



Kathy Walsh



**Public Policy Committee
Chair Kathy Walsh**

VOTE! When We All Vote.....

This is the home stretch of the election cycle! Those who have requested absentee ballots should be receiving them. If this is you, don't procrastinate, mark your ballot and return it now!

Members of the Public Policy Committee and others have been volunteering to assist people at the DMV who want to register to vote. At the point of this writing, about 40 people have been assisted with this process! The positive part of this is that when we approach those waiting in line at the DMV, many are already registered!! Thank you to Sharna Ahern, Marcia Lauzon and Mary Winningham.

The AAUW WI Public Policy Committee created two documents: One encouraging everyone to be an Election Ambassador. Asking our members to contact at least 10 people to encourage them to vote. Take the challenge and click the link at the bottom of that document! The second is an explanation of the Constitutional Amendment that will be on the November ballot. AAUW is recommending a NO vote. Both found at the end of this Newsletter.

Important Dates

- Oct. 10th Star Gazing Program
- Oct. 15th Bluestockings
- Oct 24th Lunch Bunch

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President's Message

Falling Into Fall

Each year, the Branch provides scholarships to young women who are seniors in area high schools planning on majoring in a STEM discipline. These scholarships are funded by the Branch's fundraising efforts, the latest being the Soup & Signing last month.

As fundraising chair, Diane Thompson led her committee toward creating and achieving successful fundraising events each year.

Diane resigned from this position after a decade of exceptional service, with no one volunteering to fill her position. The Board discussed the situation last month.

Quick Fun Facts:

There are 84 members in the Branch.

66 members participated in the Soup & Signing Fundraiser

Profit from Soup & Signing: \$8000 of this \$3000 was in donations

Annual Dues received: 2023: \$8200; 2024: \$8400

Anticipated Available Funds at Year End: \$20,000

Amount needed to fund scholarships each year: \$6000

Funding Option Idea 1: (Please fill out the survey)

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNRSGXT>

Thank you in advance for taking the survey!

Are you interested in a branch leadership role? If so, please consider the President Elect position. If any questions or interest, please contact me at steeles203@gmail.com or 814-571-7616.



Letter from Your Editor

Welcome back to October Issue #10!
The political landscape has drastically changed. Now more than ever, it is important to have your voice heard. Vote!

Lots going on with AAUW. Become an Ambassador. Vote NO on the amendment.

Enjoy the many pictures from September's Soup and Signing.

Bonnie Dill

This November, voters will elect the next President and Vice President of the United States, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 34 of the 100 seats in the Senate, 11 governors, and thousands of local officials down the ballot. Voters across the country will also make their voice heard on more than 100 ballot measures this year — voting on issues from the economy and abortion access to equal rights for all. With all of these key races on the ballot, one of the most important steps everyone can take right now is getting registered to vote.

When women vote, we change the conversation. That's why AAUW is joining "When We All Vote" in getting ready to vote this year. Join us and register to vote now at:

weall.vote/aauw

Election Day is less than 50 days away.



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
WISCONSIN



myvote.wi.gov



AAUW
American Association of
University Women



Make an Impact
Join AAUW
Legacy Circle

Lucy Harvey
lois3545@aol.com

Bonnie Diehl
bdiehl81@gmail.com

The AAUW Legacy Circle is a recognition society for donors who have included AAUW National in their estate plans. Members of the Legacy Circle are committed to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future. By making a planned gift to AAUW National, Legacy Circle members embrace gender equity as part of their personal legacy. There is no minimum gift requirement to join the Legacy Circle, and members receive a special pin and additional benefits.

Lunch Bunch

Geneva Lake Branch members and guests gather to talk about all things 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.

Wed, Oct 23, Abbey Resort, Waterfront Restaurant, Fontana, RSVP Jan Schuren, 262-728-7767
NO LUNCH BUNCH NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



Great Decisions 2025

Topics include:

1. American foreign policy at a crossroads.
2. U.S. changing leadership of the world economy.
3. U.S.- China Relations.
4. International cooperation on climate change.
5. The future of NATO and European security.
6. AI and American National Security.
7. India: between China, the West, and the Global South.
8. After Gaza: American policy in the Middle East.



Great Decisions 2025

This next year promises to be an interesting one! If you want to keep your mind sharp on topics related to National and Foreign Policy, it's time to mark your calendars and Sign Up for Great Decisions 2025!

AAUW is happy to once again host Great Decisions offered by the Foreign Policy Association. Classes are open to AAUW members, as well as members in the Geneva Lake community. Weekly meetings take place for 8 weeks from the first week in February to the last week in March.

DEADLINE OCT. 18th

How it Works

Each week prior to class, you read an article from the Great Decisions 2025 “book”. When we meet, we watch and discuss a video. (Both articles and videos are written and produced by leading scholars and The Foreign Policy Association.)

DEADLINE OCT. 18th

You can choose to participate in an evening class (6 - 8 pm) or a morning class (9-11 am). The evening class usually has had around 10-12 participants, while the morning session has anywhere between 15-22. Last year both groups met at the Williams Bay Barrett Memorial Library.

