



Milwaukee (WI) Branch
making a difference since 1894

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Presidents Message

Updates, we've got updates!

Has it really only been since early March that the health crisis our nation is experiencing has been around? I don't know about you, but sometimes the week feels like MontuwedthufriSATsun! Our lives have been turned upside down in many cases and many will need to re-think their priorities both personally and professionally. As in the past, situations similar to this bring out both the best and worst of humanity. I remain hopeful that the best will continue to light the way for a long time to come.

Election of Branch Officers

The following members have been nominated to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2020:

Recording Secretary	Jessica May
VP Finance	Shirley Metcalf

No additional nominations were received for either of these offices or the office of President-Elect. Please see the bios of each candidate on the following page.

An email will be sent to you on Saturday, May 16th explaining how to cast your vote. The deadline for voting is SATURDAY, MAY 22nd. Results will be published in the June newsletter.

Committees

Please consider offering to assist the Branch as a committee member! We are open to having co-chairs (this has been done in the past with great success) so if you have an area of interest let us know! There will be information in the June newsletter about each committee and what they do, plus the time commitment that may be required. For example, this year, some of the co-chairs took turns attending Board meetings. So, consider lending a hand and learning some new skills (like attending Zoom meetings that you don't have to dress up for!).

Best regards,

Jean Kreul

Branch Officer Election - Biographies

Jessica May

Jessica May has been a member of AAUW Milwaukee since 2017. She is in her second term as College & University Relations Chair for the Milwaukee branch and first term as IT Coordinator for AAUW Wisconsin. In February, Jessica was elected to serve as the branch's Recording Secretary for the remainder of 2019-20, when the member who'd previously held the position had to step down. She is now seeking election to a two-year term as Recording Secretary for the Milwaukee branch.

Jessica has worked as a Career Coach and Adjunct Instructor in higher education for ten years, and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Career Education at Alverno College. In this role, she has coached hundreds of students and alumni in job search strategies, including salary negotiation, which is how she learned about AAUW. She is a certified Work Smart and Start Smart Salary Negotiation Facilitator, and served as one of AAUW Milwaukee's representatives on the "Day of Pay Equity" planning group, which coordinated city-wide salary negotiation workshops in Milwaukee (to be rescheduled for next year). Jessica holds a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and a masters degree in College Student Personnel Administration from Marquette University.

Shirley Metcalf

I graduated from Tilden High School (1969 Chicago Public School). I earned my AAS Degree in accounting (1979 Kennedy-King, Chicago, IL); BS degree in Educational Policy and Community Studies (2002 UWM), completed my MS in Cultural Foundations of Education (2004 UWM). I was awarded my Childcare Administrators Credential and listed on Wisconsin Registry in December 2011 with a level 16 rating. I retired from Milwaukee School of Engineering June 2016 after holding the positions of Purchasing Administrator and Software Module Manager/Trainer. Some of my duties included auditing department expenses, training staff/faculty on purchasing software, budgeting, annual purchase orders, bank reconciliations, accounts payable and receivable.

I currently volunteer as Finance VP for AAUW-Milwaukee (American Association of University Women), Advocates for Higher Education Inc (Treasurer), League of Women Voters (Budget and Development Committees), and Milwaukee Urban League Guilders.

In the past I have volunteered as Board Member/Treasurer for Black Child Development Institute-Milwaukee Affiliate; MSOE mentor to incoming freshmen, and staff advisor to NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers); UWM School of Education Alumni Chapter Co-Chair and Board of Trustees; YMCA's Sponsor-A-Scholar and One-On-One Mentoring Programs, Big Brothers, Big Sisters (St Joan Antida), and TRIO Upward Bound Program..

Women in History

Week - a BIG THANK YOU to all who serve us!

May 23, 1943 Rosie the Riveter appears on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post

June 8, 1949 Georgia Neese Clark is confirmed as the first women Treasurer of the United States.

Former Scholarship Recipient News by Donna Lewis-Taylor

Alexus Lor was a recipient of the 2018 AAUW Milwaukee Scholarship. Now a Sophomore attending the University of Wisconsin -Madison, Alexis is majoring in Elementary Education, with Asian American and Hmong emphasis. For her passion to help disadvantaged students, she hopes to make a difference in the Milwaukee community.

