



American Association of University Women

Tomah WI Branch – Organized in 1972

the **Twig** branch newsletter – April 8, 2021

**Our Next Meeting: This will be our Branch Annual Meeting!
In-person! It will be so nice to see each other again!**

When: Monday, May 3rd

(Survey showed this to be the best date for a large majority of our members.)

Time: 5:00 p.m. (We'll be done before 8:00 p.m.)

Where: Tap House 20 (the former Ground Round), Tomah

We will order off the menu, Dutch treat.

Special guests will be Clara Krause (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders participant) and her mother Nicole Krause.



Continuing with Women's History Month

Our Program Planning committee came to the conclusion that this year's Women's History Month should focus on better understanding, recognizing and honoring our individual member stories!

We will celebrate **ALL** of our members this year starting by asking each of you to contemplate putting together a short, "Reflection of My Life." Something you owe yourself at the very least.

We want to make a **Celebrating Women Project commemorative booklet**. We would eventually like to share highlights at our meetings or in the **Twig** on an ongoing basis. We hope you agree!

To start you thinking, here are some questions:

- **Growing up what were your aspirations or most influential moments?**
- **How did you choose education on your journey, who or what influenced you?**
- **What direction did your career path take you?**
- **What significant personal or other challenges did you face on your journey? How did you handle it? What did you learn?**
- **Any surprises on your journey?**
- **What wisdom would you share for others beginning or struggling through their journey?**

AAUW WI - State Convention — April 23-24

Greetings to all AAUW Branch Presidents and Members!

Tis the beginning of April and only three weeks until our very first virtual convention)! We would love to have presidents and members from each of our 25 branches in attendance! (We currently have 114 registrants from 19 branches.) This is a state-wide convention with no traveling two to three hours and no fees. If you have never attended a convention, this is the perfect time to see what our convention can offer. We want all our branches to be represented so branch presidents, please forward this to all your members.

I realize this pandemic has challenged us into fields of technology where some of us are not so comfortable. If you are one of those people, I am attaching step-by-step directions as to how to register for this exciting event. You will need to go to our website <https://aauwwistateconvention.com> and look over the agenda on the homepage to see what we are offering from social issues to performances about suffragists. Once you choose what you want, just follow my attached directions. ***[Printed below.]*** (The last direction is contacting me if problems, and I guarantee I will get you registered!) **We have 11 sessions available. You need to register for each session you wish, a maximum of 7 since we have two sets of breakout sessions with 3 events scheduled simultaneously.**

You will need Zoom installed on your computer or I-pad in order to attend the convention, and I would suggest get it done before the convention with a practice session with a fellow branch member or friend if you do not already Zoom. As a former teacher I learned to always practice with the film projector--remember those olden days--before showing a film in front of actual class or I guarantee Murphy's Law will take place!

Hoping to "see" you at our convention, which is your convention.

Kleo Baruth Kritz, District 1 Coordinator

<https://aauwwistateconvention.com>

DIRECTIONS FOR REGISTRATION ON AAUW WEBSITE

- Go to the website <https://aauwwistateconvention.com> You will immediately see two boxes "Click Here to Register" and just under it "Click Here for a Website Tutorial ." (You may do the tutorial for general information.) Click the first box "Click Here to Register."
- A page will come up and click "Choose an Event Type" and a list will pop up.
- On the list chose "Convention" to get sessions to pop up.
- Then 11 photos/pictures will pop up for each of the sessions we have. **Tap the picture itself of the session you want.**
- A blue "Register for Event" button will pop up at the bottom, which you click.
- Fill in the "Attendee Name," "Attendee email" "Attendee Branch." (If no branch, fill in guest or none.)
- Then click blue "Send Registration." You should have a small message pop up that says you are registered.
- You need to register for **each session** you wish, a maximum of 7 since we have two sets of breakout sessions with 3 events scheduled simultaneously.
- Within a couple days Ann Brice will confirm your registration and you will get an automatic email.

- The actual Zoom invitations will not come out at this time but much closer to the actual convention.
- If you do all these steps and for some reason the technology goddesses are taking a coffee break, please email me kbkritz@charter.net or telephone my home number 608-273-2476. I do have an answering machine and will get back to you.

