

# Badger



# Briefs

**Meet new board members!**



**2021-2022  
Program  
Focus:  
DE&I**

**Program tips, strategic plan,  
5 star re-run (oh no!)**



*Letter from the President**- Joan Schneider*

*Welcome back to another year of AAUW!*

**A new year of AAUW!** I am excited!

Years ago, in my experience, AAUW activities came to a halt in the summer. Luckily, things are different now. Oh, I am still excited at the start of a new year of AAUW programs, activities, book sale, Public Policy and friendships. The difference is that we now have **AAUW activities all summer**. Yes. All. Summer. Book groups are meeting. Legislators are getting our phone calls and emails. Book sale sorting has started. Interesting activities are planned that encourage learning, interaction and new members. Last week we filled a boat with AAUW members and prospective members and floated up and down the Fox River. We ate, talked, ate some more, learned about history and wildlife, talked some more and enjoyed a beverage. (Did you know wine comes in cans? Who knew!? Not me.)

Can you tell? I am really a fan of AAUW. Biased? I suppose so. Do I agree with everyone and thing? No, but doesn't that add interest and learning to our lives? I can remember the speaker at my first AAUW meeting. I was astounded! I hadn't even thought of the issue that was addressed! I was new to town so I wanted to meet people. But even more than that I was looking for new ideas, ways to expand my mind, get involved and learn. **Life time learning! Involvement. Action. Leadership. Team work. Engagement. That is AAUW.**

So all of these years later **I am still learning**. I joked about kicking and screaming as I was dragged into technology AKA Zoom. Being too responsible for words, I had to learn to use zoom because as president of AAUW WI, I needed it. Aren't I happy I "had" to use Zoom?! Aren't we lucky to have it?



*Cont. on page 3*

As I meet AAUW members across the state, I learn how members support other members of their branch, people in their communities and also people around the world. When we support legislation concerning the welfare of women and girls, we are showing support. But what I am more aware of now is how members take food to the less mobile, visit a senior facility, offer comfort at the loss of a loved one, welcome new people to our communities, support immigrant families, teach English to non-English speakers, travel to other places to help in emergencies, cultivate reading. You know I could keep going until you started to nod off. **We have remarkable members doing remarkable things to make our world a better place.**

An interesting development with the pandemic was meetings with other state presidents across the country. It was challenging, interesting and enlightening. I heard viewpoints that I had not considered. I shared with PhDs, a state with membership numbers equal to my branch, a state so thrilled with zoom their board meets monthly!!! **Communication between national, state and branches!!!**

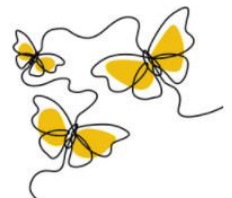
Now, I thought I could get away without talking about **Covid**, but it is not possible. National is still hesitant to say “in person” meetings are ok. Yet, I know many branches are planning in person meetings, others are planning for virtual. I think national has to consider the entire nation when they make their recommendation. Not all states have our vaccination rate. So we have to make tough decisions about our plans for the year. We have had to be flexible the past year or so and still need to be flexible. Everyone needs to stay up to date with the latest recommendations. We are still talking about our April convention, virtual or in person? As I am writing, the CDC has changed their mask policy. I am glad we have the CDC looking out for our safety and making those recommendations. AAUW is also concerned about your safety.

*See you at Convention April 22, 23!*

Joan Schneider,  
AAUW WI State President



Joan Schneider  
AAUW-WI State President  
920.734.2009  
[joanschneider@gmail.com](mailto:joanschneider@gmail.com)





## Hello from Maggie Winz, your President-Elect!



*Maggie Winz  
President-Elect*

When I think of AAUW, several images come to mind:

First, all the GREAT WOMEN who belong to AAUW, who contribute so much to their communities! I love being part of a group of civic-minded people who have fun and also tackle serious and important issues.

