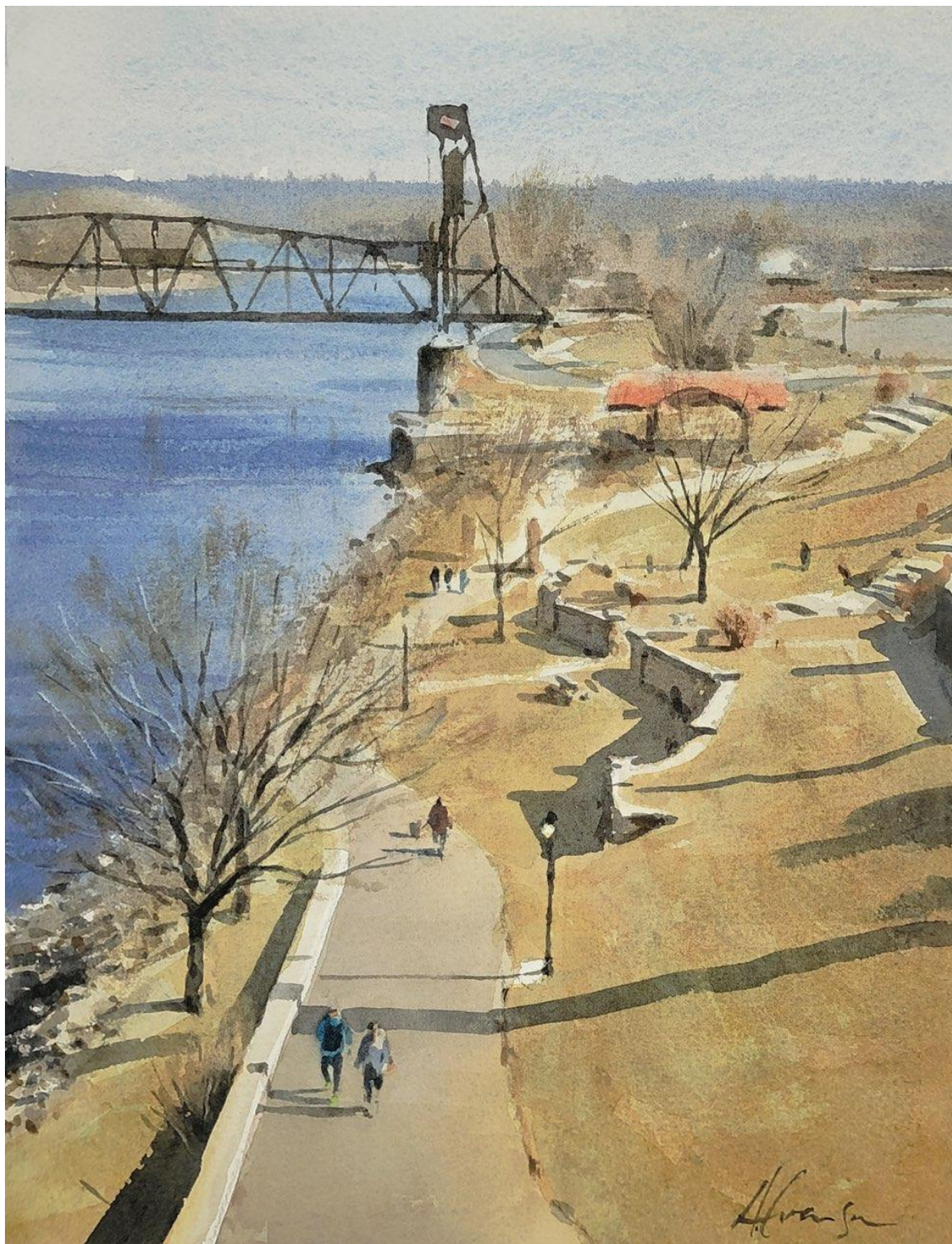


**CONFLUENCE = INCLUSION, COLLABORATION, EMPOWERMENT**



**The 95<sup>th</sup> AAUW of Minnesota Annual Meeting  
Hastings, Minnesota -- April 26-27, 2024**

**Special Acknowledgement:** Our thanks to award winning local artist, Andy Evansen, for his beautiful illustration of Hastings on the cover of this booklet. More information regarding Andy and his work can be found at <https://www.evansenartstudio.com> or at Evansen Art Studio, 121 Tyler Street, Suite 110C, Hastings, MN 55033.

# Table of Contents

## 2024 AAUW of Minnesota Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Program Agenda.....	1
State President’s Welcome and 2024 Report.....	2-3
Meet Our Speakers .....	4-6
AAUW Minnesota 2023-2024 State Board, Elected & Appointed Officers .....	7
AAUW Minnesota Committees, Annual Meeting Positions.....	8
AAUW Minnesota College/University Representatives.....	9
AAUW Minnesota Past Presidents and Branch Milestones.....	10
AAUW Minnesota Business Meeting Agenda.....	11
Standing Rules of the 95th AAUW State Annual Meeting.....	12
AAUW Minnesota 94th State Annual Meeting Minutes 2023 .....	13-15
AAUW Minnesota Financial Report 2022-2023 .....	16
Financial Records Review Committee FY23 Report .....	17-18
AAUW Minnesota Proposed Budget 2024-2025 .....	19
2024 Nominating Committee Report and Slate.....	20
2024-2026 AAUW MN Public Policy Priorities.....	21-22
Proposed Resolution for Approval .....	23
AAUW Minnesota Membership Report .....	24-25
VP Program Report and 2024 Helping Our Branches Grants and Awards.....	26-28
VP Public Policy Report .....	29
VP AAUW Funds Report 2023 and Named Gift Honorees.....	30
Minnesota Legacy Circle Members .....	31
AAUW Minnesota Secretary/Historian Report .....	32
AAUW Minnesota Pine Report .....	32
AAUW Minnesota Bylaws Report .....	32
AAUW Minnesota Administrative Assistant and Website Report.....	32
Branch Highlights 2023-2024.....	33-43

## **AAUW MISSION**

AAUW Mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

## **AAUW VISION**

Equity for all

## **AAUW VALUES**

Nonpartisan

Fact-based

AAUW of Minnesota would like to thank the Hastings Branch for welcoming our AAUW MN members and for the many hours spent to ensure that the 2024 Annual Meeting would be an enjoyable experience for all.

**95th AAUW of Minnesota Annual Meeting**  
**April 26 – 27, 2024**  
**Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment**

**Friday, April 26, 2024**

- 2:00 pm      Registration Opens
- 3:00 pm      The City of Hastings Tour of City Hall, walk the river trail, shop downtown,  
see Vermillion Falls
- 4:30 pm      Social Hour, Cash Bar, Bid on Silent Auction Items
- 5:45 pm      Buffet Dinner
- 6:15 pm      Britta Johnson, AAUW Hastings Scholarship Recipient
- 6:30 pm      Suzann Willhite, ERAMN President Emeritus
- 7:00 pm      Keynote Speaker, Megan Peterson, Executive Director, Gender Justice
- 8:00 pm      Continue Social Hour, Bid on Silent Auction Items

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

- 7:30 am      Registration Reopens
- 7:30 am      Breakfast
- 8:30 am      Welcome from Hastings Branch President Lisa Hedin and Mayor Mary  
Fasbender, Flag Ceremony featuring active Military and Veteran women,  
and Welcome from AAUW MN President Jan Carey and a Video Message from  
Senator Amy Klobuchar
- 9:00 am      Business Meeting
- 11:00 am     Keynote Speaker, Professor Karen Kedrowski, Iowa State University
- 12:00 pm     Buffet Lunch
- 12:30 pm     Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
- 1:00 pm      Michelle Witte, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Minnesota
- 1:30 pm      Closing of Silent Auction & Congresswoman Angie Craig Video (MN 2<sup>nd</sup> District)
- 1:30 pm      Congresswoman Angie Craig Video (MN 2<sup>nd</sup> District)
- 1:45 pm      Hastings Panel of Women Entrepreneurs, Jan Hertel-Moderator
- 2:45 pm      Closing Remarks



## **AAUW of Minnesota President's Welcome**

On behalf of the AAUW Minnesota Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, I welcome you to the 95<sup>th</sup> AAUW Minnesota Annual Meeting, previously known as the State Convention.

Last year you “Heard Us Roar”. And in this past year, we collectively roared all the way to the Minnesota State Capitol where we rallied alongside hundreds of supporters for ERAMN.

This past year Branches have roared their growth in membership by initiating unique membership drives and engaging events. In doing so, AAUW MN is now ranked third nationally in total AAUW membership.

This past year Branches have roared their collaborations with local and national organizations.

We roared and people heard us.

This year our Annual Meeting theme is Confluence=Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment-the coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point to create progressive, cohesive actions.

The AAUW MN Strategic Plan asks members to seek Inclusion, Collaboration and Empowerment. Using these three distinct themes, members will achieve our Confluence. We will come together to achieve a stronger, vital, visible AAUW MN for all.

It has already been achieved by many branches. During Branch President ZOOM meetings, leaders have shared branch activities that have led to programs that focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. Branches have developed relationships with organizations who align with AAUW's mission and values. And branches have empowered members to become highly engaged in public policy and its priorities. Thus, in 2023/24, improvements in these areas have been achieved.

- Increased membership
- Increased collaborations
- Increased Diversity/Equity/Inclusion programming
- Increased Public Policy engagement

In the coming years, we will focus on all of the possibilities we can achieve through continued implementations of our goals and objectives in the AAUW MN Strategic Plan.

We are AAUW – advocating equity for women & girls.

\*\*\*\*\*

As my term of office concludes, I would be remiss if I didn't openly extend my gratitude to the board and all AAUW MN members. A leader cannot lead without the experience, knowledge, dedication and sacrifice of others. Your AAUW MN Board members are an exemplary team of dedicated, active, forward-thinking women. The next AAUW MN president will be in good hands by a trusted, devoted, enthusiastic board.

My special thanks are extended to AAUW board members. Teresa Sagen's ZOOM meeting technical assistance, administrative advice, and knowledge of the history of AAUW MN is immeasurable. Sandra Martell's precision notetaking, creative PINE issues, knowledge of bylaws, regulations and rules are impeccable. Pat Powers steers everyone through the HUB membership platform & provides ZOOM meetings to reassure branches to all issues regarding membership. Rajani Sohni, our expert in managing Funds, organizes and maintains the reports with clarity and care. Karen Kirkwood's AAUW experience defines the need for unique and current programming which directs branches to fully utilize AAUW National resources. Can we run the organization absent a financial & accounting wizard? Well, we can with two wizards. Beth Nienow and Janice Quist are exemplary 'bean-counters' and keep us fiscally solvent. Kelsey Waits uses her public address skills as a true supporter, defender and advocate of the ideals and mission of AAUW. To each of these board members I am forever grateful.

Thank you to the Hastings Branch team for their assistance in the planning of this Annual Meeting. It could not have been accomplished without your work.

And, to all members of AAUW MN, without you the organization cannot move forward and collectively advocate the issues of the day. Without members, we cannot fulfill our 'ERA' – Education, Research and Advocacy. My plea to every branch and member is to continue to seek coalitions and partners for collaborative events and initiatives. And, most of all grow an inclusive, diverse membership which will enable AAUW to continue its mission for another 143 years.

Thank you AAUW MN members for allowing me the opportunity to guide AAUW MN for the past two years. It has been an immensely, enriching experience.

