



Hastings Branch

January 2018



President's Message

Lisa West

Happy 2018 to you!

Another year has flown by, and we accomplished a lot together in 2017. For example, we earned the most ever from our annual garage sale scholarship fundraiser – over \$3,875! Nice work everyone, very nicely done. We awarded meaningful high school and NCCWSL scholarships to deserving young women. We also successfully partnered with some impressive young people at the high school through our shared program with the Feminism Club in October. Special thanks to Peggy Horsch for obtaining a Branch Project Grant from AAUW MN to help cover the costs of the program.

We have an exceptional group of women currently serving on our Board who work hard to make things happen, with the help and support of our membership. Thank you all.

As we move into 2018, we'll see some changes. First and unfortunately, Kathy O'Keefe and Linda Bindman are stepping down as Co-Chairs of the garage sale. They built on a solid foundation provided by previous sale chairs and took the garage sale to new heights, including a more suitable venue and positive partnership with River of Life Church staff. What's more unfortunate is that, to-date, no one has stepped forward to assume the role of chairing the sale. We need two or three members to step up and take on this important role. Kathy and Linda will provide some additional detail about the garage sale responsibilities at the January general meeting. Please consider volunteering to lead this fundraising effort.

And second, I called on members to come up with ways that we could have a greater impact on our community, beyond the scholarships we award. Two suggestions were made, and we are currently exploring one of them. We're looking into partnering with other organizations to host an event to help get young girls interested in technical/medical fields of study and training. Lois Twedt is spearheading this initiative, and will provide some introductory information at the January general meeting. We're excited about this potential endeavor!

I hope you enjoyed the holidays. I'm looking forward to a great 2018 AAUW year with all of you. See you at the end of the month for another great program!

January quote: "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you." ~ Anonymous

Program

Rosalie Cavis & Deb Saunders

January 22

Chili Supper-General Meeting-Program

Our January 22nd meeting will begin with a Chili supper at 6:00 p.m.

The AAUW Board is hosting and providing the chili, fixings, and dessert for all!

Our business meeting will be at 7 p.m. with the program at 7:30.

Her Story—Some Hastings Women Who Made a Difference

Our presenter for the evening is Heidi Langenfeld, a former LeDuc Historic Mansion manager and a local historian who spends many hours each month in the Pioneer Room in City Hall researching the history of Hastings. She will be talking about women's organizations going back to 1866, when Hastings was still a scraggly town, to the 1920's. Certain individuals stand out of the crowd and Heidi would like to share some of their stories.

Coordinated by Deb Saunders

Upcoming Events

January 8.....Book Club
January 22.....Chili Supper and General Meeting
January 31.....Gad-Abouts
February 6.....Board Meeting

HASTINGS BRANCH

Meets on Mondays at...
St. Philip's Lutheran Church
1401 15th Street West, Hastings, Minnesota 55033

2017-2018 PROGRAMS

September 25, 6:00 pm SALAD SUPPER
Hastings School Board Candidates and Superintendent Tim Collins
2017 NCCWSL Takeaway, Scholarship Recipients Rosemary Pechous and Loren Bushyhead

October 23, 6:00 pm AT HHS
Sexual Assault on High School and College Campuses--St. Olaf College Sexual Assault Resource Network Speakers
Co-presentation with Hastings High School Feminism Club and Counseling Office

November 27, 7:00 pm
Poverty in our Midst: Facts, Figures and Action to Address Poverty in Dakota County
Kelly Harder, Dir., Dakota County Community Services

December 18, 7:00 pm HOLIDAY SOCIAL
Food, Music and Celebration

January 22, 6:00 pm CHILI SUPPER
Her Story – Some Hastings Women Who Made a Difference
Heidi Langenfeld, Local Historian

February 26, 7:00 pm
History of African Americans in Minnesota
Bill Green

March 26, 7:00 pm
What's Next for State Health Care Policy: Cost and Coverage
Lynn A. Blewett, U of M School of Public Health

April 23, 6:00 pm SPRING SOCIAL
Meditation and Mindfulness
Dr. Mona Roach

May 21, 7:00 pm
"Katie's Kids" Program
Joan Demeules, St Catherine's University Access and Success Director

Secretary

Pam Pontzer

AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – November 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Lisa West.

