



# Branch Beat

## Mission Statement

Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy

## Vision

Equity for all

## Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional

## May 2025 Meeting

Our May meeting will be held Monday May 5th at 6:30 in the Community Room of the Dwight Foster Public Library.

The meeting will be sponsored by the Membership Committee and the agenda will include the installation of new officers and recognition of membership milestones.

We hope to see you there as we celebrate our newest members, our milestone achievers, and the changing of the guard.



**EACH TIME A WOMAN  
STANDS UP FOR HERSELF  
SHE STANDS UP FOR  
ALL WOMEN.**

— MAYA ANGELOU

**Mark your calendars for  
the June picnic!**

**June 16th at 5:30 at The  
Clubhouse at Rock River Park.  
This will be another fun  
gathering!**

**More details will be shared at  
the May meeting!**



## *President's Corner*



By Barbara Rohland

### Wrapping Up the Year

It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up this year and planning for the next. It has been an eventful year, anticipating the presidential election in the fall, and living out its aftermath in the spring. I don't know what the change in national priorities will mean for our organization going forward. I don't know what the changes in policy toward other countries will mean for some of our national programs like the AAUW sponsored international fellowships. I was able to be on the AAUW review panel for that award this year and was very impressed by sincerity, passion, and talent displayed by the applicants. Can the award recipients still come to the US to study? Will they still want to come?

At our branch scholarship committee we had some discussion about whether or not we will continue to be able to specifically award scholarships to girls/women. State and federal program awards must be merit based (without using criteria of sex). Is limiting opportunity or giving advantage to one sex over the other discriminatory? Not just in a legal sense but in a moral sense? We all felt it was (is) wrong when girls/women were (are) overlooked or overtly excluded relative to boys/men. Have we advanced to a point where we don't need to make corrections for bias? Sadly, I don't think that we have. And I think all that we (we, as a group with shared values) can do is to keep making those corrections where and when we can, first in ourselves, then in our community, and maybe, someday the world.



**May 2, 2025**

**Account activity as of on-line view of accounts: \$12,741.06**

Checking Account \$10,722.84

Saving Account \$2,018.22

**Expenses since 03.31.2025 (non- membership related – by check #): -\$3,468.00**

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (FY '24 – '25) (Book Sale Proceeds): \$1,620.00 #3927

Grants for Gals (Book Sale Proceeds): \$500.00 #3928

The Baldwin Group ('25 – '26 Directors & Officers Insurance): \$348.00 #3933

Barrie Elementary School ("Adopt-a-School" funds): \$250.00 #3929

Luther Elementary School ("Adopt-a-School" funds): \$250.00 #3930

Purdy Elementary School ("Adopt-a-School" funds): \$250.00 #3931

Rockwell Elementary School ("Adopt-a-School" funds): \$250.00 #3932

**Deposits since 03.31.2025 (non-membership or book sale related): \$480.65**

**Pi Day Fundraiser Proceeds (to "Adopt-a-School" Funds): \$451.65**

**Happy Bucks (April Meeting): \$29.00**

**Book Sale Deposits (01.01.2025 – 12.31.2025): \$140.00**

P. Dennis Online Sales: \$140.00

**Membership deposited: \$37.00**

**2024-2025 Philanthropic Funds Reserved: \$6,250.00**

Scholarships (Fort Community Foundation): \$5,000 sent to Knox  
Scholarship Fund

Tech Savvy: \$250.00

NCCWSL: \$0

Grants for Gals Donations: \$1,500 sent to Fort Community Foundation



**Fort Atkinson Branch**

**April General Meeting**

**April 7, 2025**

**The Community Room/Dwight  
Foster Public Library**

**Program Host:** Funds and Tech Savvy Committees

## **Agenda**

6:30-6:50 Enjoy Snacks and Social Time

6:50 Welcome visitors

6:55 Happy Bucks

7:00 Program:

Host: AAUW Funds (B. Dahl) and Tech Savvy (M. Winz and V. Wright)

Topic: Funds discussion and Tech Savvy Update

Speakers: B. Dahl, M. Winz, V. Wright

Vicki delivered the presentation she shared with educators to encourage participation in Tech Savvy. Maggie and Bev added observations and examples of activities during the event, and encouraged volunteers to look forward to helping at the event in 2026.

Maggie demonstrated how to look at scholarship recipients on the National AAUW website.

The Funds committee also recognized two branch members, one a long time member, and the other a fairly new one for their efforts in the last year:

R. Barr: In appreciation of her long-time role as the voice of experience on the Board , and her ongoing work with various committees and maintaining our directory.

A. Thompson: In appreciation of her enthusiasm as a new member of our organization, her willingness to step up as an officer, and her effectiveness as our Treasurer.



