

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7

the
AAUW Pine

Minnesota

Volume 46
Issue 2



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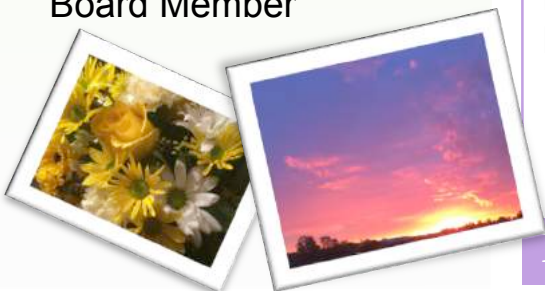
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National Lobby Day

By: Jan Bensen, State President

About 26 AAUW members from 17 Minnesota cities attended Lobby Day in Washington DC. Lobby Day was held Thursday June 15th as part of the National Convention.

Lobby Day started with training on Wednesday, June 14th. On Wednesday afternoon from 1:30-4:00pm, all Lobby Day participants assembled in the Convention ballroom by State. We heard from Elizabeth Holden, AAUW Staff for Lobby day. The two topics every state was to present focused on AAUW's commitment to Title IX and funding the Office of Civil Rights, which is the Title XI enforcement arm and continued support for Pell grants for low-income students. New AAUW research, Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans, was a leave behind piece at each meeting.

The level of organization was impressive on Thursday. Busses took us from the hotel to Capitol Hill. We all wore Lobby Day t-shirts and our MN AAUW pins. Each State member received a folder of information specific to that state. Our Minnesota folders included each person's schedule, a Letter to Members of Congress, a fact sheet on each Senator and Representative's committee assignments and voting record, a sample meeting agenda, and a

Quick Facts page on Title IX. We went as a whole group to Senators Franken and Klobuchar and AAUW members visited their home district

Representatives. Meetings started at 8:45am with Senator Franken and 10:30am for Senator Klobuchar. Representative meetings were held after lunch.

We had a very cordial reception at each meeting. It was fascinating to get a glimpse of the behind the scenes operation of Congressional offices. Some meetings took place in the halls outside hearing rooms. Young staffers were often our point of contact and we were impressed with their professionalism.

Buses circled between Capitol Hill and the convention hotel to bring us back. Each member turned in Feedback forms recording the results of each Congressional meeting. AAUW National tracks each representative's voting record and will look for the effects of our Lobby Day efforts. Lobby Day was a worthwhile exercise for all of those participating.



A NCCWSL Thank You to AAUW of Minnesota!

From Rosemary Pechous,
Co-sponsored by AAUW Hastings



Dear AAUW of Minnesota,

I would like to extend an enthusiastic thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 31 – June 3rd, 2017. For me, this opportunity would not have been possible without AAUW of Minnesota.

The conference was eye-opening. There is something beautiful and empowering about being in the same space as hundreds of other women leaders fighting for equity. Leaving the conference, I was more motivated to make change than ever before.

The conference days were filled with 90 minute sessions, key-note speakers, and networking. The sessions I attended, and most resonated with me were: #ShinyCampus, which is the movement of empowered women empowering other women, Feminist Self-Care, which taught me how to preserve through the hard-times of being a feminist, and Self-Care to Recharge your Leadership, where I learned how to recharge after, if I feel exhausted in my activism efforts.

At the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, I most connected with the speaker, Amanda Nguyen. Within listening to Amanda speak I realized that any person can make change in the world. Amanda wrote the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights – which passed unanimously through the U.S House of Representatives – all within 7 months. She showed me that you do not have to be famous to make change – something I really needed to understand.

Thank you, AAUW of Minnesota, for granting me a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the most profound conference for women leaders.

Rosemary Pechous



AAUW Northland Get Together

WELCOME TO HIBBING, HEART OF THE MESABI RANGE

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2017
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
HIBBING, MN

\$25.00 for the day
 Reservations due by
 Friday, August 25, 2017
 RESERVATIONS ARE NON
 REFUNDABLE. FORM ATTACHED

HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL
800 East 21st Street

**USE MAIN ENTRANCE
 ON 21ST STREET**

SCHEDULE

- 10:00-10:30 am - Registration: coffee, tea, water and muffins provided
- 10:30- 10:45 am - Welcome and branch sharing
- 10:45 - 11:30 am - Tour of Hibbing High School with Bob Kearney
- 11:30 - 12:15 pm - LUNCH
- 12:15 - 1:00 pm - Program: "Hibbing's Historic and Colorful Past" with Hibbing Branch member Stefanie Carlson

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 Sharon Kearney, President, Hibbing Branch
 2831 3rd Avenue East, Hibbing, MN 55746
 218-263-3946 - OR - 218-969-1442
 rskearney@q.com

AAUW
 empowering women since 1881

A tradition continues for the northeast MN branches of AAUW-MN. Each fall season a branch hosts the Northland Get-Together. Branches from Ely, Virginia, Duluth, Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Brainerd area gather as a 'mini conference'. A theme is chosen by the host branch, members socialize, speakers provide informative presentations related to the meeting theme.

Hibbing will host September 9th with a theme focused on our branch history and featuring the Hibbing High School auditorium and its multi-million dollar restoration project.