Second, the AAUW MISSION, which guides us in all the choices we make. Our Mission helps us choose which speakers to invite to our monthly meetings and which books to read for our book groups. Each branch can offer great speakers, topics, and books they have read- and I hope we will be sharing many ideas with other branches. Here are a few that stayed with me:

- Speakers I've enjoyed or been moved by: School nurses explaining all the services they provide; College students who are "Dreamers", hoping to stay in the US; Women business owners who share the ups and downs of running a small business; Local elected officials, including county board supervisors discussing issues that come before the board; Graduate students who received a grant from AAUW, sharing their educational journey; College women who have attended NCCWSL. There are so many possibilities! Our branches are doing a great job shining the light on so many important issues!
- Books we've selected: I'm looking forward to discussing "On Juneteenth" by historian Annette Gordon-Reed- very timely! Past favorites include: "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens; "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah; "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult, and many more.

Third, AAUW NATIONAL keeps raising the bar and challenging us to think higher and deeper:

- Improving Women's economic security, by encouraging careers in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), and by becoming advocates for themselves by taking the Start Smart or Work Smart training (which is free online).
- Advocating for Public Policy legislation to improve the well-being of Women and Families.
- Recognizing the need to inform and promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our society, beginning with AAUW. I invite all members and branches to continue this important work by consciously making choices to be inclusive: invite new members to sit with you at meetings, or to join your mahjong or book group. Read books highlighting different perspectives.

Finally, I encourage all members to stay current with our AAUW-Wisconsin BOARD, by reading the Badger Briefs and attending our annual State Convention if possible. Branches are encouraged to share great speakers, topics, books, and other ideas throughout the year. Branch Presidents are encouraged to attend District Meetings, and to share ideas with other branches in their districts.

We are stronger when we work together- and our MISSION guides our choices!

Wishing all of you a wonderful and meaningful year!

Maggie

**\*\*\*\*\*Introducing New State Board Members\*\*\*\*\***

Please, join me in welcoming the following people to our State Board!

IT Coordinator, **Ann Brice** from La Crosse

Nominations Chair, **Erica Koonmen** from Sparta

College/University Coordinator, **Jan Eriksen** from La Crosse

DE&I Chair, **Leslie Brunsell** from Janesville

District 2 Coordinator, **Carla Washington** from Milwaukee

District 3 Coordinator, **Gretchen McCarthy** from Fontana

District 4 Coordinator, **Suzanne Hagen** from River Falls

**\*\*\*\*\*Welcome to the board! Joan Schneider \*\*\*\*\***



*AAUW has always been a part of my life as my mom, Joan Koonmen, is a lifetime member.*

*One of my earliest memories is watching her practice her slideshow presentation about Winslow Homer for the art study group. I saw how tedious it was putting together the newsletter with cut-out clip art when she was the MN state AAUW newsletter editor and am thankful for computers and InDesign now that I'm the La Crosse branch newsletter editor!*

*Of course I joined AAUW after graduating from UW-RF with a BA in Sociology & Philosophy. But after I got married and spent the next 25 years as a military spouse, moving every 2 or 3 years, membership was spotty depending on whether the next assignment had a branch or not.*

*We retired here in WI 15 years ago and I've been a member of the La Crosse branch since then.*

*My husband, Jef Jerde, and I have 2 married daughters and 2 grandchildren, all of them living in the Minneapolis area.*

*I enjoy traveling (and reached my goal of joining the Traveler's Century Club in 2016), knitting and science fiction. I'm excited to join the AAUW-WI board and look forward to working with this wonderful group this year.*



*Erica Koonmen,  
Nominations Chair*

*Hi Everyone!*

*I am the new IT Coordinator for AAUW WI. I met many of you virtually at the State Convention in April, and I'm looking forward to working with Joan and the rest of our wonderful board this year!*

*Currently I teach computer programming at Western Technical College and I continue to provide database development services to a small client base as a private contractor.*

*I live in La Crosse with my husband Bill Haviland and our three cats. I am training hard for the Madison Marathon on November 14 th and I did the Door County Sprint triathlon a few weeks ago with four days training. I did not drown or crash, so though I came in close to last, I consider it a win. Next year I'm going to train!*

*I'm excited to be serving you in all ways IT.*

*It is my honor to serve as your College/University Coordinator.*

*I'm a member of the La Crosse Branch, where I've held offices as secretary, vice president of programs, president-elect, and president. Most of my career has been in higher education.*

