

Northwoods News

May, 2018



### **Ely Branch Members Attend State Convention in Faribault**

Seven Ely Branch members- Lucy Diesslin, Marge Forsberg, Ruth Leoni, Barb Luikkonen, Caroline Owens, Jeanne Tomlinson, and Teresa Sagen- attended the AAUW Minnesota State Convention in Faribault this past weekend. There were 152 registered members and guests who attended the convention this year.

The Ely Branch received \$500 from AAUW MN for our

### **NORTHWOODS NEWS: May, 2018**

*For a .pdf or paper copy of this newsletter, please contact [tkswagen@gmail.com](mailto:tkswagen@gmail.com).*

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

I am writing my last president's letter for the 2017-2018 year. As we move into summer, I hope you all have a warm and sunny interlude before we begin meeting again in the fall. We certainly deserve this sudden change from a winter that hung on way too long to a beautifully warm spring that really did seem to spring upon us.

Before we go, however, there are a few important items to review. First of all, we need to celebrate the work that the Public Policy committee did to put on another excellent pay equity day. They volunteered over 200 hours and brought greater attention to this continual economic injustice. As people focus on what the economic consequences for women and families are, perhaps laws currently on the books will finally be enforced and new laws enacted. In the meantime, many in the Ely community have publically pledged their commitment to fairness. As consumers, we can help those businesses that display their commitment in the window by being loyal customers.

Second, as many of you are aware, Herberger's is gone. So we can no longer raise funds through the community day's sale. Board members have been discussing our options, and we will talk about it at the dinner on May 7. Because Ely and the surrounding areas are very tiny communities, what we can do is

NCCWSL (National Conference of College Student Leaders) recipient and a \$500 Branch Project Grant for our Equal Pay Activities. The Branch was also recognized for being one of the top 10 branches in Minnesota for per capita giving to AAUW Funds.

After a tour of the Woolen Mills, members attended a reception and dinner at Shattuck-St. Mary's Inn where we heard keynote speakers, Janel Klein, journalist with KARE-TV, and Trisha Volpe, an award-winning journalist, attorney and litigation consultant, present on "Confident Communication: Understanding and Engaging with the Media".

On Saturday, speakers included Kendra Davis, National AAUW's Senior Vice President for Advancement and Partnerships. Kendra provided an overview of the new CEO's emphasis on "Focus, Relevance and Impact" to assure AAUW's "Liquidity, Adaptability, and Sustainability. We were also reminded to participate in and vote on the AAUW Strategic Plan.

A highlight of Saturday was hearing the LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) speakers. Attorneys Sharon Van Dyck and Donald Chance Mark, Jr. provided us with an update of *Portz v. St. Cloud State University et al.*, a Title IX case involving 10 female athletes who filed a lawsuit against St. Cloud State University and Minnesota State College and University Systems. This case is being partially supported by AAUW LAF. Van Dyck and Mark are also two of the attorneys

quite limited. So think about it, and come prepared to discuss it in May.

A committee will be working on the next strategic plan. Everyone, of course, is welcome to attend the meetings. We will announce where and when we will meet so you can be part of the process if you are so inclined. We will present the draft proposal for your consideration both by email and at our first meeting in the fall.

Twelve VCC students have signed up to attend our May dinner at the GEL. It will be lovely to have time to visit with all of the young women whose hopes and dreams are in front of them. So many of us are living post-dream lives, and their excitement will rejuvenate us all.

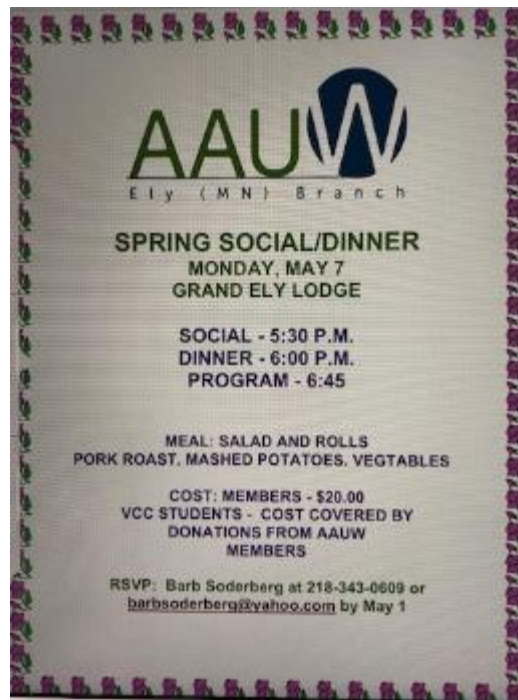
Thanks to all of you for what you do as AAUW members to make the Ely area such a great place to live.

