



March 2021 NEWSLETTER

Save the Date

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. “Approximately 1 in 5 (21.3% or an estimated 25.5 million) women in the U.S. reported completed or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime, including forced penetration, attempted forced penetration, or alcohol -/drug-facilitated penetration. About 2.6% of U.S. men (an estimated 2.8million) experienced completed or attempted rape victimization in their life time” (*National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief*).

In recognition of this month, join us on April 3rd at 11:00 am, for this month’s meeting for a lesson in Self-Defense and Situational Awareness. The link for the Zoom will be provided the week of March 29th. A simple definition of self-defense is a countermeasure that involves defending the health and well-being of oneself from harm (*Wikipedia, 2021*). Jessica Fig is the instructor who will lead this discussion and demonstration. Jessica has been working with self-defense practices for years and has worked as a self-defense instructor in Minnesota. She trained with the Marine Corps during her time with the Naval Nurse Corps. She currently works as a pediatric nurse in Milwaukee and enjoys sharing her knowledge of safety and situational awareness with different groups.



Jessica Fig



President’s Message

A year later....

It is hard to believe a year ago life as we knew it changed. For over 100 years, the United States had not dealt with a serious disease outbreak of similar proportions. Who would have thought so many would die, suffer the loss of family members and friends, job loss, and the loss of other opportunities we perhaps took for granted (such as being closer than six feet away from other people). What the future holds is yet to be determined. What we can do is continue to support women and girls by advocacy, education, and research through AAUW.

President's Message cont.

How much about the following women do you know :

- Madam C.J. Walker - The first female self-made millionaire in the Guinness Book of World Records
- Phillis Wheatley - One of the best-known poets in pre-19th century America
- Coco Chanel - French fashion designer and businesswoman
- Juliette Gordon Low - Founded the Girl Scouts of the USA
- Rosa Parks - Her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man inspired the organization of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Amelia Earhart - Author and first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean

Each in their own way offered the world something - a spark for the civil rights movement, poetry, fashion, a change in aviation history - that it did not have before them. Another common thread they have is that none would not be eligible to join AAUW. You see, none had a college degree. What future members might the organization have who could bring skills and enthusiasm to move AAUW forward but cannot join because they do not have a degree or started but did not complete one? Voting on the proposed by-laws change begins online on April 7th. I hope all of you will take time to learn about this important election by going to aauw.org/membership/nationalelection.

AAUW-WI Virtual State Convention April 23 & 24, 2021

All members should have received a copy of the convention program via email by now. Hopefully it has inspired you to sign up for Zoom sessions so that you can participate in this year's convention. There is still time to sign up. When you visit the convention website, there is a short video that will help you navigate the site and assure that you are signed up.

Reminder: You need to sign up for each session you wish to attend. There are 11 sessions and you can sign up for a maximum of 7. (We have 2 sets of breakout sessions with 3 events scheduled simultaneously). You can choose the sessions of most interest to you. After you complete the sign-up process, you will receive a confirmation email for each. Zoom invites for the sessions will be sent out closer to the actual convention dates. On page 3 of the program is a chart listing all of the Zoom sessions. You may want to print that and keep it as a way to organize which sessions you have signed up for, the time and day, and, when you get them, the Zoom meeting IDs and passcodes. At the bottom of the page is a space for you to write down your password for the online auction, too!

If you want to join in bidding on any of the auction items, you need to set up an account to do so. Directions on how to do this may be found by clicking on AAUW Auction at the top of the webpage then on "Want more information?" on the next page you see. There are interesting items to bid on, and it will be fun to watch the bids, and jump in at the last minute for something that you really want. Many of these items would make great gifts, so do some early Christmas shopping. Other gift ideas include the AAUW pins that are available through the website or by filling out the form in the program and sending it in.

The convention committee has been working hard on the plans for this event, and we hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to participate without travel or cost.

See you there.

aauwwistateconvention.com



Voting on AAUW By-laws Change and Public Policy Priorities begins on April 7

By-Laws

The last issue of our newsletter noted, AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed change in by-laws allowing an *“individual who supports AAUW’s mission and pays annual AAUW dues to be an eligible member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.”*

Listed below are some points to consider:

If the proposal passes, college students would now be eligible for full membership. Current Life members will not be affected nor will College/University members.

