



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

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO?

By Sharon Bigot, President AAUW of Minnesota



First, as many of you probably already know, I learned that San Diego is a beautiful place for a convention or a vacation! Water, water everywhere, filled with boats, daily sunshine, moderate temperatures and no bugs. The 2015 AAUW National Convention was held in June at the Sheraton Marina Tower, with some of us housed there and others housed in the Bay Tower. I was in the Bay Tower and walked about a city block, right beside the bay, to attend the convention meetings. This was a lovely way to start each day. There were 17 Minnesotans registered for the convention. Several of us came a day early to attend two special daylong workshops: the 2015 Conference of State Presidents and the 2015 Conference of State Fundraising Chairs. Since the National Convention is held every other year, the Conference of State Presidents included presidents-elect. Jan Bensen, our Minnesota President-elect, and I both attended. Veronica Johnson of AAUW Minneapolis, standing in for AAUW Funds VP Jan Paulsen, attended the fundraising conference. We met, worked with and learned from our counterparts from all around the country. Very worthwhile! The plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables and Daily Dialogues were too numerous to mention here. You can access the 2015 convention resources and materials yourself by going online to: aauw.org, and clicking on CONVENTION. I'll mention one Daily Dialogue I attended: "What Will It Take to Make a Woman President?" The main answer to this question was: "Women need to financially support their candidates!" We just aren't doing enough of this.

AAUW National election results included the passage of four bylaw proposals concerning: filling board vacancies, changing leadership titles (chair and vice chair instead of president and vice president), and the terms for vice president and for committee members. The bylaw proposal eliminating the degree requirement for membership did not pass. The proposed public policy program changes all passed. Board Chair Patricia Fae Ho and Vice Chair Alicia Hetman were reelected. The new board of directors includes Susan Barley, Malinda Gaul, Eileen Hartman, Ellie Hill, Traci Jensen, Melissa Johnson, Dot McLane, Rebecca Norlander, Glenda Price, and Pam Theil. Appointed directors include Janet Bunger, Johanna Amberger, and Anthony Hill. Our own Minnesotan on the board, Dave Kirkwood, has completed his final term of office. The AAUW Minneapolis Branch was one of the top 50 branches in the country in contributions to AAUW Programs in 2014.



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WHAT ARE AAUW FUNDS?

By Janice Paulsen, Vice President Funds

I often hear new AAUW members asking, “What are AAUW Funds?” In a simple sentence, it is the way we raise funds for supporting our mission. Since 1881, we have been pooling our resources and helping women gain an education and fight discrimination. AAUW has provided fellowships and grants worth \$100 million to more than 12,000 women. This year \$3.7 million will help women further their educations and obtain higher degrees. Forty-three percent of this year’s fellowships and grants support women in the STEM fields where women are significantly underrepresented. In 2009, AAUW Funds were reorganized so that more donations could be tax deductible. The Education Foundation became the Educational Opportunities Fund. Only the name changed; it still awards fellowships and grants.



In Minnesota, we have two American Fellowships that are not fully funded. The Dr. Jane Skinner American Fellowship #4203 was started by the Northfield Branch in 2001. It needs \$25,500 more to be stipend producing. The Minnesota Past Presidents American Fellowship #4326 was started in 2008 to honor our past Minnesota AAUW presidents. It needs another \$61,900. In order to encourage donations to these two funds, we have the Named Gift Honoree Program. A branch may name an honored person for each \$750 given to one or both of these fellowships.

Title IX was adopted in 1972, but there was still discrimination. In 1981, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) was founded. Its mission is to combat discrimination in schools and the workplace. LAF has supported over 100 plaintiffs with nearly \$2 million. Delegates and members who have attended our state conventions have heard the stories of LAF supported plaintiffs. They tell compelling stories and are very thankful for AAUW’s support. This year LAF is involved in Baldwin et al. v. Department of Defense, advancing the fight against military sexual assault, and Burhans v. Yale, protecting administrators from professional retaliation who address the problem of sexual assault on their campuses. You can keep up with LAF news by joining the LAF Express mailing list at laf@aauw.org.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund was established in 1988 to support research on gender equity. Funding is directed to address national discussion on topics such as the pay gap between men and women, sexual harassment in schools and college campuses, and the underrepresentation of women in science and engineering. The latest report is called “Solving the Equation.” It shows how few women are working in engineering and computing. You can watch a nine minute video about this on the AAUW web site.

