

AAUW Pine

Minnesota

Volume 47
Issue 1

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Dear Branch Presidents, Past State Presidents, State Board and Committee Chairs, and C/U Representatives:

The 2018 State Convention is fast approaching. We will gather on **April 27-28 in Faribault**. Below are several items that need immediate attention as well as Convention information for you to share with your branch members.

Branch Presidents: Several items require your immediate attention. Recently, you received an email with the Convention Delegate information from Mary Harlander-Locke. There are two parts to that mailing:

- A chart including the Branch membership information that gives the maximum number of delegates a Branch is entitled to under our State By-Laws
- A request to send Mary the branch delegate chair and delegates listed that will attend the convention. This info needs to be returned to Mary by April 14, 2018.

Here are additional items that need to be done by each branch over the next two months.

Action Items	Due by	Return to	Details
Branch Highlights and Book selections	March 10	Mary Ann Lucas-Houx	maryannhoux@gmail.com
State Board Reports	March 15	Cyndy Harrison cyndyharrison@msn.com	Copy Jan Bensen Bjjb72@gmail.com
Delegate Information	April 14	Mary Harlander-Locke	mhlocke@csbsju.edu
Silent Auction Items	April 23	Faribault Branch	See State Convention website listed below

2018 AAUW Minnesota State Convention Information:

Go to the 2018 AAUW Minnesota State Convention website (listed below) for information and downloadable forms such as the 2018 AAUW Minnesota State Convention Registration Form and Convention Schedule. Attached is a handout with state convention information that will also be in the next edition of The Pine. Feel free to share this information (either electronically or in paper form) with your branch members.

<https://www.smores.com/pn7a5-2018-state-convention> .

Hotel Registration	Deadline for rate-March 27 (Boarders) /Deadline-March 23 (Days Inn)	Boarders Inn & Suites or Days Inn of Faribault	Call hotels directly: Boarders: 507-334-9464 Days Inn: 507-334-6835
2018 AAUW Minnesota Convention Registration Form	March 31	Faribault Branch	See website link above.
Breakout Session Registration	March 31	Faribault Branch	See website link above.
Optional Activities Registration	March 31-Faribault Woolen Mill is limited to first 50	Faribault Branch	See website link above.

We look forward to a Convention that will be interesting, informative, and lots of fun.



Faribault Welcomes You to the Minnesota AAUW 89th State Convention

Spring is the time of renewal and new growth in nature. Let it also be the time for Minnesota AAUW members to come together in Faribault April 27-28.

Come renew yourself in the mission of AAUW and find personal growth in the offered workshops, training and words of inspirational speakers at the Minnesota AAUW 89th state convention.

Faribault AAUW hopes all who come to the convention grow in some way personally and take away information about AAUW and its mission that will aid state branches to "bloom" with possibilities to help advance equity for women and girls. Check out the convention registration information including hotels and pre-convention activities at:

<https://www.smores.com/pn7a5-2018-state-convention>

Start with Friday Fun!

<p>Faribault Woolen Mill Tour - \$6 A special tour of the Faribault Woolen Mill (<i>1500 2nd Avenue NW</i>) begins at 2:30 PM. This tour is not fully-handicapped accessible because there are factory stairs to go up and down. Registration is limited to the first 50 people that register.</p>	<p>MN's First Cathedral Tour - \$3 Tour the 1862 Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour (<i>515 2nd Ave NW</i>), listed on the National Register of Historic Places, from 2:00 - 3:30 PM. The fee is considered a donation to the church.</p>	<p>Self-Guided Faribault Tour - Free Pick up a map of Faribault's fun attractions at registration. Then tour around historic downtown Faribault and stop at our favorite places. Or stay at the Historical Society and enjoy the exhibits along with refreshments.</p>
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HOTEL INFORMATION:

- Boarders Inn & Suites: \$95.90 (room with 2 beds), reserve by March 27 (507-334-9464)
- Days Inn of Faribault: \$99.95 (room with 2 beds), reserve by March 23 (507-334-6835)