— from Kleo Baruth Kritz

*** Thank you to Sonia Olson for donations and coordinating the Auction Basket for the state convention!**

Keep spreading START SMART WORK SMART!

This was the radio show I stumbled upon today that I thought was quite excellent and an opportunity for us. I wanted to say, "WE ARE WORKING ON SALARY NEGOTIATION!"

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkc5tZWdhdGhvbmluZm0vS1FJTkM5NTU3MzgxNjMz/episode/NjAxMDM2YmUtOTE4YS0xMWVlLWI5ZjgtNjc1NWQ5YmY3OGUw?ep=14>

— from Deb Thiel

*** Deb Thiel is reviewing the AAUW-WI Strategic Plan with an eye to how we can bring it forward through our Branch.**

Minutes from our Last Meeting:

On March 22, 2021, our Branch held a virtual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Attending were: Deb Thiel, Dick Thiel, Deb Young, Julia Palmer, Cindy Zahrte, Bonnie Peterson, Tammy Hewuse and Sonia Olson.

Discussion was had regarding holding a hybrid in-person and video meeting near the end of April or beginning of May to serve as our Annual Meeting. A survey of members will be taken. The feeling expressed was that we don't want to have anyone feel excluded from participating. Options for locations were discussed.

Deb Young will head up a nominating committee for officer positions: VP-Program; VP-Finance. Cindy Zahrte volunteered to serve as Public Policy Chair. It was determined that outlines of officer duties are included in the Tomah Branch policy sheet.

Regarding Public Policy, Cindy has already been working on Non-partisan redistricting through Focus on Fair Maps. She noted that a data-driven panel discussion will be held on May 13 titled "Can You Hear Us Now." In Wisconsin, 56 of our 72 counties have passed a resolution on a referendum for Fair Maps. Governor Evers has a "People's Mapping Commission." There is a video available on Amazon Prime for a small fee and a suggestion was made that we could host a community showing.

NCCWSL: We are very proud to announce that Clara Krause, a UW-Eau Claire student from rural Camp Douglas (Tomah School District) will be our Branch's first ever participant in the nationally known NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). It will be held virtually this year on May 25 and 26 and like previous conferences, offers outstanding opportunities for women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day. These issues include professional development, activism, empowerment and diversity among others. Congratulations, Clara! This is very exciting!

Branch Documents: Our Google Share Drive now holds all of the Branch Bylaws and many other documents. Megan Divyak and Deb Thiel have access. Let them know if you need something from the archive. Julia Palmer has several

AAUW Tomah Branch scrapbooks and Sonia Olson has others. Several years ago, Mary Wedin had brought some materials to the Monroe County Historical Society for Women's History recognition.

Dues Discussed: We hope that everyone is receiving their AAUW Tomah Branch emails! We discussed what we should do at the Branch level regarding dues, since the national dues will be increasing. National dues are currently \$59. They will increase a total of \$5 over the course of a couple of years. There was discussed about our options. It was determined that before an informed decision could be made, our local members need a better idea of our budget, financial assets and expenses. It was determined that this issue should be brought up during our Annual Meeting.

Program: **"My STEM Journey: Lessons Learned and Advice for Young Women"** was the title of a video presentation made by UW-River Falls professor, Dr. Holly Doliver. She is a professor of Soil Science and Geology Studies, and also Chair of the Plant and Earth Sciences Department. She chronicled her trek from middle school through her extensive training and experience in this male dominated field. She had a lot of setbacks along the way, from an unsupportive middle school English teacher who told her she'd never amount to anything to her poor performances on standardized tests. Yet, she prevailed. She credits her character, strong work ethic and participating in internships for her ultimate achievements. She was the first member of her family to graduate from college. She views education as the source for her personal freedom.

Lesson: Be comfortable with who you are, even if you are in a male dominated field.

Lesson: Learn how to say "no," but also learn how to embrace saying "yes" to opportunities.

Lesson: Learn how to learn.

Lesson: Embrace being brave and build confidence by learning on your own. Learn how to overcome challenges.

Lesson: Follow your passion and listen to your heart.

Lesson: Get into the habit of expressing gratitude. We all have our stories. We should seek to learn from each other.

If you have newsletter items, please send them to Bonnie Peterson, AAUW Secretary, at wordemp@centurylink.net or 12808 County Hwy. PP, Tomah, WI 54660. Phone: 608-372-7501