



"The Day the New Deal Was Born"

On March 25, 1911,
Frances Perkins was

Message from Co-Presidents, Lucy & Teresa

We would like to welcome each of you, including our 8 new members, to another AAUW year. This year, our Branch will celebrate our 95th Anniversary. We always enjoy paying tribute to the 24 charter members of the Ely Branch who actively supported women and girls. They formed the branch in a decade in which the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress, Wyoming elected the first woman governor in the U.S., and Minnesota allowed women to serve as jurors. We are pleased that our branch continues to be an integral part of our community as we stay focused on AAUW's mission "to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy" and a vision of "equity for all".

Our first branch meeting for the 2021-2022 year is on **Tuesday, September 14** at Grand Ely Lodge. We will have dinner at 5:30 p.m. (order from the menu), with a program and a short business meeting. There will be a Zoom option for those of you who may be out of town or for anyone who chooses that option. Of course, we are hoping to see as many of you as possible in person following whatever protocol is required of us.

The Program Committee has planned interesting and enjoyable

having tea with friends in New York City's Washington Square when the group heard fire engines. Running to the scene of the fire, Frances Perkins witnessed in horror as 47 workers – mostly young women – jumped from the eighth and ninth floors of the building to their deaths on the street below. In all, 146 died as flames engulfed the upper three stories of the building. The fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory was, she later proclaimed, "**the day the New Deal was born.**" In response to the fire, a citizen's Committee on Safety was established to recommend practices to prevent a further tragedy in the city's factories.

The Factory Investigating Commission's mandate was much broader than originally contemplated: to study not only fire safety, but other threats to the health and well-being of industrial workers and the impact of those threats upon families. Frances Perkins, by that time a recognized expert in the field of worker health and safety, served as expert witness, investigator and guide, leading legislators on

mission-based programs and activities for the year. We hope that each of you will participate and invite potential members to join us. It is because of your participation and enthusiasm for the mission of AAUW that the Branch continues to thrive. No later than the September meeting, we will have a 2021-2022 branch directory available that lists our members, their contact information and the dates and programs for the year. However, mark your calendars now for all meetings scheduled on the 2nd Tuesday of each month **except** for February, when we will have a Saturday "tea" in celebration of our anniversary and in May when we will meet on the 2nd Monday to avoid a conflict with VCC's graduation ceremonies.

Look for the newsletter about a week prior to each meeting. Also, expect an email from Teresa a few days before each Branch meeting with an agenda, minutes for approval, a financial report, and Zoom information for those who choose that option.

In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, look for emails announcing other branch sponsored events and opportunities to interact with members in the community, and other AAUW Branches – our fall highway cleanup, the AAUW sponsored Tuesday group speaker and a community read arranged by our Public Policy Committee, our annual Unequal Pay Day event, a STEM event for girls, the Northland Get Together in Brainerd on October 2, and the AAUW MN State Convention in St. Cloud, April 20-30, 2022.

Lucy and Teresa

Upcoming Events

Ely Branch Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 2021

Grand Ely Lodge-

5:00-5:30: Gather & Socialize

5:30: Dinner, Program & Business meeting

Program: GETTING TO KNOW YOU- We will ask our new members to introduce themselves, and continuing members in turn, will tell a little bit about themselves.

If you prefer to attend by 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.

Northland Gathering- OPEN YOUR EYES

Saturday, October 2, 2021

9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Northland Arboretum- 14250 Conservation Drive, Baxter, MN

Intersectionality of Indigenous and Immigrant

Racial Injustice Issues with Women's Equity presentation

by Susan Beaulieu (University of Minnesota Extension Service,

inspections of the state's factories and worksites to view firsthand the dangers of unfettered industrialism. The Commission's work resulted in the most comprehensive set of laws governing workplace health and safety in the nation.

These new laws became a model for other states and the federal government. Reflecting on her years as lobbyist, investigator and researcher, Frances Perkins later said, "The extent to which this legislation in New York marked a change in American political attitudes and policies toward social responsibility can scarcely be overrated. It was, I am convinced, a turning point."

