



**Public Policy Committee  
Chair Kathy Walsh**

**It's here! The 2024 election!**

**I am writing this October 22nd, the first day of early voting in Wisconsin!**

**Whether you voted absentee, are planning to vote early in person or plan to vote in person, Nov. 5th - just show up and participate! And, while you are at it - encourage friends and family to vote!!!**

**Thank you to the volunteers that helped voters register to vote at the DMV in Elkhorn! 80 voters were assisted in this process. The good news was that of the number of people at the DMV, on the days our volunteers were there, MANY were registered and planning to vote!**

**TERRIFIC!!**

**Important Dates**

- Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Vote
- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Culinary Questers
- Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Program
- Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Bluestockings
- Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Membership

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# President's Message

Happy Halloween & Election Day!

We want your VOTE TOO!

The Board is interested in your opinion on fundraising for 2025. Please try to respond to the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNRSGXT> by the end of the year.

This month's Branch Briefs include the Holiday Party reservation form. Please review, fill out, and return to Carla. This tradition always involves good food, socialization, and song.

I am conducting individual meet-and-greets with new members. The goal is to reach out to these exceptional women to ascertain their interests, why they joined AAUW, and how we can support each of them professionally and personally.

I'm blown away by their talents, input, and suggestions. They will make exceptional branch leaders, but before stepping into any role, they wish to "see and experience what AAUW is all about."

Once I have met with all of them, I will give a report to the Board and general membership.

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](mailto:steeles203@gmail.com) or 814-571-7616.



### Letter from Your Editor

Welcome back to November Issue #11!  
The political landscape has drastically changed. Now more than ever, it is important to have your voice heard. Vote!

Lots going on with AAUW. Vote NO on the amendment.

*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](https://weall.vote/aauw)

**Election Day is less than 5 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.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)







Make an Impact  
Join AAUW  
Legacy Circle

Lucy Harvey  
[lois3545@aol.com](mailto:lois3545@aol.com)

Bonnie Diehl  
[bdiehl81@gmail.com](mailto:bdiehl81@gmail.com)

# Membership

We are so excited that we have so many new members this year! So much so that we decided to start a Membership Committee. This group can discuss better ways to engage our new members in the fun activities that we already have established as well as to discuss different interest groups or social groups that we could develop! This will be a fun group! Our first Membership Committee meeting will be held at Sue Edwards house W4247 Indian Dr, Lake Geneva on Monday November 25 at 10:00 am. Please contact Sue Edwards 630-202-0703 or Louise Zitzler 262-745-9144 if you are interested in being part of this committee. Hope to see you there!



**Culinary Questers:** November 6 at 12:30 with the theme “Everything Cauliflower” is at Karen DeFalco’s home at 12:30. The dishes chosen so far are amazing and there is room for a couple more members, just text or call Karen at 1-815-953-5979.

December 4 Culinary Questers is at the home of Diane Thompson at 12:30. She has chosen the theme of “Charcuterie Boards for the Holidays”. Members will be bringing items for a variety of charcuterie boards so you don’t have to own one. Text or call Karen DeFalco at 1-815-953-5979 and come join!

## November Program

### 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?

November 14 2024  
Thursday at 6:00pm

Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N  
Wisconsin Street, Elkhorn, WI, 53121



**Bluestockings Book Group** will meet at the home of Carla Olson (610 Settlers Ridge Drive, Lake Geneva) at noon on Tuesday, November 19, to discuss **THE FROZEN RIVER** by Ariel Lawhon. Marcia Lauzon will lead the discussion, and Sue Greben will assist Carla as cohost. If you plan on attending, please email Carla at [aauwgltreas@gmail.com](mailto:aauwgltreas@gmail.com) and remember to bring a sandwich to share.





## Our Holiday Celebration

is planned for December 12th at Big Foot Country Club. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. with appetizers, live music and a cash bar. A plated dinner will be served starting at 7:00p.m. Following dinner, we will have a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. Please come celebrate our mission and friendship. You are welcome to bring a guest. We also have 2 baskets to raffle.

The reservation form is included in the Branch Briefs. Reservations are due to Carla by December 5 with a payment of \$50 per person.

**Great Decision** Books will be shipped to me after they are printed in January.

A total of 37 people signed up to participate in two sessions.

There is one Tuesday evening session from 6-8 pm of 10 people and a Thursday am session from 10 am to noon of 27 people. Both sessions will be at the Barrett Memorial Library starting the first week in February starting February 4 and 6th and running through March 25 and 27.

The Tuesday group does not have a "Volunteer Facilitator." They just have a group discussion. The Thursday morning group has a Volunteer Facilitator, Marsha Ries, a retired history teacher.

To date, I have received 23 checks. I have communicated with everyone who has signed up and will send out an email to them in the near future with schedules etc.

**Pattie Stejskal**

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## Open Leadership Roles

President - Elect: Term to begin July 1, 2025. Duties: To schedule, prepare and run quarterly board meetings, assist committee and interest chairs as needed and requested, attend national and state meetings as scheduled, review and revise monthly Branch Briefs, and other duties as needed.

Fundraising Chair--Is responsible for creating, organizing, and implementing fundraising/friendraising activities.

Membership Chair(s)-Are responsible for annual Membership June meeting, creating and updating membership directory, creating and keeping member name tags current and bringing them to all meetings, creating membership meet and greets, outreach social and volunteer activities, and forwarding member interest forms to respective committee chairs.

If interested in learning more about any of the above positions, please contact Susan Steele at 814-571-7616 or [steeles203@gmail.com](mailto:steeles203@gmail.com).

# Geneva Lake Branch AAUW 2024-2025

## Officers

President	Susan Steele
President Elect	<b>Vacant</b>
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>

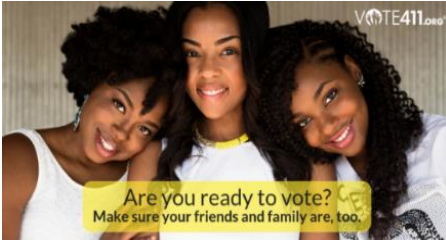
## Interest Group Coordinators

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

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

AAUW-WI Public Policy Committee September 16, 2024





*AAUW Geneva Lake Invites You to Our Holiday Celebration*  
*Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Big Foot Country Club*  
*770 Shabbona Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin*

*Appetizers/Cocktails 6:00 pm. Dinner at 7:00 pm.*  
*Cost \$50 per person (cash bar)*

*Plated Dinner*  
*Includes salad, rolls, coffee and dessert*

*Entree Choice of*  
*Maple Glazed Salmon*  
*Or*  
*Chicken with Mushroom Cream Sauce*  
*Or*  
*Butternut Squash Ravioli (vegetarian option)*

*All Reservations Must be received by December 5, 2024.*

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**Reservation form for our AAUW Holiday Celebration**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrée Choice** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrée Choice** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$50** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks made out to AAUW Geneva Lake Branch**

**Mail to Carla Olson, 610 Settlers Ridge Dr. Lake Geneva, WI 53147**