

Empowering Women since 1881 – Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy, and Research

Branch Website: <https://greenbayarea-wi.aauw.net>

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWGreenBay/>

Two Minute Activist: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

\* Not getting AAUW (National) emails? Here is the link to resubscribe: [Resubscribe to AAUW National Emails](#)

## President's Holiday Message



'Twas the start of a season oft filled with good cheer,  
Yet the world held a whisper we all longed to hear:  
A call for true justice, for unity bright—  
For neighbors and nations to walk toward the light.

The families all gathered with stories to share,  
Of cultures and journeys from everywhere.  
And friends near and far offered hands clasped in grace,  
For justice begins when we lift every face.

The candles shone brightly in windows aglow,  
Their warm dancing flames cast a soft, hopeful show.  
They shimmered for peace, for a world standing strong,  
And for those who have suffered or felt that they don't belong.

For some sit in silence this season of light—  
Alone, sick, or grieving through long winter nights.  
To them we send comfort, a heart-healing spark,  
A promise that love finds its way through the dark.

The children were dreaming of futures so fair,  
With no one left out, and none burdened with care.  
They pictured a world where all people could be  
Both equal in justice and welcomed freely.  
Artists painted visions of unity bold,



With colors of courage and stories retold.  
Their murals sang softly across every land:  
“We rise when we listen, when together we stand.”

The singers raised voices in harmonies wide,  
A chorus of hope connecting us all side by side.  
For music, like justice, knows no border line—  
Its beauty belongs to all humankind.

The healers and helpers, the workers of night,  
Held vigil for those without comfort or light.  
Their kindness reminds us that all the year round  
Through caring for others there is joy to be found

Then we heard through the stillness a message so clear,  
A blessing the world had been longing to hear:  
“May justice embrace us, may unity grow,  
Show compassion and courage wherever you go.  
And peace to all people, both far-off and near—  
May your hearts reflect love at this time of year.”

Wishing all a peaceful holiday season filled with warmth,

*Terri*



*AAUW Green Bay Area Branch • Empowering Women Since 1881*

## Membership News

Sue May



**December is here...the most magical time of the year!**

It's a great time to be a member and always a great time to bring a friend. Remember- new members and those who have been gone from membership for 3 years will receive national dues for half price year one. A discount of \$37! The total cost of a year's membership for a new membership is \$63 (\$37 national, \$13 state and \$13 local dues). If you have a friend who may be interested in learning more- please invite them to come as a guest. And we'd love to have a guest become a member! Joining is easy- I have attached a membership application or it can be found on our website: <https://greenbayarea-wi.aauw.net/files/2025/03/2025-26-Member-application.pdf> Any questions- just ask!

### Also ...

We have started a new "feature" for our monthly newsletters...a **"member spotlight!"** This month we are pleased to know more about Shirley VerBruggen. We'd love to know more about you! If you'd be interested in being our next "member spotlight"- please reach out to me- suemay07@gmail.com. It's fun to get to know our members a little better!

### **- From Shirley VerBruggen**

*Thank you for inviting me to introduce myself to the Green Bay AAUW Branch. My name is Shirley VerBruggen and I have been a branch member for about two years. I believe in the organization's mission to support girls and women in education and through advocacy.*

*My most rewarding role in life has been mother to my daughter and son. My careers have been in county government as administrator for the Food Stamp and AFDC programs; in manufacturing production control; in insurance as planning and budget coordinator; team leader in quality improvement and re-engineering and senior data analyst; then as a corporate employee in retail as Business Development and Community Relations Manager; and lastly as a Business Education teacher. Today, I am Special Voting Deputy and Chief Election Inspector of Central Count (which is how absentee and early ballots are processed).*

*I earned an accounting degree from NWTC, then a BA in Business Administration from Lakeland College, my MBA at UW-Oshkosh, and Business Education teaching certification from Concordia University. Now, I am a guest auditor and attend UW-Madison classes online each semester.*

*My hobbies and interests include reading, learning, genealogy, visiting museums, and traveling. I volunteered as a literacy and GED tutor and helped people earn U.S. citizenship. I taught classes for UW-GB Lifelong Learning, mentored entrepreneurs for S.C.O.R.E., and served on village commissions and as the chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals. I am proud to be an active and contributing member of my community.*

## **Elections 2026**

Shirley VerBruggen

Mark your calendars! You will have four opportunities to fulfill your civic duty when you vote on the following 2026 Election Days: February 17 is the Spring Primary; April 7 is the Spring Election; August 11 is the Partisan Primary, and November 3 is the General Election.