*I'm retired after 20 years at Viterbo University where I held a variety of positions, including faculty member, academic advisor, department chair, and dean.*

*If you are the College/ University Relations Chair for your branch I will be getting in touch with you.*

*My contact information is: [jperiksen@viterbo.edu](mailto:jperiksen@viterbo.edu); 608.787.5946; 3503 Crown Blvd., La Crosse, WI, 54601-8353. I welcome all questions and comments.*



*Ann Brice,  
IT coordinator*



*Jan Eriksen,  
College/University  
coordinator*



Leslie Brunsell  
DE&I Chair

*Hello!*

*My name is Leslie Brunsell and I was asked to serve a two-year term on the State Board as DE&I Chair. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is a major focus for AAUW and a new position has been created on the AAUW-WI Board of Directors to assist branches in focusing on this initiative. As a 40+ year member of AAUW Janesville, I am currently the Membership VP and have been Diversity Chair since 1995 when AAUW introduced the initiative Adelante! Our committee helped found the Diversity Action Team of Rock County in 1998 and continues to network with this organization on programs, training and events.*

*My interest in diversity began in 1987 when my daughter, a student at UW Madison, started bringing home new friends from a variety of cultures and ethnicities. In 1996 when AAUW was a member of the IFUW (International Federation of University Women) I made the first of two educational exchanges to the Netherlands where I stayed in homes of 5 different members of the VVAO (Dutch version of AAUW) and learned about their culture, government, history and food. This exchange was the beginning of my love for hosting exchange students and International guests from around the world. This October we will host our 125th International guest since 1992.*

*Since there is no written job description for the DE&I chair, I will be creating it as I proceed. I have set seven goals to achieve in my first year:*

- *Participate in all State Board Meetings July 2021-April 2022*
- *Attend all National DE&I webinars and National DE&I Committee meetings as AAUW WI representative and share information with the Board and branches.*
- *Become familiar with the DE&I Tool Box*
- *Be a resource for all State members through the Badger Briefs State Newsletter*
- *Encourage every branch to have a DE&I Chair*
- *Form a DE&I committee with one member from each branch with the purpose of sharing ideas for implementation and use of the Tool Box*
- *Provide a DE&I breakout session at the AAUW State Convention*

*Thank you for the opportunity to work as the DE&I Chair for AAUW WI. Feel free to contact me on any DE&I issues. Together we can find a solution. With your help we can make a difference and move our association in a positive direction. I am excited to get started.*

Leslie Brunsell, DE&I Chair  
608 201-2100  
lrbrunsell@aol.com





*Deb Thiel,  
Leadership VP*

## Leadership Report: Transitional Leadership (Summer 2021)

As I ponder what to write, Transition is the word that keeps coming to mind! Like me, some of us are new to roles and are still trying to figure things out, get organized, learn from the past and project our goals/hopes for the future.

However Transition doubly applies to all of us as we move through year two of the pandemic and maneuver into the next!

Although we do know more today perhaps than we did in March 2020, we are still trying to get our heads around things, while continuing to wade into the unknown;

do we meet in person? Do we continue online only? Do we hybrid our meetings/encounters?

Each level of our organization is presently grappling with those questions and more.

Any answer may be correct for you and your branch at any particular time. We will likely continue to morph throughout the year.

We are called to transitional leadership whether we want to or not. Transition management is all about change – which, if we think about it, really is what our core mission compels in order to improve equity. Transitional leadership requires a participatory process of visioning, learning and experimenting.

Best transitional leaders will:

- Identify problems/trial ideas
- Admit failure/move forward
- Speak plainly
- Stay attuned and carefully consider multiple sources of information
- Foster listening and lots of open/honest 2-way conversation
- Keep flexible and recognize when change is needed
- Act brave enough to change and then change again
- Define success by staying focused on the big picture/strategic goals
- Document and share lessons learned

Yikes that's scary! Oh wait – it's not so scary because I don't have to do it alone! None of us do. The beauty of AAUW IS amazing members to partner with! Making us stronger, adding clarity to help us create a better outcome as a result.

