



## The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap

AAUW's [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap](#) is now available, and the fall edition of the report has more truth in it than ever. How do we explain the 20-cent gender pay gap (a statistically insignificant change from last year), and what do race, location, and career choice have to do with it? See how the gap in Minnesota stacks up to the national number, and learn more about what states are doing to promote (or hinder) equal pay. Plus, new for this edition, there is discussion of how the gender pay gap is connected to disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity and proposes solution on what we can do to close it.

## NORTHWOODS NEWS: October, 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

Come and celebrate 90 years of the AAUW in Ely at the GEL on October 11. We'll have dinner together and reminisce about the history of the branch and ninety years of friendship, networking and advocacy. The program committee is planning a wonderful evening of fellowship. If you need a ride, let me know. I will find volunteers to help you get to the dinner.

On October 18 we are assisting the Legislative Office on the Economic Status of Women with their listening session. The meeting is going to be in the theater at VCC. We will be providing childcare in the theater lobby during the one and a half hour session. Mary Setterholm and I think we will need three volunteers to watch and play with the children. If you want to join me in this task, call or email me. We also want to provide some things to play with such as Candy Land, books, coloring books and crayons, games for older children such as Racko (I can provide that), or a floor puzzle or two. You get the idea. If you can help with this part of the project, let Mary or me know.

Finally, we will be cohosting along with the Rotary club a city council candidate forum on October 26 in the VCC Fine Arts Theater. WELY has broadcast the forum in the past and is likely to do so again. Mary Setterholm will need volunteers to help with this activity.

We still need a publicity chair to serve on the board and members to serve on the Pay Equity Day subcommittee. Please volunteer. I hope you agree to help the members who are already on the board to carry the work of the chapter forward. Lots of helpful hands make the workload a lot lighter for all of us. The publicity chair, for example, is a very good way to find out what the board does for the chapter. The basic responsibilities of the job require you to prepare a very brief community calendar item about the monthly program and send it to the Ely Echo and the Timberjay. Taking pictures at our activities is also very helpful.

I will be appointing the nominations committee early in 2017. The chair is a member of the board. The work of the committee is done before the annual meeting in April. If you want to work on this vitally important committee, please let me know that you want to volunteer.

## AAUW Ely Branch Celebrates 90 Years

The AAUW Ely Branch, organized in 1926, is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. With an active group of over 40 members, the branch focuses on mission-based programs and activities. The branch continues to partner with Vermilion Community College (an AAUW C/U Partner), with two members participating on the VCC Advisory Board, two members on the VCC Foundation Board and a VCC staff member on the AAUW Ely Board; by providing an annual scholarship to a nontraditional woman student attending VCC; by sponsoring a VCC student at NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) at the University of Maryland; and by organizing Equal Pay Day activities at the College.

The Ely Branch continues to encourage young female students in STEM fields. A STEM workshop for girls in grades 5-8 has become an annual event popular with students. Also, this year, the branch partnered with EMPOWER, a local women's group, to sponsor three 6th graders at a weeklong engineering camp at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, MN.

Ely Branch members have been actively involved in AAUW nationally and at the

I cannot express my gratitude to the board members enough. They make my job easier. The chapter could not function without them. I will be publicly celebrating their service at our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

See you on October 11<sup>th</sup>!

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### Upcoming Events

#### **Ely Branch Meeting - Celebrating 90 Years! Tuesday, October 11, 5:30 pm Social, 6:00 pm Dinner, Grand Ely Lodge**

Hostesses: Phyllis Olson and Katherine Scheuer

Celebrate 90 years of AAUW in Ely with a dinner at the GEL on October 11. We will begin with a 5:30 social and 6:00 dinner. The menu is home-style beef roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable medley, tossed salad, rolls and butter, coffee or iced tea. The cost is \$20.00. We must have a reservation. Please call or e-mail Phyllis at 365-5693 or [olsonpr@frontiernet.net](mailto:olsonpr@frontiernet.net) or Katherine at 365-4293 or [kannscheuer@yahoo.com](mailto:kannscheuer@yahoo.com). Reservations must be made by **October 4**. The program will be oral history, pictures from the past, and a few artifacts from long ago fund raisers.

