



NEWS FOR AND ABOUT  
**AAUW GRAND RAPIDS**  
BRANCH MEMBERS

EDITOR: Arlene Wheaton,  
[Arlene@honeybearwoods.com](mailto:Arlene@honeybearwoods.com)  
(218) 232-4989

Volume 42, Issue 6

March 2018

---

## March 19 Dinner Meeting & Program

**LOCATION:** United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids

**REGISTER/SOCIAL:** 5:00-5:30 PM **LUNCH:** 5:40 PM

**BUSINESS MTG:** 6:15 PM **PROGRAM:** 6:30-7:30 PM

**MENU:** Lasagna, Salad, Roll, Dessert

**COST:** \$13

**Reservations due to Deanna Ensley by end of business day, Fri., March 16.**

Call 218-301-0315 or email [deannaensley@yahoo.com](mailto:deannaensley@yahoo.com)

**TOPIC: Women in City Government**

Speaker: **Julie Kennedy, General Manager of Grand Rapids Public Utilities**

Julie Kennedy brings hands-on experience to her talk about Women in City Government. After serving as the city engineer for Grand Rapids from 2013 to 2016, Julie Kennedy assumed her current position AS General Manager of Grand Rapids Public Utilities in 2016. Both positions had formerly been held by men.

After graduating from Anoka High School, Kennedy attended Arizona State University and then received her Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1997, graduating Cum Laude. She completed the University of St. Thomas Executive Education Mini MBA Program in 2016. Prior to joining the City of Grand Rapids, she was a project manager for Short Eliot Hendrickson from 2002 to 2013. She served as an engineering instructor at Itasca Community College from 2009 to 2013.

---

***“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the true goal of education.”***

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

---

## Caterer Needed

Our caterer is resigning as of April so we are looking for a new caterer. Linda had been working at the Sawmill and when they closed, she took a job so she can't do our meals anymore. **We are looking for a caterer for the 2018-19 year.** It would include 5 dinners and 2 lunches on the third Mondays on the month, in September, October, November, January, February, March and April.

The caterer also needs to be willing to do dishes (we will pay extra). Please let Cyndy Agle know if you have a suggestion for a new caterer at [cyndy.agle@gmail.com](mailto:cyndy.agle@gmail.com)

## New Member Corner

From Cyndy Agle

Bring a "Qualified Guest" and her dinner will be just \$5.00 at our April meeting. It must be a "first-time" guest, so think about neighbors, someone new to the area or a friend who is looking for an interesting new group to join.

## AAUW Membership Dues

From Cheryl Vogel, Treasurer

**Dues Clarification: Reduced dues for the remainder of this fiscal year are only available to NEW members.** The dues for next year have not yet been established. However, I do know that the national dues will be increased from \$49 to \$59. Next year's dues won't need to be paid until the end of June 2018.

For any questions, feel free to contact me at 763-229-8098 or [cherylvogel@mediacombb.net](mailto:cherylvogel@mediacombb.net)

## Election of Branch officers for 2018-2020

From Marilyn Rossman

The Nomination committee appointed by the president and board includes Karen Karls, Kathy Pliska and Marilyn Rossman.

Elections are held in April every year with for two-year terms. The offices to be filled this year are President, Secretary, and Membership Vice-President.

The president appoints the working committees (Public Policy, EF fund, Finance, Historian, Hospitality, Food, Scholarship, Telephone, Newsletter) as well as those needed for special occasions. The chairpersons are usually members of our board. The AAUW Yearbook and Directory have the lists of committees and offices for our branch.

**Our branch is the 4th highest membership in the state** and has a very busy year ahead. We will be hosting the September 2018 AAUW Northern Minnesota Regional Gathering in September, the Minnesota State Convention in April 2019, and we will be celebrating our 70th birthday. All members are encouraged to

participate in the committee work for these events. Teamwork makes these events easier to manage and a lot of fun!

## **AAUW 2018 State Convention**

From Deanna Ensley

The 2018 AAUW Convention will be held in Faribault on Fri., April 27, and Sat., April 28. The registration form has been included in this newsletter. I will bring copies to our meeting on March 19. You are welcome to contact me for an electronic copy or I will mail a copy to you; the registration form is in the [Winter issue of the AAUW Minnesota newsletter](#), "The Pine".

A few of us have plans to attend, if you are interested, please express your interest to Deanna or Marilyn Rossman. There may be some funds to pay a portion of the expenses for those who wish to attend.

## **Fall Regional Gathering in Grand Rapids**

From Deanna Ensley

After February's regular AAUW meeting on the 19th, we had a very limited attended planning meeting for our fall regional gathering in September 2018 and for the 2019 AAUW spring state convention here in Grand Rapids. A few members have expressed a desire to help with one or another of these meetings. **It would be appreciated if you would stop at the registration table at our March 19 meeting to sign up for what you might be willing to help with** for the regional meeting especially, but also if in the near future (fall 2018) you'd be willing to be included in the preparation and/or participation in the convention committee. Deanna will be there discussing committees and volunteer needs for these events.