By: Jan Carey

President's Letter

By: Jan Bensen

Lots has been happening at AAUW Minnesota since our State Convention in Willmar. Jeanette Carlson, Beverly Crute and the Branch members did a great job organizing that event. New Board members are taking on responsibilities and several long time Board members are stepping down after years of service. I'd like to thank Carol Sheggeby for her years as Treasurer, and Mary Petron for her work as Public Policy Chair. A number of committee members contributed their time. Thanks to the Nominating committee of Caroline Owens, Beth Nienow, Jan Paulson, Lisa West and Sharon Bigot. The Financial Review committee of Diane Hellie, Karen Kirkwood, and Nancy Techam reviewed the State books. Sheila Lind and her committee of Barb Link, Carol James and Phyllis Olson worked through the tough job of getting

Branch By-laws up to date and filed at National. Thanks to all these volunteers for the work they do.

In this issue of the Pine, you will see a report on the June AAUW National Convention in Washington DC and Lobby Day at Capitol Hill.

The national political climate has energized people to get involved and work for the goals they value.

I think AAUW MN is feeling that same energy. We will look toward collaboration between Branches to reach out to community members to encourage new members to join AAUW. We have several ideas for State wide projects in the works that any Branch can participate in. More to come on that.

Please visit the AAUW MN website for more information. Enjoy your summer.



Summer Ice Cream Social

AAUW-St. Cloud Area Branch



Talent Show: Play the piano, sing a song, read a poem, tell a story or a joke!
Tuesday, July 11th at 6:30 p.m. at Linda McLeod's Home

This summer social was a great success, having 15 members show up for sweet treats and great amateur entertainment. A must have for all branches, summer events, to keep the group connected and continuing on in our AAUW efforts.



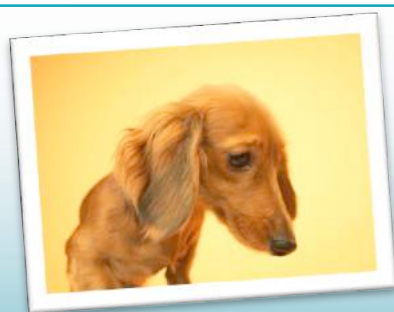
Walking and Talking

Fifty some members of the Minneapolis Branch walked around Lake Harriet in Minneapolis on Wednesday, May 10. The weather was perfect; slightly cool, dry and partly cloudy. The event was a fund raiser for the branch.

It started with a group photo at the bandshell, then we headed out at our own pace. Members walked with friends, members they did not know well and new members. It was a good chance to get to know each other better. Carol Sheldon parked her van at the half-way mark and had water and treats available. It was another opportunity to mix with other members.

In a big branch such as ours, it is difficult to get to know everyone. The consensus was that this was very fun. "Let's do it again next year." was heard often as we convened back at the bandshell and many of us headed to Linden Hills restaurants for lunch.

By: Lois Petersen, Mpls Branch



St. Cloud Members Book Launch

Linda McLeod, St. Cloud Branch Membership VP currently published her book "Passport for Pets". She held her book launch on June 25th in her lovely renovated historical home. Many members and none members attended the event. Linda has graciously decided to give the proceeds of her "in person" book sales to the St. Cloud branch to go toward their Annual Fundraiser in October, helping to send women to NCCWSL, as well as support Tech Savvy.

By: Jackie Crever

Our New National Board Member

After the close of the AAUW national convention, the newly elected board of directors meets to select up to three appointed members whose qualifications fulfill a skill set the board feels they need. This year one of the three they selected is MN Past President Karen Kirkwood. Karen is a member of the St. Paul and St. Cloud Branches. She currently serves on several St. Paul committees and the Tech Savvy committee at St. Cloud. Karen is looking forward to the new challenge of serving on the national board where she hopes to be a voice for members and branches. Please contact her with questions and concerns. She will make every effort to provide answers and bring concerns to the board.



Karen Kirkwood
karenskirkwood@cs.com
13210 Downey Trail
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-891-2876

Our President's Questions to National Convention Goers

Send two or three thoughts on what was the most impactful message for you and what you think could be a focus or project we could look at to implement in Minnesota.

-Jan Bensen

As an issue for the election in 2018, I agree with the idea that it is important to help women have confidence in their opinions, by providing an easy to access source of information on where condiates stand on various issues.

~ Eileen Newhouse

The application of Title IX to campus safety was something I had not been tuned into. Throwing our support and encouragement to campus Title IX coordinators seems like one area we could focus on as well as education for students on their rights and the support available.

~ Linda Hoffman

I was so impressed with how well organized all facets of the convention were. The national staff also impressed me with their friendliness, helpfulness, enthusiasm and smarts. What I hope to see in MN in the not too distant future are Work Smart classes, but I know they are currently understaffed and over budget.

~ Lois Peterson

I agree that working on contacting and supporting Title IX officers locally would be a good focus for us in MN. I attended a workshop on College/University engagement, which is something I think we need to work on here in Rochester. The info on the student debt research could come into play with that. The other take away from convention that I hope will be helpful here is information on mission based programs for branch meetings.

~ Sara Staab

AAUW MN could take advantage of the national tool for following state legislation and for advocacy on the state level. It's fairly easy to advocate on AAUW issues on the national level, and having the ability to do this as easily on the state level would be great. This is probably even more important in the current political climate.

It's important for more women to run for office.