The Public Policy Fund supports advocacy for public policies and laws that are fair to women. Every two years a public policy program is adopted by the membership which establishes the federal action priorities on which we all focus our advocacy efforts and guides the work of the national staff. We have professional lobbyists who make sure our voices are heard in the halls of Congress. They work on civic engagement by getting women to register and vote. You can keep up to date with publications that are sent out, such as the “Two Minute Activist” program and the “Washington Update.”

Women make up less than 20 percent of Congress. If you watched the August GOP debate, you noticed one huge omission. No Women. The Leadership Programs Fund supports programs that develop women’s potential to lead in their schools, communities, and country. Donations support the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Campus Action Projects, and Elect Her, which teaches student leaders the skills they need to run for student government.

The final fund is called simply the AAUW Fund. It is where undesignated monies go. It supports all of the funds except the Educational Opportunities Fund. At the national convention this past June, there was a push to shift donations to unrestricted giving. The new slogan is:

One AAUW, One Mission, One Fund

Whether designated or unrestricted, more donations are needed for all the important mission work that AAUW does.

Remember, **all** donations to AAUW Funds are tax deductible.

If you wish to designate a particular fund, just put that information on the memo line. Thank you so much.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

By Sharon Rigot, President

Our AAUW of Minnesota calendar now includes **AUGUST 26**, the day we celebrate Women's Equality Day. This is the day when women won the right to vote with the passage and certification of the 19th Amendment: August 26, 1920! Congress approved the 19th Amendment a little more than one year before, but a vote of two-thirds of the states was needed for ratification. In 1920, after ratification, the 19th Amendment opened the democratic process to 23 million women. The women's rights movement was launched in 1848 at a convention in Seneca Falls, New York. The official name of the 19th Amendment is actually the Susan B. Anthony Amendment. How many women voted in 1920? Around 8 million women voted in 1920, their very first election. The last state to ratify the 19th Amendment was the state of Mississippi, which ratified it in **1984!**

On August 26, 2015, the Minnesota Women's Consortium and the Minnesota League of Women Voters celebrated Equality Day on the lawn of The Women's Suffrage Memorial Garden, located in front of the Minnesota State Capitol. There were speeches from State Senator Sandy Pappas, State Representative Rena Moran, and Sia Her, Executive Director of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. A small, very diverse group of women and a few men were in attendance. I was there as the AAUW Minnesota delegate to the Women's Consortium. This was a good occasion to remember that there is still much work to be done in order to realize true equality.

AAUW CEO LINDA HALLMAN VISITS MINNESOTA

Linda Hallman is coming to Minnesota in October, and will be visiting AAUW Minneapolis on Monday, October 5, and AAUW Saint Paul, on Tuesday, October 6. Ms. Hallman is a frequent speaker on women's issues, finance, and leadership. In 2013, she was recognized as one of 100 Women Leaders in STEM by STEM Connector.



Ms. Hallman will speak at the AAUW Minneapolis Gale Mansion at 10:45 a.m. on the topic: *AAUW: Impact and Empowerment*. The emphasis will be on the "big picture" of the role of our national organization. Her topic at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday at the Saint Paul Clubhouse (located on Summit Avenue right next to the Governor's Mansion) will be: *The Importance of the Overall Mission of AAUW*.

Here is a little insider info: Ms. Hallman lives with her husband and standard poodle in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and her close friends tell us she maintains an exquisite garden.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

*By Mary Ann Lucas Roux,
Vice President Program*

Branch Project Grants

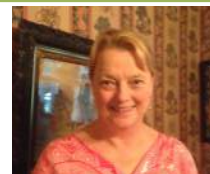
AAUW of Minnesota will award grants up to \$500 to AAUW branches in Minnesota to support projects that further the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls. A total of \$2,000 is available for Branch Project Grants for this fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2016. Recipients will be announced and presented checks at the state convention being held in Duluth on April 29-30-May 1, 2016. AAUW of Minnesota anticipates that branch projects will be completed by June 2017. Information regarding the 2016 Branch Project Grants will be sent to each branch by October 1, 2015. Applications are due February 15, 2016.

