



Milwaukee (WI) Branch
making a difference since 1894

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

2019 - 2020 Annual Report

President's Report

Our 2019-2020 Branch year will be one for history. In September of 2019, no one could have imagined the following terms would be heard: pandemic, social distancing, and new normal. In spite of the pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racial inequality, our branch achieved the following:

- We received a STAR through an AAUW National's program recognizing Branches for meeting certain benchmarks. Our program events we held aligned with AAUW National initiatives. We will continue to work to achieve additional stars in 2020-2021.
- Began a collaboration with the Women's Leadership Collective (TEMPO, Professional Dimensions, and Milwaukee Women, Inc.) to sponsor "A Day for Pay Equity" where a day of workshops featuring Work Smart would be offered around the Milwaukee area to increase attendees ability to negotiate for salary and benefits. Work continues as we hope to find a way to offer this timely, effective training in the future to the greater Milwaukee area.
- Celebrated the close of our 100th anniversary year remembering the passage of the 19th Amendment to our country's Constitution where women (not all, however) earned the right to vote.
- Our branch was recognized for our membership by Women's Court & Civic, an organization that promotes learning about civic issues in the greater Milwaukee area.
- Members represented us at events around the Milwaukee area SWIM (Scaling Wellness in Milwaukee)/SDC Poverty Summit, On the Table MKE, and the Power of Women Bus Tour for the Supermajority Education Fund to name a few.

The following pages include annual reports from our committees. Although our year was short, much was accomplished. I hope we continue to supporting women and girls in 2020-2021. I would like to thank our Board for, helping make events happen, who were out in the community making AAUW Milwaukee Branch's mission known, offering suggestions for programs and reaching out to potential speakers, as well as pivoting (another new word) when our plans for the remainder of 2020 had to be adjusted due to the novel COVID-19 pandemic. I especially thank Janet Nortrom for serving as Public Policy Chair last year and welcome Andrea Waxman as Chair for the 2020-2021 year.

"Hate and force cannot be in just part of the world without having an affect on the rest of it." Eleanor Roosevelt.

Jean Kreul

2019-2020 Committee Reports

College University Relations - Jessica May

Scholarship application materials for the \$1,000 annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Scholarship were revised and made available to students attending all Milwaukee area AAUW member institutions. - MAOE, UWM, MATC, Alverno and Mt. Mary. Previously, only Alverno and Mt. Mary received materials. Our branch awarded two NCCWSL scholarships. Both students attend MSOE, reflecting AAUW's commitment to women in STEM, plus it assisted in establishing a relationship with a new AAUW member institution in Milwaukee. After NCCWSL was cancelled, due to coronavirus, one of the two recipients committed to use her scholarship for next year and to attend one of next year's meetings.

The committee worked with AAUW West Suburban Milwaukee branch's board and general membership to successfully have our branches split the cost of a three-year Start Smart license for Mount Mary University. The President of Mount Mary committed to plan a Start Smart event each semester under the license, and provide a total student participation count, annually. Their license is effective August of 2020. Alverno College's three-year Start Smart license was also renewed.

Program- Board of Directors

This year, the members of your Board of Directors joined forces to suggest possible programs, locating speakers and hosting the program. Although, sadly, we were not able to complete the all of the programming events we had planned, we closely followed AAUW's issues platform of education and economic security for women:

Jodi Ristau from Baird spoke to us in October about how to position ourselves to economically savvy throughout our lifetimes. Tips for saving despite the pay gap were presented.

November brought an economic issue from a different perspective - student debt. Angela Sarni, show provided an update on how women are affected more than men with the ability to pay off debt due to the pay gap.

In February, Susan A. Olejnicak, VP of Student affairs and Title IX coordinator at Mt. Mary provided some context to decisions of the current Education Secretary to remove or dilute sections of this important law.

We closed our 100th anniversary year by learning about historic women of Milwaukee including Vel Phillips, who was a member of our AAUW branch and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin being the first State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

Finance - Shirley Metcalf

A process to streamline our financial processes was set in motion this year as we move to utilizing software that tracks receipts and expenses as well as tracking budgeting for the program year. The software is also expected to be used for reporting that has been done in the past via spreadsheet..

Heritage Club - Mary Fiedler & Graciela Pequeno

The following events were sponsored by the Club and were open to all of our members:

- Sponsored a tour of the Milwaukee Historical Society on November 22, 2019.
- Proposed to the Board that every program in March reflect Woman's History Month
- Sponsored the March 2020 program, which was dedicated to the Suffragette's 100 Anniversary. In addition to inviting a key speaker, members were encouraged to wear an article of clothing related to the Suffragette era and each table featured vintage-style placemats.
- Recommended our AAUW Book Club that it read our "Women Making a Difference" in March, and we invited the author, Priscilla Pardini to lead the book discussion that month.

