



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

2012 State Convention Recap

by Carol Sheggeby



Caroline Foltz
LAF Speaker

The last weekend in April found over 130 MN AAUW members gathered at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort for our 83rd annual AAUW MN State Convention, hosted by Brainerd Branch with assistance from the Grand Rapids Branch. It was a lovely, roomy and historic venue for our annual get together. Huge thanks to co-chairs Jean Schaeffer and Doris Anderson of Brainerd, Nancy Raymond, president of Grand Rapids Branch and Rose Cyert, MN AAUW Program V.P. And of course, thanks to the many branch members of both branches who served in multiple functions that made the convention work.



Lisa Maatz
AAUW public policy
director and lobbyist

Look elsewhere in this Pine for reports of awards given at convention. We have also posted the complete convention booklet on the state website if you would like to check all the details.

The convention started with three young women, dressed in camouflage uniform, from nearby Camp Ripley presenting the flags. They were very impressive, reminding us of a whole segment of the world that few of us have ever experienced.

The keynote speaker, Mary Sam, is an Ojibwa member of the Mille Lacs Band, who presently

leads the Central Lakes College Diversity, Student Affairs, and Tribal Relations initiatives. She told of her journey, living in two worlds and advocating for equity.

Caroline Foltz, the young LAF speaker, was successful as the lead plaintiff against Delaware State University. Caroline worked to preserve the equestrian team as part of Title IX. She is a charming and intelligent young woman who fought for equity in her field and won.

Lisa Maatz, AAUW public policy director and lobbyist, a perennial favorite here in MN, attended the entire convention. She spoke vigorously, as always, about current issues that the Association is supporting in Washington. She talked about the "war on women" that has erupted this

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Bylaws Changes Needed

by Barb Link

A new addition to the AAUWMN state bylaws was passed at our spring Brainerd convention. It pertains to college students being able to attend our state conventions without paying registration fees. This change only pertains to the state bylaws. As far as your branch bylaws are concerned, you should have now sent your updated copies to both AAUW and to me. The deadline was May 15. However, better late than never!! So, if you have not yet updated your bylaws and sent them in, please do so. Of course, if you need help in cleaning them up, I am most willing to give you a hand in sorting them out. Remember, your branch does not have to vote on these changes as they are mandated by AAUW. Mostly they occur because of changes to the Washington DC incorporation code.

AAUW address for bylaws:
Connect@aauw.org

Address for my copy as your state bylaws chair:
blink@mchsi.com

Continued from previous page

year with the discussions of birth control insurance coverage. AAUW led the way on giving Sandra Fluke, the young woman who was excoriated by Rush Limbaugh on this topic, a new hearing venue where she could recover her credibility.

For the first time in several years, our business session featured four resolutions, covering some heavy topics of the day. You all received them in your Winter Pine. All passed with little discussion, and a handful of negative votes. Also, for the first time, we added a change to the convention business session agenda, using a consent agenda to group several of the more routine agenda items into a group, which saves time in the session.

Workshops were enjoyed, and included Dave Kirkwood's thorough national overview, with a list of major MN donors who are Legacy Circle Members. The NCCWSL workshop with Mary Parcheta included a talk by one of the students who attended the conference last year. The participant called the conference in Maryland "life changing", increasing her appetite for learning more about leadership. \$tart \$mart, another workshop and also a "Program in a Box", was led by Kathy Burleson and Sara Kuether. This workshop gave insight to the members as to how they can become involved in promoting and also become trained to present this outstanding "hands on" help for young



*Mary Shideler
The Kayak Lady*

college students in negotiating salary for their first job and jobs to follow. A workshop in gentle yoga was a sample of the benefits of movement and stretching.

The final event, the banquet, included awards to the Young Women for Equity, two impressive young women whose stories appear in this Pine. The program for the evening was the Kayak Lady who puts us all to shame with her energy and ambition. She's a tiny woman who has paddled her kayak over the 1,000 lakes in her county.

Thanks to Brainerd, Grand Rapids, the State Board, and all who helped create a wonderful convention with much more action than can be recounted here! And thanks also, to all who attended and have taken the messages back to your branches. We hope to see you next year in Rochester!