2018 AAUW Minnesota State Convention Schedule

Friday, April 27

9:00AM-1:00PM Board Meeting - [Faribault Chamber of Commerce](#)

1:00-4:00 PM Registration at Rice County Historical Society, 1814 Second Ave. NW

- **2:30-3:30 PM - [Tour of historic Faribault Woolen Mill](#)** - \$6, 1500 Second Ave. NW Limited to 50. Not handicapped accessible.
- **2:00 -3:30 PM - [Tours of historic Episcopal Cathedral of Our Merciful Savior](#)**, corner of Sixth Street and Second Street NW. (\$3, money to go to church. Tour guides will take small groups at a time, so this is like an open house offering flexibility)
- **1:00 - 4:00 PM [Welcoming Reception at Historical Society](#)** featuring women's exhibits
- **1:00 - 4:00 PM [DIY Tour of Favorite Faribault Sites](#)** in and around Historic Downtown

3:30 - 4:30 PM - Drop off silent auction items at South Central College, 1225 Third Ave. SW. (*Note: Can also drop them at registration table before 4:00 PM, if you do not have the time to drive to SSC*)

4:45 PM/5:15 PM - Bus pick up time Boarders Inn & Suites to transport to Shattuck for banquet.

5:30 - 6:30 PM - Banquet social hour with cash bar. Inn at Shattuck, Shattuck-St. Mary's School Campus.

6:30 PM - Banquet begins with dinner/keynote speaker/awards/entertainment

9:30 PM - Bus pick up back to Boarders Inn & Suites. (*Second pick up if needed.*)

Saturday, April 28 - South Central College

7:30 - 9:30 AM - Registration/Continental breakfast in lobby area.

8:00 AM - Silent auction opens in Room C110.

8:00 - 9:00 AM Training for branch officers w/State Board (*various classrooms*)

9:00 - 9:30 AM - Snack, coffee and checking silent auction. (*Snack from breakfast fare.*)

9:30 AM - Opening ceremony. AAUW national speaker, business meeting.

11:30 AM - Noon - "Keeping Us Legal" all member session.

Noon-12:15 PM Break; check out silent auction

12:15 PM - Luncheon/LAF speaker

1:15 PM - Break. Check our silent auction.

1:30-2:30 PM - Enrichment Session #1

- [Diversity Inclusion Tool Kit by Peg L](#)
- [STEM project of St. Cloud: How other branches can duplicate it.](#)
- [Listening for Signs of Abuse and Helping Out](#) - Erica Staab-Absher, Director Faribault's Hope Center that assists victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault
- ["Achieving Late in Life: Laura Ingalls Wilder Life as Writer didn't begin until she was 65."](#) Diane Hagen, Faribault AAUW member versed in Wilder's life.
- [Using Social Media - An overview of Facebook, Instagram & Twitter](#), by Mary Mehsikomer, Technology Integration Development & Outreach Facilitator
- [Using Technology for Your Branch - Member Communication, etc.](#)

2:30 PM Quick break to check out silent auction, coffee break snack.

2:45-3:45 PM Enrichment Session #2 (*Repeat of sessions*)

3:45 PM - Checking out silent auction item for last time.

4:00 PM - Silent auction ends.

4:15 PM - Check out and paying for items. Second business session, *if necessary.*

4:30 PM - Convention ends - put Evaluation Sheets in box in lobby.