*Moving Forward ~ Collectively Advocating  
for  
AAUW MN*

*Jan Carey*

## Annual Meeting Speakers



**Megan J. Peterson** is the Executive Director of Gender Justice and Gender Justice Action and a seasoned leader in the gender equity and reproductive freedom movements. She was brought into Gender Justice by its founders in 2016 and in 2022 started the 501(c)4 sister organization, Gender Justice Action, to engage in political work. Under her leadership, Gender Justice has experienced significant growth and increased state, regional, and national impact. Previously, Megan Peterson was Deputy Director for the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) where she expanded its network of grassroots abortion funds, led coalition campaigns to repeal the Hyde Amendment and

significantly increased its donor and foundation funding. She has also served as Director of Development and Communications for Pro-Choice Resources (now called Our Justice) in Minneapolis and as a patient advocate at Planned Parenthood in St. Paul. In college she worked with the National Organization for Women in Washington, DC and the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now called Legal Momentum). She lives in the St. Paul part of Minneapolis (Longfellow) with her preteen son and two dogs.



**Dr. Karen M Kedrowski** is Director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics and the Whitaker-Lindgren Faculty Fellow and Professor of Political Science at Iowa State University. Dr. Kedrowski grew up near Little Falls, Minnesota and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where she majored in Political Science, French, and History. She then earned her Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma, Norman. Kedrowski's research agenda focuses primarily on women and politics and civic engagement. She is the author or coauthor of four books and more than 60 book chapter, book reviews, journal articles, encyclopedia entries, and blog posts. She also leads Iowa State's voter engagement efforts, which have earned several national recognitions. In addition, Dr. Kedrowski is frequently interviewed by local, regional, national, and international news organizations. Her most recent book, *Walking the Gendered Tightrope: Theresa*

*May and Nancy Pelosi as Legislative Leaders*, coauthored by Dr. Melissa Haussman, was published in 2023 by the University of Michigan Press. She is currently co-editing a volume entitled *Handbook of*



*Fashion and Politics* for Palgrave Publishers, to be released in 2024. Prior to coming to Iowa State University, Kedrowski spent 24 years at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. She held many leadership positions during her career there, including as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. She received Winthrop's highest honor, Distinguished Professor, in 2011.



**Suzann Willhite** is ERAMN President Emeritus and Member of Woman Corp. Suzann has a Master of Science from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She continues to organize, educate and activate to add a Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) into our State Constitution and to enact the Federal ERA as the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution. Suzann will be providing updates to the status of the ERA in Minnesota and to getting it on the ballot.



**Michelle Witte** serves as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, founded in 1919 to further empower voters and defend democracy after the passage of the 19th Amendment which expanded votes for women. Michelle has served as ED since 2017 and is deeply passionate about serving voters through our vibrant nonpartisan organization, committed to civic engagement through the work of 35 community-based chapters with more than 2,300 members here in Minnesota, and more than 800 chapters throughout the United States. Michelle is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, has a Public Affairs Fellowship from the Coro Foundation, and has followed the proud League tradition

of women serving in government, having served as an elected school board member for South Washington County Schools. When not working on our democracy, Michelle enjoys being active in her Woodbury community with her husband Eric and rescue dog Kiwi, and spending time with her 2 adult daughters.

# Women Entrepreneurs: A Panel of Hasting's Women Discuss Their Experiences as Women in Business



**Jan Hertel**  
Panel Moderator



**Barb Hollenbeck**  
Second Childhood Toy Store



**Dr. Rachel Allgor**  
Journey Audiology and  
Hearing Care



**Sara Lawrence**  
Muse 2320 Fiber Company



**Jen Fox**  
Spiral Brewery



**Nicole Sindelar**  
Hastings Golf Club

# AAUW Minnesota State Board 2023-2024

## Elected Officers

### **PRESIDENT**

Jan Carey—Hibbing  
218-966-7159  
jmcfree@aol.com

### **TREASURER**

Beth Nienow—Rochester  
507-923-7810  
bethnienow@charter.net

### **SECRETARY/HISTORIAN**

Saundra Martell—Brainerd  
952-250-2611  
wave34145@gmail.com

### **VP PROGRAM**

Karen Kirkwood—St. Paul  
951-891-2876/612-282-9492  
KarenSKirkwood@cs.com

### **VP MEMBERSHIP**

Pat Powers—Hastings  
651-592-6259  
pat.pow01@gmail.com

### **VP PUBLIC POLICY**

Kelsey Waits—St. Paul  
651-703-2055  
kelsey.waits@gmail.com

### **VP AAUW FUNDS**

Rajani Sohni—Rochester  
507-250-1324  
rsohni@gmail.com

### **COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY REP**

**TBD**

## Appointed Officers

### **FINANCE CHAIR**

Janice Quist—St. Paul  
612-730-2591  
jqquist@gmail.com

### **PINE EDITOR**

Saundra Martell—Brainerd  
952-250-2611  
wave34145@gmail.com

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Teresa Sagen—Ely  
218-365-6461  
tksagen@gmail.com

## Other Off Board Positions

### **WEBSITE**

Teresa Sagen—Ely  
218-365-6461  
tksagen@gmail.com

### **BYLAWS CHAIR**

Saundra Martell—Brainerd  
952-250-2611  
wave34145@gmail.com

# **AAUW of Minnesota Standing Committees**

## **AAUW MN Nominating Committee 2023-2024**

Mary Chorewycz, St. Paul Branch  
Pat Powers, Hastings Branch  
Kelsey Waits, St. Paul Branch

## **Financial Review Chair and Committee for FY23**

Jan Bensen, St. Cloud Branch  
Caroline Owens, Ely Branch  
Barb Wismer, St. Cloud Branch  
Janice Quist, St. Paul Branch

## **2024 Annual Meeting**

### **Parliamentarian**

Barb Wonson Liukkonen, Ely Branch

### **Pages**

Betty Hoeshen, Hastings Branch  
Marilyn Tennessen, Hastings Branch

### **Tellers**

Linda Bindman, Hastings Branch  
Linda Ferris, Hastings Branch

### **Timer**

Becky Gartzke, Hastings Branch

### **Panel Facilitator**

Jan Hertel, Hastings Branch

### **Hastings Branch Local Arrangements Committee**

Patty Wilson, Julie Hicks, Linda Ferris, Linda Bindman, Cindy Toppin, Jackie Rigelman, Gail Glashan, Nancy Ahn, Jan Junkman, Marilyn Tennessen, Betty Hoeshen, Dorothy Sandahl, Lisa DeRoy, Renee Souza, Pat Powers, Lisa Hedin

## AAUW Minnesota College/University Representatives 2023-2024

### **Central Lakes College**

Brainerd, MN  
*Mary Sam*  
msam@clcmn.edu

### **College of Saint Benedict**

St. Cloud, MN  
*Angela Whitney*  
awhitney@csbsju.edu

### **Dakota County Technical College**

Rosemount, MN  
*Anne Johnson*  
anne.johnson@dctc.edu

### **Gustavus Adolphus College**

St. Peter, MN  
*Brenda Kelly*  
bkelly@gustavus.edu  
*Jill Locke*  
jlocke@gustavus.edu

### **MN North College – Vermilion**

Ely, MN  
*Kate Cowley*  
kate.cowley@minnesotanorth.edu  
*Carly Wogen*  
carly.wogen@minnesotanorth.edu

### **Ridgewater College**

Willmar, MN  
*Lori Park-Smith*  
lori.park-smith@ridgewater.edu  
*Lizeth E Rios*  
lizeth.rios@ridgewater.edu

### **Riverland Community College**

Austin, MN  
*Catherine Haslag*  
cshaslag@gmail.com  
*Amy Wagner*  
amy.wagner@riverland.edu

### **University of Minnesota Rochester**

Representatives TBD

### **St. Catherine University**

St. Paul, MN  
*Rebecca Roloff*  
broloff@stkate.edu  
*Anita Thomas*  
ajthomas583@stkate.edu

### **St. Cloud State University**

St. Cloud, MN  
*Chris Lepkowski*  
cclepkowski@stcloudstate.edu

### **St. Olaf College**

Northfield, MN  
*Marci Sortor*  
sortor@stolaf.edu  
*Rosalyn Eaton*  
reaton@stolaf.edu

### **University of Minnesota Duluth**

Duluth, MN  
*Susana Pelayo-Woodward*  
swoodwar@d.umn.edu

### **University of Minnesota Twin Cities**

Minneapolis, MN  
*Anne Lifson*  
women@umn.edu

## AAUW of Minnesota Past Presidents

1923-25 Mrs. F. G. Atkinson (Rood)	1976-78 Martha Nelson Ward (Virginia)
1925-27 Mrs. James King (St. Paul)	1978-80 Nancy Selby (Rochester)
1927-29 Mrs. James Richardson (Minneapolis)	1980-82 Helen Rudie (Moorhead)
1929-31 Mrs. Schuyler Woodhull (Minneapolis)	1982-84 Joann Paden (Minneapolis)
1931-33 Mrs. H. F. Heimholtz (Rochester)	1984-86 Susan Lemke (Rochester)
1933-36 Mrs. H. K. Painter (Minneapolis)	1986-88 Jane Maddy (Duluth)
1936-37 Mrs. Herman Stark (St. Paul)	1988-90 Barbara Halweg (Minneapolis)
1937-38 Mrs. John McCrory (St. Cloud)	1990-92 Kay Cooper (Burnsville)
1938-39 Mrs. Harry Kavel (Minneapolis)	1992-94 Alice Ellis (Red Wing)
1940-42 Mrs. Warren Wilson (Northfield)	1994-96 Nancy Rustad (St. Croix Valley)
1942-44 Mrs. Frederic Weld (Minneapolis)	1996-98 Barb Link (Minneapolis)
1944-46 Mrs. Willard Matter (Duluth)	1998-00 Linda Thielbar (Red Wing)
1946-48 Mrs. Lawrence Steefel (Minneapolis)	2000-02 Sharon Finch (Duluth)
1948-50 Mrs. Frank O. Jones (Fairmont)	2002-04 Terri Griffiths (Duluth)
1950-54 Florence Schneider (Duluth)	2004-06 Pat Sween (Red Wing)
1954-56 Isabel Koski (Ely)	2006-08 Beverly Crute (Willmar)
1956-58 Mrs. A. J. Cole (St. James)	2008-10 Karen Kirkwood (St. Paul)
1959-60 Mrs. E. R. Komarek (St. Cloud)	Mary Parcheta (St. Croix Valley)
1960-62 Phyllis Gausman Morris	2010-12 Carol Sheggeby (St. Paul)
1962-64 Dode Wonson (Minneapolis)	2012-14 Teresa Sagen (Ely)
1964-66 Betty Christian (Rochester)	Caroline Owens (Ely)
1966-68 Gladys Swanson (Duluth)	2014-16 Sharon Bigot (Minneapolis)
1968-70 Charlotte Reeve (Hibbing)	2016-18 Jan Bensen (St. Cloud)
1970-72 Alberta McNeal (Minneapolis)	2018-20 Lisa West (Hastings)
1972-74 Eleanor Sulerud (St. Paul)	2020-22 Mary Ann Lucas Houx (Duluth)
1974-76 Enid Swanson (Bemidji)	

### AAUW MN Branch Milestones

#### 100 Years or More –

Duluth, Hibbing, Minneapolis, Northfield,  
Rochester, St. Cloud, Saint Paul, Winona

#### 75 – 99 Years –

Albert Lea, Austin, Ely, Faribault, Grand  
Rapids, Red Wing Area, St. Croix Valley,  
Willmar

(Disbanded 2023– Hutchinson, Moorhead,  
Northeast Metro and previously Mankato)

#### 50 – 74 Years –

Brainerd Area, Fergus Falls, Hastings,  
Metro West, Owatonna, Virginia Area,

#### 25 – 49 Years –

Alexandria Area, Thief River Falls,

**AAUW Minnesota 95<sup>th</sup> Annual State Meeting, 2024**  
**April 27, 2024, Business Session**  
**9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.**

**Call to Order**

**Recognition of Past State Presidents and State Board members**

**Recognition of Past and Current National Board Members**

**Recognition of College and University Representatives**

**Introduction of Current Board Members and Annual Meeting Parliamentarian**

**Moment of Silence in Memory of AAUW MN members**

**Roll Call of Branches**

**Credentials Report**

Adoption of Annual Meeting Standing Rules

Adoption of Consent Agenda

1. Business Agenda
2. Appointments-Time Keeper, Tellers, Pages
3. AAUW MN 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, Condensed