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#### **Listening Session on Women's Economic Issues Tuesday, October 18, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, VCC Theater**

The Minnesota Legislative Office on the Economic Security for Women is holding a listening session in Ely. See below for details. Mark your calendar and also invite other women you know. It is a wonderful opportunity for women, especially low-income women and women who own businesses to communicate their challenges and successes to our state legislators.

*"All too often, mothers of young children, especially single mothers, are not able to attend events like this listening session because they have no one to watch their children. However, thanks to the efforts of Ely's AAUW (American Association of University Women) Chapter and the welcoming support of the Vermilion Community College (VCC), we have changed the location of the Ely Listening Session to the Vermilion Community College Theater, and child care will be available in the VCC child care room.*

Listening Session on Women's Economic Issues

We want to hear from you. Share your views on women's economic successes and challenges in your area.

Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

state level. At the national level, several members have participated in national committees – Audit Committee, Program Committee, and Fundraising Committee. At the state level, branch members have participated on the AAUW MN State Board and Committees including 3 past state presidents, website manager, bylaws committee member, VP of AAUW Funds, and Historian.

For more information about the Ely Branch, contact President Pam Brunfelt ([pam.brunfelt.moh@gmail.com](mailto:pam.brunfelt.moh@gmail.com)) or Phyllis Olson, VP Membership (218-365-5693 or [olsonpr@frontiernet.net](mailto:olsonpr@frontiernet.net)).

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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.

Vermilion Community College Theater\*  
Ely, Minnesota  
*Child care is available.*

- u *HOST:* Legislative Office on the Economic Status of Women <http://www.oesw.leg.mn>
- u *FORMAT:* An unstructured discussion. We simply ask, “What are the primary economic issues for women in your area?” “What are the economic success stories of women in your area?” and “What are barriers to women’s economic success?”
- u *PURPOSE:* Gather information to advise state legislators on women’s economic issues. Sessions are being held in six locations in Greater Minnesota, and two in the Twin Cities area.
- u *WHO IS INVITED:* The general public, and all who are concerned with women’s economic issues, including the needs of low-income women, women of color, older women, and veterans.
- u *RSVP to Barbara Battiste, Office on the Economic Status of Women* [barbara.battiste@oesw.leg.mn](mailto:barbara.battiste@oesw.leg.mn) [\(651\) 296-0711](tel:6512960711)  
\* 1900 East Camp St., Ely"

**Note:** Barbara Battiste is the mother of our Branch scholarship recipient for 2015-16.

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## Opportunities to Stay Informed and to Exercise Your Right to Vote!

**Women won the right to vote. Women were not given, granted or provided an opportunity to vote. We fought courageously, determined, tirelessly and persistently for more than 72 years for the right to vote.** From equal paychecks to paid leave, from access to birth control to college affordability, there is so much at stake each time women head to the polls. Politicians and policy makers at all levels of government routinely make decisions about issues that directly affect women and their families. However, more often than not, the conversation lacks women’s voices. To create real change, women must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way to chime in is by voting. AAUW provides many helpful tools, all available to you- from the updated [Congressional Voting Registry](#) for the US elections, to [Voter Guides for US House MN 8](#), a race that has attracted the 3rd highest out state spending in the nation. Additionally, on **October 26th**, AAUW Ely and the Ely Rotary will again sponsor a candidate forum for the Ely City Council candidate election. This forum is the opportunity to compare how these six candidates stand on issues that matter in local governance. Let’s make sure the women of AAUW Ely, and your acquaintances are heard!!

Mary Setterholm  
Ely Branch VP Public Policy

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## One Voice Mixed Chorus: Hand in Hand Fall Tour Friday, November 18, 7:00 pm VCC Fine Arts Theater, Presented by NLAA

The One Voice Mixed Chorus will be joined by The Imuka Singers from Tanzania. This fall marks the 14th year the One Voice has

taken its message of hope, inclusiveness, and equality to communities outside the metro areas where LGBT resources are often hard to find. This year they are headed to the Iron Range, including Ely. All shows are open to the general public, and admission is free. To volunteer or for more information, contact Laura Moberly at [mmoberly@frontiernet.net](mailto:mmoberly@frontiernet.net).

