



**Public Policy Committee  
Chair Kathy Walsh**

Happy Holidays to All!

As we enter into 2025 and a new administration, Gloria Blackwell, CEO for AAUW, sent a letter to all about the election and going forward. I hope you had a chance to read it!

Below is a link she included in her letter, a reminder of Civility and AAUW member responsibilities! Please take some time to read this. (Thanks to Public Policy Committee member Joanne Kantner for suggesting this)

It was a hyperlink [<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/civility-matters/?emci=c7ed7436-799c-ef11-88ce-000d3a98fa6b&emdi=c736bf61-849c-ef11-88ce-000d3a98fa6b&ceid=941797>]. The page also has a pdf of Member Responsibilities [<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/01/Member-Responsibilities.pdf>].

The Public Policy Committee will meet via Zoom in early January. Our next effort will be providing information about the April 2nd election for a Wisconsin Supreme Court Judge. Let me know if you would like to join our committee. [kath3032@gmail.com](mailto:kath3032@gmail.com)



**Important Dates**

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Culinary Questers

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Bluestockings

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# President's Message

As we reflect during the Thanksgiving weekend and on this cold and blustery December 1st, I want to express my gratitude for being a part of such a diverse and intelligent group of women as are in our local AAUW branch.

First, thank the policy group for providing civility links in this month's Branch Briefs. Second, and more importantly, I want to congratulate each of us that within this group, no matter what our individual opinions, we always conduct collective discourses using attentive listening skills to create civil and respectful conversations.

I contacted each new member and met with those whose schedules permitted. During our one-on-one meet & greets, I asked them why they joined AAUW, what their goals were in doing so, and how our branch could support them. All stated they believed in the AAUW mission, but their goal was to form friendships with other educated women. They wished to participate in more casual social occasions rather than scheduled programming and wanted to receive creative methods to support and mentor each other. All felt positive about setting up a telegram text system wherein if one member wanted to go to, e.g., an art show, they could shoot out a text to the telegram group to see if anyone wanted to join them. I spoke to the Membership Committee about this and will do so at January's Board meeting.

I did this because we need new people to fill leadership vacancies. People will only do this if they feel directly connected to a group. Missions are great for visioning but seldom satisfy individual needs. With some creative socializing, I hope we can create the intimate connections needed to produce passionate AAUW mission advocates willing to educate, support, and mentor all women.

The force needed to conduct successful fundraising for our STEM Scholarship program. But fundraising is changing. Galas and events cost a lot in time and money for their, at best, 50% return. Many groups are turning to more creative, less labor-intensive activities. To assist our group and others in Walworth County who are also facing this challenge, our branch will sponsor a round table program conducted by the Gateway Foundation next year, inviting all area groups interested to attend.

Speaking of next year and STEM, we will conduct our first Zoom program in February. The purpose is for Val and Shelia to present the STEM process and application to our membership and then address any questions each of you may have.

And finally, I want to mention our end-of-year Holiday Party at Big Foot Country Club! The reservation form is in this month's Branch Briefs. Please fill it out and send it to Carla if you need to. There will be an excellent dinner, entertainment, songs, and three raffle baskets. They are from the State Convention filled with Fontana Centennial, Geneva Lake Conservancy, Elkhorn Chamber, and other goodies.

I hope to see everyone there and for EVERYONE to have a joyous Holiday season.

Susan



*Letter from Your Editor*

*W*elcome back to December Issue #12!

*I am blessed with good health, family and friends. Let's all count our blessing as we prepare for the 2025 New Year.*

*Bonnie Dill*

## **Membership**

Chairs Sue Edwards and Louise Zitzler conducted the first meeting of the Membership Committee. President Susan Steele reported on her one-on-one meetings with new members. Their reasons for joining AAUW, their expectations, level of involvement, other interests, and how we can support each other. She speaks to them in this month's President's message. The committee also discussed finalizing the Directory, annual membership event for 2025, and delegating who will be responsible for ensuring each member's interests are forwarded to the respective branch leader. Monthly meetings will be held on the last Monday of each month at Suzanne Edwards home. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



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)

## FIRST ZOOM STEM INFORMATION PROGRAM on February 13 at 6:00 pm.

"Many members have inquired about the STEM Scholarship process. Shelia and Val, STEM CHAIRS, will conduct a short presentation and a Q&A. Please SAVE THIS DATE to learn about the result of all our hard work."

### LUNCH BUNCH MEETUP SCHEDULE 2025, ALL 4<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAYS!

Just show up! Separate checks.

NOON, Wed, January 22, 2025, FOLEY'S, Lake Geneva

NOON, Wed, February 26, 2025, MAMA T'S, Elkhorn

NOON, Wed, March 26, 2025, SABAI SABAI THAI, Lake Geneva

NOON, Wed, April 23, 2025, SIMPLE CAFÉ, Lake Geneva

NOON, Wed, May 28, 2025, LOS TRES HERMANOS, Elkhorn

NOON, Wed, June 25, 2025, BOXED AND BURLAP, Delavan

NOON, Wed, July 23, 2025, MOYS, Elkhorn

NOON, Wed, Aug 27, 2025, HARPOON WILLIES, Williams Bay

NOON, Wed, Sept 24, 2025, BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL, Buttons Bay/ LG

NOON, Wed, Oct 22, 2025, SPICE OF INDIA, Delavan

NO Nov NO Dec Lunch Bunch 2025, due to holidays.

Janice Lyon 708.899.2734 Jan Schuren 262.728.7767 RSVP nice but NOT req.

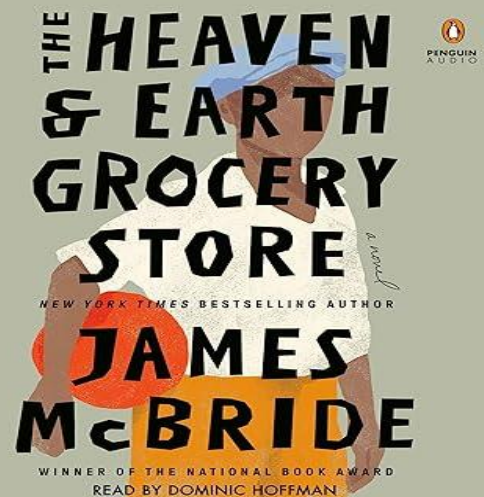


December 4 Cullinary Questers is at the home of Diane Thompson at 12:30. She has chosen the theme of "Charcuterie Boards for the Holidays". Members will be bringing items for a variety of charcuterie boards so you don't have to own one. Text or call Karen DeFalco at 1-815-953-5979 and come join!

**Bluestockings Book Group** will meet at noon on Tuesday, December 17, at the home of Jean Henderson (W4723 Pine Court, Elkhorn) where Jean will lead the discussion of **THE HEAVEN AND EARTH GROCERY STORE** by James McBride. Bev Kitzmiller will assist as cohost. Please bring a sandwich to share and contact Jean at [jeanjohnh@gmail.com](mailto:jeanjohnh@gmail.com) or call

262 723 5414 if you plan to attend.

Looking forward: January's book is **THE BURNING OF THE WORLD** by Scott W. Berg





## 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 Decisions** 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	<b>Vacant</b>
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



*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**