



empowering women since 1881

Milwaukee (WI) Branch
making a difference since 1894

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Melinda Gayle 2018 NCCWSL

Saturday
October 6,
2018

Board Meeting
9:30-10:45

Members
Meet and Greet

11 am — Social
11:30 — Lunch &
Program

at the
Italian Community Center
631 E Chicago St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Cost \$15

Please make your reservations
by September 28th

Phone: 414-276-6820

Email:
aauw.milwaukee@gmail.com



I have always wanted to do something different and step outside my comfort zone. When I learned that I had been nominated by faculty and staff at my college to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), I quickly submitted my application and essay. During the process of writing my essay, I researched NCCWSL and thought about what an amazing experience and opportunity it would be to attend; however, at the same time I was also second guessing myself. I know that I am a leader. But am I a good enough leader to be around other strong, powerful women? Am I doing enough on my campus? Are my ideas good enough? So many thoughts went through my head. But once I received the call that I was chosen to go to the conference, I gained confidence and told myself "I've got this!". It was time for me to stop being afraid of new experiences and finally step outside that box.

Throughout the conference, there were many diverse women speakers, ranging from CEOs, lieutenants in the military, lawyers, chief officers of STEM boards, and many more. The different workshops and panels that were offered focused around five learning objectives: leadership development, professional development, activism and woman's issues, identity, and diversity. All sessions were very informative on powerful issues currently affecting the world. Sessions that were highlights for me included:

The **"Power Privilege and the Social Construct"** panel, which made me more conscious of stereotypes that we all have, and how we play into the issue, but can also correct it.

"The Dark Side of Social Media" taught me how social media can be powerful in both positive and negative ways. Today, everyone seems to be in competition; people like to present themselves on social media as though their life is perfect, or try to look perfect by using filters. Social media has become more than sharing; it has become a need for social gratification. We should know our

social limits, and I learned some great tips to help me with that. **"Mapping Your Social Justice"** provided an overview on oppression, social justice, liberation, equality and freedom, and how people are affected by these issues. The best thing about this panel was how diverse the audience was and how eager everyone was to learn and converse about these issues, without overpowering and offending anyone.

"Radically Unfinished" taught me about the importance of authentic confidence, and that there is a difference between under - and over - confidence. The speaker talked about how, as women, we have a tendency to say "sorry," and we must stop saying sorry when we don't mean it or just because there is an awkward moment. This session was by far my favorite and opened my eyes to the many ways we demonstrate confidence through our words, demeanor, and actions.

The many powerful women speakers at **NCCWSL** taught me that no matter where you come from, you can overcome any obstacle. My main take-away from the conference though, came from Erin Fischer: "Be Unfinished, not undone". As women, we need to stop comparing ourselves to each other, because we are all a work in progress. It's okay to fail and learn from your mistakes, it just makes you a better person, because no one is perfect. We must stop being afraid of being ourselves and get used to sometimes being uncomfortable. We shouldn't limit ourselves with the thoughts and fears that we cannot do something. The information, strategies and advice that I received during my time at NCCWSL will help me to be a better student, leader, woman and mother. I will forever be grateful for the experience. NCCWSL was a life changing experience and has had a major impact in my life. Thank you AAUW-Milwaukee for the amazing opportunity to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Reported by Melinda Gayle, Nursing

President's UPDATE

Lyn Hildenbrand



Hello AAUW-Milwaukee Members,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have successfully completed our Annual Meeting, required to be done annually per our Branch Bylaws. The annual meeting is a great opportunity to kick off our year by both celebrating some of our accomplishments from the previous year and letting our membership know where we plan to go in new year. We will continue to highlight opportunities in our branch/state developments in future newsletters and at our monthly programming events.

The future is ours, and your input is essential to enable our branch to be green and growing. A new survey will be sent to each of you later this month. Please do provide your feedback. If you missed the Annual Meeting, no need to fret, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved.

October is Shape the Future, bring a friend or 2 to our meeting, introduce them to our branch, the membership committee has lots planned for that day. We will be conducting a school supply drive for the Cathedral Center; our charity of choice for one more year. Let's make this year our best

year ever.

