AAUW of Minnesota

Grand Rapids Timberline

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT
AAUW GRAND RAPIDS
BRANCH MEMBERS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT – Holiday fun just around the corner

Our October 20th meeting was a great success! We had five school board candidates participate in our Meet the Candidate forum—four candidates from ISD 318, Grand Rapids, and one from ISD 316, Coleraine. The discussion was very informative. We had a good crowd from the community and even got a nice article on the front page of the Wed., Oct. 22, *Grand Rapids Herald Review.* Arlene Wheaton took a photo of Marilyn Rossman and the candidates that is posted under "MN State/ Branch News" at www.aauwmn.net

Lynette Eck passed out the new AAUW member directory. If you were not at our October meeting, please ask Lynette who took it for you. We are trying to save on postage to mail them out. We will have a board meeting on **November 24, 4 PM**, at the Public Utilities building. Everyone is welcome.

Jean Hoshal and Nancy Raymond both reminded us of the "Jar/Bottle" silent auction fundraiser to be held during our November 17th meeting, and its many possibilities for donated items. Please consider contributing an item. This should be a lot of fun and hopefully raise a lot of money for our scholarships.

Our December meeting will be at Timberlake Lodge on December 15th. See details in this newsletter. The program and food committee groups always plan a wonderful evening of food and entertainment for us to enjoy.

Now I have to go out and finish the last two tasks I have in my flower beds for the season. First, cover the last of the lingonberries, and then plant a few more tulip bulbs. I can't wait for spring!

- Marj Lavalier

QUOTABLE

"Each one of us can make a difference. Together, we make change."

— Barbara Mikulski, US Senator (1988-present) & US Representative (1977-87), Maryland

** BRANCH NEWS **

November 17 Dinner Program

Location: United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids
DINNER: 5:45 PM **PROGRAM:** 6:45 PM
MENU: Home-style Meatloaf, potato bar, dinner roll & dessert
Reservations due to Charmayne Nelson by November 12. Call 326-4178 or email charnels@paulbunyan.net

TOPIC: Opportunity for All to have Suitable Housing
Everyone wants a home…and a suitable home at that! There are opportunities for all in our area. Some need more help than others. Most everyone can use more information. Our focus will be the "greater Grand Rapids area," which means consideration about transportation. **Jane O'Leary**, AAUW member and realtor, **Goldie Swalboski,** Itasca County Habitat for Humanity program director, and **Diane Larson,** executive director of Itasca County Housing and Rehabilitation Authority, will speak about their services to help people obtain a home. We will try to have information available about the status of housing in our area from the recent housing study done for the area. Affordable housing is a concern for all healthy communities.

With the fundraiser for our scholarships, it will be a full evening. Come early and bring guests.

Silent Auction with a TWIST...Don't bottle up your creativity! Please bring to our November 17 meeting an item in a jar or a bottle. *Suggestions:* something edible, potable, wearable or anything you think would be fun and of interest to members.

Tickets will be sold during the evening for the silent auction as follows:
1 for $1 * 6 for $5 * 10 for $12 * 25 for $20

Slips of paper also will be available for you to jot down a short description of the item(s) you bring to donate. Please plan to donate something. All proceeds go to AAUW scholarships. Great opportunity to gift shop for the holidays!

December 15 Holiday Dinner Program

Our December program at the Timberlake Lodge in Grand Rapids will feature two of our members—singer **Stephanie Schuette** and **Jan Bilden** at the piano. Social hour with cash bar from 5:00-5:45 PM, dinner seating at 5:45 PM with meal served at 6 PM. The menu choices will be Bourbon-glazed Ham with a twice baked potato and amaretto-glazed carrots OR Penne Marinara. Salad, bread, dessert and coffee station is included with both entrees. There will be a cash bar.