2016 Young Women for Equity Award

We all have young women in our community doing activities that reflect the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW of Minnesota would like to recognize their work through our Young Women for Equity Award. The young woman must be of high school or college age (up to age 25). There must be some evidence of the impact of her action or event. The award will consist of a framed certificate and an invitation to attend the state convention banquet in Duluth on April 30, 2016. The young woman and her parents or friend will be our guests at the banquet. Information and the nomination form will be sent to each branch by October 1, 2015. Nominations for the 2016 Young Women for Equity Award must be received by February 15, 2016.

STEM AND TECH SAVVY

*By Jan Bensen,
President Elect*



AAUW has a strong commitment to encourage girls and women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The STEM fields offer interesting, well-paying careers. But girls drift away from these fields as they grow older. The shift begins in middle school. AAUW has done convincing research documenting the lack of women in STEM fields and suggesting ways to reverse the trend. The AAUW website has excellent background information.

One program, Tech Savvy, was developed in 2006 by an AAUW member, Tamara Brown, in Buffalo, New York. Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career conference designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform families about STEM education and careers. Girls are involved in hands-on workshops, perhaps in robotics or computing. They learn life skills like critical thinking, public speaking or interviewing. The program is unique because parents are included. The support and encouragement of parents is a critical factor in a girl's success. While the girls are in their workshops, parents learn about STEM education and careers and are encouraged to ask questions about these fields. Speakers share information about financial and academic preparedness. We will hear more about Tech Savvy as AAUW expands the program in 2016.



BUILDING ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

By Luna Allen-Bakerian, NCCWSL Attendee

Greetings! *Elect Her* is a political leadership training for women sponsored by Running Start and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and I have been involved in hosting one of the trainings at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities for three years. At the end of May, it was my great privilege to attend the AAUW and NASPA National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), as a result of this involvement.

NCCWSL is an opportunity for 1,000 women student leaders from around the nation and globe to come together for learning, discussion, inspiration, and skill building at the University of Maryland, College Park. Workshops at NCCWSL highlight relevant and important leadership skills for fundraising, networking, speaking, and work-life integration, with titles ranging from *So You Want to Work in Politics?* to *How a Handful of Gutsy Feminists Used 100 Barbie Dolls to Turn a Campus Upside Down*.

I am a political science major, and a particular favorite for me was hearing Jennie Forehand (Maryland elected representative of 30+ years) give the opening speech at the Women of Distinction Awards, where she shared tips, tricks, and hilarious stories of women's leadership as navigated in 1978, and currently. Actress, comedian, and writer Maysoon Zavid and Olympic medalist and Title IX advocate Nancy Hogshead-Makar were our fearless keynote speakers, and they were surrounded by inspiring women speakers, performers, and leaders *all* around – at every event and in every direction. As always, I am so grateful for the experiences and opportunities granted to me thanks to my affiliation with the Women's Center and various other organizations working for gender equity and social justice at large.

Cheers,

Luna Allen-Bakerian

Program Assistant, Women's Center, Rising Senior – Political Science and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, University of Minnesota

HOW YOUR BRANCH CAN APPLY FOR AN AAUW OF MINNESOTA NCCWSL \$500 SCHOLARSHIP

By Gail Glashan, Pine Editor

AAUW of Minnesota once again is offering eleven \$500 scholarships, one scholarship per branch, that co-sponsors/sends a college woman to the 2016 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL is pronounced 'nick-whistle'). Next year the conference will be held June 2–4, at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Several branches in Minnesota have sent students to NCCWSL in the past, but 2015 was the first year our AAUW Hastings Branch applied for and received this scholarship from AAUW of Minnesota. We formed a small committee of four members to learn more about NCCWSL, shared this information with our board, and after board approval, with our AAUW Hastings Branch. We created flyers, wrote news releases, drafted an application and spread the word in our community that qualified college women could apply for this opportunity to attend NCCWSL, an experience of a lifetime! We were thrilled with the response of applicants, as well as the publicity afforded to our AAUW Hastings Branch. Two applicants were so outstanding that our branch decided to find a way to sponsor both! I hope your branch will consider applying for a \$500 scholarship from AAUW of Minnesota, too. Our Hastings Branch chose to add \$350, for a total of \$850 to each attendee, for registration, room and board, and flights.

Sample documents for your use are posted on our AAUW of Minnesota website: <http://aauw-mn.aauw.net> —under BRANCH/GRANTS AWARDS. They include a sample application form, a flyer, press releases, etc. Just edit and update with your branch information!

