

AAUW - Milwaukee January/February 2022 Newsletter

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Save the Dates

Virtual, evening "Happy Hour"

at 6:00 PM

February 16, 2022

March 16, 2022

Join us and enter to win fabulous door prizes
including adult beverages and more.

Branch Meeting

Saturday, March 5, 2022

11:30 social half hour

speaker noon - 1 pm

Marjorie Rucker
Executive Director
The Business Council

Annual WI State Convention: April 22 - 23

President's Message

Greetings from the President
--Carla D. Washington

Hello 2022!

Our AAUW mission remains the same: **AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.** While we are still adjusting to living through "C" and "P" we are persevering to live out AAUW's mission. I am grateful to be joined on this journey with each of you.

Did I hear you wondering how you can become more involved in the Milwaukee Branch? Great! There are several ways for you to become (more) involved. Here they are.

- Attend planned member events (see Program section)
- Tell someone else about the membership benefits of AAUW and encourage them to join
- Sign up for and participate on a Branch Committee
- Serve on the Milwaukee Branch's Board.

Current Committee Chair openings include: Scholarship and Public Policy. Please email Carla at cw-cw@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Mark your calendar for the **Annual WI State Convention: April 22 - 23.**

The annual Wisconsin State Convention will be held virtually again this year. **I promise you are in for a treat.** The Convention planning committee has been diligently working to ensure this year's Convention will be inspiring, informational, and engaging. More details on Convention will be shared in the next issue of *Badger Briefs*.



Diversity and Inclusion

Mia Tatum-Crider (Chair)

Hello everyone! A few notes from the AAUW Milwaukee Branch Diversity and Inclusion Chair! In 2022 I would like for us to join together to increase our knowledge of how marginalized groups such as girls and women of color in our community face inequality, discrimination, challenges, and barriers during their educational journeys as well as when they seek higher education and employment opportunities. How can *we* support women and girls who are within marginalized groups in our community?

I received the opportunity to attend a Zoom gathering with 15 AAUW, members representing twelve branches' DE&I Committees. This group met to connect AAUW branches in Wisconsin and to provide resources for developing programming to include diversity, equity, and inclusion. I hope to share what was discussed with you soon! Remember any member may access AAUW National's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tool Kit by using this link: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>.

I am hopeful that we may use our dialogue of issues that impact women and girls of color during their educational and employment journeys. Will you consider joining this committee as we continue to answer the call to find ways that the AAUW Milwaukee Branch may continue to support, uplift, and encourage all in our community through the development and delivery of programming?

Consider joining this committee as our work will aid in developing, implementing, and monitoring programs and activities that promote diversity and inclusion empowering women and girls within our community!

Feel free to contact me if you are interested! Take care, stay safe and be well!

Finance Report

Shirley A. Metcalf - VP Finance



During the last six months between July 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, the Astor has transitioned from being a hotel to an apartment complex. The lobby and front desk are permanently closed. Other than the cleaning crew, there's no staff or management on the premises. The front and back doors are locked, and renters must use a fob for entry.

Currently, the lease for the AAUW suite is on a month-to-month basis. Tenets are not allowed to move during winter months. Listed below are the current expenses paid to Watercrest Real Estate, and the current financial position.

Astor Expenses (Monthly)

Rent	\$1055.00
Parking	\$80.00
Maid Services (two hours per month)	\$40.00
Electricity	\$12.72

December 2021 Financial Position

Beginning Balance	\$14,497.02
December Expenses	\$6,836.34
Deposits	\$ 4,400.00
Ending Balance	\$12,060.68

“History has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.”

—Michelle Obama

NCCWSL Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

*Jessica May, College & University Relations
Chair*

The 2021 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) was held virtually last May. Due to the reduced costs of the virtual conference, our branch was able to provide scholarships for five Milwaukee college students to attend. This is one in a series from a scholarship recipient. We hope you enjoy learning about these budding women leaders!

Lolita Obolenskaya

Nursing Student
Milwaukee School of Engineering



Why did you want to attend NCCWSL?

I applied for a National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship because, as President of MSOE's Nursing Honor Society, I would love to raise awareness for women's issues. Currently, I plan to get a DNP in Women's Health to help work with women and make sure their lives are the best they can be. I have also been an advocate for Sojourner Family Peace Center, because I have a passion to end domestic violence. My mother and aunt were victims of domestic violence and I saw how it impacted them.

What was your NCCWSL experience like?

