



# April 2021 NEWSLETTER

## May Event Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2021  
Social Time: 11:00 am - 11:30 am  
Speaker: 11:30 am - 12:15 pm  
Announcements: 12:15 pm - 12:30 pm

Can you name an organization that has: done racial justice work since 2005, offered an unlearning racism tool, and offers a program to help women prepare for job interviews and employment? Please join us for the May event program featuring C. Paula Phillips, Sr. Director Race and Gender Equity at the YWCA of Southeastern Wisconsin to learn about their work with racial justice and how they adapted their programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Paula Phillips' mission is to actively build a society in which all of us are seen, heard, and cared for. Starting her career in ministry, she shifted her focus to the nonprofit sector through her service as an AmeriCorps member. She first came to Milwaukee to serve as an AmeriCorps volunteer with Public Allies, then continued to build her career in the nonprofit sector at City Year Milwaukee. Prior to joining the YWCA, she worked to empower women and promote diverse leadership at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her roles have included organizational change management, budget development/management, government relations, board development, staff development, office management, volunteer recruitment and management, talent acquisition, and strategic planning.

Paula was elected to a four year term of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors from 2017-2021, serving as the finance chair, representing over 74,000 constituents and overseeing a 1.2-billion-dollar budget. During the COVID-19 pandemic, her leadership centered public health for all of Milwaukee's citizens. She has developed a lifelong passion for education after seeing the tremendous impact it had on her own life and the stabilizing influence it can have on those who have difficult lives at home. She ran for office because a woman asked her to run. In 2020, she served as the Women's Outreach Director for the Biden Harris campaign in Wisconsin.

Paula is a first-generation college graduate who attended Milwaukee Area Technical College and received her B.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics with a certificate in Global Health from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives on Milwaukee's southwest side with her spouse and active toddler. She enjoys being creative in the kitchen, group fitness, and reading a good book.

## Save The Date!!

On Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm AAUW WI Public Policy Committee will host a Zoom webinar panel discussion called "Fair Maps: We All Count." If you don't know about the Fair Maps issue, this webinar offers an opportunity to learn about them and how elections in Wisconsin will be shaped for the next 10 years because of them. Look for an email with additional details and registration information.

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## President's Message



### AAUW Milwaukee Branch News

With vaccinations for the corona virus ongoing and capacity limits increasing for some of Milwaukee's restaurants, it was hoped we would be able to have our Scholarship Brunch next month. Unfortunately, recent increases in positive cases and young adults just able to receive the vaccine led to the difficult decision not to have a scholarship celebration this year. (Please see page one for information about our Event Meeting on May 8th in its place.) We have Milwaukee Public Schools students who will be awarded scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year. Look for a special section in the June newsletter about our scholars, their accomplishments and hopes for their future.

### AAUW WI State Convention

You still have time to register to attend the AAUW WI Convention. To register go to the web site at [aauwvistateconvention.com](http://aauwvistateconvention.com). While you are there, check out the Virtual Auction items available for bidding. Sign up to join the auction bidding is also on the convention web site. Proceeds will go to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

### AAUW National



#### Voting on AAUW By-laws Change and Public Policy Priorities ends on May 17

##### By-Laws

As noted in the last issue 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, while half of the population in the U.S. was born after 1980, a significant gap. We are an international organization (for 100 years) and 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.

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## 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

You should have received email from Shannon Wolfe, AAUW national, on April 7, 2021 announcing the vote for AAUW officers and bylaws change was open. The email has a link and a PIN to your use to vote. Need information before you vote? Find out at [AAUW.org/membership/nationalelection](https://AAUW.org/membership/nationalelection).

Online voting continues through May 17.



**Maria Teresa Kumar, CEO, Voto Latino**

Maria Teresa Kumar is a Hispanic American political-rights and voting-rights activist. Kumar was born in Bogota, Colombia, and grew up in Sonoma, California. She attended college at Harvard's Kennedy University School of Government and the University of California, Davis.



**Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Director of the Census and Voting Programs, Asian Americans Advancing Justice**

Terry Ao Minnis is a voting-rights activist who has dedicated her career to fight for the right to equal access to the ballot. Ao Minnis attended the University of Chicago where she earned her bachelor's degree in economics. She then continued her education at American University's Washington College of Law where she received her law degree. She is a key leader on campaigns reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act and has written numerous articles and amicus briefs in support of voting rights.



**Edith Mayo, Suffrage Historian, Women's History Movement Activist**

Edith Mayo is a historian of the women's suffrage movement and an activist of the women's history movement. She is the current curator Emerita for Political History at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Mayo has dedicated her career to making women's history more accessible and inclusive and to making sure women receive balanced representation in museums. She is well known and widely respected for her work in documenting African American suffragist history.

To learn more go to <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/2020-2021-honorees/>

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## **Book Club: 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. Here is the wonderful book selected for May 2021.

- May 25: **Caste: The Origins of Discontent** by Isabelle Wilkerson
  - Discussion Leader: Sharon Munson
- Sept. 28: Select books for 2022-2023
- Oct. 26: TBA



### **Office Hours**

Tuesday and Wednesday

9:30 am - 12:30pm

Thursday

9:30 am - 1:30pm