### **\*\* INTEREST GROUPS \*\***

*Are you interested in starting an interest group? Great! Any member may start an interest group. An interest group can meet monthly, weekly and for any length of time. The members determine their own agendas and arrangements for meetings. The meetings are open to all AAUW members and their guests. The member directory has more information about the current active interest groups. Contact program co-chairs Joanne Bakken or Marilyn Rossman with questions.*

## **EXPLORING OUR COMMUNITY**

Field trips to various places of interest. Dates & times TBD. For more info, contact Co-Chairs: Cyndy Agle, 360-9743, [cyndy.agle@gmail.com](mailto:cyndy.agle@gmail.com) or Janis Johnson, 326-3595, [janisjohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:janisjohnson@yahoo.com)

## **LITERATURE – Wednesday group**

This group meets at 10:30AM on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, Grand Rapids Area Library River Room, September-May. Contact is Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911 or [kbzimmer@q.com](mailto:kbzimmer@q.com)

**March 14:** *Weaponized Lies* by Daniel Levitin (Community Read)

**April 11:** *A Warrior of the People* by Joe Starica

## **LITERATURE – Monday group**

Group meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 10:00 AM at Grand Rapids State Bank Annex.  
Contact is Jan Hill, 246-979 or [jmhgkh@paulbunyan.net](mailto:jmhgkh@paulbunyan.net)

**March 5:** *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. Discussion leader is Janet Coy.

**April 2:** *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy* by Karen Abbott. Discussion leader is Cheryl Vogel.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

The next meeting is **March 8, KAXE Meeting room, 4:00 to 5:30 PM.**

We will focus on the ideas from the book ***All The Single Ladies*** by Rebecca Traister. Or ideas from a book, magazine article or newspaper column will be considered for thinking about issues for today's girls and women as our economy and social idea norms change and are challenged. We need to think how women in our area can take advantage of the current opportunities. Bring ideas for future meetings. All members and their guests are welcome to come even if they have not read the book.

## **WALKING & TALKING**

Group is flexible and open to all members. The social contact is important and the pace varies; if you are looking for speed-walking and a serious workout, this is not your group. Currently we meet on Tuesdays at 1 PM.

We walk for 1 to 1 1/2 hours and then have coffee. As the weather cools the day and time will switch to Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM. Switch is decided by the group. We walk in the Grand Rapids area on trails and neighborhood streets. Location changes from week to week as chosen by the group. Group is notified by email of next location. To join the group, call or email Karen Karls, 326-2053, [k.karls@yahoo.com](mailto:k.karls@yahoo.com)

## **\*\*AAUW National News\*\***

**Alert for AAUW Members: There are big proposed policy changes for national AAUW.** Three bylaws amendments address 1) creating three-year staggered board terms, 2) opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and 3) eliminating the college degree requirement for membership.

The vote about not having a college degree as a requirement for membership has been voted on at AAUW national conventions for years and not passed. This bylaw change requires a 2/3 yes vote to change.

To see more information on these issues that AAUW members will be asked to vote on in April, go to <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

## **\*\*Community News\*\***

### **318 Elementary School Referendum**

The School Board is asking voters to decide whether to move ahead with school and activity facilities improvements throughout the district. These improvements will be presented to voters as two ballot questions:

1. Build two new neighborhood schools to replace the three existing Grand Rapids elementary schools and renovate and expand Cohasset Elementary school, including the addition of in-demand community space.
2. Improve weight and locker rooms at Bigfork, turf three game and practice fields at GRHS.

**The date to vote is Tues., April 10.** Absentee ballots became available Feb. 23. For more information, contact the Itasca County Elections Office: Itasca County Courthouse, 327-2849, or email Vicki Martin at [vicki.martin@co.itasca.mn.us](mailto:vicki.martin@co.itasca.mn.us)  
Also see more details on why schools need replacing/updating at <http://www.isd318.org/page/3115#whenvote>

## **Grand Rapids Community Read**

From Karen Karls

The annual Community Read will feature the book ***Weaponized Lies*** by Daniel J. Levitin. It is tagged as "How to think Critically in the Post-Truth Era." The ICC program, on Thurs., March 22, is called "Navigating Information in a Post-Truth Era". It is an all-day event on campus with various speakers.

Program description: What is it like to come into adulthood in a time of marked distrust of the media and science and cynicism about government and other institutions? How do you develop ideas about a whole range of personal and public policy issues at a time when "research" yields biased, often commercial, and even faked information? This conference explores major issues with finding reliable, trustworthy information in our time, looking at media, politics, science, and information literacy, as well as hot topics in different fields.

This event is free and open to the public. The schedule isn't out yet but there are speakers listed at: <http://www.itscacc.edu/post-truth>

**ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS** – FOR MORE INFORMATION  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
AAUW MINNESOTA [www.aauwmn.net](http://www.aauwmn.net)