**State Reports**

Treasurer's Report

AAUW Funds Report

**New Business**

Report of the 2023/24 Financial Records Review Committee

2024-2025 Budget

Report of the Nominating Committee & Introduction of Candidates

Nominations and Election of Officers

Public Policy Biennial Action Priorities for 2024-2026

Resolutions

Additional Business Items

**Recognition of Outgoing State Board Members**

**Introduction of State Board Members for 2024-2025**

**Annual Meeting 2025 – TBA**

**Adjournment**

## STANDING RULES OF THE 95<sup>th</sup> AAUW MINNESOTA STATE MEETING

1. For admission to the assembly hall, each member shall be required to wear the badge issued by the credentials committee upon registration. While in the assembly hall, delegates shall at all times wear their badges. Only the votes of those accredited delegates\* wearing badges shall be counted.
2. When a delegate leaves the assembly room, no other person is authorized to act in the delegate's place.
3. The president may present a consent agenda at the beginning of the business meeting. Upon the request of any delegate, items may be removed from the consent agenda. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of President and approval of the assembly.
4. Communication to the platform shall be in writing and transmitted by the pages only.
5. Voting cards will be used in all meetings. For the initial vote, voters will raise voting cards while remaining seated. The presiding officer will direct other voting procedures (such as a standing or counted vote) as necessary for verification of results. If unable to stand, raising the hand shall be considered the same as standing when a vote is taken.
6. No one shall be permitted to enter or leave the assembly during a vote. The doors may be closed if a designated emergency exit is available.
7. Anyone requesting the floor shall address the chair from a microphone and upon the President's recognition, shall state their name, branch and voting status.
8. Motions must be made in writing on triplicate forms provided. Two copies of the written motion shall be handed to a page who will immediately hand one copy to the President and one to the Secretary. The remaining copy is kept by the delegate making the motion.
9. Resolutions may be made from the floor. The presenter must be prepared to share the wording of the proposed resolution by distributing copies to all delegates or projecting it on a screen. A two thirds (2/3) approval of the meeting accredited delegates present and voting is required for the resolution to be brought forward for discussion. No one may speak to the resolution until the vote passes to hear it. A three fourths (3/4) vote of the meeting accredited delegates present and voting is required for adoption of resolutions from the floor.
10. Only duly accredited delegates shall be entitled to make motions and vote. Alternate delegates and non-delegate members may not make motions, second motions, or vote, but they may speak to a motion.
11. A maximum of two minutes shall be allowed each speaker on a motion. If the speaker has not finished a sentence when time is called by the appointed timekeeper, the speaker will be allowed to complete the sentence.
12. No one will speak twice to the same motion until everyone else who desires to speak on the motion has been heard, provided that the time limit allowed for the particular item of business on the floor has not been exceeded. The chair may establish a time limit for debate for each item, subject to approval of the delegates. The parliamentary rules of debate will apply by allowing pro and con speakers to be recognized alternately, insofar as practical.
13. Tellers, pages, and a timekeeper shall be appointed at the beginning of the state business meeting by the President. Tellers may assist in counting the votes when requested to do so.

\* The terms "accredited delegates" or "delegates" in this and subsequent rules include 1) registered branch delegates as certified by branch presidents; 2) members of the state board of directors and chairs of state committees; 3) college/university representatives; 4) any member(s)-at-large appointed by the State President, and 5) past state presidents who are currently members of AAUW of Minnesota.



**AAUW MN 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**April 29, 2023**  
**Via ZOOM**

**Presentation of “I Am Woman (Official Lyric Video)”**

President Jan Carey introduced the Annual Meeting Theme “Hear Us Roar” taken from the lyrics of Helen Reddy’s “I Am Woman”. President Carey said, “It’s strange to think that Helen Reddy’s now-iconic women’s empowerment anthem was not initially a hit. Once the 70s burgeoning second-wave feminist movement found it, though, “I Am Woman” evolved into so much more than just a song: It became a symbol of profound change, one that lives on decades after its release. Co-written with Ray Burton, “I Am Woman” was Helen Reddy’s sounding off about the entertainment industry and all of the demeaning comments made to her by men in positions of power. Helen Reddy told Australia’s Sunday Magazine in 2003, ‘I thought about all these strong women in my family who had gotten through the Depression and world wars and drunken, abusive husbands. But there was nothing in music that reflected that.’ The song’s empowering lyrics about roaring ‘in numbers too big to ignore’ were sung by the crowds around the world during the 2017 Women’s March and more recently by those protesting against the 2022 overturn of Roe v Wade. As we listen to this clip, each one of us can contemplate another quote by Helen Reddy, ‘It’s a general empowerment song about feeling good about yourself, believing in yourself.’”

**Call to Order:** President Jan Carey called the meeting to order at 10:28 am. She welcomed attendees to the 94th AAUW Minnesota Annual Meeting, conducted via the ZOOM communication platform. She read AAUW MN Bylaws requiring an annual meeting and authorizing use of the ZOOM platform and asked that attendees mute unless recognized and use chat for comments and questions. She referred attendees to the “Hear Us Roar” 2023 Annual Meeting Booklet that had been sent to members by email and drew attention to the included President’s Welcome and Statement, the Letter from Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW, reports of members and branches exceeding expectations for helping to achieve some Strategic Plan goals and objectives and implementations of Resolutions passed at the 2022 annual meeting.

**Presentation of AAUW Ad** <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National/videos/450586683356835>

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker by President Jan Carey**

**Keynote Address by Betty Folliard, founder of ERAMN and former MN legislator**

**Introduction of Board and Committee Members by President Jan Carey:** Sandra Martell, Brainerd Branch is Secretary/Historian, By-laws chair, *Minnesota Pine* editor and acting parliamentarian for today’s meeting. Kelsey Waits, Hastings Branch, is Vice President for Public Policy. Deanna Ray Ensley, Grand Rapids Branch, is Vice President for Programs and Chair of NCCWSL (National Conference for College Student Leaders) Committee. Rajani Sohni, Rochester Branch, is Vice President for AAUW Funds. Beth Nienow, Rochester Branch, is Treasurer. Pat Powers, Hastings Branch, is Vice President for Membership. Janice Quist, St. Paul Branch, is Finance Chair. Anna Voight, served as College/University Representative until recently and continues AAUW advocacy for MN. Teresa Sagen, Ely Branch, is Administrative Assistant. Caroline Owens, Ely Branch, is Chair of the Finance Review Committee. Ashley

Sarne, a student at Dakota Community & Technical College and a Hastings branch student member, is the AAUW MN Web Site Manager.

**Roll Call of Branches:** Saundra Martell, Secretary, called the roll of Minnesota AAUW branches and 19 branches responded as present: Austin, Brainerd, Ely, Faribault, Fergus Falls, Grand Rapids, Hastings, Metro West, Minneapolis, Northeast Metro, Northfield, Owatonna, Red Wing Area, Rochester, Saint Paul, Thief River Falls, Virginia Area, Willmar, and Winona.

**Credentials Report:** Teresa Sagen, Administrative Assistant, thanked the 22 of 27 branches that submitted electronic votes. She stated that the number meets the necessary two-fifths to establish a quorum as required by the Bylaws. She further announced that of 130 eligible voters, 78 members voted.

**Ballot Results.** Voting was conducted electronically in advance of the annual meeting.

**The Standing Rules of the 94<sup>th</sup> AAUW Minnesota Annual Meeting** was approved by a vote of 78. A copy of the Standing Rules is in the Annual Meeting Booklet.

**2022 Annual Meetings Minutes** was approved by a vote of 74. A copy of the minutes for the 2022 Annual Meeting is in the Annual Meeting Booklet.

**Nominating Committee Report and Ballot Results:** Pat Powers, Vice President for Membership and Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the slate of officer nominations. Teresa Sagen, Administrative Assistant, reported the vote as follows: President Elect - Deanna Ensley approved by a vote of 77; Vice President Public Policy - Kelsey Waits approved by a vote of 77; Treasurer – Beth Nienow approved by a vote of 76 and Nominating Committee - Mary Chorewycz of St Paul Branch approved by a vote of 76.

**Annual Budget:** Janice Quist, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the 2023 – 2024 (FY24) Budget. The FY24 Budget was approved by a vote of 76.

**Distribution of Funds Report:** Rajani Sohni, Vice President for AAUW Funds, supplemented her report that is in the Annual Meeting Booklet with information she received after its publication. For 2022 AAUW Funds Contributions, the Minneapolis Branch had the highest branch contribution, the Rochester Branch had the highest number of individual member contributions. The Moorhead Branch had the highest per capita contributions followed by the Metro West Branch. The total of Minnesota contributions to AAUW Funds for 2022 was \$103,473.00.

**Presentation of Resolutions:** Kelsey Waits, State Vice President for Public Policy, reported on the process that was used to present resolutions to the Annual Meeting. She also advised that “The AAUW MN State Board voted to suspend Article XVIII. Section 4. F. (6) of the Bylaws regarding resolutions from the floor. Resolutions will not be accepted from the floor.” Vice President Waits reported the vote as follows:

**Resolution #1** submitted by the Minneapolis Branch “AAUW Minnesota will vigorously support passing the ERA for the Minnesota Constitution” was approved by a vote of 77.

**Resolution #2** submitted by the Minneapolis Branch “AAUW Minnesota will vigorously support ratification of the ERA in the 118th Congress” was approved by a vote of 76 with 1 vote to disapprove.

**Resolution #3** submitted by the Ely Branch “Branches in Minnesota will actively work to become inclusive in their membership, education, branch activities and advocacy” was approved by a vote of 72 with 2 votes to disapprove.

Vice President Waits also reported that branches have sent 2,000 post cards to legislators in support of issues chosen by the branches. The issues are ERA, Gender Equity, Education and Reproductive Health Care.

**Reports that do not require a membership vote:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Beth Nienow, State Treasurer, submitted her report to the Board and it has been filed for review by the Financial Review Committee.

**Financial Review Committee Report:** The Committee, comprised of Caroline Owens (chair), Jan Bensen, Janice Quist and Deanne Ensley, has submitted its 2021 – 2022 (FY22) Financial Review Report to the Board and found the State AAUW records to be in good order.

**Presentation of AAUW Facebook ad "*Stronger Together*".**

**Legacy Circle:** President Carey offered AAUW's appreciation for Legacy Circle members. There are now 67 Minnesota Legacy Circle members. Anyone interested in including AAUW in her estate plan can contact AAUW Director of Advancement Katrina Sun Breese.

**Appreciation:** President Carey thanked those who helped with the Annual Meeting, especially Teresa Sagen, Administrative Assistant, for her technical assistance, administrative advice and organizational skills. She thanked Board members for their work. She also recognized the importance of all members to fulfill the mission of AAUW's own ERA – Education, Research and Advocacy. President Carey thanked all who will work to grow AAUW MN, so that AAUW may continue to fulfill its mission for the next 140 years.

**AAUW Central States Regional Conference:** President Carey invited everyone to attend the conference in St Louis, MO, Oct 19-21, 2023. She has been working on the planning committee and looks forward to an excellent convention celebrating *AAUW: Reaching New Heights Together*.

**Recognition of Service:** President Carey called for a moment of silence in memory of members who during their lifetimes gave so much to AAUW MN and their respective branches.

