



### **Dorothy Irene Height**

**1912-2010**

In 2017, the 40th stamp in the Black Heritage series will honor the women's rights icon, Dorothy Height. Dorothy, an administrator and educator, is the 15th black woman to appear on

### **NORTHWOODS NEWS: December, 2016**

For a .pdf or paper copy of this newsletter, please contact [tkswagen@gmail.com](mailto:tkswagen@gmail.com).

#### **Message from Branch President, Pam Brunfelt**

Our holiday gathering will be on December 13 at the Grand Ely Lodge. The Prairie Fire Trio will entertain us, and we will be blessed by the presence of at least six VCC students that evening. They will, no doubt, be glad to take a break from studying for their finals. I know I will need a break from grading papers. If you need a ride to the dinner, please ask someone to pick you up so you don't miss out on the fellowship.

Some of the students who join us for the dinner may well apply for NCWSSL. So we will have an opportunity to talk about the conference with them. Annette Horvat is coordinating the project at the college. I have recommended two students to apply. My third choice, Rebekah Harrington, attended the conference two years ago. Perhaps we can ask her to talk about it at dinner. She is in one of my classes so I will talk to her about it. And by the way, when we chose her to go to NCWSSL we made an excellent choice. She is a superb student, a beautiful young woman inside and out, and a natural leader.

As we wrap up 2016 and our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a chapter, I would like to thank all of you for the fine

a U.S. postage stamp. Height served on the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years, fought for gender and racial equality throughout her lifetime, and played a significant role in the civil rights movement. As a civil rights and women's rights activist, she specifically focused on the issues of African-American women, including unemployment, illiteracy, and voter awareness. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004, the highest civilian awards in the United States.

Height is the author of two books: [Swing Wide the Freedom Gates: A Memoir](#) and [Living with Purpose: An Activist's Guide to Listening, Learning and Leading](#).

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**AAUW Mission:** AAUW Advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers to that all women have a fair chance.

work this year. The STEM committee's annual project continues to touch the lives of young women in our communities. Sending three girls to the STEM camp at Itasca Community College was made possible by partnering with EMPOWER. Our participation in the city council forum and Mary Setterholm's leadership in organizing the school board forum provided the community with vital information about candidates for local government. The Legislative Office on the Economic Status of Women listening session at VCC was highly successful. Hearings were held all over the state and were lightly attended except in Ely. We had a large turnout and some women were able to attend because we provided babysitting during the forum. And finally, we hosted the Northland Gathering with Sarah Guy Levar and Dr. Sara Evans "connecting the dots" in Dorothy Molter's life and the lives of women in the twentieth century.

I wish you all a blessed holiday season and a joyous New Year.

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## Upcoming Events

**Dinner at Grand Ely Lodge  
Tuesday, December 13, 5:30 pm Social,  
6:00 pm Dinner**  
Planning Committee: Barb Soderberg, Laura Moberly, Annette Horvat

You are cordially invited to attend the AAUW Ely Branch Dinner at the Grand Ely Lodge on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, featuring a traditional turkey dinner with entertainment afterwards by Prairie Portage TRIO. RSVP for you and your guests by emailing [barbsoderberg@yahoo.com](mailto:barbsoderberg@yahoo.com) or calling Barb at 218-343-0609. If you would like to sponsor a college student dinner to help cover the cost for Vermilion Community College student women to attend as our guests, please let Barb know your pledge amount. The cost of dinner is \$20 per person, payable to AAUW-Ely Branch at the door. **Signup deadline is December 5.**

We hope you will join us and we look forward to seeing you there!

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## STEM 2017 Meeting Monday, December 5, Noon, Ely Steak House

The next AAUW-Ely STEM Committee meeting will be over lunch at the Ely Steak House, **December 5**, starting at 12 noon. If you didn't receive a specific email about this, and you are interested in being on

the committee, please contact Jeanne Tomlinson at [tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com) or (218) 235-8470.