Legacy Circle Members Plan Gifts to AAUW

There are many ways to make a planned gift to AAUW, including the new AAUW Charitable Gift Annuity or naming AAUW as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, or individual retirement account.

AAUW gratefully acknowledges our Legacy Circle members, those visionary individuals who have made a commitment to the future of women and girls by making a planned gift to AAUW.

Minnesota has a substantial number of members committed to the Legacy Circle:

Yvonne C. Condell
Dorothea Garwick
Barbara C. Link
Bani Q. Mahadeva
Karen L. Reichensperger
Nancy J. Rustad
Barbara Wonson-Liukkonen



President's Letter

by Carol Sheggeby

*Carol Sheggeby
MN State President*

DEAR AAUW MN MEMBERS,

For the past two years I have had the honor of serving as your state president, and I thank you for that honor. During this time I've traveled to branches across the state and have been the recipient of your great hospitality. It's been exciting to meet so many of you, and reconnect with many members I've met over the years. Seeing all the great projects, attending your delightful events and enjoying the camaraderie of your members has been an impressive experience.

I remember Executive Director Linda Hallman's statement a year ago at our Winona convention. She said "AAUW is thriving!" It's been easy for me to see this in action. It's energizing for us to know that Association thinks highly of our state organization. We are one of the most active states and have had many MN members serve on Association committees and boards.

And now it's time to turn over the gavel to our incoming Co-Presidents from Ely; Teresa and Caroline. They will be a fantastic combo – and are already planning great adventures for AAUW MN.

Welcome, Teresa and Caroline, and have a great time!

And thank you to all of the wonderful MN AAUW members for your support over these past two years.



A Message from Your Incoming Co-Presidents

Teresa K. Sagen and Caroline Owens

Maps provide us with a picture of where we have been and the routes to follow to reach our destination. Of course, we may encounter detours along the way. If we were to map our AAUW history or our own AAUW experiences, we would see our many successes in supporting women and girls. We may also remember the "detours" which afforded us the opportunities to see possibilities hidden around the corner.

In recent months, we have focused on the AAUW MN Strategic Plan, which has allowed us to acknowledge the many efforts and accomplishments of so many AAUW members. The Strategic Plan is our map for the future. Our challenge is to connect our past successes with opportunities for continued growth. An additional challenge is to prioritize numerous AAUW initiatives – AAUW Action Fund "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard", College/University Partnerships, \$tart \$mart, Sexual Harassment, "Elect Her – Campus Women Win", NCCWSL, STEM Education, Title IX, Advocacy and Public Policy, Leadership Training, Social Media, etc. Remember, these initiatives are a means to an end – equity for women and girls.

Imagine the future of AAUW – How do you envision a world of equity for women and girls? Is it where we are fully represented in government leadership roles, in the STEM fields and in corporate boardrooms? Do you envision a world where we no longer need to work for equal pay and equal access to educational and professional opportunities? What is your vision? What part will you play to turn your vision into reality?

Let's lean back, reflect, and forge ahead!

SEVEN BRANCHES ARE MISSION POWERED

By Barb Wonson, Chair

Congratulations to the seven branches that received the Mission in Motion Award. All seven achieved the highest level of the award—Mission Powered—for their outstanding programs, collaboration, and membership activities. Austin, Brainerd, Ely, Fairmont, Mankato, Minneapolis, and Red Wing branches submitted their current strategic plan and answered three questions about how they collaborate with partners, how their branch programming accomplishes our AAUW mission, and how they are actively recruiting and retaining members. The Minnesota Mission in Motion Award is designed to encourage branches to take a close look at their programming and membership activities.

All seven had excellent strategic plans, albeit in very different formats. If YOUR branch hasn't yet completed a strategic plan - or if it's time for a revisioning - why not contact one of those branches for a copy of theirs? You'll find theirs clear and easy-to-follow plans may be just the ticket to help your branch get started.

Thanks to committee members: Kathy Vruwink, Willmar; Shelley Frederickson, Ely; and Nancy Rustad, St. Croix Valley for reviewing the applications and providing feedback for the branches.

To serve on the review committee next year, please contact me, Barb Wonson, Chair
liukk001@umn.edu.

