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Public Policy Committee Notes Chair Kathy Walsh

The Public Policy Committee is working on informative Fact Sheets about topics that will be important in the upcoming election(s) to help you understand the issues. They will be presented on Wednesdays starting June 5th.

Our goal is to help you be informed voters as you make your voting choices. Look for these topics:

- June 5th - Voting Rights
- June 12th - Equal Pay
- June 19th - Education Funding
- July 10th - Women's Health

As things progress there may be new topics added or some of these revisited with updates. As you become more informed on these issues, please share the information with friends and family. We will be posting them on our Face Book page!

The end of this newsletter is information from the League of Women voters. There are two new constitutional amendments that will be on the August ballot. Please take time to read about both sides of the issues and consider that they would be changes to our state constitution.

Important Dates

- June 3 Joint Board Meeting
- June 13 Charcuterie Membership Celebration & Portrait Station for new directory.
- June 18 Bluestocking
- June 26 Lunch Bunch at noon at Simple Cafe, 525 Broad St, Lake Geneva
- Aug 20 Submit book choices to Nan Voss for Bluestockings



President's Message

I am honored to have been chosen as the new President of AAUW Geneva Lake! I am excited to lead our organization toward a future where we continue to empower women and girls through education, advocacy, and research.

My educational journey has been diverse, from a double major in English and Political Science with a minor in Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to a two-year MPA certificate at Northwestern University and an MPA from the University of Nebraska. I also honed my community outreach skills at Yale University. I am furthering my knowledge in the UW-Madison Coaching program for certificates in Transformational, Life, Intuitive, and Spiritual Coaching.

Throughout my career, I have worked in various roles ranging from VP of License Training and Marketing at a real estate education and publishing company in Chicago to paralegal work in zoning and real estate exchange, family, and class action law. I also served as a local government CAO in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania.

I met my ex-husband in Tulsa and had our son there. After moving and living in Iowa for some time, I divorced and moved. At the same time, my son attended Iowa State University, where he now lives in Des Moines with his wife and my two grand dogs.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with the board, committees, members, and interest groups of our AAUW branch. Please share your concerns or suggestions with me. You can reach me at 814-571-7616 or email me at steeles203@gmail.com.

*Thank you once again,
Susan*

The Nominating Committee is officially announcing our AAUW Geneva Lake Slate of Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs and Interest Groups for 2024-2025. The Officers and Board Members will be installed at the May meeting at 6:15 pm.

Geneva Lake Branch AAUW 2024-2025

Officers

President	Susan Steele
President Elect	Vacant
Co-Vp's of Programs	Janice Lyon and Joanne Kantner
Co-Vp's of Membership	Suzanne Edwards and Louise Zitzler
Secretary	Maura Zinni
Treasurer	Carla Olson
Past President	Nina Ruskey

Board Members

Communications	Bonnie Diehl
Fundraising	Diane Thompson and _____
Public Policy	Kathy Walsh
Scholarship Stem/NCCWSL	Valerie Schmitz and Sheila Venteicher
Facebook Manager	Mary Winingham
Website Manager	Judy Moser

<https://genevalake-wi.aauw.net>

Interest Group Coordinators

Bluestockings	Nan Voss and Bev Kitzmiller
Culinary Questors	Carolyn Langner and Karen DeFalco
Great Decisions	Pattie Stejskal
Keep Moving	Jean Henderson
Lunch Bunch	Janice Lyon

Other Coordinators

Bylaws	Sharna Ahern
Care and Concern	Sue Greben
Hospitality	Brigitte Krieger
Photographers	Joan Lagerlöf

Membership

We are busy planning for our Annual Membership Celebration and will need all of your participation in this fun team building event! This year we are planning a..... Charcuterie Creations party!! Our Annual Membership Celebration is an important time to gather and celebrate our current membership as well a time to invite women who may be interested in joining or learning more about the opportunities that our AAUW- Geneva Lake Branch affords. We'd like to challenge each of you to "bring a friend!"

Charcuterie Creations – How it works:

- We will learn about the art of creating charcuterie boards
- We will create these beautiful boards in small groups (4)
- Enjoy the delicious product of your efforts with a glass of wine or beverage

What we will need from you:

- First and most importantly spread the word about the event and bring a friend!
- Either print the invitation included in these Branch briefs or pick up a few at the May meeting.
- We will need each of you to sign up to bring ingredients for the charcuterie boards. These include items such as wine, cherry tomatoes, crackers, chocolate candy, grapes, berries, olives, kiwi, cucumbers and nuts (See signup sheet for specifics) **The membership committee will provide the meat and cheeses.**
- Please RSVP (Sue Edwards sedward8910@gmail.com or 630-202-0703) and provide the name of any friends that will be coming so that we can properly welcome them!

