

AAUW Impact

Empowering women since 1881 American Association of University Women

Volume 39 No. 4

Janesville, WI Branch

March 2026

Legislative Update: Ann Roe and Brienne Brown Take Action



Ann

**Tuesday, March 24
6:00 Social, 6:30 Program
Janesville Woman's Club**

Please Join Us!



Brienne

Ann Roe is a former marketing and communications instructor at UW-Whitewater, current business owner, community leader, AAUW member, and mother of two. She and her husband, Jonathan, have lived in Janesville for over 25 years. After working with students of all ages and various non-profits, Ann's experiences in business, teaching, and community involvement inspired her to run for office to bring public service back to the district and solve hard problems facing our communities. In 2024, she was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly where she serves on the Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

Brienne Brown earned her Bachelor's degree in Journalism, Communication, and Media Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and later pursued graduate studies in Health Education, focusing on the environment and chronic disease epidemiology. She worked in public health on childhood lead poisoning, pesticide-related chronic disease, and workplace health risks.

Brienne moved to Whitewater in 2012 with her family when her husband joined the UW-Whitewater faculty. She became active in the community, teaching yoga and later serving as an adjunct instructor in Health Education. Her local service includes the Whitewater Library Board, the Whitewater City Market, the Whitewater Grocery Cooperative, the Whitewater Common Council, and the Whitewater Community Foundation. (Continued next page)

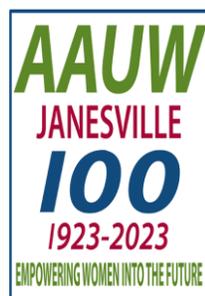
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Articles for the next issue are due:

March 18th
To Carole Salinas
csalinas3767@gmail.com



AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership

Co-Presidents-	Pat Logterman	512-203-4583
	Sharon Straub	608-774-3980
VP Program	Carol Meland	608-359-8698
VP Membership	Carole Salinas	608-201-1790
VP Finance	Nancy Moskal	608-359-3138
Secretary	Nancy Arnold	608-756-0773

In 2024, Brienne was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly. She serves on the committees on Veteran and Military Affairs and Agriculture, the Speaker's Taskforce on Rulemaking, and the Wisconsin Agricultural Export Advisory Council.

Important Change in Plans for March Branch Meeting

We will **not** be kicking off our March branch meeting with a dinner. Paula DeRubeis was willing to prepare a meal for us; however, it was decided to allow her a few more months to recuperate after her shoulder injury.

The dinner has been postponed to the June branch meeting on Tuesday, June 23. The menu will be announced at a later date. The annual business meeting will be held on this date. This is an important meeting to attend. We will conduct essential business, celebrate our successes, and report on plans for the upcoming year. We will also pass the torch to our newly elected offices.

President's Message



2026 has not arrived quietly. It has come in with piercing cold, heavy snow, and storms in places that rarely see them. In many ways, this is reflective of the times we are living in. Across our nation, we are witnessing challenges to democratic principles and to educational opportunities for women. Rights and progress that once felt secure are now being threatened. In times like these, the mission of AAUW is vital. Our advocacy for equity in education, economic security, and civil rights for women and girls matters more now than ever.

Here in Janesville, we face challenges of our own. Like many nonprofit organizations, our branch is experiencing an aging membership, difficulty attracting younger members, and understandable hesitation about stepping into leadership roles. But within our branch are extraordinary women — experienced, capable, and committed. These are the exact characteristics needed to help guide our branch into the future

This year we must fill several key leadership positions — Co-President, President-Elect, Membership Vice President, and Secretary. Now is the time to step forward and ensure that AAUW Janesville continues to be a strong voice for equity for women and girls. Please seriously consider accepting one of the open positions. Your willingness to step forward will help ensure that AAUW's advocacy and community work continue to make a meaningful difference for women and girls.

Needed – Impact Ad Sales Person



Each year we solicit ads “sponsorships” to help defray some of our branch communications costs. The ad sales cover the cost of printing the Membership and Program book, as well as printing and mailing the Impact to those members who do not have email. Many of our ads are from members or long-term advertisers. We need some new ones! I haven't lived in Janesville for 37 years, and haven't worked in town for about 16. I don't have the contacts with business that local members do. This is a short-term job and a way to help our branch. I will train our new person, and get them started. I will also do the layout of the ad page when we have the ads collected.

