

SCOPE



**MONONA/MADISON (WI)
BRANCH**

**Monona/Madison Branch
Newsletter
March 2024**

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

6:30 p.m.: Social

7:00 p.m.: Program: “Wisconsin Veterans Tell Their Story” Presented by Luke Sprague.

He grew up in Thorp, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. After living twenty-five years in the Pacific Northwest, Luke returned to Wisconsin from Moscow, Idaho, to serve fellow veterans. He currently resides in Sun Prairie. Luke holds a master’s in military history at Norwich University in

Northfield, Vermont. In 2017, he published a book, the Schultheis Family Odyssey, and in 2018 a map, the Latah County Idaho Historic Sites Map. He is a United States Secretary of Interior-qualified historian who, in March 2019, became the oral historian for the Wisconsin Veterans

Museum. Luke manages the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Oral History Program, the fourth-largest veterans oral history collection in the United States. In addition to conducting and scheduling oral history interviews, Luke recommends and establishes policies, procedures, and projects related to the program.

His passion is making veteran interviews available to the public online.



Hostesses: Liz Senseman, Val Murphy, Mary Boyd

Hybrid meeting or in person. Location: Odyssey Center, 2238 South Park St, room 22, in the UW South Madison Partnership Building behind the Goodman Library.

Please bring your own beverage.

Kleo will send out Zoom invitations the weekend before the meeting to all members who want to Zoom. If you do not get an invite by Sunday evening, please email kbkritz@charter.net and Kleo will send another invite to you.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER, Pat Ruppert & Sally Keyel

March promises to be a month full of activities, as we prepare for our convention in April and consider our votes regarding the AAUW bylaws changes to allow all women to become members. We look forward to hearing Luke Sprague from the WI Veteran's Museum present a talk at our meeting on March 26th. Our March meeting will also include a program from Girls' Biz during the social time.

Several of our branch members will be volunteering at the Tech Savvy STEM workshop at UW-Whitewater on March 9. This event is hosted by the Janesville AAUW branch.

The Wisconsin Historical Society has a traveling exhibit at the Middleton Library called "We Stand on their Shoulders, A History of Wisconsin Women and Voting". This exhibit runs from March 1-29, 2024.

From Maggie Winz, State President: I'm proud to congratulate Monona/Madison branch for receiving 3 stars from AAUW National!

Monona/Madison branch has always been a star, and now it's official!

MEMBERSHIP & DIRECTORY UPDATES, Lynn Christensen & Kleo Baruth Kritz

Please update in your directory:

- Marjorie Sutton's new address is 6720 Century Avenue # 201 Middleton, WI 53562
- Bobbi White's correct email is bobbiw21843@gmail.com
- Robby Sonzogni has canceled her home phone number. 608-829-2552. Her cell phone is 608-576-6213

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, Marian Ehrenberg, Sharon Knoop, Kleo Baruth Kritz

Great News! We have a full slate of new officers for 2024-2025:

Co-President: Deborah Mahaffey

Co-Program VP: Georgia Stilp

Co-Membership VP: Jennifer Ondrejka

Recording Secretary: Stephanie Sorensen

Corresponding Secretary: Marian Ehrenberg

Finance Officer: Gail Stirr

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation with the Nominating Committee and to these members who are willing to serve as officers. We will vote on this slate at our April meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT, Gail Stirr February 29, 2024

Beginning Balance 1/31/24 **\$9,763.91**

- Bridge donations \$13.00
- Great Decisions donations \$70.00
- Madison College lunch \$158.25
- Scholarship funds from Madison College lunch \$108.65

Total Income: **\$349.90**

Fitchburg Park Shelter June picnic reservation \$60.00

Total Expenses: **\$60.00**

Balance 2/29/24 **\$10,053.81***

Note: Check for \$158.25 to Val Murphy reimbursed her Madison College lunch payment. While this will be included in the March finance report, the account balance as of March 5th is **\$9,895.56**.

CONVENTION 2023 ON THE WAY! Kleo Baruth Kritz 2024 AAUW State Convention Registration is Now Open!

AAUW: Architects of Our Future

Registration at <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/convention-2024/>

Convention will be held at the Delta Hotel by Marriot Racine (on the edge of Mt. Pleasant)

1. Friday only: \$100 (included dinner)
2. Saturday only: \$85 (includes lunch)
3. Friday and Saturday: \$120
4. Note: Late registration charge of \$10 after March 26

Hotel Booking:

Our special group rate: \$89 + 13% tax = \$100.57 per night per room.

Ask a friend to share a room with you.

Last day to book with special rate: Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Who should attend:

- Any branch member who wants to be inspired by exciting keynote speakers and breakouts
- Any branch member looking for a fun social weekend with friends
- Current and past branch officers
- New members who want to learn more about AAUW

Note: Our branch has budgeted money to reimburse a portion of the registration fee for those members who choose to attend. The reimbursement amount depends on the numbers of members who attend. Last year, ten Monona/Madison members attended convention. Can be beat it this year??

