

BRANCH BITS AND PIECES

Dear AAUW Members

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Special points of interest:

- Board Notes
- Our scholarship recipient
- Program information
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Happy 2023!

The calendar isn't the only thing that's moved forward, our local branch is moving forward with some changes as well.

After talking with the folks at MPTC (Moraine Park Technical College), the Board decided to modify our scholarship requirements to include part-time as well as full-time students. Most MPTC students attend school part-time while also holding down jobs. This year our second MPTC scholarship was not given out because they did not have a full-time student who met all the other requirements. This change will allow us to continue to help deserving students get their degrees.

The Food Is Free (FIF) food pantry project is going well, with at least seven of our members actively helping to monitor the pantry along

with others who contribute food. In light of this, I've decided that we're changing the charity for our monthly donations to FIF. I'm looking forward to our January 18th meeting which will showcase FIF and all the other good things that are happening at the ReStore.

Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee continues to do an outstanding job in raising local concerns connected to DEI. Watch for more information about their work.

Mary Kahler and I have been going through our local bylaws, looking for things that need updates and/or improvements. This is a process that the state and national organizations recommend doing every few years. After discussions as a board, we are putting forth two changes to our bylaws that will need to be approved by two-thirds of our members at the annual

meeting/brunch. I will be sending out a more detailed explanation of these to you closer to the meeting, but I wanted you to be aware of these two proposed changes:

1. The Board is recommending that, in light of Kay's recent retirement as Historian and our chronic difficulty in filling vacant positions, that we combine the positions of Historian with that of Webmaster.
2. We are also proposing to combine the positions of Corresponding Secretary and Public Relations.

Finally, did you know AAUW has their own YouTube channel? Simply go to YouTube.com, type AAUW in the search box and then click on the AAUW icon. You'll find dozens of webinars, interviews and programs, from 30 seconds to hours long, produced by national, state and local AAUW groups and news organizations. Interesting and inspiring!

Wishing you all the best in 2023. --*Bobbi*

PROGRAMS TO START THE YEAR

We are going to start the year out with sort of a **restore**. We are meeting at Habitat for Humanity's **ReStore** on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. Laura Goral will let us know about all the new things at ReStore including a food pantry.

This is of interest to us because 1-) AAUW members are going to the pantry as volunteers on Wednesdays to clean it. And 2-) all money and donations given at our monthly meetings will be donated to "Food is Free" (the food pantry).



Making Coffee in Beaver Dam (Nunatak) is the program for Wednesday, February 15. We will be meeting at Nunatak's new facility located at 315 S. Spring Street. A Nunatak manager will demonstrate how they roast their coffee—which is a feature of the café. Delicious begins at 6:30 p.m.



On March 15 at 6:30 p.m. the Director of Teaching and Learning for the Beaver Dam Unified School District, Rob Meyer, will speak about school district updates and answer questions regarding the district. We will be meeting at Beaver Dam High School. Bring your questions!!

Weather is always something to talk about and we will be doing just that on Wednesday, April 19 at the Beaver Dam Public Library. Dana Fulton, who is a meteorologist, will be talking about everything weather. You may remember Dana as a weather person for a Madison TV station. She will explain what her new position is as well as weather in general.

BE AWARE that this program begins at 5:30 p.m. Since this meeting happens about the same time as everyone's supper, the library has offered to fund a "Dinner with Dana"—with food being catered from a local restaurant. This program is open to the public.

Our DEI committee will offer a short presentation at each program.

The annual brunch will be held at First Lutheran Church at 311 W. Mackie Street (just like last year) on May 20. Members whose last name begins with N through Z are asked to bring a dish to pass. High school students will provide entertainment.

WE BOOKS

The Morning Book Club which meets at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. will be reading:

2-14 Beloved by Toni Morrison

3-14 Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

4-11 Portraits of Peace: Searching for Hope in a Divided America by John Noltner

5-9 The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

The Night Book Club usually meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in members' homes or on zoom. They will be reading:

Agatha Christie mysteries—you pick one. At Mary Kahler's home 1-23

The Memory of an Elephant by Alex Lasker. Through zoom initiated by Margaret Furdek. 2-27

Olga Dies Dreaming by Xochitl Gonzalez. At Andrea Utrie's home 3-27

State of Terror by Louise Penny and Hillary Clinton. At Jan Sutter's home. 4-24

Take My Hand by Dolan Perkins-Valdez. At Kathy McMichael's home. 5-22



AAUW Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to our MPTC (Moraine Park Technical College) scholarship recipient, Colleen Hoth-Jaquet. Hoth-Jaquet, of Horicon, wore many different hats before attending MPTC. She was a lifeguard, was an art teacher for Girls and Boys Club, worked in aquatics and at a youth camp.