Questions? Contact Diane Adams



Action Items

- RSVP for AAUW State Convention by March 16.
- RSVP to Pat Phillips for Italian Dinner Fundraiser

March Calendar Items

- M. Mar. 2 AAUW board meeting, Woman's Club (6:00 pm)
- T. Mar. 3 Book Choosing meeting, Ann Petersen's home (6:30 pm)
- Th. Mar. 5 Zonta International Women's Day Celebration, Woman's Club
Free event and all are invited. (4:30 pm)
- M. Mar. 9 Convention Planning Committee, Zoom (12:30-2:30 pm)
- T. Mar. 10 Diverse Discussions, Woman's Club (1:00-2:30 pm)
- Sa. Mar. 14 Tech Savvy STEM Workshop at UW Whitewater
- M. Mar. 16 Last day to register for AAUW State Convention before the price goes up
- T. Mar. 17 Book Discussion, Leslie Brunsell's home (6:30 pm)
- W. Mar. 18 *Impact* articles due to Carole Salinas
- T. Mar. 24 AAUW Branch Meeting: social (6:00), program (6:30) and business meeting
- Th. Mar. 26 Women's Equal Pay Day
- Sa. Mar. 28 Italian Dinner (fundraiser) at Pat Phillips' home (6:00 pm)
- T., Mar. 31 America 250 History Series: Lavinia Goodall, Hedberg Library (6:00 pm)



- Th. April 9 Scholarship selection committee meeting (3:30 pm)
- Sa. April 11 Beyond the Tassel, Parker High School
- F. Sa. April 17-18 AAUW State Convention, Madison
- Sa. April 25 Spring Super Fundraiser, Janesville Country Club
- Sa. June 27 World's Finest Fish Fry (fundraiser)



March Birthdays

- 1 – Carol Neuman
- 9 – Wendy Mani
- 13 – Pat Logterman
- 30 – Karen Grimsrud

Someone need a bit of Sunshine?

If you know that one of our members could use a bit of sunshine, please let Karel Cripe know.

karelcripe@gmail.com



She is our Sunshine Chair and will send congratulations, get-well, sympathy, or other messages on behalf of the members of AAUW Janesville.



Thankyou Tech Savvy 2026 Sustaining Sponsors



All Are Invited to the AAUW WI State Convention

Friday, April 17 - Saturday, April 18, 2026

AAUW Janesville Branch, as part of District One, is one of the host branches for the State Convention. State Convention is not just for branch officers or chairpersons. All members and guests are encouraged to attend. It is a great way to become more acquainted with all that AAUW has to offer, and it is a fun way to meet new people from across the state of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Judge Janet Protasiewicz will be the keynote speaker after the Friday night dinner. Melissa LaDuke, Vice-President of National AAUW Board of Directors, will be speaking Friday afternoon with updates on the future of AAUW. There will be breakout sessions Saturday as

well as a panel titled, "Women Who Are Making a Difference in the Wisconsin Legislature," which includes two of our own members; Representatives Brienne Brown and Ann Roe.

There also will be food, entertainment by Willow Newell, Miss Wisconsin 2025, "Sweet Treats," auction baskets, and opportunities for networking with AAUW members from across Wisconsin. The conference begins on Friday, April 17 at 2 PM with wrap up at 3 PM on Saturday, April 18. The event takes place at DoubleTree by Hilton Madison East, less than a mile off I-90 opposite East Towne Mall.

Registration fees:

Friday only: \$100 (includes dinner)

Saturday only: \$98 (includes Saturday breakfast and lunch)

Friday and Saturday: \$143 (includes all the meals above)

* Our branch has money budgeted to help offset some of the registration cost.

* A late registration charge of \$10 will be added after Monday, March 16, 2026.

Note: Hotel registration is **not** included in these fees.

Come for both days or just one day. This event is close enough to Janesville that we should have a large representation from our branch. Invite a friend, come as a group, carpool. Please consider contributing to the success of this convention by attending.

To register, click this link [AAUW WI State Convention 2026 | AAUW Wisconsin \(WI\)](#)



Convention planning committee includes: Diane Adams, Nancy Arnold, Mary Fredrick, Carole Salinas, and Sharon Straub.

AAUW National Membership Dues Change

The AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase AAUW individual member dues at their February 2025 meeting.

- ✓ January 1, 2025 individual member dues were: \$72
- ✓ On April 1, 2025 individual member dues increased to: \$74
- ✓ On April 1, 2026 individual member dues will increase to \$76

Member dues are an important funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, dues have not kept pace. During the feedback process, we heard from more than 750 members. The Board's decision to increase dues by \$2 reflects an adjustment to the original proposal to lessen the burden of a dues increase on members while keeping pace with inflation.