You know what to do, but maybe you don't know where you can get answers to your questions about voting, which offices will be on the ballots, or the latest updates in election law. See [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) for the names of your elected officials. The League of Women Voters website at [my.lwv.org/Wisconsin](https://my.lwv.org/Wisconsin) is also a valuable resource.

In 2026, voters will select a representative to U.S. Congress, WI governor, WI lieutenant governor, WI attorney general, WI secretary of state, a WI supreme court justice, and county and local officials. The Spring Primary and Spring Election will include the WI supreme court race, as well as races for court of appeals judges, circuit court judges, county board of supervisors, city council, state board, and local nonpartisan offices.

Some election laws are updated and others are still in litigation. For instance, while acceptable photo ID is required to register and vote, no order is currently in place for verification of citizenship.

There is a new Wis. Admin. Code Chapter EL 4 which regards Election Observer rules. The new law took effect August 1, 2025 and is uniform statewide. It affects all clerks, poll workers, Special Voting Deputies, voters, and observers. Who gets to observe? Everyone (except a candidate on the ballot including registered write-in candidates) who follows the rules. Much of the law remains the same. Observers must complete sign in procedures and follow official instructions, cannot disrupt voting, and there can be no photo or video recording at the poll, at in person early voting, or at Special Voting Deputy sites (like retirement facilities). What is different is an emphasis on accessibility, clarifying observer areas, detailing warnings and removals, privacy for voting in a private room (such as at a retirement facility), media regulations, and enforceability of the Code. Watch the news for other litigation updates or consult your local Clerk or County Clerk Patrick W. Moynihan, Jr. [Moynihan@browncountywi.gov](mailto:Moynihan@browncountywi.gov) with questions.



## AAUW Convention

The AAUW convention is right around the corner- April 17-18 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Madison. Mark your calendars! We'd love to have a good turnout from our branch! District 5 (yes, that includes us) will be hosting the 2027 convention!! I think Green Bay would be a great location with all our hotels and we are looking for a member or two from our branch to be on the convention committee. Having someone local who can be a contact for the "convention planning team" will be critical. If you are interested - let me know! Fun way to get involved for one great event!



## Keeping our Members Close

Lastly, a reminder that Sara and I would like to "Keep our members close" Reach out to one of us if you or a member who is celebrating something or needs a little cheering up. We will send that person a card from the branch. We'd like to open this up to all our members...let us all know what you've done that you'd like to share with all of us another way we'd like to "keep our members close". *Emails for Sara and Sue are:*

**Sue May:** [suemay07@gmail.com](mailto:suemay07@gmail.com) **Sara Ramaker:** [ramaker.sara@gmail.com](mailto:ramaker.sara@gmail.com)



## Art Notes – December 2025

Carolyn Reedy

We will be going to the Mulva Center in DePere on Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

We will meet there at 10:00am. (221 S Broadway DePere 54115 920-309-8200)

The current exhibit is Tactile Images: Seven Art Movements. The exhibit delves into the history of seven art movements across time: The Renaissance, The Baroque, Neo-classicism, Impressionism, Post impressionism. Art Nouveau and Expressionism.

After touring the art work we will have lunch at the Mulva in the *"Café on Broadway"*

Please RSVP with Mary Woodbridge ([miwiw@new.rr.com](mailto:miwiw@new.rr.com)) 920-362-8900

Or Carolyn Reedy ([ccreedy03@yahoo.com](mailto:ccreedy03@yahoo.com)) 920-366-2942.





## **INTEREST/STUDY GROUPS**



### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Study Group**

Terri Gulyas, DEI Committee Chair



## **ICE and Local Law Enforcement:**

### **Understanding 287(g) Agreements & How Civil Society Engages**

During our last DEI webinar, we briefly discussed 287g agreements. Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows state and local law enforcement agencies to partner with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These partnerships come in two primary forms: Jail Enforcement Model (JEM) agreements and Warrant Service Officer (WSO) agreements. Under the Jail Enforcement Model, certain local officers receive ICE training and authorization to identify and process individuals for potential immigration violations within jails, after an arrest for unrelated reasons. This model does not allow officers to conduct immigration enforcement in the field or during routine policing; it applies only within the jail setting.

The Warrant Service Officer model is a more limited version used by many counties, including Brown County. In this arrangement, a small number of trained officers are authorized only to serve ICE administrative warrants and detainers on individuals already in custody. They cannot question people about immigration status or initiate immigration actions on their own. Both types of agreements operate under ICE supervision, require annual audits, and vary widely from county to county based on local policy choices, capacity, and community priorities.