2018 AAUW Minnesota State Convention

Name:	Phone #:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Branch:		
Email:		

Convention Information (check all that apply)

Branch Member
 College/University Student
 Member at Large
 Visitor/Guest
 State Board Member
 Past State President
 College/University President

Registration Options

Registration/Meals

Full Convention Registration
(includes Friday's banquet, Saturday's continental breakfast, lunch) \$120
 Student Full Convention Registration \$ 65
 Saturday Registration Only *(no meals)* \$ 65
 Friday Nights Banquet Only *(spouses/guests)* \$ 35
Registration Sub-Total \$ _____

Optional Activities

Faribault Woolen Mill Tour \$ 6
 Our Lady of the Merciful Savior Tour \$ 3
Activity Sub-Total \$ _____
TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Friday Banquet Dinner Choice: *(please choose one)*

Your Dinner Choice: Roast Pork Loin or Chicken Parmesan or Eggplant Parmesan
 Guest Dinner Choice: Roast Pork Loin or Chicken Parmesan or Eggplant Parmesan
 Each meal will include dessert and non-alcoholic beverages

List any special dietary needs: _____

Breakout Sessions (All sessions are repeated, please select THREE)

- *Diversity Inclusion Tool Kit*
- *STEM project of St. Cloud: How other branches canon duplicate it.*
- *Listening for Signs of Abuse and Helping Out*
- *"Achieving Late in Life: Laura Ingalls Wilder Life as Writer didn't begin until she was 65."*
- *Using Social Media - An overview of Facebook, Instagram & Twitter*
- *Using Technology for Your Branch*

Make checks payable to Faribault AAUW and send by March 31, 2018 to:
 Julie Olson
 2815 Village Drive
 Faribault, MN 55021

Future Pine Newsletters

June 1st 2018– Articles Due

First week of August 2018– Pine will be published

Tentative Dates

October 1st 2018– Articles Due

First week of November 2018– Pine will publish

February 1st 2019 - Articles Due

First week of March 2019– Pine will be published

June 1st 2019 – Articles Due

First week of August 2019 – Pine will be published

Please send all photos as separate attachments in the email and send the articles in document from to jackiecrever@gmail.com.



Jackie Crever
AAUW Pine Editor
St. Cloud President
jackiecrever@gmail.com

It has been a great deal of fun getting to know more about our MN branches through the articles that I have put in the Pine. Unfortunately my time as the Pine Editor is coming to an end. My last Pine will be this summer and then I will be handing the torch over to a new

Pine Editor. Being on the state board has given me an interesting perspective of AAUW and the opportunity to understand more of what AAUW accomplishes from the state branch level all the way to the national level.



AAUW Member Honored by Human Rights Commision

Kay Humphreys' lifelong commitment to women and girls has been recognized by the city of Red Wing; she received the 2017 Amos Owen Award for promoting and ensuring others' human rights.

As a direct result of Humphreys' efforts, Red Wing adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in February 2017, nominators said.

CEDAW serves as an international bill of rights for women. It was first adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. When it passed locally this year, Red Wing became the fourth city in Minnesota to adopt this



resolution.

During the ceremony, her record of activism working with the American Association of University Women Red Wing Area Branch was praised by Marilyn Olson, chair of the Human Rights Commission. "She does not just believe in justice and equality for others, she's working for it to happen," Olson said.

The Amos Owen Award has been given annually since 2001. Its namesake is the late Prairie Island Mdewakanton elder and spiritual leader who worked tirelessly to preserve Dakota language and culture.

Area School Girls Explore STEM Careers

By: Linda Marie MacLeod

St. Cloud Area Branch - AAUW

Empowerment -

When school girls, college students, industry professionals and professors join forces to explore STEM careers through active participation and first-hand knowledge, the “Force is Definitely with Them.”

Enthusiasm built among girls, grades five through nine when the third *Tech Savvy* program was held November 4th at St. Cloud State University’s Integrated Science and Engineering Laboratory Facility (ISELF) and other campus buildings. Who would have thought that science, math, and computer technology workshops could be magical and thrilling? One of the girls asked if she had to leave an interactive workshop to go to lunch? Alicia A. Peterson and the CSB/SJU Chemistry Club enticed the girls to experiment with light sabers and potions while having fun with *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter* themes.

