



President's Message

Lisa Hedin

I am writing this on election-day, and by the time you read it we should know who our representatives are. With the elections behind us, what is next? Here are a few ideas:

1. Take a deep breath and turn your attention close to home: work on a few new recipes, button up the last of your yard work, fertilize indoor plants, or walk the dog an extra time.
2. Go to work and do work. No mini-breaks to check Twitter!
3. Binge watch Netflix, Hulu, Peacock, HGTV, ESPN or your streaming service of choice.
4. Personally take up the mission of AAUW (Advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy)
5. Some combination of all of the above.

Numbers 4 and 5 is where AAUW National can come in. AAUW National has a wide range of webinars available on their website. Here are just a few examples of what you can find there:

- Social Justice: Creating Change
- Equitable Recovery: Transforming Business Beyond Covid-19
- Understanding the Digital Divide in Pre-K – 12 Education

More of a reader than a streamer? AAUW National has something for you also. Check out AAUW original reports.

- The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap
- Limiting our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers
- Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing

Here are the links to the webinars

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/> and original reports <https://www.aauw.org/research/> .

Stay well, continue to do good, and count your blessings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 14 Book Club
- Nov. 28 Program
- Dec. 10 Holiday Brunch
- Dec. 12 Book Club

HASTINGS BRANCH

Meets on Mondays
St. Philip's Lutheran Church
1401 15th Street West,
Hastings, Minnesota 55033

2022-2023 PROGRAMS

September 26, 6:00 pm Salad Supper
Dignity at Home for Families with Parents with Dementia
Kathy O'Keefe and sisters

October 24, 7:00 pm Hastings Art Center
Recognizing and Addressing Gender Earnings Gap
Representatives from the Minnesota Federal Reserve with the HHS Feminism Club

November 28, 7:00 pm
The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force
Sen. Mary Kunesh and Photographer John Kaul

December 10, 10:30 am Hastings Golf Club
Holiday Celebration

January 23, 6:00 pm Chili Supper
Culturally sensitive issues in children's literature

February 27, 7:00 pm
Books that speak to the female experience

March 27, 7:00 pm
Therapy Dogs providing assistance to college students in crisis

April 24, 7:00 pm
Women Leaders
Lori Sturdevant

May 22, 7:00 pm Book Sale
Minnesota's Changing Demographics
Susan Brower, State Demographer

Program

Danna Elling Schultz, Mary Ellen Fox, & Diane Saed

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force

We have two special guests I have known both professionally and personally for our November meeting. I know this will be an interesting and enjoyable event. Sen. Mary Kunesh (DFL-New Brighton) will present on her work with the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force. Sen. Kunesh was instrumental in passing the task force legislation in 2019 and works with the project now. She was elected to the House in 2016 and the Senate in 2020.

She is the first indigenous woman to serve in the Minnesota Senate. Her "mother and grandfather [were] enrolled members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and she is a descendant of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She was a founding member of the Native American and People of Color & Indigenous (POCI) caucuses. She has a bachelor's degree from St. Catherine's and a master's degree from St. Cloud State. She has three children and one grandchild. She has 12 siblings (she is nine of thirteen kids) in her family.

John Kaul characterizes himself this way: "I am an artist trapped in the body of a lobbyist." John worked as an aide to Senate Majority Leader Nick Coleman and has been a lobbyist for numerous groups including higher education and local government. He retired recently to be a full-time photographer. John has photographed many notable Minnesotans including Walter Mondale, Robin McDowell (who spoke to us in 2017), Arne Carlson and Al Quie. And some not so notable (me). John is also an accomplished videographer and has had various exhibitions in Minnesota.

John describes his presentation this way: "The subjects in the exhibition of Indigenous Women Water Protectors are strong, intelligent, deeply spiritual women. They have survived poverty, prejudice, and generational trauma." He adds this: "it was especially the face of Tania Aubid that gave me the inspiration for this project. Her struggles with poverty, racism, and substance abuse were written all over her face in the portrait in this exhibition." The Water Protectors exhibition is currently on display at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis.

