



President's Message

Lisa West

Dear Members,

An update about AAUW National... Some of you are aware that AAUW National has been making major changes to return the organization to a position of fiscal sustainability. The new Strategic Plan is a guiding force in focusing AAUW activities. A significant reduction was made in annual expenses (\$24M to \$16M) and staff (107 to 40). AAUW leadership is increasing transparency to ensure that members know and understand the changes being made. Stronger revenue pipelines are being developed that are based on realistic goals and expectations for the organization. And, AAUW is increasing its public/external face through high-level presence at conferences, initiatives, and media, thus increasing awareness and support of AAUW and its mission. This is an exciting time of change and improvement, with Kim Churches at the helm. I encourage you to attend the Regional Convention being planned in June 2020 to hear Kim talk more about the progress being made and successes being achieved.

We can support AAUW, at the national level, through our contributions to the overall organization. Please take the time to read the Funds article by Glenda Schnirring for a new idea to raise funds for national level programming efforts, in the absence of a 2020 State Convention silent auction.

Our member support works together with national sponsorships to provide opportunities to enhance economic security for women. One success story is the grant AAUW received from the Coca-Cola Foundation. The agreement was to train at least 100,000 women by the end of August. The free, online Work Smart program and in-person workshops trained over 102,700 people. And, Coca-Cola is so impressed with AAUW and its effort to reach this grant goal, it invited AAUW to submit a proposal for an additional, one-year \$500,000 grant! The results: 72% of those trained reported higher levels of confidence in salary negotiation; 98% reported finding the information useful and relevant; and 60% reported putting the skills they learned into practice at work. Our Hastings Branch contributions to AAUW National support this success story! Let's continue our national support, and seek ways to support our local community.

November Quote: "A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men." ~ Gloria Steinem

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 11 Book Club
- Nov. 25 General Meeting
- Dec. 9 Book Club
- Dec. 9 Holiday Party

HASTINGS BRANCH

Meets on Mondays
 St. Philip's Lutheran Church
 1401 15th Street West,
 Hastings, Minnesota 55033

2019-2020 PROGRAMS

- September 23, 6:00 pm Salad Supper
Groundwater Protection
 Jill V Trescott
- October 28, 7:00 pm
Challenges Young Women Face in Academia
 Dr. Margaret Smerud-Clikman
- November 25, 7:00 pm
Documentary Film: Women Outward Bound
 Maxine Davis
- December 9, 6:30 pm Holiday Party
Hidden Greens Event Center
Food, Music and Celebration
- January 27, 6:00 pm Chili Supper
Navigating Loss and Grief
 Donna Mathiowitz
- February 24, 7:00 pm
History of Hastings Part 3
 Heidi Langenfeld
- March 23, 7:00 pm
College Possible
 Amy Browender
- April 27, 6:00 pm Spring Social
Local Comedian Janet Martin
- May 18, 7:00 pm Book Sale
Dementia Friends
 Colleen Fritsch

Program

Tina Folch & Deb Saunders

Change of venue: The November Hastings AAUW meeting will be at the Hastings High School Lecture Room (top floor across from Main Office) (The meeting will begin at 7:00pm)

Documentary Film: Women Outward Bound

Maxine Davis is a documentary filmmaker whose love of the outdoors has always been a source of strength and peace. She grew up in Minneapolis and when she was 17 years old, she attended the first Outward Bound camp for girls near Ely, Minnesota. In her film, *Women Outward Bound*, Maxine reconnects with the first females accepted into the rigorous wilderness education program.



The First Women
Outward Bound
Group
1965

The women in
2012



A short introduction to Maxine Davis and her work can be seen in the following video (well worth the six minutes).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLMIK0X_daI

To see other short films about Women Outward Bound, type in Women Outward Bound on your computer.

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

November 11, 1:00pm: *Women's Work: A Reckoning with Work and Home* by Megan K. Stack will be discussed. As a foreign correspondent living in Beijing, Stack was working from home when her first child was born and she soon found it was impossible to keep up with caring for a baby and the housework at home. This led her to decide that she would hire cheap Chinese labor to assist her. She soon realized, as did many women in similar situations did, the ethical compromise they had to make.

Camille Nelson will host this meeting at her home in Vermillion. (The library is closed.) If members wish to carpool to Camille's home, please meet at St. Philip's parking lot at 12:40pm.

December 9, 1:00pm (at Pleasant Hill Library) we will be discussing the children's classic *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri. This novel was mentioned several times in our recent read, *The Island of Sea Women*, and we felt it deserved a second read.

January 13, 1:00pm (Pleasant Hill Library) we will be discussing the Hastings Reads 2020 main selection, *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson.

Books at the Bierstube

Author Brian Freeman is returning to the Bierstube on Thursday, November 21. He will discuss his international bestselling thriller novels.

