



3 New Year's Resolutions That Will Advance Gender Equality

As you reflect on how to be an even better feminist in the new year, here are three new year goals to help you advance gender equality.

Now is the season of "New Year's Resolutions!" What will make 2022 better? For many, the answer is gender equality. So if you're looking to enhance your support for gender equality, here are three good new year's resolutions you

Message from Co-Presidents, Lucy & Teresa

In December, we closed out 2021 with 22 women coming together to celebrate the holiday season. Thank you for your generous contributions during the auction (organized by Kay Vandervort) that will fund our scholarships, programs, and projects in the coming year. We would also like to thank Jeanne Tomlinson for submitting a Lake Country Power Grant to support our upcoming STEM Workshops.

As we begin the 2022 calendar year, we wish each of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. With the beginning of the new year, let's reflect on our many accomplishments and look forward to spending time together during upcoming programs, events, and activities, either in person or via Zoom. As we celebrate our 95th Anniversary, let's remember that our many endeavors, including our community outreach, create a more meaningful place in which to live and thrive.

Interested in getting more involved? We need your participation and are looking for members willing to serve on the 2022-2024 Board (July 1, 2022 – June 31, 2024) for the following positions:

President
VP Membership
VP Program

should explore:

1. Use your voice and your platform.

When millions of people oppose sexism in everyday contexts, the combined effect is world-changing. You can join this wave by using your voice to shut down sexist jokes or comments in your everyday spheres of influence – at home, at work, and with your friends. A simple “that’s not funny,” or “I don’t like that,” can carry a lot of weight in a social circle. This year, you can also use your voice to encourage elected officials to support legislation that promotes gender equality, or vote for leaders that already do. You can start with an internet search of “Who are my elected officials?” Or put this year’s election dates on your calendar by searching for a “local election calendar.” If you’re active on social media, you can use your platform to share what inspires and keeps you committed to the gender equality movement.

2. Keep your inner critic in check.

Sometimes you are your biggest critic. While you might not always be able to silence your inner critic, try investing in [mindfulness techniques](#) to reduce self criticism and seek help in areas where you might need healing. It’s important to keep in mind that future feminists are always listening to you— whether they are your grandchildren, children, friends or family. Talk

Treasurer

If interested, contact us to volunteer or to ask questions about the positions.

Happy New Year!

Lucy and Teresa

Upcoming Events

Ely Branch Meeting

January 11, 2022- 5:30p.m. Grand Ely Lodge

Healing Photo Art Foundation



January's program will feature information about the Healing Photo Art Foundation and it's link to northern Minnesota. Join Sally Koski to learn more about this international collaboration.

about yourself like they're in the room, and keep in mind that your voice might become their inner voice one day. The ultimate key to gender equality is passing down understanding, kindness, and knowledge to future generations. Life is short—be kinder to yourself in 2022.

3. Be intentional with your spending.

A powerful way to support gender equality is with your wallet, and this can be done in multiple ways. In your routine spending, look for easy switches you can make to support women-owned businesses.

If you're able, include giving back in your budget. It's rewarding to support causes you care about, and reserving space for that in your budget will help ensure you're aligning your spending with your values.

Adapted from globalgiving.org



Founded by Elaine Poggi in 2002 and based in Florence, Italy, The Healing Photo Arts Foundation was founded to place colorful, soothing photographs of nature and beautiful places from around the world in hospitals and other health care facilities. Elaine's wish is to give hope and comfort to patients and their families, visitors, and caregivers to help soften the often stressful hospital experience. Using scientific evidence and research as a basis for the work of the Foundation, to date, more than 7,000 photos have been placed in over 400 healthcare facilities on all 7 continents. The Foundation for Photo/Art in Hospitals, Inc., was incorporated in the USA as a non-profit organization in November 2002. The Foundation is expanding its work to include multimedia and music components and has several unique ties to northern Minnesota.

Zoom Information (ID# and Password) will be sent in an email 2 days prior to the meeting which will begin at 5:30 p.m. Join 10- 15 minutes early to socialize with other members.

Branch, State, National News

Public Policy

Protecting the Right to Vote

We're hearing on the news lately that the U.S. needs legislation to protect voting rights urgently in order to protect our democracy. But what is this legislation? I decided to try to learn more about what the **For The People Act**, the **Freedom to Vote Act** and the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** are all about.

Isn't there already protection under previous legislation?

[The Voting Rights Act](#) was passed in 1965 to ensure state and local governments do not pass laws or policies that deny American citizens the equal right to vote based on race. On June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court swept away a key provision of this landmark civil rights law in ***Shelby County v. Holder***.

In April 2010, Shelby County, Alabama filed suit asking a federal court in Washington, DC to declare Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. Section 5 is a key part of the Voting Rights Act, requiring certain jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to submit any proposed changes in voting procedures to the U.S. Department of Justice or a federal district court in D.C. – before it goes into effect – to ensure the change would not harm minority voters.