AAUW Wants Girls to be Tech Savvy -

Tech Savvy is a one day program developed by the American Association of University Women in response to their research

(*Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*, (2010) which evidenced that significantly less women than men pursue STEM careers. “The findings are organized into three areas: social and environmental factors shaping girls’ achievements and interest in math and science; the college environment; and the continuing importance of bias, often operating at an unconscious level, as an obstacle to women’s success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics” (Executive Summary: *Why So Few?*).

Additionally, the results point out that the optimal age to introduce STEM classes and fields to girls is grades six through nine. Another essential component for the students’ success is to enlist parents and support networks including educators, to create awareness and provide sustained encouragement as the students prepare for advanced education and STEM professions. Dr. Dale Buske, Interim Associate Dean of Science and Engineering at St. Cloud State

University, encouraged the students to take as many mathematics classes as possible because he said that math is the foundation for many multidisciplinary advanced level classes.

Minnesota AAUW President, Jan Bensen added that “AAUW supports girls in STEM fields in a variety of ways; highlighting the wage gap, offering specific strategies and actions to increase the representation of women in STEM fields and providing millions of dollars in scholarships and grants to women doing research in their fields. Please visit the national AAUW website at www.aauw.org for more information.”

The Program -

Tech Savvy was held from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. The cost of the program was \$10.00 and included snacks, lunch and numerous giveaways. Over 100 area school girls

registered for the event along with several parents. This program was expanded to include girls in fifth grade. STEM majors from SCSU and CSB volunteered to guide the girls to their pre-registered interactive workshops and they also participated in workshop activities and an informal panel discussion. Professors and industry professionals facilitated the creatively-titled interactive workshops designed to appeal to this age group.

Interactive Workshops -

- How Not to Lose: An Introduction to Game Theory
- Muscle Madness (Applied electrodes to muscles)
- Science of Star Wars (Chemistry)
- Harry Potter Wizarding Science (Chemistry)
- Whoa, Wow, Weather! Hands on Earth Science Exploration (Atmospheric and Hydrological Science)
- Making Wind: Creating Power out of Thin Air (Electrical Energy)
- Women in Stars (Planetarium)

- The Power of Light (Solar Energy and Light Bulbs)
- Cyber Capture the Flag (Cyber Security Competitive Game)
- 3D Printing and Virtual Reality

Women Needed in STEM Careers -

Women make up half of the U.S. population and the need for more computer scientists and engineers will increase exponentially over the next decade. It's more important than ever to fill this gap with talented and driven young women.

“AAUW advocates for the financial security of women and girls. One of the most basic ways to promote financial security is to support girls and women in careers that provide living wages in high demand careers. STEM fields provide high demand careers in a multitude of areas. The *Tech Savvy* community outreach can provide girls with opportunities to see what those careers might look like and help breakdown stereo types of what it

may mean to work in STEM fields. Interested adults are welcomed to *Tech Savvy* because the support of an adult, a parent, teacher, relative or friend, is an important component of a girl's success” according to Bensen.

AAUW – St. Cloud Area Branch -

The St. Cloud Area Branch along with university partners, SCSU and CSB, was the sole group to offer the nation-wide *Tech Savvy* program in Minnesota. However, the program is gaining attention from other AAUW Minnesota branches. Bensen was pleased that members from other branches came to check-out the event.

“*Tech Savvy* is now available to any AAUW branch through the National Program-in – a Box format. Observers from two other organizations attended the November 4th event to consider hosting *Tech Savvy* in their location. St. Cloud would support other branches offering *Tech Savvy* events across the state” said Jan Bensen.

Role Modeling -

The attendees had the opportunity to interact with role models at the college and professional levels. One of the highlights of the program was the introduction of six college students and the informal question and answer period that followed.

The girls were not timid about asking a variety of questions that they were curious about. The college women were asked what or who inspired them to pursue STEM majors. Their responses included inspiring parents in STEM fields, educators who encouraged and believed in them, members of the community, and other students interested in STEM classes.