Hastings Reads

The theme for Hastings Reads 2020 is Speaking, Listening and the Space in Between. The main selection is *Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson. The Middle School selection is *Some Places More Than Others* by Renee Watson. The Preschool/Elementary selection is *Say Something* by Peter H. Reynolds.

Renee Watson will speak at the Hastings Arts Center on Monday, March 30. The Hastings Reads activities are scattered during February and March of 2020.

AAUW Funds

Glenda Schnirring

Hastings Branch Finds New Way to Support AAUW National Fund Programs

The underpinnings of AAUW's purpose is to have a nation-wide impact on advancing the lives of women and girls. "AAUW Funds" does this. The Hastings Branch donates \$1,000 annually from its budget, PLUS gives through a gift-basket, silent auction program conducted at the AAUW MN State Convention. There will not be a state convention in 2020, in the traditional format of bringing state members to one location.

Without the silent auction proceeds from a state convention, the Hastings Branch proposes a new way to raise additional dollars for a National contribution. We will hold a raffle at our [upcoming Holiday Party on December 9th](#).

Member-donated gifts will be displayed at the party. Opportunities to "win" gifts will be made to everyone in attendance. We anticipate gathering an amount of money equivalent to what we historically raised through the past state convention silent auctions. The last convention baskets yielded \$355, credited to the Hastings Branch. It's our goal to raise at least that much.

AAUW Funds support the following:

- *Leadership Programs for young women, such as the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), to which the Hastings Branch now sends one or more college students;*
- *Start Smart, a training program to assist women in negotiating salaries and benefits;*
- *Elect Her, a training program that teaches young women how and why to run for elected office;*
- *Fellowships and Grants to academically gifted women enrolled in advanced studies, nationally and internationally (including 8 women in Minnesota University settings);*
- *Research into emerging issues facing women, such as "Women's Success in Engineering and Computing" (2015), and "Graduating to a Pay Gap" (2012);*
- *Legacy Advocacy, supporting protection of the legal rights of those facing sex discrimination. This program recently assisted in a suit filed against U of M Duluth's coaching program; and*

- *Public Policy, supporting policies and laws for women's equality.*

Very few, if any, organizations do all this nationally. The Hastings Branch exists, in part, for the furtherance of these endeavors, contributing to the financial health of each program. Dollars raised at the Holiday Party will be sent to the AAUW National office to support programs demonstrating the greatest need at this time.

See the description of the Holiday Party for this opportunity to participate in supporting national programs that continue to empower women and girls.

Holiday Party AAUW Funds

Pat Powers

There will be no AAUW State meeting this coming year. At this meeting there has been a Silent Auction raising money for AAUW funds. Without the state meeting we have decided to raise funds at our Holiday Party. We decided to have a small raffle for about 20 items. Everyone can buy tickets and deposit them at the items that they would like to win. Then there will be a drawing on each item. The items come from the members. If you would like to contribute, here are some of the items already contributed: Watercolor greeting cards, Wine, Caramels, Santa's, Handmade Chocolates, and Tote Bag. If you have an idea for an item, we welcome it. Be creative and think about Christmas gifting. Jams or jelly or jewelry or your idea. We will collect items or if you would like, cash to buy gift cards from local businesses. Contact Pat Powers if you have donations or cash to purchase items. You can bring items to the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Charlson

October deposits totaled \$100.00 and expenses totaled \$1,218.13. Expenses included AAUW Funds, October guest speaker and membership's dues to National and State AAUW. The checking account balance as of October 31, 2019 was \$5,374.32.

Web Page

Mary Ellen Fox

Accidentally delete your email with the latest directory? Forget where our meeting is located this month? Then, check the website!
Here's the link: <https://hastings-mn.aauw.net/>
Member protected section PASSWORD: hasting2017

Gadabouts

Vicki Amundson, Karen Holmquist, & Nancy Techam

Join Gadabouts for The ChristmasTide concert with the Celtic Sounds of SimpleGifts featuring Billy McLaughlin on Tuesday December 17th. SimpleGifts makes musical magic bringing a modern flair to traditional Christmas carols and hymns. The concert takes place at The Ives Auditorium located in the Masonic Heritage Center in Bloomington. Price of \$47 includes the 1:00 PM concert and delicious cranberry chicken luncheon. Send checks made out to Karen Holmquist, 1024 Aston Circle, Burnsville, MN 55337. Deadline is November 25 at the AAUW monthly meeting.

Community

Margaret Goderstad

Friends of LeDuc & Historic Hastings

- Victorian Holiday Teas:

December 7 (sold out, but watch for wait list)

December 14 (few spots remaining) at 3:30pm

Reservation required

Ticket price includes the tea & special holiday tour of the house.