Your member dues help fund member services such as:

- **Administrative Support:** Assist with dues processing, Community Hub management, 990N filings, branding materials, newsletters, discount programs, Shape the Future promotions for new members and a wide variety of toolkits (e.g., Branch Fundraising Resources, Bylaws Toolkit, Right Sizing Toolkit, AAUW Five Star Program Resources).
- **Website Support:** Update and manage ~500 branch and state websites and provide ongoing Site Resources support.
- **Virtual Member Gatherings, Trainings and Signature Events:** Hold regular virtual programs including twice annual Member Gatherings, Virtual Economic Empowerment Webinars (Start Smart, Work Smart and Money Smart), Five Star Program webinars designed to support Branch success, panels featuring AAUW Fellowship and Grants Alumnae, AAUW Staff and Partner Organization experts on mission-based topics.
- **Member Trainings:** Hold regular virtual member gatherings and training programs.
- **Member Engagement:** Organize member-led groups and committees like Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, and national committees.
- **Speaker Engagement:** Offer National speakers for branch meetings and state conventions.
- **Real-Time Support:** Connect Team provides daily assistance and semi-weekly "Office Hours" for member leaders.
- **And more!**

The bottom line: We heard you. The dues increase balances AAUW's financial sustainability with the member feedback we received in 2025.

For more information: [Membership Dues Change - 2025/2026 – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)



Branch Membership Update

One of our newer branch members, Jennifer Bleak, has moved. She and her husband, who is from Japan, will be splitting their time between the Chicago area and his home country. We will miss Jennifer.

Over the past few months, five members have joined our branch. We extend a warm welcome to the following: Mary Squire (a returning member), Leslie Montag, Carol Van Moffaert, Jeanne Rowland, and Krista Olson.

See the next pages for introductions to some of those new members.



Welcome Back to AAUW, Mary Squire

Mary grew up in Viroqua and graduated from Viroqua High School before completing her undergraduate studies at UW–Stout, where she earned degrees in Fashion Merchandising and Business Administration. She later received a Master’s degree in Education from UW–Whitewater. Her career included serving as a Merchandising and Marketing Instructor at Blackhawk Technical College.

Janesville has been Mary’s home for 45 years. She enjoys a wide range of artistic and design interests, including textiles, fine art, home and architectural design, landscape design, performing arts, and music. A devoted reader, she recently finished *The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul* by Connie Zweig, Ph.D.

As a returning AAUW member, Mary shared, “My goal is to support the mission of AAUW and to work collaboratively towards equity for women.” Mary previously belonged to AAUW from 2001 to 2019, and we are delighted to welcome her back.

Welcome, Leslie Montag

Leslie was born in Bellingham, Washington, and began her studies at Western Washington University (1960–62). After time abroad and several moves across the country, she eventually completed her degree in Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1991.

In 1963, she left Washington for three years in Europe, an experience that sparked her love of travel. She later spent two decades in North Dakota, followed by ten years in Madison, serving as Director of the Retreat and Conference Center.

For many years, Leslie divided her time between winters in Arizona and summers in Door County. After ten winters in Janesville, she has now made the city her permanent home. Widowed in 2001, she has a daughter and a deceased son. She currently lives with her daughter, Jen, and son-in-law, Pete. Her grandson, a recent Madison College graduate, is living with them as he prepares for his wedding this fall.

Leslie is an avid reader and, while she has long read for pleasure, she now keeps an ambitious list of books on social issues and politics. Her lifelong love of fiber arts has taken many forms—embroidery, sewing, knitting, weaving (both yarn and basketry), and most recently, a deep passion for quilting.

Music is another constant in her life. She enjoys listening, singing in choirs, and attending concerts and theatre performances. Travel has also been a joy. When asked what might surprise people about her, she answered with a smile: “I love dill pickles with chocolate.”

When asked why she decided to join AAUW, Leslie replied, “Moving to Janesville full time and giving up my place in Door County starts a new chapter in my life,” Leslie shared. “I’m interested in worthwhile activities and possibly some volunteer options. When my friend Mary Pharmer started talking about AAUW, it piqued my interest. Before joining, I attended several meetings—monthly programs with great speakers and DEI discussions. I found like-minded women engaged in current and important issues. It inspired me to ‘get with the program,’ start reading, and participate. I’m looking forward to getting to know the women in the group by getting involved in activities, community affairs, and maybe some Out and About opportunities.”

A special thank-you to Mary Pharmer for encouraging Leslie to join.





