

May/June
2009

Presidents' Message

As Dawn and I reflected on our two-year term as co-presidents, we are most proud of how well the Branch members worked together. Members rallied to assist with the book sales and the proceeds were unprecedented, and we met the Branch's commitment to support scholarships. We used the pay equity events to help raise awareness of the status of women in the work place. We had two well-attended soup and film gatherings where we shared delicious home made soups and thoughtful discussions. Membership remained stable. We hosted the "Three Cups of Tea" presentation by Jerene Mortenson and had outstanding Branch and community participation and raised almost \$3500 to support the Central Asia Institute. We had stimulating presentations from guest like Cathy Sultan discussing her latest book and Kate Bowman explaining the three waves of feminism. We celebrated the Branch's 50th anniversary with a grand event at Fanny Hill. All of this was possible because of YOU.

We would also like to express our appreciation to each and every one of you for your support and especially our fellow officers and the Board members. You participated in Board and Branch meetings, offering wonderful guidance to the organization. We represented the Branch and made our presence known at the State Convention and have two very

able delegates (Lois Helland and Donna Weidman) slated to attend the National AAUW conference this summer. We have a committed slate of officers to step in and assume their respective rolls for the coming year. We have a web presence with our Branch website and our newsletter, Foliage has also moved into the digital world with electronic distribution. Based on the discussion at the planning meeting on May 17, we know there will much to look forward to in 2009-2010. We also anticipate there will be some major changes in AAUW in the coming years and have every confidence we will continue to have a strong AAUW-Eau Claire Branch.

Thank you all!! We pledge our support to our new President, Kate Hinnant and her Board so that we may continue breaking through barriers for women and girls for at least another 50 years.

Cleo Powers
(powerscj@uwec.edu) 834-0794

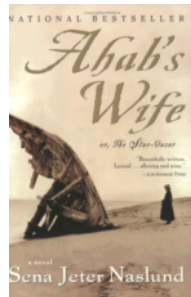
Dawn Bosold
(dbosold@hotmail.com) 835-4055



Book Group:

Book group will meet Tuesday, June 2 at 7:30 PM at Ginny Jordan's. Our book is ***Blood of Flowers*** by Anita Amirrezvani.

Our summer book is ***Ahab's Wife*** by Sena Jeter Naslund, so our next book group will be the first Tuesday of September.



Bring ideas for next year's reading so we can start working on our next reading list. Chris Kondrasuk 835-1683 chris@chrisray.org

Author and AAUW member **Cathy Sultan** was one of three finalists honored in the political science category by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MPIA) for her book 'Tragedy in South Lebanon: The Israeli-Hezbollah War of 2006.' **Congratulations, Cathy.**

Reminder: Dues by June 20th

Your annual AAUW Membership Dues are due for 2009-10. The dues amount for regular members is \$70. **Please Pay Dues Prior To June 20, 2009.** I need to remit the dues to both state and national by June 30, 2009.

The dues schedule is as follows:

Regular renewing members.....	\$70
Life members.....	\$21
Student members.....	\$33

Please make your check payable to AAUW- Eau Claire Branch and mail it to:

Donna M. Weidman
3112 Mercury Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54703-0909



The three "green baskets" from our branch brought in \$154 at the LAF auction! The total for all baskets at the auction was \$2571.



THE ROWDY BRANCH: AAUW-Eau Claire at Convention by Kate Hinnant

In April, I went to the State Convention for the first time. After having been dragged into the organization some seven years ago by the likes of Mary Hayden and Karen Pope, I decided to make the trek to Wisconsin Rapids. The car ride there and back would have been worth the trip alone – we had convivial, spirited discussions about AAUW, Eau Claire, politics and I even learned a little bit about my fellow travelers' early romances.

At convention, I was able to confer with the state "Webminder," who has done a lot of work to make the state website more useful to members. I also attended a fascinating panel on **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math** education, where school officials from the area spoke about how they were able to prioritize STEM education even in a time of declining budgets. And I got to brush up on my Robert's Rules of Order.

We earned the moniker "the rowdy branch," an honorific I hope we uphold next year. Any guesses why we got the name?



Margot and Lois ham it up as State Board Members; Eau Claire delegates clockwise from top left: Cleo Powers, Lois Helland, Mary Hayden, Linda Spaeth, Margot Bouchard, Kate Hinnant, and Kim Wellnitz.