In order to prepare for STEM careers, the panelists suggested that students take advanced placement classes (AP) in high school for college credit, don't be afraid to register for difficult classes, and don't be discouraged if you fail because it will happen. They said to never give up just keep working hard, and you will eventually succeed. Study groups were also recommended at the college level and said to be helpful. There are organizations for students at SCSU and CSB like Chemistry, Engineering, and

Math Clubs that also provide a network of supportive students.

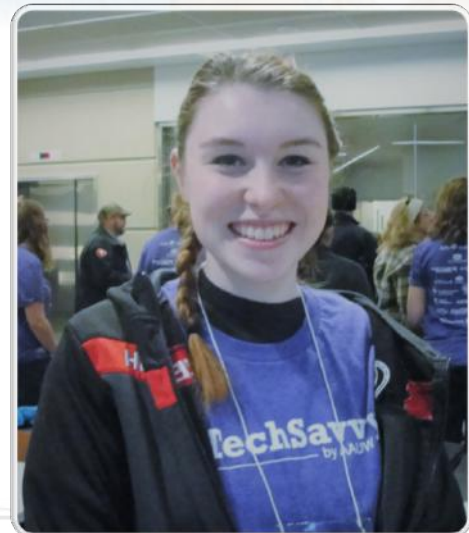
The college students said they believed in developing the whole person (right and left brain) by participating in sports, music, art, doing volunteer work, traveling abroad, and learning skills like writing, public speaking, and foreign languages. Getting to know your professor's style and communicating well with them can also lead to college success. Students appreciate approachable and highly regarded professors that they can connect with and get advice from.

Majoring in STEM classes is hard work, but worth it and very fulfilling. Students added that it's important to love learning; no matter what class you take, there is something valuable to learn. Another student said that she became a stronger person because of her struggles with difficult classes. Many of the students had interests and intellectual curiosities that began in childhood; wanting to fix things, assemble them or solve problems. Their advice concurred with Professor Buske's to take math early on.

The *Tech Savvy* Committee was led by Jan Bensen (AAUW – MN-President and Branch member), Dr. Melissa

Hanzsek-Brill (SCSU), David and Karen Kirkwood (AAUW National Board Dual Members), Mary Harlander-Locke (CSB, AAUW) and Fran Hill-Rowen (AAUW). St. Cloud State University and the College of Saint Benedict are AAUW members who partner with the St. Cloud Area Branch to support women and girls by offering *Tech Savvy* and admittance to the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

The Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW national was founded in 1881 and the St. Cloud Area Branch began in 1922. Women or men with a two-year degree or above from an accredited college or university are welcome to join us so that our important work can continue. For more information go to <http://stcloud-mn.aauw.net>, call Linda MacLeod at 320-281-3155 or email her: lmariemac@yahoo.com.



Duluth Branch AAUW members at the January 20, 2018, Women’s March in Duluth



The Duluth Branch of the American Association of University Women in collaboration with other like-minded organizations held multiple events this winter with the purpose of educating and advocating for women.

On December 14, 2017, the fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting, the Duluth Branch of the American Association of University Women joined with the Northland Chapter of the Brady Campaign/Protect Minnesota and other local organizations to participate in a vigil at First Lutheran Church to honor the victims of gun violence. There are 100 gun-related deaths in the U.S. each day. Since Sandy Hook, 150,000 Americans have been killed by guns. To remember these victims AAUW and community members lit candles and signed postcards asking our congressional delegation to support background checks on all gun sales.

On January 20, 2018, the Duluth Branch of the American Association of University Women joined with the Feminist Action Collective and other local organizations to organize a local Women’s March. Hundreds up to 1,000 Duluthians marched from the Building for Women to the Duluth Civic Center to show their solidarity for Women’s rights.