**Adjournment:** Sandra Martell moved that this meeting be adjourned. Joyce Peterson seconded the motion. There being no opposition, President Carey declared the Annual Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Sandra Martell  
Secretary/Historian

**AAUW Minnesota  
FY 23  
July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

	YTD	FY23 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Refund of Convention Advance		\$ 1,000.00
Convention Profit		\$ 2,000.00
Other contributions/Passthrough	\$ 1,750.00	
Membership Dues	\$ 17,316.00	\$ 12,177.00
Interest/Dividend Income	\$ 3.58	\$ 1.00
900 Transfer from Savings/Investments		\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 19,069.58</b>	<b>\$ 25,178.00</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>State Meeting/Conventions</b>		
10 Regional Convention Contribution	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
21 Host Branch Advance		\$ 1,000.00
23 Board Expenses		\$ 1,721.00
27 Award Recipient Costs/Gifts		\$ 500.00
<b>State Convention Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,221.00</b>

<b>Board of Directors</b>		
40A Mileage	\$ 2,070.15	\$ 1,000.00
40B Meals	\$ 429.94	\$ 800.00
40C Lodging/Meeting Room	\$ 315.80	\$ 1,500.00
43 Financial Records Review	\$ 33.22	\$ 65.00
45 State Leader on Loan		\$ 250.00
48 Web Site	\$ 633.16	\$ 500.00
<b>Total Board of Directors</b>	<b>\$ 3,482.27</b>	<b>\$ 4,115.00</b>

<b>Administration</b>		
50 Postage	\$ 52.98	\$ 120.00
51 Copying/Printing	\$ 282.29	\$ 350.00
53 Supplies/Stationery	\$ 264.70	\$ 150.00
54 Assumed Named Certificate		
<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>\$ 599.97</b>	<b>\$ 620.00</b>

<b>Other Expenses</b>		
Miscellaneous expenses/Pass Through	\$ 1,750.00	
60 Minnesota Pine		\$ 1,100.00
110 Public Policy		
70 Coalitions		\$ 750.00
75 Donations to AAUW Funds	\$ 2,000.00	
80 Visibility/Marketing		
700 Branch Project Grants	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 5,000.00
800 NCCWSL Grants	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
900 Transfer to Savings/Investments (year end)		
<b>Other Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,850.00</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 15,082.24</b>	<b>\$ 26,806.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 19,069.58</b>	<b>\$ 25,178.00</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 3,987.34</b>	

<b>Checking Account Balance 6/30/2023</b>	<b>\$ 32,373.64</b>
<b>Savings Account Balance 6/30/2023</b>	<b>\$ 25,017.76</b>
<b>Total Funds 6/30/2023</b>	<b>\$ 57,391.40</b>

RESERVE REQUIREMENTS. \$25,000

## AAUW MN Financial Review Year ending June 30, 2023

August 16, 2023 St. Paul College Club 990 Summit Ave St. Paul MN

Attending: Caroline Owens, Beth Nienow, Janice Quist, Barb Wismer by Zoom, Teresa Sagen, Jan Bensen

A number of documents were presented for review:

AAUW MN State Board Meeting minutes 2022-2023

AAUW Finance Motions 2022-2023

AAUW MN FY 2023 budget

AAUW MN FY 2023 Financial Statement

AAUW MN Requisition Records

And background information: AAUW MN Bylaws, AAUW MN Standing Rules, Retaining Records and Financial Review from AAUW National Finance Toolkit

The Treasurer had the financial records available through Quicken and Google Drive to answer questions.

The committee reviewed a sample of items from the requisition list and made the following recommendations.

Mileage: Was the paid amount consistent with the Board authorization of \$.50/mile? Yes. That per mile amount will continue to be paid until the Board sets a new reimbursement amount.

All Finance motions were tracked and matched to an RFP number and a check number.  
Tracking payment: several line items were audited, tracking request, payment authorization, and payment.

A question regarding a discrepancy between a Donation to AAUW Funds on the Budget of \$1000 and a donation of \$2000 in the financial statement was explained by an email motion 5/29/23 authorizing a donation for \$1000 to AAUW Funds in honor of Deanna Ensley.

No checks were outstanding.

Several finance motions from the 6/24/23 board meeting will apply to the 2023-2024 budget.

The actual expenses for 2022-23 came in under the proposed budget. The budget is just an estimate of approved expenditures. Income was higher due to new member dues. The actual expenses were less because fewer Branches requested assistance from the State for NCCWSL grants and Branch projects.

Under Other Expenses, the Miscellaneous expenses/Pass Through were instances of the State acting as a fiscal agent and receiving donations as a 501c (3) organization, then passing the donations back to the intended Branches which are 501c(4) organizations. Activities such as this will be reported in the Board minutes as "State acting as fiscal agent for \_\_branch X\_\_".  
The State filing of Form 990 has been done. AAUW National will do that filing for AAUW MN.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Labeling of an RFP and payment of RFP: The treasurer and the finance chair will create a new labeling system so that the Requisition record number, date, and the Paid RFP record are labeled the same. This will facilitate searching for a particular item and tracking payment. There is no effect on the current accuracy of the information.

Reporting to Board: The treasurer's report to the Board will note the motion approving the attached RFP and the corresponding payment. This will make the process a matter of record. This process can be adopted by Branches as well.

The Committee found the records in good order.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

Jan Bensen, Chair

<b>AAUW Minnesota Budget Proposal</b>				
<b>FY 2025</b>				
<b>Janice Quist, Finance Chair</b>				
		<b>Amended</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
		<b>FY24 Budget</b>	<b>3/3/2024</b>	<b>FY25 Budget</b>
<b>Planning</b>	1412 Dues Paying Membership \$9.00	1622	1622	1412
	182 Honorary Life Members			182
	34 Student Membership \$2.00			34
<b>Income</b>	<b>Income</b>			
	Refund of State Meeting Advance	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
	State Meeting Profit	\$ 2,000.00		
	Other contributions/Passthrough		\$ 1,075.00	
	Membership Dues	\$ 11,317.00	\$ 9,386.00	\$ 12,708.00
	Interest/Dividend Income	\$ 2.00	\$ 7.25	\$ 5.00
	Silent Auction for AAUW Funds			\$ 1,000.00
900	From Reserves	\$ 17,200.00	\$ 17,200.00	\$ 15,800.00
	Misc. Income		\$ 2,000.00	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 31,519.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,668.25</b>	<b>\$ 30,513.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Regional Meeting</b>			
10	Regional Meeting	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,583.60	\$ 1,700.00
	<b>State Annual Meeting</b>			
21	Host Branch Advance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
23	Board Expenses	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
27	Award Recipient Costs/Gifts	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
	Confluence down payment		\$ 2,500.00	
	<b>State/Regional Meetings Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,083.60</b>	<b>\$ 4,200.00</b>
	<b>Board of Directors</b>			
40A	Mileage	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 2,000.00
40B	Meals	\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00
40C	Lodging/Meeting Room	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 337.00	\$ 1,500.00
43	Financial Records Review	\$ 100.00	\$ 95.89	\$ 100.00
45	State Leader on Loan	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
48	Web Site	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 238.16	\$ 250.00
	<b>Total Board of Directors</b>	<b>\$ 4,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,696.05</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
	<b>Administration</b>			
50	Postage	\$ 120.00	\$ 144.66	\$ 150.00
51	Other Copying/Printing	\$ 800.00	\$ 604.70	\$ 100.00
53	Other Expenses	\$ 150.00	\$ 237.29	\$ 250.00
54	Assumed Named Certificate			\$ 45.00
	<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 1,070.00</b>	<b>\$ 986.65</b>	<b>\$ 545.00</b>
	<b>Other Expenses</b>			
	Miscellaneous expenses/Pass Through		\$ 1,000.00	
60	Minnesota Pine	\$ 500.00		
110	Public Policy	\$ 500.00		\$ 300.00
70	Coalitions			
75	Silent Auction Donations to AAUW Funds			\$ 1,000.00
80	Visibility/Marketing/Membership	\$ 49.00		\$ 1,200.00
700	Branch Project Grants	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
800	NCCWSL Grants	\$ 15,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
	Young Women for Equity Awards			\$ 1,500.00
	<b>Other Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,049.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 31,499.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,766.30</b>	<b>\$ 30,445.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 31,519.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,668.25</b>	<b>\$ 30,513.00</b>
	<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,901.95</b>	<b>\$ 68.00</b>
	<b>Checking Account Balance 9/22/2023</b>		<b>\$ 35,609.12</b>	
	<b>Savings Account Balance 9/22/2023</b>		<b>\$ 25,023.99</b>	
	<b>Total Funds 9/22/2023</b>		<b>\$ 60,633.11</b>	
	RESERVE REQUIREMENTS \$25,000.00			

## 2024 Nominating Committee Report

The 2024 AAUW of Minnesota Nominating committee respectfully submits the following slate of candidates for state officer positions.

### **PRESIDENT 2024-2026 \***

#### **KELSEY WAITS**



Kelsey has belonged to AAUW since 2017 and is currently a member of the St. Paul Branch. She has served as Vice President of Public Policy for AAUW MN since 2022. Outside of AAUW duties, Kelsey is very involved in gender equity work around the state, lobbying at the local, state, and national level. Kelsey has two amazing kids (one of whom homeschools), she serves on the Board of Directors for OutFront MN, runs a non-profit care farm for the LGBTQ+ community, and is a PhD student in Public

Policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

### **VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP 2024-2026**

No candidate has applied for this position.

### **VICE PRESIDENT AAUW FUNDS 2024-2026**

#### **BARB WONSON LIUKKONEN**



Barb has belonged to AAUW since 1976, as member in four branches across Minnesota: Duluth, Crookston, Northeast Metro, and Ely. She has served in leadership roles at the branch and state levels, including as branch EF, LAF, and Funds chair; branch Co-President; state LAF chair (1995-1997); and Funds VP (2018-2020). She has served on planning committees for two National Conventions and for multiple Minnesota State Conventions. Barb has been a member and/or chair of numerous AAUW-MN committees such as Bylaws,

Resolutions, Nominating, and the selection committee for Mission in Motion and Branch Projects grants.

### **SECRETARY/HISTORIAN 2024-2026**

#### **SAUNDRA MARTELL**

Saundra has a B.A. from Vanderbilt University (1968) and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law (1971). She practiced law in Washington, D.C., for the Navy Department and the Department of Justice and then she served as a Board of Contract Appeals Judge. She moved to Minneapolis, where she became General Counsel of S. J. Groves & Co., an international contractor. Finally, Saundra joined the General Counsel's Office of the University of Minnesota to establish the Transactional Law Division. She retired in 2007. After retirement her late husband and she spent winters in Marco Island, FL, where she served as President, VP Membership and Newsletter editor for AAUW Marco Island. Returning to MN, to the family lake house near Longville, she joined AAUW Brainerd, where she has served as VP Membership, VP Program, Newsletter editor and Secretary. On the AAUW MN Board, Saundra has served as Secretary/Historian, Pine Editor, and Bylaws Chair.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2024-2025 (for 2025 Elections)**

#### **MARY CHOREWYCZ**

Mary is from the St Paul Branch, is a past president of the St Paul Branch, and a past Nominating Committee member.

\*Due the unfortunate loss of our President-Elect, the Bylaws state "If a vacancy shall occur in the office of president-elect, that office shall remain vacant until the next state meeting at which time the nominating committee shall submit a nominee for the office of president to be elected at that meeting."



# 2024-2026 AAUW MN Public Policy Priorities

## Biennial Action Priorities

**To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW advocates:**

- Strengthening and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education;
- Adequate and equitable funding for and access to quality public education, including early childhood education, for all students;
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools;
- Increased support for and protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and comprehensive sexual health education;
- Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women, including alleviating the debt burden that disproportionately impacts borrowers of color and exacerbates the racial wealth gap; and
- Support for practices that halt the flow of students from schools to prisons, including reforming school disciplinary practices that disproportionately punish girls and students of color.

**To achieve economic security for all women, AAUW advocates:**

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits;
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, free from systemic barriers and biases, including vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination statutes;
- Closing the gender and race gaps in leadership opportunities for women of all backgrounds;
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care and paid family, medical, and sick leave;

- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women’s entrepreneurship;
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential;
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from privatization;
- Access for all women to the full range of health care services to ensure economic security; and
- Increasing the number of quality jobs that pay a living wage.