My entire life I have been surrounded by strong independent women. I was raised by a strong independent, single, visually-impaired mother and I learned to understand the importance of how to always find a fire inside of you to keep pushing forward and being a force of nature. After attending this conference, my confidence was elevated to a new extreme. It was empowering to be able to attend with women from all over. The speakers were spectacular and articulate. They made sure to involve people and make everyone feel like they belonged. I had hoped to attend the conference in-person, but even virtually, it still made me feel empowered and connected to my inner woman. It helped me build more confidence to hear about their stories and lives. It was truly empowering.

Membership Matters/Programming

Lyn Hildenbrand - VP Membership/ Programming



Abby Haak - Medical College of WI

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

In January of 2021, Abby joined MCW's Center for the Advancement of Women in Science and Medicine (AWSM) as the Program Manager. Since 2017, Abby has served as a Coalition Builder with the National Coalition Builder's Institute (NCBI) at MCW.

Abby will present on Gender Roles/Stereotype—she has a fun interactive presentation – you don't want to miss this opportunity to learn from the best while sharing your thoughts!

Marjorie Rucker Executive Director of The Business Council

Saturday, March 5, 2022

11:30 social half hour – speaker noon - 1 pm



Marjorie will speak regarding her work and her role with **The Business Council** and its impact on the women (and men) of color, in particularly in the Greater Milwaukee Community. Driven by a passion for social justice, community advocacy and service, Rucker actively works to increase business opportunities for diverse communities, effectively changing the social and economic landscape for marginalized populations.

For six years, Rucker has led The Business Council, a membership association affiliated with the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) that matches diverse businesses— businesses that are owned by women, LGBTQ+, veteran and ethnically diverse populations—with corporations and public sector entities who are looking to diversify their business partnerships. Through this work, the Council drives economic growth in diverse communities, which ultimately leads to increased revenue generation, a larger workforce and increased education throughout Wisconsin.

Your AAUW-Milwaukee board is deeply concerned about the impact COVID-19 has had on you our membership, and your families. Your health and safety are on our minds in and our hearts. Our ability to plan and execute programs and recruit members has been impacted heavily by this pandemic. Although we continue to work to provide quality programs and membership opportunities.

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Membership Matters/Programming cont.

As we try to wrap our heads around the unprecedented ramifications encompassing this pandemic, as well as the economic and social restructuring that is needed, we often stop and wonder, what is next? We have been at the cutting edge of fighting for economic equity for 140 years. And what we are seeing now is how the pandemic is intensifying inequities all around us.

The things that AAUW has been fighting for is alarmingly urgent now, and our efforts are needed here and now more than ever. Think about this:

- Nearly 30% of working Americans have no sick leave and have to choose between a paycheck and potentially losing their job or risking exposure to infection.
- Women comprise more than 70% of the healthcare industry, including more than 85% of nurses. They are on the frontlines, putting themselves and their families at risk to care for others.
- More than 10 million Americans have filed for unemployment due to COVID 19 – and women are in the majority.
- The female labor force accounts for a large proportion of service jobs: more than 80% of waitstaff, 65% of retail cashiers and 65% of hotel and hospitality workers.
- Education is being upended, worsening the existing education gaps for lower-income and students of color.
- Women in college and graduate schools still hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.3 trillion of student debt.
- Retirement and other savings have been hard hit. Retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or below the poverty level.

We are living in trying times - for us as individuals, for our families and friends and for our fellow AAUW members. We are part of a cooperative spirit that is there for each other – as we have been since our inception, and we will continue to be there moving forward.

Do stay well, be kind to one another, we're all in this together, and together, we will make a difference!

*Adapted from an article by Kim Churches

Scholarship Committee

It's that time of year where AAUW-Milwaukee is preparing for our annual scholarship process for graduating Milwaukee Public Schools high school seniors.

If you are interested in serving on this year's Scholarship Committee, please contact Carla Washington, at cw@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you.

How Many People Drop Out of College?

40% of students drop out of college every year. In the US. 30% of students drop out in the first year. Only 41% of students graduate in 4 years. Male students have a 20% higher chance to drop out, than female students. Asian students have the lowest dropout rate.

Reasons for College Dropouts

- 38% of the students drop out of college due to financial shortcomings for their college education.
- 13% of the students find it hard to fit into the social life at college correctly.
- The lack of adequate support from the family contributes to 9% of college dropouts.
- 28% of the students drop out of college due to academic disqualification – failure to meet the set academic requirements.