In collaboration with PAVSA and other organizations, the Duluth Branch of the American Association of University held multiple events to end sex trafficking. On January 8, 2018, a press event, “Sex Trafficking. It’s Here. Help End It”, included presentations from Duluth’s mayor, Emily Larson, PAVSA Youth Advocate, Mel Alvar, and Duluth Public Schools Climate Coordinator, Ron Lake. Other January, 2018, events included, Gichi Manidoo Glizis, a



Sandy Hook Vigil

Traditional Pow Wow, screening of the movies, “The Mask You Live In” and “I am Jane Doe”, a keynote address by Theresa Flores, a trafficking survivor, author and creator of the program, Save our Adolescents from Prostitution, and a Brave Art Exhibit and Youth Resource Fair. In February, a Nepali Dinner fundraiser will take place for the PAVSA’s emergency fund.



Gay Trachsel, AAUW member and Sex Trafficking Prevention Committee Member, and Shunu Shrestha, Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) Trafficking Program Coordinator. at the Sex Trafficking. It's Here. Help End It. Press gathering.

SONIA KOVALEVSKY DAY IN THE NORTHLAND

The Duluth Branch would like to thank Minnesota AAUW for the \$ 500 Minnesota Branch Project Grant which helped sponsor the 2017 Inaugural Northland Sonia Kovalevsky Day. The event was sponsored by University of Minnesota – Duluth, College of St. Scholastica, University of Wisconsin – Superior, and the Duluth Branch of AAUW. SK Day exposes 9th – 12th grade young women to a college campus setting, introduces them to many programs in the STEM fields with an emphasis in mathematics, and encourages them to enroll in college after they graduate. The day is filled with fun mathematical activities with the sole purpose of exposing young women to the beauty of mathematics and thereby encouraging them to continue the study of mathematics in their future endeavors.

The first SK Day in the Northland took place Wednesday, October 25th, 2017 at UMD. Attendees included twenty-five young women and five teachers from three area high schools. The day began with opening remarks by UMD Math Dept. Chair Bruce Peckham. Then the girls rotated through three workshops which were led by 3 area math professors: The Game of Nim; Math in Games; and Math and Origami.

The keynote speaker was Carol Christensen from the National Weather Service.

The day also included a panel composed of undergraduate and graduate UMD students who answered lots of questions about what to expect in undergraduate and graduate mathematics programs.

It was a very fun day and we received many positive comments about the event. We are really looking forward to hosting many more SK Days in the Northland!



SK Day Committee: (left to right)
 Jonathan Totushek (UWS Math Professor)
 Marilyn Toscano (UWS Math lecturer and AAUW Duluth Branch member)
 Beth Kubik (UMD Math Professor and AAUW Duluth Branch member)
 Kris Glesener (St.Scholastica CS lecturer)

Membership Growth Ensures Future Viability

By: Linda Marie MacLeod, VP Membership/Communications

The St. Cloud Area Branch

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

lmariemac@yahoo.com

AAUW – Yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

On Valentine's Day, February 14, 1922, several St. Cloud State University graduates founded the AAUW, St. Cloud Area Branch. Today their names are memorialized on campus buildings and a campus park (Whitney, Atwood, Mitchell, Hill, and Barden). This year on Valentine's Day, branch members are invited to raise a glass to honor those women who started it all in St. Cloud. Evidence of that legacy is the number of current branch members with lengthy terms of continuous membership (Mary Boltuck, 1946, Joyce Wittenhagen, 1960, Bobbie Lampi, 1966, Bonita Benschoter, 1975, Jan Bensen, 1979, Jacquelyn Bradbury, 1970, Jan Davis, 1976). The AAUW mission is as vital and relevant today as it was in 1881 when national was founded. Twenty-first century women and girls depend on the organization's political advocacy, educational support, continuing research, and philanthropy, now more than ever!

In order to continue to fulfill the mission, the future of AAUW branch membership must be secured. If nothing is done, membership will dwindle, enthusiasm will falter, and AAUW's important work on women's rights will fade away. How can membership be

strengthened and increased in the age of overwhelming technological communications, competition for time, financial challenges, and the decline of a civil society?

