that.

If you would like to purchase any convention shirts, mugs, bags, check out the following link.

<https://www.cafepress.com/aauwwisconsin>

The Program Committee Chairs, Paula Jarzemyk and Maura Zinni put together an exciting and informative year. Beginning with farmers' markets in the spring and ending with cranberry production in November, the program includes timely presentations that are sure to educate and inspire our members. All programs (excluding special events) begin at 6:00pm the second Thursday of the month with socializing and a short business meeting followed by speakers starting by 6:30 pm.

Thursday, April 11, 2024 - The Importance of Exercise and Balance for Women

Dr. Sue Wenker, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin- Madison Department of Family Medicine, Community Health and the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Sue will walk us through some basic strength and balance exercises while she shares the research behind healthy aging.

Thursday, May 9, 2024 - Wisconsin's Farmers' Markets

Kristin Krokowski, Horticulture Educator with the University of Wisconsin- Madison Extension in Waukesha County. Kristin works with farmers' market managers throughout the state on educational programs that help them to create and sustain strong and vibrant farmers markets. Moira will highlight a few local female farmers.

Thursday, June 13, 2024 - New Membership Drive Event

Thursday, July 11, 2024 - The Great, Great Lakes

Moira Harrington, Communications Director of the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute explores the basics of Wisconsin Sea Grant and the Great Lakes themselves. Moira will educate us on the world's largest freshwater system right on our doorstep and share how the UW Sea Grant promotes the sustainable use of our precious Great Lakes.

Thursday, August 8, 2024 - STEM Scholarship Luncheon

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 - Soup and Signing Fundraiser at Horticulture Hall

Thursday, October 10, 2024 - Star Gazing the Wisconsin Night Sky

A representative from Geneva Lake Astrophysics and STEM at GLAS Education Inc. will facilitate this program.

Thursday, November 14, 2024 - Wisconsin's Cranberries

Dr. Leslie Holland, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist in the department of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison will share the origins of cranberries and answer the following questions.... Are they really grown in water? Which pathogens are vying to ruin your Thanksgiving dinner? What challenges do cranberry growers face and what exactly is Ocean Spray?



Letter from Your Editor

Welcome back to Issue #2! Even with the brrrrrisk weather outside, lots is happening inside. Check out the Program for the year (p. 2). Growing up on a cranberry marsh in Manitowish Waters, I am eager to attend the Nov. 14th program. Also, the Public Policy Committee continues to make significant progress in preparation for important election dates on the horizon (p. 1). Check out the bookmarks that the Public Policy Committee has been distributing (below). Don't forget to get the word out on the STEM scholarships (p.1).

Let's embrace the year 2024 and strongly advocate for AAUW issues.

Bonnie Dill



In 2024 there are **FOUR** important elections in Wisconsin!

Spring — Local Leaders & Presidential Primary

- February 20, 2024
- Primary

April 2, 2024

- General Election
- Presidential Preference Primary

Fall — State & Federal Legislators, President

August 13, 2024

- Primary

November 5, 2024

- General Election



Everything you need to know to register and vote is right here!



myvote.wi.gov



COMING SOON

AAUW WI STATE CONVENTION 2024

APRIL 26-27, 2024

VENUE: DELTA HOTEL BY MARRIOTT RACINE ON EDGE OF MT. PLEASANT

SAVE THE DATE

COMING SOON

Culinary Questers 2024

We are in need of hostesses and co-hostesses for this year. If you are considering hosting or helping this year, please let Karen DeFalco, kdfalco1@gmail.com or Carolyn Langner, cjlangner@gmail.com know. They will help with planning, taking reservations, organizing and with anything else you need. There is hope that the bad weather is mostly over, so we would like to start to plan our future meetings. Looking forward to another great year of trying out new recipes!



Board Members

President: Nina Ruskey 262-745-1351 nruskey16@gmail.com
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Seeking Donations for our Branch Convention Donation Basket

"Lake Life" basket to raffle at the Convention April 26 & 27, 2024

Life Container needed: Small Boat hull instead of basket could be a sailboat, motorboat, kayak, canoe, ice boat, paddle board, etc. Contents: All things Lake Life, let your creative concepts sail!

Delivery/pickup: Arrange with Susan or Janice, options: bring to meeting, bring to our homes, or we will meet you to pick up your donation/s.

Susan Steele 814-571-7616, steeles203@gmail.com

Janice Lyon text, email, or call: 708-899-2734, jlyon439@yahoo.com

Donation date: March 15, 2024

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!! Thursday, February 8th. 1:00-3:00 in the AFTERNOON!

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

Topic: The Transformation Shift!

As we are in the second month of 2024, you may find yourself revisiting your New Year's resolutions and goals. Or, perhaps you find yourself worrying about stuff you have no control over. Don't worry.....You are not alone!

