

# WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.  
OCTOBER 2016

**\*\*\*PLEASE JOIN US!\*\*\***

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 17 – 6:45 P.M.**  
**Bethel Church (use south door)**

**PROGRAM: “LEADERSHIP MATTERS”**

*If you read your summer Outlook magazine from national, you would see that the most recent emphasis in AAUW has been women’s leadership.....in branches and in the community. We are privileged to have three women from our local Willmar community with us as panelists at our next branch meeting. They include KATHY SCHWANTES, a candidate for the Willmar City Council; ANDREA CARRUTHERS, a member of the Rice Hospital Board; and MARY SAWATZKY, a former state representative and current candidate for that position. They will share their education experiences and what it means to be a leader in each of their areas. These women are exemplary role models for all girls and women in our area, and we look forward to hearing from them.*

*Refreshments will be served by Rebecca Harberts ad Kathy Vruwink.*

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## 2017 STATE CONVENTION

Co-Presidents Beverly Crute and Jeanette Carlson met with the state board on October 1 to finalize the initial plans for the state 2017 convention in Willmar on Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29 at the Willmar Convention Center. The theme correlates with the National AAUW emphasis on women leaders: “ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.” Volunteers will be needed in many areas to make this a most successful convention. There are spots to fill, and your participation is most appreciated. If you would like to organize the tellers, pages, and time keepers, or help out in any way, please contact Beverly or Jeanette .

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## BITS AND PIECES.....

Many thanks to those of you who contributed to our Silent Auction at the September meeting. We raised \$250 for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)!

Here is a Treasurer’s Report as of September 15, 2016:

Checking Account	\$1,734.85
Savings Account	\$1,375.39
Educational Funds	\$1,876.07

*We also have close to \$10,000 in a restricted fund at Lake Region Bank to be used for scholarships as needed.*

PLEASE ADD THESE NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR PROGRAM BOOKLET:

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**WHAT ARE YOU READING?**

**“The Warmth of Other Suns” by Isabel Wilkerson**

*For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, an internal migration took place within the United States that was little noticed yet transformed the nation. Starting in the early 1900s, African Americans---the descendants of former slaves---began leaving the South in search of better opportunities in the cities of the North and West. At the start of the century, 90 percent of African Americans lived in the South; by the 1970s, barely half remained in the South.*

*Isabel Wilkerson’s parents were among these migrants, and she decided to tell their story. The resulting book (the title comes from a poem by Langston Hughes) is 800 pages long but compulsively readable. Wilkerson chose to focus on three individuals as representative of the migration to the north. She spent hours interviewing them, a labor of love that brings incredible detail to each of their stories and makes them come alive. The book also relies on interviews with hundreds of other individuals, as well as extensive research.*

*Ultimately the story of the so-called Great Migration is a story about families and individuals. But it’s also much more than this. If you’ve ever wondered about the forces that drive immigration, this book gives you insight into why families might pull up their roots and settle elsewhere. If you’ve ever wondered what awaits migrants in their new home, the stories here reveal that making a new life isn’t always easy, and the Promised Land doesn’t always live up to its promise. And if you’ve every wondered about the history of race relations in the U.S. and the issues that drive organizations such as Black Lives Matter, this book will open your eyes to the realities of economic disparities, redlining and segregation and how they were (and are) experienced by American blacks.*

*Hands down, The Warmth of the Sun is the best book I’ve read this year.*

Reviewed by Anne Polta

If YOU have a book to share with other AAUW members, please send your review to Jeanette: [carlsonj2@charter.net](mailto:carlsonj2@charter.net).