

BAYNOTES

Empowering Women since 1881 – Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research
Branch Website: greenbayarea-wi.aauw.net

Branch Meeting

STORIES FROM A LOBBYIST AND POLITICAL DATA MANAGER GOING BEYOND THE VOTE

Guest speaker: Colleen Gruszynski

Monday, November 21, 2016

Aging & Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC)

300 South Adams Street

5:30 Social/snacks 6:00 Program

Colleen will speak to us about her viewpoint as a lobbyist, discuss her political journey and what, as a woman, she has witnessed in barriers and/or biases.

Colleen Gruszynski was a registered lobbyist from 2015-2016 for Wisconsin voices, a c3 table of over 60 nonprofit organizations, including the League of Women voters, League of conservation Voters and Planned Parenthood. During her time as a lobbyist, she was active on good government issues, including opposing changes to the Government Accountability board, campaign finance laws and access to voting. Colleen received her BA degrees in Political Science and Spanish from UW-Stevens Point. She has her MA degree in Political Science from UW-Milwaukee. She currently works as a Data Products Specialist for TargetSmart. She has previously worked for various political organizations, including the Government Accountability Board.

**See attached separate sheet on this email about our
December Holiday lunch and reservations**

INTEREST/STUDY GROUPS

ART STUDY GROUP

Thursday, November 17th 10:00-noon
Christmas Craft led by Jan Schonke
Hostess: Stella Frigo; 2131 Dollar Road;
DePere.

Co-hostess: Bev Braun

Please respond to Stella if you are attending so that materials can be purchased. Bring a small amount of cash to group meeting for materials.

BOOK GROUP – meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Reader's Loft at 3:30pm.

Tuesday, November 28th

Book: **Paris Architect** by Charles Belfoure

“How far would you go to help a stranger? What would you risk? Would you trade your life for another's in the name of what is right? Belfoure explores these questions and others in this debut novel set in Paris during the Nazi occupation.

(Publishers Weekly)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Maryl Hitchcock & Janice McCarthy

AAUW Directories were distributed at the October meeting and will be brought to the Board meeting, Art Study Group and Book Discussion Group this month. Remember to pick up your copy.

DREAMERS & DOERS PLANNING

MEETING – Jill Laurtisen

Next meeting to plan for 10th annual D&D event will be Monday, November 7th at 1:00 at the Attic Bookshop on Bodart St. Green Bay.

BOARD MEETING – Monday, November 7th.

Sara Ramaker's home – 2545 Oakwood Ave.

5:30 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sara Ramaker

I am sorry more members were not able to hear the very interesting presentation from Assemblywoman Amanda Stuck and Ashley Ramaker. Both have considerable experience in the political arena – working on campaigns and serving as legislative aides. Their stories were both unsettling and inspiring. We got a very real look into the day-to-day work of an elected legislator. The upsetting part was to hear of legislators who are working on their own agenda and not really working for their constituents at all. The inspiring part is it is great to know we have such capable women dedicated to and working hard to improving our world. When asked if they would recommend working on campaigns and servings as a legislative aide to young people entering the workforce, they both said definitely, “Yes.” The pay is low, the hours long, but well worth it. We are grateful to two very busy professionals who took time away from their family to speak to us.

We also had our first branch meeting at ADRC and those who came seemed very pleased with the location for our future meetings. Sue made some lovely sandwiches and with the help of other members, we had a lovely spread to feast upon. Special thanks to all who contributed to a successful meeting.

I hope you will be able to join us for the November branch meeting when we will have a former registered lobbyist, Colleen Gruzsynski, tell us her story. Bev Braun sat next to Colleen at a LWVGGB and recommended her as a speaker, because she was so interesting. Julie Arneth informed me she heard Colleen speak at a state LWV convention and she highly recommended her. It should be another very interesting program and I hope our branch will have a good turnout.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

Mary Schmidt

The AAUW Green Bay Area Branch recently received a letter from Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW Board Chair thanking us for our donation to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). In the letter she stated we didn't just give a donation we gave someone a chance to achieve her dreams.

LAF works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. There are many forms of sex discrimination - unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX. LAF addresses these barriers through informational programs and through the legal system to seek justice and change.

Our branch will continue to raise funds for LAF. At the December meeting I will be "passing the hat" to ask for your donations to help empower women and girls. Individual donations are tax deductible. To learn more about AAUW and the Legal Advocacy Fund go to the AAUW website at www.aauw.org.

BRANCH BYLAWS UPDATE

Sara Ramaker

After just approving our bylaws in May, you may have been surprised to receive recently amended branch bylaws. I have to admit that after all the time that Dotty, Janice, Ginnie and I spent on the branch bylaws last year, I thought I would not have to deal with them again. Imagine my chagrin when I got a notice that we needed to modify the bylaws again. I found the changes were an improvement. The language is more concise and clearer than the previous language. I amended our bylaws and Dotty proofed them. Just as I was ready to send them out to the members, national sent another modification. I admit that I delayed sending out the amended bylaws just in case there would be more changes.

These changes are required by national so our branch does not need to approve them, but I did want those members interested in the bylaws to have a chance to review them. Because no approval is required there are no set procedures for implementing them. We decided we would send out bylaws showing all the changes, allow a two-week review and comment and then send out the final version of the branch bylaws to all. Let us hope there will be no more changes.

Human Trafficking Awareness Conference

"Peace Lutheran Church together with the Women of the ELCA, East Central Synod Wisconsin (ECSW) will host a Human Trafficking Awareness Conference on Saturday, November 12. Both the churchwide ELCA and Women of the ELCA are working to end this practice which victimizes millions of people around the world as well as right here in Northeast Wisconsin.

The keynote speaker will be Theresa Flores, a survivor of human trafficking in the U.S. Other speakers will include Sister Celine Goessl, Lt. Andy Opperman of the Green Bay Police Department, and Dawn Spang of Eye Heart World, along with representatives from 5 Stones and Shared Hope International.

This event is free and open to the public, but participants must register by November 7. A free will offering will be taken to help cover costs of the event. Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, young people ages 13 - 18 may attend only if accompanied by a parent or guardian." The website to order tickets is as follows: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/human-trafficking-awareness-tickets-24842723254> Liz says the site is not working well, and she suggests you can register through email. Send full name, address and phone to 111216@gmail.com no later than Nov. 7.