Our Effectiveness is in the Implementation

Char Kahler, AAUW MN Public Policy VP

As evidence of how engaged AAUW women are in policies and laws that govern us, a number of resolutions were presented at this year's convention. Two of these establish opposition to proposed amendments to our state constitution that will be on this year's ballot.

Legislators, frustrated by not being able to pass their agenda of laws in their legislative bodies, are pursuing the recourse of voter-passed amendments to our state constitution. This is hardly in keeping with our democracy of representative government and is a misuse of our constitution's purpose as a guiding document.

Below is a recap of the resolutions with brief talking points. The charge in the implementation is every member's responsibility. Please engage others in dialogue regarding these and other issues of importance to women. We can create a powerful network across the state if you will email me your thoughts and information on issues to chark@kaco.net. I will then share them with all our MN branches.

#2 RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE VOTER PHOTO ID AMENDMENT

IMPLEMENTATION: The AAUW Minnesota State Board will encourage its branches to inform members and the public, prior to the 2012 election, of the issues of voter discrimination placed on eligible citizens of Minnesota if the proposed amendment is passed and enacted. The AAUW MN Public Policy VP will provide information and resources to the branches so that they may better help in informing the public.

Sometimes sharing of personal stories is most influential. Examples in regards to Voter Photo ID:

- Lisa Maatz told of a 90 year old woman who had no existing birth certificate and was told she could get one by having someone present at her birth verify it.
- Ms. Gooder of MN had to renew her license which expired while recovering from a broken back. She had to get someone to give her a ride to get a certified copy of her birth certificate (\$26) and then back to the DMV and wait in line (with back pain) to get the ID (\$18). They said it could take up to 6 weeks to get the ID. People with age, economic and mobility issues will face these deterrents to voting.

Submitted by St. Paul & Minneapolis Branch

Talking Points:

- An estimated 215,000 MN citizens eligible to vote do not have a photo ID.
- Sec. of State Mark Richie stated that same day registration would be eliminated with photo ID.
- With 52% voter turnout in 2010, we need to encourage voting not discourage it.

- In 2010, states with strict voter ID had low voter turnout: Texas 31%, Tennessee 36%, Kansas 45%, South Carolina 49% Wisconsin 52%.
- In Texas, a person can't vote with a student ID but can with a gun permit. Humorous but sad, according to Lisa Maatz, AAUW Public Policy/Gov. Rel. Dir.
- Requiring voter photo ID's will disenfranchise people such as the elderly, disabled, military and those absent from their precincts from voting such as college students.

#3 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE "MINNESOTA GIRLS ARE NOT FOR SALE" CAMPAIGN

IMPLEMENTATION: The AAUW Minnesota State Board will work with other likeminded groups such as the Women's Foundation of Minnesota on the "MN Girls Are Not For Sale" campaign.

The AAUW Minnesota State Board will provide information to its Branches on resources and ways work together to educate the public through examples like showing the documentary "Miss Representation" which graphically shows the exceedingly poor portrayal of women and girls in the media and gives ideas on how we can work to eliminate this negativity.

Submitted by AAUW Minneapolis member Sharon Bigot

TALKING POINTS: Visit <http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org>

#4 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

IMPLEMENTATION: The AAUW Minnesota Board will make this resolution known to all branches and encourage branches to avail themselves of ready information in order to examine the issue of same-gender marriage so that members are able to discuss the proposed amendment with others in their communities.

AAUW Minnesota, under the direction of its Board, will become a listed coalition partner of Minnesotans United for All Families as a public declaration of opposition to the amendment.

Proposed by the Red Wing Area Branch Board.

Talking Points:

- MN Statute(2011) 517.01 already defines marriage as a civil contract between a man and a woman.
- Article I, Bill of Rights contains rights and protection to all state citizens—this would deny rights to certain citizens in discriminatory language in Article XIII (Miscellaneous Subjects)
- existing MN law denies same-gender couples and their families the 515 protections and benefits allowed to male-female marriages

For more info: Against Amendment- visit Minnesotans United for All Families; For Amendment-visit Minnesota for Marriage or Google Same-Sex Marriage Minnesota Resources.

A resolution in Support of the "Single Payer" MN Health Plan legislation was deferred for possible consideration next year pending policy decisions of our organization.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP AWARDS 2012

By Sue Grove

Congratulations to the following branches for increasing their membership by five or more members this year. These awards are based on the February 1st count from the National AAUW office.