When, in February, 1933, President-elect Roosevelt asked Frances Perkins to serve in his cabinet as Secretary of Labor, she outlined for him a set of policy priorities she would pursue: a 40-hour work week; a minimum wage; unemployment compensation; worker's compensation; abolition of child labor; direct federal aid to the states for unemployment relief;

Extension Educator, and member of the Red Lake Nation) and **Jan Kurtz** retired Central Lakes College Spanish and World Cultures teacher, author of Northern Shores Southern Borders, organized Cultural Thursdays community awareness programs at CLC)

REGISTER for the Northland Get Together 2021 by September 24, 2021

Send registration information and check payable to Brainerd AAUW for \$40 to:

Coralee Fox, Brainerd Lakes Area AAUW Treasurer 20560
Carolyn Lane
Brainerd, MN 56401 -7045

coralee.m.fox@gmail.com

218 – 963-4462

Public Policy Fall Events

Tuesday, October 12, 2021- Tuesday Group

12:00 Noon, Grand Ely Lodge

Senator Mary Kunesch: Building Awareness for Historical Change: the MMIW Movement in Minnesota

Senator Kunesch is the daughter and granddaughter of members of the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux Tribe and is committed to supporting positive legislation for our American Indian and marginalized people in Minnesota. She is the author of the legislation and Chair of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task force in MN and the first in the nation, the permanent office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives in state government.

October 12- November 21- Ely Community Reads (One Book - Entire Community)

In the Night of Memory by Linda LeGarde Grover.

November 21-23 - Linda will provide a number of events throughout the community including book readings, signings, writers workshops, and school events.

[Branch, State, National News](#)

Public Policy

Celebrating Title IX in 2022 (but a Woman's Work is Never Done)

"Athletic competition builds character in our boys. We do

Social Security; a revitalized federal employment service; and universal health insurance. She made it clear to Roosevelt that his agreement with these priorities was a condition of her joining his cabinet. Roosevelt said he endorsed them all, and Frances Perkins became the first woman in the nation to serve in a Presidential cabinet.

In 1944, a piece portraying Frances Perkins in *Collier's* magazine described her accomplishments over the previous twelve years as "not so much the Roosevelt New Deal, as ... the Perkins New Deal." She had accomplished all but one of the items on the agenda she had presented to the newly elected President in February of 1933: universal access to health care.

As we celebrate Labor Day 2021, we must remember Frances' words:

"There is always a large horizon.... There is much to be done It is up to you to contribute some small part to a program of human betterment for all time."

not need that kind of character in our girls, the women of tomorrow."

Judge John Clark Fitzgerald (1971)

On June 23, 2022, the US will celebrate the 50th (can you believe it?) anniversary of the enactment of **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**. The National Association of State High School Associations (NFHS) will celebrate throughout the entire year. Title IX reads:

"No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

We tend to think of girls' access to athletic opportunities when we think of Title IX, but it had major impact in other areas of education too, for example:

- recruitment, admissions and housing;
- career and technical education;
- pregnant, parenting, and/or married students;
- science, technology, engineering and math (STEM);
- sexual harassment and assault;
- comparable facilities and access to course offerings;
- financial assistance;
- student health services and insurance benefits;
- harassment based on gender identity; and
- athletics.

I was proud to celebrate the enactment of the legislation with my sister, who, because of Title IX, was the first female percussionist allowed to be a member of the University of Minnesota Marching Band. She more than proved herself capable of carrying that big, heavy bass drum!

Change is often met with resistance which often takes the form of fear. The following are a sample of some fears and concerns about Title IX and its implementation from the early 1970s.

Fears about Title IX (with a few editorial comments by the writer)

- For every woman who went to graduate school during the time of the Vietnam War, **she prevented a male graduate student from receiving a college deferment.**
- Girls would try to join the most popular of male sports: football.
- Men and women would share dormitories, athletic facilities (locker rooms), and athletic equipment. (Girl germs)
- Fear that schools could no longer hold their traditional father-and -son banquets or mother-and-daughter teas. (Oh, no! Such a terrible loss)

adapted
from: <https://francesperkinscenter.org/life-new/>

- Fear of **future dress codes problems**. For example: girls would not have to wear a bra if boys did not wear bras. **Boys would be able to wear their hair long** since girls wore their hair long.
- Male alumni gave far more money to the school than female graduates did, and the school needed their financial support. (Well, I wonder why that was the case? Perhaps because they were paid so much more?)
- In addition, since **women were less inclined to study science**, a larger female student body might overwhelm the already-crowded humanities and social sciences department. (Tell that to Katherine Johnson and Jennifer Doudna!)
- Homophobia created panic across the country as many communities pressured their local athletic directors not to add girls' basketball at their schools for fear that the schools would be **overrun with lesbians**.
- College coaches began using lesbianism as a negative tool, telling parents and athletes to stay away from a certain rival school, claiming the school—correctly or incorrectly—was a "gayâ" school. This resulted in a number of young women shying away from playing basketball for fear of jeopardizing their popularity or being labeled gay. Homophobia may well have robbed society of some of its best basketball players by scaring off the girls who simply weren't willing to fight common perceptions and stereotypes.