- Holiday Tours: November 30, December 1, 14, & 15

10am – 5pm

Regular Rates Apply

Hastings Arts Center

- Coffee Concert: November 19 at 10:30am Summertime

- Holiday Show - December 7 (7:00pm) and December 8

(2:00pm) Mary Jane Alm & Aimee & Boyd Lee with the New Shoes Band. Also, featuring Pat Donohue, Grammy Award winning guitarist & songwriter of The Prairie Home Companion.

- Coffee Concert: December 17 at 10:30am – Minnesota Horn Quartet

River Valley Band

- December 15 at 3:00pm Holiday Concert at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Refreshments served

HPAAC

Scholarships are available in any medium of art. Check website (www.hpaac.org) for application instructions.

Member for 50 years

Shirley Tammen



What a wonderful surprise to be recognized as a fifty year member of AAUW at our September Hastings Branch meeting. I do not count my life in years; therefore I had no idea how long my membership has been. I just know AAUW has been a very important and meaningful part of my adult life.

In my mid-twenties while living and working in New Ulm, I saw an article in our local newspaper about AAUW and its role in the community, as well as its ties to issues related to Minnesota and the nation. I had been looking for an organization that focused on empowering women. After attending that first meeting, I was on board! Within two years, I became a local board member. The goals were not as widespread as now, but programing did include current, national issues and women's role in society.

Following our move to Hastings in 1965, a few new friends approached me about forming an AAUW branch in Hastings. With three preschoolers at home, I really needed an organization that would include fellowship and challenges that would stimulate my mind. Because of my experience with the New Ulm branch, I happily agreed to move forward with our initial plans for incorporation. There were five of us who served on the committee, with Sue Tanner as chair. It took about one year to put together all of the tools we needed to begin- a charter, non-profit status, bi-laws, AAUW mission based programing and a financial plan compliant with the state and national AAUW.

In March 1970, twenty-three Hastings women became charter members at the Regina Hospital meeting room. The value of my time in AAUW is priceless and I thank the National board for this lifetime membership in AAUW.

Secretary

Betty Hoeschen

The AAUW Hastings Branch met Monday, October 28, 2019, at St. Philip's Church. The meeting was called to order by Pat Powers at 7:02 PM, as President Lisa West was unable to attend. 45 members were present. Pat announced the death of member Kay Leadholm.

Marcia Pletcher moved the minutes of the September meeting be approved as published in the Twig. Lisa Hedin seconded and the motion passed.

Mary Charlson reported a checkbook balance of \$5492.45. Pat Giddings moved the reported be approved and Gail Glashan seconded. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ruth Versaw reported there are presently 91 paid members. Visitors were introduced.

Deb Saunders reported the November program is a documentary film: *Women Outward Bound*. Peggy Horsch reminded members the December holiday party will be December 9, 2019, at Hidden Greens Event Center. There will be a chance to sign up for appetizers at the November meeting.

Pat Powers reported on the successful Hastings school board candidate forum, co-sponsored by AAUW Hastings Branch and the League of Women Voters of Dakota County. Remember to vote on November 5, 2019.

There is information on the front table about, We Can Change the World, a group of progressive women already working to make sure people vote in November of 2020.

Karen Holmquist reported the next Gad About event is *Christmastide with the Celtic Sounds of SimpleGifts* with Billy McLaughlin at the Masonic Heritage Center in Bloomington, on December 17, 2019. A sign-up sheet was passed.

Patty Todnem had a sign-up sheet on the entrance table seeking volunteers to bring snacks and help with cleanup at future meetings.

Shirley Tammen reported the next book club meeting will be Monday, November 11, 2019, at 1:00 PM, at Camille Nelson's home. The group will be discussing, *Women's Work: A Reckoning with Work and Home*, by Megan K. Stack.

Mary Ellen Fox has included the link to the video of the school district candidate forum on the AAUW Hastings Web site.

Glenda Schnirring reported the \$1000 donation from our branch to the National Unrestricted Fund will be made in the name of Lisa West, honoring her service as both Hastings Branch, and Minnesota State President, in concurrent terms.

Gail Glashan shared a most interesting video from Britta Johnson, one of the young women who attended the NCCWSL conference in 2019. The Hastings Branch has supported 9 women since 2015, so they could attend this exciting conference.

Margaret Goderstad reported there are many things going on in the Hastings community. Look for LeDuc Holiday Teas, events at the Hastings Art Center, a concert by the River Valley Band, and THRIVE events. There are also events supporting United Way, Hastings and Hastings Family Service.

The total earnings from the garage sale, held in September, was \$2,967.25.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Marilyn Tennesen introduced Dr. Margaret Smerud-Clikman, author, friend, and professor. She spoke about the challenges young women face in academia. Some of her stories are included in the book, *Because I was a Girl*. She is AAUW Mission in action!!

[AAUW Mission Statement](#)

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

[AAUW 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.

[Minnesota State Website](#)

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

[National Website](#)

<https://www.aauw.org/>

AAUW Hastings Board

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