Want more information, thinking about going, or want help finding a roommate? Contact Kleo Baruth Kritz

If you will be arriving before 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26, there are a couple of fun activities lined up for you!

-Tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed SCJohnson Administration Building: It starts at 10:00 am and is **free**. All you have to do to sign up is check the box on the convention registration form, but you have to sign up for the tour *by March 26*. Read all about it here: <https://www.scjohnson.com/en/interacting-with-sc-johnson/tours-and-architecture/tours-and-films/youre-always-welcome-for-tours>.

-Book Shopping: AAUW Racine's Used Book Store, located in the lower level of CVS Pharmacy at 1122 West Blvd., will be open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on April 26. There are 1000s of books in multiple genres!

Also, Pardeep Singh Kaleka, our Friday keynote speaker at AAUW Convention 2024, will be speaking on “Healing in the Aftermath of Hate.” In 2012, following the death of his father in the hate killings at the Oak Creek Sikh Temple, he co-founded Serve2Unite, an organization nationally recognized for bridging school and community groups.

His book *The Gift of Our Wounds: A Sikh and a Former White Supremacist Find Forgiveness After Hate* tells his powerful story. The book will be on sale after his speech for \$25. Both cash and checks will be accepted.



NATIONAL BYLAWS, Kleo Baruth Kritz

BREAKING OUR OWN BARRIER: OPEN MEMBERSHIP (Parts from National AAUW Website)

AAUW started in 1881 to increase educational opportunities for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. While our mission has stayed the same, you might be surprised how our membership rules have changed over the years.

AAUW's Membership Requirements Have Changed Many Times to Become More Inclusive

1. Up until the 1940s, member had to hold degrees from a **small list of accredited schools**. Prospective members had to be voted upon for admission.
2. World War II broadened AAUW's perspective, and women from all accredited schools could be admitted. **1949 was when historically black schools were accredited** and the women graduates of these schools were allowed to join.
3. BUT: **It wasn't until 1963 that degrees such as education, nursing, and home economics were approved.**
4. In 1987, **men** were allowed to join.
5. In 2005, those with **associate or equivalent degrees** were permitted membership.

In 2021 only around 25% of the entire membership voted and 63% of these members voted to approve open membership. To pass a bylaw 2/3 of the members voting must approve it, which would be 66.7%

Just for the record, check out this website and see accomplished people who would **NOT** qualify for membership. <https://openupaauw.org/people-without-a-college-degree/>

These are reasons to consider why we need to open our membership:

- Today, we recognize that higher education is one of several paths now available to women. Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience are ALL alternative paths to obtaining education and skills for women.
- AND the fights for women's reform – reproductive rights, equal pay, maternity leave, sexual harassment – apply to ALL women, regardless of the path they choose.
- Only 15 to 20% of AAUW's operating costs are covered by dues. National AAUW is finding itself not open to grants granted by many funding sources because we discriminate in terms of who we allow to be members. If we want to promote our mission, we need these grants.
- Considering how much we promote diversity, equity and inclusion, how can we justify that we discriminate against individuals who share our mission but don't have a degree?

Voting

AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party voting system for this year's vote so email is NOT coming from AAUW and will start the beginning of April.

- Members will receive emails from vote@simplyvoting.com with their unique Elector ID and Password. (Check your junk mail and spam folders just in case your computer is being difficult.)
- Will receive a confirmation email that your vote has been received after you vote.
- Voting will go from April 3 to May 15.
- And voters will receive regular reminders if they have not yet voted.

WOMEN'S HISTORY, Bobbi White & Susan Slattery



Sally Kristen Ride (May 26, 1951-July 23, 2012) was an American Astronaut and physicist. Born in LA she joined Nasa in 1978, and in 1983, at 32 years old became the first American woman and the third woman to fly in space, after Russian female cosmonauts in 1963 and in 1983. After graduating from Stanford, Ride she was selected as a mission specialist astronaut with NASA Astronaut Group 8, the first class to include women.

In June 1983, she flew in space on the Space Shuttle Challenger. Her second mission was the STS 41 G mission in 1984 also on board Challenger. In May 1987, Ride announced she was leaving NASA to do a 2 year fellowship at Stanford University at the Center for Security and Arms control.

From the mid 1990s until her untimely death Ride led 2 public outreach programs for Nasa. The programs allowed middle school students to request images of the Earth and Moon.. She then became president of the space news website Space.com. When Ride was delivering a speech in 2011, a friend noticed she looked quite ill. She was subsequently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She had surgery later that year but died from cancer the following year in 2012 at age 61.