**To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates:**

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights;
- Complete, accurate and timely collection of data, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender identity to inform policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation;
- Self-determination of one’s reproductive health decisions;
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care, including insurance, and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients’ rights;
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities;
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women’s and girls’ concerns;
- Freedom in the definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures; and
- Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

# AAUW of Minnesota 2024 Annual Meeting Resolution

## ERA IN MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION

**WHEREAS** the 2023-2025 National AAUW Public Policy Priorities directly call for the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); AND

**WHEREAS** the Minnesota Constitution does not have an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); AND

**WHEREAS** the lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women's lives. The ERA would clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination in employment and wages, reproductive rights, insurance, Social Security, education, and more is a violation of constitutional rights. Importantly, the ERA would also provide new opportunities to seek legal recourse when an individual faces sex discrimination and would place the burden of proof on those who discriminate instead of those fighting for equality; AND

**WHEREAS** Minnesota AAUW is one of the allies of ERA MINNESOTA; AND

**WHEREAS** there are companion bills in the Minnesota Legislature, HF00173 and SF0037, with inclusive Equal Rights Amendment companion text: The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2024 general election. If ratified, the amendment is effective January 1, 2025. The question submitted must be: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended by adding a specific guarantee that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that AAUW Minnesota vigorously supports passing the ERA to the Minnesota Constitution.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The AAUW Minnesota State Public Policy Vice President will provide the information in this resolution to the branches to provide to their members and encourage them to contact their Senators and Representatives to support the Equal Rights Amendment.

Submitted by

Jacqueline Falk  
Public Policy Liaison  
AAUW Duluth Branch  
2524 Branch Street  
Duluth, MN 55812

## **AAUW MN VP Membership Report Submitted by Pat Powers**

AAUW has been ever evolving. Recently AAUW aired “A Journey Through Time” with AAUW Archivist, Jessica Miller. Let me reiterate some changes we have seen over our 142 years. First of all, our original name was the Association of Collegiate Alumnae and all members had graduate degrees. Every two years the bylaws were updated. A few organizations came together and took on the name American Association of University Women.

Marie Curie who won 2 Nobel Prizes for her work with radium could not join AAUW, she moved to the US and had a foreign degree. She needed money to carry on her work. AAUW raised \$150,000 for her. That money was passed down to her daughter and when she passed away, the money came back to AAUW. It was the beginning of our American Fellows fund. In 1921 foreign degrees were accepted. Judith Resnick, the astronaut, was an American Fellow. In 1988 Eleanor Roosevelt, diplomat, activist, and member was only allowed to be an honorary member after she received an honorary doctorate. She had a high school education and regretted she did not pursue a college degree. Criteria for membership at the time were very detailed. Not all degrees were equal. Colleges had to apply and pass an investigation to have their students join AAUW. Schools had to have equity for women with women as department heads. Diverse populations were not accepted. In the college investigation both the college and individual departments had to pass to allow AAUW membership. Only some degrees from those schools qualified. It was a labor-intensive project to get your college approved. President Hoover’s (1929) wife had a degree from Stanford and could not join. In the 1930’s and 40’s you had to be asked to be a member. You needed to be the right quality of person and you had to have a site visit of your home. It was a socially and racially homogenous group. During WWII Albert Einstein recommended helping educated women emigrate to the US to save their lives. At least 150 women were helped and got jobs in the US. AAUW raised money and helped women get jobs in schools. In 1961, Nancy Pelosi could not join. In 2009 the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law and Lilly who was supported by AAUW could not be a member. After the signing of the bill into law, Lilly was off to speak at an AAUW meeting.

It was in 1961 that all bachelor’s degrees were accepted as credentials for AAUW. In 1963 all colleges were accepted. National accreditation of the colleges became the criteria. AAUW became much more open. In 1987 “any individual can join” opening the organization to men. In 1989 George H.W. Bush was the first member of AAUW to become president of the US. In the 1970’s there was a mission statement focused on equity – Equity in pay, equity in treatment and equity in education.

Our Archives tell a story. Looking back on our history, we had some elite criteria that were re-evaluated every 2 years. This year we are voting on a major decision, a monumental decision. We have the opportunity to open AAUW to a new wave of members who believe in our mission. Voting is open April 3 through May 15. Look for an encrypted ballot email from Simply Voting. One person, one vote!

**MEMBERSHIP RECORDS FEB 1 2024  
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>Life Member (MBL)</b>	<b>Annual Branch Member (MOB) (+Students)</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Percent of Change %</b>
Albert Lea	1	13	15	14	-6.6
Alexandria Area	0	14	12	14	16.6
Austin	2	65	67	67	0
Brainerd	1	34	37	37	0
Duluth	11	63	75	76	1.3
Ely	5	68	66	73	10.6
Faribault	9	37	44	46	4.5
Fergus Falls	2	44	42	46	9.5
Grand Rapids	7	76	79	83	5.0
Hastings	4	98	104	102	-1.9
Hibbing	3	61	64	64	0
Metro West	7	13	35	20	-42.8
Minneapolis	38	197	253	235	-7.1
Northfield	6	18	25	25	0
Owatonna	4	38	42	42	0
Red Wing Area	2	45	51	48	-5.8
Rochester	29	76	106	105	-0.9
Saint Cloud Area	8	72	136	106	-22.1
Saint Croix Valley	6	26	31	32	3.2
Saint Paul	24	286	281	312	11.0
Thief River Falls	0	2	17	2	-88.2
Virginia Area	1	19	15	20	33.3
Willmar	6	26	31	32	3.2
Winona	3	20	23	23	0
National Members who pay State dues	0	2	0	2	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>1653</b>	<b>1626</b>	<b>-3.3</b>

**The top branches with membership increases (based upon February 1, 2024 membership)**

- St. Paul 31**
- Ely 7**
- Virginia 5**
- Fergus Falls 4**
- Grand Rapids 4**

# **AAUW MN Vice President of Program Report Submitted by Karen Kirkwood, VP Program**

Thank you to everyone who has made this year go smoothly after my appointment to this position, especially all the help from Teresa Sagen!

Following is the AAUW MN 2024 Helping Our Branches Report with information about the Strategic Plan Action Grants and NCCWSL Grants awarded to branches for 2024. Thanks to branches who applied for these grants. We look forward to hearing more about the implementation of your grants and the experiences of the students you are sponsoring for NCCWSL 2024.

Branch Highlights are included in the annual meeting booklet. Be sure to read them for their great ideas! Thanks to all branches that submitted their highlights.

In 2024, I intend to offer program ideas to branches to help them further the AAUW Mission.

## **AAUW MN 2024 Helping Our Branches Report**

For 2024, the AAUW MN Board approved the following grants and awards:

- Ten \$500 Strategic Action Plan Grants that focus on one or more Goal Areas in AAUW MN's Strategic Action Plan and to help Minnesota branches achieve AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
- Up to 15 \$1000 NCCWSL Grants to assist branches to sponsor a student for the 2024 NCCWSL at The University of Maryland
- Two Young Women for Equity Awards – These awards are based on a project or activity specifically addressing women's and girls' equity issues, reflecting AAUW's mission.

### **2024 Strategic Plan Action Grants were awarded to...**

#### **1. AAUW Brainerd Area - \$500**

The Brainerd Lakes Area AAUW branch is working to understand the major issues that stymie pay equity for women as they apply to their local area of Minnesota. Gender pay equity has been a topic of interest of their members and they plan to invite other local organizations to join them in becoming more aware of the need for action on pay equity. They are proposing a series of educational presentations during the next year. The initial presentation in Fall 2024 will be by AAUW MN Public Policy Chair on Minnesota pay equity issues, ERA MN and related advocacy efforts of AAUW. They will collaborate with Central Lakes College to offer Start Smart/Work Smart to the CLC students. During March 2025 Women's History month, they will feature a speaker on Pay Equity Issues for Women and Businesses or a similar topic and find opportunities to work with local businesses on affirmations to pay equity. The pay equity

affirmations project has been conducted by the Ely AAUW branch. Brainerd is considering ways to effectively replicate the pay equity affirmations project that was conducted by AAUW Ely.

## **2. AAUW Ely - \$500**

AAUW Ely is hosting the 2024 Northland Gathering of six Northeastern Minnesota branches on Saturday October 12, 2024. The theme of the gathering is “**Neighbor to Neighbor: Bringing Advocacy Home.**” It will include panel discussions and speakers who have made positive impacts in their communities. They will discuss leadership skills and strategies that they have used to advocate for change and initiate improvements where they reside. Another focus is to provide a time for collaboration and peer-sharing between branches with an emphasis on assisting attendees to effectively confront issues and to advocate for improvements in their own communities, particularly when it comes to those issues that provide opportunities and promote equality for women and girls.

## **3. AAUW Red Wing Area - \$1000**

The AAUW Red Wing Area will use the grant to accomplish the third year of their successful Red Wing Public School Literacy initiative. Their goal for this year is to have a positive impact on reading for the 3rd graders in Red Wing Public School District as they prepare to take the (MCA) MN Comprehensive Assessment by supporting a fun and creative learning opportunity. The focus of improving the learning environment aligns with AAUW MN’s Strategic Plan to “Champion equal access to all levels and fields of education.”

## **2024 NCCWSL \$1000 Grants**

Twelve Branches contacted AAUW MN stating their intention of sponsoring a student for NCCWSL: Brainerd Area, Duluth, Ely, Hastings, Hibbing, Minneapolis, Northfield, Owatonna, Red Wing Area, Rochester, St. Paul, and Willmar.

As of 4/8/2024, the following branches have provided the required student registration receipt and have been awarded/received the \$1000 grant:

AAUW Brainerd  
AAUW Ely  
AAUW Minneapolis  
AAUW Owatonna  
AAUW Rochester  
AAUW Willmar

## **2024 Young Women for Equity Awards**

Young Women for Equity Awardees will be announced at the 2024 AAUW MN Annual Meeting. As of the 3/31/2024 deadline, two applications for the \$500 High School Award were received. **Following are the two recipients of the Award, along with a description of their Projects.**

## **Rhyen Miska**

### **Nominated by Lisa Hedin, AAUW Hastings**

Rhyen Miska is a senior at Hastings High School. She spent nearly four years working towards achieving gender equity within her community. She has been president of her school's feminism club since 10th grade, where she participated in and led various projects addressing every aspect of the AAUW mission. She partnered with the Hastings branch on a public presentation on gender pay equity with guest speakers from the Federal Reserve in 2022. Rhyen also met with politicians to advocate, created editorials to increase feminist awareness throughout her high school, and brought a self-defense class to her high school three years in a row.

Rhyen was nominated for a “product drive” she created at her high school this past year where she and her peers collected much more than clothing or other typical items for The Lewis House, a shelter for women and their children escaping domestic violence, a resource that provides housing and food, legal advice, and court support, and connects residents with resources necessary to win their cases and live on their own. By volunteering at the shelter for over a year, she gained understanding and knowledge about the needs of the residents and the shelter at large. Rhyen had full responsibility for planning and executing the drive by creating slideshows for the product drive announcements and by organizing a group of volunteers who created posters to advertise the drive. Rhyen stated, “By making the Lewis House Product Drive an institution at my high school, I believe I've left a legacy of advocacy and equity behind me and look forward to doing similar when I continue my education at university.”

AAUW MN is pleased to honor Rhyen Miska for her achievements and her leadership. She will be presented with a certificate and a check for \$500 during the 2024 AAUW MN State Meeting.

## **Isha Kapoor**

### **Nominated by Sara Staab, AAUW Rochester**

Isha is a student at Mayo High School where she is Co-Chair of the Mayo High School Equity Team. She is the founder of **STEMGlow (Guided Learning for Girls of Color)**, and Founder/Chief Blogger for **STEMMirror** where she conducts interviews with female leaders in STEM to gain insights on barriers to pursuing STEM careers for women and to learning practical tips on seeking mentorship for students interested in STEM.