For more information go to: <https://www.thinkimpact.com/college-dropout-rates/#1-how-many-people-drop-out-of-college>

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”
—Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

AAUW National

Spring 2022 Member Vote

The national Board, Governance Committee, and Open Membership Working Group discussed putting the degree requirement for membership up for a vote again this year and decided it is not the right time for another vote.

A common complaint from the last vote was members not receiving email from national. Please check email preferences here: <https://aauw.us/emailoptions>

Public Policy

In 2020, Virginia became the critical 38th state to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). But even though the ERA now meets all the legal requirements to become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, we still have work to do. The remaining hurdle is an arbitrary deadline—which Congress has the power to change. After passing the U.S. House of Representatives in 2020 with bipartisan support, the call to remove this deadline stalled in the Senate. Now, this key resolution (S.J. Res. 1) is closer than ever and needs your action.

Passage of the ERA will be a monumental move towards ensuring equality for all people in the United States. Our nation's foundational document would finally clarify that sex discrimination—whether in employment, health insurance, Social Security, education or elsewhere—violates our constitutional rights.

We cannot wait any longer—urge your Senators to support the ERA!

Black History Month

The celebration of Black History Month began as “Negro History Week,” which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

NAACP

On February 12, 2019, the NAACP marked its 110th anniversary. Spurred by growing racial violence in the early 20th century, and particularly by 1908 race riots in Springfield, Illinois, a group of African American leaders joined together to form a new permanent civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). February 12, 1909, was chosen because it was the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.



**“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be
human together.”**

—Desmond Tutu

Milwaukee's Black History

Joshua Glover

Joshua Glover escaped from Benammi Stone Garland's Missouri farm in 1852 and traveled by foot to Racine. Because of "The Fugitive Slave Act", Garland was legally able to hunt down Glover and recapture him in March 1854. Garland and his men took Glover to a jail in Milwaukee with the plan of returning Glover to Missouri.

The morning after Glover's jailing, it is said that abolitionist Sherman Booth and a mob stormed the jail. Glover was freed but then spent 40 years on the run, finding safe spots along the Underground Railroad system. After decades of running, Glover found ultimate freedom in Canada, where he died.

For more information go to: <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2021/02/09/prominent-black-figures-who-impacted-history-wisconsin/4378999001/>



Vel Phillips

Vel Phillips (1924-2018), Milwaukee's first alderwoman and the first African American on its Common Council, was born Velvlea Rodgers on the South Side of Milwaukee. She won her Common Council seat in 1956. She served on the Council until 1971. Milwaukee major media focused more on gender than race in coverage of her campaign and early career. She met both sexism and racism from aldermen but bided her time in her first terms to build support beyond the city.

In 1958, again using women's networks, Phillips addressed thousands of Democratic women in the capital and won a state committeewoman post, the first African American elected to the party's national committee. Democrats needed women voters, the "Negro vote," and Wisconsin. With the first presidential primary in

1960, the Democratic party named her to the platform committee and as rules committee co-chair, the first minority to lead a standing committee.

From 1961 forward, Phillips participated in state Capitol sit-ins and local marches for her law, later joined by Father James Groppi. In 1967, their arrests caused national media to call Milwaukee "the Selma of the North," one of few major cities without an open housing ordinance, owing to obduracy by Mayor Henry W. Maier. He called her into his office to give her a "hard time" and called for her husband to give her "a whipping." In 1968, after passage of a federal open housing law, he finally acceded to her local law.

By 1970 she no longer was the lone minority member of the Common Council, though the council reverted to all-male status in 1971, when Phillips was appointed the first African American in the state judiciary and Milwaukee County's first woman judge.

She lost a 1972 election to retain her seat on the bench but remained active in antiwar and women's movements, returned to run for Secretary of State in 1978, and became the nation's first African American woman elected statewide to executive office.

As Wisconsin Secretary of State from 1979 to 1983—and acting governor "for a few days" in the governor's and lieutenant governor's absence, "until the men found out and hurried back"—she lost party favor and retired from politics.

For more information go to: <https://emke.uwm.edu/entry/vel-phillips/>



"Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face."

—Carol Moseley-Braun, politician and lawyer

Pioneering Women



Rep. Shirley Chisholm

First Black woman elected to Congress (D-NY, 1969-83).
First Black American to run for president and first woman to run for presidential nomination from a major political party.



Rep. Patsy Mink

Member of Congress (D-HI, 1965-77). Co-author of Title IX.



Ellen Swallow Richards

First woman to earn a chemistry degree. Pioneer in the home economics field. AAUW co-founder.

