



President's Message

Lisa Hedin

Happy spring! This President's Message is less a message, and more a news report. Here is what you need to know to be in the know.

- **2024-2025 Dues:** It is anticipated (pending a branch vote at the April Business Meeting) that dues will remain at \$103 next year. Dues distribution: National \$72 (\$69 tax deductible), State \$9, and local \$22.
- **National Bylaws Vote:** You should have received an email or will be receiving a paper ballot to participate in the National Bylaws vote. The primary bylaws modification is to remove the requirement of a college/university degree for AAUW membership. Here is a link to the proposed changes: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2024-aauw-proposed-bylaws-changes/>
- **Time for Membership Renewal for many:** April marks the start of membership renewal season. Right now, the majority of our members have memberships that expire on 30 June 2024. Remember memberships are for one year from the date you joined. You will receive renewal reminders from National, and you can rejoin (including making payments) online. If online is not your jam, no problem, bring your check to the April or May business meetings or mail it to Renee Souza (address in our directory). We will also have a couple laptops and helpers on hand at the April and May business meetings to renew right then. Finally, reach out to me or Carol Tobin and we can stop by at your convenience and walk you through renewal.
- **Program Ideas:** In addition to a social, business meeting and program in April we will be collecting ideas for next year's speakers. Please bring any contacts, general ideas or "I wonders" that you have to the April meeting (or send them to our VP's of Programs right now). The quality of our programming depends on our membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8Book Club
 April 22 Spring Social, Meeting, Program
 April 26-27 State Convention
 May 13 Book Club

HASTINGS BRANCH

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

2023-2024 PROGRAMS

September 25, 6:00 pm Salad Supper
**Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women
 Task Force**
 Senator Mary Kunesh

October 23, 7:00 pm
Perspectives on Women in Law Enforcement
 Hennepin County Sheriff Dawanna S. Witt

November 27, 7:00 pm
**Forecasting Minnesota's Changeable
 Weather**
 Meteorologist Karen Filloon

December 9, 10:00 am Hastings Golf Club
Holiday Celebration

January 22, 6:00 pm Chili Supper
**Book Selection Process in Dakota County
 Libraries**
 Librarian Christy Wayne

February 26, 7:00 pm
**Women's Heart Health Month – How to
 Survive a Heart Crisis and How to Prevent
 One from Happening**
 Danna Elling-Schultz and Dr. Retu Saxena

March 25, 7:00 pm
**Diaries of Jane Doe: Historical Perspectives
 on Women's Health in Dakota County**
 Cailean Magee

April 22, 6:00 pm Spring Social
Amelia Earhart
 Nancy Earhart Burt

May 20, 7:00 pm Book Sale
**Title IX Impact on Athletes & Sports at the
 Collegiate Level**
 Vicki Davis

- Rivertown Days Booth/Book Sale: Our Branch will be hosting a book sale booth at the craft/vender fair portion of Rivertown Days (July 19-21) again this year. We will need all of you to help, so the event can be successful. Set aside books (especially children's books), be watching for a volunteer sign up, and maybe most importantly cross your fingers for dry weather. We are looking forward to seeing you all down at the river this summer.
- Wine Soiree: Save the Date: 8 August 2024 for our 4th annual Wine Soiree at Hastings Public House!

Continue to do good work, care for each other, and stay well.

April Spring Social

AAUW Spring Social Gala is Monday, April 22, at the Hastings Public House. Check in: 5:30 PM, Dinner: 6:00 PM. After the business meeting, Nancy Earhart Burt will present a program about her famous relative, Amelia Earhart.

Cost: \$35 Checks payable to THE HASTINGS PUBLIC HOUSE can be sent to Jackie Rigelman, 1000 Southview Drive, Hastings, MN 55033 **by April 15**. Cash wine bar. Menu: Roll and Spring Salad, Lemon Artichoke Chicken, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, and Dessert.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting and/or the program only, is welcome.

Come and enjoy a night out!!!

Program

Danna Elling Schultz, Mary Ellen Fox, & Becky Gartzke

Amelia Earhart



Nancy Earhart Burt is a proud second cousin (3 times removed) to Amelia Earhart. Nancy developed this program on Amelia in 2023 for the fun of it, and has presented many times in Arizona, Idaho and Minnesota. Nancy has had a life-long interest in women's issues, as had her cousin Amelia. She has a Master's degree in Counseling and has held a variety of "helping" positions including college instructor, non-profit manager, corporate trainer and career counselor. She states she has been richly blessed in life with a long-term marriage, 2 great kids and 2 above-average (aren't they all????) grandchildren!!!

