

Northwoods News

April, 2018



## Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 10

This year, in preparation for Equal Pay Day, the Ely Branch Equal Pay Committee has worked with Rotary to expand our activities and outreach on this important day.

AAUW Ely Branch and Rotary have embarked on a project to affirm and celebrate Ely MN as the first 100% equal pay for equal work community in the state of Minnesota.

The local branch of AAUW has been involved in equal pay activities for many years. This year the branch has added a new focus on the part of our promotion that was missing and would have the most benefit for women employed in Ely--the approach to businesses. The goal of 100% is aggressive. But, we believe we cannot do less for the women who

## **NORTHWOODS NEWS: April, 2018**

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### **Message from Branch President, Pam Brunfelt**

The annual meeting for the Ely Branch will be on April 10. Please note the slate of four candidates for the board. All of the candidates are incumbents. We will, of course, open the floor for nominations. The other major item for you to consider will be the 2018-19 budget. It will look very much like the current budget. Finally, we should brainstorm ideas for fundraising just in case Herberger's decides not to continue with the community day's sale. Once we discuss alternatives, we may discover that the sale of coupon books is a painless way to raise money for our scholarship program. From my point of view, the alternatives will involve a lot more pain and work. I hope our discussion will lead to more volunteers to sell at the doors at Herberger's!

Lucy Diesslin and Judy Klun did a marvelous job on their Title IX presentation in March. Judy's personal story about the impact of Title IX on her life was fascinating. Young women should hear her story because they now take their participation in sports for granted. They would discover that they are standing on the shoulders of women like

share this community with us.

In our desire to broaden the reach of our promotion so that it has a positive impact on the economic viability of the community, we reached out to the local Rotary to co-sponsor these efforts. Since formalizing that collaboration in the fall of 2017, we have looked closely at what other groups we need to discuss this with so they are not caught by surprise, and are able to help us design our promotion for optimal success. We have met with the Chamber Board, Merchant's Committee and the local Jobs Service. They provided valuable feedback so that our "pledge to equal pay" is now an "affirmation of equal pay." They also helped us rephrase the promotion to focus on a stronger economic development message. We will talk with other committees and groups involved in economic development. We have secured several businesses who will sign the affirmation up front to give added credibility to the promotion. The promotion will be announced with a press release followed by a mailing to businesses and in person visits as needed.

Ours is a two year project. Our goals are as follows:

**Business promotion:**  
Secure a signed affirmation from 100% of businesses ensuring they will or do provide equal pay for equal work in their business by Equal Pay Day 2020. In exchange for their affirmation, we will provide them with an "Equal Pay Employer" window cling to display in their business and provide them with at least quarterly promotion through the length of the campaign. Our goals are for 75% in year one rising to 100% in year two.

**College promotion:**  
Engage young women from Outward Bound and/or from Vermilion Community College to collaborate with AAUW members to educate at least 200 college students on pay equity issues by Equal Pay Day 2020. The bulk of our education will be during lunch with students in the cafeteria, but will also include an interactive educational seminar in government classes.

Judy who came before them. Lucy provided an excellent explanation of the history of the act.

Don't forget to participate (and volunteer to help) in all of the interesting events surrounding Pay Equity Day (detailed information is included in this newsletter). The committee has done a marvelous job of involving other groups and businesses in the day's events. We are particularly pleased that the Rotary has become involved. **Pay disparities affect everyone, not just women. When we are paid less, families are paid less. Fairness and equity should matter to everyone.**

On May 7 we will once again gather for our end of the year celebration at the GEL. We will have much to celebrate because of all of the good work we have done this year.

Finally, I am completing my first term as president, and I want to thank you for electing me. It is an honor to serve such an amazing group of women. Since I joined AAUW six years ago, I have come to admire all of you and your selfless service to the greater Ely community.

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## Upcoming Events

**Ely Branch Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
**VCC, CL 124**  
**(Join members and the community at the Equal Pay Day "Unhappy Hour" at Northern Grounds and then go to the Branch Meeting at VCC.)**

**Although there is no program at the Branch Annual Meeting, we need your participation to conduct important branch business:**

- Reports and Updates
- Approval of the 2018-2019 Budget
- Election of 2018-2019 Officers - The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers:

yr. term to  
President - Pam Brunfelt (2nd term)  
VP Membership - Phyllis Olson (one  
correct oversight last year)  
term) VP Program - Barb Soderberg (2nd  
Finance Office - Jean Tomlinson

Nominations may also be made at the meeting.

**High School Promotion:**  
Present pay equity interactive educational seminar to at least 100 students in 2018 and another 100 by equal pay day in 2019.

**Educating the public**  
We will host a community open house (Unhappy Hour) where pay equity issues are discussed. Our long term goal is to host the event until all women and persons of color in Congressional District 8 receive equal pay for equal work. We expect a minimum of 100 people to attend each year.

**AAUW Mission:** AAUW Advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

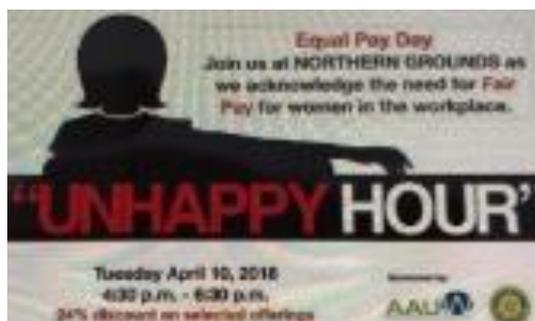
**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers to that all women have a fair chance.

- Questions and Discussion of AAUW proposed bylaws changes (See summary in the March Branch Newsletter.)