At the January Foundation board meeting, there was a discussion about getting a mailbox for the building. Julie Richardson will be doing research and report at the March Foundation Board meeting. Since no one came forward to chair the Trivia Night it will not be taking place this year.

There was a discussion about creating a checklist that can be attached to the building keys so all keyholders have the same directions for leaving the building. If the thermostat is changed when entering the building, it should be returned to the appropriate temperature before leaving. Winter 60 degrees and summer 75 degrees. Reminder to clearly mark and date items left in the refrigerator. Also clearly mark items left in the basement. When using the dishwasher be aware that dishes MUST be scrapped and rinsed prior to loading the dishwasher. There is NO garbage trap in the dishwasher.

The Spring Super Fundraiser will be Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the Janesville Country Club. This is a major fundraiser for the Foundation. Proceeds represent almost one third of the operating expenses for the building. It was decided to have a style show with luncheon as in the past few years. The theme is: "April Showers Bring May Flowers."

Volunteers are needed from each club that meets at the Woman's Club Building. There are many different jobs with various time commitments. Please consider helping in some way: working with others to create a basket, asking for gift cards from various businesses, etc.

*** See article about Spring Fundraiser. For list of volunteer needs.**

Nancy Arnold, AAUW Foundation Rep

Super Fundraiser Update: Help Needed

"April Showers Bring May Flowers" is the theme for this year's fundraiser, and the committee has created some new ideas for members to participate in this important event for the Foundation. As the AAUW representative on the committee, I am enlisting your assistance. Volunteer opportunities include:

- model for one of the stores at the style show,
- coordinate the models prior to the event as well as at the event
- transport auction baskets from Carol Herzig's home to the Country Club on Friday, April 24th about 3 PM
- help with set up on Saturday, April 25th and/or take down after the event
- sell raffle tickets during the lunch
- be a greeter at the door of the Country Club on the day of the event
- help with auction set up
- assist with getting auction baskets to the vehicles of those who have purchased the baskets.

These are just a few of the volunteer opportunities that are available. The committee also has added a new option for our groups to participate. Each group that is part of the Foundation has been asked to create a centerpiece for at least one of the tables for the event. The requirements are that it contain fresh flowers and focus on the theme of the event. There are no restrictions on colors or flower type. The centerpieces will be available for purchase. Those not purchased will be live auctioned after the luncheon. AAUW will also need an auction basket for this event. If any of these suggestions have sparked your interest and you would like to volunteer or you have questions about any of them, please contact me. Nancy Arnold
nancymssw@aol.com 608-756-0773 or 608-449-3840.



**April 25, 2026
Super
Fundraiser**

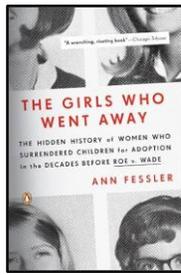
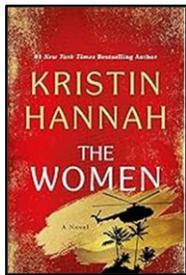
Beyond the Tassel

AAUW Janesville is partnering with the Women's Empowerment Club at Parker High School to host Beyond the Tassel, a workshop that provides training and information on vital life skills beyond high school. Breakout sessions will include topics such as self-defense, managing finances, women's health, adult legalities, and more.



Some of you might remember that AAUW Janesville offered a similar program, "Stay Safe," at Craig, Parker, and Rock River Charter School a number of years ago.

Club advisors, Sherry Cook and Alexandra Scardino, and club members are organizing the event for Saturday, April 11, 2026. AAUW members will provide support for check-in, hall monitoring, and lunch duties. Please volunteer today. Contact Pat Phillips, 608-436-3050 or pPhillips1400@gmail.com.



Book Discussion

On February 17, we Zoomed and discussed *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. This is a positive, inspirational story that we encourage everyone to read.

All AAUW book group members are invited to Ann Petersen's house (808 Nantucket Dr., Janesville) on March 3 at 6:30 PM to choose books for our group to read and discuss from May -September 2026. If you are unable to join us, send your recommendations to Ann at apetersen608@gmail.com by March 1. Please include the title, author, and a note or short summary that will support your suggestion.

On St Patrick's Day, March 17, we will discuss the book *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. We will meet at Leslie Brunsell's house, 225 Hillside Ct., Janesville at 6:30 PM. Mary Pharmer has volunteered to bring a treat. This novel focuses on the strength and courage of American nurses during the Vietnam War.

