

Public Policy Committee Notes
Chair Kathy Walsh

March is Women's History Month!

Progress for Fair Maps! Governor Tony Evers signed legislation that will be in effect for the November 2024 election. It may not have everything Fair Maps supporters were hoping for, but it is the first movement in at least 12 years! Candidates receiving the most votes will have a better chance to win in a race. Check out wispolitics.com

The General Election and The Presidential Preference Primary will be held April 2nd. VOTE! There are important local races too. Learn about candidates and get informed before you vote!

The Public Policy committee will contact local news publications to encourage them to survey and interview school board candidates in Walworth County (see p.7).

Finally, the League of Women Voters is encouraging volunteers to be trained as Election Observers and placed in specific areas around the state. If you are interested:

<https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/about/employment-and-volunteer-opportunities-league>



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The 2024 [STEM Scholarship Application](#) is live! Help a high school STEM senior apply for this scholarship.

Important Dates

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| March 4 | Board Meeting |
| March 8 | International Women's Day |
| March 19 | Bluestockings |
| April 3 | Open enrollment bylaw vote begins |
| April 11 | The Importance of Exercise & Balance for Women |
| April 27-28 | AAUW Wisconsin State Convention |



President's Message

March is National Women's History month and March 8th is International Women's Day. Celebrate the women in your life and read about the famous ones who led the way for us. Here is a [link](#) to 31 biographies of remarkable women compiled by AAUW La Crosse.

AAUW is holding a special vote this spring regarding the long-standing membership requirement to join AAUW. The AAUW Board of Directors fully supports open membership and encourages civil and respectful dialogue on this issue. [Here](#) is the information you need to make an informed decision. Voting opens on April 3rd.

Our Past President Sharna Ahern and myself are encouraging you to attend the AAUW Convention on **April 26 and 27**. Sharna would love some help with registration. I will be the centerpiece organizer. Join the group from our branch who are attending. It will be a fun and inspiring weekend at the Delta Marriott in Mount Pleasant.

AAUW Geneva Lake Board Meeting

Geneva Lake Board, Committee and Interest Group members are invited to our quarterly Board Meeting on **Monday, March 4th at Noon at the Barrett Memorial Library** in Williams Bay. Bring a sack lunch and drink and I will provide dessert. Give me a heads up if there is anything specific to include on the agenda.

Nina Ruskey (262-745-1351 or nruskey16@gmail.com)

The Program Committee Chairs, Paula Jarzemsky 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 #3! Is March coming in as a lion or a lamb? What do you think? I'm hoping for March coming in as a lamb AND going out as a lamb!



School Boards in Wisconsin have been busy banning books which stresses the importance of us being informed voters.

43 books band in Wisconsin

Check out these lists of banned books. Is this the Wisconsin education system that we are proud of?

Bonnie Bick



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



Expanding Our Reach Over Time to Meet Women's Needs

- 1940's AAUW Membership is open to all accredited institutions rather than a small, select few.
- 1963 Degrees in Education, Teaching and Home Economics are finally accepted.
- 1987 Men are allowed to join.
- 2005 Associate Degrees are accepted.
- 2021 63% voted for open membership.
- In April, 2024, AAUW members will vote to eliminate AAUW's degree requirement for membership by a required 2/3 majority.
- AAUW's National Board, Governance Committee and Inclusion and Equity Committee support this change.
- **Key Dates for 2024 Vote**
January 26 | Comment period ends at 5:00 pm ET
April 3 | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
May 15 | Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET and results announced online

Culinary Questers 2024

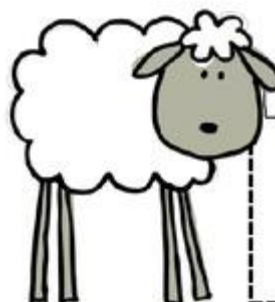
Culinary Questers will start up again April 3 at 12:00 at Gwen Clausius' home. Doris Mosser will be her cohost. Theme to be announced later.

We have need for hostesses for the following dates: May 1, June 5, August 7, JULY 10 and November 6. All the dates except for November will start at 5:30. November will start at 12:30. Please text Karen DeFalco at 1-815-953-5979 or email kdefalco1@gmail.com if you are willing to host. Please cc Carol Langner cilangner@gmail.com also. Thanks so much!!



Board Members

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Lamb Weather:
~pleasant
~gentle
~nice
~calm



Lion Weather:
~unpleasant
~rough
~windy
~rainy

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

Nominating Committee Report

Thank you to Janice Lyon who reached out to the newer members of our AAUW Branch inviting them to become more active by taking a leadership position. Many of our long-time members have served our branch by being on the executive board, committees or interest groups for years. We are grateful for your volunteerism. Many of you said YES to returning in your position or as a committee or interest group chair. Thank you for that. The following positions are still open. Please contact Nina Ruskey at nruskey16@gmail.com or call/text 262-745-1351 if interested or have questions.