Membership

Kathy Palmer & Jackie Rigelman

Congratulations to the three lucky winners of the drawing for AAUW National Membership fees (\$72) for 2024-25. Ann Skoglund, Sue Drummond and Nancy Earhart Burt's names were drawn at the March 25th meeting.

The dues for the 2024-25 AAUW programming year is \$103. Most members' renewal date is June 30th, 2024. Our newest members have dues dates on the anniversary of the date that they joined AAUW. This year AAUW National will be sending email dues reminders that give directions for paying dues online at AAUW.org. Renee Souza and Carol Tobin will also bring computers to the April and May AAUW Hastings meetings so that they can help members who would like assistance with paying their dues online. Members can still pay dues by check, and we will collect dues at the April and May meetings. Checks for \$103 written out to AAUW Hastings can also be mailed to either of the treasurers:

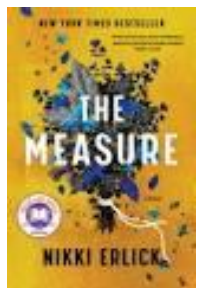
Carol Tobin
4980 240th St. E.
Hampton, MN 55031

Renee Souza
874 Bahls Drive
Hastings, MN 55033

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

The Power by Naomi Alderman is the book club's April 8th selection. This is a science fiction novel with a central premise of women developing the ability to release electrical jolts from their fingers, which allows them to become the dominant sex. *The Power* won the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction.



On May 13th, we will be discussing *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. A story of love and hope as interweaving characters display how all moments, big and small, can measure a life. The story begins with people around the world opening their front doors and finding a box with the message,

"The measure of your life lies within."

The book club meets the second Monday of the month at the Pleasant Hill Library at 1:30pm, all are welcome to join the discussions!

We will have our mini book sale at our Monday, May 20th general meeting. This is our fundraiser for the annual Hastings Reads programs in February. We will sell used books before and after the meeting. Any books left over will be sold at AAUW's Rivertown book sale.

More details on when and where to drop off books will be in the May TWIG. Until then, please collect the books you are ready to give away!

[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](#)

Treasurer

Renee Souza and Carol Tobin

A new 2024 budget stands before us!

We had a lull in the financial activity for the month of March for the branch. I greatly appreciated that given the amount of activity generated by the Annual Conference!

We are heading into our new Budget year with a very strong financial position (hear a trend?) of \$9,736.92 in checking.

That said there is much activity upcoming that will create lots of financial activity, not the least of which is approval of our 2024 budget! The April Social, AAUW's Annual Meeting hosted by Hastings and May's Book Sale will keep Carol and I on our toes!

Please don't forget that June Membership renewal will be right around the corner and Carol and I have committed to bringing our laptops to assist with helping you pay online BEFORE the meetings if you need support!

We're very excited to be heading into 2024 with a continued strong financial position and key fundraising insights

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/>

Community

Margaret Goderstad

Hastings Arts Center:

- Tuesday, April 23rd, 10:30am, coffee concert featuring Ruckus in the Bearbrush. Free, donations appreciated
- Tuesday, May 7th, 10:30am, coffee concert featuring Erik Pearson (baritone & piano) and Sarah Lockwood (violin & piano). Free, donations appreciated
- Friday, May 17th, 7:30pm – Monroe Crossing, reservations are required

Hootenany (fundraiser for music programs):

Saturday, April 27th – the Moss Piglets (Mary Ellen Fox is in this group) will be playing at 5:50 & 7:30. Look for flyers around town for details.

Black Dirt Theatre:

April 8th, 9th, and 12th, auditions for “Cinderella a Musical,” which will be performed July 26th – August 3rd.

Orange Dragon Art Gallery:

Spring exhibit April 10 - 28

The LeDuc Historic Estate:

Saturday, May 11th, 3:30-5:30pm – Mother’s Day Tea – three courses plus a presentation about Mary LeDuc and her relationship with her children. Tour of the house following the tea. Reservations are required, \$35 for DCHS members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Tour season open May 16th, 2024.

Hastings Area Historical Society:

April 9th, at 7:00pm the annual meeting will be at the LeDuc house. Spencer Johnson will give a “Bird’s Eye view of the Map of Hastings 1867.”

First Downtown Car Show:

May 19th, 2024

A committee from the HPAC Arts Heroes group are working on a new musical initiative. Be watching print & social media for announcements on the Three Rivers Chorale.

AAUW Hastings Branch to Host the 2024 State Annual Meeting

Pat Powers

The Annual Meeting, April 26-27, 2024, The Confluence Hotel

The theme is
Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration,
Empowerment

The Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting is finalizing all of those little details for this two-day event. There will be speakers and a panel of Hastings’ women entrepreneurs. The hotel is secured, the food has been chosen, and we are getting member bags ready. The Annual Meeting Booklet printing arrangements have been made. Silent Auction, Hastings items, are coming in. Oh yes, we have name badges on lanyards.