The Girls Who Went Away by Ann Fessler is our April book choice. We will meet on April 21 at Michaela Adair's house, 4519 Ruger Ave., Janesville at 6:30. "In this deeply moving and myth-shattering work, Ann Fessler brings out into the open for the first time the hidden social history of adoption before Roe v. Wade - and its lasting legacy." Amazon

Thank you to those who volunteered their homes, their willingness to lead discussions, and provide food. We need volunteers to provide a place to meet and to lead the discussions for May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15. Note: June, July and August will be pot luck dinners so we only need snacks for May and September.

Ann Petersen, Book Discussion Chair



"Remember the Ladies"

On Sunday, February 1, Mary Buelow, Pat Phillips, Carole Salinas, and Carol Van Moffaert enjoyed a dramatic historical portrayal of Abigail Adams by Jessica Michna of First Impressions. Dressed in period style and speaking in the manner of the time, she recounted her life and read letters from her husband John during the years leading up to and through the Revolutionary War, and the stresses of his presidency. It was so convincing, we felt transported 250 years into the past. What a delightful way to spend an afternoon with AAUW friends!

The event, sponsored by the Whitewater Historical Society, was held at the Cravath Lake Community Center. Jessica Michna, recipient of the Presidential Service Center's Distinguished Service Award, is widely known for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies and other notable women of history.

America 250 – Rock County History Series

Lavinia Goodell: Wisconsin's First Female Lawyer and Her Fight for Justice

Presented by Jennifer Motszko, UW-Whitewater
Tuesday, March 31 | 6:00-7:30 pm
Hedberg Public Library | Program Room



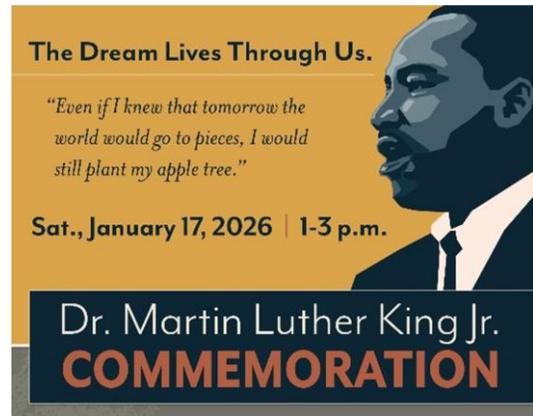
Janesville's Lavinia Goodell began practicing law in 1874, specializing in female clients and divorce cases. When she was denied the right to argue a case in front of the Wisconsin Supreme Court because of her sex,

she fought back. Learn how Lavinia used the courts to fight for women's rights, and how her efforts led to changes in Wisconsin state law.

This program is part of Hedberg Public Library's *America 250 - Rock County* history series. Each month beginning Tuesday, February 24 and continuing through June 16, this program series will explore and honor contributions multiple groups have made to Rock County history.

Presentations from local experts will highlight Yankees from the northeast, African-Americans from the south, Irish and Norwegian immigrants, women, and U.S. Military Veterans. Join us as we showcase a rich tapestry of Rock County stories to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Our history is America's history! [America 250 - Rock County | Hedberg Public Library](https://www.250rcwi.com)



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration

AAUW Janesville has been an event sponsor for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration for many years. We had a table set up with information about Project Renew Scholarships, Tech Savvy, branch programs, and membership. Thank you to the following members who attended the event: Nancy Arnold, Brienne Brown, Leslie Brunell, Mary Buelow, Heidi Deininger, Edna Feldman-Schultz, Carol Herzig, Janet LaBrie, Evon Mitchell, Pat Phillips, Ann Roe, Carole Salinas, and Wendy Tupper. My apologies if you were there and I missed you.



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—Sheila O'Brien



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AAUW's Mission Lived:

“Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research”

As I walked along the 100 block of Festival Street, I passed the building that has large historical photos of life in Janesville covering its windows. I had never noticed that the one showing a parade in the mid-seventies, pictures two AAUW members, Lynda Meyer Salisbury and Judi Kneece, wearing white like the Suffragettes and holding a banner, “Women Moving History Forward.” They are joined by the League of Women Voters and others in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. It's good to know that 50 years ago, we were collaborating with other women's groups in the community.

For those who are not familiar with our organization, here is what AAUW stands for...