For more information go to:

<https://www.aauw.org/about/faces/>

In Memoriam

Alpha Wetenkamp

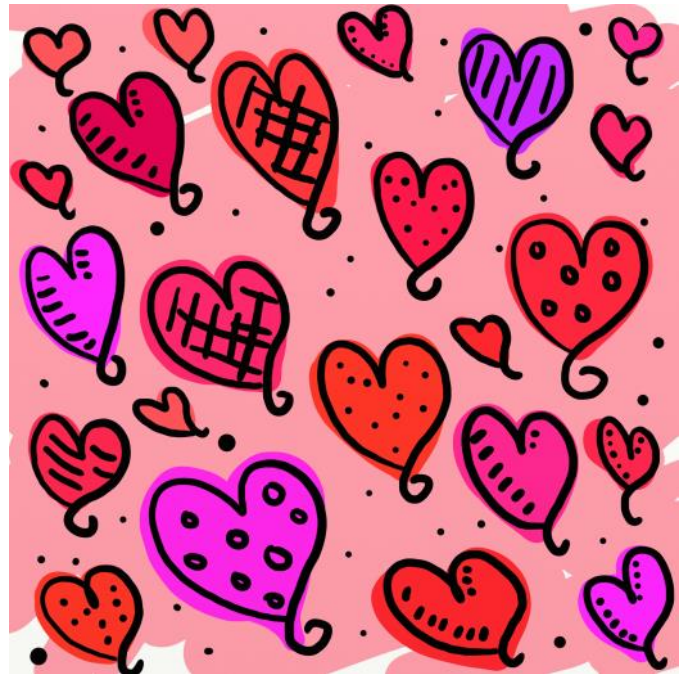
August 25, 1932 - January 15, 2022

Alpha A. Wetenkamp of Wauwatosa, passed on January 15, 2022, age 89. Preceded in death by her parents Paul F. and Alpha (nee Teich) Wetenkamp. Survived by dear friends Alan Karch, Mary and Holly Hoffman and other dear friends. Alpha was a graduate of Milwaukee Downer College (now Lawrence University) and a retired foreign language in several of the Milwaukee suburban schools.

Alpha was a life member of the Mother Church of Christ Scientist in Boston and a Reader of the Third Church of Christ Scientist Milwaukee. She was also a member of the Greater Milwaukee Rose Society, and a life member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the College Women's Club.

Memorial contributions to Third Church of Christ, Scientist, or the Wisconsin Humane Society are appreciated.

<https://www.krausefuneralhome.com/obituary/alpha-a-wetenkamp/>



"We must never forget that Black History is American History. The achievements of African Americans have contributed to our nation's greatness."

— Yvette Clarke U.S. representative for New York's 9th congressional district

Book Club: 2021-2022

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 meetings will be held virtually via ZOOM.

- March 22, 2022: The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan
 - Discussion Leader: Ann Lehman
- April 26, 2022: Poet Warrior by Joy Harjo
 - Discussion Leader: Ann Lehman
- May 28, 2022: TBA
- September 27, 2022
 - Book Selection for 2022-2023



Office Hours*

Tuesday and Wednesday

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Thursday

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

*(hours are subject to change without notice)



Like us on Facebook!

The theme for 2022 Black History Month is Black Health and Wellness.

While the spotlight right now may be on the disadvantages African Americans face while fighting the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), they are also disadvantaged throughout the health care system when combating other diseases.

Compared to their white counterparts, African Americans are generally at higher risk for heart diseases, stroke, cancer, asthma, influenza and pneumonia, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS, according to the Office of Minority Health, part of the Department for Health and Human Services.¹

One possible contributing factor: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says African Americans are more likely to die at early ages for all causes,² as young African Americans are living with diseases that are typically more common at older ages for other races. For example:

- High blood pressure is common in 12% vs. 10% of blacks vs. whites aged 18-34 years, respectively. It is common in 33% vs. 22% of those aged 35-49 years, respectively.
- Diabetes is common in 10% of blacks aged 35-49 compared to 6% of whites.
- Stroke is present in 0.7% of blacks aged 18-34 compared to 0.4% of whites the same age. Stroke is common in 2% of African Americans compared to 1% of whites aged 35-49 and 7% vs. 4%, respectively, in those aged 50-64.

The CDC said that social factors compared to others in the U.S., specifically whites, affect African Americans at younger ages: unemployment, living in poverty, not owning a home, cost-prohibitive effects of trying to see an MD, smoking, inactive lifestyle, or obesity.

For more information go to https://www.pfizer.com/news/articles/health_disparities_among_african_americans