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### Upcoming Events

**Ely Branch Meeting and Dinner  
Monday, May 7, 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Social Hour;  
Dinner at 6:00 pm with the program to follow  
Grand Ely Lodge  
Program - Cassie Leoni will talk about her  
experiences in Japan**

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR DINNER  
RESERVATIONS BY TUESDAY, MAY 1!!!**



representing Shannon Miller in her case against UMD which was recently decided in favor of Ms. Miller and provided us with some of the details in the Miller case.

Ely members happily represented the Branch and enjoyed connecting with old friends and making new friends within this diverse group of women and men who are passionate about the mission of AAUW. We hope that many of you will plan to attend next year's convention in Grand Rapids!

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**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.

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## 2018-2019 Membership Dues Reminder

As this AAUW year is drawing to a close, it's a good time to reflect on all the ways AAUW has made a difference in the lives of women and girls, both nationally and locally. It's also the time to renew our memberships. Membership dues are paid annually, normally by the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30.

There are three ways to renew:

1. Renew online with a credit card by clicking on the link in the AAUW renewal notice you will be receiving shortly via email.
2. Bring your check (payable to *AAUW-Ely*) – or cash - to the dinner on May 7th at the Grand Ely Lodge, and give to Jeanne Tomlinson.
3. Send your check (payable to *AAUW-Ely*) to Jeanne Tomlinson, Finance Officer, at 549 Loop Rd, Ely MN 55731.

Membership dues for Regular members are now \$75.00, which is made up \$59 for National, \$9 for State and \$7 for our branch. (\$10 increase in National dues). Honorary Life Time members pay just the branch dues of \$7, and Paid Life Time members pay the state and branch dues which comes to \$16.

Tax information: \$56 of your National Dues and \$9 State Dues may be tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Three dollars of the \$59 national dues is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund.

Submitted by Jeanne Tomlinson, Branch Treasurer

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## Save the Date for AAUW Northland Gathering

On Saturday, September 15, the Grand Rapid Branch will host the Northland Gathering for branches in Northeastern Minnesota - Brainerd, Duluth, Ely, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, and Virginia. Look for an email later this summer for more information and registration. This is a fun day, with an interesting program and time to interact with members from other branches.

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## Branch, State, National News

### Equal Pay Day 2018 a Success

*Submitted By Mary Setterholm, VP Public Policy*

Equal Pay Day 2018 was a success by all accounts. Approximately 250 students and community members participated in events that began weeks before and culminated with 'Unhappy Hour' on Tuesday April 10th. Equal Pay team members spoke at Tuesday group, to the Rotary, and to the Chamber of Commerce, 3 high school classes, and the government class at VCC about the need to advance pay equity. We baked and distributed 300 cookies (some with a bite out) to drive home the idea that women, especially women of color, receive paychecks 'with a bite out'. We had 3 excellent write ups and one letter to the editor in our local papers. Our 'Unhappy Hour' provided wine and coffee at a 24% discount, reflecting the pay gap in our congressional district. During the event, we distributed information on salary negotiation and information on how to join AAUW to continue working toward equal pay for all. This year, our AAUW ELY branch joined with the Rotary to launch a two year project with the goal of 100% of the ELY business owners affirming their commitment to equal pay. As of this writing, 42 businesses have signed the pledge. Watch for displays of 'Equal Pay Employer = \$' on storefront windows throughout town. With help from an AAUW state project grant of \$500 and ELY Rotary assistance of \$200, the cost to our branch was just over \$100. The Equal Pay Day Team- Kay Vandervort, Linda Sutton, Caroline Owens, Teresa Sagen, Lucy Diesslin, & Mary Setterholm- will continue to work through the year to encourage business signatures affirming ELY as an Equal Pay community. When we achieve 100%, we will be the first city in the state to do so! If you are interested in joining our working team (we have a REALLY good time with this work), contact any one of us to join the next meeting!!

(Note from Editor: Other branches were very excited and anxious to learn more about our Equal Pay Day activities. The AAUW MN VP Program commented that this is something all branches should consider and maybe replicate throughout the State.)