2019-2020 Annual Report

Membership - Lyn Hildenbrand

Our year began with Shape the Future - AAUW's annual period where we showcase our organization and recruit new members. In 2019-2020, 14 new members joined our branch.

The December Holiday Event was spearheaded by the Membership Committee, and featured our annual Silent Auction benefiting the Cathedral Center. The Cathedral Center, our designated charity partner, assists women and children with issues surrounding homelessness.

We were reminded of the benefits of membership including discounts for office supplies, travel and insurance through nationally recognized organizations that support AAUW and how to find them at AAUW.org/Membership/Benefits for AAUW Members

If you have not already renewed your membership, there is still time! Please contact the office and leave a message for information on how to renew.

Scholarship Committee - Sharon Munson and Joanne Johnson

The main goal is to award scholarships to qualified Milwaukee Public Schools seniors who plan to attend college. The process this year included the following:

- A review and update of materials sent to the counselors to advise them of the availability of the scholarship and due dates and other pertinent information.
- Follow-up with questions that counselors had about the process.
- As applications were received around the March due date, they were reviewed for completeness and follow-up done with either the counselor, applicant or both. - The applicant list was finalized at the end of March.
- Zoom meetings with committee members were held in March and April, to review the criteria for their evaluation work and how to accomplish the review in light of Safer-at-Home orders.
- The seven highest ranking applicants were offered scholarships for academic year 2020-2021.
- Applicants were notified via telephone and letter of the awards along with preliminary information about what they will need to provide for the funds to be released to the college or university they attend.

Women's Herstory

July 14, 1917

16 women from the National Women's Party were arrested while picketing the White House demanding universal women's suffrage; they were charged with obstructing traffic.

August 6, 1965

The Voting Rights Act outlaws discriminatory literacy tests that had been used to prevent African Americans from voting. Suffrage extended to include African American Women.

Public Policy Focus - by Andrea Waxman

It has always been a fundamental position of AAUW that voting is a critical right and responsibility for all adult American citizens and in this challenging time it is as important as it has ever been.

Now, because of restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and those who would limit voting access, as well as potential polling site reductions, absentee voting will likely be your best option for making sure your vote is counted.

Under Wisconsin law, voters do not need a reason or excuse, such as being out of town on Election Day, to vote absentee. Any voter who prefers to vote by absentee ballot may request one.

There will be two more elections this year, on August 11 (Partisan Primary for the November 3, 2020 General Election) and November 3 (General Election is for President, U.S. Representative, even-numbered Wisconsin State Senate seats, all Wisconsin Assembly seats, and all District Attorneys). ***It is not too early to make sure you are registered and ready to cast your ballot.***

For the August 11 partisan primary election the deadline for registering online is past, however, you may register through Friday, August 7 at the office of your municipal clerk or at the poll on election day. Proof of residence is required to register. [A photo ID](#) is required to vote.

The [myvote.wi.gov](#) website offers everything you need, in a clear and easy-to-navigate format, to register, update or check on your voter registration; request an absentee ballot, and find all relevant deadlines, dates, times and locations as well as view sample ballots.

To register online, you must have a valid, unexpired Wisconsin driver license or Wisconsin state ID card and must attach a photo.

If you do not have access to a computer, are not comfortable registering online or do not have a valid, unexpired Wisconsin drivers license or state identification card, you may register by mail or in person at the office of [your municipal clerk](#) or at your polling place on election day. You may need to check with your local clerk about other required documentation.

As stated on the AAUW website:

“Voting is a fundamental American right, yet exercising that right is not’t always easy. Certain jurisdictions attempt to restrict voting under the guise of preventing “voter fraud,” even though that is an extremely rare occurrence. Rather

Info to Know

SAVE THE DATE

AAUW Wisconsin is holding their annual Public Policy Day earlier this year than in the past. The dates are:

Tuesday, August 25th and
Thursday August 27th.

Times are 6:30-8:30 pm

Both sessions will be offered via ZOOM. This is an easy way to stay informed. Each evening will include different up-to-the-minute topics and speakers. Stay tuned for additional details !

Office Hours

If you have a question, please call the office at 414-276-6820. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.



4th
Tuesday
of Each
Month
September
through
May
1 p.m.

AAUW Book Club
**See you when we can all be
safe!**

Anne Lehman and Ellie Mosely