- Higher education as a pathway to economic security and upward mobility for women and girls.
- Equitable access to higher education that is diverse, inclusive, and free from harassment and discrimination.
- Learning environments that safeguard civil rights, including strong Title IX enforcement and policies that protect students.
- Women's economic security at work: pay equity; paid family, medical, sick, and safe leave; affordable quality dependent care; harassment-free workplaces; and access to a full range of reproductive health care services.
- The opportunity for women to pursue and thrive in any career they choose, including leadership roles.
- The dignity and equitable participation of all women - across all backgrounds and identities - in education, the workforce, and policy decisions.

Our programs are free and open to the public. Join us and bring a friend. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month (September-November and March - July) at 6:00 pm at the Woman's Club.

Leslie Brunsell, AAUW Janesville member since 1977



Judi Kneece
AAUW Janesville
President 1980-
1982



Lynda Meyer
Salisbury
AAUW Janesville
President
1970-1972



Life Long Learning

Almost a half century ago, I became a member of AAUW. At that time, "Life Long Learning" was part of the AAUW Mission Statement, and the premise is still there in everything we do. Whether it is reading and discussing books in Book Club; creating and working at the STEM program for young girls; collecting, sorting and selling gently used books for funding scholarships; attending movies, live theater performances, museum exhibits; or sharing a drink or meal with AAUW friends...we are always learning.

In 2022, an interest group we call Diverse Discussions was formed by members wanting to dig deeper into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion topics. Starting out we used the AAUW DEI Tool Kit as a resource so we would all become familiar with the terminology and created a community agreement for civil conversations. Over the years we've not only discussed but have also taken action when we felt it was needed.

Labor Day weekend in 2024, small Ziplock bags with a few small pieces of white popcorn were scattered in two areas in Janesville. Also in the packets were two notes. One said, "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for our white children." The second was a link to Aryan Freedom Network, a white supremacist organization. We were appalled and decided the best countermeasure to hateful speech is more speech. Using our First Amendment rights, we wrote a letter to the editor of the Gazette and then found more than 350 community members willing to sign a pledge:

- We pledge to actively support racial justice initiatives encouraging diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging in our communities.
- We will advance educational initiatives to reinforce that ALL people know and understand an environment free of prejudice and hate.

The ad appeared in the Gazette and then was the basis for a resolution against White Supremacy at our AAUW State Convention in 2025.

Last fall, a week before "No Kings 2.0 Protest" was going to be held at Courthouse Park there was another Gazette article about a Janesville man who was planning his own rally in the same place and overlapping at the same time. This was on social media, and he mentioned to his *America First* friends that Wisconsin is an open carry state. This was scary so I left messages on two phone lines listed in his name and asked him to call me back about his planned event as I was interested in his viewpoint. As it happened, he had written a message to the Gazette that he'd decided not to hold his rally after all. Well, that was good news, but since I hadn't heard back from him, I decided to talk to him face to face. My knees were shaking, but I just wanted to see if I had the right person. Luckily my friend went along with me. We did meet him, and as it happened, he had the same first and last name as the *America First* guy but a different middle initial.

I still wanted to have a conversation with someone with a viewpoint different from mine to see if we could find common ground. I contacted two Republican friends and asked for names of conservative, articulate, and stable women. Two of the five I called came to our December Diverse Discussions gathering. We got to know each other, and everyone was able to talk without interruption. It was an introduction and listening session. Of course, we ran out of time, but we'd like to try it again. I did invite them to my home for our January screening of the documentary, "Deconstructing Karen" but neither were available on that meeting date.

With February being Black History Month and March designated as Women's History Month, we have a plethora of historical documentaries on PBS and other social media.

I recently received the following list of books from Monte Mader's Facebook page that can help educate us about White Supremacy. Let's learn to do better by reading about our history.

The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein *It Can't Happen Here (a novel)* by Sinclair Lewis
Poverty By America by Mathew Desmond *A True History of the United States* by Daniel Sjrursen
One Day Everyone Would Have Been Against This by Omar El Akkad
The Bible Told Them So: How Some Evangelicals Fought to Preserve White Supremacy by Russell Hawkins

Our March Diverse Discussions will be on immigration. We meet at the Woman's Club Building (108 S. Jackson) the second Tuesday of the month from 1 PM to 2:30 PM. All branch members are invited to attend. If you are interested in something like this, but are still working or have other daytime conflicts, we could form a new group, and include non-members, in the evening and at a different venue if the Woman's Club is not available.

Leslie Brunsell, DEI Chair

Public Policy: How AAUW National Advocates on Federal Policy Issues

Grassroots Advocacy

Members and advocates are the heart of AAUW's grassroots advocacy, making their voices heard on federal policy issues critical to AAUW's mission. Effective grassroots advocacy means close partnership and collaboration between states, branches, and National—we can't do this without you!

