

Title IX: Entitled to Succeed: A Report on the 95th Annual AAUW-WI State Convention



Title IX would not have become law without AAUW's meticulous research and grassroots political strength. AAUW championed the passage of Title IX more than 40 years ago and is still the stalwart guardian of that legislation. It's time to persuade younger women to take up our vital role in protecting Title IX—for their own benefit and future generations of American girls. That was the theme of the 95th Annual AAUW-Wisconsin convention at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI on April 24-25, 2015.

Jessie Garcia

With Northeast Wisconsin being a hotbed of professional sports, it was fitting to hear from Today's TMJ4 sportscaster and author Jessie Garcia who talked about her experiences with the Packers. She is currently writing a history of Wisconsin Olympians, including Otto Osthoff, while juggling family life.



Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson



The Chief Justice received a standing ovation before she started to speak. She chose a half-dozen legal cases to illustrate how her job—and the court system—can and do affect our everyday lives. Always charming, she also urged everyone to serve jury

duty when called. And to stop by and see her when in Madison.

WI Always Active in AAUW

State President Joyce Hoffman reminded the **125 attendees from 21 branches** that Wisconsin has always been active in AAUW from the start. Two UW grads were among AAUW's founding mothers who gathered at MIT in 1881. Lois Rosenberry, from the Madison Branch, was Association president in 1921 when the organization consolidated nationwide and selected the name American Association of University Women. 1921 was also the year that Wisconsin became a statewide organization.

Title IX and Law's Requirements

Mollie Lam, LAF senior manager, and Tonya Schmidt, Asst. Dean of Students, UW-Madison, presented an update on Title IX and the law's requirements of educational institutions. Tonya said that a new UW-System task force was launched last fall that should strengthen reporting and prevention of sexual assaults and other violations at all UW institutions. Both agreed that nearly 1 in 5 (20%) of women on campus suffer some type of traumatic harassment, sexual assault, date rape or stalking.

Many Thanks

Many thanks go to State Convention co-chairs Frances Kavenik and Kathy Ignatowski who did an outstanding job securing 14 interesting presenters and

organizing the entire event. Arrangements were provided by 6 different branches from 3 proximate districts: Sheboygan, Appleton, Lake Country, Watertown, Oconomowoc, and Milwaukee. A special thank you also goes to convention book editor Deb Vomhof from the Watertown Branch.

"Just Give" to the Katherine Teska Research & Projects Fund (#4320)

Convention goers had fun and gave **\$1,326** toward completing the Teska Fund to make it grant-producing. Lyn Hildenbrand, Funds Development VP, sold raffle tickets for baskets and collected "Just Give" direct donations. You, too can contribute to the Katherine Teska Fund (#4320) by sending a donation to AAUW, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington D.C., 20036.



AAUW-Wisconsin branches and members gave a total of **\$74,628** to the various AAUW funds in 2014. That amounts to about **\$43 per person** across the state.

Resolutions

A resolution urging "the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin to adopt a nonpartisan redistricting plan that creates an accountable, transparent redistricting process similar to the Iowa plan" passed unanimously.

A resolution for support of the "reform



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of student loan policies to grant loans at affordable interest rates and to permit refinancing of existing loans” passed unanimously.

AAUW-WI Redistricting

Ratification of a proposed redrawing of the AAUW-WI district map failed by a membership vote of 55 nays to 42 ayes. Current districts and coordinators will remain in effect. The proposal will go back to the State Board, which has the authority to make such changes, for further consideration. Branch or member comments about redistricting should be sent to District Coordinators or newly elected Leadership VP Joyce Gregg—lgregg@wi.rr.com.

New AAUW-WI Officers

Stephanie Malaney, Appleton Branch, President Elect, 2015-16; Donna Weidman, Eau Claire Branch, Program VP, 2015-16; Joyce Gregg, Racine Branch, Leadership VP, 2015-17; Judy Goodnight, Appleton Branch, Membership VP, 2015-17.

Interest in STEM

Appleton and Oshkosh Branches held a Tech Savvy conference for 120 middle-school-aged girls and their parents at UW-

Oshkosh on April 18. Racine Branch held its second hands-on GEMS (Girls Empowered by Math and Science) conference for 200 girls from 4 middle schools at UW-Parkside on April 1.

This & That

A *2-Minute Alert* on **Gov. Walker’s proposed state budget** will be issued by Catherine Emmanuelle, State Public Policy Coordinator, just before the State Legislature is scheduled to vote in late May or June. Watch your email for messages to send to State legislators.

Milwaukee-West Suburban Branch received the Growth plaque for recruiting 32 new members. Racine Branch recruited 27 new members, followed by Appleton Branch at 23.

Jeanne Zirbel, a 50-year life member from River Falls Branch, received her pin as a new *Legacy Circle* member, joining 10 others from Wisconsin. This select group is committed to empowering women and girls into the future by supporting AAUW with a bequest.

Look for convention presentation notes on the www.aauw-wi.aauw.net website.

The new **“One AAUW” video** presented by AAUW leader-on-loan Rebecca

Norlander will be soon available at www.aauw.org.

IT Manager Kate Hinnant will post an instructional video on how to build and maintain a branch website on the www.aauw-wi.aauw.net website this summer. Keep checking.

Chris Ebert, Rhinelander-Northwoods Branch, won the “early bird” registration drawing of a gift certificate for a future one-night stay at The Osthoff Resort.

AAUW-National needs your votes—National Board member Pam Thiel from La Crosse Branch is up for re-election. She’s among 17 candidates. Vote online until June 19 or request a paper ballot by May 8. Vote on proposed changes to the 2015-17 Public Policy Program, plus proposed changes to the bylaws (the most controversial being *eliminating the college degree requirement for membership*). You will need your membership ID and voter PIN numbers that are printed by the mailing label on the back of AAUW *Outlook* magazine.

Notify AAUW-National of changes in your branch leadership before June 1.