1. Women can bring people together
2. Women bring different perspective
3. Women are better at listening and understanding another perspective
4. Women bring a quieter discourse to a conversation

~ Caroline

Having attended the workshop on Title IX, and after delivering the message to legislators on Lobby Day, I think we could target checking on whether our MN high schools have Title IX compliance officers in each school and whether they have been trained to know what that means. The workshop powerpoint should be going up on line.

~ Sheila Lind

I concur with Sheila. I think that would be a great – and doable – project for us. I'm working to figure out the Title IX coordinator here in Lake Superior school district.

How lucky we are to have Amy, Al, and Rick as our congressional leaders, strongly supporting the issues that AAUW cares about.

I found AAUW's message about student debt to be very effective with most everybody, in DC and now back here at home.

~ Barb Wonson

I was impressed with the number of women and men that made comments as we were walking in the halls of the Hart and Rayburn wearing our AAUW tee shirts. Comments like good job, keep up the good work, and thanks meant that AAUW was identified as a positive influence.

Our small group had the opportunity to spend some time talking with Representative Rick Nolan on a variety of topics. It was discouraging to hear the amount of time that lawmakers needed to spend on raising money for their next election campaign. (An even greater concern is that amount of large money donors targeting millions of dollars against individual candidates.) Representative Nolan stressed the importance of hearing from his constituents and members of AAUW, a group he was familiar with our work.

I would like to see us focus on the Deeper in Debt Student Crisis Research. As my chiropractor, who has been in business several years, was working on my back, I heard all about her struggle to raise a family and try to pay back her student loans.

My granddaughter shared her own concerns about the struggle with financing education and stories of her friends who are going through trying to pay the rent, make car payments to get to work, eat and pay off student loans with their new degree and their entry level jobs. Education lessen in the future when grant money is cut and borrowing opportunities become overwhelming.

I sent thank you notes on AAUW cards to Senator Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken and Representative Rick Nolan thanking them for the opportunity to meet and share concerns. I also said I appreciated their support of Title IX and addressing the student Loans and Debt concerns.

~ Mary Ann Lucas Houx

I thought it was worrisome that many millennial's are not engaged in voting, believing that they have more influence through social media. One of the ideas proposed was that we could illustrate the importance of voting via statistics – e.g., if 1,000 more people had voted in the favor of x, it would have passed.

~Ellen Newhouse

The political climate in Washington DC is toxic, and not much is being accomplished. I heard from several speakers about the importance of communicating in a civil manner and honoring another's point of view. This is something all of us can do. If enough of us do it, we could make a difference.

~Caroline



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA ADVISORY – Monday, May 15, 2017
 Fargo Public School District #1

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS PROBLEM SOLVE WITH S.T.E.M. WORKSHOPS

What do marshmallow shooters, tobacco hornworms, makey makeys, and Rube Goldberg machines all have in common? They're not your "typical" education resources, but they are being used to teach STEM lessons to middle school students!

WHAT: 2nd Annual BrainSTEM Day
WHEN: **Tuesday, May 16, 2017;**
 Workshop sessions from **10:00 to 10:50 a.m., 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.; and 1:00 to 1:50 p.m.**
WHERE: Classrooms in the A. Glenn Hill Center, on the campus of NDSU, Fargo
CONTACTS: **Thomas Weber**, FPS Technical Education Instructor, 701.793.4177 mobile, 701.446.3745 office, or webert1@fargo.k12.nd.us; **Sadie Rudolph**, NDSU media relations coordinator, 701.231.8421 or sadie.rudolph@ndsu.edu; or **Alexa Ducioame**, AAUW, 701.213.7796 or farmoor.aauw@gmail.com for more information.

On May 16, the NDSU Engineering Department and the American Association University of Women (AAUW) will host more than 100 seventh graders from Ben Franklin Middle School for the second annual BrainSTEM, a day of STEM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The middle school students will work with NDSU Engineering professors and students and local industry professionals to problem solve using the engineering design process. The student teams will employ science, technology and math to solve various engineering scenarios while strengthening their 21st Century Skills (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity).

STEM occupations face a general lack of available workers to fill open positions. Additionally, it has been documented that people choosing STEM-related careers are a relatively homogenous group, compared to the overall population. The workshop leaders are from traditionally underrepresented groups in STEM to show the middle school students that there are role models of all backgrounds. The hope is to encourage more students to consider careers in STEM fields, as well as reduce prejudice and bias.

The volunteers have created a series of engineering design sessions, and the Ben Franklin students will select three sessions to participate in from the following list:

- **The Art & Science of Counting:** Come and see how to transform mathematical objects into wildly different forms using beautiful maps called bijections. Creativity required!
- **Scratch Workshop:** Scratch programming workshop
- **Putting Your "Heart" into Engineering:** Biomedical engineers use science and math to find ways to keep people healthy. We will design and test a medical device.
- **Insect Developmental Biology:** Girls will get hands-on experience with insects and learn how to set up an experiment from hypothesis to presenting data.
- **Learning the Advantages of Lean:** You will be working on a manufacturing assembly line as a team to produce a quality product in the most efficient manner
- **Rube Goldberg Machine:** Use a combination of recycled items to create a "domino effect," that will launch a ping pong ball into the air!
- **Marshmallow Shooters:** Use cardboard tubes and rubber bands to make a marshmallow shooter

Continued...