As America's premier conference for college women, NCCWSL provides a transformative experience for 1,000 attendees and prepares them to be the next generation of leaders. The AAUW of Minnesota Board hopes this information makes it easy for your branch to offer this opportunity in your community! Questions? Please email: gwiglashan@gmail.com

Our AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

"At NCCWSL 2015, I made incredible friends, valuable connections in my network, and huge strides in both my professional and personal growth. It was an honor to attend, especially as a representative of Hastings, Minnesota and our AAUW group. I would absolutely recommend this conference to other young women in the future." ~Jolena Label





BRANCH PROGRAMS

By Mary Ann Lucas Houx, Vice President Program

Are your programs meeting the AAUW mission of “advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research?” I recently had the opportunity to be at an event where a group of women were recognized for their 50-year membership in AAUW. When asked why they remained members all these years, the main reason was that they supported the AAUW mission! Our programs and activities should reflect the mission so we continue to attract members who believe and support equity for women and girls. The second most shared reason for remaining in AAUW was the wonderful friendships formed over the years and the mental stimulation of those friendships. Some friendships were not only within the branch but also extended to AAUW members throughout the state.

I would like to hear from branches that have successfully used any of the *Programs in a Box*. *Programs in a Box* offers members ideas and instructions for mission-based activities and can be found online at <http://www.aauw.org/resources/by-type/programs-in-a-box/>. It appears that it may be an underutilized resource. Please share the program you used and your success, concerns, or why you have never tried a program. I would like to share your feedback in a future column. Questions? Concerns? Maryannhoux@gmail.com

AAUW FARIBAUT BRANCH CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

By Karen Rasmussen, Faribault Co-President

The AAUW Faribault Branch was founded on February 25, 1925. On February 25, 2015, we had a board meeting and celebrated our 90th year with treats, mock candles and sang “Happy Anniversary.” Our annual newspaper articles for Women’s History Month in March featured accomplished women in Minnesota of the 1920s.

In May, for Tree City USA, we planted a maple in Faribault’s Central Park to honor our branch’s members over the 90 years. Pledges were given “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” to raise funds for the tree and other anniversary expenses. A booklet was compiled of these memories for the members.

We wrote a proclamation of “Whereas the Faribault AAUW Branch gives to the community such things as scholarships, hard-cover books to preschoolers, voter forums, highway cleanups, used book sales, etc.” for the mayor to “therefore proclaim May 18, 2015, as Faribault American Association of University Women Day.” Members witnessed the signing at a Faribault City Council meeting, which was broadcast on the local television station.

On May 18, we held our annual potluck picnic at the Historic Hutchinson House. Ella Hutchinson was the branch’s first president and was related to the owners of the house. In addition to a cake, we had a video presentation that spanned our 90 years. Included was an interview with our 60-year member, May Bottke, who is 90 years old. Cyndy Harrison matched members reading our mayoral proclamation to photos of those events, and shared a plethora of photos taken over the years, as well as images of what was happening in the world.

During Faribault’s Heritage Days Parade, AAUW had a milestone entry. The wagon carried a four-foot high anniversary cake and members wearing vintage hats carrying “gifts on a stick” of our various gifts to the community. A couple of walkers handed out bookmarks with our logo, activities and a coupon for \$1 off our annual Halloween Breakfast, to be held in late October.

The International Festival held in late August again featured our cake and mission gifts on a stick, as well as kids’ activities. It was also an opportunity to make our presence known in our community and interact with potential new members.

Our anniversary celebration has created enthusiasm, pride in membership, and a strengthening of relationships. We have had fun times in the past, as well as the present, and look forward to many more in the future.



AAUW PUBLIC POLICY

By Mary Petron, Vice President Public Policy

Can You Pass Our Social Security Quiz?

For 80 years, Social Security has been our nation's most successful anti-poverty program. Yet few people realize the crucial role that the program plays for women. Test your knowledge! Guess whether each statement below is true or false, and then learn the facts.

True or False

Nearly 60 percent of people receiving Social Security benefits are women.

Social Security provides a vital source of income for both divorced and unmarried women.

Social Security is especially critical to women because of the gender pay gap.

Social Security is exclusively a retirement program.

Social Security protects more than 9 out of 10 American workers and their families in the event of a life-changing disability or illness.

Although Social Security needs reform, the program isn't broken beyond repair.