John is the president of Afton Films and has his portraits displayed in numerous galleries in Minnesota. His current project with Indigenous women shows his unique ability to capture emotion from struggle to joy. John and his wife Gloria Gunville live in Afton. They have three children: Rachel, Greta and Tom.

Danna Elling Schultz

Treasurer's Report

Carol Tobin

I hope you all are not getting bored with me saying we are in a very good place financially. Our beginning balance this month was \$7768.63. Our income this month was related to member dues and a donation. Our expenses are mostly related to paying National and State dues. Other expenses were related to programing and Zoom subscription. Our current balance is \$7,667.05.

If you receive a check from me for expenses, reimbursement or other branch business, please cash the check as soon as possible. It makes it much easier to keep track of expenses, which in turn makes it easier to write reports. Thank you for your understanding.

Web Page

Cheryl Read

Accidentally delete your email with the latest directory?

Forget where our meeting is located this month?

Then, check the website!

Here's the link: <https://hastings-mn.aauw.net/>

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

On Monday, November 14th, at 1:30 at Pleasant Hill Library we will be discussing *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. Inspired by a true story from WWII, a young woman with a talent for forgery, helps hundreds of Jewish children flee from the Nazis.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus has been selected for Monday, December 12th. It is the world against Elizabeth Zott, an extraordinary woman who is determined to live life on her own terms. A story of all of the smart women who refuse to dumb down.

Hastings Reads 2023 has chosen a theme for its February events. **Identity: Being Truly You.**

The books are:

Teen/Adult - *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer de Leon

Middle School selection – *Stuntboy, In The Meantime* by Jason Reynolds

Early Elementary - *Jellybeans* by Kiersten Hall

Jennifer de Leon, the author of *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* will be speaking at Hastings Arts Center on Monday, February 13th, 2023.

AAUW Hastings Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 10th, 10:30am at Hastings Golf Club. Please join us as we celebrate the season with laughter, music and fellowship.

We will also once again participate in Hastings Family Service Project Share "Adopt a Family." More information will be coming your way once we have been paired with a family.

An invitation to the annual AAUW Holiday Brunch with more details is attached at the end of the TWIG.

Membership

Kathy Palmer & Jackie Rigelman

SHAPE THE FUTURE reduced discounts will be available for the last time this year at the Holiday Brunch, December 10th, 10:30 am, at Hastings Golf Course. Anyone joining AAUW for the first time that morning is entitled to reduced dues of \$64.50. (Regular dues are \$98,00.)

Members, if you know someone who might be interested in joiningLET THEM KNOW ABOUT THIS GREAT DEAL! We also encourage you to invite a friend to attend any of our meetings as your guest. Current members are our best source for recruiting new members, and we appreciate all of your efforts.

[AAUW Mission Statement](#)

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

[AAUW Vision Statement](#)

Equity for all.

[Minnesota State Website](#)

<http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

[National Website](#)

<https://www.aauw.org/>

Community

Margaret Goderstad

Hastings Arts Center:

- Sunday, Nov. 13th, 3:00pm – Mirage Performing Arts performs “Verano.” “Program of music for lovers.” Piano, cello, and choreography
- Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 10:30am – Coffee concert, “Trumpet Stew”, John Huth and Larry Prescott, trumpets with Sarah Lockwood, piano
- Friday, Dec. 2nd, 7:30pm – Special Holiday Show, “Christmas on the Prairie.” Please make reservations

Friday Night Jam Sessions: Free will offering

- Dec. 9th, 7:00pm – The Spoken Word & Holiday Sing-a-long, Mike Kelly of HPAC Writer’s Group & Melyssa Rice of Blessings Academy
- Jan. 13th, 7:00pm – Jazz Improv Night, Jonah Walt

LeDuc Historic Estate:

- Victorian Holiday Tea – December 3rd & 10th at 3:30pm. \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members, Reservations Required

River Valley Band:

Christmas Concert with Middle School “Spiral Singers.” Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1:00pm at the Hastings Middle School auditorium

Black Dirt Theater:

- Will be performing “She Kills Monsters.” Be watching for further announcements

Orange Dragon Art Gallery: Prescott

Holiday shopping? Winter exhibit runs through December 17th.