DEADLINE OCT. 18th

****Books**** for Great Decisions will be ordered at the beginning of October.

(Last year's books cost \$35.)

If you are interested in participating in this wonderful program, please contact pattiestejskal@gmail.com ASAP so she can start a class list, order books, and send you important information. Please put AAUW Great Decisions in the subject line and include your name, phone and indicate desired class; am or pm. Thank you!

DEADLINE OCT. 18th

Bluestockings: October 2024 → September 2025

Date	Book	Leader	Host/Cohost
October 15	<u><i>The Truths We Hold</i></u> by Kamala Harris	Bev Kitzmiller	Kathy McCarville, Host, Ann Ruff, Cohost
November 19	<u><i>The Frozen River</i></u> by Ariel Lawhon	Marcia Lauzon	Carla Olson, Host, Sue Greben Cohost
December 17	<u><i>The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store</i></u> by James McBride	Jean Henderson	Jean Henderson, Host, Bev Kitzmiller Cohost
January 21	<u><i>The Burning of the World</i></u> by Scott W. Berg	Kathy Walsh	Diane Thompson, Host Betty Shay Cohost
February 18	<u><i>The Energy Bus</i></u> by Jon Gordon	Roberta Killian	Roberta Killian, Host, Doris Mosser Cohost
March 18	<u><i>The House on Mango Street</i></u> by Sandra Cisneros	DISCUSSION LEADER NEEDED	Emily Hummel, Host at Walworth Library--COHOST NEEDED
April 15	<u><i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i></u> by Shelby Van Pelt	Carolyn Langner and Jane Erickson	Diane Dorman, Host, Carolyn Langner, Cohost
May 20	<u><i>The Secrets We Kept</i></u> by Lara Prescott	DISCUSSION LEADER NEEDED	HOST NEEDED Kate Berley Cohost
June 17	<u><i>The Women</i></u> by Kristin Hannah	Sharna Ahern	Karen Hirn, Host Janet Huelster, Cohost
July 15	<u><i>Horse</i></u> by Geraldine Brooks	Barb Turner	Judy Johnson, Host Diane Thompson, Cohost
August 19	Book Selection	Nan Voss	Karen DeFalco, Host COHOST NEEDED
September 16	<u><i>Mad Honey</i></u> by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan	Doris Mosser	Gwen Clausius, Host, Doris Mosser Cohost

October Program

Night Sky Star Gazing Event

Join us for information about star gazing on October 10, 2024, hosted at the GLAS Facility, located at N2270 WI-67, Building W5659-1, Walworth, WI. This is situated between Fontana and Williams Bay near Inspiration Ministries. The program will be led by AAUW member Kate Meredith, President and Education Director at GLAS Education, Inc., along with her colleague Adam McCulloch, Education and Outreach Manager at GLAS. They will provide an exciting update on the latest developments at GLAS to foster STEM interest and career opportunities for young women in the area, an overview of a proposed roll-off roof observatory at the Hillmore property in Lake Geneva, a presentation on "What's Up in the Night Sky," and an opportunity to practice spotting constellations through telescopes. Dress warmly for outdoor portion of the event. Get ready to be inspired by the wonders of the night sky and GLAS' work.



Bluestockings will meet on Tuesday, October 15, at noon at the home of Kathy McCarville, N7258 Country Side Lane, Elkhorn. Bev Kitzmiller will lead the discussion of ***The Truths We Hold*** by Kamala Harris. Ann Ruff will assist as cohost. Please bring a sandwich to share and let Kathy know you will be attending. Please let her know ASAP (in other words don't wait until the last minute) so that she and Ann will be able to prepare for the group. kathymccarville21@gmail.com

You will find an updated Book Chart in this newsletter. We are getting there, but there are still a few slots to be filled. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help.



AAUW Wisconsin State Public Policy Committee

AAUW-Wisconsin
Members,

Every election is important and AAUW members have a reputation for participating in informed voting. This year will be especially important as several of our issues are being attacked. We don't want to be partisan so we will talk only about issues among our friends.

Every vote on our issues will be important and we want you to speak to other like-minded individuals to encourage them to vote for issues like public education funding, health care for all, fair pay in the workplace and welcoming diversity and conversation among other topics.

The AAUW Public Policy Committee has put together a document which explains the AAUW statewide effort to vote for justice issues. We strongly encourage you to sign the Ambassador Pledge and take part in spreading the message. Speak up at your book clubs, with your neighbors and at your churches. These can be casual and pleasant conversations.

See an explanation of how to go about this effort on the last page. We would like your feedback as you spread the word about this election.