For answers contact: mcpetron824@gmail.com

There are lots of myths about Social Security, but the truth is compelling. The program supports millions of older women — more than half of who would fall into poverty without it. The bottom line is that women can't save money they haven't been paid. Women still bear a disproportionate burden of caregiving responsibilities, which can take them out of the paid workforce to assist children and aging parents. And the gender pay gap means women have lower savings and pension benefits (if any), leaving them on an unequal footing in retirement.

Make no mistake, the current Social Security system contains many benefits that must be maintained and strengthened, including full cost-of-living adjustments, guaranteed lifetime benefits, a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. AAUW believes that it is vital to women's economic security to provide for the long-term solvency of Social Security and to maintain its current guaranteed benefits.

Since AAUW's founding, our members and supporters have spoken out about policies that are important to women and girls. We are grateful for the eight decades of work that Social Security has done to help strengthen economic security for women and their families, and we will continue to push for improvements for the next eight decades and counting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Rose Cyert

Have you ever thought of holding a position on the AAUW State Board? An opportunity is currently available: Vice President of AAUW Funds. Lisa West, currently state secretary/historian, has agreed to serve another term, so this position is filled. Thanks to Lisa, a valued member of the state board, for saying yes. Peg Lonquist, VP Membership, will also serve a second term. Peg has worked diligently to involve University reps with AAUW the past two years. Our future is nourishing college young women to become members of AAUW, because they see value in holding an AAUW membership. Thanks to Peg, AAUW of Minnesota is moving forward.

If you believe in the mission of AAUW, are active at the branch level and have a willingness to learn and grow, you might to consider filling a state board position. You may hone your leadership skills, and enjoy camaraderie and teamwork with other members of the board. An applicant may be self-nominated or nominated by the branch or any individual. A brief description of position responsibilities and a vita sheet to be used for nominations can be found on the AAUW Minnesota website: <http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>. Nominations are open from September 15 – November 15, 2015, and may be received at any time up to the closing date. Please attach a vita sheet with the signature of the nominee and mail to the address below.

The nominating committee will present a slate of candidates to the membership at the 2016 state convention in Duluth.

Mail completed and signed vitae by November 15, 2015, to:

Rose Cyert, AAUW Minnesota State Nominating Committee Chair

1361 Brookview Drive, Winona, MN 55987

Phone: 507-454-3555

E-mail: zom55@charter.net

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF MINNESOTA HOLD A “NORTHLAND GET TOGETHER”

By Sharon Rigot, President

The annual **AAUW Northland Get Together** was hosted by the Duluth Branch at the Hartley Nature Center on September 12. AAUW members of the Brainerd, Duluth, Ely, Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Virginia branches attended. I was fortunate to be included, even though my branch, Minneapolis, is not in the Northland. This was my second year as a guest at the “Northland Get Together” and I was really looking forward to it! The day began with registration at 9:30 a.m., with hot and cold beverages and a wonderful assortment of goodies. AAUW Duluth Co-President Wendy Williamson welcomed us. As state president, I was also given the opportunity to address the gathering. This was followed by an excellent presentation by Gerald ‘Jerry’ Niemi on the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, which includes the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory with its bird migration count, bird banding research and environmental education. Niemi is a professor of biology and a senior research associate and professor at the Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth. At 11:00 a.m., a representative from each of the branches was given the challenge of describing, in a minute or two, some of their branches’ upcoming activity highlights. The caliber of the highlights and the number of highlights mentioned in such a brief span of time were remarkable!

The last morning program was given by Sharon M. Day, who is enrolled in the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe, one of the founders of the Indigenous Peoples’ Task Force, a 2nd degree M’dewiwin, and a follower of the spiritual path of the Anishinaabe people. Ms. Day told us about the Mother Earth Water Walkers. Each walk is to raise awareness of our precious resource of water and is a prayer for the water. She has led five Water Walks. Water is carried from one body of water to another. For example, in 2011, water was carried from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Superior. She drummed and sang a water walker song prayer. I hope to read the anthology she edited, *Sing! Whisper! Shout! Pray! Feminist Visions for a Just World*, published by Edgework Books in 2000.

Lunch was a catered variety of wraps. I had a delicious wild rice/chicken wrap. We had to make a choice for our after lunch activity: a guided hike through Hartley Field, a gentle walk at the Nature Center, the movie *Flow* at the Nature Center, or a drive to Hawk Ridge to observe hawks with an educator. I choose the guided hike through Hartley Field. I was not disappointed in my choice: good information, good exercise, good views and great companions! What a great way to spend a gorgeous Minnesota fall Saturday!