AAUW's Action Network is comprised of members and non-member advocates who take action to advance our mission—participating in lobby days, picking up the phone to call their elected officials, or attending an advocacy event, for example.

As part of the Action Network, Two-Minute Activist alerts allow advocates to contact their elected officials on timely federal policy issues—taking only one minute to read and one minute to act.

Please note: AAUW members are not automatically signed up for the Action Network. You will not automatically receive action alert emails. Sign up at: [AAUW Action Network – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

AAUW Lobby Corps

For more than 50 years, AAUW's Lobby Corps has placed a name and face to our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Lobby Corps is a volunteer group of members and college/university students in the Washington, D.C. area. Lobby Corp volunteers visit congressional offices on Capitol Hill twice a month to educate members of Congress and staff on AAUW issues and advocate our policy positions.

Information from Lobby Corps visits helps strengthen AAUW's advocacy at the national and state levels by providing insight into legislators' positions and opportunities to build relationships with their offices.

Coalitions

AAUW National informs and strengthens our federal advocacy through engagement in coalitions, task forces, and working groups. These collaborations take different forms depending on their goals and strategy. They may focus on a particular issue area, a single piece of legislation, or bring organizations together across issues, for example.

Diverse collaborations are important to be able to hear and learn from different advocates and impacted communities. We encourage states to reach out to diverse organizations when seeking collaborators and assess whose voices may be missing in coalition spaces. Explore Leader Resources & Tools to learn more. [Leader Resources & Tools – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Direct Lobbying

AAUW engages in direct lobbying when our staff meets with congressional offices or sends formal letters on behalf of the Association to members of Congress and the Administration on key issues. While this work is important, it represents the smallest part of how AAUW drives change. The greater impact comes from our grassroots advocacy, development of research-based materials, and the collective voice of our members and supporters nationwide.

NCCWSL scholarships and registration are now open! The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is scheduled for May 27 - 30, 2026, at the University of Maryland - College Park. AAUW-Wisconsin will be providing five \$1,000 scholarships for conference registration, airfare, and lodging and meals. Here is the link for an announcement flyer, additional information, and the application form: <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/nccwsl/>. Items in blue on the website are links. All women student leaders attending colleges or universities in the state are invited to apply. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 1.



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World's Finest Fish Fry an AAUW Janesville Fundraiser

There is nothing better than fried fish from Wisconsin and Canadian waters.

We invite you to enjoy a delicious meal with friends and family in our beautiful garden.

Includes appetizer, fish caught by your hosts, sides, dessert, and beverage.

An Evening in Milan: A Delicious Fundraiser

Join us for a unique, elegant Italian dining experience.

On Saturday night, March 28, at 6:00 pm, AAUW cook extraordinaire Pat Phillips is presenting a 5-course Italian dinner with wine pairings.

Only ten tickets are available. They are \$60 per person. Order at pPhillips1400@gmail.com.

The courses and wine pairings are:

- Antipasto Tray of Italian Delights / Prosecco Bellini
- Spinach, Walnut, and Parmigiano Salad
- Ricotta Cannelloni / Italian White Wine du Jour
- Chicken Cacciatore with Risotto alla Milanese / Italian Chianti
- Raspberries with Sparkling Wine Zabaglione

Proceeds will support the AAUW special projects and operating fund.

Date: June 27, 2026 4 pm

\$45 per person (limited to 10 guests)

Funds will support the AAUW Janesville Operations Budget

Deadline to reserve is **Monday, June 1.**

RSVP to Nancy Moskal nmoskal@charter.net or 608-359-3138.

Nancy and Joe Moskal
604 Wilson St.
Edgerton, WI



Project Renew Scholarships

Do you know any Rock County women who are planning to resume their education?

AAUW's Project Renew Scholarships are awarded to women whose education beyond high school was interrupted by financial hardship, family responsibilities, health issues, etc. Recipients must enroll in an accredited associate degree, bachelor degree, or master's degree program. Selection is based on financial need and clear educational goals. Application deadlines: April 30 for the fall semester and October 15 for the spring semester.

Application and instructions are available online at AAUW-Janesville.net (click on Menu and then Scholarships). For more information, contact AAUWJanesville@gmail.com.

We need help putting flyers around Rock County. Please contact Carole Salinas if you can distribute some. We have 8.5x11, half-sheet, and ¼ sizes.

Project Renew AAUW Scholarships

A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a Rock County female student who meets the following requirements:

- At least one semester since last attending school.
- Enrolled in a degree program.
- Pursuing an advanced degree OR education was delayed or interrupted.