Jeanne Tomlinson

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## Equal Pay Day Committee

The Equal Pay Day committee will be meeting January 6th at 10 am. If you are interested in planning activities for the April event, or participating in the event, please contact Mary Setterholm at [Mary.setterholm@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.setterholm@gmail.com) or by calling 612-741-8761.

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## Public Policy

### Thanks to Volunteers!

Thank You to our Volunteers. We are lucky to have such willing, active members. It makes the work light, and keeps AAUW Ely alive in our community.

Kay Vandervort, Teresa Sagen, Lucy Diesslin, Caroline Owen, Darlene Nemanich, and Pam Brunfelt volunteered for various jobs during one or both Candidate Forums. Without these ushers, time keepers, question reviewers (both before for pre-defined questions, and during for Audience questions) the Forums would not run smoothly.

The day before the election and the day after the election, AAUW was meeting with businesses in town to hang 'VOTE' signs in storefront windows throughout Ely. Thank you to Laura Moberly, Kay Vandervort, Betsy Flaten, Lucy Diesslin, Jeanne Tomlinson, & Teresa Sagen for assisting with the effort!

-Mary Setterholm, AAUW Ely Chair Public Policy

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## Advocate and Take Action on AAUW Public Policy Issues

The 2016 election is over. While the new administration and 115th Congress have the potential to raise serious challenges to AAUW priority issues, there may also be some strategic opportunities to advance the mission. Each of us can take the next steps to make sure that women, girls, and their families are a priority for this country. Democracy demands work every day of the year, and our AAUW community will step up to the challenge!

The first request for action is to encourage support of the **Pay Equity for All Act of 2016**

**(H.R. 6030).** The Pay Equity for All Act would protect job seekers from having to disclose their salary history in order to be interviewed, to be considered for a job offer, or as a condition of employment, and from being retaliated against for refusing to disclose their prior salary.

Many employers base salary offers on a candidate's previous pay – which, because of the pay gap, is often lower for women than for men. Simply eliminating the reliance on salary history in setting future wages would go a long way toward closing the pay gap. Pay discrimination starts early in women's careers, and relying on prior salary as a marker for future pay only compounds the problem. By banning the use of this practice, all workers will have the opportunity to take home a fairer paycheck based on the work they're doing today rather than jobs they've held in the past.

Please consider calling Representative Nolan's at 218-454-4018 (Brainerd office) or 202-225-6211 (DC Office) to urge him to take action to combat the gender pay gap by co-sponsoring the Pay Equity for All Act of 2016 (H.R. 6030).

Submitted by Mary Setterholm, AAUW Ely Chair Public Policy

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## Membership News

### Welcome our Newest Branch Member

The Branch welcomes our newest member, Judy Klun. Of course she is a familiar face since she is a long-time resident of the Ely Community, including her years as media specialist and coach in the Ely Schools. We are pleased that upon her recent retirement, she has chosen to join our branch. From her experience in education and as a mother of three daughters, she certainly has much to contribute as we advocate for women and girls. Judy's contact information is

Judy Klun  
PO Box 240, Ely  
218.235.1570  
[JudyKlun@gmail.com](mailto:JudyKlun@gmail.com)

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### Farewells

Best wishes to Maxine Jacks, who has moved to Duluth. We wish her well, and she will be missed. Maxine was always a willing volunteer and a frequent contributor of hand crafted items for the silent auction at state convention. Her new address is: 925 Kenwood Ave. Apt.2170, Duluth, MN 55811. 218-235-3216. When in Duluth, contact Maxine for lunch or just a visit to catch up on news.

Submitted by Phyllis Olson, Ely Branch VP  
Membership

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## **AAUW Dates to Remember**

### **Tuesday, December 13, 2016**

Ely Branch Dinner Meeting  
Grand Ely Lodge

### **Tuesday, January 10, 2016**

Ely Branch Meeting - STEM Camp Participants  
VCC, CL 128

### **April 28-29, 2017**

AAUW Minnesota State Convention  
Willmar, MN

### **June 15-18, 2017**

AAUW Convention  
Washington D.C.



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