

## President's Report



I hope this issue of our newsletter finds you enjoying as much of summer of 2020 as possible. After a bit of a break during the month of July (which has been our tradition for some time), our Branch is looking toward what the 2020-2021 year will hold. Below are updates of Branch activities that happened since the last newsletter:

Our branch welcomes our new Office Administrator, Stephanie Whitmore. Some of you may know her - she is a former branch member. She will be in the office on Tuesday, and Wednesday, (9:30 am - 12:30 pm), and Thursday (9:30 am - 1:30 pm).

Our Branch purchased a license for Zoom Pro. This software will allow us to have our monthly Branch events via ZOOM, plus committee meetings on those dates as well.

We will be adding upgrades to our computer system to have more storage space for historic information about our Branch as well as improved virus and malware security. I have heard from several of you that you received suspicious emails from me asking for such things as, "a minute of your time," or "gift cards for veterans." Please be aware that I do not ever ask for money or gift cards. It's been suggested that a change of password can help with hacking or other mischief on your computer.

As of this writing, our Fall events will all be done via Zoom. Information about speakers, how to access Zoom, and additional details will be sent to you the week of August 31, 2020.

In this unusual time, we are looking more critically at how we treat each other as humans. Won't it be great when the phrase, "We're all in this together," truly means everyone?

Jean Kreul

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## **Programs**

When our monthly events last spring were canceled, a few offered to do so when we are able to have events again. Along with the suggestions gathered at our March 2020 event, the following have been scheduled:

- October 3, 2020 - Women in Engineering & STEAM
- November 7, 2020 - Women's Healing
- December 5, 2020 - Wellness for Women
- January 9, 2021 - Legislative Update
- February 6, 2021 - Diversity & Inclusion
- March 6, 2021 - Women's History Month Celebration
- April 3, 2021 - Safety Tips for Women
- May 8, 2021 - Scholarship Recognition Event

In an effort to make participation easier, the Board suggested that committees meet from 11:00 am to 11:30 am on the same day as the monthly event. When you receive the invitation for the September event, you will have an opportunity to select a committee to join in a breakout session. Committee meetings will be followed by the speaker presentation from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm. Committees include:

- College/University Relations
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Finance
- Girls Club Fund Board
- Public Policy
- Heritage Club
- Scholarship Committee

It is hoped that with a reduced requirement to meet at a time outside of our regular event date, members will have the opportunity to provide input for our branch and get to know their fellow members. Think about what interests you and where you might be able to contribute and join a committee when you receive the invitation to the September event.

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# AAUW WI Public Policy Events

Save the Dates

Tuesday, August 25 and Thursday, August 27, 2020 6:30-8:30

## Every Voice Matters

2020 started with a strong focus on the November election and the anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote. AAUW WI members were excited and involved in various activities and events but who could have realized what an extraordinary year this would be.

Join your AAUW WI members for two Public Policy Events in August in the comfort of your home via zoom. Feel free to invite or share these meeting links with friends and family.

**Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:30-8:30**

### Issues -Fair Maps and Wisconsin Public Education

Wisconsin's Public Policy committee selected two issues, Fair Maps and Public Education, for this Zoom webinar. Carlene Bechen from Fair Maps WI will discuss how this issue has gained bipartisan support across the state and how we can assist in changing the way district maps are drawn. <https://www.fairmapswi.com/> She will share from 6:35 to 7:10. Heather DuBois Bourenane of the Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN) will tell us how we can influence great public education without offering vouchers to private institutions. She will share from 7:15 -7:45 (<http://www.wisconsinnetwork.org/>).

Wisconsin ranks as the worst state for gerrymandered districts. There are two excellent videos that explain how redistricting was handled in WI in 2011. We suggest you view them prior to Public Policy Day 2020 (August 25th and 27th) so you can better understand the unfairness of our current situation. Here is how you can do that by viewing the following:

- The Wisconsin Farmers Union has published a 3-minute video that briefly describes how gerrymandering took place in Wisconsin <https://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/fairmaps>
- A documentary titled *Slay the Dragon* gives a very thorough history of how redistricting in Wisconsin was achieved behind closed doors in utter secrecy in 2011. This documentary is approximately 2 hours long though it exposes the culprits who drew "election safe" districts in Wisconsin. Check Hulu for a free viewing this month.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:30-8:30 pm**

### Being an Informed Voter and Get Out the Vote

Matt Rothschild from Wisconsin Democracy Campaign will share some ideas about being an informed voter differentiating "fake news" and "real facts". He will start at 6:35- 7:05. <https://www.wisdc.org>.

The second half of the webinar will focus on ways to get out the vote. Here are the links to view before the event:

[Politifact.com/wisconsin/](https://politifact.com/wisconsin/)

[Vote411.org](https://vote411.org) – information on candidates

[MyVote.WI.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)

Also, of interest is PBS programming on Wisconsin women.

<https://pbswisconsin.org/wisconsin-women-vote/>

[fbclid=IwAR22BmSoFzig6sxu7slvGC9Oj9bzvBQw6Hh96Y\\_UqxfIJEXjof7XP7tnlKg](https://www.pbs.org/video/fbclid=IwAR22BmSoFzig6sxu7slvGC9Oj9bzvBQw6Hh96Y_UqxfIJEXjof7XP7tnlKg)

## Book Club

### Anne Lehman & Ellie Moseley

The AAUW of Milwaukee Book Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00, September to May (excluding December) 2020-2021. Anyone who likes to read and discuss books is welcome.

During our first meeting on September 22, we will discuss the books we want to read. We can read the carry-over books or select new ones since those who chose the novels may have a change of mind about them. Our October book was to be;

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens.

Maybe we would like to keep that novel.

I would like to use;

CRAZY BRAVE by Joy Harjo

for April since that is Poetry Month.



## Heritage Club

### Mary Fiedler & Graciela Pequeno

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.

## Voting Wisdom

"Why is a woman to be treated differently? Women's suffrage will succeed, despite this miserable guerilla opposition."

Victoria Claflin Woodhull

"Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed".

John Lewis

## *Rising in Heartbreak*

*I think the only things I trust these days are the sun and the moon.*

*The huge hawk threatens this new chipmunk appearing in early spring like dandelions who will be trampled.*

*I accept the drag on the moon, the burning sun that blisters, but not cold men and bitter women.*

*Oh, how we love the delicate innocence of babies, snowdrops, crocus, and gasp at a bite, a sting, a sharp rose thorn, a sneer.*

*Hey, keep your balance when troughs and peaks lure and frighten.*

*But you don't belong in the soft green meadow every day and money doesn't buy confidence.*

*Just now, while you can, catch your breath and decide where you are within.*

*J. Hills  
March 9, 2020*

### Office Hours

Tuesday, and Wednesday,

9:30 am - 12:30pm

Thursday

9:30 am - 1:30pm

## Women's Herstory

June 10, 1919

Wisconsin became the first state to ratify the 19th amendment granting national suffrage to women.

July 19-20, 1848

The first gathering devoted to women's rights in the United States was held July 19–20, 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York. The principal organizers of the Seneca Falls Convention were **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, a mother of four from upstate New York, and the Quaker abolitionist Lucretia Mott.