Application deadlines:
 • April 30 for the fall semester
 • October 15 for the spring semester

Application available online at AAUW-Janesville.net

AAUW

Book Sale News

Sale Dates: Oct. 8 – 11, and 16 – 18. Move in date is Sunday, Sept. 27

The book sale will be here before we know it. Thank you to all members who have helped in the past. It takes many people to make it happen. We are looking for some members to step into leadership roles. Ideally, we would like 3 or 4 co-chairs. Spreading out the tasks will make it easier for each chair both task and time wise. I can't, and won't do it alone. Once we have new leadership volunteers, we can organize who does what. See the next article, **Book Buddies Brigade**, about how to collect and store donations starting in April. Thank you to Leslie Brunsell for getting this organized.

Diane Adams, Book Sale Co-chair

Book Buddies Brigade

A big THANK YOU to Paula Flaherty for serving on the Book Sale Committee as the book pick up contact and Old Towne Mall connection as well as picking up the RECAP workers for the past six years. She did a phenomenal job! We are trying to spread all of those duties over several volunteers and hope everyone can help fill her shoes. The positions are from April 1st to the end of Book Sale 2026.

Book Donation Coordinator: Take phone calls from people wanting to donate books and pass the message to a book pick up person. We encourage people donating books to bring them to Olde Towne Mall. Need one volunteer.

Book pick People: Contact book donors to arrange for meeting them at the Olde Towne Mall (or picking up from their home if we know them personally). Need several volunteers.

Mall monitors: Walk through the Olde Towne Mall once a week to check the book drop area and put the bags/boxes of books in our storage area. There is a grocery cart and a hand truck (dolly) to assist in transporting the books. We anticipate two visits per week during August and September. Need many volunteers for this job.

Transporter: Pick up RECAP workers and return them to Rock County Jail on set up and take down days. Need two volunteers.



Tech Savvy STEM Workshop

Tech Savvy is Saturday, March 14 at UW Whitewater. We have a great lineup of speakers and workshops. The welcome remarks will be given by UW Whitewater Chancellor, Dr. Corey A. King and our keynote speaker is Miss Wisconsin 2025, Willow Newell. We have ten hands-on workshops for students in grades 6-9 to pick from and four parent options. See below. We have 18 AAUW volunteers from Janesville: Diane Adams, Jane Anderson, Janet Arndt, Nancy Arnold, Leslie Brunsell, Paula Flaherty, Michelle Kallio, Pat Logterman, Evon Mitchell, Leslie Montag, Nancy Moskal, Ann Petersen, Pat Phillips, Carole Salinas, Sharon Straub, Wendy Tupper, Carol Van Moffaert, Carol Watson, and seven volunteers from AAUW Fort Atkinson.



Our 2026 sponsors are Alliant Energies, Fort HealthCare, SHINE Technologies, SIM, SpaceSaver, and Premier Bank.

Strand	Student Workshops	Presenter
Biology	Mysteries of Glowing Creatures	Dr. Kris Curran, UW Whitewater, Biology
Chemistry	Bath Bomb Chemistry	Maclaryn Leonard SHINE Technologies
Civil Engineering	Engineering Roads with Cookie Dough	Emily Harrison, Travis Johnson, JT Engineering, Inc.
Electronics	Flash and Buzz Circuitry	Kat Ray, Yahara Software
Forensic Science	Bust Crimes with Technology	Erin Johnson, Janesville Police Dept.
Geology	Model Earthquakes with a Slinky	Juk Bhattacharya, UW Whitewater, Geology
Medicine	Surgical Intern for a Day	Dr. Chuppa, Dr. Alison Klimesh, Fort HealthCare
Physics	Build a Solar-Powered Racer	Heather Steuri, Traci Hohn, Alliant Energy
Robotics	Engineering Robots of all Sizes	Laura Masbruch, Whitewater High School
Veterinary Science	Pets Make the Best Patients	Dr. Janet Gildner, Dr. Avonlea Odling, Whitewater Veterinary Hospital
Parent Sessions		Presenter
Internet Scams that Target Kids		Eric Kuznacic, Why the Fuss? Technical Solutions
Nurturing Curiosity: What Parents Can Do?		Deb and Dick Thiel, AAUW state president and husband
Science Opens Doors to STEM		Dr. Jessica Bonjour, UW Whitewater, Chemistry
What's Math Good For, Anyway?		Dr. Hayley Bertrand, UW Whitewater, Mathematics