Strategic planning is essential for the growth of our organization, thanks to those of you who completed the handout at our September meeting. I will be busy tabulating your responses. Hopefully the results will be compiled by our October meeting. If anyone would like to be on a long-range planning committee, please let me know.

We are looking to add MSOE as a College/University partner and bring Start Smart and Work Smart to the campus as well as work with the school to sponsor a TeenTech program on campus for high school girls. This is a part of our effort to incorporate STEM programming into our repertoire. And, what better partner than the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Another new path that we are going to embark on this year is to host evening Cocktails and Convos in the suite that would include viewing of contemporary films/documentaries etc. while enjoying a glass or two of wine. We are hoping to attract a younger audience to help perpetuate our membership. We will be purchasing a television for the suite, so we can kick

off this new program. Interested in assisting with this project, do not hesitate to let me know!

Once again we will sponsor a young woman to attend ***NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Students Leaders) candidates need to be identified** for the upcoming event in May of, 2019.

Finally, we have some great programming lined up for the coming year. Most of our Saturday meetings will be hosted at ICC, December we will be at the beautiful Lake Park Bistro, and March we will celebrate at Villa Filomena; formerly the Marshall House (our facility) for our 125th Anniversary Celebration that Mary Fiedler has graciously offered to lead. Again, if you'd like to be a part of the planning for this event contact the office. Our field trip will be moved to June this year in order to be able to celebrate our Anniversary on the day that we were founded.

We have a great year planned, do join us. We have reduced the price for our luncheons to \$15.00

Peace,

Lyn



FINANCE VP UPDATE

Shirley A. Metcalf

Square Reader

This past summer Tamara (Admin Asst) and I worked on establishing the ability to accept debit/credit luncheon payments using the Square Reader on the Branches laptop. As of August 2018, you can pay for your lunch with a personal check, cash, or debit/credit card at the monthly luncheons.

Office Printer

Xerox installed a new printer at the Milwaukee Branch office (924 E Juneau) on Wednesday, September 5, 2018. The original lease had sixty months remaining but allowed us to upgrade for better efficiency and the ability to print from your Smart Phone.

Bank Accounts/Investments

As Branch Finance Chair one of my responsibilities is to open and maintain bank accounts and establish authorized check signers for our branch. President Lyn Hildenbrand, Margaret Courtright (previous Finance Chair) and I visited BMO Harris Bank to update signature cards.

Lyn and I met with the Baird representative who handles the Branches investments for an update. The Board approved to change the branches investment margins to 60% bonds and 40% stock based on his conservative recommendation.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals have changed slightly from the past. Your checks are deposited into Milwaukee Branches US Bank account, and I process your renewal online on the National website. Processing your renewals online prompts an email to you verifying that your membership has been renewed. It also allows me to retain the branches dues in Milwaukee's bank account.



Membership Matters



Graciela Pequeno

2018 – 2019

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Branch

“THE STRENGTH OF OUR LEADERSHIP IN OUR BRANCH DEPENDS ON THE STRENGTH OF OUR MEMBERSHIP”

You are a vital and important member of our Milwaukee Branch. If you have not renewed your membership for the 2018–2019 fiscal year, we urge you to mail your dues today. The renewal can be processed if you send in a \$98.00 check to the Branch office at the Astor, 924 E. Juneau Ave. suite 202, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

As a result of our recruitment effort for the 2017-2018 fiscal year we had ten (10) new members join the Milwaukee Branch. The AAUW Wisconsin recognized the Milwaukee Branch by awarding the Branch a certificate and four (4) free memberships for the 2018–2019 fiscal year. Your membership committee held a random drawing, four names were drawn to receive a free membership. CONGRATULATIONS to the winners: *Jane Bowers, Mildred Hoffman, Janet Nortrom and Anne Wal.*

October 6th is a Day of Celebration

Please, mark your calendar and plan on joining us for this exciting event!

“Shape the Future” Recruitment Campaign

We encourage you to invite a friend, a colleague or a family member as a guest to join our wonderful Branch.