HPAC:

10th Annual Gala on December 4th, 5:30-8:00pm. Annual Fundraiser – Celebrating the Arts – Online Auction and Livestream Event. More information can be found at [HPAC 2022 Gala](#)

Historian

Lisa Hedin

Check this out! See a familiar face?

Inspiration Local people who've found their way to protect our water

Growing up, growing old near water
Brad Blackett
"I was the lake in my blood," says Brad Blackett. His parents took him on his first camping trip to the North Shore when he was 10 months old, and they went there just about every summer and fall since. Brad says he remembers the excitement of the outdoors when he family expressed their love for the outdoors. He moved out of the city to Lake Superior in 1994. "I've seen the 4th season from our street, which more has 40 homes on it."

Brad did what any eight-year-old would do – he explored. Behind his home, abandoned buildings had turned to tall, jagged, rolling hills and open fields. When he was ten, he was in a canoe on the water. Brad watched as his father came in, floating the boat and carrying down the trees to make way for housing developments. "Those were my closest friends at the time. "Those were my closest friends at the time."

Brad still thinks family time is his favorite. After a career spent in the outdoors, first in the Three Rivers Park District and then in the state office, Brad had a need to return to his roots. Brad decided to take part in the Minnesota water stewardship program and dedicate his volunteer efforts to the spot that first gave him the appreciation of the outdoors, the Lake Superior shoreline.

Through the fields, he explored a patch and a patch of water. Brad's mission is to protect the water quality in the place that nurtured him as a child and brought him to his path as an adult. "I want to stay here," Brad says, "because I want to give back to my community."

Protecting land, protecting water
Lisa West
For Lisa West, it's not just a hobby, it's a passion to grow up on the lake. In the water, the water under the water. Her family spent the summer on Bay Sandy Lake, west of Duluth. "My dad had a Chicago boat, my hands, soon I could hold the wheel and I was always learning the ropes. "I was always learning the ropes."

When Lisa went to college for geography, she started her studies on land use and water. After a year and a half, she was in Duluth, Minnesota, she felt a sense of homecoming. "I was in the land, the water, the air, the sun, the wind, the rain, the snow, the ice, the fire, the earth."

Now, as a leader of Project Michigan's Land Conservation program, Lisa gets to help her love for the environment and water resources. Lisa is a member of the Minnesota Land Conservation program, which is a state-wide program that helps landowners and organizations to be successful in their land conservation efforts.

The county program has protected the land of thousands of acres, from the water to the sky. Lisa says, "I'm proud to be able to contribute in the way I can. "I'm proud to be able to contribute in the way I can."

Keeping drinking water safe
Debbie Carlson
Crawling into wells was not something Debbie Carlson wanted to do. "I was never a fan of crawling into wells, but I was never a fan of crawling into wells."

Walking on old wells made Debbie aware of the people who look for their water. "I was never a fan of crawling into wells, but I was never a fan of crawling into wells."

The most rewarding part of Debbie's work, however, has been helping people find their drinking water. She started helping people find their drinking water, and she started helping people find their drinking water.

Debbie has also experienced having her own water tested by the Minnesota Department of Health. "I was never a fan of crawling into wells, but I was never a fan of crawling into wells."

Debbie believes that we can all play a part in protecting our water. "I was never a fan of crawling into wells, but I was never a fan of crawling into wells."

Lisa West is featured in one of the displays at the Pleasant Hill Library as part of the MN DNR's traveling "We Are Water" exhibit.