AUSTIN + 5
FERGUS FALLS + 5
HIBBING + 9
ST. PAUL + 16

Be sure to take advantage of the membership incentives found in the Member Center at www.aauw.org. Give a Grad a Gift is a very worthwhile program that introduces new college graduates to AAUW at no cost for a national membership! Several branches have augmented this by covering state and branch membership too.

ELEANOR SULERUD, FORMER STATE PRESIDENT

Former State President of AAUW MN, Sulerud, Eleanor M. age 95, of the Twin Cities, passed away March 31, 2012. She served as MN President of the American Assn. of University Women, 1972-1974.

Eleanor, born in 1916, lived with family in Duluth until her marriage in 1940, when they settled in St Paul. She served on the boards of the League of Women Voters, YWCA, Women's UN Rally Day, and Episcopal Church Home of Minnesota. She was a graduate of the University of Minnesota. In 1986 Eleanor moved to Becketwood Co-op in Minneapolis, having led its planning and construction, and serving as its president for its first six years. She lived her last three years at the Episcopal Church Home, St Paul.

COMMUNICATIONS, WEBSITES AND NEWSLETTERS RECOGNIZED AT STATE CONVENTION, 2012

*by LouAnn Hoppe
MN Pine Editor*

Our members are becoming increasingly tech savvy. Communication is more available and is being used in many different forms. Newsletters are just one part of our conversations today. Thank you, editors, for all you do.

We would like to recognize all the Branches that have websites, blogs or Facebook pages.

Austin, Blooming Prairie, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Grand Rapids, Metro West, Minneapolis, Moorhead, Northfield, Owatonna, Red Wing, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Paul.

Blooming Prairie and Owatonna use their websites in place of a newsletter.

All the newsletters submitted are beautiful, colorful, informative and interesting. They all serve the purpose of informing members.

Honorable Mention

Mankato, Northfield, Owatonna, Rochester, St. Paul, Willmar

Distinguished Achievement

Austin, Faribault, Hastings, Minneapolis, Red Wing

Exceptional Achievement

Duluth, Fergus Falls, Metro West, Northeast Metro, St. Croix Valley

Young Women for Equity Awards for 2012

*by Judy Urban, Chair,
and Karen Kirkwood
(past chair)*



What a pleasure it was to meet both of our Young Women for Equity Award winners at the awards banquet. This award is given to a young woman who has shown leadership in a specific action or event that reflects the AAUW Mission: “Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.” Both

Kaitlyn Macheledt and Naomi Wentz are outstanding young women who are doing amazing things with their lives. The stories about their projects are fascinating and very impressive. It is gratifying to know that MN AAUW supports these amazing young women for the work they are doing to make equity a reality for others.

Kaitlyn Macheledt is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, Morris campus. As a freshman, Kaitlyn planned, organized, and facilitated a program entitled “Love Your Body Week.” The goal of the program was to “serve as a catalyst for discussion and raise campus awareness” about what she calls “Body Esteem, self esteem, and eating disorders”. She facilitated the event again this year, adding new activities. She widened the audience she could reach by doing presentations on dorm floors. As a part of the week, 140 people joined a facebook event. Perhaps the best way to explain the results is to tell you about a young woman who approached Kaitlyn after a dorm event and shared that she had been in counseling for body image for years and that this program did more for her than many psychologists had done!

Naomi Wentz is also a student at University of Minnesota, Morris campus. At the age of 14 Naomi traveled to Cambodia with her family and observed how lack of sanitation affects girls’ attendance at school. She began a campaign to build just one toilet at a time. For seven years Naomi has been devoted to her passion of improving the lives and educational opportunities for girls by providing them with clean, private bathroom facilities at their schools. She has worked with many organizations to raise money for this project. She further added water quality to her campaign. She performed field research on water quality and enlisted the help of Cambodian partners to achieve the building of 8 toilets and 9 wells as of 2011. With help from funding partners, 22 toilets were built this past year. Each toilet can be used by hundreds of children; thousands of girls have been helped as a result.