The rationale for this change found on the National website reads, in part:

“AAUW’s mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This is simply the right thing to do.”

Malinda Gaul, AAUW Vice Chair, shared in a video that the average age of AAUW National members is **72** years of age or older, while half of the population in the U.S. was born after 1980, a significant gap. We are international (for 100 years) and we have been open to men since 1987.

This change will update the relevance and image of AAUW as the world reckons with inequality and systemic racism, much of which disproportionately affects women. Have you ever met someone who would be a great addition to our branch only to discover they do not have a degree? Does the organization miss the talent and energy such a person could offer?

Today, there are more alternatives to college degrees which have burdened women with two-thirds of the national college debt. With more careers open to women, i.e., firefighters, pilots, entrepreneurs, artists, politicians, manufacturers, retail managers, and more, who may have the potential for a variety of new ideas.

Public Policy

In addition to the by-law change, the proposed updates to AAUW Public Policy include:

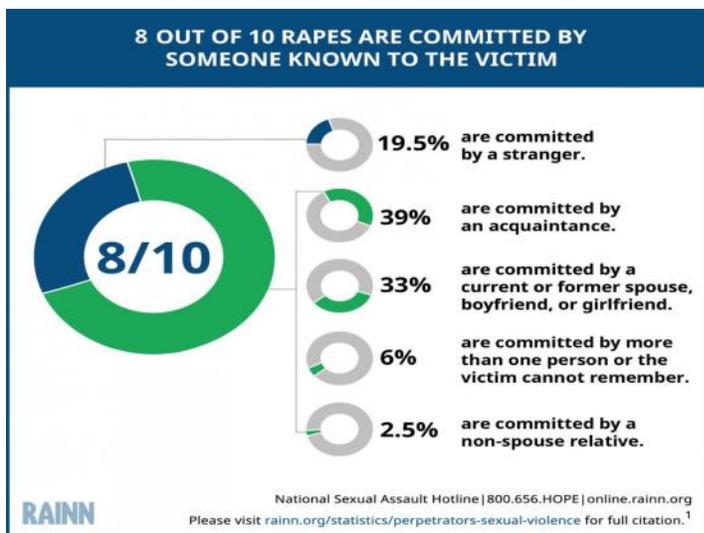
- Refinement and added specificity regarding AAUW’s commitment to addressing systemic racism
- Refinement of our commitment to equitable access to higher education for all
- Emphasis on the importance of high-quality data collection

Voting will take place from April 7-May 17 online. Members who wish to request a paper ballot may either email AAUW at connect@aauw or send a written request to the address below:

AAUW, 131 K St, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Book Club: 2020-2021 - Anne Lehman & Ellie Moseley

- The AAUW of Milwaukee Book Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. This year we have virtual meetings via ZOOM. These are the wonderful books selected for April 2021 and May 2021.
 - April 27: **Crazy Brave** by Joy Harjo
 - Discussion Leader: Anne Lehman
 - May 25: **Caste: The Origins of Discontent** by Isabelle Wilkerson
 - Discussion Leader: Sharon Munson
 - Sept. 28: Select books for 2021-22
 - Oct. 26: TBA



Everyone Is Affected by Sexual Violence

- Every 73 seconds another American is sexually assaulted.
- 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed, 2.8% attempted).
- About 3% of American men - or 1 in 33 - have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.
- From 2009-2013, Child Protective Services agencies substantiated, or found strong evidence to indicate that, 63,000 children a year were victims of sexual abuse.

A majority of child victims are 12-17. Of victims under the age of 18: 34% of victims of sexual assault and rape are under age 12, and 66% of victims of sexual assault and rape are age 12-17.

What was the survivor doing when the crime occurred?

- 48% were sleeping, or performing another activity at home
- 29% were traveling to and from work or school, or traveling to shop or run errands
- 12% were working
- 7% were attending school
- 5% were doing an unknown or other activity

(www.rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem)

Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday

9:30 am - 12:30pm

Thursday

9:30 am - 1:30pm