Stephanie Malaney and Barbara Peterson

State Co-Chairs Public Policy Committee (which includes several members from your branches)

Date	Title	Presenter	Location
October 10 2024 Thursday	Night Sky Star Gazing	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.	GLAS Facility, located at N2270 WI-67, Building W5659-1, Walworth, WI
November 14 2024 Thursday	Wisconsin Cranberries	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?	Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N Wisconsin Street, Elkhorn, WI, 53121

*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*



Geneva Lake Branch AAUW 2024-2025

Officers

President	Susan Steele
President Elect	Vacant
Co-VPs of Programs	Janice Lyon and Joanne Kantner
Co-VPs 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
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

YOU CAN BE AN ELECTION '24 AMBASSADOR

- **Are you concerned about who will be elected in November?**
 - **Are you concerned that your voice will be heard?**
 - **Are you unsure what more you can do?**

Wisconsin AAUW has a new and simple program that will help!

We are introducing, effective immediately an [ELECTION '24 AMBASSADOR PROGRAM](#) for all members, friends and family with a challenge pledge.

WHY BECOME AN ELECTION '24 AMBASSADOR?

- Election '24 has been referred to as the most consequential election of the century. We simply cannot afford to be complacent at the local, state and especially national level.

WHAT IS AN ELECTION '24 AMBASSADOR?

- The program uses the “power of one”, a theory that one person’s action can change the future.

WHAT IS AN AMBASSADOR CHALLENGE PLEDGE?

- **Your pledge to contact at least 10 people and get their commitment to vote!**

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

- **GET OUT AN INFORMED VOTE!**
- Create awareness about the critical importance of voting by sharing these websites with our friends and family.

HOW DOES THE ELECTION '24 AMBASSADOR PROGRAM WORK?

- The website is a one-stop resource center: <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/election-2024-ambassador/>.

My Vote <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> provides information on polling sites, what’s on the ballot, voter registration, absentee voting and allows you to track your ballot once you have voted by mail.

Absentee ballots can be requested now; mailed to you when printed. Vote absentee in person after October 22nd. Election date: Tuesday, November 5th

Are your ballots safe and accurately recorded? <https://electionfactswi.com/>

[Wisconsin Voting Information \(vote411.org\)](https://www.vote411.org/) is sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Voter information is updated regularly. You can find out what’s on your ballot, who are the candidates, and even compare candidates’ views on issues you care about. The site also provides information on early voting, election security, and more.

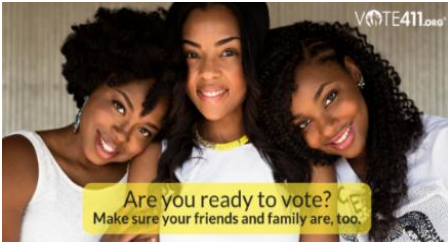
Here are topics for conversation with friends and family. Keep it friendly and persuasive.

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/06/Its-My-Vote-2024-Voter-Issue-Guide-English.pdf>

Click here to pledge to be a '24 Election Ambassador now: <https://forms.gle/x6YTd7xwSHqVUDif9>.

Stephanie Malaney & Barbara Peterson
Co-Chairs AAUW State Public Policy

Where Does AAUW Stand on...?



The November Ballot-Another Constitutional Amendment Vote!

This is the amendment that will be on the Wisconsin ballot on November 5, 2024. It is strongly recommended to vote NO.

Question: “Eligibility to vote. Shall section 1 of article III of the constitution, which deals with suffrage, be amended to provide that only a United States citizen age 18 or older who resides in an election district may vote in an election for national, state, or local office or at a statewide or local referendum.”

This amendment has a direct effect on all and puts voting rights on the ballot. From the LWV study: *“The change from “every” to “only” is a downgrade to all of our voting rights. The language changes our constitutionally protected voting rights from a guarantee for all citizens to a limitation that could be used to erode our voting rights. In fact, lawmakers have already discussed this being a step on the path to further limit our right to vote, including by implementing a proof of citizenship requirement despite knowing that 1 in 10 US citizens don’t have the documents to prove their citizenship.”*

AAUW Public Policy Priorities state that “AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights

This statement is clearly outlined in AAUW national policy. And it continues:

“Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate. Elected officials routinely make decisions about issues that directly impact all of us. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care and access to education, our lives are on the line – and our vote is our voice. To create real change, we must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way for us to have our say is at the polls. Yet the right to vote has a long and tumultuous history. Protecting that right – the one that many fought long and hard for – continues today as ongoing efforts to suppress the right negates what it means to be a free democracy.”

With this in mind, a **NO VOTE** is being recommended by the League of Women Voters (our Women’s Action Coalition and AAUW-WI on the referendum question on the NOVEMBER BALLOT.

Watch for upcoming information on becoming an AAUW-WI Election ’24 Ambassador.

For further information:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Wisconsin_Citizenship_Voting_Requirement_Amendment_\(2024\)https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/november-2024-constitutional-amendment](https://ballotpedia.org/Wisconsin_Citizenship_Voting_Requirement_Amendment_(2024)https://my.lwv.org/wisconsin/november-2024-constitutional-amendment)Where We Stand: Voting Rights – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881

AAUW-WI Public Policy Committee September 16, 2024