It’s a party! It’s a time to meet our AAUW peers from all over the State and celebrate women.

The registration deadline has been extended beyond March 31st so if you haven’t registered yet, please join us! There is a registration form at the end of the TWIG.

Historian

Lisa Hedin



Spring Social
2017



Public Policy

Pat Powers

Message from National NOW President Christian F. Nunes
April 5, 2024

Greetings Feminists,

Constitutional Equality is one of NOW's six core issues. That's because, without it, women will never have a place at the starting line for so much that men get to take for granted.

Women are more likely to live in poverty and economic insecurity, because the lack of constitutional safeguards makes it harder to defend laws that protect women when they are attacked and eroded, and there is less protection against workplace discrimination based on gender, pregnancy or parental status.

Workplace violations in hiring, pay, promotion and retention, legal safeguards and mechanisms for attaining justice don't exist for women because they aren't recognized in the Constitution. Without explicit Constitutional equality, the hard-won victories women have won can be reversed by extremist politicians and activist judges intent on turning the clock back, endangering women's lives and keeping a dark cloud over their future.

That's why NOW is pushing so hard for the Equal Rights Amendment—as we've done since our very beginning. NOW adopted a resolution of support for the ERA at our second national conference in 1967, and in February of 1970, NOW leaders disrupted Senate hearings to demand that the ERA be considered by the full Congress.

With *Roe v. Wade* now toppled, it's more important than ever to protect the fundamental rights women need and deserve. The ERA would protect against pregnancy and motherhood discrimination and protect women's control over their reproductive lives and bodily autonomy. It would authorize laws that address violence against women and make it possible to go beyond the Violence Against Women Act to give women a civil right of action in cases involving gender-motivated crimes.

Without constitutional equality, women's rights are always going to be vulnerable to attack. Our laws prohibit discrimination based on religion, race, and national origin, but sex is not held to the same legal standard.

When the Constitution was adopted in 1787, the rights it affirmed were only for certain white males. We can't stay mired in 18th century values, laws or attitudes towards women. We need full constitutional equality—NOW!

In solidarity,
Christian



Diversity

Jaci Cobian

National Autism Awareness Month

April is a month dedicated to raising awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in addition to promoting the needed acceptance and inclusion of individuals with autism in today's society. ASD is a developmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction, and behavior encompassing a wide range of symptoms and severity levels. Beginning with the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Day on April 2nd, the need to do what we can to help improve the quality of life of those with autism in order to lead full and meaningful lives, is acknowledged.

Autism awareness embraces diversity! Such awareness recognizes and celebrates the varying abilities, perspectives, and strengths of individuals on the autism spectrum. Diversity within the autism community encircles a wide range of unique abilities, characteristics, experiences, and challenges that portray the complexity of the spectrum. When we embrace diversity, we create a more inclusive society that values the contributions of all individuals despite differences.

Individuals with autism may have sensory profiles whereby they experience sensory stimuli such as light, sound, smell, taste, and touch in varying ways - they may be overly sensitive or under sensitive to sensory inputs. Autism can affect communication skills differently for each individual. Some individuals may be nonverbal or minimally verbal, while others may have advanced language skills. Some may also require the use of alternative methods of communication such as picture exchange systems, sign language, or specific assistive communication devices. Also, the social behaviors of individuals with autism may range from some who struggle with social skills and understanding social cues, to others who have strong social desires but face challenges in initiating friendships and maintaining social relationships. Often, too, individuals with autism have intensely strong interests in specific topics or activities. These interests can vary widely and may develop over time into areas of talent or expertise. Last, autism often has other conditions such as anxiety disorders, ADHD, and intellectual disabilities that contribute even further to the diversity found within the autism spectrum.

In conclusion, understanding and embracing the diversity characteristic of ASD is key towards promoting acceptance, inclusion, and support for individuals with autism. We can then fully recognize and value the abilities and strengths of each individual while providing the necessary accommodations and resources to help them thrive in today's society.

Resources:

Website: Autism Speaks - leading autism advocacy organization providing resources, information, and support for individuals with autism and their families.

Website: Autism Society - provides information, advocacy, and support for individuals and families affected by autism.

Secretary

Hannah Spaulding

AAUW- HASTINGS BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

March 22, 2024

Location: In-Person (St Philips Lutheran Church) and Zoom

About 45 attendees in the room. 8 on Zoom

1. Call to Order at 7:00pm. President's Message:
a. Watch your mailboxes (Around 3 April will receive info on National By-Laws vote. If National doesn't have an email for you a paper ballot will be sent.) At the last vote our branch was at less than 35% participation.