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### AAUW State Convention Silent Auction

The beautiful basket of Ely items, the water color picture, and the quilted wall hanging that the Ely Branch took to the State Convention brought \$105 for AAUW Funds. A big thank you to all who made contributions for items to put in the basket. Also, thanks to Phyllis for buying the items and making the basket look so appealing to bidders and to Ruth for donating the basket. The picture and wall hanging were donated by Maxine Jacks, a former member of our branch (now a member of the Duluth Branch). Thanks to Maxine for these donations.

Submitted by Lucy Diesslin, AAUW Funds VP

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## AAUW Fundraising

**Supporting VCC SCHOLARSHIP ~ STEM EVENT ~ STEM CAMP ~ NCCWSL ~ EQUAL PAY DAY ~ AAUW FUNDS**

### **FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

Our Herberger's booklet sales fund raising opportunity has ended due to the closing of all Herberger's stores including the Herberger's in Virginia. This has been a great fund raiser for our branch and our only fund raiser bringing in \$2500 plus every year! About 1/3 of this amount, or about \$800, is generated by direct member purchase of booklets and 2/3, or about \$1700, has been through pre-sale days, sale days, and a percentage check from the Herberger's corporation.

To continue to support our mission and all the things we have been supporting, we need to:

1. **Develop a fund raising plan to include creating a fund raising committee**
2. **Generate fund raising ideas, big and small, from branch members.**

**Our May dinner is next Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Let's see how many ideas we can generate by then!**

**With full membership support of our great AAUW Branch we can continue to give scholarships, have STEM workshops, support pay equity, send young women to NCCWSL, send girls to STEM camp, contribute to AAUW Funds and more!**

**Thank you all, Marge**

Contact information: [ttlmarge@yahoo.com](mailto:ttlmarge@yahoo.com) or 235-3851.

**Supporting VCC SCHOLARSHIP ~ STEM EVENT ~ STEM CAMP ~ NCCWSL ~ EQUAL PAY DAY ~ AAUW FUNDS**

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## Thank You Letter From VCC Scholarship Recipient

I want to start by thanking you for choosing me to receive the Ely Branch American Association of University Women Scholarship. By receiving the generous donation, it will help me to focus on school rather than my financial situation.

My hometown is in Duluth, MN, but I have traveled most of the West Coast and have lived in San Diego, CA and Bremerton, WA. I absolutely love traveling and experiencing new things and places. One of the many reasons I have decided to attend Vermilion and go through the Wildland Wildlife Law Enforcement program was due to experiencing a run in with Conservation Officer who helped out a friend of mine after a four wheeler crash. From that moment on I knew that is what I wanted to do for a career.

As I mentioned I am in the Wildland Wildlife Law Enforcement program, and because I am in that program I am involved with the Law Enforcement Club here at Vermilion. We volunteer for many events in town. I also will be working this summer with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a Watercraft Inspector. I am beyond excited for the

opportunity to get my foot in the door and working closely with the DNR to get real work related experience.

In the next coming years I would like to be able to travel some more and I hope to get a duty station somewhere other than Minnesota. One day I would like to come back and be near my home town again, but since I am young and don't have anything tying me down seeing more of the world and getting a chance to be in a different area sounds ideal. This scholarship will make my academic year a lot easier for next year. I am supporting myself to get through school so every bit helps especially when I will be able to work less and focus more on my studies.

Thank you so much again for choosing to help me succeed in my years to come with my education and bettering my chances at landing a career in Law Enforcement. Your help is greatly appreciated!

With thanks and appreciation,

Lauren Royer

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## **AAUW National Amendments**

**(Repeated from April Newsletter)**

**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/>

**Voting began on April 25, 2018 and closes June 9, 2018, at 9 p.m. ET, Since AAUW has "One member,**

One vote", all members have received an email with instructions to vote online or instructions on how to request a paper ballot. Instructions are in the paper copy of the *Outlook* newsletter if you receive the paper copy. If questions on voting procedures, see Teresa at the May 7 meeting or contact Teresa at [tkragen@gmail.com](mailto:tkragen@gmail.com)

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## Dates to Remember

**Monday, May 7, 2018**  
Dinner and Program  
GEL

**September 11, 2018**  
Ely Branch Meeting

**September 15, 2018**  
Northland Gathering  
Grand Rapids, MN



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