A national "Tribute to Sally Ride" was held at the John F Kennedy Center for the performing arts on May 20, 2013. Barack Obama announced that Ride would receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

March Birthdays: Consuelo Lopez 6, Ann Bowles 8, Linda Voss 13, Lise Skofronick 16, Gail Steinhorst 21, Mary Michor 23, Sandy Drew 24, Lila Gullixson 26





One of our collaborating partners, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health, has changed its name. It now goes by Embolden Wisconsin to better reflect a commitment to innovation, growth, and a renewed sense of purpose. The informational resources below come from this website:

www.supportwomenshealth.org

AAUW GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, February 27, 2024

7:00 Kim Simes, Chief of Staff, Family Equality, presented "Love. Family. Freedom. It Really is That Simple" to ensure that everyone has the freedom to find, form, and sustain their families by advancing equality for the LGBTQ+ community with 16 Monona/Madison present, 7 from Janesville, and 1 from State Board.

Co-President Pat Ruppert called the virtual meeting to order at 8:00 pm

January Minutes: The January minutes were printed in the *Scope* and accepted as is without any corrections.

Finance Report: The financial balance as submitted by Gail Stirr is \$9786.91 and was read by Pat.

Programs: Ellen Healy reported that the next meeting will feature Luke Sprague who will discuss the oral history of the VietNam War being done by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. She and Donna Anderson are beginning to plan next year's programs and would like suggestions any one has for interesting speakers.

Membership: Mary Boyd has a person who might be interested and wants information regarding any changes in membership information. Lynn will get the details.

Nominating Committee: The slate of proposed new officers will be published in the next issue of the *Scope*.

Public Policy: Debbie Mahaffey is still unable to attend the meetings but reported that support is strong for equity, anti-racism, financial self-sufficiency for women, and fair maps, and suggested looking at the State AAUW website where many issues are discussed. Susan Slattery reported that women's general health as well as reproductive

rights are also a high priority. Please check that site out as priorities will be voted on at the state convention.

STEM and NCCWSL: Kleo reported that four members (Kleo, Donna Anderson, Debbie, and Sharon Knopp) will be going to Janesville on March 9 to help with the upcoming Tech Savvy. We are still searching for appropriate candidates to attend NCCWSL.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Kleo reported the program we heard tonight would definitely fit this category.

Fundraising: Val Murphy reported that two groups will be attending a luncheon at the Madison College culinary program. She is also organizing a trip to Art in Bloom on April 20, The Committee is always looking for fundraising ideas.

Newsletter: Deadline is March 6. Please send articles to Sally Keyel.

Web Editor: Gail Stirr is still searching for someone with computer skills to handle this position.

Old Business:

Kleo reminded everyone that opening up our membership to change our Bylaws to eliminate the educational requirement is being proposed by National. Everyone can vote online and all will be receiving emails to do so from an independent third party vote@simplyvoting.com Voting will be open April 3 to May 15. She discussed how the membership rules have evolved many times since 1881 with a major change in 1940s: only members from a small accredited list of schools were allowed to join and prospective members had to be voted upon by the branch. In 1949 historically black colleges were now eligible for membership. It wasn't until 1963 that degrees such as education, nursing and home economics were approved. In 1987 men were allowed to join and in 2005 those with an associate degree could join. Our main sources of income to promote our mission is membership fees, donations, and corporate grants. She explained that we are currently considered a "discriminatory organization" and this is making receiving many corporate grants impossible. She strongly encouraged everyone to vote to make this change.

New Business:

Kleo reported on the status of the state convention coming the 26th & 27th of April. Prices are reasonable (\$120 for the whole convention including dinner and lunch and \$100.57 total for the room). Please go the state website to see the convention page which lists the speaker lineup and topics to be discussed. <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/convention-2024/>

Reminders: Next Meeting is March 26, 2024, in person beginning at 6:30 with the Girls Biz students presenting items they are selling during the social time. Rescheduled board meeting in March 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Sorensen

CALENDAR

- **Mar. 12 Film Group, TBD**
- **Mar. 16 at 6:30 p.m.: La Cuisine;** Korean Host: Lynn Christensen, Co-hosts: Robby Sonzogni & Pat Ruppert
- **Mar. 20 at 7 p.m.: Wednesday Evening Book Club:** Host: Donna Anderson; Reviewer: Lynn Christensen; *The Librarian of Burned Books* by Brianna Lobuskes
- **Mar. 26 at 7 p.m.:** General Meeting
- **Mar. 28 at 9:30 a.m.: Morning Literature, Monona Library;** Discussion Leader: Carrie Wurz; *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn
- **Apr. 26-27: State Convention**

Co-presidents: Sally Keyel & Pat Ruppert; Membership: Lynn Christensen & Kleo Baruth Kritz; Newsletter: Sally Keyel
website, www.monona-madison-wi.aauw.net

