



Grand Rapids Timberline

AAUW Grand Rapids
1949-2019
Celebrating 70 years!

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT
AAUW GRAND RAPIDS
BRANCH MEMBERS

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

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November 2019

November 11 Dinner Program

Location: United Methodist Church

Social: 5:00-5:45 PM **Dinner:** 5:45-6:30 PM **Business Meeting:** 6:30-7:00 PM

Program: 7:00-8:00 PM

MENU: Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Spinach Salad , Breadstick & Cranberry Cake with Rum Sauce

Food Chair: Vicki Holmstrom

Cost: \$15.00

RSVPs: RSVP to Deanna Ensley by the end of **Mon., Nov. 4. Call/text (360) 333-0228 or email deannaensley@yahoo.com**

TOPIC: International Baccalaureate Program

PRESENTER: Dale Christy

Dale Christy is the District 318 International Baccalaureate and Gifted Education Coordinator. Dale received his BS from UMD and his Masters degree from St. Cloud State University. He has been a teacher in Grand Rapids since 1990 and a member of the Grand Rapids City Council since 2008.

The International Baccalaureate Program encourages critical thinking. Students are asked to consider both local and global contexts in their evaluations. The goal is to equip them with skills needed to take responsible action for the future in this increasingly complex world.

Membership Report

From Marj Lavalier, Membership Chair

NEWER or NEW member orientation: I will host a new member orientation on Nov. 11 at 4:00 pm prior to our regular AAUW monthly meeting at the United Methodist Church. This will help you get to know the larger picture of AAUW. All board members are invited and encouraged to attend and share their experiences in AAUW.

President's Message

Happy November!

We had an idea that came from AAUW in Arizona--thanks to Sharon Quern. The branch starts their meetings with a reading of the AAUW Mission Statement. We started this at our October meeting and it is a great way to remember what our group stands for.

Mission Statement: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy." This will be a part of our meetings ongoing.

We had a record number of Travel Treasures at our October meeting. How fun to hear where our members have traveled...and we are a very well-traveled group! This brought in an additional \$42 for our scholarship fund.

Positions open for the 2020-21 AAUW term are: President and Secretary.

Would you like to become more involved? Do you have a member in mind that may make a difference?

Note: Deanna and I moved to Grand Rapids not knowing anyone and we both found that this was a great way to meet others with similar interests. The positions can be shared by two members. We will be appointing a nominating committee soon. Please let me know if you or someone you know would be a good fit.

We support the **STEM program at ICC**. We sponsor two camperships each year. Another way to become more involved would be by donating supplies that can be used during the program and there are 40-50 campers in each session. See the **list of items that are needed for the summer programs** in the newsletter. We will be collecting items at the January and April meetings. Note: If you have any large items they can be dropped off at ICC.

The Ely AAUW branch will be hosting a **Women's Suffrage Conference "Women's Lives Transformed--the 19th Amendment."** It will be held June 26 & 27, 2020 at Vermilion Community College in Ely. Please let Deanna Ensley know if you are interested in attending.

See information on our December Christmas Party in the newsletter. You are welcome to pay for the December meeting, which will be held at the Eagles when attend our Nov. 11 meeting. This will be your reservation.

A million thanks to Arlene Wheaton for not only doing the monthly newsletter, but for also doing our directories. We really appreciate you Arlene!

See you at our monthly meeting on Nov. 11.

Cyndy Agle
Co-President

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FUNDRAISER with a Twist

We will hold our annual fundraiser to benefit our scholarship fund in December along with our Christmas party on **Mon., Dec. 9 at the Eagles**. The theme for the "Fundraiser with a Twist" is **SHINY and BRIGHT**.

