

Briefer Branch Briefs - March 2025



President's Message

March is **Women's History Month!**

A great way to celebrate the contributions of women to society and their work toward gender equality is to register for the AAUW State Convention. You can find more information and registration details at <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/convention/>.

Our Branch is lucky to have many talented members willing to share their talents for the organization's benefit. We are genuinely grateful for Bev Kitzmiller's journalism skills that create the Membership Directory and Briefer Branch Briefs, Bonnie Diehl and Pam Rawles's abilities to edit and structure Branch Briefs, and Carla Olson's always helpful and smiling demeanor as she uses her accounting experience for budgetary and treasury responsibilities.

New member Hillary Dudek, an experienced fundraiser in the NYC area, is agreeing to step in and try to fill the shoes of the Branch's former fundraising chair, Diane Thompson. Hillary wants to create a warm-up fundraiser, a fun social event for our members. The format is a potential happy hour at Kimkasi's in Fontana in May. During that time, we could display a board showing last year's STEM scholarship recipients with a large QR code for ad-hoc donations and receive 15% of the sales for the STEM scholarship fund. All members would be invited and asked to bring 1-2 friends. The public could donate. Hillary will be in the area the first week of March, so if anyone wishes to help her, please let me know.

The Membership Committee revised and created a new Membership Application. Judy Moser posted the latest application on the website. We encourage all members to use this new application for a streamlined membership process. Its format is in both PDF and Google online form.

The Branch still needs individuals to fill the co-chair membership and president-elect positions before the 2025-2026 slate of officers is presented in April. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.

Happy Women's History Month,
Susan Steele

Upcoming Events:

Membership

By Sue Edwards

We are beginning to plan the **June Membership event**, and we need the help of our interest groups. The Membership event will be a "Conversation Cafe" which will showcase the activities of our current Interest Groups. The event will be **June 11th at 6pm**. Each of the following groups will be contacted in the near future: Bluestockings, Culinary Questers, Lunch Bunch, Programs, Great Decisions, STEM, and Public Policy. More to come! **Also, the Membership Committee will meet Monday March 10th at 10 am at Sue Edwards' house.** It's a fun group, and we are always looking for new members!

Public Policy

By Kathy Walsh and Bonnie Diehl

Your Vote Matters on April 1 – Be Informed!

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW Wisconsin urges citizens to be informed and vote on April 1, 2025.

Key issues on the ballot:

1. Voter ID Constitutional Amendment

Wisconsin already has one of the most restrictive voter ID laws in the nation. Research shows these laws disproportionately disenfranchise voters. A proposed amendment seeks to make this law permanent, preventing future courts from ruling against it. AAUW urges a NO vote.

2. Wisconsin Supreme Court Election – Crawford vs. Schimel

This race will shape Wisconsin's future on issues such as fair maps, reproductive rights, labor laws, and environmental regulations. Brad Schimel has opposed abortion rights, supported gerrymandered maps, and received major funding from an Elon Musk-backed group. Susan Crawford supports fair maps, reproductive rights, and labor protections.

3. State Superintendent Race – Kinser vs. Underly

Dr. Jill Underly is a lifelong public education advocate, opposing the use of taxpayer dollars for private schools. Brittany Kinser supports school privatization. AAUW stands for strong public education.

4. There are local elections for school boards, referendums, village boards Check out your local elections and be informed about the candidates and issues. Be sure you are voting for candidates that reflect your views!

The future of Wisconsin is on the ballot. **Be informed. Vote April 1.**

Programs

By Nina Ruskey and Joanne Kantner

This year's entire list of programs can be found on a separate page at the end of this newsletter to enable you to easily print it and keep it as a reminder of what's coming. But first...

In April:

Our first official AAUW Program of 2025 will be **Thursday, April 10th 6:00 pm at Advia Credit Union in Elkhorn.** Jennifer Charpentier will speak to us on Fundraising and Development. Jennifer is the Executive Director of the Gateway College Foundation. Several of our members met and heard her breakout session at AAUW Convention 2024. She was very thoughtful and engaging. We are inviting other non-profit groups to join us in this discussion and brainstorming. Mark your calendar for April 10th at 6:00 pm. Look forward to seeing you there.

Culinary Questers

By Gwen Clausius and Bev Kitzmiller

April Culinary Questers will meet at the Fontana home of Gwen Clausius on **Wednesday, April 2 at 5:00 pm**. Bev Kitzmiller will cohost. The theme will be Spring Rolls and other delicious Thai accompaniments. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gwen at gclausius@gmail.com or 312-217-4019. Space is limited to 12 attendees.

Bluestockings

By Emily Hummel

Bluestockings will meet at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 18th** at the **Walworth Memorial Library, 525 Kenosha Street, in Walworth**. There is plenty of free parking out front. Please bring a sandwich to share and a drink of your choice (nonalcoholic). Jane Erickson and Emily Hummel will provide hot spiced apple cider, salads, and dessert.

Our discussion of *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros will be led by Emily Hummel. Please let Emily know if you are planning to attend by emailing her at ekhummelmft@aol.com or texting her at 815-751-3479.

Looking Ahead:

April 15	<i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i> by Shelby Van Pelt	Carolyn Langner and Jane Erickson	Diane Dorman, Host, Carolyn Langner, Cohost
May 20	<i>The Secrets We Kept</i> by Lara Prescott	DISCUSSION LEADER NEEDED	HOST NEEDED Kate Berley Cohost
June 17	<i>The Women</i> by Kristin Hannah	Sharna Ahern	Karen Hirn, Host Janet Huelster, Cohost
July 15	<i>Horse</i> by Geraldine Brooks	Barb Turner	Judy Johnson, Host Diane Thompson, Cohost
August 19	Book Selection	Nan Voss	Karen DeFalco, Host Deb Mecklenburg Cohost
September 16	<i>Mad Honey</i> by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan	Doris Mosser	Gwen Clausius, Host, Doris Mosser Cohost

Lunch Bunch

By Janice Lyon and Jan Schuren

Just show up! Separate checks.

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

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

Exciting New Programs for 2025!

Our AAUW Program Committee is thrilled to announce the 2025 program schedule for our branch featuring a dynamic lineup of educational presentations, with opportunities to connect with fellow members. All educational presentations will occur at **Advia Credit Union, 837 N Wisconsin St, Elkhorn, WI**. Meetings will begin at **6:00 PM with social time**, followed by a **business meeting at 6:15 PM**, and the **program starting at 6:30 PM**.

Special thanks to our dedicated Program Committee members -- Janice Lyon, Maura Zinni, Sue Steele, Louise Zitzler, Nina Ruskey, Joanne Kantner, and Karen Stoneman -- whose planning and commitment make these programs possible. Their efforts ensure that we continue to offer meaningful and educational programs that support AAUW's mission.

AAUW PROGRAM PLAN 2025-2nd Thurs of the month

Date	Program Topic
13-Feb	STEM Scholarship Process
March	No meeting
10-Apr	Fundraising and Development-GTC Foundation
8-May	Badger Talk-Indigenous Ways of Knowing about Wisconsin's Tribal Nations
12-Jun	Membership Drive
10-Jul	Walworth County Literacy Council
14-Aug	STEM Scholarship Luncheon
11-Sep	Fundraiser
9-Oct	LGBTQ+ Panel
13-Nov	Badger Talk-Introduction to the Impact of AI
11-Dec	Holiday Party



Make an Impact!
Join AAUW
Legacy Circle

Leave a Lasting Legacy

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