The We Are Water MN traveling exhibit examines water issues statewide and in local communities through personal stories, histories, and scientific information. It strengthens Minnesotans' relationships with water, exposes visitors to new perspectives, and increases participation in water stewardship activities. The exhibit will be at the library until Dec. 5th.

Diversity

Peggy Horsch

Our October presentation (the slides will be sent with the TWIG email as they were hard to see in the Art Center space) highlighted the income disparities experienced by women in the workforce, no matter their level of economic prosperity or educational attainment. Importantly, and very frustratingly, we learned data shows that since inception of the pandemic women with younger children (under 12) and women with lower paying jobs have not returned to the workforce in the same numbers as their male counterparts or their female counterparts who do not have younger children and/or have higher paying jobs.

The continuing instability of affordable and available childcare, along with disruptions in schooling, are contributing factors in this persistent statistic. Unfortunately, the pandemic hit just as women in these categories were seeing economic gains and closing the gap (somewhat) with their male counterparts. The disruption continues to ripple through the economy in terms of shortages of workers in many industries and achievement of full economic recovery for our country.

Because of these factors, AAUW has pushed **back** the equal pay dates, especially for women of color. Fall back is more than just our clocks this year with these dates:

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Women: May 3
LGBTQIA+ Women: June 15
Mom's: September 8
Black Women: September 21
Native Women: November 30 (we are not even there!)
Latina Women: December 8 (we are not even there!!)

This is really hard news and solutions are known, but achieving them is illusive.

What we do know is that affordable and reliable childcare is a major factor in all the statistics showing women falling behind.

In addition, having a meaningful family and medical leave act to support those extended absences that all workers experience, especially female workers, is a crucial piece. Our branch addressed this last year when we heard from two legislators on efforts at the state capitol to address this persistent need. Those efforts have led to progress with both parties putting forth proposals. Let's push it to the finish line, which in reality is only the starting block.

Another known solution is getting women in better paying trade fields dominated by men. The "if you can't beat em, join em" mentality. Again, I applaud our branch in bringing in a speaker who owns a plumbing company and is working actively to attract women to the trade where she has enjoyed personal and professional success. **And, we are doing even more! Stay tuned for a big announcement in the coming days!** We must never forget that AAUW's fight for economic parity for women is about all women.

Please let me know if you have any events or information to share on diversity, equity and inclusion in our community or the greater community.

Secretary

Hannah Spaulding

AAUW Business Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022

**Location: St. Philip's Lutheran Church and
Zoom**

Approximately 65 in person attendees and 8 Zoom attendees

1. New member introductions. We had 8 new members over the summer and an additional 5 join recently, including our first ever student member Ashley Sarne. This brings our total membership to 98 total!

2. Call to Order/President's Message. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

We are re-entering the clip board era! Hospitality signups being passed around tonight. Please sign up for an event to bring treats, about 2 dozen.

Gad-Abouts will have the same structure this year; if you have an activity you participate in, please invite the rest of us! Get a blurb about it in the TWIG. Generally, these events are during the day but do not have to be, we are looking to have about 2-3 of these types of events this year.

There will be a school board open forum at the end of October – more details to come.

3. Treasurer's Report. Board accepted the Treasurer's Report at the September 6th Board Meeting. Ended last month with \$11, 360.11. Income deposits from membership dues. Board approved the purchase of another \$3,000 Certificate of Deposit (CD) as interest is currently over 2%. Current checkbook balance of \$8,031.11.

4. Committee/Activity Reports

Programs (Danna Elling-Schultz). Danna has a new stock of AAUW bookmarks if anyone would like one.

October 24th: Joint event with HHS Feminism Club @ Hastings Arts Center – Representatives from the MN Federal Reserve discuss gender income equity in the system.

*There will be no October Business Meeting as this event is open and advertised to the public

November 28th: Sen. Mary Kunesh discusses her work with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Taskforce. Photographer John Kaul will also have his photos on display.