It must be remembered that change comes with difficulty and sacrifice and women were often vilified for supporting Title IX, the Equal Rights Amendment, equal pay and gender equity in all facets of life. We're not there yet; we need to celebrate what we've been able to accomplish and remind young women that we helped them gain the rights they enjoy and they need to loudly speak up for their own daughters and granddaughters. After all, as we were told by Pat Robertson as recently as 1992:

"The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians."

In the same year that Robertson spewed the above warning, singer/songwriter Ann Reed wrote the following words in her song for the Minnesota State High School League celebration for women in sports:

**If all things were equal
If the world was sitting right
Your mother might have played the game
You're gonna play tonight**

**What you have before you
Not a simple twist of fate
Thank the ones who took it on
To push upon the gate**

**Look at her run, look at her throw
Eyes on the ball, Heart on the goal
One on a team, bright fields of hope
Part of a dream, oh, look at her go**

We've come a long way because we've put in the hard work, but the fight goes on and it needs new warriors.

Additional Resources:

The NFHS has created a page on its website (<https://www.nfhs.org/resources/title-ix/>) to house information throughout the coming year. The page includes a Title IX Timeline, Title IX Milestones, The History and Importance of Title IX, Title IX Fact Sheet, Title IX Frequently Asked Questions and several Title IX videos.

[Where We Stand: Title IX – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Linda Sutton, Public Policy Chair

Legal Advocacy Update

Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a great summer and stayed healthy.

Looking Forward

There are some exciting cases coming up before the US Supreme Court during the 2021-22 term. Importantly, AAUW has recently adopted a new case out of Oregon.

****Stay tuned for a more detailed analysis in next month's update.**

During the 2021-2022 term, the US Supreme Court will consider several blockbuster cases that highlight issues affecting many Americans: cases on women's right to choose, guns, religious school choice, the death penalty, and terrorism. The Court could also add an important case on affirmative action to its docket.

It is important to remember that important big issues do not always yield big dramatic decisions. The Court often hesitates to make large sweeping changes. But interestingly, several of the

cases this coming term are framed in ways that invite major, high profile rulings.

Before we get into the nitty gritty of the new cases that most directly affect women and girls, along with reviewing the details regarding the new case AAUW is sponsoring (**Devan-Song v. Oregon State University**)-- it would be useful and instructive to get reacquainted with the three women Justices currently serving on the US Supreme Court. Let's watch what they do this term!

To that end, here is an update on Justices Sotomayor, Kagan, and Coney-Barrett:

Our Three Women US Supreme Court Justices***

Sonia Sotomayor, the fearless federal trial court judge who saved Major League Baseball from a ruinous 1995 strike, entered the record book as the first Hispanic and the third woman to serve on the High Court. Sotomayor was born in the Bronx on June 25, 1954 to Juan Sotomayor and Celina Baez, both native Puerto Ricans. Her father worked in manual labor and her mother was a nurse. The family took residence in the Bronxdale Houses, one of the most coveted complexes in the city-owned housing projects. Sotomayor's father passed away when she was nine. Following his death, Celina began working six-day weeks as a nurse to support the family, and Sonia learned to speak English fluently. Celina managed to send her children to private Catholic schools. Sotomayor decided to become an attorney at the age of 10 upon watching an episode from the legal drama "Perry Mason." With this goal in mind, she studied diligently while attending Cardinal Spellman High School. Through self-enforced discipline, Sotomayor graduated valedictorian of her class in 1972. Her early success earned her a scholarship to study at Princeton University. She graduated from Yale Law School.

Sotomayor was appointed to the US Supreme Court in 2009 by President Obama. She identifies very strongly as Latina, and as having grown up in the Bronx. And this strong identity likely plays a large role in her drive to protect minority rights based on religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and race.