Bluestocking Schedule

<i>June 18</i>	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> Toni Morrison	Marcia Lauzon, Leader	Sharna Ahern, Host Barbara Turner, Cohost
<i>July 16</i>	<i>The Good Life</i> Robert Waldinger MD	Jean Henderson, Leader	Jean Henderson, Host Bev Kitzmiller, Cohost
<i>August 20</i>	Books Selection	Nan Voss, Leader	Judy Johnson, Host Karen DeFalco, Cohost
<i>September 17</i>	<i>The Covenant of Water</i> Abraham Verghese	Sharna Ahern, Leader	Debbie Mecklenberg, Host Nan Voss, Cohost



Letter from Your Editor

Welcome back to Issue #6! Look for Fact Sheets to come out to help you with deciding your vote. Lots of ways for you to be active with public policy in AAUW starting with [joining](#) the 2-Minute Activist. It is an easy way to inform your legislators of your public opinion. It is quick and takes me less than 2 minutes!

Bonnie Dill

Membership Renewal

Most of our members renew their membership as of June 30. [National](#) has started to send out reminder emails. National will share a [video](#) of how to renew online. They have asked you to renew by May 6th. Your dues total \$100

\$72 to national

\$13 to state

\$15 to local

You can also renew by check payable to AAUW Geneva Lake. Please mail to Carla Olson, 610 Settlers Ridge Dr., Lake Geneva, WI 53147 before June 30. Carla will also collect checks at the meetings on May 9 and June 13.



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



AAUW GENEVA LAKE BRANCH
Fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>		
Member totals	82		
\$100 total dues, \$15 stays local			
	<u>CASH IN</u>	<u>CASH OUT</u>	<u>NET</u>
TOTAL DUES	<u>8,200.00</u>	<u>6,970.00</u>	<u>1,230.00</u>
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES			
Monthly programs (inc Membership event)		1,425.00	-1,425.00
Newsletter		50.00	-50.00
Care/Concern		45.00	-45.00
Treasurer		30.00	-30.00
Public Policy		150.00	-150.00
President		130.00	-130.00
Stem Scholarship Expense		300.00	-300.00
Storage		100.00	-100.00
EVENTS			
Holiday party	3,650.00	3,650.00	0.00
Great Decisions	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
Big Read	800.00	800.00	0.00
Stem Luncheon	420.00	420.00	0.00
Convention		0.00	0.00
Net Cash from dues after expenses			<u>-1,000.00</u>
FUNDRAISING			
	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
STEM Scholarships		<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>-6,000.00</u>
Net change in cash			<u><u>-1,000.00</u></u>

Treasurer's Report

See proposed budget for our next fiscal year (left), Please send any comments to Carla at aauwgltreas@gmail.com.

As you can see, we are anticipating a deficit next year. The share of annual dues that stays with our branch is only \$15. This is not enough to cover all our membership expenses. We do currently have a bank balance of \$20,303.59. The board feels that we should use our current cash and not increase local membership fees at this time.

Lunch Bunch

Geneva Lake Branch members and guests gather to talk about all thing's women and progress. We meet at independent eateries, many women-owned or managed. Come one, come all. RSVP (not required) by text 708.899.2734 to Janice L. This is a great way to introduce potential new members to our exceptional AAUW women!

4th Wednesday monthly at NOON.

2024 schedule always at NOON:

Wed, June 26, 2024, at Simple Café, Lake Geneva

Wed, July 24, 2024, Boat House, Buttons Bay, Lake Geneva

Wed, Aug 28, 2024, at Harpoon Willies, Williams Bay

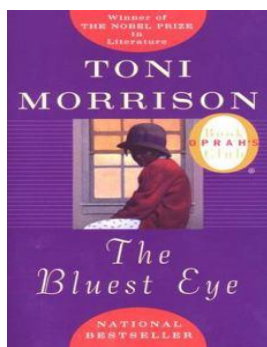
Wed, Sept 25, Luis's Pizza, Lake Geneva

Wed, Oct 23, Abbey Resort, Waterfront Restaurant, Fontana, RSVP Jan Schuren, 262-728-7767

NO LUNCH BUNCH NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

Bluestockings will meet Tuesday, June 18 at Noon at the Walworth Memorial Library, 525 Kenosha Street, Walworth.

Please bring a sandwich to share and a beverage for yourself. Salads and desserts will be provided. Marcia Lauzon will lead the discussion of *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Our host is Sharna Ahern, with co-hosts Barbara Turner and Carla Olson. Please contact Sharna at 847-514-1375 or sahern12@gmail.com to let her know you will be attending.



WHAT IS OUR FUNDRAISER?

Every year our AAUW branch has a fundraiser. Last year, in 2023, we had a luncheon with a program on “Hats”. This year our program is “Soup and Signing.”

“Soup and Signing” is where 8 local restaurants donate soup and 8 local authors are chosen to join us for the day to sell their books. We alternate events each year between a luncheon and “Soup and Signing.”

This year “Soup and Signing” will be held Wednesday, September 11th at Horticulture Hall in Lake Geneva. We need names of local authors to ask to be our guest. If you know of a local author who has recently written a book call or text Diane (1-262-745-8355).

The first planning meeting will be at Diane’s house on May 7th at 10am (N1757 Fair Oaks Rd. Lake Geneva, WI 53147). Please come and offer ideas for restaurants and authors. We hope to see many of you there!