Cost is $25 per person; send your check to Treasurer Cheryl Vogel by Dec. 3 or pay at our Nov. 17 meeting. Please specify menu choice, Bourbon-glazed Ham or Penne Marinara, when you send your reservation with payment to Cheryl Vogel, 20401 Mishawaka Shores Dr., Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2014-2015

In January and February, we will meet at noon at the Sawmill Inn for programs about **health and fitness and money matters** for us all. The meeting in March will be back at the Methodist Church for a program about **women and poverty** in our area, April will be a program about **school lunches and their power and meaning for schools and children.** It is a bigger issue than you think. May will find us at Ruttger's with a **style show** like none you have ever seen or imagined.

Financial Report (October 2014 Statement)

Last year the organization produced an annual net profit of a little more than $500. Our fiscal year runs from July to June. Five hundred dollars may not be an adequate amount to sustain our work in the future. Please contribute to and participate in the silent auction fundraising effort at our Nov. 17 dinner meeting. Our recent book sale generated $42.

A Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Mon., Nov. 10, 4 PM in the Public Utilities Conference Room (500 SE 4th Street, Grand Rapids). You are welcome to attend. We will be reviewing performance to date and start the planning process for next year's budget (including the development of annual financial targets and strategies to achieve those goals).

An AAUW Grand Rapids Savings Account has been established. The $1,694.26 that was identified as savings within the general fund was transferred to that account. The Finance Committee will be discussing and defining the amount of reserve funds that the organization should maintain and whether we should be routinely saving a designated amount each month.

In addition to the savings, we have $6,255.51 in the general account. Within the general account, $1,087 is designated for the various scholarships, but has not yet been dispersed. NCCWSL is listed with a loss of $727. Neither student was able to attend the conference but the monies had already been paid. To date, one student has paid back $200. The Finance Committee will be making recommendations for consideration to the board regarding expectations for future student recipients and whether a contract should be developed.

Please contact me if there is anything that you want the Finance Committee to address. Thank you.

- Cheryl Vogel, Treasurer, 763-229-8098

AAUW Directory Corrections

Betty Brandt's email address does not have a space between "cooking" and "betty". It should read cookingbetty@gmail.com

Alice Zevnick: Education: Hamline University, MA; correct email address is azevnick@paulbunyan.net

PHOTOS of Interest Groups
Our History Committee would like to gather a picture of the members of each Interest group (book club, walking, etc.) to include in our historian book. Send photos to Karen Wennen, kwennen@2z.net or mail to her at 31506 MacDougal Bay Rd, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

** INTEREST GROUPS **

Any member can start a new interest group. Current interest groups are open to any member. Each group decides on its meeting time, calendar of meetings and subject or purpose of the group.

BRIDGE
There is only one Bridge group playing now on the first Thursday, 12:30 PM at Grand Rapids State Bank community room. If you are interested in playing bridge, contact Sandra Nyvall at sandra.nyvall@gmail.com or 218-327-1009.

Nov. 6: Sandra Nyvall, hostess
Dec. 4: Hostess to be decided

CREATIVE ART
Open studio for painting is held at the MacRostie every Tuesday, 10 AM through the afternoon. Free for members; nonmembers pay $5. Margaret Z. Morris sends an email to those interested each week, including if this group will not meet some weeks. Bring your lunch. This is open for anyone of any level of painting or any media. We have watercolor and acrylic, and welcome other media. No cost or instruction, learning from each other and having fun. Margaret's email: ipaint@paulbunyan.net or phone 999-9683.

LITERATURE – Monday group
Group meets on 1st Monday at 10:00 AM at Grand Rapids State Bank (community room). Contact is Jan Hill, 246-9791.

Nov. 3 – Nancy Raymond, hostess, ***The Paris Architect*** by Charles Belfoure
Dec. 1 – Audrey Erdman to host at her home. Time, food and carpools to be decided at Nov. 3 meeting.

LITERATURE – Wednesday group
Group meets at 10:30AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, Grand Rapids Library, September-May. Contact is Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911.

Nov. 12 - ***Accused: A Rosato & Associates Novel*** by Lisa Scottoline
Dec. 10 - ***Me Before You*** by JoJo Moyes
Jan. 14 - ***Rez Life*** by David Treuer

PUBLIC POLICY
The next meeting will be Tues., Nov. 13, 4-5:30 PM, KAXE Meeting Room. All members and guests are welcome to come and learn about the Northern Lights Community School and the charter school opportunities for student success. The new principal will be our presenter.