**Fort Atkinson Branch**

**April General Meeting**

**April 7, 2025**

**The Community Room/Dwight  
Foster Public Library**

**7:30 Business Meeting**

1. Treasures Report – A. Thompson, treasurer - Printed in the March Branch Beat newsletter. Motion to approve P. Bakken seconded T. Reeves. Approved.

2. Secretary's report (minutes of Feb. 3 meeting) – B. Dahl, secretary - Printed in the March Branch Beat newsletter. Motion to approve V. Wright, seconded S. Danielson. Approved.

3. Philanthropic Fund Distribution discussion:

The Board is recommending that approximately \$2500 of philanthropic funds be distributed as such:

\$1620 to the national Greatest Needs Fund (will award a star based on our membership)

\$500 to Grants for Gals

\$1000 to Outreach

\$1000 for elementary school purposes (using \$565 remaining from the School Program giving, and \$435 earnings from the Pi Sale.)

Motion to approve the proposed philanthropic giving plan . Seconded R. Barr. Motion approved.

4. Pi Day update - \$451.65 raised

5. National update: reminder that dues reminders will be arriving, with a \$2 increase from last year.

6. A nomination committee is currently searching for new officers, still needed are candidates for President Elect, and a new committee lead for G2. Elections will be held in May.

7. Reminder, The State Convention 2025: April 25-26 will be in LaCrosse WI

- Basket for Silent Auction contains local items
- All or some of registration fee will be reimbursed, depending on number of attendees from branch

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 5. Time: 6:30 PM

(June 16 meeting will at the Rock River Park Clubhouse)

Program Host: Membership

Motion to adjourn S. Danielson, seconded K. Marr.



**Fort Atkinson Branch**

**April Executive Board Meeting**

**April 7, 2025**

**Dwight Foster Public Library**

## **Agenda**

Last Meeting Follow-up:

Philanthropic Allocation

### **New Business**

1. Financial Report - Alyssa Thompson, treasurer

Report is in Branch Beat

2. Funds Recommendation

\$1000 for Outreach projects

\$1630 to AAUW Greatest Needs – this would fulfill the requirement for a star in National Program, based on membership numbers

\$500 to Grants for Gals

No funding for NCCWSL Support (local and/or state)- no longer funded by Nat'l AAUW

There is \$1000 available for Grade school supplies (Pi Day sales plus funds remaining from last year's drive). Have discussed establishing contacts for each school. Proposal to ask each principal for time at their annual May awards program to present a check

3. Future fundraising Committees were discussed.

The Book Sale Committee is a long time group, with earning earmarked to support education.

**Additional Fundraising:**

A new 'Fundraising' Committee is proposed to explore additional fundraising.

Such a committee does not require a by-laws change, as it is considered a standard committee for AAUW branches.

**4. 2025 Booksale**

- Organizational meeting April 17, 6:30 (Rotary Room)
- Sept. 12-13, Municipal Building (alternate dates Sept. 4-6). Labor Day is Sept. 1.

**5. 5 Star Survey**

Status received 4/1/25, Due on 6/40/2025.

V. Wright is working on it.

**6. Reminders**

- AAUW all member vote via email in April – board, by-laws change, and mission statement
- Dues now \$78 for national, with a \$2 dues increase approved for each of next 5 years
- Nominating Committee still searching for candidates for: President Elect, Chair for G2
- 2025 Convention this month in La Crosse
- Volunteers still needed for 2026 Convention to be held in Madison
- Meeting Rooms – Library has new policy restricting room reservations to 3 months future

Next meeting Monday, May 5, 2025



# **SCHOLARSHIPS** submitted by Vicki W, Scholarship Chair

## **AAUW Scholarships Totaling \$29,000 to be Presented for 2025-26**

The Fort Atkinson branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) will present scholarships to area women for the 2025-26 school year. The Fort Atkinson Community Foundation and the Jefferson Community Foundation administer these funds which are supported by AAUW's annual Used Book Sale, which is scheduled to take place in September at the Fort Atkinson Municipal Building. The Fort Foundation manages the Jane Shaw Knox Undergraduate and Graduate scholarships along with the Second Chance Scholarship while the Jefferson Community Foundation manages another Second Chance Scholarship.

### **AAUW Second Chance Scholarship**

The AAUW Second Chance Scholarship is available to women who plan to continue their education at a vocational or technical college or for undergraduate work, after having been out of the mainstream of education for more than one year. Applicants must be either a graduate of Fort Atkinson High School, a resident of Fort Atkinson, or be currently employed in Fort Atkinson. The Jefferson Second Chance Scholarship is available to Jefferson High School graduates, residents of Jefferson, or currently employed in Jefferson.

### **AAUW Undergraduate Scholarship**

The AAUW Jane Shaw Knox Undergraduate Scholarship is offered to women who are pursuing a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university. Applicants must be either graduates of Fort Atkinson High School, residents of Fort Atkinson, or be employed in Fort Atkinson.