Culinary Questers 2024

We are in dire need of hosts for 2024! Please volunteer for May, June, August or November to keep our group going. Message either Karen DeFalco at 815-953-5979 or Carolyn Langner at 202-230-8847. We need your help to keep Culinary Questers running this year. We will help in any way if you want to try to host.

- February No one volunteered
- March No one volunteered
- April 3 Gwen Clausius Judy Johnson and Doris Mosser Cohosts 5:30 pm Appetizers, Salad and Portillos' Chocolate Cake
- **May 8 Need volunteers ASAP**
- June 5 Need volunteers
- July 10 5:30 Karen Hirn host, Need cohost
- August 7 5:30 Sue Anderson host with Sue Greben cohost
- September 4 5:30 Barbara Turner host, need cohost
- October 2 12:30 Nina Ruskey host Bev Kitzmiller cohost
- November Need volunteers
- December 4 12:30 Diane Thompson Host with Jane Erickson cohost: theme “Charcuterie Boards”



Make an Impact!
Join AAUW
Legacy Circle

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Contact: Lucy Harvey lois3545@aol.com; Bonnie Diehl bdieh181@gmail.com

2024 Program

Date	Title	Presenter	Location
July 11 2024 Thursday	<i>The Great Great Lakes</i>	Maira Harrington, Associate Director for Communications for UW-Madison's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, will share her knowledge of the world's largest freshwater system right on our doorstep, the Great Lakes. Fresh water is a precious commodity and Maira will share how she uses research, education and outreach to promote the sustainable use of our precious Great Lakes.	Advia Credit Union 837 N Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI
October 10 2024 Thursday	<i>Night Sky Star Gazing</i>	GLAS Education (Geneva Lake Astrophysics and STEAM) provides educational experiences to local students, as well as opportunities for college students to participate in research projects and community outreach programs, like the organization's popular stargazing events. An astronomy scientist will lead us through a star-gazing experience.	TBD
November 14 2024 Thursday	<i>Wisconsin Cranberries</i>	Leslie Holland is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison. Leslie's presentation will answer these burning questions we all have about Cranberries...Where do they come from? 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?	Inspired Coffee 883 W Main St. Lake Geneva, WI Free parking at Central-Dennison School

*All programs are held on the second Thursday of each month, April – November
The program schedule is as follows:
6:00 pm – Social time; 6:15 pm Business meeting; 6:30-7:30 pm Program*



August 13 Referendum—Constitutional Amendment Questions

Question 1: “*Delegation of appropriation power.*” Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?”

The following underlined text would be added:»

Section 35 (1) The legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated.»

Question 2: “*Allocation of federal moneys.*” Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?”

The following underlined text would be added:»

Section 35

(2) The governor may not allocate any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule.»

What does a “Yes” or a “No” vote mean?

A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to require legislative approval from both the senate and assembly before the governor can expend federal money appropriated to the state.

A "no" vote opposes this amendment, thereby allowing the governor to accept and allocate federal funds without seeking an approval vote from the state legislature.

Who Opposes These Questions

Organizations: League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Education Association Council, Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments & Boards, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Public Health Association

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes these constitutional amendment questions and urges voters to **VOTE NO on both questions.**

Reasons to Vote No on Question 1 and Question 2

1. Wisconsinites deserve a well-resourced government that is able to fund necessary programs and infrastructure like our roads in a timely manner (especially in emergencies). These changes to our state constitution would add red tape and slow the government’s ability to respond to emergencies when we need help the most.
2. Our tax dollars go toward federal funds that support our schools, infrastructure, parks, health care, renters, small businesses, public benefits and so much more. They provide relief to Wisconsinites in urgent times of crises such as natural or economic disasters and public health emergencies. When Wisconsin gets federal funds, it’s our money coming back to us. This measure would add more red tape that would slow down our money coming back to us.
3. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wisconsin State Legislature was one of the least active in the country. Legislators refused to come to work to deliver relief for Wisconsinites. Fortunately, our Governor could quickly distribute emergency federal funds to the communities who needed it most. We need to ensure the governor can continue to distribute these funds efficiently and effectively, without unnecessary red tape.
4. The Constitution ensures that the three branches of government are equal and have their own set of duties. Our government is like a three-legged stool – take out a leg and everything comes crashing down. The legislature wants to take away the governor’s duties for themselves. This will create an imbalance in our government.

You are invited to attend the

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
GENEVA LAKE BRANCH

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION

Charcuterie Creations

Thursday, June 13, 2024 6:00 pm

Team Charcuterie Building

SILENT AUCTION OF HAND-CRAFTED CHARCUTERIE BOARDS



**Linn Presbyterian Church
W 3335 Willow Road
Lake Geneva, WI**

Please join our local AAUW branch to learn about our mission of advocacy, education, and service.

Come meet our members and discover all that our branch has to offer.

RSVP: Sue Edwards (630) 202-0703 sedward8910@gmail.com



empowering women since 1881