- **See the Surface of the Sun Using Solar Telescopes:** This presentation will describe the sun and the use of properly filtered solar telescopes. View the sun outdoors.
- **Road Design:** Experiment with traffic flow and interchanges, then learn what roads are made of with some tasty examples of pavement designs.
- **A Walk through Time:** How old is the Earth? How long is a billion years? We'll draw it out and discover Earth's history together!
- **How to Build a Circuit:** We will test different materials for conductivity and then build circuits with lighted fans, rotating lights and sirens.
- **Makey Makeys:** Making music by turning everyday objects into touchpads that can play a song.

[END]

The 2nd Annual BrainSTEM event was hosted by Fargo-Moorhead AAUW & NDSU College of Engineering on Tuesday, May 16th. The workshop leaders were from underrepresented groups in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to show the entire 7th grade class from Ben Franklin that there are role models from all backgrounds. The event was sponsored by Smart Move Fargo-Moorhead and Moore Engineering, Inc. Students participated in activities such as Scratch Programming, Rube Goldberg machines, Solar Telescopes, Road Design, and Biomedical Engineered Heart Monitors. FMAAUW President-Elect Alexa Ducioame coordinated the event with NDSU and led the opening session in the auditorium. FMAAUW Finance Officer, Liz Cambron, led a workshop on Insect Developmental Biology.



Austin Branch's 12 Annual Women's History Celebration

In cooperation with Austin High School, Austin's AAUW branch again sponsored a Women's Project Contest for the members of Dennis Schwab's Honors American History classes. Approximately 60 students took part, and branch members were on hand to help with the judging. It is very rewarding to see the information that these young people have discovered about the struggles of women and girls toward equality. We find that many students take for granted the rights that girls and women now have.

To bring the messages of women's history to the whole high school student body, our branch also sponsors an all school assembly, presenting outstanding women to tell the stories of their achievements. At this event, the cash prizes for the winners in the project contest are awarded. Tied for first place were Isaac Christopherson, who received \$100 and Emily Sayles and Hannah Alberts, who did a project together, each receiving \$50.

Liza Maatz, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations, was our 2017 assembly speaker. She was very well received by students, as she had been four years ago. She spoke about her own experiences from elementary school with organizing a group to reach a goal (bathroom stall doors). And she emphasized the importance of participation in the democratic process at all levels, including voting.

Liza also met with the project contest winners at a coffee time and answered their questions about the details of how the federal government works from her perspective, as a lobbyist. As added prizes for our student project contest winners, Lisa sent each of them an autographed copy of the book "Secrets of Powerful Women," in which she is featured.

Past high school assembly speakers have included Ann Bancroft, polar explorer; Jane Curry, presenting a dramatization about women in science; Pat Sween, portraying Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Shannon Miller, UMD Women's Hockey coach; Kiann Vanenover, FBI agent; Bonnie Rietz, former Austin mayor; Theresa Amazi, Mower County sheriff.

By: Carolyn Bogott

Photo: Women's History Contest Winners, Isaac Christopherson, Emily Sayles, Hannah Alberts, with Lisa Maatz, Vice President for Governmental Relations in Washington, DC.



WILLMAR BRANCH HOSTS 88TH STATE AAUW CONVENTION

They came from the north...the south...east and west...to the "heart of Minnesota for the 88th annual AAUW state convention in Willmar April 28-29 with the theme "Engage. Educate. Empower."

"We were pleased to welcome 124 AAUW members and guests for the two-day event that featured a visit to The Barn Theatre in downtown Willmar on Friday afternoon for early registrants," stated Co-Chairs Beverly Crute and Jeanette Carlson. "We all reminisced how long it had been since we rode on a school bus." The group was welcomed by Willmar branch member Nancy Geiger who shared the history of The Barn and its current activities followed by a visit with Fred Cogelow, artist-in-wood, who explained the process for carving the magnificent sculpture that is featured in the lobby area.

Upon our return to the convention center, we heard an update from Alicia Hetman of California, Vice Chair of the National AAUW board of directors. Several new activities were added to the convention agenda this year, including a session for first-time attendees on Friday afternoon and training sessions with state board member counterparts after the buffet breakfast on Saturday morning. Said state President Jan Bensen, "We were pleased to be able to offer these counterpart sessions and hope to continue them at future conventions. We heard many positive comments."

Friday evening's special dinner kicked off with piano music in the background for the social hour, and following the dinner, many awards were given out. They included:

- *AAUW Funds awards for top ten branches in total gifts and per capita
- *Branches that saw substantial increases in membership
- *Named gift honorees
- *Legacy Circle members (including several new ones who joined during the convention)

The featured entertainment was vivacious Irene Wallin, one of the "Willmar 8", who played her favorite songs on the electronic keyboard for a time of group sing-along.

The Silent Auction was abuzz with shoppers making their bids on items contributed by the many branches. Veronica Johnson, state Vice President for AAUW Funds, reported the total raised for the Legal Advocacy Fund was \$3,671 which included cash donations along with sales of auction items. "I can't say enough good things about the Silent Auction committee! They did such a good job with the set up and keeping it open," said Veronica.

On Saturday morning, following the official welcome from a Willmar City Councilwoman and Girl Scout flag ceremony, the keynote address was offered by Kabo Yang, Executive Director for the Minnesota Women's Consortium. "Engaging, educating, and empowering women is what we do, and we thank the Minnesota AAUW members for partnering with us in this effort," remarked Kabo.