AAUW Funds

By Janice Paulsen

I would like to thank all of the branches and individuals who supported AAUW Funds this past year. A grand total of \$63,605.11 was raised in 2011. At the State Convention this past April, the Silent Auction raised \$2426 for the Legal Advocacy Fund. A big thank you goes to everyone who gave items and purchased items with their highest bid. What a fun way to raise money for a good cause! Our LAF convention speaker, Caroline Foltz, told us just how important AAUW was to her case. We provided an expert in Title IX litigation and money. When the money was received, lawyers for the university said they might want to settle now that AAUW was involved. We do have clout! Keep up the good work.

Silent Auction Results

Austin	\$ 75	Brainerd	\$100	Duluth	\$ 45
Ely	111	Faribault	272	Fergus Falls	47
Grand Rapids	185	Hastings	87	Metro West	137
Minneapolis.....	593	Moorhead	12	NE Metro	45
Northfield	52	Owatonna	35	Red Wing	125
Rochester.....	50	St. Paul	116	Willmar.....	115
Winona	224				
TOTAL	\$2,426				

AAUW Funds collected a total of \$63,605.11 which is a wonderful credit to the generosity of our members. Specific amounts for branches can be found on the AAUW MN website.

Distribution of 2011 Gifts

AAUW Funds (9110)	\$ 5,103.00
Legal Advocacy Fund	\$13,432.82
Educational Opportunities Fund	\$30,141.20
Public Policy Fund	\$ 5,908.89
Eleanor Roosevelt Fund	\$ 4,607.60
Leadership Programs Fund	\$ 3,623.60
AAUW Action Fund	\$ 788.00
TOTAL	\$63,605.11

Remember, all checks should be made out to AAUW Funds. Please use the memo line to designate your funds.

You may send the checks to me at 2045 Unity Ave. N., Golden Valley, MN 55422 and I'll do the paperwork for you. We will continue the Named Gift Honoree program for each \$750 a branch gives to either the Jane Skinner American Fellowship #4203 or the Minnesota Past Presidents American Fellowship #4326.

Have a great summer!

AAUW MINNESOTA STATE BOARD 2012 – 2013

Elected Officers

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AAUW OF MINNESOTA CALENDAR 2012-2013

June 2012

- 30 Deadline for Submission of Officer Reports to State
- 30 Deadline for State and AAUW Dues for 2012-2013

July 2012

- 1 Start of New Officer Terms and Fiscal Year
- 13-14 State Board Meeting

August 2012

- 1 Information - Fellowships and Grants Available Online
- 11 State Financial Records Review
- 15 President's Mailing to Branches
- 30 Pine Deadline

September 2012

- 1-30 Board to Branch Contacts
- 15 Nominations Open for State Offices

October 2012

- 11 Eleanor Roosevelt's Birthday
- TBD State Board Meeting

November 2012

- 15 Deadline for Nominations for State Board Offices

December 2012

- 30 Deadline for AAUW Funds to Jan Paulsen

January 2013

- 1 Half-Year Dues Accepted for New Members
- TBD State Board Meeting
- 15 Pine Deadline
- 15 Deadline for Convention Resolutions Submission

February 2013

- 15 Convention Mailing to Branch Presidents, Past State Presidents, C/U Reps, Committee Chairs, State Board
- 15 Credential's Chair Notifies Branches of Number of Delegates
- 15 President's Mailing to Branches

March 2013

- 1-31 Board to Branch Contacts
- 8 International Women's Day
- 15 15-Month Dues Accepted for New Members
- 15 Deadline for Applications for All State Awards

April 2013

- TBD NCCWSL Applications/Registration Deadlines
- 9 Equal Pay Day
- 26 State Board Meeting in Rochester
- 26-28 State Convention in Rochester

May 2013

- TBD Pine Deadline

June 2013

- TBD NCCWSL
- 9-12 AAUW National Convention – New Orleans



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INFORMATION

Mailing or email address changes should be sent to AAUW offices in Washington. Mailing information is then sent from Association to the *Pine* mailings. Do not send address changes to the *Minnesota Pine* editor. This can be done online at:

AAUW.org/MemberCenter/forms/recordchangeform

or mailed to:

AAUW

1111 Sixteenth ST. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Articles for the *Minnesota Pine* can be sent via e-mail (preferred method) to lhoppe_2@msn.com

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Please send any branch webpage materials to

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