



empowering women since 1881

Milwaukee, Inc. (WI) Branch  
making a difference since 1891

# NEWSLETTER

## November 2016

### The Rise & Fall of Voting & Election Laws in Wisconsin

*Presented by Marilyn Boeldt, from the League of Women Voters*

Saturday,  
November 5

Italian  
Conference Center  
ICC  
631 E Chicago St

11 am  
Social

11:30  
Breakfast Buffet  
&  
Program

COST: \$20

RESERVATIONS ARE  
REQUIRED

Reservation Deadline  
Tuesday, Nov 1

414-276-6820  
aauw.milwaukee@gmail.com

Please advise of any  
special dietary needs.

In the 1800s, Wisconsin elections were dominated by "machine" politics and corruption. The election of Robert LaFollette in 1900 ushered in the Progressive Republican reforms that to a considerable extent our election system still retains. Wisconsin has historically been singled out as a "laboratory of democracy" due to its experiments with those reforms such as Election Day Registration.

Marilyn will review the history of election law in Wisconsin from those early reforms through the impact of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. She will outline the creation of the Government Accountability Board to the current day, including the role the League of Women Voters has played as a protector of democracy and voting rights.

*The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, a native of Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1920 just six months before the ratification of the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.*

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy.

From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that

citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization.

League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation. This holds true today. The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government.

Our presenter, Marilyn Boeldt, has been a member of the League since the 1980s. She has served as president of the Milwaukee County League and a board member of the Wisconsin State League.

During her years on the state board Marilyn co-chaired a Voting Rights study and an Election Administration study. She currently serves as chair of the Fund Development Committee for the Wisconsin state League.



# President's UPDATE

Michelle Prosek



Hello AAUW Milwaukee Branch Members,

What an incredible year we are having already! The “Not Your Founding Mother’s Cup of Tea” celebration in August and the Member /Clothing Drive at our October meeting were planned by the Membership Committee (comprised of co-Chairs, Graciela Pequeno and Benita Clark, Mary Fiedler, Shirley Metcalf and Lupita Montoto.) They have done an amazing job of bringing new and interesting people into our group, celebrating and enhancing our membership. As of right now, we are counting 10 new members in the branch, with a couple of additional prospective members around the corner. But it is not enough just to have them join us; we must also invite them to be engaged as well. At our next meeting, introduce yourself to someone you have not met before! You never know where that might lead.

## Anniversary Pins

The AAUW has kicked off a new Member Anniversary Pin Program, acknowledging milestone anniversaries for our members. The following members are celebrating milestone membership” years!

- \* Lyn Hildenbrand 5 years
- \* Sharon Munson 5 years
- \* John Clark 10 years
- \* Marcia Zientek 10 years
- \* Sally Lindner 10 years
- \* Mary Fiedler 10 years
- \* Barb Streiff 10 years
- \* Genevieve Prince 30 years

## The Womens Court & Civic

(WC&C) honored the AAUW-Milwaukee Branch at its October 12th monthly meeting. Information about our group was included in the program publication. Thank you to Lyn Hildenbrand and Virginia Strukel for representing us on that day. What an honor for our Branch!

## Our Program Home—the ICC

Feedback continues to be very positive for our move to the Italian Conference Center (ICC), based on feedback cards provided after each event. We continue to welcome any and all feedback at any time. Feel free to contact me directly: Cell – 414.628.6031 or email [michelle\\_r\\_prosek@uhc.com](mailto:michelle_r_prosek@uhc.com).

## Another Off-Site Visit?

Finally, last year we did an off-site event to visit our fellow AAUW Milwaukee Branch Member, Professor Jean Creighton, at the UWM Planetarium. This event was very well received by those who attended. We have flexibility in our spring programming to do a another off-site event and now is the time to plan that! So we are asking for your ideas. Please let us know if you have a specific site in mind. Based on responses we receive through October, we will poll the membership to finalize the event.

*Looking forward to another great year!*

Great shots from October 1st meeting, compliments of our photographer Marcia Zientek!



Member Laura Schuett & her guest Carole Muratore, now a new member.



Members Shirley Metcalf and Janet Nortrom welcomed new member Agnes Williams.



(Standing) Member Marcia Zientek, presenter Gabriela Dieguez Hurato, (sitting) now a new member McKenzie Cramer, and member Margaret Courtright.



# Membership Matters



Benita  
Clark

## OCTOBER, "DRESS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEW," DONATIONS – GENEROSITY OF BRANCH MEMBERSHIP OVERWHELMING

Graciela  
Pequeno



The donations of clothing kept coming and they were extremely generous-- enough to supply a huge walk in closet! Beautiful jackets, brand new tops, colorful scarfs, lovely dresses, nice shoes, plus a collection of attractive jewelry were nicely displayed by our members for all to see.

The closet of "ready to wear" clothing and accessories will be delivered by Lyn Hildenbrand to St. Joseph Academy. The donated handbags and personal products will be delivered by Shirley Metcalf to Fresh Start Learning, Inc. a Milwaukee group that works with street women. These are two of the main charities designated by our AAUW Branch for the year.