I suggest that other branches plan **Get Togethers** for their areas of Minnesota for next fall. We could have a **Southland Get Together**, an **Eastland Get Together**, a **Metro Get Together** and a **Westland Get Together**, along with the **2016 Northland Get Together—Ely next time!**



THE MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CONSORTIUM HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

By Sharon Bigot, President

On September 8, MWC Board Chair Trisha Harms announced that Kabo Yang has been hired to lead the Minnesota Women's Consortium as their new executive director. The MWC, with 120 plus member organizations, is now entering its 36th fiscal year as an advocate for equity and justice for all women and girls.

Ms. Yang has some very impressive credentials. She has an undergraduate degree in business administration from Metropolitan State University, a graduate degree in organizational leadership from St. Catherine's University, a second graduate degree in human and organizational systems from Fielding Graduate University, and is working on her Ph.D. in human and organizational systems with an expected graduation at the end of 2016. Her research interests are immigrants, women and leadership. Her work experience ranges from her position as a foundations relations manager at United Way, to working as an independent consultant for a range of Minnesota nonprofits.

A Hmong American woman who came to this country as a refugee from Laos, Ms. Yang has had a career in nonprofit management and consulting. She has worked in both paid and volunteer positions in community service that benefits women, women of color and other marginalized communities. Here are Kabo Yang's thoughts: "Lifting women and girls towards independence and prosperity has been the motivating factor in my career and education. I embrace the opportunity to bring that motivation to the Consortium, where great work is already happening in our community and through our members. I understand that this long road ahead will be filled with smooth pavement, bumpy patches and forks splitting into many directions; however I know I am not alone, and that many of you will contribute to our mission of advancing equity and justice for all women. I look forward to the collaborations, advocacy and collective change for the women and girls of Minnesota that are sure to result."

**MINNESOTA WOMEN'S
CONSORTIUM**



AAUW OF MINNESOTA STATE CONVENTION

Lighting the Way with AAUW

April 29, 30–May 1, 2016
Holiday Inn, Duluth, Minnesota

Whether you drive to the AAUW of Minnesota State Convention in Duluth in the daytime or in the evening, the view is spectacular as you enter the city from the freeway, the highway or the bridge. Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes, provides a beautiful background setting for the 2016 convention!

Lighting the Way with AAUW will provide you with mission-based workshops to achieve a variety of ways to meet our mission of providing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Convention lodging will be at the Holiday Inn and Suites in downtown Duluth, which offers complimentary covered parking, Wi-Fi, and an airport shuttle. All of our meetings will be held on site and our reception will be off site. The Eleanor Roosevelt walk/run will utilize the skywalk. Optional activities will be offered before and after the convention.

Save the date!

There will be no shortage of information, friends, food and fun!

All branches will receive convention packets in February with registration forms and more information.



AAUW LEGACY CIRCLE

By Maxine Lampe, AAUW Iowa Past President

For each of us, philanthropy is intensely personal. It is an expression of our values and our vision of the world we hope to create for the next generation. By making a planned gift to AAUW, you become a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle and affirm your commitment to empowering women and girls for generations to come.

As a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle, you will receive a beautiful pin to honor your generosity and lifetime commitment to AAUW's mission. Legacy Circle members are also celebrated in our annual publications and may receive invitations to special events in our area and at the state conference.

We welcome the opportunity to include you as a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle if you have done one of the following:

- Provided for AAUW in your will or trust
- Designated AAUW as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan, savings bond, bank account or life insurance policy
- Created a planned gift that returns fixed or flexible income to you or others

There is **no minimum gift required** and you need only fill out the enrollment form to the extent that you are comfortable. Specific information about the type of estate gift is optional and remains confidential.

I became a Legacy Circle member in part because I found this to be one of the best ways to provide for AAUW for years to come. I left a bequest in our will that will enable AAUW to continue its commitment to mission-based programs like scholarships for students wishing to go to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. I now serve as a regional Legacy Circle Team Member and would like to speak with you about how to make your gift a reality. You may contact me at 712-732-1058 or lampe.maxine@gmail.com. I would be happy to talk with you personally about wording for your will or any questions you might have. Don't put off this important decision.