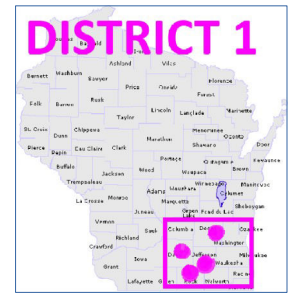
I'm pretty pumped about my co- members on the Board and for our Leadership Development Committee comprised of our 5 District Coordinators! These are your direct representatives on the Board. Please reach out and respond to them often!

Introducing:

### District 1: Kleo Baruth Kritz



This past year has been a challenge with District 1 successfully staging the first AAUW Wisconsin Virtual Convention with 236 registrants! I am very fortunate to work with such great branches —Beaver Dam, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, and Monona/Madison—each organized and efficient in working on AAUW's mission. All embraced the challenge of learning Zoom and kept their meetings and activities going forward. Fort and Janesville are already planning their next Girls' Tech Savvy in conjunction with UW-Whitewater for next year!



I am the Monona/Madison co-president and book sale co-chair and will be serving the second year of my term as D1 Coordinator. I am especially looking forward to the emphasis on Diversity, which is the focus of National and State this year. We retired English teachers always have a book to recommend and this year everyone should read *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. This powerful book confronts the American history too often hidden. I am currently involved with four book clubs, volunteer at the Fitchburg Library, and attend numerous plays at American Players Theater and Forward Theater in Madison. I reside in Fitchburg with eight furry female felines and one Tom, my husband.

### District 2: Carla Washington



***"I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. ... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back."*** ~ Malala Yousafzai

My rich history of serving on association boards and working with associations will help me in my role as District 2 Coordinator. Additionally I serve as President for the AAUW Milwaukee Branch.



(cont.)

(District coordinators cont.)

I have a long tenure of hands-on experience in creating programs serving girls and women through working and volunteering with various nonprofit organizations.

I must credit my involvement with the remarkable AAUW Milwaukee Branch as THE catalyst for reawakening my fire to fight for equity on behalf of girls and women. I am looking forward to 'branching' out as I connect further to Lake Country, Watertown and West Suburban as well!

I earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and my bachelor's degree from Marquette University, Milwaukee.

### District 3: Gretchen McCarthy



I am filling in for one year as the District 3 Coordinator.

I was born and raised in Iowa and graduated from the University of Iowa.

As a member of the Geneva Lake branch for eight years I've been the membership co-chair, vice president, president and then state convention co-chair.

I hope to build on friendships forged during the planning of the 2019 state convention by District 3 to enhance district wide communication. I look forward to working closer with Racine, Kenosha and Geneva Lake Branches.



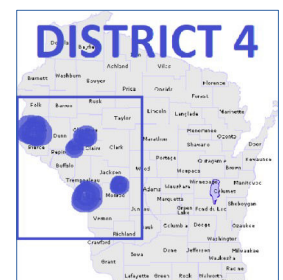
### District 4: Suzanne Hagen



As I take on the District 4 Coordinator role after serving as River Falls branch President, I think about how AAUW has been a great partner in times of transition.

In 2010 when I retired from teaching at UW-River Falls, AAUW was a wonderful way to connect with like-minded women working for equity and education.

AAUW's people and policies – at all levels – help us and our branches move into new leadership positions, develop new processes, and advance new priorities.



(Cont.)

*(District coordinators cont.)*

Our Western Wisconsin branches – Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, LaCrosse, Tomah and River Falls – transitioned well into the new realities of 2020-21. Members gathered via Zoom for informative programs, film and book discussion groups, and all-important social time “together.”

This summer branch work goes forward in areas such as program planning, fund raising (LaCrosse holds its major fund raiser “Art Fair on the Green” in July), and policy advocacy (River Falls partners with area organizations on “Fair Map” events).

I’m looking forward to working with our District as we plan safe meeting formats and focus on State and National AAUW priorities, including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

I hope to assist with some collaborative programming among our branches.

I’ll be in regular contact with District 4 branches and invite you to contact me anytime ( Suzanne.hagen.1@gmail.com ) with questions, suggestions or issues.

