

WILLMAR BRANCH AAUW

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

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

**MONDAY, MAY 16 – 6:00 P.M.
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING/70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SPICER CASTLE ON GREEN LAKE**

Our May 16 dinner meeting at the Spicer Castle will be a special event as we celebrate our long history beginning in 1946 --- 70 years! The dinner consists of a salad, popover, 3-cheese ravioli or Italian chicken breast, white chocolate raspberry cheesecake for dessert, and a beverage. The cost is \$23.00, and our deadline for reservations is May 11. Jeanette Carlson has researched our branch history, going through many boxes of minutes and records at the county historical society to write “the great American novel” (very short): Whatever Happened to Rosie the Riveter After She Joined Willmar AAUW? Call your reservation to Jeanette at 212-2267 or email carlsonj2@charter.net. The girls from the group home will be our special guests. If you know of former AAUW members who might like to join us, invite them! Checks are payable to Willmar AAUW.

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IT'S USED BOOK SALE TIME!

The dates for our annual used book sale at the Willmar Community Center are:

Wednesday, May 4 – Setup 5:00 p.m. to ?

Thursday & Friday, May 5 & 6 – 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, May 7 – 9:00 A.M. to Noon Followed by Tear Down

If you are willing to help for an hour or two during any of these times, please give Betty Schneider a call at 796-2710 or email: betspicer@yahoo.com or Jeanette Carlson at 212-2267 or email: carlsonj2@charter.net. Thank you! Donations of books, CD's, DVD's, and puzzles are always welcome (we pick up!) OR you can send a financial donation to Kathy Vruwink, our treasurer. All proceeds go for scholarships, local and National AAUW.

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MAY DAY IS PAY DAY!

Membership dues will remain the same: \$70 for the coming year and includes \$49 for the National Association AAUW (\$46 is tax deductible), \$9 for the state, and \$12 for local dues. The state and local dues are ALL tax deductible, meaning \$67 of the \$70 is tax deductible. Please write your check to Willmar AAUW, and bring it to the May meeting. Any member who has paid for the 2016-17 year on or prior to May 16 may be eligible for a gift drawing. And now that it is soon graduation time, please consider the Give A Gift of the AAUW National membership (it is free!). Surely, some of you must have a daughter, granddaughter, niece, or even a friend's daughter who would qualify. You can explore online or contact Dee.

If you cannot attend the April or May meetings, please mail your dues payment to our treasurer: Kathy Vruwink, 400 28th St. SE, Willmar, MN 56201 by June 1.

****ELECTION TIME!****

Springtime is election time in our AAUW branch, and we are looking to fill these offices:

President or Co-Presidents (two-year term)

Vice President or Co-VPs for Membership (two-year term)

Vice President or Co VPs for Program (one-year term)

If you are interested in serving, or you would like to suggest someone, please contact Beverly Crute at 235-8418 or 231-4211 or email: revbev@rice.willmar.mn.us OR contact Jeanette Carlson at 212-2267 or email: carlsonj2@charter.net. We need YOU!

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AAUW STATE CONVENTION REPORT

Our delegates to the state AAUW convention in Duluth on April 29 and 30 were Beverly Crute, Kathy Vruwink, and Jeanette Carlson. We were impressed by the keynote speaker, Mayor of Duluth Emily Larson who spoke on the art of leadership. We welcomed our National AAUW representative, Eileen Hartmann, AAUW Secretary and Director and attended two workshops, one on trafficking with Jeff Bauer, the lobbyist for Family Partnership in Minneapolis, and one on female leadership of American Indian women. Our Legal Advocacy speaker was Aileen Rizo, a math consultant in California who learned at a lunch with co-workers that a man recently hired (and without her qualifications) had been hired at a much higher salary. National AAUW has supported her in her effort to find justice. Our Willmar branch was recognized for our total giving per capita and earned a 6th-place award.

The three of us wish to thank the branch members for the opportunity to attend the state convention!

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We are happy to report that BECKY ROMOSZ, our LAF Chair, won the "Spirit of Collaboration" Award from PACT (Putting All Communities Together) for Families Mental Health Collaborative at their annual meeting. The award is given for promoting children's mental health. Congratulations, Becky! (That was a "happy bag" moment at the April meeting!)

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What Are You Reading?

The Senator Next Door: A Memoir from the Heartland by Senator Amy Klobuchar (2015) was an absolute delight to read. She talks about her growing up years and its challenges, including her parents' divorce and her famous father (Jim) who was a recovering alcoholic and taught her the love of the outdoors. Her immigrant grandparents influenced who she was, a hard worker and someone who feels comfortable with folks around her no matter what their political preference. And what a sense of humor, which also helps in all situations. In 2006, Amy was the first woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate from Minnesota. It is always a joy to see her on the newscast and to read about her in the newspaper. Perhaps we will have this as a book review for one of our branch meetings next year. We are hoping to invite her to be our keynote speaker when we host the 2017 state convention.....that is yet to be determined. Stay tuned!

(Jeanette Carlson)