### **AAUW Jane Shaw Knox Graduate Scholarship**

The Jane Shaw Knox AAUW Graduate Scholarship is offered to women who are pursuing a graduate degree at an accredited college. Applicants must be either graduates of Fort Atkinson High School, residents of Fort Atkinson, or be employed in Fort Atkinson.

This year the members of the scholarship committee are Barbara Roland, Brittany Noe, Traci Wilson, Emily Harrison, and Vicki Wright. A total of 38 applications were submitted for our scholarships. Several did not meet the criteria for consideration, but there is still lots and lots of reading to be done by committee members in the next two weeks. Thank you to all members who help with the book sale which makes addition funds available for our scholarships!

The Fort Atkinson AAUW branch promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. We make a difference in the lives of many women!



# TechSavvy 2025

by AAUW





# TechSavvy 2025

by AAUW





## 2025 Annual Book Sale is in Full Swing!

The 2025 Book Sale is off and running! Book drop off days will start the second week of May and we will be maintaining the same schedule as last year: Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00, Thursday afternoons from 4:30-6:00. and Saturday mornings from 9:00-11:00.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in book sorting and boxing on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Don't worry if you are unsure of what the jobs entail, we will teach you! Many hands make light work, and many brains bring fresh ideas, so if you have some time you can donate to the book sale team we'd really appreciate your participation.



**Set up date:** September 4 10:00-4:00

**Sale Day 1:** September 5 10:00-6:00

**Sale Day 2:** September 6. 9:00-3:00 Cleanup 3:00-Done





# June Meeting/Picnic

The June meeting will once again be held at “**The Clubhouse**” at the Rock River Park on **June 16th**. We will gather together at **5:30** to share appetizers and desserts, and of course some wine.

Since no committee “owns” this event it has been decided that this year it will be run as a pot luck of sorts. We would like members with last names beginning with A-L to bring an appetizer and members whose names begin with M-Z to bring a dessert. Plates and cups and beverages will be provided by members of the Board of Directors.



## Dues Increase

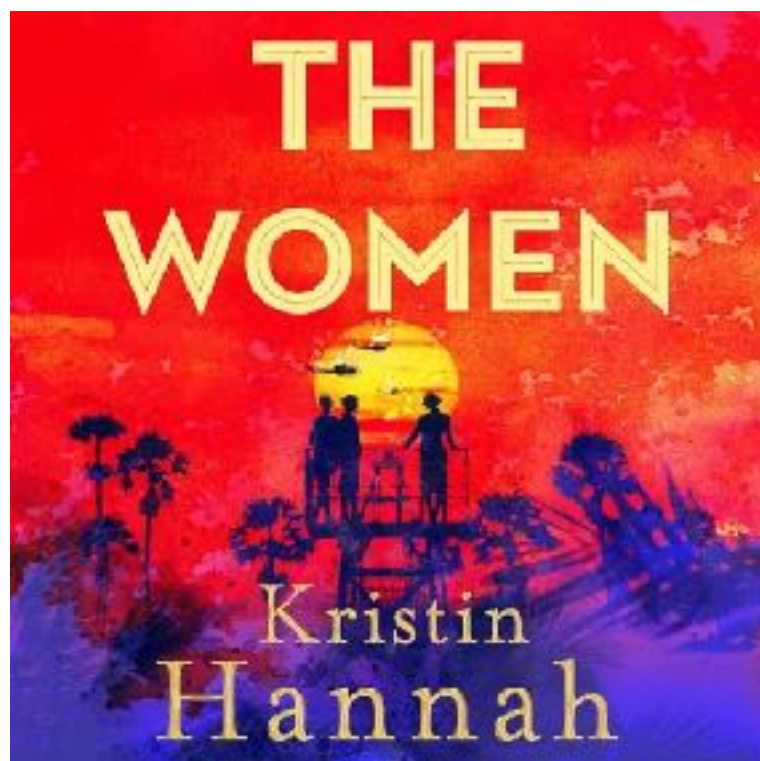
National headquarters has instituted a small dues increase to start with this coming 2025/2026 fiscal year. The increase will be \$2.00. You will see this increase reflected on your next renewal notice. It will be repeated again in the 2026/2027 year. At this point there is no increase scheduled at the Tate or branch level.

# *¡ADELANTE!* BOOK CLUB

*The book club met Thursday April 10th from 6:00–8:00 in the Niedecker Room at the Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson and had a spirited discussion about The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, by James McBride. While the book had many serious moments giving pause for reflection, it also provided the opportunity for the group to share life experiences and simply enjoy the time together.*

*Our next selection is The Women by Kristin Hannah. We will be meeting to discuss this book in July, date to be decided.*

*At the July meeting we will also be deciding our next year's book selections so please start considering your recommendations and send them to Kathy M. at any time.*



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All members are welcome to join the book club! Just read the next book and show up at the meeting!