Kudos to all our members for their commitment to AAUW’s missions of advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy!

### **District 5: Judy Goodnight**



We made it through all the challenges of the 2020-2021 AAUW year! Thank goodness for Zoom technology, this not only kept branches meeting monthly, but also allowed members to keep in social contact via book groups, membership socials, and even art classes. I appreciated being able to join branches far from my home & meet their members.

As branches slowly return to meeting in person, cautious optimism seems to be the safety watchword of the day.

This is the second year of my current term as coordinator to the 8 branches in District 5 (Northwoods, Wausau, Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, and West Bend).

I’m a member of AAUW-Appleton currently serving as Communications Chair.

I publish the newsletter, maintain our website and social media. I also chair the Social Justice group, 2 of our book groups, and am the branch historian.

In my non-AAUW life, I’m an active Girl Scout volunteer, literacy tutor, member of 3 other book groups, and an avid scrapbooker!





Erica Koonmen,  
Nominations Chair  
La Crosse branch  
moogs56@hotmail.com  
608-366-1509

## Quest for Quality Leaders Begins

Your state Nominating Committee will be working to fill 3 elected board positions for 2022-2024.

The committee consists of representatives from each district; they will be calling branch leaders asking for names of members who could make a genuine contribution to the state board in one of these positions:

Funds Development Vice President, Financial Vice President or Program Vice President. Below are brief descriptions of the posts. If someone comes to mind who you feel would be a great fit for one of them, please send me their contact information, the reason they have impressed you and which position you see them excelling in. That's all you have to do—we'll take care of creating the list and “making the ask”! Of course, it could be you and we'd be delighted to have your information too.



### ***Funds Development Vice President:***

- Has fundraising skills and experience.
- Creates opportunities for, supports and encourages giving by AAUW WI and members.
- Serves as chair of the committee on AAUW Funds.
- Assists with the coordination of fundraising initiatives at the state convention.
- Informs board and branches about funds and goals to be completed.
- Suggests ideas for fundraisers at the state and branch levels.

### ***Financial Vice President:***

- Has finance management skills and experience; spreadsheet computer skills.
- Serves as chair of the Finance Committee.
- Develops annual budget in consultation with the Finance Committee.
- Provides detailed financial report to the Executive Committee and Board.
- Receives receipts and disburses expenditures for the State Board.
- Maintains a list of all branches and annual branch membership totals.

### ***Program Vice President:***

- Has program management skills and experience.
- Determines convention arrangements, programs and evaluations.
- Coordinates convention planning with the local committee
- Acts as a resource to branch program counterparts.

Please contact me for full job descriptions. These offices are all opportunities to grow and to work with like-minded people to support AAUW goals.

I look forward to hearing from you and learning about our talented members who could join the board!



Jean Kreul,  
Fund Development  
VP

## Development is Fund-a-mental

Have you seen the AAUW Strategic Plan 2.0 yet? As I read this update of the 2018 Strategic Plan I wondered what role Fund Development plays. That's when I thought of ABC's:



Since AAUW's inception, education and training have been hallmarks. Through the years, economic security and leadership training were added. Fast forward 140 years later where a renewed emphasis on STEM education, passage of pay equity legislation at national and state levels, a stronger focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, plus remaining a forward-thinking organization are more important than ever. That requires **Action**.

Before constructing a building, many things need to be considered: the location, opinions of neighboring stakeholders, regulations, sustainability, and meeting the needs of all who will use it. In the strategic plan, AAUW aims to examine solutions to combat systemic, structural racism; its mission work; advocacy; operations; and programs. That requires a **Blueprint**.

The Plan also will sustain such offerings as training in salary negotiations, maintaining the Equity Network that engages virtually with hundreds of working people ages 21-40 weekly on gender equity advocacy, voting rights, and professional career development, plus work to enact pay equity laws. That requires **Creativity**.

Ultimately members determine whether a strategic plan is achieved. Our recent historic health crisis showed us that human beings are capable of change; and we can do difficult things. When asked to contribute during AAUW's Annual Fund drive think about the **action, blueprint, and creativity** your donation can make towards the future of women and girls.

