



January 2022

# The Branch Beat

## Fort Atkinson Wisconsin Branch of AAUW

### Message From the President

Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a wonderful holiday. The weather wasn't frightful and I hope everything was delightful, and that you were able to spend some time with loved ones while remaining safe.

There typically isn't a newsletter in January, but I wanted to get some information out to the membership prior to the **January meeting** to remind you that we will be meeting at **the Fort Atkinson Club** on Saturday morning **January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30**. This meeting is hosted by your Branch Presidents, Vicki Wright and myself, and we will be providing some New Year's resolution-healthy and Covid-safe treats! We will also be hosting the Janesville Branch at this meeting. Our guest speaker at the meeting is State Assembly Representative Don Vruwink, of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District. Representative Vruwink will be speaking at 10:00 and will be giving us an update on legislative affairs and the current state of the redistricting efforts. **A Zoom link to the meeting is at the bottom of this message! Please note: Masks are required at this meeting at the Fort Atkinson Club!**

About our speaker: Representative Vruwink is an educator and politician from Milton. He grew up on a dairy farm in Auburndale and later attended UW- Stevens Point, getting degrees in Social Studies and Political Science. He became a history teacher and football, basketball, and softball coach in Milton from 1979-2011. After retiring from the school district, he became the Parks and Rec Director for the City of Milton, served on the Common Council from 2011 to 2015, and joined the school board in 2016. Vruwink won a seat on the State Assembly beginning in 2017 as a member of the



Democratic Party and currently serves on the Assembly's Agriculture, Education, Rural Development, and Tourism Committees. He was appointed by Governor Evers to the Dairy Task Force 2.0. You aren't going to want to miss the opportunity to engage with Don on the 8<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to attend the January Fireside Chat!

Also, coming up in early January is the next meeting the ¡Adelante! Book Group, where we will be discussing "On Juneteenth" by Annette Gordon-Reed. We will be meeting in the Niedecker Room at the Dwight Foster Public Library at 6:00 on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

So, here's to a wonderful 2022 and I hope you all resolve to join us at meetings, become more involved, and help us recruit new members. I resolve to do my part make our branch as successful and fulfilling as possible in 2022.

Happy New Year!

*Kathy Marr*

Zoom link for January Fireside Chat:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84398220513?pwd=WUIBaW01d05Sc0hqduQ2Zmw2Ui9aUT09>