STEMGlow and STEMMirror were founded based on advocacy for young girls/women, to encourage them to pursue STEM-related passions and to showcase the obstacles that females often face in the STEM space. STEMGlow is the 1st STEM mentorship program for girls of color in Isha's school district. They provide research mentors, coach 50+ middle and elementary school students, and cover science fair participation costs for low-income students. This program was piloted at John Adams Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year.

The impact of STEMGlow and STEMMirror has been significant. In 2024, through the help of STEMGlow, around 25-30 John Adams students enrolled in the STEM mentorship program qualified for the MN State Science Fair, several of whom placed at both the regional and state science fair levels. The STEMMirror blog has over 2000 total hits, and it is presently used in schools across the state of Minnesota to educate the younger generation about existing inequities in STEM, especially across the gender divide.

Congratulations to Isha Kapoor for being honored for one of the 2024 Young Women for Equity Awards. Isha will be presented with a certificate and a check for \$500 at the AAUW MN Meeting.



# **AAUW MN Public Policy Report**

## **Submitted by Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN VP Public Policy**

Goals and priorities accomplished during the 2023-2024 year:

- Presented two webinars on the state of Minnesota's Equal Rights Amendment that all branches were able to participate in. Recordings of these webinars were sent out to branches to distribute to their membership, if so desired.
- Worked with AAUW MN Duluth to present information on the Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment to their members. This presentation included addressing concerns that organizations in Duluth have raised regarding the ERA.
- Presented a webinar on the open membership vote that all AAUW MN members were able to participate in.
- Spoke at the February 12 ERA MN rally on behalf of AAUW.
- Continued to represent AAUW in discussions with other state organizations as we strategize how to get an ERA over the finish line in Minnesota.
- Worked with branches to submit resolutions for the yearly meeting.
- Continued monthly meetings with VPs of Public Policy around the country as we received updates from National on AAUW's public policy priorities.
- Had one-on-one meetings with national to discuss AAUW MN's advocacy work. We also discussed strategies to address some of the common concerns that we are hearing (both state and nationally) regarding how women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights are intertwined.
- Worked with national to develop 2-minute activist page for the state ERA, allowing branches to easily contact their state representatives and senators.
- Worked with national to develop email action alerts for the February 12 rally to increase the turnout of AAUW MN members.

As my term as VP Public Policy continues, I plan to:

- Continue meeting with branch public policy chairs.
- Continue working with organizations such as ERA MN and Gender Justice to best determine how AAUW MN can be involved in the passage of our state ERA.

# AAUW Funds Report and Named Grant Honorees

## Rajani Sohni, AAUW MN Funds VP

The Minnesota AAUW funds contributions for 2023, based on the December 2023 report received from National AAUW, are listed below:

Grand Total: \$89,630.49

The majority of the donations were made supporting the 9110-AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. The other funds supported by MN AAUW are: 4450-Education & Training Fund, 4449-Economic Security Fund, 2504-National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarships, and 4452-Leadership Fund.

Based on the most recent report received from National, the highest branch contribution amount is from the Rochester Branch. AAUW Rochester also had the highest individual contribution and the highest number of individual contributions. Every branch contribution represents the generosity and support of programs vital to the organization.

Through their AAUW Funds contributions, many branches across Minnesota qualified to honor special people as Named Grant Honorees. A branch was able to recognize one special person for every \$750 that it contributed to one of the previously mentioned AAUW funds.

Below is the list of 2023 Named Grant Honorees received from the various branches as of March 18, 2024. We acknowledge and thank these women, who were recognized for their contributions to AAUW, their branches, and their communities. AAUW MN branches should be proud of their work and financial awards they've each given in the names of these deserving individuals.

<b>Brainerd</b>	Mary Farmer
<b>Duluth</b>	Angela George, Linda LeGarde-Grover
<b>Ely</b>	Barb Soderberg, Pat Merfeld, Marge Forsberg
<b>Faribault</b>	“In honor of all the women who have worked at our Faribault AAUW Book Sales from the 1960’s to our last one in 2024”
<b>Hastings</b>	Shirley Tammen, Ramona McCullough, Diane Saed
<b>Hibbing</b>	Sara Merfeld
<b>Minneapolis</b>	Ann Vanvick, Jennifer Johnson, Leslie Swenson, Julie Ollila, Marilyn Listvan, Ginny Craig
<b>Owatonna</b>	Marla Holt
<b>Red Wing</b>	Annamarie Rose
<b>Rochester</b>	Marilyn Stewart, Wendy Shannon, Stacy Haugen, Amy Caucutt
<b>St. Paul</b>	Alice Faribault, Carol Gregorson, Karen Kirkwood, Avis Tilden, Carol Oeltjenbruns, Carolyn Sorenson, Sharon Klumpp, Kay Hoskins, Jan Quist, Jan Hertel

The AAUW Board of Directors extends its heartfelt appreciation to these visionary Legacy Circle Members for their generous commitment to our organization. We are profoundly grateful for your dedication and support.

---

ANONYMOUS	MARY LILLQUIST	JAIME PRICE
LUCILLE BARNES-DIESSLIN	BARBARA LINK	KAREN REICHENSBERGER
KAREN CHRISTENSON	BANI MAHADEVA	PATRICIA RICE
YVONNE CONDELL	ELIZABETH MAHAN	COLLEEN ROLLING
SUSAN GROVE	EILEEN NEWHOUSE	ROBERT ROSENBROOK
CATHERINE HASLAG	BETH NIENOW	TERESA SAGEN
VERONICA JOHNSON	ALTA OBEN	THOMAS SHAW
MARILYN KAELI	RENÉ PERRANCE	NANCY SOMMER
KAREN KIRKWOOD		BARBARA WONSON- LIUKKONEN



## **Secretary/Historian, Pine Editor and Bylaws Chair Annual Report 2023 – 2024 Submitted by Sandra Martell**

I prepared and distributed Minutes of June 24, 2023, September 30, 2023, November 28, 2023, January 6, 2024, February 3, 2024, and March 2, 2024 Board Meetings and added these documents to the AAUW MN electronic and hard copy records. Before each Board Meeting, I compiled Board Member Reports and distributed them to all members by email. I continued to compile records to be archived and information for the Decade History Project.

I edited the Summer and Fall 2023 and Winter and Spring 2024 editions of *The Pine*.

I resolved archive issue for Northeast Metro Branch arising from closing the Branch and accepted the Branch's records for submission to the Minnesota Historical Society by AAUW MN when a submission may be made. I published an Archive Information Memo on May 15, 2023, to Branches and the State Board informing them of MHS's current archive protocol and recommending local archive sites.

I reviewed the Bylaws changes made by National and prepared a draft revised Bylaws for AAUW MN, provided branches a revised bylaws update and instructions with regard to making branch Bylaws comply with the revised National Bylaws.

## **AAUW MN Administrative Assistant and Website Manager Report Submitted by Teresa Sagen**

During the 2023-2024 year, I supported the AAUW MN Board and Branches by

- Arranging meeting venues for in-person state board meetings and scheduling Zoom meetings for State Board Meeting and State President's meetings with Branch Presidents/Contacts;
- Updating and compiling the 2023-2024 AAUW MN State Directory;
- Compiling the 2024 Helping Our Branches Booklet;
- Collecting NCCWSL Grants, Strategic Action Plan Grants, and Young Women for Equity Awards and completing Requests for Payments as needed;
- Compiling the AAUW MN 2024 Annual Meeting Booklet;
- Serving as Chair of the Credentials Committee and assisted branches to identify the appropriate number of delegates for the State Meeting based upon February 1 Membership numbers; and
- Sending emails to all AAUW MN members with links to *The Pine* and other communications.

Since resuming the role of website manager in Fall, 2023, I have worked to keep information as current as possible using Word Press and by collaborating with AAUW Site-Resources for additional changes to the website.

# AAUW MN Branch Highlights

## 2023-2024

### **AAUW Albert Lea**

Albert Lea Branch hosted Michael Brindisi and his wife, Michelle Barber. The funds will be used for a scholarship for a theater student. Michael attended Lea College in Albert Lea in the 1960's and helped with ACT theater productions. They were instrumental in developing MFT, Minnesota Festival Theater, a professional theater. They have produced over 100 shows at Chanhassen Dinner Theater. They give credit to the Albert Lea community for giving them their start in theater. Now, "Beautiful", a biography of Carole King, is playing with their daughter, Cat, directing along with her father, Michael, for the first time. The reviews call the musical a fantastic team production.

### **AAUW Alexandria Area**

Project Bookshelf has been our signature event for 34 years. Each year, with the support of individuals, local businesses, and organizations, we collect new books and purchase books for children and young adults. The books are given to Jingle Bells for distribution through their holiday program. Boxes with food and gifts are delivered to families in need. Project Bookshelf ensures that books are among the gifts in these boxes. This year, we were able to donate 390 books.

For the last several years, we have awarded two scholarships to women in the Early Education Program at Alexandria Technical and Community College. Scholarships are funded by AAUW members.

The last three years, we have designated March as our read and discuss a book month. Our choice this year is *Caste – The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson.

### **AAUW Austin**

Our programming continues to focus on AAUW issues. This year we have had programs featuring an education entity in town, a breast cancer research scientist, women veterans, a high school entrepreneur program, women's history month featuring a local legend, and of course, social time.

We held our fourth annual Story Show and raised almost \$5000.00 while raising awareness of the importance of people's stories. We have also formed a partnership with the community college foundation to make the event even better.

For Women's History month, we are continuing to sponsor a contest for women's history project with an AP History class. We provide the winners with cash prizes. This March, Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Anne McKeig will give a presentation at Austin High School at an all-school assembly. We continue to have very active small group activities: two book groups, Great Decisions, Travel Group, and a monthly luncheon.

### **AAUW Brainerd Area**

The Brainerd AAUW branch formed in 1963. This was the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for our branch. We kicked off the anniversary year with a party on September 16, 2023. We have a branch history book that was printed and shared with each member. The celebration featured personal remembrances of branch activities and a display of AAUW mementos from theater productions, conventions, and dinner parties.

Economics security has been the focus of several branch meetings and book discussions this year. Programs included “Toil in the Soil and Elsewhere”, a potluck of locally harvested, locally sourced products, “Using the Money Matrix for Fun and Financial Health”, “How to Avoid Scams” and a March Women's History Month presentation with Central Lakes College (a C/U affiliate) focused on “Gender Pay Gap” with sharing of Start Smart salary negotiation tips. Books we read on the topic of economic security include *Poverty by America* by Matthew Desmond and *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver focused on the impact of institutional poverty on the lives of children in the rural south today based on the Charles Dickens classic book *David Copperfield*.

The Brain Buster Trivia Challenge was held on January 20, 2024. It was well attended by 25 teams. We raised over \$3,000 to use for our local scholarships.

### **AAUW Duluth**

The Duluth Branch had our Summer Social in September at the Hartley Nature Center. In October we hosted the Northland Get Together, “Women Leaders: View from the Top” and had a wonderful turnout and inspirational day. In November, we heard the stories of “United for Ukraine: Perspectives from Asylum Seekers and Host Families”. Our Winter Social in December shared the music of the Lyric Opera of the North’s Sarah Lawrence with us.

January brought Kelsey Waits and Jackie Falk to discuss how to pass the ERA in Minnesota. We invited the League of Women Voters to join us, and together we took a bus to lobby the capital for the ERA. We continued, “The Daughters Series” over Zoom in February with Celesta Brainard, daughter of Diana Brainard, who shared her story, “Dancing through Rejection.” March took us to the theater with the local production of *Next to Normal* and dinner. In April one of our former scholarship winners, Kelly Mullan, will share her doctoral research which considers the impact the absence of fat bodies on social media has on teenage women in Duluth with #emBODYgram: Feminism, Fatness and Visual Representation on Instagram. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for May at the beautiful Kitchi Gammi Club.