Tickets will be sold and you can put your ticket in the bag for the gift you wish to bid on...there will be a random drawing for each item. Ticket prices are: 25 for \$20, 12 for \$10, 6 for \$5 or a dollar each. **Every dollar you contribute goes toward our scholarship fund.**

Gift ideas that reflect our shiny and bright theme:

- Candles
- Book Light
- Lantern
- Flashlights
- Jewelry
- A scarf with shine or that is a bright color
- A book with a shiny cover or the word shiny or bright in the title
- Chocolate candy to make you feel bright
- Slippers with a shiny bow
- A shiny gift card
- A pair of gloves wrapped in shiny paper
- A brightly colored package with ?? inside
- Bright-colored socks

December 9 Christmas Party Dinner

From Elaine Thorstenson, Dinner/Food Chair

Dec. 9 Dinner Menu: Beef Brisket, Roasted Baby Red Potatoes , Green Bean Amandine, Tossed Dinner Salad and Dessert.

Cost is \$25 (covers all costs associated with the dinner: room rental, tablecloths, food , taxes and tip)

Please note we must have your reservations no later than Tues., Nov. 26 due to the ordering process for the brisket and the amount of time needed for preparation. *Why not make your reservation now and cross that off your to-do list before the busy Thanksgiving holiday?*

"We've begun to raise daughters more like sons... but few have the courage to raise our sons more like our daughters."

— Gloria Steinem

**** INTEREST GROUPS ****

****NEW NONFICTION BOOK GROUP for Reading & Conversation**

Would you like to be in a reading group that uses nonfiction for its reading and discussion? There is a lot of very good nonfiction writing on current issues

these days. Some are long; others are short, under 200 pages. Sometimes it is enjoyable to discuss items from a magazine such as *Atlantic Monthly* or *The National Review* or the *Nation*; *Time* magazine features broad, interesting subjects. Some of you may remember reading and talking about *Travels of a T-shirt* several years ago.

We would need to set up our schedule and decide how we will choose reading materials and operate, etc. We already have a short list of books to consider as a start for others for others to add their suggestions and ideas.

To sign up for this group, call Marilyn Rossman, 326-6775 or mbro@paulbunyan.net, or Emilie Zasada, 326- 4909 or emiliezasada@mac.com before Nov. 28, Thanksgiving.

BRIDGE

Group meets at Majestic Pines Senior Living on 1st Thursday, year round now. Starts with lunch in the Bistro at 11:30 a.m. followed by Bridge, one to two tables. Contact is Nancy Raymond, 952-715-2365.

EXPLORING OUR COMMUNITY

Join members for field trips to various places of interest. Contacts are Juliet Jones and Cyndy Agle.

LITERATURE – Monday group

Group meets on 1st Monday (except for holidays) at 10:00 AM at Grand Rapids State Bank Annex. Contacts are Nancy Salmi, 326-3147, and Jan Hill, 246-9791.
Nov. 4: *Educated* by Tara Westover, discussion leader is Judy Dimich

LITERATURE – Wednesday group

Group meets at 10:30 am on 2nd Wednesday, Grand Rapids Area Library, River Room, September-May. Contact is Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911 or kbzimmer@q.com
Nov. 13: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
Dec. 11: *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder* by Kent Herburn
Jan. 8: *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

PUBLIC POLICY

The Public Policy group will meet on Thurs., Nov. 14, 3:45 p.m., at the KAXE meeting room. We will discuss the book, *How Democracies Die: What History Reveals About Our Future*, by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. There is no need to have read the book ahead of time, but if you can, that's great. For information, contact Jean Halverson, 327-9159, jehmh@mchsi.com or Jan Miland, 218-208-8659, jan.miland@yahoo.com

WALKING & TALKING

The Walking and Talking Group is on its fall/winter schedule of walking at 1 PM on Tuesdays. The location of the walks changes from week to week and is chosen by the group. Locations are emailed to the group. We generally walk for about an hour and then have coffee. We walk outdoors rather than in a mall or gym. Members walk when they want to and at their own pace; no need to RSVP. It is a

social group rather than a hard-core exercise one. We welcome new members. If you want to be added to the group, send your email address to k.karls@yahoo.com

M is for Mission, not for Membership

By Deanna Ensley. Grand Rapids AAUW Co-Chair and AAUW MN Vice President of Programs

On September 16, 2019, I was invited with other AAUW State Leaders to attend a luncheon in Minneapolis with our AAUW CEO Kim Churches. There were about 20 of us that attended this gathering; each of us got to personally meet her with an opportunity to speak to her about our AAUW life and concerns.