Sotomayor is known for writing strong dissents, most notably her argument against President Trump's so-called Muslim travel ban. As the Court has trended more conservative in recent years, Sotomayor's objections have become more frequent and forceful. She has dissented in cases favoring police officers who she said "shoot first and think later," corporations that engage in "conscience-shocking behavior," and states that purge registration rolls of "minority, low-income, disabled, and veteran voters." She champions prisoners complaining about solitary

confinement and defendants claiming racial bias on juries and victims of dubious prosecutions.

Sotomayor has been called the most liberal justice to serve on SCOTUS since Thurgood Marshall, and going forward we can rest assured she will continue to be the champion of minority rights. “The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to speak openly, honestly, and candidly on the subject of race, and to apply the Constitution with eyes open to the unfortunate effects of centuries of racial discrimination.”

She is the most outspoken questioner during Supreme Court debates, its most frequent public speaker, and most prolific author. Her voice has become the Court’s conscience—one that speaks out for the underdog in defense of minorities, immigrants, criminals, and death row inmates.

During her Senate confirmation hearing in 2009, Sotomayor explained her hope “that a wise Latina woman, with the richness of her experiences, would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn’t lived that life.”

Sotomayor is acutely aware that there are real people behind the cases she hears and decides, and that means she treats the so-called least important case of the term with as much care as the most important one. Her empathy and compassion for the often-ignored underdog brings a crucial point of view to the Court.

Elena Kagan, appointed by President Obama in 2010, was the first female dean of Harvard Law School and the first female US Solicitor General. She is known for being congenial and conversational, and perhaps because of her desire to get along with her colleagues, does not often write self-authored, independent opinions. Some have opined that she isn’t willing to pick fights and go out on a limb when she feels it is not necessary.

Elena Kagan gives the Court a new, fresh perspective, based on her greater understanding of technology and pop culture. She was born in New York City in 1960. As the daughter of an elementary school teacher and a housing attorney, she developed an interest in both academics and law at a very young age. She graduated summa cum laude from Princeton, earning a fellowship that enabled her to attend Worcester College in Oxford, England. There she earned her master’s degree in philosophy in 1983. Kagan returned to the United States to attend Harvard Law School.

In deciding a case, Kagan has said: “I think of myself as having views about how the law is done best, about constitutional interpretation, about statutory interpretation. You bring those views to the table every time you engage with a case with a

particular set of issues and a particular set of facts. When the Constitution says you're entitled to the due process of law and you're entitled to the equal protection of the law, trying to get that content and meaning — it can't be done by just staring at the words," Kagan said.

"One approach is to try to figure out what the drafters of the Constitution thought the language meant. But that leads to untenable results. I myself am a big precedent person," Kagan said. "I'm kind of what some people call a common-law constitutionalist. I think really hard about how the way of interpreting the due process or equal protection clause, among others, has developed over time in case after case after case and try to think about the principles that have emerged in all those cases."

"Deciding cases doesn't have to do with politics in the way you would find across the street in Congress," Kagan said. "But it does have to do with judicial methodology. It does have to do with how you read some of those very abstract provisions in the Constitution."

That being said, Kagan becomes particularly animated in cases involving voting rights. It is an area where she is particularly passionate and stands out. In a 6-3 ruling in the 2021 case, **Brnovich v Democratic National Committee**, that broke down along ideological lines, the Court's conservative justices upheld two Arizona voting restrictions, and considerably weakened section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the landmark 1965 civil rights law. In a scorching dissent, Justice Elena Kagan bluntly criticized the majority's attack on the Voting Rights Act and the irreparable damage the Court was doing to the foundation of American democracy. While the Court's decision deals with two Arizona restrictions passed several years earlier, Kagan contextualizes the case by raising an alarm about ongoing voter suppression efforts. She decries new laws that shorten voting hours, impose new requirements to vote by mail, and even ban food and water to voters standing in line. "The Court decides this Voting Rights Act case at a perilous moment for the nation's commitment to equal citizenship," she writes. "It decides this case in an era of voting-rights retrenchment — when too many states and localities are restricting access to voting in ways that will predictably deprive members of minority groups of equal access to the ballot box."

The Court's majority also misses a larger point, Kagan writes. One of the most effective forms of voter suppression is death by a thousand cuts, piling voting inconvenience on top of voting inconvenience. By ignoring these inconveniences, the Supreme Court is enabling this kind of voter suppression, Kagan argues. "What is tragic here is that the Court has (yet again) rewritten — in order to weaken — a statute that stands as a

monument to America's greatness, and protects against its basest impulses," she writes. Kagan points out that what may seem like mere inconvenience to some voters may actually be a severe burden on others.