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## Other Branch News

### Take Notice! The Publicity Chair position is Open on the AAUW Ely Board.

This position is responsible for:

- Meeting notices in the paper, on Facebook, and on the Ely Almanac (program committee provides topic summary)
- Assuring pictures are taken at each AAUW sponsored event (if you aren't there, just make sure someone attending is assigned)
- Coordinating with committee leads and program committee to get an article in the paper & on Facebook about large events (e.g. Northland Gathering, 90th birthday celebration, STEM workshop, Scholarship awards, etc)
- Attend monthly AAUW Ely Board meetings (this may be the best part- it is a lively, engaged, interesting, & fun group)

Think about volunteering for this position. Each board member and committee chair is very supportive and helpful in completing any and all of these tasks. Being a member of the board makes sure your voice is heard on all things AAUW. Join us, and help us continue to make AAUW Ely's voice heard in our community! Contact Pam Brunfelt at [pam.brunfelt.moh@gmail.com](mailto:pam.brunfelt.moh@gmail.com) with "Ely Branch Important" in the subject line.

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## STEM 2017 COMMITTEE

The AAUW-Ely STEM Committee will be holding a meeting in early November to start planning for our 2017 STEM Workshops. For new members: STEM stands for "Science Technology Engineering and Math". In 2012, our branch started holding an annual one-day event with 3 or 4 hands-on workshops for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls in the area to try to get them excited about STEM fields. If you are interested in helping out – or just learning more about it – please contact Jeanne Tomlinson at [tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com) or (218) 235-8470.

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## Ely Students Attend Engineering Camp at Itasca Community College

AAUW Ely and EMPOWER jointly provided scholarships to three Ely 6th graders to attend a week long residential engineering camp at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids. Ande Visser, Annika Mattson, and Gracie Pointer all reported positive learning experiences. Below are their thank you notes in their entirety with no edits:

"Thank you AAUW Ely. I am really glad that you gave me the opportunity to go S.T.E.M. camp. I really enjoyed S.T.E.M. camp because I met a new friend named Katherine. Together we made a working wooden car that ran on a battery and had a light. We also made remote controlled boat that, when tested at a nearby lake, ran really well. I learned about electricity and how to make a working circuit. Once again I am grateful you gave me an opportunity to go to the S.T.E.M. camp.

Sincerely,  
Ande Visser"

"Dear members of AAUW,  
I just returned from Itasca Community College Engineering camp! I had a great time. I would like to thank you for the scholarship to go to camp. This scholarship meant a great deal to me and I wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to attend. This camp allowed me to see what the field of engineering is all about and that it is very fun.

I want to tell you a little bit about my time at camp. It was a very fun thing. I made a battery controlled car with my friend Gracie. It was quite a challenge to get it done in one day. Our car was a little out of the ordinary. Most people just made a box car; well, Gracie and I made a pointed car. We also designed and made a remote-controlled airplane. That was very hard because we have never done these kinds of things before. It is a great camp because they push you to design and think.

I also got to do many fun activities like bowling, mini golfing, swimming, and playing capture the flag. We went to see a movie too.

I found out a lot more about the STEM field and am considering it as a job I might want to do.

Thank you again for sponsoring me to go to camp. It was wonderful!

Annikka Mattson"

"Dear AAUW,

Thank you so very much for the scholarship money. This was my first year at camp, and it was awesome. I learned and go to do much more than I expected to do. My group worked on building a plane, and a boat. The boat worked really well, and the plane flew a little. It was an amazing experience! Thanks!

Sincerely,  
Gracie Pointer"

Pictures that were provided by the girls can be found on the AAUW Ely Facebook page!

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## **AAUW Dates to Remember**

**Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

Ely Branch Meeting  
Grand Ely Lodge

**April 28-29, 2017**

AAUW Minnesota State Convention  
Willmar, MN

**June 15-18, 2017**

AAUW Convention

Washington D.C.



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