Kim Churches' message for our group was for our future: **"M is for Mission, not for Membership". The hope for the organization is to capture the interest and commitment of younger women by offering relevant programs with missions that resonate in their lives and careers.** Kim suggests that in advancing our organization, we must lead with our mission, and then with the education requirement.

Kim even questions the value of the educational requirement for the future of the organization; this requirement has only limited our membership in recent years for a variety of reasons that stifle millennials from joining. Our "mission" has to be one to draw young women through advancing gender equity among other strategies.

Kim spoke of her extensive public relations and marketing efforts to potentially acquire more corporate funding for programs. She has cut expenses by reducing all national staff wages, including her own, and cutting the national staff from 107 to 45 employees. Another cost-cutting measure is having regional conventions this upcoming year instead of a national convention. **I am working on our AAUW Regional Convention, which will be held in mid-June 2020 in the Quad-Cities, East Moline, Iowa.** There will be news out about registration for that convention by the first of the year. I plan on attending; if others are interested, keep that in mind.

There was a discussion about Kim Churches' accomplishments, efforts, connections and philosophy for AAUW. Ultimately, Kim urged us all to keep the strategic plan in mind: education and training (other than college), economic development, as well as, governance and relevance. This was a very interesting afternoon, and I feel fortunate to have been invited to attend by Dave and Karen Kirkwood.

Donations needed for STEM Camperships

Our AAUW branch supports the Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) program at Itasca Community College with two camperships each summer. We are also going to support the program with donations for the students to use.

Please consider donating any of these items for STEM:

- Toy Wheels (small to medium sized)
- Magnets
- Flexible Plastic Tubing (any diameter/length)
- Screen material (from old window screens)
- Zip ties (all sizes)
- Perforated Angle (1/8 x 1.5 inch, up to 6 ft long)
- All Thread (1/8 x 1 to 3 feet)
- Alligator clip test leads
- Springs of various sizes
- Thick cardboard poster tubes

- Foam board (white for posters and displays)
- Pink or blue insulation foam (1/4 through 2 in. thick)
- Sheets or squares of Plexiglas (1 foot x 1 foot or bigger)
- Cardboard Cores from paper or carpet rolls
- PVC Pipe and Connectors (various diameter of any length)
- Wire (non-insulated, 14-24 gauge)
- Miscellaneous items: Rulers, yardsticks, mechanical pencils, permanent markers or erasers

Bring items to our January or April meetings. Note: If you have a large item, we can let you know where to drop it off at ICC.

AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BOARD MEETING October 28, 2019, Central Square Mall, Grand Rapids

Members present: Marge Domish, Helen Ahlbrecht, Cheryl Vogel, Deanna Ensley, Marj Lavalier, Elaine Thorstenson, Marlys Mestemacher, Karen Karls, Jan Miland, Julie Skallman, Nancy Raymond and Juliet Jones.

The AAUW Grand Rapids Branch board meeting was called to order by Co-chairwoman Cyndy Agle.

Karen made the motion, Elaine seconded, to approve the August 5, 2019, board meeting minutes. Passed.

Cheryl presented a detailed treasurer's report, which will be included with the minutes. Karen made a motion, seconded by Helen, to donate \$1,000 to the national AAUW fund, including legal aid. Passed.

There was one new member from the guest night. Marj will do an orientation on Nov. 11 at 4 pm at the Methodist Church. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Another guest night will be held in April. Julie said that she and Marj have been receiving program suggestions.

A discussion was held about the case of someone wanting to make a presentation at our meeting. It was decided that it should be limited to 10 minutes and have the board or someone on the board approve it ahead of time. Karen announced that in November a person from the Free Range Food Co-op will give a talk.