### **How Civil Society Typically Engages With Immigration Issues**

Across the United States, civic organizations, nonprofit groups, and community coalitions commonly engage with immigration issues through education, research, and public-facing information efforts. Many groups focus on explaining complicated federal programs—such as 287(g)—in accessible terms so voters and residents can better understand how national policies intersect with local law enforcement. Others gather publicly available data, review government reports, or track the outcomes of

immigration partnerships to support informed community conversations. These are all actions we can pursue as League members or as concerned citizens.

In addition, civil society organizations often create spaces for dialogue, host nonpartisan forums, or collaborate with legal-aid and social-service groups to share general information about immigrant rights under federal law. Some organizations also observe local government meetings, monitor public contracts, or follow policy developments as part of their mission to promote transparency and civic participation. These activities are generally aimed at helping communities stay informed, understand the implications of federal-local partnerships, and consider their effects on public trust, safety, and community well-being. Again, these would all be great ways for us to move forward toward rescission of the 287g agreement that is currently in effect in Brown County.

The community of Palmyra, Wisconsin, recently made national news when they were considering signing a 287g agreement with ICE. Their police department was a small one, and funding had been limited. After hearing the public opinions on both sides, they opted not to sign the 287g agreement. Read this Washington Post article for more information about how Palmyra responded to community concerns.

During 2026, the DEI committee will focus on action plans that include alliances with other organizations and community partners. There is so much to be done, but many hands make light work. Please join us in the New Year!

**There will be no meeting for the AAUWGB DEI committee in December. Stay tuned for what we'll be up to in the New Year. More info to come with the January BayNotes issue!**

### **Request for pictures**

Mary M. Schmidt

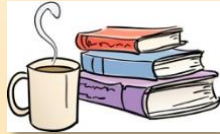


Hi everyone, I'm requesting any current pictures that you have of our meetings/interest groups that I could use to keep our poster board up to date. Thank you very much.

You can text them to me at 920-246-2042.



**There will be no book club meetings in December.**



### Officers for FY 2025-2026

President: Terri Gulyas  
 VP Programs: Wendy Schmidt-Janosik  
 VP Membership: Sue May  
 Secretary: Sara Ramaker  
 Bylaws: Sara Ramaker  
 Co-VP Finance: Lisa Ubbelohde/Claire Asbury  
 Greatest Needs Fund: Mary Schmidt  
 Scholarship: Sara Ramaker  
 Social Media: Karen Wilson  
 Public Policy: Sara Ramaker  
 Website: Sue May

### Interest Group Chairs

Afternoon Book Group: Wendy Schroeder  
 ¡Adelante! Book Group: Terri Gulyas  
 Art Study Group: Carolyn Reedy/Mary Woodbridge  
 Clean Water Issues: Carol Pearson  
 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Terri Gulyas  
 Movie Group: Lisa Ubbelohde

*Have a*



*and a*



## 2025-2026 Membership



\_\_\_\_ new application \_\_\_\_ renewal

- ☐ **\$100** (National \$74, state \$13, and local membership \$13)  
[\$74 is a tax deductible donation to a 501(c) 3 organization.]
- ☐ My check is enclosed for one year of membership, payable to **AAUW Green Bay**.
- ☐ I have renewed my membership online at AAUW.org date: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Student dues of **\$18.81** enclosed

**Mail to treasurer: Lisa Ubbelohde, 417 Harvard St. Green Bay, WI 54303**

### Member Information:

_____ First		_____ Last	
( _____ check if no changes to your information)			
_____ Address		_____ City	_____ State Zip
_____ Home telephone	_____ Cell phone	_____ Work phone	
_____ Email			
_____ 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree		_____ College/University	
_____ 2nd Degree		_____ College/University	
_____ 3rd Degree		_____ College/University	
_____ Employer		_____ Occupation	

### Our Vision is Simple

We bring people together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

### Our Mission is Sound

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

### AAUW Empowers Women

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

☐ Retired from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Transferring membership; I previously was a member of AAUW branch: \_\_\_\_\_

RESEARCH	STEM EDUCATION	PUBLIC POLICY	EDUCATIONAL FUNDING
Analyzing gender equity issues in education and the workplace.	Leveling the playing field for girls and women in science, tech, engineering, and mathematics.	Advocating for policies that advance equity for women and girls.	We provide educational and lifelong learning opportunities for women.