On June 25, 2013, the **Supreme Court** ruled that the coverage formula which determines which jurisdictions are covered by Section 5 is unconstitutional because it is based on an old formula. **As a practical matter this means that Section 5 is inoperable until Congress enacts a new coverage formula**, which the decision invited Congress to do. But Congress hasn't acted on it.

Why now?

The 2020 federal election drew the United States' [highest voter turnout](#) in more than a century, breaking records despite the Covid-19 pandemic and efforts to undermine the election process with accusations of a stolen election.

In a backlash to this historic voter participation, many state lawmakers have proposed and enacted legislation to make it harder for Americans to vote charging election irregularities and breaches of election security.

I've heard about several pieces of legislation, what's the difference?

1) **For the People Act** was passed by the House in 2019 during the 116th Congress, but then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to give it a vote in the Senate.

The purpose of the **FTP** was **threefold** and included the following provisions (this is a very short list of a large piece of legislation. For more complete information, see suggested resources at the end):

Protect and expand voting rights and election security by:

- Automatic voter registration
- Online voter registration
- Same day voter registration
- Voting rights restoration to people with prior felony convictions
- Expanded early voting
- Vote-by-mail for all those who choose to vote that way
- Enhanced election security with increased support for voter-verified, paper-based voting system and more oversight of election vendors
- End partisan gerrymandering by establishing independent redistricting commissions
- Prohibit providing false information about the election process that discourages voting and other deceptive practices

Reduce the influence of big money in our politics by:

- Requiring secret money organizations that spend money in elections to disclose their donors
- Upgrading online political spending transparency rules to ensure voters know who is paying for the advertisements they see
- Creating a small donor-focused matching system so candidates for Congress aren't just reliant on big money donors to fund their campaigns and set priorities

Ensure an ethical government accountable to the people by:

- Slowing the revolving door between government officials and lobbyists
- Banning members of Congress from serving on corporate boards
- Requiring major party presidential candidates to publicly disclose their tax returns
- Overhauling the Office of Government Ethics to ensure stronger enforcement of ethics rules
- Requiring that members of the U.S. Supreme Court abide by a judicial code of ethics

2) The Freedom to Vote Act is the updated version of the For the People Act. Introduced by Amy Klobuchar in September 2021 in the 117th Congress. One of several

key differences between the two bills include **making Election Day a recognized legal federal holiday.**

3) [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#), which has passed in the House, would complement the Freedom to Vote Act focusing on protecting the rights of minority populations. Some provisions are below:

- The **John Lewis Act** establishes a new coverage formula (see *Shelby v. Holder*). It says that a state will be covered under the formula if, during the 25 previous years, there were 15 or more voting rights violations, or 10 or more voting rights violations if at least one was committed by the state itself. A state would no longer need preclearance if it has no voting rights violations for 10 years.
- It requires jurisdictions with growing minority populations to obtain preclearance for voting changes that include polling place closures and new voter list maintenance processes, among other things.
- The bill would make it easier for plaintiffs to prove a violation by demonstrating a law's disparate impact on minority voters
- The legislation includes some other provisions to help Native American voters and also protect vote processes and election workers.

AAUW National puts full support behind all the legislation that is currently being presented to Congress.

Additional resources about the legislation:

[Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder \(naacpldf.org\)](#)

[Shelby County v. Holder | Brennan Center for Justice](#)

[For the People Act \(HR1\) - Common Cause | Join the Movement](#)

[Freedom to Vote Act - When We All Vote](#)

[John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act - Common Cause](#)

[You searched for voting rights act – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Linda Sutton, Public Policy Chair

AAUW Funds

AAUW Funds Support Diverse, Incredible Scholars

Have you ever wondered ... who benefits from the AAUW Funds we all work so hard to raise? These women are amazing and inspiring (I WON'T say 'lucky')

because they are hardworking, persistent, and committed!). Here are brief summaries of three women being supported for the 2021-2022 academic year, with stipend funds provided by Funds that we here in Minnesota have initiated and completed. You'll note that scholars receive funds from multiple Fellowships; research and publication is very costly, so stipends from more than one Fellowship are generally needed to fully support a scholar.

Sharon Quinsa is receiving an American Fellowship for 2021-2022 to support her post-doc position in Sociology at Grinnell College. Her project name is Contentious Migrants: How Transnational Protests Create a Diaspora. Sharon Quinsa is a scholar of social movements and migration and is currently serving as an assistant professor of sociology at Grinnell College. For her fellowship year, she will finish her book, Contentious Migrants: How Transnational Protests Create a Diaspora (under contract with the University of Chicago Press), which reveals the elements and processes that work together to form a diaspora. She has received grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society.