Convention Haiku by Mary Hayden

Barriers breaking
Change and optimism thrive
Eau Claire group alive

Meeting an Activist and Becoming One

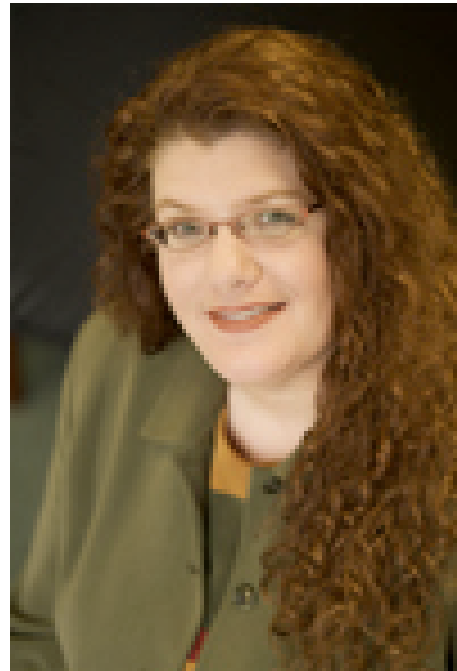
by Mary Hayden

AAUW members say that the great part of attending an AAUW convention is meeting many vibrant and intelligent people. Well, this last convention was over the top! I was sitting at breakfast with other public policy chairs, when someone said, “Here comes Lisa!” Lisa Maatz sat next to me, and I asked who she was. It turns out that she is our national Director of Public Policy and Government Relations and a real dynamo of a woman. She was just coming off an action-packed week, chock full of Equity Day promotions, testifying on Capitol Hill, and the AAUW evaluation of President Obama’s first 100 days. Whew!

Lisa rallied the entire convention to become lobbyists on the spot and to call Senator Herb Kohl. As individuals, we are not always so easily moved to action, but she inspired us to call Kohl’s local representative—and his Washington office, to fill his voice mailboxes. She said to thank him for his past support of AAUW issues, (he scores 100% in support of our issues), and to ask him to sign on as a co-sponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act. This bill will provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex.

As of May 18, Senator Kohl had not signed on as a co-sponsor, so you can be an activist, too, by calling his local representative at 832-8424, call the Washington office at 202-224-5653, or use the Two Minute Activist at www.aauw.org

Mary Hayden
Public Policy Chair



Lisa Maatz
AAUW Director of Public Policy and
Government Relations

“be politely persistent”

- Lisa Maatz’s instructions for contacting legislators. She credits this longtime AAUW approach for our stature in Washington, D.C.

Women's Studies at UW-Eau Claire: 25 Years!

Sarah Harder honored

The women's studies program at UW-Eau Claire recently honored Sarah Harder at the program's 25th anniversary celebration. A portion of the celebration focused on an oral history project conducted by a public history graduate student, and five undergraduates in Dr. Katherine Rhoades' "Feminist Analysis and Practices" course.

The students recorded interviews with seven accomplished women and one man who have made significant contributions to UW-Eau Claire's women's studies program and to feminism in the Chippewa Valley. In addition to Sarah, the oral history project includes interviews with AAUW members Dr. Rose-Marie Avin and Katie Bowman, plus Barbara Blackdeer-Mackenzie, Carol Fairbanks, Dr. David Jones, Dr. Susan Turell and Kaying Xiong. They all had stories to tell about women's and diversity issues and/or their personal struggles to achieve their goals.

Our branch is proud to see Sarah featured in the publication that was produced as part of the project, and in an exhibit. Both of these document Sarah's life as a feminist. The cover of *Visions* features her as she marched in support of the ERA in 1980. An online version can be found at [Vision Magazine](#), complete with video and images. The exhibit can be viewed on second floor of UW-Eau Claire's McIntyre Library.

Sarah has been an AAUW-Eau Claire branch member for many years, and from 1985 to 1989 she served as the AAUW national president and board chairman of the Educational Foundation. She currently serves as president of the National Peace Foundation. When you see Sarah at branch meetings, please congratulate her and thank her for her activism in support of women's issues.



AAUW VISION STATEMENT - *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls..*

AAUW MISSION - *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

FOLIAGE - *Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Eau Claire Branch*
Send or call items of interest to Kate Hinnant, kate.binnant@gmail.com, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



TBA – Stay tuned for an email announcing the branch summer social event: dinner at Haymarket Grill and music at a Phoenix Park Sounds Like Summer Concert.

Have a wonderful summer and stay tuned for the first fall issue of *Foliage*.

220 Roosevelt Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701