Legacy Member Recognition

Members who have been members for many years and have shared their leadership skills will be honored and recognized.

Award Member Recruiters

Members who have invited and brought in new members will be recognized.

School Supplies Donation Drive

It's time to take advantage of school supplies sales and pick some up to donate for a worthy cause. All school supplies collected will be donated to the Cathedral Center Shelter for Homeless Women for their children. Let's help them restock their Book Room.

Fall Hat Contest

In Honor of AAUW's historical roots, we will be holding a Fall Hat Contest. Did you know that in the late 1800's and early 1900's AAUW members wore hats to meetings, celebrations, gathering and conventions? If you have a hat stored away, this is the perfect time to bring it out and share your beauty. You can also create one if you desire and show your artistic side. Let's have a good time and join the fun.

College & University Relations

This past year, AAUW-Milwaukee established an annual **NCCWSL Scholarship**, a \$1,000 award to send a Milwaukee area college student to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The 2018 recipient of the NCCWSL Scholarship was **Melinda Gayle**, a Junior-level Nursing student

at Alverno College. Melinda is President of the Black Student Nurses Association, at Alverno, as well as a Peer Leader — a combined Orientation Leader/Peer Advisor/Teaching Assistant for a First Semester Seminar — through which she provides support for students during their first semester of college. At the end of last school year, she was the recipient of Alverno's "2018 Outstanding Student Leader" award. She received multiple

nominations for the NCCWSL Scholarship by faculty and staff at her college, who have witnessed her leadership skills on campus and believe in her potential to become a leader within her future profession and the larger Milwaukee community. I hope you enjoy reading about Melinda's experience at the 2018 NCCWSL in this month's newsletter.

Jessica May,
College & University Relations Chair



2017 – 2019 Public Policy Priorities

This month, I thought it would be helpful to highlight AAUW's biennial public policy initiatives. As you learn about candidates' positions in the upcoming election season, keep these in mind.

"To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women". This broad classification includes pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits; access and advancement in employment (enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes); programs that provide women with education, training and support for success in the workforce; and strengthening retirement benefits programs such as Social Security.

"Support a strong system of public education." Adequate funding for public education; protection of programs that meet the needs of women and girls including STEM (science, technology, engineering and math); and vigorous enforcement of Title IX are priorities in this initiative.

"To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society." AAUW advocates for vigorous enforcement and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights; increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patient's rights; freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes in homes, schools, workplaces and communities; freedom in the definition of self and family; and passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

These policies enable women and girls to better provide for themselves and their families and to avoid economic insecurity now and in the future. To learn more, go to AAUW.org/what-we-do/public-policy.

September 10, 1910 - *Alice Stebbins Wells* becomes the first woman police officer with arrest powers in the U. S. (Los Angeles, CA). She had been a social worker

September 26, 1971 - *Rep. Shirley Chisholm* (D-New York) announces she will enter the Democratic presidential primaries

September 20, 1973 - *Billie Jean King* defeats Bobby Riggs



Book Group



4th
Tuesday
of Each
Month
September
through May
1 p.m.
In Suite 202
Astor Hotel

Tuesday, September 25th, at 1:00 p.m. in Suite 202.

On Tuesday, September 25th at 1:00 p.m., the Book Club will hold it's annual Organizational Meeting to select the books to be read and discussed in 2018-2019. Everyone is invited to attend this important meeting and to recommend their favorite books. The books to be discussed will then be selected as well as the discussion dates and the discussion leaders.

Please note that the book for the October 23rd meeting has already been selected. It's "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren.

Submitted by Mary Fiedler, Coordinator of the Book Club

DATES to remember

Saturday

OCTOBER 6, 2018

*Shape the Future -
Membership Committee*

Saturday

November 3, 2018

*Be an Informed Voter - League
of Woman Votes*

Saturday

December 1, 2018

*Annual Holiday Auction at Lake
Park Bistro - Membership Com-
mittee*

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2019 Dates

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June-Road trip to Chicago