Our group will be discussing the book ***The Travels of a T-shirt in a Global Economy*** by Economics Professor Pietera Rivoli at our 2nd Tuesday of the month meetings on Dec. 11 and Jan. 15. Join us as we try to understand public policy issues that affect women's economic stability and our AAUW public policy program. For more information, contact Jean Halverson, 327-9158, Emilie Zasada, 326-4909, or Marilyn Rossman, 326-6775.

WALKING & TALKING

The regular fall/winter schedule is Tuesday afternoons. We meet at 1 PM and walk for 1 to 1½ hours and then have coffee. The group is open to all members and is a "come when you can" group. We talk as we walk so this is not speed-walking, but does get us out and about. The group decides on walk locations and members are notified weekly of the plan. We generally walk in the Grand Rapids area, especially fall and winter, but have taken a few "road trips." If you want to join the group, email Karen at k.karls@yahoo.com

WRITING

The Writing Group is reorganizing to meet at a different time and place. We are a small group thus far who are trying to write regularly and support and share with others. Thus far we write mostly memoir type short articles or essays. We are learning as we go and hope to support each other by sharing our work. If you have been thinking that you "should" be writing down stuff for your grandkids or are trying to write poetry or journal, this might be a good place to try out your interest. Contact Marilyn Rossman or Marge Koch. We may try a morning meeting time if there is interest.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS – Best Wishes!

NOV 2 – Connie Burley, Nancy Eltgroth
NOV 3 – Ginny Saxhaug
NOV 7– Mary Kay Jacobson
NOV 13 – Janet Neurauter
NOV 14 – JoAnn Bakken
NOV 23 – Kathy Adams
NOV 29 – Margaret Pecha

DEC 2 – Carol Rasmussen
DEC 6 – Nancy Alfuth
DEC 9 – Abby Marier
DEC 14 – Crystal Sunell
DEC 26 – Charmayne Nelson

AAUW Minnesota News

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The AAUW Minnesota state convention will be held April 10-11 in Austin, MN. Typically, our Branch president and several members attend so there may be a carpooling opportunity. It’s a fun opportunity to meet women from around the state who are passionate about women’s issues.

AAUW National News

Take a look at his Pre-election checklist from www.aauw.org

Ladies, are you ready to vote? *Your role in an election is about much more than marking a ballot. You need to know your voting rights and learn about the mid-term election before you vote. Here's how to prepare:*

Know what's at stake.
If you're a resident of Colorado, North Dakota, or Tennessee, your ballot will offer the chance to stand up for reproductive rights — and against restrictions on women's personal health choices. Also, in five states — Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Nebraska, and South Dakota — voters will decide whether to increase the minimum wage. Almost two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, and raising the minimum wage would help shrink the gender pay gap.

Know the facts on the issues you care about.
Learn about the pay gap in your state and congressional district and about politicians' plans to close it. The AAUW Action Fund also offers important information leading up to the election.

Know what to bring on November 4.
Some states have made it harder for women, students, and minorities to access the polls. Look up what ID your state requires. Also, plug this phone number into your cell phone, or write it on a slip of paper: 866.OUR.VOTE. This is the number to call if you have trouble voting.

Know where you're going.
Look up your polling location and hours, details on early voting, and information on voting by absentee ballot.

Know your power.
Women changed the outcome of elections in 2012. We can do that again!

See a customized candidate list for your area at http://mnvoterguide.org/

Make your voice heard on Tuesday, November 4! VOTE!

AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH MEETING

October 20, 2014, 5:00 PM, United Methodist Church

The October 20, 2014 AAUW Grand Rapids Branch meeting was held at the Methodist Church. A school board candidate forum was held at 5 PM. Grand Rapids and Greenway candidates were in attendance. The regular meal was held at 6 PM. There were three guests present. A reminder about the November bottle fundraiser was mentioned.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Miland, Secretary