Lisa welcomed the membership and noted that AAUW is 136 years old. She informed the group that the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, in conjunction with the AAUW National Board of Directors, is backing three new legal cases this year. One of the cases involves St Cloud State College in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The school is charged with violating Title IX by not providing equitable treatment of women's sports. She advised the membership to keep abreast of developments in these cases. Finally, Lisa mentioned that Gretchen Carlson, Minnesota native has published a book entitled "Be Fierce: Stop Harassment and Take Your Power Back". The author suffered sexual abuse while working as a journalist at Fox News.

The Secretary's Report was approved for the October 2017 General Meeting with a motion by Shirley Tammen, and second by Lisa Hedin. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer, Mary Charlson, presented the Treasurer's report for November 2017. The major expense was the \$1000.00 contribution to AAUW Funds. The checking account balance is \$5942.21. Danna Schultz asked what the final garage sale tally was. The final amount was \$3875.10. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Marcia Pletcher and seconded by Pat Hansen. The motion was unanimously approved.

Membership Co-Chair Ruth Versaw noted that membership stands at 85. There are bookmarks and brochures available to hand out to prospective members.

Program Co-Chair Rosalie Cavis reminded the group that the Holiday Social will be held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at the Hastings Art Center from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Another reminder will be published in the Twig. Pat Powers suggested that we collect items for Lewis House at the Holiday Social. Pat will send a list of needed items to the membership. A clip board was passed for members to sign up to bring a dessert, appetizer, or contribute \$10.00.

Public Policy Chair Pat Powers noted four items that she thought important to share. First, she feels that AAUW has been remiss in not challenging the proposed Tax Bill moving through Congress. Pat feels that the content of the Tax Bill goes against AAUW policies and positions. Second, DACA, or the Dreamers Act is set to expire. She suggested that we contact our congressional representatives. Third, Pat challenged more women to participate in Hastings Government. Currently there are vacancies on the Planning, Parks, Preservation, and Public Safety Commissions. Very few women serve in our local Government. Finally, candidates need to be recruited to attend the NCWSSL Conference in May. Brochures are available for qualified candidates. Danna Shultz noted that our two Senators are likely to vote in a way commiserate with AAUW values. She suggested we make our phone calls to those Representatives who may be swayed. She also noted that Karla Bigham is running for the State Senate seat being vacated by Dan Schoen. She may ask Karla if she would like to attend the Holiday Social.

Gad Abouts Co-Chair Cindy Toppin noted that Gad Abouts is best defined as adult field trips. She noted the great job that Lisa's daughter Mariah, did as tour guide at the newly refurbished State Capital. She also thanked Danna Schultz for the tour of the Senate Office. Finally, Cindy instructed the membership on the most effective way to use the "Members Directory-Minnesota Legislature 90th Session, 2017-2018." Sue reminded the group that the presentation of "Coco's Diary" at the Minnesota History Theater is coming up on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. Twenty members are going. Lunch will follow the play at the Downtowner.

Hospitality Co-Chairs Patty Todnem and Nancy Ahn noted that the Holiday Social sign-up sheet is being passed this evening.

Book Club Chair Shirley Tammen informed the members that the book group will meet on December 11, 2017 at the home of Verna Fuller. The book is "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf. The January book club selection is "The Song Poet" by Kao Kalia Yang.

Twig Editor Lois Twedt had nothing to report.

AAUW Funds Chair Glenda Schnirring noted that we had donated \$1000.00 to the Minnesota Past Presidents Fund in the hope that it will soon be fully funded.

NCCWSL Chair Gail Glashan was absent.