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Another special feature of the convention was the address by Senator Amy Klobuchar who could not be present in person but created a special video that was shown during the business session. Senator Klobuchar gave credit to AAUW branches all across the country for standing up for issues she works for in Washington, D.C., and that benefit women and girls. Said one member, "I know getting the [Senator] Amy Klobuchar message was lots of work, but it sure was fun to see and hear."

The following members were elected to board positions:

Lisa West – President Elect (2017-18)

Mary Ann Lucas-Hoax – V.P. Program (2017-19)

Jan Carey – V.P. Public Policy (2017-19)

Beth Nienow – Treasurer (2017-19)

Trudy Severson – Secretary/Historian (2017-18)

Nominating Committee (2017-18) – Sharon Bigot, Alice Laudon, Colleen LeBlanc, Sue Grove (alternate)

Paul Thein, the Legal Advocacy Fund plaintiff, who filed suit for non-compliance of Title IX at Feather River College, told how he was placed on leave after bringing a complaint to the administration. "AAUW's support is so important. It's fuel to the mind that lets you know you're not in this by yourself. When I speak to anyone who is an AAUW member, I say thank you. It's therapy for me to be around people who support what's right. Every time I feel energized."

Saturday afternoon was dedicated to two sessions of enrichment workshops, including:

"Marketing AAUW to Engage Millennials"

DREAM Technical Academy – A STEM Education

Leaders in Action – The Willmar 8

Empowered for Leadership

Funding AAUW Programs

Said one attendee, "This was the best workshop I've attended in 30 years!"

The convention ended with a refreshment break and remarks from President Bensen before AAUW members packed up and headed for home. Another state convention was a success. We now look to the Faribault branch who will host the 2018 convention with the theme: "Come Grow in Faribault."



Equal Pay Day

By: Teresa O’Gara

Duluth AAUW initiated a coalition with nine other like-minded local organizations to mark Equal Pay Day on April 4, 2017, the symbolic day that women’s wages from 2016 finally catch up to men’s. Over 75 people assembled on the steps of City Hall to rally for gender equity wages. At the rally a proclamation was read by Mayor Emily Larson; a message from senator Amy Klobuchar was read by Ida Rukavina: Senator Klobuchar’s Northeastern representative; a report informing the press and attendees that women only earn 80% of what men earn and that for minority women this percentage decreases drastically was presented by Gay Trachsel, Duluth Branch AAUW public policy chair. Personal stories of how pay inequity handicaps women were shared, and finally, information regarding a city ordinance to require employers to offer Earned Sick and Safe time was outlined. Elected officials attending the rally included: the mayor, city council members, a county commissioner and a school board member. The rally was covered by three local television stations, the local newspaper, and a local radio station. This Equal Pay Day Rally brought forward gender-based inequities and the importance of closing the pay gap. In the future, this new coalition intends to continue working together to focus on pay issues, as well as other gender-equity issues.



Theresa O’Gara (left), Gay Trachsel, Wendy Williamson, and Abby Mlinar
AAUW members and event committee members – display the mayoral proclamation on the steps of City Hall

Minneapolis Open House Attracts New Members

By: Leslie Swenson, Membership Co-Chair

With a continual eye to growing our enrollment, last September Minneapolis Branch AAUW decided to do an Open House to showcase all the benefits of membership. Names of potential members were solicited from our membership in the spring with the intention of having the Open House just prior to our first fall meeting. We also invited members who belong to national AAUW but did not belong to a local chapter. At the Open House, all of our program committees and three of our standing

committees designed a space to showcase upcoming programs. We are unique in that the nine committees, with topics including education, health and public policy and more, plan three speakers every Monday, September through May. We wanted to highlight this amazing opportunity for life-long learning!

Also, fun activities such as the fall Gala, spring getaways, focus days, museum tours and fourth Monday interest groups, such as travel, literature, writers' group

and Great Decisions, were featured. A committee member manned each table and explained the activity and answered questions. And of course, we had a display featuring the good works that our local and national AAUW do to further our mission.

Guests were also given a tour of our lovely mansion and were treated to some light refreshments to round out their visit with us.

The Open House went flawlessly and since that time, the rate of new members in our chapter has doubled compared to other years. It was considered a great success! We do plan to do it again next year.





2018 MN Branch Projects Grant Information

AAUW Minnesota awards grants up to \$500 to AAUW branches in Minnesota to support branch projects that further the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls. The Branch Project Grant Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. How does the project align with the AAUW mission
2. The extent to which the project fulfills a community or branch need
3. Collaboration with community, collegiate, or partners
4. The extent to which the funds will provide a difference in the success of a project and how that success is measured

A total of \$2,000 is available for Branch Projects Grants this fiscal year which ends June 30, 2018. Applications are due by February 17, 2018. Recipients will be announced and presented a check at the state convention of April, 2018. AAUW MN anticipates that branch projects will be completed by June 30, 2019.

Each branch that is awarded a grant is expected to write an article for the Pine newsletter and or AAUW MN website, describing the purpose, outcomes, and lessons learned from its project.

Please provide the following information in your application:

- *Branch Name
- *Contact Person including name, address, phone number and E-mail
- *Amount Requested
- *A description of the project, including how the project will advance AAUW's mission; the need you are addressing and how you identified the need; your target audience(s) and how you plan to reach them effectively; your project partners, if any; a project timeline; and criteria for success.
- *A brief summary of your project in 50 words or less that can be used for describing the projects that are funded.
- *A proposed budget including any other sources of funding.

