Since 1881, AAUW has been the nation’s leading voice promoting equity for women and girls. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, there is so much at stake each time women head to the polls. Politicians and policy makers at all levels of government routinely make decisions about issues that directly affect us and our families. But more often than not, those conversations lack women’s voices. As we enter this season of political punditry and campaign promises, it’s more important than ever to identify those who would best represent our values and those who would roll back our rights. AAUW is dedicated to making sure every woman is registered and has the information she needs to cast her vote. To create real change, women must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way for us to chime in is at the polls. It’s as simple as this:

**When women vote, we change the conversation.**

**Pay Equity** The gender pay gap is the difference in men’s and women’s median earnings. According to U.S. Census data, on average, women working full-time take home about 80 cents for every dollar earned by men working full-time.

It is a real and lasting problem that impacts the economic security of women and their families. Despite civil rights and employment discrimination laws and advancements in women’s educational and economic contributions, the pay gap persists. It affects women from a background, at all ages, and of all levels of educational achievement. Over a lifetime of work (47 years), the total estimated loss of women’s earnings compared with men is $700,000 for a high school graduate, $1.2 million for a college graduate, and $2 million for a professional school graduate.

We need policies to change entrenched structures that perpetuate the pay gap, provide women with the tools to challenge discrimination, and supply employers with the resources and tools to understand and comply with the law.

**College Affordability** Higher education is no longer a luxury — it’s a necessity.
In May 2016, jobs that required some form of postsecondary education accounted for nearly 37 percent of employment. Moreover, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the United States will add nearly 11.5 million jobs by 2026, and a majority of the fastest growing occupations call for higher education. AAUW research has found, however, that women take on disproportionately higher amounts of student debt while enrolled in college, and African American women graduate with the most debt of any group. The gender pay gap contributes to women needing two years more than men to repay those loans. As a result, women hold almost two thirds ($890 billion) of the country’s $1.4 trillion student debt. This isn’t just a student problem; it’s a gender inequity problem, and it impacts us all.

AAUW believes that higher education must be made more easily accessible to all students and that students should not have to mortgage their futures in the process. As rising tuition rates have prompted two thirds of all graduates to borrow money to attend college, loan repayment and forgiveness programs must be made more accessible to borrowers.

**Campus Sexual Harassment and Violence** When college campuses are hostile because of sexual harassment and violence, students aren’t safe. When students don’t feel safe, they cannot learn. AAUW’s own research revealed that two thirds of college students and nearly half of students in grades 7–12 experienced sexual harassment. Research also shows that incidents of sexual assault are shockingly prevalent on college campuses nationwide. In addition, more than one in five college women experiences physical abuse, sexual abuse, or threats of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner.

AAUW advocates for school climates free from discrimination, including harassment, bullying, and sexual violence. AAUW supports ensuring the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice enforce our federal civil rights laws prohibiting sex and race-based discrimination in education, and don’t roll back protections for students. We also advocate for schools to take proactive steps, such as conducting climate surveys and providing prevention programming to educate students, faculty, staff, and Title IX coordinators.

AAUW urges Congress to pass legislation that requires states and schools to develop policies for K–12 schools that prevent bullying, sexual harassment, and violence and that implement procedures to effectively respond to such behavior.

**Reproductive Rights** It is critical to women’s economic security to have access to quality reproductive health care and family planning, and to have the control over such decisions. The U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 ruling in Roe vs. Wade found privacy, and therefore the choice to have an abortion, to be a constitutionally protected right. This landmark decision legalized abortion for women nationwide. In order for this to be more than just an abstract right, women must have real access to a full range of reproductive health and family planning options.

AAUW supports choice in the determination of one’s reproductive life and increased access to healthcare and family planning services.

Vote like your life depends on it! Because it does....Peace, Lyn
2018 - 2019
Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Branch

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
“The strength of our leadership in our branch depends on the strength of our membership”

Shape the Future Membership Campaign was held October 6th. There were 40 members and guests in attendance. Congratulations and Welcome to our newest members: Anne Heinrich and Roni Fox.

We recognized our Legacy Members in a wonderful tribute. A narrative of their great contributions was shared by our Branch President Lyn Hildenbrand then they were presented with a framed certificate of recognition.

The School Supply Donation Drive was a huge success! Roni Fox representative form the Cathedral Center, Shelter for Homeless Women and their families was elated with happiness when she saw all the donations. There were many, many items donated that included backpacks, pencils, crayons, markers, pocket folders, notebooks and cash!

A Very Special Thank You, to You Our Generous Donors:
Tricia Briceno, Margaret Courtright, Rita Czukas, Mary Fiedler, Lyn Hildenbrand, Lorell Johnson, Beverly Katter, Maureen Laustsen, Anne Lehman, Shirley Metcalf, Ellie Mosely, Janet Nortrom, Graciela Pequeno, Sabrina Salvat, Catherine Tully, Stephanie Whitmore and Marcia Zientek.
One of the women who was an important part of the passage of the 19th Amendment was from Wisconsin? Carrie Chapman Catt (Lane) was born 9 January 1859 near Ripon, Wisconsin. In addition to her work for passage of the 19th Amendment, she founded the League of Women Voters. She worked as a teacher to earn enough money to attend Iowa State College (her father refused to pay for college) where she earned a bachelor’s degree in 1880. The following year she became a high school principal and served as superintendent of schools in Mason City, IA a few years later.

Her interest in suffrage began in 1887 when she joined the Iowa Women Suffrage Association. In 1890 she became president of the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) following Susan B. Anthony's presidency. She increased membership and did substantial fundraising for the organization. In 1915, the NAWSA turned to her for help with revitalizing the organization and she assumed the presidency again, telling members to focus on passage of women’s right to vote (known as the “Winning Plan.”). She passed away in 1947.

Source: Biography.com; Carrie Chapman Catt; Women’s Rights Advocate 1890 - 1947

**October Women's History:**

**October 8, 1993** Toni Morrison becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature.

**October 23, 1910** Blanche Stuart Scott becomes the first American woman pilot to make a public flight.

All members of AAUW are welcome to discuss the book, *Lab Girl*, by Hope Jahren on **Tuesday, October 23rd at 1:00 p.m. in Suite 202 at the Astor Hotel**.

Future book discussions include: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, Before We were Yours, Janesville, and Euphoria.* In honor of the 125th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Branch, the Book Club will discuss *Women Making a Difference: American Association of University Women in Milwaukee 1890-2012*.

Hope Jahren is the rare breed of scientist who is both an accomplished geobiologist—she’s won three Fulbrights—and a fantastic writer. In her engrossing new memoir, *Lab Girl*, Jahren is alternately funny and moving, whether she’s writing about deciduous trees, her marriage, her lab partner or her childhood. Now a tenured professor with a lab at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Jahren is the author of more than 70 scientific studies and is an outspoken critic of sexism in science.

This is a beautifully crafted blend of memoir and science writing in which Hope Jahren, moves with ease between the wonders and rigors of scientific investigation and the demands and joys that have shaped her personal life.

Mary Fiedler, Book Club Coordinator