Community Chair Margaret Goderstad informed the group that on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at St. Phillips Church, the River Valley Band will host a free concert. They ask that attendees

bring an item to donate to the Food Shelf. Also on Sunday, "New Shoes for Christmas" will be held at the Hastings Art Center. Proceeds will go to Hastings Family Service. The Le Duc is open for tours on Saturday and Sunday throughout the month of December. Check the HastingsNow app for other upcoming activities.

Diversity Chair Marlys Schmitt was absent.

Historian Chair Lisa Hedin had nothing to report.

Garage Sale Co-Chairs Linda Bindman and Kathy O'Keefe told the group that the garage sale had been fantastic and that they are stepping down to allow others to experience the fun of chairing this committee.

Old Business - None

New Business - Lois Twedt informed the group about attending the St Cloud AAUW Tech Savvy event held on October 28, 2017. The event was for girls in grades 5 through 9. 133 girls registered and 110 attended. The cost of attending was only \$10.00. This is the third year of the Tech Savvy event. The first year, 60 girls attended, the second 90. Each girl could register for 3 sessions. Each session ran for 50 minutes. Sessions had titles such as "Star Wars - Chemical Reactions", "Harry Potter - Polymers", "Game Theory - Working with Odds", "Cyber-Security- Breaking Codes", "Sand Box - Making Topography", "Wind - Turbines, Wind Intensity". This event was a collaboration between AAUW St. Cloud and St. Cloud State University. National AAUW recommends that a Branch have \$17,000.00 available to hold this type of event. In the case of the St Cloud event, the AAUW Branch contributed \$500.00 and raised an additional \$7000.00 through community fundraising activities. Lois noted that St Cloud State covered the facility and many other costs. Lois noted that 20 members of the AAUW St Cloud Branch were able to coordinate the registration, fund raising and food concessions. If Hastings AAUW was interested in hosting this type of event, we could partner with DCTC or Inver Hills. Lois is concerned that we would lack some session capability. Pat Powers noted that many positions in health care are going unfilled and that a "Scrubs Camp" might be something to consider. Lois has contacted someone from Scrubs Program and will deliver information back to the group. Lisa noted that AAUW Minnesota will donate \$2500.00 to a branch who would like to hold this type of event.

There were 56 attendees at this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Mary Scheid, the director of the Pleasant Hill Library, gave the group an overview of the services offered at the library.

The evening's program, "Poverty in our Midst: Facts, Figures and Action to Address Poverty in Dakota County" was presented by Kelly Harder, Director of Dakota County Community Services.

Pam Pontzer, Secretary

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

On Monday, January 8, 7 pm the AAUW Book Group will be discussing Kao Kalia Yang's The Song Poet, a Memoir to my Father. The winner of the 2017 Minnesota Book Award, Yang is the featured speaker of Hastings Reads annual event held each February. She will be speaking at the Hastings Art Center on February 20, 6:30. Barb Jorenby will host the January 8 meeting.

On Monday, February 12, the group will be discussing J.D. Vance's Hillbilly Elegy, A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis. I believe I can get the "Books in a Bag" for that selection and plan to bring it to our January meeting being held at the home of Pat Giddings.

AUTHOR AT BIERSTUBE

Frank Weber, a Minnesota forensics psychologist who has assessed and investigated homicides, sexual and domestic abuse cases has written a mystery entitled Murder Book. Weber will speak at the Bierstube on Thursday, January 18 at 6:30 Welcome to anyone who loves to read mysteries. Come to his presentation at 6:30 and join the group for dinner, if interested. The group meets monthly at the Bierstube on the third Thursday at 6:30.

HASTINGS READS

The Kickoff Event for the 2018 Hastings Reads "Refugee Voices" begins at Pleasant Hill on Saturday, February 3, 11-12:30. It will feature Green Card Voices, who will bring a moderator and a panel of three high school students. Other events will follow during February. The books featured are The Song Poet by Kao Kalia Yang, Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate and Their Great Gifts by Jon Coy. A copy of the full schedule is attached to this newsletter.