Send the completed application to: Mary Ann Lucas Houx, 1126 Mesaba Avenue, Unit 111, Duluth MN 55811 or Maryannhoux@gmail.com Questions- 218-525-5040



2017 MN Branch Project Grant Application Format

BRANCH

CONTACT

AMOUNT REQUESTED

BACKGROUND

PROJECT SUMMARY

BUDGET

TOTAL

Send the completed application to Mary Ann Lucas Houx, 1126 Mesaba Avenue, Unit 111, Duluth, MN 55811 or Maryannhoux@gmail.com Questions-218-525-5040

DUE DATE February 17, 2018

AAUW MN Young Women for Equity Award 2018
A \$500 award for a young woman in high school
A \$500 award for a young woman in college (up to age 25)

The criteria for this award are:

- * A young woman may be nominated for a high school or college level (up to age 25) award.
- * The project or activity specifically address women's and girls' equity issues.
- * The nominee must exhibit leadership that reflects the AAUW Mission
- * There must be evidence of the impact of the action or event.

The evidence of impact must be specific to the nominee's participation. Measureable outcomes should be shown if possible. This could include any of the following: number of girls or women served, results of the event or research as they impact women or girls, any statistical measures of success, "before or after" stories of women or girls benefitting from the action.

Nominations must include responses to the above criteria, names of both nominee and nominator and the branch name of the nominator. A panel of AAUW members will select the high school and college award winners.

The recipients of this award will be announced at the State Convention and they will be invited to our convention banquet or luncheon. Each winner will have the opportunity to speak briefly upon receiving the award. Up to two guests may accompany the winner and may attend the banquet or luncheon free of charge as our guest. Additional guests are welcomed but will need to make reservations and pay for their own meals. If a recipient is unable to attend, her nominator or a branch member may accept the award in her behalf.

PLEASE NOTE-We do not judge nominations by lengthy lists of all accomplishments, organizations, and projects an individual has been involved in. What we are looking for are projects that specifically address women and girls equity issues. We are most interested in reading about the leadership roles that the nominees have played in such projects.

Nominations for 2018 may be sent to Mary Ann Lucas Houx, MN AAUW Program Chair, 1126 Mesaba Avenue, Unit 111, Duluth, MN 55811 or maryannhoux@gmail.com.

Forms must be returned by March 9, 2018.

**2018 Nomination Form for
AAUW MN Young Women for Equity Award**

AAUW Mission Statement:

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

Name of Nominee _____

Age _____ Award Level _____ College _____ High School _____

Justification for award based on required criteria: (Attach page if necessary)

1. Briefly describe the event or activity

2. Leadership role played by the nominee (Please be specific)

3. How event or action reflects the AAUW Mission

4. Evidence of impact of the event or action

Name of Nominator _____

Nominator's Branch _____

Nominator's Contact Information _____

Using this form or format, send nomination to Mary Ann Lucas Houx, MN AAUW
Program Chair, 1126 Mesaba Avenue, Unit 111, Duluth, MN 55811 or
maryannhoux@gmail.com

Form must be returned by March 9, 2018

AAUW-Ely 2017 STEM Workshops

By Jeanne Tomlinson (AAUW-Ely STEM Committee Chair)

On Saturday, March 18, 2017, twenty 5th through 7th grade girls from the Ely area participated in a free one-day event from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm at the Vermilion Community College (VCC), our affiliate college. For the sixth year, AAUW-Ely coordinated a series of hands-on workshops in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields to help girls get excited about those areas as possible careers. This year, we received grant funds from Lake Country Power's Operation Round-Up program and a generous branch member to cover the costs of the event. Prior year workshops have included a wide variety of subjects, such as Glass Blowing, Geology, Neutrinos & Dark Matter, Chemistry, Architecture, Computer Programming, Astronomy, Physics, Biology and Environmental Science.

This year we had presenters from the Ely Schools (Egg Car-Crash Test), Ely Community Resource (The Drifters...) and the Laurentian Environmental Center (Wind & Water Wonders). We also tried something new this year with students from the VCC to start the event with "ice-breaker" activities. Seven students from the Environmental Interpretation/Education class prepared special interactive presentations on Dendrology (trees), Minnesota Geology, GPS tracking, and an Environmental Bingo game.

In the Egg Car-Crash Test, presented by Ely School librarian, Chuck Plantz, the girls learned about safety engineering. They each created their own car with various materials and some specific requirements that was supposed to allow the car to crash and yet keep a raw egg 'safe'. They developed and tested their cars with a plastic egg, and then performed the final test with a raw egg. There were only 4 "surviving" eggs, but all the girls learned a lot about the importance of well-designed safety belts.

Continue on next page...

In Wind & Water Wonders, presented by Sherry Abts from the Laurentian Environmental Center (also a member of our branch), the girls learned about air pressure and water surface tension. They held water in an upside down bottle with just wire screens, tested theories about how many drops of water could be held on pennies, learned how to fill a large nylon tube with air with just one breath, and how to design small rockets with pop bottles and straws.

In The Drifters..., presented by Julie Hignell and Jill Nocera Swanson from Ely Community resource, the girls used special microscopes connected to computers to examine & identify microscopic life forms from local lakes.

Although we have no way of measuring how these workshops will impact the participants' career choices in the future, if their enthusiasm for all the activities is any measure, we are confident that at least some of them will be interested in pursuing studies in the STEM fields.