Fundraising Co-Chair- Assist Diane Thompson in planning the Soup and Signing Luncheon Fundraiser September 11, 2024.

Board Secretary-attend 4 daytime branch board meetings per year and take notes/minutes. Create the minutes and send in a compatible format by email to Pres.

President Elect- attend 4 daytime branch board meetings per year to become familiar with the task of President, attend evening branch program meetings. Step up to Branch President in 2025-2026

Program Co-Chair- With your Co-Chair and interested members, conduct a Program Planning meeting in the summer to brainstorm ideas for our 6 Monthly Programs to occur the following April through November. Using our AAUW Mission as a guide, secure speakers with your co-chair. You will also line up the venue for each event. Attend the programs and introduce the speaker. Assist with any AV equipment needed.

All positions are sworn in during the May 2024 meeting with responsibilities beginning in the summer.



Dr. Sue Winkler, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Family Medicine, Community Health and the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

APRIL 11TH

Join us for a wonderful program

hosted by our Program Committee about Women's Health. We all can name a friend or family member who has fallen and disrupted their lives. At a certain age, balance becomes a crucial component of our health. Accordingly, Dr. Winkler will walk us through some basic strength and balance exercises while she shares the research behind healthy aging. Maintaining good balance and posture promotes a healthy lifestyle but so does eating and exercise. What foods and nutritional supplements become more essential as we age? Sue will cover these topics and more. Plus, she will answer any specific questions we may have about living an active, fulfilling life. Come Thursday evening, April 11th at 6:00pm (business meeting) and 6:30pm for "*The Importance of Exercise and Balance for Women.*" **Venue:** Chapel on the Hill, Parish Hall N2440 Ara Glen Dr, Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Bluestockings will meet at noon on Tuesday, March 19 at the home of Carla Olson. Please bring a sandwich to share. Carla and co-host Jane Erickson will provide beverages, bread, salad, and dessert. Please RSVP to Carla at flatlanders@charter.net or by cell (989) 600-0287. Carla's address is 610 Settlers Ridge Dr. Lake Geneva. Take Center Street north up the hill, turn right at Settlers Ridge at the top of the hill, 3rd house on the right. You can park in the driveway or on the street. Roberta Killian will lead the discussion.



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

Leave a Lasting Legacy

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



One of our collaborating partners, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health, has changed its name. It now goes by Embolden Wisconsin to better reflect a commitment to innovation, growth, and a renewed sense of purpose. The informational resources below come from this website:

www.supportwomenshealth.org

[Reproductive Justice: What It Means and Why It Matters \(Now, More Than Ever\) - Public Health Post](#)

This link takes you to a series of podcasts on women's health issues.

[Wide Awake in Wisconsin - Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health \(supportwomenshealth.org\)](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org)

In addition, the Center for Reproductive Rights provides information on the work being done to ensure women's reproductive rights. This global human rights organization works to ensure that reproductive rights are protected in law as fundamental human rights for the dignity, equality, health, and well-being of every person. AAUW members will find this website, [About Us - Center for Reproductive Rights](#), very informative.

[The Constitutional Right to Reproductive Autonomy: Realizing the Promise of the 14th Amendment - Center for Reproductive Rights](#)

[Abortion Is Essential Health Care, Even With Wanted Pregnancies | Center for Reproductive Rights](#)



Dear Editors of the **XXXXX** Publishing Group,

We appreciate your dedication to quality journalism and your commitment to providing accurate and relevant information to the residents of our community.

The Geneva Lake Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is reaching out to inquire whether the **XXXXX** Publishing Group plans to gather and publish information about the upcoming April 2nd school board elections, perhaps via surveys or candidate interviews. Your readership seeks a more comprehensive understanding of the candidates' stances and priorities.

Specifically, we recommend asking the following questions of the candidates:

1. What are your priorities for specific initiatives or changes to improve student outcomes, enhance the overall learning experience in our schools, and address achievement gaps to ensure that all students have equal opportunities for academic success?
2. How do you plan to address the challenges faced by our schools, especially in the areas of teacher support, curriculum, and student well-being? Please share your plan for teacher recruitment, addressing the shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in STEM subjects.
3. How will you balance the need for diverse perspectives and academic freedom with the concerns some community members have about curriculum and certain books in school libraries?
4. How will you address the school funding crisis currently facing our schools? As a school board member, how will you work with other board members and the district's administrators to effectively create a sustainable budget that truly reflects the district's educational priorities?

Thank you for considering our request to provide your readers with valuable information about their local school board races. **XXXXX**, copied on this email, will follow up with you in a few days to discuss your plans. At that time, we'll be able to provide you with the names and contact information for all of the school board candidates on the ballot in Walworth County on April 2.

Sincerely,

Kathy Walsh
Chairperson, Public Policy Committee
Geneva Lake AAUW