What an inspiration it is to see our members continuing our noble AAUW Milwaukee tradition of community "hands on" involvement since 1894. YES! Be proud that you are part of a movement of women helping women right in the heart of the City of Milwaukee!

### ANNUAL AAUW SHAPE THE FUTURE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Almost 40 persons attended this event. The introduction of new members by their "sponsors" was a very sisterly part of the program. A number of potential members were presented and we welcomed them with open arms. We are still putting the figures together regarding our "newest" members and some of the "renewed" members who we are welcoming back. The Committee will be interviewing our new members and publishing a "simple" biographical paragraph introducing them to the membership in our upcoming newsletters. We found this way of introducing new members very successful last year.

### DELICIOUS LUNCH AT OUR NEW LOCATION—

### ITALIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

What a great way to spend a happy two hours with dear friends: sitting at a roomy table with a beautiful fresh floral centerpiece provided by Graciela, listening to a dynamic Latina speaker, Gabriela Dieguez Hurato. And believe it or not-- enjoying great table service and truly delicious well-prepared food! If you missed this, be sure to come to our next meeting in November when we will have an energetic speaker from the League of Women Voters to bring us up to date on a very timely topic—the upcoming elections.

Another heads up moment—your Membership Committee will again be sponsoring a "Huggables (primarily soft toys but all items are welcome) Silent Auction" at our annual Holiday Celebration. That promises to be great fun! Looking forward to our November and December meetings!



#### New Members who joined Oct 1, 2016

Tricia Briceno  
Mary Casey  
Rina Castillo-Chevez  
McKenzie Cramer  
Rita McDonald  
Kari (Bogdan) Munoz  
Carol Muratore  
Tanya Wiedenhoef  
Agnes Williams

#### New Student Affiliates/Girls' Club Grantees as of Sept 2016

Alethea Biles  
Abra Fortson  
LaQuetta Green  
Monica Jimenez

Collections for new/ nearly new purses and toiletries will continue at each meeting throughout the year.



# PUBLIC Policy

Reported by C. Tully,  
Milwaukee Branch  
Public Policy Chair

## Elections:

In addition to voting on **Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**, please encourage your friends, family and co-workers to vote. You can check if you are registered and where to vote at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov). Questions about voting check: [gab.wi.gov](http://gab.wi.gov) or League of Women Voters website. Help getting a Voter ID, call **Voteriders at (414) 882-8622**.

**IT'S MY VOTE**  
I WILL BE HEARD  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
WISCONSIN

AAUW voter guides available at meeting and through office.

## The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap (Fall 2016)

You've probably heard that men are paid more than women are paid over their lifetimes. But what does that mean? Are women paid less because they choose lower-paying jobs? Is it because more women work part time than men do? Or is it because women have more caregiving responsibilities? And what, exactly, does gender bias have to do with paychecks?

AAUW's *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* succinctly addresses these issues by going beyond the widely reported 80 percent statistic. The report explains the pay gap in the United States; how it affects women of all ages, races, and education levels; and what you can do to close it. For 2016, the fifth anniversary of *The Simple Truth*, we've updated the report with information on disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

The EEOC released a final rule requiring transparency in data on pay by gender from employers with over 100 employees. The AAUW has long requested this as a key to closing the pay gap.



Member Kathe Bogdan welcomes daughter Kari Munoz to the AAUW Milwaukee Branch, joining her sister, Charity Blount.

*Book Club*  
4th Tuesday of the month  
1 p.m.  
In suite 202  
Astor Hotel

We did it! At the September Book Club meeting, we chose the books we're going to read and discuss in 2016-17. Included in this newsletter is the list showing dates and discussion leaders only for October and November. When we meet on October 25th, participants will work out the dates and discussion leaders for the remaining books.

Also included are the other books that were proposed for discussion and the names of our book club members for your information. You will also find an announcement from Boswell's that Antoine Laurain, the author of the book we will be reading in November, "French Rhapsody" will be at Boswells on October 23rd.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Fiedler (414) 226-6140. We're looking forward to a lively and informative discussion of all of the books we've chosen. Everyone is welcome to come on October 25 at 1:00 p.m. for the discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See*.

# Dates to remember

## Tuesday, October 23

Book Club-1 pm in Astor suite 202.



## Saturday, November 5-ICC

9:30 a.m. Board Meeting

11:00 Social

11:30

Lunch and Program  
League of Women Voters representative  
Marilyn Boelter



## Tuesday, November 22

Book Club-1 pm in Astor suite 202.



## Saturday, December 3-ICC

9:30 a.m. Board Meeting

**HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**  
11:00 Extended Social Hour  
Special Hors d'oeuvres and Wine.



Truly unique entertainment

## SATURDAY, January 7, 2017-ICC

9:30 a.m. Board Meeting

11:00 Social

11:30



Lunch and Program  
The focus will be on University/College Relations and the National Conference of College Women Student

Leaders, along with a presentation on the successful organization P.E.A.R.L.S. for Teen Girls.

## TUESDAY January 24

Book Club 1 pm in Astor suite 202.