2. Approve February 2024 Business meeting minutes (in TWIG)
Motion by Kathy O'Keefe. Trudy Cragg seconds.
Motion passes.

3. Treasurer's Report - Renee Souza
Not much for the last month – what we really need to pay attention to is upcoming membership dues, no changes to cost. Budget will come out next month. We are sitting pretty good right now; may see our scholarships go up, if anything.
Gail Glashen moves, Dorothy Sandahl seconds.
Motion passes.

a. Approve Year to Date (Thru February 2024) Report

4. (7:10 pm) Committee/Activity Report
a. Membership (Kathy Palmer & Jackie Rigelman) – we are going to do a drawing for 3 National Memberships: Ann Skogland, Susan Drummond, Nancy Burt are the winners! Emails will be sent out to the winners with instructions on how to renew without the National fees. Also, emails from National will be coming out with renewal reminders. Jackie and Kathy will be sending out reminders in

June as well. Spring Gala is Monday, April 22nd. Family style dinner - \$35, same as last year. April 15th deadline to sign up.

b. Programs (Mary Ellen Fox, Danna Elling-Schultz, Becky Gartzke)

Will be looking at getting ideas for next year – if you have ideas or potential speakers please let us know!

c. Fundraising (Ceil Strauss)

Sign ups for Rivertown booksale will come out in May. We also intend to do the Wine Soiree again.

d. Hospitality (Darla Kimmes/Lois Twedt)

Nothing to add.

e. Public Policy (Pat Powers)

Nothing to add.

f. State Annual Convention (Pat Powers)

Cindy Toppin – we are thrilled to host at the Confluence in Hastings. Many from Hastings have already registered – about another week to register. Cost is \$130 and includes 3 meals and several speakers. Shout out to Pat Powers for spearheading this. AAUW has all the speakers and the timeline posted for the State Convention as well.

g. NCCWSL (Gail Glashan)

Hastings received 8 applications, committee of 4 met to do a blind review and we are excited to announce Alyssa Nestingen and Ashley Caballero.

h. Book Club (Cindy Toppin)

Shout out to Shirley for leading book groups for many years – Ann and Cindy will be taking over in the short term and rotating months. Next meeting, Monday April 8th.

i. Scholarship (Marilyn Tennesen)

We have made our scholarship selections – event will be in May. genres and will be a non-auditioned companion to the River Valley Band. Also, check out the TWIG for other Community Events.

j. Community (Margaret Goderstad)

Reveal with arts in the Hastings community – HPAC Art Heroes have been working for several weeks and has established the HPAC Three River Chorale, a vocal ensemble with music of various

k. Diversity (Jaci Cobian)

Not present.

5. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Glenda, Patty Wilson seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Upcoming Events:

April 1, 7:00 pm – Board Meeting via Zoom

April 3 – National Bylaws vote begins

April 8, 1:30 pm at Pleasant Hill Library – Book Group: The Power by Naomi Alderman

April 22 – 5:30 pm/6:00 pm/ 7:00 pm/7:30 pm – Check-in/Dinner/Business

Meeting/Program – Amelia Earhart Nancy Earhart Burt

AAUW Hastings Board

President -----	Lisa Hedin
VPs Membership -----	Kathy Palmer Jackie Rigelman
VPs Programs -----	Danna Elling Schultz Mary Ellen Fox Becky Gartzke
Secretary -----	Hannah Spaulding
Treasurers -----	Renee Souza Carol Tobin
AAUW Funds -----	Marilyn Tennesen
Book Club -----	Shirley Tammen
Community -----	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity -----	Jaci Cobian
Gadabouts -----	Members
Historian -----	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality -----	Nancy Ahn Darla Kimmes Lois Twedt
NCCWSL -----	Gail Glashan
Newsletter -----	Linda Bindman
Public Policy -----	Pat Powers
Fundraising -----	Ceil Strauss
Web Page -----	Cheryl Read



AAUW MINNESOTA STATE CONVENTION
April 26-27, 2024



Confluence Hotel 200 2nd St W, Hastings, MN 55033

Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment

Registration

Name (Please Print) _____

Phone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____

Branch: _____

Email: _____

Convention Information (please check all boxes that apply):

Branch Member	State Board Member	College/University Student	Visitor Guest
Member at Large	Past State President	College/University Representative	Legacy Circle

The annual State Convention fee, \$130, includes Friday banquet, Saturday breakfast and lunch and featured speakers. Please note any dietary restriction here: _____.

Checks are preferred. Registration should be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2024**.
Make checks payable to: AAUW Hastings. Mail the registration form & check to:
Renee Souza AAUW Hastings, 874 Bahls Drive, Hastings, MN 55033.

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address same as above or: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Card No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____