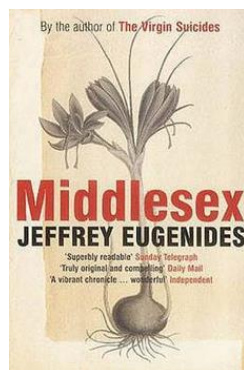
Everyone is welcome as our own AAUW Member, Susan Steele, a trusted and experienced Change Agent, will lead the discussion on how we can learn to embrace transformation and stop worrying about change itself. You will not want to miss exploring what the year 2024 means for you and steps you can take to create shifts in the next 30 days and beyond.

Bring your own coffee, tea or water to SIP on and your energy! We also ask that you bring a pen and paper to write on. (Feel free to treat yourself to a colorful marker or never used pad of paper....anything goes.). 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 Pattie Stejskal via text (include your name) to 847-477-9727 so we may have a rough idea of how many to expect. Thank You!

Bluestockings will meet at noon on Tuesday, February 20 at the home of Roberta Killian. Please bring a sandwich to share. Roberta and co-host Emily Hummel will provide beverages, soup or salad, and dessert.

Please RSVP to Roberta at rohr49@yahoo.com or 262-745-2624. Her address is 91 Potawatomi Road, Unit I-1, in Williams Bay. You can park in front of the garages or across the driveway in front of the pool.

Sheri DeWeerd will lead the discussion of *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides. "Expansive and radiantly generous... Deliciously American." It's "lyrical and thrilling," and 500 engrossing pages! See you soon!



Legacy Circle

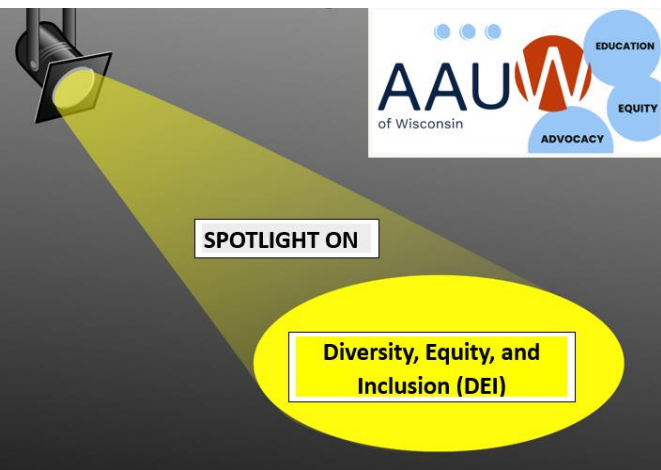
Legacy Circle members were treated to something special on January 23. It was a presentation explaining and discussing Lobby Corp. Lobby Corp is a group of active women regularly visiting our Representatives at our Nation's Capital. AAUW uses lobbying efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women. It was fascinating to hear about the direct impact of AAUW lobbying efforts on public policy.



**Make an Impact!
Join AAUW
Legacy Circle**

Leave a Lasting Legacy

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



AAUW has a public policy priority which focuses on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

[The new Red Scare for red states: Diversity programs - POLITICO](#)
[What is diversity, equity, and inclusion \(DE&I\)? | McKinsey U. Of Wisconsin Flip-Flops; Approves Deal To Limit Diversity Efforts \(forbes.com\)](#)

[Map of Anti-DEI Efforts on College Campuses Across the U.S. - The Education Trust \(edtrust.org\)](#)

[DEI has become a political flashpoint. Here's what's happening. - The Washington Post](#)

[One Parent Got 444 Books Removed from a Wisconsin School District](#)

[\(bookriot.com\)](#)

[Amid record demand to ban books nationwide, Wisconsin libraries see efforts to remove certain works | Wisconsin Public Radio \(wpr.org\)](#)

From the AAUW Diversity Officers:

[Diversity matters even more: The case for holistic impact | McKinsey](#)

[DEI programs under fire | The Week](#)

[In addition, you can also review the DEI Toolkit located online:](#)

[Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit – AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Update on WI Gerrymandering Supreme Court Case

The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled 4-3 in favor of Democrats who argued that the legislative maps are unconstitutional because districts drawn aren't [contiguous](#). New maps are likely to be unveiled in about two months. The court appointed two consultants who already had a hand in reshaping districts in other states. Jonathan Cervas, of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, [redrew New York's](#) congressional and state Senate maps after a court struck down ones adopted by the Democratic-led Legislature. Bernard Grofman, of the University of California, Irvine, helped [redraw Virginia's](#) federal and state legislative districts after a bipartisan commission deadlocked. The maps from parties to the lawsuit are due by Jan. 12, with supporting arguments due 10 days later. Reports from the consultants are due by Feb. 1, with responses a week later. This means the court will release new maps likely sometime in late February or early March unless the Legislature acts first. The state elections commission has said maps must be in place by March 15 if the new districts are to be in play for the 2024 election.

Homeschooling, Vouchers and Accountability, visit:

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/1zGKvONjnZM5bMA17z0I0IszX8yM5S4/edit>