Deanna talked about the state activities from her role as state program chairwoman for AAUW Minnesota. There will be no state convention in 2020, but there will be a regional convention in the Quad Cities on June 16, 17 & 18. She plans to go and will have more information later. Most of the money spent on the convention will go to speakers.

Karen appreciates the program information on time. Elaine said it seems most people are pleased with the food. She appreciates the professional attire and manner of the caterers.

Members are encouraged to pay for the December event in November. Nancy was thankful for the \$101 and \$44 for the book sale and travel treasures. Deanna said the reservations have improved greatly.

Helen passed around a thank you from Susan Lynch for the scholarships. Juliet continues to send lots of cards. She needs the new member addresses.

Cyndy encouraged us to read *The Pine*. Because there is no state convention next year, the state organization needs donations to make up for the silent auction money. This matter is tabled.

Cyndy handed out a wish list of supplies for the STEM camp at ICC. There was a handout about the Women's Suffrage Conference to be held in Ely, on June 26 and 27, 2020.

The December 9th event at the Eagles will be \$25. The next board meeting will be December 16, 2019.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Miland, Secretary

AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH MEETING October 21, 2019, United Methodist Church

Co-chairwoman Cyndy Agle welcomed everyone and we all read the AAUW mission statement. Marva Jean Hutchens announced that a big thank you goes to Lou Beckiea for always being at our meetings and making sure we had everything we needed. She is retiring from that job.

Many guests were introduced by the members that invited them. Marj Lavalier, our membership chairwoman, invited the guests to join. One had already joined. Marj will hold an orientation meeting at 4PM, before the regular meeting on Nov. 11.

Jan Hill said that the little red book shelf program is always in need of picture books. She will take any that are donated.

A huge thank you to Arlene Wheaton for updating the annual directory. If any member has a change in contact information, let her know.

Nancy Raymond announced that \$101 was raised from the book sale and \$44 from the travel treasure project.

The next meeting is November 11, 2019, earlier than usual. Marian Barry introduced the speaker, Kelli Barry, who talked about starting Majestic Pines and other senior living facilities.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Miland, Secretary

FINANCE REPORT: Grand Rapids Branch

July 2019 – September 2019 - FIRST Quarter Financial Summary - Fiscal Year 2019-2020

(Based upon 09.2019 Bank Statements): Prepared by Cheryl Vogel; Board Review & Approval Pending

❖ **87 paid members:** 79- MOB; Dual: 4; Lifetime: 4

❖ **Total Income First Quarter: \$7,447.49** Dues paid in current Fiscal Year: \$876; Dinner Fees: \$688; Individual Donations: \$30; Travel Treasures: \$23; Closing of State Conference Checking Acct: \$5828.63; Checking Account Interest: \$1.86.

- Dues: Paid in previous Fiscal Year: \$6,709.

❖ **Total Expenses First Quarter: \$ 6,219.96** National & State Dues: \$5,322; Newsletter & Printing: \$210.72; Dinner Expenses: \$564; Meeting Room Rental: \$75; Misc. Expenses: \$10.52.

❖ **Year-to-Date Net Revenue: \$1,227.53**

- The transfer of state conference funds back to the primary AAUW checking account produced the positive YTD Net Revenue.

❖ **YTD Total Donations in Fiscal Year 2019-2020: \$0**

- One Stem Campership from the previous fiscal year was not used, so the funds will be carried forward to this fiscal year.

Checking Account	\$ 9,256.66
Savings Account	\$ 1,805.61
State Conference Checking Account: 09.2019	Closed
TOTAL CASH-ON-HAND	\$11,062.27

Websites for local, state and national AAUW information:

Our Grand Rapids AAUW blog: <http://grandrapidsaauw.blogspotcom/>

MN AAUW website: <http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

National AAUW website: www.aauw.org

ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION www.aauw.org

AAUW MINNESOTA www.aauwmn.net