### **AAUW Ely**

During the past year, our branch sponsored several events focusing on issues affecting women. Human Trafficking & Exploitation in Minnesota was a compelling presentation to a community audience by a federal contractor with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office on Trafficking in Persons and the Executive Director of the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Violence (PAVSA). A powerful program on sexual assault and trafficking was provided by the Executive Director of Sexual Assault Program for North St. Louis County. One of our community presentations, Treaty Promises and Indigenous Health Care, was provided by one of our branch members, a doctor who has worked throughout the world. Our branch sponsored a one-woman performance of the life of Jeanette Rankin who, in 1916, was the first woman elected to Congress and was a champion of women’s rights and civil rights throughout her life. These presentations were coordinated by our branch and funding was in partnership with Ely EMPOWER (a local advocacy group for women in the Ely community).

In October, the branch held a successful “Unhappy Hour” Pub Crawl with a fabulous turnout from our community. The focus was on the pay inequity between women and men. Three younger members of our branch planned the event where members of the community visited four bars to get their “passport” stamped to be eligible for the drawing. The “passports” had pages of facts about pay inequity and history. Our branch received positive publicity via media outlets, conveyed information about

women's unequal pay, and received many comments/texts/Facebook posts from old, young, and in-between that it was such a fun event.

In February, the branch hosted a lunch for about 80 kids, mostly of Native American heritage, attending Indigenous Students Day at the Ely Film Festival where the kids watched impactful films about Indigenous culture and experiences. Branch members had fun serving the kids with the cost covered by AAUW Ely and Ely EMPOWER.

We believe most of our membership increase in the last two years is due to interest in our mission-based programs and visibility in the community because of our events. And we are thrilled that about 25 percent of our new members in the last year are under the age of 35.

### **AAUW Faribault**

This past year we hosted the annual Halloween breakfast in October and our Used Book Sale is coming up in May. Both of these fundraisers are well supported in our community. Sadly, this will be our last book sale after 50 years of raising money for AAUW.

We were able to give \$1,500 scholarships to three young women in our community.

During Women's History Month some of our members are writing articles on women in history which will be published in our Faribault newspaper.

Our monthly meetings included information on curbside recycling, diversity in our public schools, visions for our local library, travel to Israel and Palestine, revitalizing our downtown, a catered brunch for the holidays, a surprise coming in March, and a year-end catered picnic in May.

Our April meeting, we will be hosting a tri-branch luncheon with speakers for Northfield, Owatonna, and ourselves.

We continue to enjoy our social lives together with birthday celebrations and monthly get togethers for coffee, breakfast and chatting.

### **AAUW Fergus Falls**

The Fergus Falls Branch would love to share two of our recent highlights!

For over 25 years, members of the Fergus Falls branch have had the option of being part of a group "cultural trip", focusing on food, culture, arts, adventure, and building camaraderie among the group members. Destinations have included Winnipeg, the Iron Range, Upper and Lower St. Croix River towns, the Great River Road, multiple excursions in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, and other locales.

The trip to Minneapolis- St. Paul in October 2023 focused on Asian history, culture/arts, and food. Eleven members enjoyed food at Union Hmong Kitchen, Hot Pot City at Asia Mall, Lat 14, and Marc Heu Patisserie, as well as several options on Eat Street. The group also made stops at United Noodle and Coastal Seafoods and Midtown Global Market.

We visited the amazing, but little-known Normandale Japanese Gardens, Asian exhibits at Minneapolis Institute of Arts, a Korean play "Cookin'" at Children's Theater, and a concert at Aster Cafe by the Korean son of one of our members.

In addition, we had a book discussion of *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, about the clash of Hmong and American cultures. Yes, it was a busy weekend, but we learned a lot, enjoyed excellent food and art events, and enjoyed getting to know each other better.

Jeanne Jensen chooses the destination, creates the itinerary, makes all of the reservations, and makes hotel room and carpooling assignments. If anyone wants further information about previous weekend trips, contact Jeanne Jensen at [japiens@hotmail.com](mailto:japiens@hotmail.com)).

On February 10, 2024, at our annual brunch meeting we were entertained by a local woman who is getting her feet wet as a stand-up comedian. Her humorous stories about women as we age, gave us a lot to chuckle about! Our theme for programs this year is mental health--how can we help ourselves and others maintain emotional wellbeing? I think we all agreed, being able to laugh at ourselves is certainly one way to keep a positive attitude!

### **AAUW Hastings**

Hastings Branch had another terrific year in 2023-24. We maintained a membership in excess of 100, adding many new faces to our group.

We were recognized by AAUW National with a star for our programs this year. We make a concerted effort to schedule programs that are directly related to the AAUW Mission. For this year that included: Senator Mary Kunesh on the *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force*; Hennepin County Sheriff Dawanna S. Witt on *Perspectives of Women in Law Enforcement*; Dakota County Librarian Christy Wayne on *Book Selection Process in Dakota County Libraries*; Vicki Davis, retired Hastings educator, coach and official on *Title IX, Impact on Athletes and Sports at the College Level*.

We had unprecedented success with our branch's fundraising early in the program year; hosting a used book sale as a participant in our community's summer festival, and a third annual Wine Soirée (tasting) open to the public. This success allowed us to increase the dollar value of our scholarship awarded to a female high school student with outstanding academic success, as well as add a new scholarship for a female high school student entering a non-traditional area of study. We are prepared to scholarship two college students to the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders/NCCWSL. We were able to increase our support for Hastings Reads; a longstanding community "one-book" event.

In February AAUW Hastings and AAUW Red Wing Area shared the cost of a bus to allow a large contingent of members from both branches to attend the #Day1ERAMN rally at the Minnesota Capitol. This shared bus ride allowed for terrific fellowship and the enthusiasm and positivity of the day was invigorating to all who participated. We believe that the partnership started with the event will continue to grow between our branches.

### **AAUW Hibbing**

Hibbing had a very successful book sale last year. We had 70,000 very inexpensive books available to readers of all ages. Proceeds allowed us to award 7 scholarships to area high school and college students in addition to AAUW funds. We also donated to community projects which follow our mission. Several new members joined this year because they support the AAUW mission and want to work at our book sale.



In March, the Hibbing branch participated in a local Recreation Fair to highlight AAUW and hopefully attract new members. Also in March, the Hibbing branch **celebrated its 100th year**. The mayor of Hibbing proclaimed the date “AAUW Hibbing Day”.

We applied for one of the 2024 AAUW MN NCCWSL \$1000 grants and will be sending a Minnesota North – Hibbing student to NCCWSL at The University of Maryland.

### **AAUW Minneapolis**

The Minneapolis Branch has experienced a transformative and dynamic year, marked by continued change, strategic planning, and the successful execution of impactful events.

Over the past year, we have continued our commitment to adapt and evolve to meet the changing needs of our members and the community.

Since our time and energy are no longer needed to maintain a mansion and a business, we have focused on our future as an organization. Recognizing the importance of strategic foresight, the branch embarked on the development of a new strategic plan to guide our activities in the coming years. The planning process involved input from members to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach. The plan outlines clear objectives, strategies, and measurable goals that align with AAUW's mission, the National and State Strategic Plans and the unique needs of the Minneapolis community. The new strategic plan incorporates a set of measurable goals to assess our progress and ensure accountability.

A highlight of the year was the highly successful gala. Our fundraiser gala was held on November 11, 2023 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Our theme was *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Our purpose was to raise money not only for the branch, but also for scholarships. One hundred and thirty participants came dressed for the occasion and enjoyed the photo booth, wine toss, silent auction, heads and tails, dinner, entertainment and a wonderful time with family and friends.

The Minneapolis Branch continues to have many ongoing successful accomplishments. We have over 90 programs every year. These programs are presented in person and on Zoom. They are also recorded for our members who may have missed them or who would like to listen again. The Outreach Committee has had many successful events for our community and beyond. The Diversity Committee has suggested movies and books and made sure we are being respectful. Thanks to successful fund raising and some awesome gifts, our Scholarship Committee will have 15 scholars in the next school year. These are four-year scholarships for girls from Minneapolis Public Schools. Each scholar is mentored by a branch member.

The Minneapolis Branch is grateful for the dedication and support of its members. This year has been marked by significant achievements and look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year.

### **AAUW Northfield**

In its 107<sup>th</sup> year, the Northfield Branch has met monthly, often for thought-provoking programs such as Rice County's “Neighbors United,” women suffrage, and NCCWSL. Plans are underway to revive in May our Woman of Achievement award that honors deserving Northfield women. We also carry on our support for women Northfield High School graduates with an annual scholarship award. Our two vibrant book groups continue to provide stimulating life-long learning for our members.

A branch “first” this year was sponsoring an AAUW booth for Northfield’s United Nations Day of Peace celebration where we educated visitors on AAUW’s mission, handing out informational bookmarks, and giving prizes for those who could identify what the initials “AAUW” stand for!

COVID and the death of exceptional member, Carol James, have had big impacts on our branch as we struggle with membership and leadership issues. An ad hoc “executive committee” has replaced traditional officers to plan programs and make decisions. Despite the challenges, our branch is dedicated to staying together to support AAUW’s local, state, and national mission to empower and advocate for women and girls.

### **AAUW Owatonna**

The Owatonna Branch kicks off every fall with our annual fundraiser, **The Taste of Steele County**. We have twelve generous restaurants who donate their food and their time to serve samples for up to 300 community members. The proceeds go to fund scholarships and camperships for women and girls from Steele County. It also provides funds to send young women to NCCWLS.

The Owatonna Branch loves to read! We have two active book groups. Members may attend either or both groups.

The Owatonna Branch members have enjoyed many wonderful programs this fall, winter and spring. In August, our program was titled Ordinary Heros: An Inspiring Holocaust Story. Speaker Elisabeth Shapiro is the daughter of holocaust survivors who fled the Netherlands. She shared their powerful story of survival and she recommended we read the book “The Diary Keepers” to learn more. In November, our program was titled Starting and Sustaining Your Climate Solutions Journey. Speaker Dr. Heidi Roop, director of the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership and author of *The Climate Action Handbook: A Visual Guide to 100 Climate Solutions for Everyone*, showcased many opportunities we each have to chart our climate solution journey.

Did you know that the U.S. Mint began issuing a series of 20 quarters honoring American Women? Speaker Eileen Newhouse recalled the lives and times of some of the woman being honored in a program titled Whose Face is on Your Money? The U.S. Quarters Honoring American Women. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Women’s History Month. Please visit our website at [owatonna-mn.aauw.net](http://owatonna-mn.aauw.net)

### **AAUW Red Wing Area**

The Red Wing Area Branch has had a wonderful year of programming.

September’s program had an amazing speaker, Jasna Bursa, who told us her immigrant story as she promoted her book, *A Healer in Heels*. Her story was an example that immigrants to the US want the same thing all of us already here want, success and happiness. Listening to her inner voice and not giving up lead her to a new life in the US.

In October we had a successful program that gathered over 100 community members who wanted to hear about intellectual freedom and the book banning crisis in America. Laurie Hertzell, retired book editor of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and Kimberly Edson, head of reader services at Rochester Public Library spoke to how it affects the diversity of reading material in libraries whether they are public or in schools. All appreciated hearing how it is happening and what we can do to prevent a small faction of people from changing what we read.

In November we were lucky enough to have Suzann Willhite from ERA MN speak to us about the importance of keeping the support for the ERA alive in our political system. Women need to keep their eye on the end game of codifying Women's rights into the constitution so it cannot be taken away by the courts. We can't trust that our rights are a given. Recent history has shown us that our rights are not a certainty.

In December we held a successful fundraiser with a brunch, silent auction and marketplace. This event enriched our ability to bring more programming to our members, but also allowed us to donate a good amount to National's Education Foundation. We have been holding this fundraiser for over 40 years and are proud of its success.

In January our members attended a High Tea held at our local Tea Room. The owner gave us her secrets to the delicious scones she serves and told us her story of how she came to own Wisteria Tea Room in Red Wing.