Sponsors:

1031 - Florence Call Cowles

1133 - Helen Wood and Pearl Hogrefe

4149 - Nancy Rustad

4326 - Minnesota Past Presidents

[I highlighted this one in particular because of Ely's history of providing Minnesota with outstanding State Presidents. The Minnesota Past Presidents Fellowship was created to honor their dedication to AAW.]

Addie Shrodes is working on her PhD in Education with an American Fellowship at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Illinois, in 2021-2022. Her specialization is literacy studies, learning sciences, gender and sexuality studies and her project name is Humor, Hope and Desired Worlds: Examining Consequential Critical Literacies in Trans and Queer Digital Life. Addie Shrodes considers how routine practices of humor, hope and desire in the digital life of trans and queer teens sustain collective struggles and foster imagination for a better world. By examining off-stage practices on social media through which teens survive the present and imagine the future, she expands the focus on youth resistance and contributes tools for education to support youth in the everyday work of dreaming and enacting futures that refuse social injustice.

Sponsors:

4203 - Dr. Jane A. Skinner

4215 - Gertrude Hognander

4255 - Della M. Wendt Centennial

Shirin Ghatrehsamani will be publishing her work in 2021-2022 at the University of Missouri, Columbia, in Agricultural Engineering with support from an American Fellowship. Her project name is Farmer Experience and Effective Factors on Precision Agricultural Technology Adoption in Missouri. Shirin Ghatrehsamani's target goal is strategically focused on improving Missourians' quality of life and enhancing the economic viability of Missouri enterprises while protecting the environment and the state's natural resources. Doing research and finding the restrictions of technology application and how to cope with them will help achieve the main goal of this project. The fellowship will help work toward adopting technology into one of the most important industries: agricultural industry.

Sponsors:

1608 - Leona J. Beckmann

1712 - Minnesota Founders

1757 - Oklahoma Division Presidents

[Fellowship #1712 was created here in Minnesota to recognize our founders, women of vision and commitment.]

All the above information came from our AAUW website; you can find this and many more incredible inspirations, by cruising through the website yourself. To find details about a recipient or sponsor, on the main AAUW.org page, click on "Fellowships & Grants." Then, from the menu on the right side of that page, click on "Directory of Recipients and Sponsors." Scroll down and in the middle of the page, you'll see an orangish-colored bar with "Search the Directory."

When you click on that, you will see a page that allows you to choose "filters" and then search for recipients. You can choose to search for the type of fellowship (e.g., American, International, Research & Projects); the year (I always pick the current year, but you can also search historical records); state or fellowship number. Because I know Minnesota-sponsored Fellowships, I usually enter the Fund number, but if you'd prefer to see who is studying in MN or supported by other MN funds, you can search by state. It's really easy and it's so much fun to see what great opportunities our hard-earned AAUW Funds are providing. Note the number preceding each

sponsor above is the Fellowship (aka Fund) number. I've highlighted those from Minnesota.

Barb Wonson Liukkonen, VP AAUW Funds

Welcome to Our New Member

Sarah Paro

sparo@d.umn.edu

652 E James St

Ely MN. 55731

Reach out and welcome Sarah and add her information to your AAUW Directory

Invite someone new to our branch meeting!

If anyone you know is interested in finding out what AAUW is all about, invite them to a meeting, encourage them to review the AAUW Website, and share your newsletter. Please ask them to contact Judy Klun at judyklun@gmail.com

Judy Klun, VP Membership

Meet Our Members

Lissa Miller



I am excited to be a first time member of AAUW, and especially to be part of the Ely branch. I am relatively new to Ely and am thankful for the welcome I have received from AAUW members.

I moved from Excelsior, MN after selling my home there a year ago. I rehabbed a 100 year old house in Ely and am in love with the area. I have visited Ely for years and have enjoyed the canoeing, hiking, biking, kayaking, snowshoeing and skiing that it offers.

I grew up in Minneapolis, went to St Olaf College and the U of M. I got my graduate degree at St Cloud State. I coordinated and taught in a Family Literacy program in St Cloud for thirty years. After retiring, I moved to the Twin Cities and started a home organizing and staging

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

AAUW Vision: Equity for All

AAUW Values: Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality

business, lissamillerorganizing.com. I have been fortunate to have two careers that I have loved!

I am blessed with two grown children and two grandsons. One daughter lives in Nashville, TN and Tulsa, OK. The other lives in NYC with her husband and two young sons. I visit as often as possible and they come to Ely for part of the summer to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. .

I enjoy painting, singing (I miss my choir), love to walk and talk with friends (get in touch!), am an avid traveler and a new pickleball player. Several years ago, I became involved in a political campaign in the 3rd Congressional district and hope to be involved here in Ely as well.

I am excited to be involved in AAUW and to meet you all in person at upcoming meetings. I wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year!



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