She changed her paths when she finished the Medical Assistant Program at MPTC and then pursued her nursing degree. She graduated from this program last December. She is hoping to transition to a registered nurse and eventually earn her bachelor's degree.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Our annual Basket Auction was a success! We earned a total of \$5,641. Here's the breakdown: \$2420 for the live auction (baskets), \$2740 for donations, \$295 for the silent auction (baskets) and \$186 for books.

Currently, we have a total (checking and savings) of \$7867.78.

DEI Committee is Busy

Our branch DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) committee is developing plans to further build awareness and commitment regarding diversity, equity and inclusion for our organization and our community. Currently, our committee (Lori Degner, Margaret Furdek, Annette Kamps, Betsy Ramsdale, Ellen Sushak and Andrea Utrie) is implementing or developing several programs and activities. The committee welcomes your input and/or participation in any of these or in other ways:

Brief presentations at our monthly AAUW Meetings

Training Workshops: The committee is researching possibilities to actively engage our community, school, and business organizations in an effective, interactive way. To broaden the scope, the training would be offered as an "anti-bias" workshop.

Summer Community Read: The committee will pursue offering a community read that will, again, culminate with a special fall program. The committee will update its list of possible book choices and invites suggestions from our branch and book clubs.

Multi-cultural opportunities: We will request that the city makes all signage at the newly renovated Swan Park bilingual. We will also suggest more cultural diversity in music at the Swan Park and school concerts.

Information Network: We encourage all members to offer DEI information, resources, etc. on our website, group emails, and other social media and to promote postings of any DEI related events on the Beaver Dam Area Chamber of Commerce calendar.

National and state meetings: The committee chair, Annette Kamps, attends several state and national DEI leadership zoom meetings throughout the year.

Notes from Board Meetings

The Beaver Dam branch of AAUW met on December 14 at Our House 2. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

- We decided that for 2023, we will give two \$2000 high school student scholarships, one of which will be designated in memory of Shirley Buxton. In addition, we will give two \$1000 MPTC student scholarships in the fall of 2023 (one of which is being held for us/that is already paid).
- All money and other donations given at our monthly meetings will be donated to Food is Free located at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.
- We are still in need of a vice-President.
- We have made some changes to the by-laws that will need to be voted on by the membership. The Historian's position will be combined with that of the Webmaster Officer. And the Corresponding Secretary's position would be combined with that of the Public Relations Officer.
- The DE&I group will continue doing short presentations at each of our monthly meetings.

STATE AAUW INFORMATION

AAUW

American Association of University Women

Beaver Dam Branch

Check us out on our web page:

beaverdam-wi.aauw.net

MONONA/MADISON ZOOM PROGRAMS FOR ALL

The Monona/Madison AAUW branch is offering to share their January and February programs through zoom.

On January 24 at 7:00 Frances Huntley-Cooper, NAACP Dane County ACT-SO Committee Chair will present "Thinking Locally: My Experience as the First African American Mayor in Wisconsin, plus Public Service to Dane County and the State of Wisconsin".

Karen Lincoln Michel from the Ho-Chunk Nation will be the speaker on February 28. This program is titled "Indigenous Journalism: Changing the Narrative

about First Americans". Karen is a former president of the Native American Journalists Association.

If interested in joining through zoom contact Kleo Baruth Kritz at kbkritz@charter.net

AAUW-WI LOOKING FOR COLLEGE STUDENT CANDIDATES

AAUW-WI is sponsoring five college students to attend NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). The conference is in Washington, D.C. Not only will the state organization pay the registration, room and board; but will reimburse up to \$400 for travel

expenses. This is a wonderful opportunity for college women who are looking to expand their world.

STATE CONVENTION LIVE

For the first time in three years, AAUW-WI's State Convention will be live. The dates are April 28-29 in Waukesha. If you are interested in attending, contact Bobbi Marck. Past conventions have offered multi-subject areas that are related to AAUW's goal to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Networking with other women who are involved in AAUW is another bonus of attending.

MARY KAHLER
209 BEAVER STREET
BEAVER DAM, WI 53916

RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE

