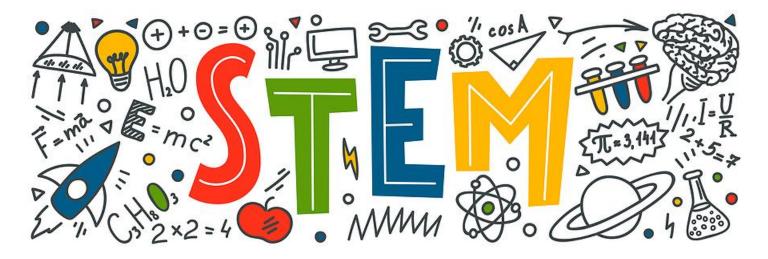


the Twig branch newsletter - April 12, 2022



Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 26 from 6:00 -7:30! We can look forward to a wonderful STEM program offered by Tina Thompson's husband - he is the STEM instructor at the Tomah High School. Thank you, Tina, for lining this up! We are all invited to the high school for a hands-on demonstration of some of the equipment to which the students have access. Specifically interesting is the virtual reality equipment and 3D printers that he has at the school.

On the list for sharing their stories are Lisa Kirschbaum and Megan Divyak.

On the list for serving refreshments is Lisa Kirschbaum and Audrey Chambers. Paperware is at the Chamber if you would like to get it from there ahead of time.



WE CELEBRATED WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

Three Monroe County women were recently recognized for their leadership

and contributions to community. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) — Tomah Branch celebrated the honorees during its Mary E. Wedin Women's History Month reception held March 29, 2022 at the Best Western. The event is named in memory of Mary E. Wedin, a founding member of the AAUW — Tomah Branch, Monroe County UW-Extension educator, organizer, and inspirational leader. The annual observance, held during Women's History Month,



(I-r) Sara Moseley; Shirley Galstad-Roh; Deb Reid

honors the vision of women, their accomplishments and sacrifices.

Honoree Sara Moseley is a Senior Supply Planner employed by Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc. She is very active in the Warrens community. Her involvement includes educating visitors during the Warrens Cranberry Festival, working with a committee to provide a free monthly meal and fellowship opportunity, and spearheading fun events like the Red Neck Tree Contest that challenges community members to use recycled items to make Christmas trees. She is an active member of the Warrens Lioness / Lions Club and has also organized the creation and delivery of May Day baskets to more than 500 residents of nursing and assisted living homes during Covid. Her blood donations exceed 19 gallons. The Monroe County Fair and Tractor Pull held in Tomah are among the many other activities at which Sara Moseley can be found cheerfully assisting.

Honoree Deb Reid is the Activities Department Secretary for the Tomah Senior High School. Not only has she been an active member of several organizations in the Tomah community, often holding various leadership positions. Her knowledge and strong work ethic has benefitted the Tomah Lions Club, Tomah Holiday Lights, Tomah Youth Soccer, and the Tomah Booster Club. Building from her skill sets and interests, she has volunteered countless hours to assist with fundraising efforts and other organizational needs. Deb Reid is a quite servant leader, typically involved in many projects at any given time but avoiding the limelight as she effectively works to improve the Tomah community.

Honoree Shirley Galstad-Roh served as an elementary teacher in both the Tomah and Onalaska School Districts during her 35-year career. She was known for implementing innovative childhood education methods to help parents, children, and the educational system to promote success. She has inspired others with her extensive volunteer work and involvement in the Tomah community. These include activities with her church, working one-to-one with elderly, and volunteering at Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry. She has served on numerous organizational boards, such as Tomah Handishop Industries, Tomah Parks and Recreation, and the Jesse Parker Foundation. Most recently she served as a volunteer facilitator at Ft. McCoy for the Afghan refugee women and children at the installation and assisted the Fort's public health nurse to foster new mother/baby supports. She has assisted in local vaccine clinics, as a volunteer program coordinator for the Strong Bodies fitness program, a volunteer at the St. Clare Mission Clinic, and is the coorganizer of the Tomah Compassion Project.

Including these three outstanding women, AAUW — Tomah Branch has recognized 53 Monroe County honorees since 2006. Thank you to Cindy Zahrte for preparing the Honoree booklet. Thanks also go to Sonia Olson, Julia Palmer and Deb Thiel, along with all the members in attendance, for making it such a special celebration!

Join the Community Hub

If you haven't already, please <u>set up your account</u> in the AAUW Community Hub, your personal portal into AAUW. You'll need an account to renew your membership, donate and update branch activities. Need help? We got you covered. Visit our "Systems Update" page for instructions on how to log in. There is also an instructional video at: https://www.aauw.org/new-systems-update.

AAUW — WI Convention April 22 & 23, 2022 Celebrating Breaking Barriers

As Convention registration opens up, we remind members to sign up for the District Meeting portion. Our branch is in District 4! Each registrant will be receiving a confirmation email with all the links they will need for the entire convention!

A power point from Lyn Hildenbrand, State Program Chair, is attached to this email. Our members are encouraged to view this presentation about the upcoming convention!

You'll find attached to this email the generous donation made by Dick Thiel for the state convention auction!

RESOLUTIONS:

<u>From Cindy Zahrte:</u> The AAUW Public Policy Committee spent a good deal of time to word these two resolutions in such a manner that would enable AAUW members to support the resolutions without becoming embroiled in the political or partisan rhetoric which can detract from efforts to advance understanding of the issues. Both resolutions do

support national AAUW public policy priorities related to high-quality public education and the economic, social and physical well-being of all persons. I recommend support for both resolutions. Thank you. Cindy

AAUW WI Public Policy

The AAUW WI Public Policy Committee has worked on three documents that by our Bylaws need a membership vote during the Convention.

The AAUW WI Public Policy has spent considerable time on these documents. We hope the membership will support the documents by voting **yes.** The committee also values feedback in shaping our next year's public policy work. **You can see the full documents on the state website AAUW WI and on the convention website Convention**. Direct comments to Stephanie Malaney, AAUW WI Public Policy Chair at <u>smalaney5@aol.com</u>.

AAUW WI Public Policy Statement

The committee revised the previous AAUW WI Public Policy Statement. This document is presented to the membership every two years and is one of the guiding documents used by the committee. **Resolutions**

The committee wrote and voted to support these Resolutions with the Resolution Chair in attendance. Branch Presidents and the AAUW WI Board were invited to meetings and informed throughout the discussions, crafting, and rewriting of the Resolutions. Resolutions provide description and focus on a specific issue beyond the board statements in the AAUW WI Public Policy Statement.

Climate Change Awareness Resolution

The committee had a lengthy discussion on if we should be extending our advocacy with all the other possible areas of focus. In the end the committee determined that a healthy, sustainable environment is important to woman and girls to achieve equity

AAUW Supports Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Curriculum

This resolution is in response to CRT or Critical Race Theory, which is a legal, not an educational term. Political and other groups have used the term CRT to prevent school districts from changing the curriculum that traditionally has been white male focused frequently excluding women and diverse populations. The committee believes this is a critical issue for members to understand. This resolution's format looks different from a traditional resolution but has all the correct components.



Please note that our ability to process renewal dues for next year will be slightly delayed. There are some delays with AAUW's new membership hub.

Who, that e'er could understand The rare structure of a hand, With its branching fingers fine, Work itself of hands divine, Strong, yet delicately knit, For ten thousand uses fit.

— Mary Ann Lamb (1764 – 1847) from "Cleanliness," poetry for children