2017 STEM* Workshops

Saturday, March 18, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
at Vermilion Community College (VCC)

FOR ALL GIRLS IN 5th – 8th GRADES

Free Event ~ Lunch will be provided

“Egg Car-Crash Test” with Chuck Plantz,
Librarian with Ely Schools

“Wind & Water Wonders” with Sherry Abts ,
Instructor from Laurentian Environmental Center

“The Drifters....” with Julie Hignell and Jill Nocera Swanson
from Ely Community Resource

Registration/check-in 9:30-10 a.m. in VCC Classroom Bldg.
(A parent or guardian must accompany participant if signed permission form is not completed in advance.)

Please let us know if you are attending by Wednesday, March 15.
RSVP by email to elystem@gmail.com to get registration/permission form
or call / text Jeanne Tomlinson at (218) 235-8470

***Science-Technology-Engineering-Math**

This event is made possible by the American Association of University Women - Ely Branch
in collaboration with Vermilion Community College
with a grant from Lake Country Power Operation Round-Up

Branch Officer Training

Mary Ann Lucas Houx, VP Program

At our 2017 AAUW MN State Convention, our state officers provided training for branch officer positions and also gathered information on how to provide training in the future. Thirty-five responses to a survey at the sessions provided information that will be used for planning branch officer training at the 2018 convention in Faribault, Minnesota.

According to the feedback, training of new officers is varied from no training and no materials passed on to receiving instructional manuals for the officer positions.

About one third of the group were trained by the previous officer before taking the new position with training identified from fair to good. Unfortunately, we still have “passing of the boxes” with dated materials that

people are concerned about removing because they do not know the importance of the material. It would be a good goal to develop officer manuals and eliminate the boxes. This goal will be a good discussion topic at the 2018 convention.

The majority of responses indicated that the convention was a good time and place to do officer training.

Responses also looked at varied time periods for the training. Unfortunately, not all new officers attend the convention. Some alternatives were suggested such as regional training and utilization of technology to provide training.

Job responsibilities, descriptions, roles, timeline of events, and contact people for help were items listed that were requested for specific information wanted in a training session. Also included

were legal issues such as 990-N forms, tax forms, fund raising rules, and by-laws. State and National expectations and connections, forms, grants and deadlines were included in the request for information. I can't stress enough the importance of the resources of AAUW on line. Job descriptions are available for officer positions on the state and local level. There are great training ideas for leaders, good program ideas, and many resources available on line. Also be sure to open and read The AAUW Pine for information on the calendar of events, grants and timelines, and information on the 2018 AAUW Minnesota State Convention.

AAUW Honorees

By: Wendy Williamson



Theresa O'Gara and Dawn Conlan were honored by the Duluth Branch during their Annual Meeting held May 9, 2017, at the Zoo Pavilion. O'Gara and Conlan are dedicated, involved AAUW members who make a difference in fulfilling AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Funds were sent to the national organization in their honor to support scholarships and grants. Bridget Holcomb, Director of the Women's Food Agriculture network, spoke at the Annual Meeting about women as game changers in agriculture.

Photo: Theresa O'Gara (left)
Dawn Conlan (right)

STEM Event

By: Theresa O'Gara

The AAUW Duluth Branch presented a STEM workshop for over 75 Duluth middle and high school girls on March 14, 2017, at Duluth's First United Methodist Church. Kirsi Kuutti – an Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Student at the University of MN, Duluth, a NASA inter, and a recent Recipient of a NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leader) Scholarship from AAUW, Minnesota – inspired the attendees by regaling them with her story of how her passion and luck landed her a NASA internship. Kuutti broke the girls into groups and tasked each group to use their engineering skills to create a mock-up of a space rover. Kuutti praised their design and engineering skills. She commented that it took months for NASA engineers to include a few of the elements the girls included in their mock-ups that evening. Kuutti distributed her business cards and encouraged the girls to contact her for advice on how to advance their STEM aspirations. Attendees reported that listening to Kuutti demystified the process of entering a STEM field of study and also gave them confidence they could be successful in a field under-represented by women.

Kiris Kuutti (Center)



AAUW Funds

By: Veronica Johnson

Thank you to our branches and individual members who contributed to AAUW Funds this year. Minnesota raised a total of \$117,880.54 for the calendar year 2016, WOW! Congratulations!

As you do your fund raisers and make your individual contributions, you can send your checks to Veronica Johnson, 351 Jolly Lane NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 and I will do the paperwork, or contribute on line at www.AAUW.org. Make checks out to AAUW Funds and in the memo line you can designate which fund or click on the drop down on the web. For each \$750 donated to the MN Past Presidents American Fellowship Fund #4326, your branch can name a Named Gift Honoree. If you have any questions, send me a note at veronicajj@aol.com

The Silent Auction at the State Convention brought in \$3671 for the Legal Advocacy Fund. There were so many fun items, thank you to everyone who gave items and purchased items with their high bids.

Paul Thein was our LAF Plaintiff speaker at convention. He was fired for doing the right thing, reporting staff violations of Title IX and student sexual harassment. The case dragged on for 11 years. Read about his case at <http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/20/feathe-r-river-interview/>

Paul said "AAUW's support is so important. It's fuel to the mind that lets you know you're not in this by yourself." He received a standing ovation after his presentation at convention.