Community

Margaret Goderstad

THE LEDUC HISTORIC ESTATE-

January 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m. -

Hastings After Hours - "Hastings in WW I" - Featuring Vicki Albu - Dakota County Historian, Genealogist, & Author, who conducted research for DCHS in 2017 - \$30 per person or \$25 for DCHS members - Reservations for this event include the presentation, snacks and light food, along with one free beverage. For people wanting to purchase additional beverages - beer and wine will be available. Visitors must be 21 + to receive one drink ticket with admission and to purchase additional alcoholic beverages. Make reservations by calling [651-438-8480](tel:651-438-8480).

February 9, 6:30 p.m. -

Burns Night Scotch Tasting - Robert Burns is a widely celebrated figure in Scotland. Come experience a celebration of Scottish culture and Burns' poetry, while enjoying five choice single malt Scotch, plus foods. Throughout the night, enjoy the sound of bagpipes and live music performed by Dunquin - \$45 per person or \$40 for DCHS members. Seating is limited to 25 people, so reserve early by calling [651-438-8480](tel:651-438-8480).

February 17, 3:30 p.m. -

Valentine's Day Tea - Enjoy a three course meal with a variety of teas. Learn about the history of Valentine's Day and enjoy costumed reenactors. A tour of the house will be include following the last course - \$40 per person or \$35 for DCHS members - Reserve soon as seating is limited - [651-438-8480](tel:651-438-8480).

HASTINGS ART CENTER

January-Mid-February -

Photographer Ellie Leonardsmith will be featured with her exhibit, "What We Hide" - A portrait series exploring our whole complex selves - Check website & local media for opening date & hours.

ORANGE DRAGON ART GALLERY, PRESCOTT -

Closed during winter months, but watch for a spring opening.

Gad-Abouts

Susan Cruse & Cindy Toppin

Susan Cruse (651-437-1767) & Cindy Toppin (651-437-7753)

Join us for a January tea in Red Wing at the Wisteria Twig Tea Room and Cafe!

Date: Wednesday January 31

Time: Meet at NW corner of Sterling Drug lot at **12:30, with departure at 12:45.**

Tea is at 2:30 and will include:

Tea, petite sandwiches (cucumber, egg salad, chicken salad, caprese) and a mini dessert try

We will shop at the Pottery Museum and stores for about an hour prior to the tea at 2:30.

Checks made out to Cindy Toppin, due by Monday, January 29 - \$22.80 includes full tea and gratuity of 20%

Mail your check in or bring to the AAUW meeting in January.

Questions? Contact Cindy Toppin at 437-7753 or Susan Cruse at 437-1767.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Charlson

The checking account balance as of December 31, 2017 is \$5,516.68. Deposits included dues for two new members and one renewal. Expenses included payment of dues to AAUW National and State for the three members and Christmas Social at Hastings Art Center.

Mary Charlson, Treasurer

[AAUW Mission Statement](#)

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

[AAUW 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.

[Minnesota State Website](#)

<http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

Historian

Lisa Hedin

Before and After—Holiday Social Buffet Table



Membership

Camille Nelson & Ruth Versaw

See the attachment for the newest update of the membership directory.

Hastings AAUW Board Members

President	Lisa West
Past-President.....	Pam Pontzer
Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....	Camille Nelson Ruth Versaw
Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....	Rosalie Cavis Deb Saunders
Secretary	Pam Pontzer
Treasurer	Mary Charlson
AAUW Funds.....	Glenda Schnirring
Book Club.....	Shirley Tammen
Community.....	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity	Marlys Schmitt
Gad-Abouts.....	Susan Cruse Cindy Toppin
Historian.....	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality.....	Nancy Ahn Kathy Stockman Patty Todnem
NCCWSL.....	Gail Glashan
Newsletter.....	Lois Twedt
Public Policy.....	Pat Powers
Garage Sale	Linda Bindman Kathy O'Keefe
School Supply Drive	Mary Ellen Olson Cathy Sery
Website.....	Mary Ellen Fox