Alexus describes her learning experience,

“As a Freshman, working with people of many differences was challenging, given the diversity of mindsets and characteristics. However, I love learning about people who are unlike me. I ultimately appreciate the opportunity to see something more than Milwaukee.”

There can be many surprises upon entering college. Alexis shares some of the experiences she seldom thought to pursue.

“Freshman year, I started Japanese Karate (blue belt) and I won first place in the Kata competition. I also joined a sorority, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi and became a member of HASA, a Hmong student association centered around educational opportunity.”

Alexus is already set on her career profession and understands how she will create an impact in her community.

“After receiving my bachelor’s degree, I’d like to get experience in elementary school. After that I plan to attend grad school for administration and become a Principal. Becoming a Principal will allow me to give back and be a leader in communities that truly needs it.”

Alexus understands the importance of perseverance amongst her challenges in college. This is reflected in her academics. She states,

“Entering colleges was a learning curve, however I studied, asked for help and my GPA increased from a 3.2 to a 3.9.”

The AAUW scholarship helps make college possible for students like Alexis. She expresses,

It is really hard to focus on school for disadvantaged students like myself. I am grateful because I can afford college through AAUW. Knowing that I am set helps a lot to focus on my studies.

Alexus reflects on her college experience thus far and offers advice to high school students.

“Be honest with how you present yourself to AAUW. If you have aspirations that you’re determined to get, AAUW will be in support of you. Be transparent.”

Alexus is looking forward to continued growth and potentially studying abroad in Thailand for her next service project.

We are confident in Alexis and wish her much success in all of her future endeavors!

Scholarship Committee:

The Scholarship Committee, while practicing exceptional social distancing, selected our student award winners for the 2020-2021 academic year during the week of May 4th. A big thank you to Co-Chairs Sharon Munson and Joanne Johnson and the committee members for being flexible about the review of the applications.

Thanks are also in order to AAUW Branch member Karolyn Taylor, who works at MPS on scholarship programs, for her support .

Now for the news! Seven applicants have been chosen from among the 35 that applied. Notifications are being sent early next week. Look for a special newsletter with information about our recipients in the June newsletter.

We are working with the Italian Community Center for a way to recognize the scholars, their families, and the MPS counselors who contributed to the process as well. An additional thank you to Karolyn Taylor, one of our members who was a great help to the committee as well. Additional information on when this will take place will be provided to our members soon.

PUBLIC POLICY

Involvement in the political process is always important, but it is especially so now as we move toward the 2020 election amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

To encourage active participation in the political process, the [Equity Network](#) and [AAUW Action Fund](#) hosted a webinar outlining three key ways to help ensure that every American has the opportunity to cast their ballot in an informed way.

Voter Access

Voting is a fundamental American right, yet exercising that right isn't always easy. Certain jurisdictions attempt to restrict voting under the guise of preventing "voter fraud," even though this is an extremely rare occurrence. Rather than restricting voting, we need to prioritize *expanding* options for casting a ballot, particularly as the pandemic threatens to hinder some voters' ability to turn out at the polls on a single day.

There is no "one-method-fits-all" approach to voter access: Early voting, voting by mail and no-excuse absentee voting should all be offered as options, in addition to in-person voting on November 3, with appropriate health safety precautions.

How you can help: Ask two critical questions of your state and local officials: 1.) Is an absentee ballot available so that I can vote safely during the public health crisis? 2.) What is being done to ensure safe and broadly accessible elections for all? Tell these officials that as a constituent and that you are concerned that the upcoming elections won't be conducted in a way that will allow all voters to participate.

On a Federal level, let your Senator know that you support the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019. This bill was passed by the House in December and is before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. It calls for reviewing voting changes in jurisdictions nationwide, focusing on measures that have historically been used to discriminate against voters.

By Robin Lucas, AAUW (National) Grassroots Advocacy Manager

IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER: *Getting out the vote!*

Dates to Remember

A Day for Pay Equity

Our Branch along with the Women's Leadership Cooperative continue to work on a date for the offering of multiple Work Smart sessions, possibly in November. Details will be shared in future newsletters.

Heritage Club

All activities for the Heritage Club have been cancelled until such time as historic places of interest are open again and safety precautions are in place. Future plans will be featured in

Office Hours

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, office hours fluctuate weekly. Call the office at 414-276-6820. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Book Group



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

AAUW Book Club

See you in September!

Anne Lehman and Ellie Mosely