In February we enjoyed an informative tour of the Red Wing Pottery Collectors Society Museum. This space has expanded its collection of the useful yet artistic pieces made over almost 100 years of business. Our member, Barb Brown is an avid collector and shared her knowledge with us. A highlight was the lunchtime pottery made and shared with potter's families.

In March program Cathy Wurzer of MPR who spoke about "Women in Broadcasting" for Women's History Month. This was a joint event with the Goodhue County Historical Society and took place at the museum in their auditorium space.

In April we are proud to be able to give a handcrafted book bag to all third graders in the Red School District which contains a book, practice sheet, pencil, fidget toy and library application. Third grade is the first year of the MN MCA reading test. The teachers give them to the students the week before the test saying the community cares about you as you take the test - do your best!

In May we will take a Cultural Adventure as we carpool to the Walker Art Museum for a tour and lunch. The following week we will have our Wrap Up, Potluck Picnic in our beautiful Colvill Park Screened Pavilion where we will highlight the accomplishments of the year, meet our NCCWSL college student attendee, give out branch awards and enjoy one last event before we break for the summer.

This year's goal of the board was to have interesting programs each month and we believe that was achieved.

### **AAUW Rochester**

Rochester is excited to endow a scholarship for a female University of MN Rochester (UMR) student. Thanks to the generous support of our members, we hope to award this scholarship in the fall of 2025.

Rochester is also sending a student leader to NCCWSL again this year.

We collaborated with the League of Women Voters to hear what community leaders are doing to address homelessness in Olmsted County. Dave Dunn, Director of Olmsted County Planning Department and the Olmsted County Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) brought us up to date on the current situation and local government initiatives to address it. Jeff Urban described what his church is doing to

provide housing opportunities at a former bible college campus. State Senator Liz Boldon, Vice Chair of the Senate's Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention, also joined and gave us an update on the current work of her committee.

Our branch program vice presidents have been arranging excellent programs for our general meetings. In September we heard from the founding director of Threshold Arts, a local non-profit community arts organization revitalizing Rochester's historic Chateau theater into a community arts center. In October members were invited into a biochemistry classroom at the University of MN, Rochester, where we experienced how visual literacy can improve comprehension within an interactive classroom. November brought us Catherine Richert, Minnesota's Public Radio (MPR) SE MN correspondent. She told of her experiences reporting the news from D.C. and on topics of interest to Minnesotans. At our March luncheon we heard from an elementary teacher who is the recipient of the Rochester Mayor's Educational Excellence Award. We have also heard from the executive director of Rochester's Jeremiah program. This program meets AAUW's mission of supporting women and girls through education. We will end our year with a dinner and guest speaker, Rochester's poet laureate, an honorary position appointed by our mayor.

### **AAUW Saint Paul**

The members of AAUW Saint Paul continue to enjoy a robust membership and many programs. We have hosted two evening programs so far this year as well as our regular Tuesday meetings. All our Tuesday programs are available to members through Zoom as well. We have had some very well-known presenters, including Saint Paul's Lady Midnight, the *StarTribune's* John Rash, Kao Kalia Yang, Lori Sturdevant, retired Minnesota supreme court justice Paul Anderson, Laurie Hertzell, and many, many others. Our programs range from current challenges in water conservation to At Home with Jane Austen to astounding musical productions. We have fantastic lunches prepared by our own French chef for all Tuesday and evening programs.

Our members also enjoy two vibrant book clubs, monthly Great Decisions discussions, WeTalk discussions, fabulous luncheons, and a great bookstore of gently used books. We host an annual book sale that is open to the public every April. We participated in advocacy as we attended the ERA rally in Saint Paul and had community outreach fundraisers for Project Jeremiah and Dress for Success. We host an August Tea complete with a fashion show and provide field trip opportunities to the History Theatre. Our website and social media keep our message out there.

Our property continues to promote scholarships for Saint Paul women going to college. We are able to provide those 4-year scholarships for 16 young women through our business as an event venue via the Scholarship Trust. We have received several wonderful bequests and will be updating Hatfield Hall in the very near future.

### **AAUW St. Cloud Area**

In late July our Branch President, Mahogany Morrison, shepherded a group of 22 black students (aged from elementary through high school) to the Wisconsin Dells for an immersive 2-day teambuilding, experiential learning, and outdoor recreational trip. The event was a community collaboration between AAUW, SCSU, D-Blake Center, and United Way of Central Minnesota.

Our Flash Funds program granted a total of \$900 to Minority Women Students at St. Cloud State University and the College of St. Benedict. Our program also has emergency funds available for women student teachers and indigenous women.

Our Scholarships for Young Leaders program dispersed \$3,000 for women students at the College of Saint Benedict, while we spent the same amount to send SCSU students to Washington, D. C. along with SCSU President Dr. Wacker.

Our October Fundraiser was a great success, allowing us to continue to fund our sponsorship of the Spring Paramount High School Arts Competition (including awarding two prizes), and we are looking forward to contributing to the second year of the Eighth Grade Graduation ceremonies held at St. Cloud State for community middle schoolers.

We just held our famously successful Tech Savvy event in February. The enthusiasm of these young girls attending STEM workshops (conducted by SCSU professors) was amazing and inspiring. Our branch holds the only AAUW Tech Savvy event in Minnesota, and we're very proud of it.

In the meantime, we had a plethora of fascinating speakers at our monthly program meetings and continued with our two book clubs (one in the evenings and one in the afternoons). It's been a great year for St. Cloud!

### **AAUW St. Croix Valley**

The St. Croix Valley presents a yearly \$1000 scholarship to a Century College graduate going on to a four-year degree. Funds for our scholarship come from member donations. This year at our Holiday Luncheon, in lieu of a gift exchange, we collected nearly \$300 and presented a check to a local Elementary School Library for books.

In October, we listened to a presentation by Josiah Hill, State Representative from Stillwater, followed by Q and A, including questions about the status of ERA. A more recent program was a panel of three Branch members whose careers provided clear examples of strong women doing interesting and important work. They included the founding of a women's health center decades ago in Fargo, ND, research for the Congressional Research Service and the Library of Congress, and study in Israel as a Fulbright Scholar. Our active Book, Theater, Movie, and Gourmet Groups center activities on equity and inclusivity. Attendance at productions of *9-5* and *I Am Betty* was followed by dinner and lively discussion. Book choices have included *Still Alice* and *The Woman They Could Not Silence* provoking thoughtful conversations. A highlight for our membership last fall was the honoring of our six 50-year members who shared their stories about AAUW memories.

### **AAUW Virginia Area**

The Virginia Branch of AAUW values education and community, and we show those values through the scholarships we award and in the variety of community-focused, educational speakers and programs we host. Along the way, we support local businesses and enjoy the company of amazing women!

We sponsor two scholarships at the Minnesota North College Mesabi Range Campus (MRC) in Virginia. A scholarship, awarded each fall, goes to a nontraditional female student in the sciences, humanities, arts and fine arts, math, and engineering. The Dr. Barbara Avren Memorial Scholarship is awarded every two years to a woman at MRC studying the sciences, medicine, or engineering.

### **Summer 2023**

Our summer gathering was a potluck at the lake home of one of our members, Deb, on Lake Vermilion. We enjoyed delicious food, beautiful flowers, and wonderful conversation.

### Fall 2023

- In September, Annie Bachschneider from the Essentia Health Virginia Regional Foundation spoke about the work of this important non-profit organization that supports the programs and services of our regional hospital and Essentia facilities.
- Several members of the Virginia Branch attended the AAUW Northland Gathering Fall 2023 in Duluth, Minn., in October. The theme was “View from the Top: Women Leaders.” Two separate panels of dynamic speakers discussed the challenges and contributions of women in leadership roles.
- In November, Marieta Johnson and Sharon Chadwick informed us about the history, progress, and exciting future of the former YMCA facility in Mountain Iron, Minn. Now known as Mesabi Fit, the facility will feature a swimming pool, gymnasium, weight room, exercise classes, and child care/activity center when it opens in February of 2024.

### Winter 2023-24

- The AAUW tour of the new Rock Ridge High School in November was led by Superintendent Dr. Noel Schmidt. This “insider’s” view of this modern and beautiful facility was appreciated by all participants. Rock Ridge is the only career academy high school north of the Twin Cities.
- Our December meeting was a Christmas Holiday Party at the beautiful home of Branch member Kristi and her husband, Mark. We enjoyed delicious food, piano music and a group sing-along, wonderful stories, and holiday cheer.
- In January, Brianna Coughlin, Sales and Marketing Coordinator at Iron Trail Motors Event Center (ITMEC), joined our meeting to tell us about the exciting offerings of this new regional event center. Events and bookings for 2024 include weddings, concerts, conventions, and major sporting events.
- In February, members of our Branch attended the TEDX Silver Lake event “Crossing the Divide” at ITMEC. The topics discussed included the importance of the arts, environmental issues affecting our area, and finding common ground. Professional musician Paul Metsa and the indigenous women singers known as Oskii Giizhik Singers also performed.
- For our March meeting, we gathered at Mesabi Recreation where our own group member, Sarah, told us about the challenges and rewards of becoming the owner of the family’s sporting goods store after her father’s passing. Their product offerings center around the theme of “silent sports”—biking, skijoring, dog-joring, and classic cross-country skiing. We also learned about the Winter for All multi-use trail that will be available around the Virginia Golf Course—when we get some snow!

We are looking forward to an exciting year of continued friendship, community involvement, and fun in 2024!

### **AAUW Willmar**

From a post-Covid perspective, it is possible to see how important a strong sense of a shared purpose is when we find ourselves faced with unexpected circumstances. Our commitment to advancing equity for women and girls during that time of uncertainty helped us realize the value of using e-votes and Zoom meetings to be able to conduct business when face-to-face contact wasn’t possible. We also created a Social Media Committee to provide direction for the use of the social platform to showcase the work of our organization and to aid in new member recruitment. Additionally, I believe that our branch has also

found a way to build a more personally connected organization by using what we call “Happy Dollars”. For some time, an important part of our monthly meetings has included time for members to offer a donation to celebrate something positive from their personal/professional lives. Members enjoy taking a few minutes to open our business meeting by sharing a personal positive.

Our branch continues to include the young women from Haven House in our branch mission. Haven House is a girls group licensed by the State of Minnesota Department of Corrections. It serves young girls ages 10-19 with emotional/ behavioral problems. The girls are invited to our monthly programs. We also host them at our Christmas party and spring picnic. We have begun soliciting their ideas for topics of interest and try to include their suggestions in our programming for the coming year. This exchange allows us to present information that addresses barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity with young women who have likely experienced inequity and bias firsthand. Based on suggestions from the young women, our programs this year included:

- The Equal Rights Amendment- presented by Betty Folliard via live remote
- Conversations With the Willmar Eight- presented by four members of that group
- Vulnerability of Teenage Girls - presented by a local therapist
- December Holiday gathering - meal and game night with gift bags for Haven House
- Prairie Lakes Youth Programs- presented by a counselor from Haven House
- Meditation/ Fitness
- The Many Hats We Wear- presented by Sarah Leshuk, owner of Fixen Farms a century-old farmstead

Thanks to the efforts of our college representatives, a young woman from Ridgewater has registered to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This was made possible through the \$1,000 NCCWSL grant from AAUW MN. Thank you AAUW MN for helping us provide this opportunity.

AAUW Willmar Branch believes that education is vital to the creation of an equitable society. Our branch will continue to host a used book sale as a means for funding three local educational scholarships and our contribution to AAUW Education and Training Fund. We hope that the scholarships will encourage the recipients on a path of lifelong learning.

#### **AAUW Winona**

A highlight for the Winona Branch was a video featuring our branch on the show “Off 90” in the fall of 2023. A photographer for the KSMQ PBS television station created a short video of our **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in April 2023**. The video also included interviews of current members and historical information.