December 10th will be the annual Holiday brunch and will be held at the Hastings Country Club. Time TBD.

January 23rd: Chili Supper @ 6pm. Followed by Culturally sensitive issues in children's literature presented by Gay Ward.

February 27th: Books that speak to the female experience.

March 27th: Therapy dogs providing assistance to college students in crisis.

Fundraising (Ceil Strauss). No formal update given, but fundraising goal and been met and then some!

Gad-Abouts (Nicole Sindelair). There was not enough time to plan and execute an October 2nd event. Please bring any and all upcoming event ideas forward!

Public Policy (Pat Powers). AAUW Fall Member Gathering – upcoming webinar on 9/29 @ 3pm. 9/21 marks Black Women's Equal Pay Day. Black American Women earn 58% compared to white men. Hispanic women earn 38%

Voting has started in MN! Early voting started 9/23; Reminder that mnvotes.org maintains and publishes all information about voting and voting dates.

AAUW Action Fund 'Get Out and Vote' Initiative: <https://www.aauwaction.org/>

Book Club (Shirley Tammen): Reminder that Book Club runs the second Monday of every month at 1:30pm at Pleasant Hill Library (backroom reserved) September thru May 2023.

Monday, October 10th: *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

Monday, November 14th: *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Hamel

Scholarship Interest Committee (Marilyn Tennessen). Board approved the formation of a committee to determine an amount and criteria for a second scholarship to be given in May 2023. Ideas being targeting first generation college attendees or non-traditional/trade schools. Not committing to annual at this time as it we don't know we will have funds available each year. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please reach out to Marilyn.

Community (Margaret Goderstad). Many upcoming community events!

The Hastings Arts Center is now posting events on their website: [Upcoming Concerts & Events \(hastingsartscenter.org\)](http://hastingsartscenter.org)

October 15th, 7:30pm at the Hastings Arts Center. Sod House Theatre Presents RARE Stories of Disease;

Tickets are free but reservations must be made in advance here: [Sod House Theater \(arts-people.com\)](http://SodHouseTheater.com). Donations are not required but appreciated.

Black Dirt Theatre production has been suspended for lack of venue. They are also seeking new board members if anyone is interested.

Saturday, October 1st at 12pm, Hastings Art Space is hosting a free Fall Community Celebration. Meet the Artspace artists and see their amazing work. There will be free live music, food, games, face painting and more.

Danna – Prescott is performing Beauty and the Beast Musical the first weekend of December (12/2-12/4). Last year they raised over 8k in ticket sales and are in need of more funds for costumes. **Diversity (Peggy Horsch)**. Not present but refer to the recent TWIG article for updates.

Danna Elling-Schultz moved to adjourn: Pat Powers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

AAUW Hastings Board

President -----	Lisa Hedin
VPs Membership -----	Kathy Palmer Jackie Rigelman
VPs Programs -----	Danna Elling Schultz Mary Ellen Fox Diane Saed
Secretary -----	Hannah Spaulding
Treasurer -----	Carol Tobin
AAUW Funds -----	Marilyn Tennesen
Book Club -----	Shirley Tammen
Community -----	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity -----	Peggy Horsch
Gadabouts -----	Members
Historian -----	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality -----	Nancy Ahn Darla Kimmes Kathy Stockman
NCCWSL -----	Gail Glashan
Newsletter -----	Linda Bindman
Public Policy -----	Pat Powers
Fundraising -----	Ceil Strauss
Web Page -----	Cheryl Read



You are invited to the
AAUW Hastings Branch

Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 10, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Hastings Golf Club
2015 Westview Drive
Hastings



Please make your \$30 checks
payable to
Hastings Golf Club
and mail to:

Jackie Rigelman
1000 Southview Drive
Hastings, Minnesota 55033



Our branch will once again participate in
Hastings Family Service
Project Share
'Adopt a Family'

Look for more information in this Twig.

