

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
MADISON BRANCH**

President: Ann Huber Editor: Judy Vernon

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Website: <http://AAUWMadisonnj.org>



A Message from our President

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Dear AAUW Madison Members

I have been the head of this organization for about ten months. I prepare for each Board meeting, prepare the agenda, attend programs and organize and attend special events. Despite that, there has been little opportunity to discuss the future of AAUW with long time members. It's no doubt a side effect of the pandemic, but it needs to be done. What do our members need? Have we met those needs? Have we pursued their dreams?

The fact that our membership has been dwindling is no secret; however, we cannot bury our heads in the sand. We need to discuss where we are heading. For example, just recently we received notice that National's annual fee has been raised \$5 to a total of \$98, of which a mere \$16 comes back to the Branch. Should we raise our portion of the fee and by what amount? Raising our portion would mean we can subsidize some

marketing to grow our membership, improve our programs, sponsor student members. Yet, an increase might turn away potential members. Maybe we should be discussing whether it makes any sense to withdraw from AAUW and change our name? Or, better yet, should we try to merge with another branch?

We are 94 years old! That's good but maybe that's bad, too. Maybe it's time to modernize some of our practices? For example, we could put a list of members on our website, eliminating the cost of printing a directory and postage. Can we use the newsletter to raise some money through advertising revenue? Is the book sale still a viable fundraiser? Do we need some new programs or some new special interest groups such as a discussion group or a service group? Should anyone participating in special interest group pay an annual fee to the Branch. There is a precedent for a fee. That's how the bridge round robin worked.

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Notes from the Editor

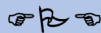
UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Book Group
05/16/23
- Board Meeting
05/15/23

Catch up on members...

Send us a note to let everyone know ALL the good news this spring.... Do you have a new grand child? Anyone getting married or graduating? Whatever the news we wish everyone the best and are happy to be celebrating with you.

Send information including directory updates to jverson@yahoo.com. Input for the newsletter is due the day after the board meeting.



Announcements and Events



The Book Group

All are welcome to join us. Lots of conversation and sharing ideas on the book, author, and its reviews. Come and join us bringing your suggestions for future reads. **NEW MEMBERS welcome!** Contact Susan Mennella or Kathleen Magill to learn more or to be added to the email and ZOOM list.

May Book Group Meeting - Hybrid

Date: Tues May 16, 2023

Time: 12:30PM Bring Brown Bag Lunch, 1:00PM Discussion

Host: Barbara Koppersmith - address will be provided closer to the meeting date

Book being discussed: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell - **Note this is a different book than what was previously announced.**

Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting.

Looking ahead to June: Book being discussed: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks - **This book is popular. If you want to get a copy from the library system it is suggested that you reserve it now.**



Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg group is resuming its schedule playing on the second and fourth Monday of the month. We meet at Eileen Ryan's home 11:30 am. Bring lunch. **NEW MEMBERS welcome! We will teach you to play.**

Next meeting is 4/24 at Eileen

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Join us for the Special General Meeting when we will have the luxury of time to discuss these issues during a free exchange of ideas, without judgment and with respect.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 19, 2023 at 3:45 pm will be held in the Madison Library Chase Room

Ann



WANTED JOURNALIST

No experience necessary

Photograph, video Meetings,

Programs and other Events

Apply by e-mail. ahuberesq@gmail.com

Board Meeting

Board meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. We will continue to use ZOOM and links will be communicated to board members. Members are welcome to participate and should request login information from President. Since we are using Zoom, no snow days are planned
Check the newsletter & e-mails for changes.

2023: May 15

Jun. 19

Programs / Special Events

Co-VPs of Programming are working on In person events, events using ZOOM and some in partnership with the Summit College Club. Detailed description along with time and location will be shared during the summer. At this time we suggest you reserve the following dates on your calendar:

2023: **April 28/29** May 1 **May 19**

Up Coming Events

April 29 Book Sale

Our Annual Book Sale will be a “pop-up” style event coinciding with Madison Garage Sale in the spring. The event will be at the FM Kirby Children’s Center starting at 9am and closing at 4pm. Please sign up to help at the event itself volunteersignup.org/994D3.

Note that this sign-up includes helping with the April 28 set up.

On **May 1**, we are hosting our **Annual Year End Event**. This time it will be a lunch with the Summit College Club at the Harvest Bistro, 50 1/2 Main Street Madison. Festivities will start with networking at 11:30am. Sign up ASAP, check with Susan Mennella for last minute reservations.

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Read the President’s Message for details. We hope you will be able to join us in person regardless how long you have been a member of AAUW. Your ideas, needs, and recommendations for the future of the branch is in your hands.