Having a sense of humor, is an important first step. A positive attitude and the belief that anything is possible along with enthusiasm and commitment is all that is needed. It's also important to recognize that strengthening the branch through membership is an ongoing process and member retention is just as vital as inviting new members to join. What good does recruiting do if existing and new members fail to renew? What follows are some ideological and practical suggestions that address these complexities:

Ideological and Practical Suggestions

- All members must be respected and valued for their membership, even if they are not active.
- Evaluate how the branch can enrich member lives (community service, special interest groups, opportunities to socialize or network).
- What kind of programming would pique members' interests? Ask for suggestions.

- Make sure the program venue is well-located with easy parking and good food.
- An informal demographic study using the branch directory will provide information that can help increase diversity, acknowledge employment and educational background, discover areas that complement and expand membership-targets.
- Communications – is challenging and essential! Send monthly communications via email to all members so they are informed and engaged.
- Personal contact by telephone or face-to-face is still the most effective way to engage with prospective and existing members; have fun and get to know each other. WIN-WIN!
- Write an annual membership plan, set goals, provide incentives and public recognition. If every member invites just one new member to join each year that would be sufficient.
- Offer orientations, social events, etc. for new members to get to know each other and answer any questions about the organization, programs, community out-reach, etc. Introduce new members at monthly programs, make them feel welcome and continue to communicate with them on a personal level, with honesty, integrity, and warmth.

The St. Cloud Area Branch currently has about 85 members including students from our partner universities, SCSU and CSB. At our 100th anniversary in 2022, our goal is to have 100 sustained members.

Furthermore, efforts to create branch awareness in the community will continue through press releases, articles, special events with invitations to members of other women's and community groups, out-reach to faculty of SCSU and CSB and to many other outstanding educated women in Central Minnesota. Our goal is to continue the important work of AAUW and honor the smart women who started in all in St. Cloud, Minnesota.



AAUW FUNDS MAKES AN IMPACT IN MINNESOTA

AAUW Funds advances our AAUW mission by sustaining all our programs and activities. Legal Advocacy has been crucial to the success of many gender discrimination cases during since its inception. The case support program provides financial and organizational backing for plaintiffs who are challenging gender discrimination in education and the workplace.

Portz v. St. Cloud State University

Under Title IX universities must provide equal opportunities for students to participate in sports. Title IX compliance can be achieved in three ways: by ensuring proportionate opportunities for all athletes, by demonstrating a history of and continuing commitment to program expansion, or by fully and effectively accommodating the interest and abilities of the underrepresented sex. The plaintiffs in Portz v. St. Cloud State University allege that by proposing to eliminate two women's sports teams entirely, St. Cloud State University is denying women athletes equal opportunity for participation in sports.

This case involves 10 female student athletes who filed the lawsuit. Five of the women are members of SCSU's women's tennis team and five are members of the women's Nordic ski team. In March 2016 the SCSU athletic department announced plans to cut six teams from its athletic program, including the women's tennis team and the Nordic ski team. There is so much more to this story.

Join us at our AAUW State Convention in April to hear our Legal Advocacy Program speaker give an update on this case.

All donations to AAUW Funds are tax deductible. Go to AAUW.org to donate. Please contact Veronica Johnson, veronicajj3@aol.com with any questions.

The Unconventional Convention

Mary Ann Lucas Houx

MN VP Program

In my role as VP Program for the state, I have the privilege of working with the chair or co-chairs of the host branch for the AAUW MN State Convention. When I met with Cyndy Harrison and Pauline Schreiber, the co-chairs for the 2018 convention, from Faribault, I had several concerns. This was not going to be like past conventions. There wasn't a convention center nor was there a hotel large enough to hold all of the convention activities. In addition, this would be, according to my records, the first time Faribault had hosted an AAUW state convention.

Cyndy and Pauline did not seem fazed about what they didn't have. They were excited about what their unique area did have to offer. As our planning continued, they addressed the concerns that had been identified. Some changes include utilizing South Central College for our business session and activities on Saturday. Bus service will be utilized to get to the Friday banquet at the beautiful and historic Shattuck-St. Mary's School campus. Your Silent Auction items will be dropped off at the registration site on Friday or if you register on Saturday, at the college. This may inspire some other branch to consider an unconventional convention! See you at the 2018 convention in Faribault!