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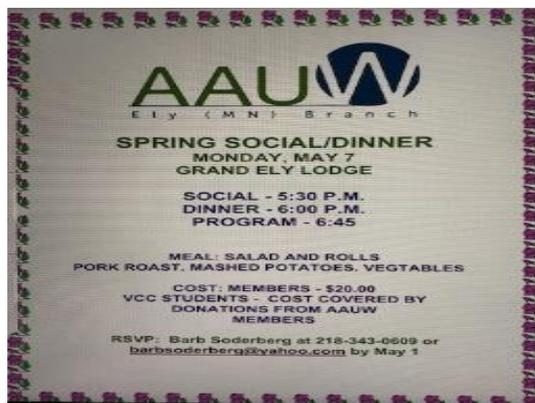
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### Equal Pay Day "Unhappy Hour" Tuesday, April 10 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Northern Grounds



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### AAUW SPRING SOCIAL AND DINNER Monday, May 7 Grand Ely Lodge



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### Branch, State, National News

#### AAUW Ely 2018 STEM Workshop *Submitted By Jeanne Tomlinson, STEM Committee Chair*

We had a record 39 girls attending our annual STEM Workshops on March 24 at the VCC - with 13 of them in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades! This year, we tried a new "opening activity" that we usually have

in order to keep the girls busy during the ½ hour registration period. Sherry Abts set up 5 “Physics Fun” experiment tables so the girls could learn various physics principals by experimenting with pop bottle rockets, balloon helicopters, magnetism, and water tension. We extended the “opening activity” time by 25 minutes to allow the late-comers a chance to move through all the tables. Although some of the “repeat” attendees commented that they didn’t like the repetition since some of these experiments were done in a workshop last year, most the new attendees absolutely loved it.

The other workshops were presented to the girls in smaller groups of about 13 girls that rotated through them. In *Marshmallow Catapults*, Rachel Heinrich from the Ely Public Library had them build a simple catapult with popsicle sticks, a plastic bottle cap and rubber bands, and then practice launching a cotton ball. Then they were given larger materials to design and build their own catapult to launch marshmallows and then experiment with them.



In *Computer Programming the Fun Way*, Kris Wilmunen from Unisys had them re-programming an *Angry Bird* video game with “drag & drop” programming. This had been a successful workshop 4 years ago and Kris had offered to do it again. This time, some of the older girls had already done this type of programming in the school STEM program but many the younger ones who had not seemed to really take to it.

In *What Do Vet Techs Do?*, the Vet Tech instructor, Jessica Kainz, with a local veterinarian,

Dr. Pete Hughes, and some of the Vet Tech students, did a wide variety of activities - widely varying what they did even between the groups. Some examined a cadaver dog, others tested blood pressure, prepared slides with blood or feces samples and examined them on an overhead microscope, tested eye pressure and learned a lot about pet care and what veterinary technicians do in their daily jobs.

All in all, a successful day. Special thanks to Sherry Abts for handling that amazing *Physics Fun* opening activity and to the AAUW helpers: Annette Horvat, Lucy Diesslin, Caroline Owens, and Phyllis Olson who helped make the day run smoothly.

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### **AAUW National Bylaws Amendments**

(Repeated from March Newsletter for information for April meeting discussion.)

AAUW members recently received an email from national noting 3 proposed amendments to the AAUW Bylaws. The proposed amendments address:

- Creating three-year staggered board terms
- Opening board service to those outside the AAUW membership
- Eliminating the degree requirement for membership

Rationale provided by the AAUW Board for the proposed amendments: The first two proposals would bring AAUW's board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization. The third proposal - to eliminate the degree requirement for membership - has come before the membership for vote a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the requirement made sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many counter to the AAUW mission and limits our ability to build our capacity needed to increase AAUW's impact.

**More information** on the proposals can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>. The Ely Branch will discuss as part of the annual meeting in April. No doubt, this will also be a topic of discussion at the upcoming AAUW MN State Convention.

**Voting** will open on April 25, 2018 and close June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET. Since AAUW has "One member, One vote", all members will receive an

email with instructions to vote online or instructions on how to request a paper ballot.

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### **AAUW 2018-2019 Dues**

The AAUW year runs from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. AAUW Ely members are encouraged to pay their 2018-2019 dues at the May social and dinner or submit to Jeanne Tomlinson, Finance Officer, prior to June 30. If you prefer to pay by credit card, you may also pay on the <http://aauw.org> website by signing in using your ID number and password (that you create). Just be sure to select AAUW MN and Ely Branch in addition to the National dues! Dues amounts for 2018 - 2019 are as follows:

National Dues	\$59.00 (increase of \$10 - the first increase in 10 years). (\$56 is tax deductible.)
AAUW Minnesota Dues	\$9.00 (The full \$9.00 is now tax deductible!)
AAUW Ely Dues	\$7.00
<b>Total Dues Amount</b>	<b>\$75.00 (\$65 is tax deductible)</b>

Other Dues Related Information:

If you are an AAUW 50 Year Member or AAUW Life Member, you only pay AAUW MN and AAUW Ely dues - \$15.00 (\$9 is tax deductible.)

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### **Dates to Remember**

#### **Tuesday, April 10, 2018**

Equal Pay Day Unhappy Hour at Northern Grounds

Ely Branch Meeting – Annual Meeting (Election of Officers and Budget Approval)  
VCC, CL 124

#### **Monday, May 7, 2018 (Monday)**

Ely Branch Social and Dinner, Grand Ely Lodge

#### **April 27-28, 2018**

AAUW MN State Convention  
Faribault, MN



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