Minnesota currently has 12 active Legacy Circle members.

Let's see if we can increase that number by the time of our 2016 State Conference in Duluth.





Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

AAUW members have played key roles in VGIF since 1969, serving as its founders, officers, and supporting members along with other women around the world.

VGIF invites AAUW of Minnesota members, spouses, and friends to be our guests at a free evening reception at the **Hilton Garden Inn Minneapolis (at 1101 4th Ave S) on Friday, October 23 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Learn more about VGIF-funded projects and meet the Board of Directors, who are meeting outside of New York City for the very first time.

To RSVP, or to learn more, please contact VGIF at (212) 213-0622 or info@vgif.org.

VGIF is an international women's fund that supports local women leaders by funding one-year project grants of up to \$7,500. VGIF-funded projects are designed and implemented by women in their communities, and range from education, to maternal health, to economic development and human rights. The "returns on investment" are tremendous! Women and girls are directly empowered by the projects, and their families and communities are also impacted. In fact, 231,500 women and girls and 353,000 people overall have been reached by 515 grants since VGIF's founding in 1969. The positive effects of VGIF project grants are often sustained after the funding period since each project was developed by local leaders.

The following stories are from two VGIF-funded projects:



Transform Ghana NGO provided an internet clinic to teenaged girls to advance their studies of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects. Mercy, a 14-year-old student, participated in the program. Initially described as an average student by teachers, Mercy confided that she didn't see the need for computers before trainings. She says, "I had no idea that computers could be used to facilitate teaching and learning." As training progressed, Mercy got more engaged and started excelling in school. She says, "This experience has been a motivation, fantastic and faith-strengthening that has renewed my hope in education." Mercy wants to pursue a computer engineering career and strives to be a positive role model for other Ghanaian girls.



"We no longer have to go to bed hungry and I now have friends in school!" says Promise, a participant of Enable to Enable's skills building and income generating project in Nigeria. Born with deformities in both legs and having lost her father at an early age, Promise balanced her studies with helping her mother provide for her younger siblings. This stress coupled with her disability caused Promise to suffer from poor self-esteem. After confiding in program counselors, Promise was recruited to knit and sell school sweaters to her classmates resulting in a steady source of income while entrenching her further into the school's positive environment. Enable to Enable gifted Promise with a knitting machine to help her sustain her work for the school and future clients.

To learn more about VGIF, please contact our office at (212) 213-0622 or info@vgif.org.

AAUW MINNESOTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015-2016

July 2015

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

August 2015

- 1 Criteria, Applications, and Deadlines for Fellowships and Grants Available Online
- 26 Women's Equality Day
- 29 State Financial Records Review
- 30 Pine Deadline

September 2015

- 8 President's Mailing to Branches
- 15 Nominations Open for State Board Offices

October 2015

- 11 Eleanor Roosevelt's Birthday
- 21 Deadline for Board to Branch Contacts (October 1 – October 21)
- 24 State Board Meeting

November 2015

- 15 Deadline for Nominations for State Board Offices

December 2015

- 15 Deadline for AAUW Funds to Jan Paulsen

January 2016

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

February 2016

- 1 Deadline for NCCWSL Applications to State
- 15 Deadline for Young Women for Equity Applications to State
- 15 Deadline for AAUW MN Branch Project Grants Applications
- 15 Convention Mailing to Branch Presidents, Past State Presidents, College/University Reps, Committee Chairs, and State Board
- 15 Credentials Chair Notifies Branches of Number of Delegates
- 15 President's Mailing to Branches

March 2016

- 8 International Women's Day
- 15 15-Month Dues Accepted for New Members

April 2016

- 8 Equal Pay Day
- 15 NCCWSL Early Registration Deadline
- 29 State Board Meeting
- 29–May 1 State Convention in Duluth

May 2016

- 15 Pine Deadline

June 2016

- 2–4 NCCWSL 2016
- 30 Deadline to Submit Branch Officers' Names to State and National
- 30 Deadline for 2016-2017 Dues

AAUW MINNESOTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Watch your email for
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AAUW of Minnesota Pine!



View the Pine along with more AAUW Minnesota information at:
<http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

Please submit articles for the AAUW MN Pine to...Gail Glashan
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Pine

Deep Roots—Strong Branches

American Association of University Women

Gail Glashan

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Mission Statement

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

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Diversity Statement

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