AAUW Duluth Cosponsors Presentations by Global Citizen and Retired Minnesota Judge LaJune Thomas Lange

By Zabelle Stodola, Diversity Officer, AAUW Duluth

Owing to a generous grant from the state chapter of AAUW, the Duluth branch was honored to cosponsor Judge LaJune Thomas Lange's visit to Duluth from 22 to 24 September 2017. Other cosponsors included the League of Women Voters (Duluth), St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church, and UMD's Alworth Institute of International Studies. Gerri Williams, retired State Department Public Affairs Officer and now a resident of Duluth, was the lead organizer who conceptualized and coordinated the Judge's activities here.

Among her many accomplishments, Judge Lange is Honorary Consul for South Africa; Founder of the LaJune Thomas Lange International Leadership Institute; Fourth Minnesota Judicial District Court Judge (Retired); and Senior Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

She came to Duluth to speak on a range of topics concerning race relations, international engagement, global leadership, the long history of African Americans in Minnesota, and the equitable representation of women and other minorities in politics. Over a hectic two and a half days, Judge Lange met with Mayor Emily Larson and gave three inspiring presentations that were free and open to the public.

September 22 Meeting with Mayor Larson



Left to right: Zabelle Stodola, AAUW; Richard Coleman, Pastor St. Mark AME Church; Mayor Emily Larson; Judge LaJune Lange; Janet Kennedy, League of Women Voters; Carl Crawford, Duluth Human Rights Officer; and Gail Schoenfelder, League of Women Voters

Judge Lange discussed expanding business opportunities between Duluth and South Africa. Did we know, she asked, that SAPPI Paper Mill in Cloquet, employing 700 people, was owned by a South African firm? She invited the Mayor to join the state committee planning events throughout Minnesota to celebrate the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth in 2018. Judge Lange also encouraged the city to recognize the rich history of African Americans here, going back to at least the mid nineteenth century

when they came to work in the steel mills. While not downplaying the horrific legacy of lynching, she also pointed out other civic ties, for example that African Americans had enough money, manpower, and conviction to fund the construction of St. Mark AME Church 138 years ago! The Mayor agreed that Duluth should foster more opportunities for cross cultural relations.

September 22 Presentation in the Martin Library at UMD



Left to right: Janet Kennedy; Zabelle Stodola; LaJune Lange; Richard Coleman; Cindy Christian, Director, Alworth Institute for International Studies, UMD; Gerri Williams



Left to right: Zabelle Stodola; LaJune Lange; Terry Teich, Co-President, AAUW Duluth

In her presentation to about 35 people at UMD, Judge Lange spent most of her time discussing what it meant to be Consul General of South Africa, how she came to be appointed to this position, and how part of her charge is to foster innovation as well as business and cultural opportunities between South Africa and the United States. Especially for the younger students present in the audience, Judge Lange gave an overview of apartheid and of Nelson Mandela himself. While she believes that South Africa has in many ways confronted its past through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, other parts of the world still

feel the legacy of apartheid and of ongoing racism. Closer to home, here in Duluth, she urged all of us to prioritize greater engagement with black history.

September 23 Presentation at the Building for Women

Judge Lange talked about how she was moved to found the International Leadership Institute in 1994 after the Rwandan genocide in which millions of Hutus and Tutsis had been killed and in which the USA had been loath to intervene effectively. The Institute is devoted to providing equitable participation of women in politics and economic development, reducing election fraud, and promoting transparency within political parties. The Judge is a powerful and charismatic speaker, and the thirty people in attendance were spellbound throughout.

September 24 Presentation at St. Mark A. M. E. Church

Judge Lange reflected on her experiences as a judicial representative, especially on the challenges of Native and African American youth in the criminal justice system in Minnesota and on police training regarding use of force.

American Association of University Women
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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.