Proceeds from the State Convention Silent Auction

Albert Lea	\$ 64
Austin	\$ 55
Brainerd	\$ 70
Duluth	\$ 80
Ely	\$130
Faribault	\$178
Fergus Falls	\$ 50
Grand Rapids	\$ 16
Hastings	\$170
Hibbing	\$ 50
Metro West	\$316
Minneapolis	\$1318
NE Metro	\$ 33
Northfield	\$ 55
Owatonna	\$ 80
Red Wing Area	\$ 40
Rochester	\$ 77
St. Cloud	\$100
St. Paul	\$170
Willmar	\$198
Winona	\$109
Cash Donations	\$ 312
Total	\$3671

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MINNESOTA LEADER ON LOAN PROGRAM

The Minnesota Leader on Loan program provides branches the opportunity to have a board member, team of state leaders, or teams of past leaders provide branch support and/or branch programming. AAUW MN will cover the leader's transportation. The host branch is responsible for any meals or overnight accommodations. An application should be submitted to the State President. Final approval is by the State President. Branches may request a specific person but the final decision will be on topic expertise, availability and proximity to the host branch.

AAUW MN Leader On Loan Application

Branch _____
Date _____
Contact Person _____
Position _____
E-mail _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City _____
Zip _____
Date and Time of the Visit _____
Alternate date and Time _____
Type of Event or Meeting _____
Expected attendance _____ Will other branches be invited? _____
If yes, please list _____
Purpose or Goal of the Meeting or Event _____
Role of the Leader requested _____
Does your branch need special AAUW materials or brochures? _____
Name of Leader or Topic Requested _____
Alternate Choice? _____
State President 2017-2018 Jan Bensen E-mail bjjb72@gmail.com
5823 47th Street SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304



2017 MN Branch Projects Grant Information
NOTE THE DATES AND SHORT TIMELINE FOR APPLICATION

AAUW Minnesota awards grants up to \$500 to AAUW branches in Minnesota to support branch projects that further the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls. The Branch Project Grant Committee will consider the following criteria:

1. How does the project align with the AAUW mission
2. The extent to which the project fulfills a community or branch need
3. Collaboration with community, collegiate, or partners
4. The extent to which the funds will provide a difference in the success of a project and how that success is measured

A total of \$2,000 is available for Branch Projects Grants from funds for fiscal year July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018. Applications are due by August 15, 2017. Recipients will be announced by August 19, 2017 and a check will follow shortly.

The branch recipients will be recognized at the 2018 State Convention. AAUW MN anticipates that branch projects will be completed by June 30, 2018.

Each branch that is awarded a grant is expected to write an article for the Pine newsletter and or AAUW MN website, describing the purpose, outcomes, and lessons learned from its project.

Please provide the following information in your application

*Branch Name

*Contact Person including name, address, phone number and E-mail

*Amount Requested

*A description of the project, including how the project will advance AAUW's mission; the need you are addressing and how you identified the need; your target audience(s) and how you plan to reach them effectively; your project partners, if any; a project timeline; and criteria for success.

*A brief summary of your project in 50 words or less that can be used for describing the projects that are funded.

*A proposed budget including any other sources of funding.

Send the completed application to: Mary Ann Lucas Houx, 1126 Mesaba Avenue, Unit 111, Duluth MN 55811 or Maryannhoux@gmail.com Questions- 218-525-5040



2017 MN Branch Project Grant Application Format

BRANCH

CONTACT

AMOUNT REQUESTED

BACKGROUND

PROJECT SUMMARY

BUDGET

TOTAL

Send the completed application to Mary Ann Lucas Houx, 1126 Mesaba Avenue, Unit 111, Duluth, MN 55811 OR Maryannhoux@gmail.com Questions-218-525-5040

Due Date August 15, 2017

Future Pine Deadlines:

October 1st, 2017 – November 1st, 2017 Pine will publish
February 1st, 2018 – March 1st, 2018 Pine will publish
July 1st, 2018 – August 1st, 2018 Pine will publish

Send all articles in document form as an attachment to: jackiecrever@gmail.com

Please write “Pine Article” in the subject line

Send LOTS of Pictures!!!

(Send each picture as a separate attachment; they can be in the same email)

I am really enjoying working with all of your insightful, interesting and fun articles. I am having fun changing each Pine with the season and trying different formats along the way. I decided to ask the board if we could change the due date for the Summer Pine due to so many National Convention attendees. From now on we will stick to these dates, they align nicely with conventions, state board meetings, and seasonal activities.

I have been working very hard to stick as close to my deadlines as I can, especially with the published date. So if for some reason you do not receive an email informing you that the Pine is up on the website, make sure to check on my publish date because it should be there.

For future articles, I realize that many of the articles we have in the Pine are in depth articles which are much appreciated. I also encourage little blurps of what your branch has been doing, I have illustrated that in this Pine for my branch, St. Cloud, by having short snippets here and there illustrating what our branch has been doing this summer. It is always fun to read and see what is happening inside of each branch on a large and small scale. It is a great way for other branches to develop new ideas in their branch that they may not have thought about in the past. So please do not feel that your articles are too small or too large, I am happy to take any and all information.

I truly hope that you have all had a wonderful summer, because it is time to ramp up for our fall season, which means for many branches, Program season!

Your Pine Editor, Jackie Crever

American Association of University Women
Jackie Crever
714 12th Ave NE
St. Stephen, MN 56375

Mission Statement

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

AAUW Values 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.

