



# PIECES AND BITS

American Association of University Women

Beaver Dam, WI Branch

Summer 2025

Greetings, AAUW Sisters,

This is my last message to you as your branch president. My term ended on June 30<sup>th</sup> and President Andrea Utrie took the reins. Thank you, Andrea, for stepping up and devoting your time and talent to leading our branch for the next 2 years.



I want to thank everyone who has helped support me and our mission over my two terms as President. I am proud of our accomplishments during my tenure, but none of it would have been possible without the dedication of our Board of Directors. Our branch is fortunate to have a smart, talented, creative and caring Board who have all contributed to the health and success of our organization, and I have enjoyed working with every one of them. Thank you, ladies!

One of the things I have enjoyed the most about being President has been getting to know individual members better. We truly are an amazing group of women who I am proud to be affiliated with. As Past President, I will continue to serve on our Board and I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish in the future.

Bobbi

## SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 20

We are going to kick off the AAUW year with a social at Ooga. We are hoping that this will be an opportunity for people new to AAUW to discover what we are all about. So, start thinking of people who might be interested in joining and inviting them now. Bookmarks will be available with book club dates/offerings and 2025-26 programs. We plan on starting at 4:00 p.m. Buy your own beverages. Snacks are provided.

## **HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!**



The Beaver Dam Community Library Board learned that it is cheaper to temporarily move the library while their renovation is going on, thereby reducing the length of the expensive renovation process. The tentative schedule for closing and moving the library to their temporary location at 1701 North Spring St. (the old Bassett Furniture building, next door to the

Nobel Clinic) is the middle of August. They will operate there until the new library is finished, anticipated to be spring of 2026.

They are in need of volunteers to do a variety of tasks to prepare and execute the move. Many do not require heavy lifting. They are recruiting local book clubs and library supporters to help. If you would be willing to donate even a little time, you can email them at [circdesk@cityofbeaverdam.com](mailto:circdesk@cityofbeaverdam.com) or call 920-887-4631.



Do you know a member who could use a lift? Or a pat on the back? Or a shoulder to lean on? Please let Robin Hanson or Bobbi Marck know and they will send something on behalf of the members of the Beaver Dam branch of AAUW.

## John Noltner Residency—September 14-20

"What does "Belonging" mean to you? That's the theme question for AAUW's John Noltner residency, Sept. 14 - 20. This is a very special opportunity for AAUW to encourage belonging and understanding throughout our community. With his award-winning stories, photos, and amazing travel experiences, Noltner will be an inspirational force throughout Beaver Dam. The small core AAUW "Unity in Community" committee is spearheading this unique, big project and it needs lots of support from the entire membership. You can help by attending **the next committee meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 4 PM at The Bank ESports Center**, distributing a few brochures, volunteering to be an AAUW rep at summer events, being an AAUW ambassador at programs during the residency, and other ways, big or small... Let's make this a unified effort! Don't wait to be called. Email [annette71363@gmail.com](mailto:annette71363@gmail.com).

# A Big Broken Promise to America's Students and Women

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Congress has passed a bill that will go down in history not as a beautiful promise fulfilled — but as a **big broken promise** to America's students, working families, and especially to women.

From early learning through graduate school, this bill deals a devastating blow to educational opportunities in America. It **slashes financial aid, eliminates vital student loan programs, and channels public dollars into private voucher schemes** — all while doing nothing to ensure that participating schools uphold civil rights protections. Instead of expanding access, it erects new barriers that will shut out millions of students, especially women, low-income families, and communities of color. This bill makes drastic cuts to Medicaid, it threatens reproductive freedom and the health and economic security of the very people who rely on education as a path to a better future.

For AAUW, this is personal. We are the nation's largest non-institutional funder of women's graduate education. For more than 140 years, we've fought to open the doors of higher education to all women — not just those who can afford it. And we know the truth: **when women lose access to education, they lose access to opportunity, economic security, and equity.**

This bill:

- **Undermines educational equity** by using tax breaks to fund private school voucher programs without requiring participating schools to follow Title IX, Title VI, or disability laws — creating a loophole that permits legal discrimination against students.
- **Shuts women out of higher education** by eliminating Graduate PLUS loans and creating borrowing caps that disproportionately harm women of color, single mothers, and first-generation students.
- **Attacks reproductive health and health care access** by essentially defunding Planned Parenthood and making sweeping changes to Medicaid that will strip coverage from millions of women — leaving them without access to birth control, cancer screenings, and maternal care.

This bill does not reflect the values of fairness, inclusion, or opportunity. It is a deliberate rollback of hard-won rights, passed at the expense of women's futures and our nation's progress.

As the bill heads to the president's desk, AAUW calls on the administration to reckon with what this legislation truly means — and to recognize the irreversible harm it will cause to students, families, and our economy now and in years to come.

# AAUW State Convention April 17-18, 2026

Our district will be responsible for putting on the state convention in 2026. And here are some of the details. It will be held April 17-18 in Madison. Some of the plans as of now:

- Willow Newell, Miss Wisconsin, will welcome us on Friday before dinner. She is the first black woman to be Miss Wisconsin. (And lest we forget that the previous Miss Wisconsin was Mandi Genord from Beaver Dam).



- One of our keynote speakers will be Judge Janet Protasiewicz.
- There may be an opportunity to visit the state capitol and meet briefly with state legislators.

Excited yet? I am.



## AAUW CALENDAR

### *FOOD IS FREE PANTRY CLEAN-UP*

JULY 9 KATHY MCMICHAEL

JULY 16 MARY KAHLER

JULY 23 DIANE LUTZ

JULY 30 HEIDI JONES-FREEBY

AUGUST 6 MARILYN THOMAS

AUGUST 13 JAN SUTTER

AUGUST 20 KATHY MCMICHAEL

AUGUST 27 MARY KAHLER

JULY 16 BOARD MEETING 1:00  
SWAN CITY PARK—MILL STREET SHELTER

AUGUST 20 AAUW SOCIAL AT OOGA 4:00