### AAUW WI Convention Auction Update

After the close of the convention, an additional \$2,200 was raised for the Greatest Needs Fund thanks to donations from AAUW Eau Claire, Carol Surges, and AAUW Milwaukee for a total of \$4,095. Thanks again to all who participated. Hope the winners are enjoying their prizes!



Carol Surges,  
Membership VP

## Membership and Databases – the Challenge Continues

Renewal time is when we get visible feedback on how well the previous year engaged our members. This past year was a particularly tough one on that front but across the state, branches pushed through the initial shock, and quickly forged into new territory. Moving to a digital platform like Zoom was a fabulous alternative to in-person meetings for most branches but it wasn't a perfect fit for every member. This year's renewal numbers will give us feedback on how successful that shift was. Will new members return? Are the digitally challenged or screen-overworked coming back? Only after all the numbers are in will we know how well the last year worked for our members.



### Keep contact info up to date

Membership renewal is a busy time for branch membership and financial leaders, the seemingly endless cycle of reminding, following-up, reminding again. One final step in that process should be updating branch members' data on the national website.

Recent checks indicate that the national database is woefully inaccurate and at least part of the fault rests on branch leaders' shoulders. *Checking the accuracy of each member's data should be done annually.* Phone numbers, email and residence addresses seem to change at the speed of light and need to be kept up to date in the national database.

When members don't get the latest updates from Washington, D.C. it's often (but not always) because their email has changed and national was never notified via the database. Unfortunately, members usually don't recognize they are missing important information. Unknowing, they never question the void. Only by keeping the database up to date at the national, state and branch levels can our members be kept informed.



State leadership is looking into the national database shortcomings and attempting to help bring things into better focus quickly. We plan to schedule a statewide Zoom session on how to work with the national database. Invitations will be sent directly to branch leaders, especially Membership and Finance leaders who have access to the database.

Watch your inboxes and please make time to participate. We also plan to open the conversation on all things related to branch concerns for an ongoing series of virtual discussions. Watch for it!



Lyn Hildenbrandt,  
Program VP

## AAUW WI Program

Hello AAUW members & friends!

I hope that all of you are enjoying the summer....it is moving fast, so enjoy it while you can!

### Convention questions

As we begin planning for our 2022 Convention in April, please know that your fellow AAUW members/Convention Committee and Board, will be discussing whether or not to have an

- In-person Convention,
- a Virtual Convention, or
- a Hybrid.

Please feel free to let me know your thoughts by August 15, 2022, as I would like to include your feedback at our Zoom meeting on August 20th.

### Counterpart teamwork

It is my desire to reach out to all Branch Program VPs this year, once all branches have turned in their officer list to the National Office – I will put together a list of VPs and we will begin to share best practices. Thanks for your kind patience while we get these lists together.

### Program focus 2021-2022

In the meantime, as we work to stay connected to our National Office, and keep up with what is going on in the rest of the world – our *program focus for the year at the State level will be DEI!*

It is a key peg in the wheel of our National Agenda, so it is crucial that we get on board with the wave of the future and work towards **appointing a DEI officer at each branch!**

Look out for guidance later on how to nominate and install a DE&I - officer in your branch.

The State's new DE&I officer Leslie Brunsell will be your woman in the helm, helping you to define the role.





Chris Ebert,  
Communications  
Chair

## Answering the “Why...” Question

As all of us in our branches, districts, and our state board are emerging from the year and a half of the Covid-19 restrictions, we understand that our methods and means of communication have significantly evolved and perhaps revealed new and better ways of interacting. As women, communication has always been about “*telling the story*” – the who, what, when, how, and why.



And for the majority of the events - monthly meetings, book club discussions, small group meetings, and any special events, it is the first four that are relevant. But it is the answer to the “why” question, which I’ve most recently had to answer myself in an interview, that truly tells our AAUW story. And as I relate this story to you, answering the “whys of AAUW” and enabling all of our branches to do so will be my mission.

Many of our branches hold an annual Book Sale to raise funds for various projects, especially for scholarships. Our Northwoods branch has been doing so for many years and the scholarships are all for Nicolet College Women Students who are “returning to school.” It always involves a significant amount of planning, publicity, coordination of volunteers, and a “marathon” the week it takes place of transporting and unpacking all the books to the Rhinelander HS Cafeteria, selling for four days, and packing everything back up for storage until the next year.

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(Cont.)

Our branch has wonderful members who generously volunteer their time this week, especially the couple who store the books all year and are significantly involved in the transporting and unpacking. When I was our branch president, I chose to be present all week and have continued to do so - which is probably why I end up doing the various interviews.

Our local public radio station has recently hired some very bright young women reporters and initiated a new program called “Non-profits in the Northwoods.”

This was this interview, via a phone call (due to continued Covid restrictions) that prompts this story. Erin had done her homework and knew many things about AAUW as well as asking me questions that allowed me to also convey our history and mission. But then she asked me, “why is gender equity important in the Northwoods?” My answer was that “gender equity is important everywhere” and then went on to explain how our branch scholarships provide various opportunities for women in the Northwoods for education and employment to provide for their families and serve as role models.



It was an “OK” answer but it truly was an “ah ha” moment - that we intentionally need to focus on the answers to the “why” questions. And that is what I intend to do.

I am sure that many of your branches do a wonderful job of conveying the history, message and mission of AAUW. I simply hope that by providing some answers to the “why...” questions will be helpful and most importantly keeping all lines of communications open.

Please feel free to contact me and look for frequent communications from me [cebert@udel.edu](mailto:cebert@udel.edu) or 906-358-4246.



*Stephanie Malaney,  
Public Policy chair*

## **AAUW WI Public Policy**



### **Committee on Fair Maps**

My vote should count, and my voice should be heard. This is what the issue of Fair Maps is about. Currently the districts in our state have been gerrymandered or manipulated to create results that don't reflect the voters on election day.

Several short messages were sent to Branch Presidents and Public Policy Chairs that can be posted on your website or added to branch newsletter.

The goal of Fair Maps is to redraw the district lines so that all candidates have an equal chance to be elected regardless of their political party. This equal opportunity would make elected officials more responsive to the voters they represent. The Public Policy -committee has spent the last year on Fair Maps to keep you informed. The committee believes the process of redrawing the district lines could happen very quickly once the census numbers are in.

### **New Public Policy chairs: join the mailing list**

The Public Policy committee meets about once a month throughout the year via zoom. If you are the new public policy chair for your branch, please make sure I have your name to add to the committee. We will be meeting soon to plan our work for the next year. Smalaney5@aol.com or 920-740-9632.



## ATTENTION PROGRAM VP's!

### PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES POST CONVENTION 2021

Convention 2021 is now a memory of the past, but we had attendees who gave accolades to our speakers and asked afterwards for contact information for the future. Here is the information, and both gave permission to have you contact them if you are interested in setting up a program this coming year for your branch.

Dr. Laura Alwin, who founded and presented "The Unity Project: Building a Better Community Through Inclusion," is passionate about bringing people together in her community of Fort Atkinson. With the help of many like-minded community members and businesses, she was able to bring to her community the first bilingual festival (now in its fourth year), the first Gay Pride event, and the first event geared at inviting the differently-abled from local group homes to dance with others in their community. Unity was responsible for establishing bilingual plaques in a local park and collaborates through the Unity Project's School Partnership with the Fort Schools. Her email is [laura.unityproject@gmail.com](mailto:laura.unityproject@gmail.com)

Katy Grogan, a member of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, presented "Climate Change Issues and Actions." She now serves as Citizens' Climate Lobby Liaison to the First Congressional District of Wisconsin as well as the leader of the Janesville Chapter of CCL. Her email is [hkgrogan@gmail.com](mailto:hkgrogan@gmail.com) and she can direct you to CCL speakers in other parts of the state if your branch is too far away from her.

*Kleo Baruth Kritz, District 1 Coordinator*





*Fanny Behrens,  
Badger Briefs editor*



MY EMAIL!  
havelameister@gmail.com

## Five stars is on again!

This'll be quick;  
It's back on but it's for one year only. ENDING NEXT JUNE.

### Let's get you some stars.

- First, appoint a DEI officer. Leslie Brunsell is your state counterpart on this. Appointed DEI is needed for a star. (You also need a public policy chair, but this is nothing new.)
- Second, tweak your program to align with National's strategic plan 2.0. It's here; <https://www.aauw.org/strategic-plan-2-0/> It's got a big emphasis on STEM now.

Ask me about stupid stuff, like how to apply! I will email like I was your best friend! I can zoom with you and show. I can explain in plain English! ( Like I knew any better)

The state got three stars last time, that was great! If your branch gets two, it's cool.

**Every single branch can get ONE!**  
I WILL DO THIS WITH YOU, LITERALLY.

Email me even if you haven't decided, I'll look at you how many stars you're bound to get without any effort and how many you CAN get. (Don't call because my English is horrible, I'm not kidding. I zoom easy when I see mouth and lips but phone is the BANE OF MY EXISTENCE.)

This could be us!





## AAUW WI BOARD MEMBERS

### **President Joan Schneider**

920-734-2009 joandschneider@gmail.com  
Appleton 2020-22

### **President-Elect Maggie Winz**

262-965-3263 maggiewinz76@gmail.com  
Fort Atkinson 2021-22

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608-372-4625 dick.deb@gmail.com  
Tomah 2021-23

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262-510-3885 surgesca@gmail.com  
W. Milwaukee 2021-23

### **Program VP Lyn Hildenbrand**

414-467-2182 lyne819@gmail.com  
Milwaukee, Inc 2020-22

### **Finance VP Joyce Gregg**

262-632-6341 lgregg@wi.rr.com  
Racine 2020-22

### **Fund Development VP Jean Kreul**

jtkreul@yahoo.com  
Milwaukee, Inc 2020-22

### **Administrative Services Kathe Bogdan**

414-573-1943 kathebogdan@gmail.com  
Milwaukee, Inc 2020-22

### **BadgerBriefs Ed Fanny Behrens**

920-309-3544 havelameister@gmail.com  
Appleton 2020-22

### **Bylaws Chair Mitzi Dearborn**

414-690-9770 dearborn@wi.rr.com  
West Suburb Milw 2020-22

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715-839-8980 russelc@uwec.edu  
Eau Claire 2018-20

### **IT Coordinator Ann Brice**

211 29th St. S La Crosse, WI 5460  
608.782-5026 bricea@westernnc.edu  
La Crosse 2021-23

### **Nominations Chair Erica Koonmen**

608.366.1509 moogs56@hotmail.com  
La Crosse 2021-2023

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920-734-6750 smalaney5@aol.com  
Appleton 2020-22

### **Resolutions Chair Ann Petersen**

901-652-5130 apetersen608@gmail.com  
Janesville 2020-22

### **STEM Coordinator Jeanne Tondryk**

920-966-0204 aauwstemwi@gmail.com  
Oshkosh 2020-22

### **Communications Chair Chris Ebert**

906-358-4246 cebert@udel.edu  
Northwoods 2021-2022

### **DE&I Coordinator Leslie Brunsell**

608-201-2100 lrbrunsell@aol.com  
Janesville 2021-23

### **College/University Coordinator Jan Eriksen**

608-787-5946 jperiksen@viterbo.edu  
La Crosse 2021-22

### *DISTRICT COORDINATORS*

#### **District 1 Coordinator Kleo Baruth Kritz**

608-273-2476 kbkritz@charter.net  
Monona/Madison 2020-22

#### **District 2 Coordinator Carla Washington**

414-313-5146 cw-cw@sbcglobal.net  
Milwaukee, Inc 2021-23

#### **District 3 Coordinator Gretchen McCarthy**

262-275-1054 danielgem3@charter.net  
Geneva Lake 2021-22

#### **District 4 Coordinator Suzanne Hagen**

715-425-1471 suzanne.hagen.1@gmail.com  
River Falls 2021-23

#### **District 5 Coordinator Judy Goodnight**

920-729-9553 judy@gwd.org  
Appleton 2020-22