A ban on handing out water to people standing in line to vote may be just an inconvenience in neighborhoods where lines at the polls are short, but a more severe burden in places where there are long lines (Black and Hispanic voters are more likely than whites to face longer waits to vote).

Amy Coney Barrett was a law professor at Notre Dame when President Donald J. Trump nominated her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in 2017. She served as a federal appeals court judge for three years before being confirmed as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice in October 2020.

The newest justice, appointed by President Trump in 2020, is an originalist, meaning she reads the Constitution according to how she believes "the people" would have understood it at the time of its ratification. During her confirmation hearings, Amy Coney Barrett argued that the judicial philosophy known as "originalism" should guide judges in their interpretation and application of constitutional principles. Originalism is most famously associated with the late Justice Antonin Scalia (for whom Judge Barrett clerked). In determining what the Constitution permits, Coney-Barrett believes a judge must first look to the plain meaning of the text, and if that isn't clear, then apply what was in the minds of the 55 men who wrote it in 1787. Period. Anything else is "judicial lawmaking." Originalists argue that the meaning of the constitutional text is fixed and that it should bind constitutional actors.

On the other hand, "living constitutionalists" (less conservative lawyers and judges) contend that constitutional law can and should evolve in response to changing circumstances and values. They believe the document's brilliance lies in its ability to evolve.

In the beginning of her first term, Justice Coney-Barrett was aligned most often with Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch, but lately she is separating herself from them with a lower-key, attention-deflecting manner. Overall, Justice Amy Coney Barrett blazed her own path during her rookie term on the U.S. Supreme Court, helping a conservative majority prevail in major cases while at times defying expectations after critics last year tried to paint her as a right-wing zealot.

Her record suggests that she recently joined the center of a Court with a 6-3 conservative majority rather than its right flank. As such, she seemed to be on the same ideological wavelength as

two other fellow conservatives, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Major cases await Barrett in the Court's next term beginning in October. Her vote could be crucial in cases that could curb abortion rights and expand the right to carry a gun outside the home.

Based on Coney-Barrett's first term, some Court observers have suggested that it now has something of a 3-3-3 split between liberals, conservatives willing to compromise, and the more hardline conservatives. Voting statistics appear to bear that out. Barrett, Kavanaugh and Roberts were the three justices most often in the majority in the rulings during the term, according to statistics maintained by SCOTUS blog. Coney-Barrett could emerge as a center-right arbiter of the Court's most important decisions on vexatious issues like abortion—putting her more in the tradition of a conservative moderate like Sandra Day O'Connor than of her intellectual hero, Antonin Scalia.

Stay tuned!

***Based on articles appearing online in the Guardian, USA Today, [Princeton.edu](https://www.princeton.edu), the Atlantic, BBC, ABA Interviews, Oyez, CNN, Reuters, and [Bowdoin.edu](https://www.bowdoin.edu).

Submitted by Valerie Myntti

Membership

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

Branch Scholarship Update

Thank You Letter from 2021 Scholarship

Recipient: [Sarah Iman](#)

*Dear American Association of University Women- Ely Branch,
I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the American Association of University Women- Ely Branch Scholarship. Your generous contribution will allow me to pursue my associate*

degree at Vermilion Community College with fewer distractions based on funding.

I am currently enrolled in the Wilderness and Park Management with a focus on Wildlife Ecology, though I took the long path in getting here. I was born and raised in Ohio, and after high school I joined the military and served for eight years. After my deployment I moved to Minnesota to feel closer to the wilderness and nature. After I learned about Vermilion Community College it seemed like the most logical path for me.

I actively participate in the Wilderness Club in my spare time and volunteer at the Wildlife Science Center in Stacy, MN. After graduating from Vermilion Community College, I plan on transferring to a four-year university in order to continue my studies. I'm looking forward to both advancing the world's current knowledge on wildlife as well as making new discoveries.

The American Association of University Women- Ely Branch Scholarship has paid for my tuition expense, allowing me to focus on my academic pursuits. Without your donation, I wouldn't be able to fulfill my professional ambition of becoming a Wildlife Ecologist. Thank you for your continued support and investment in my future.

*Sincerely,
Sarah Iman
sarahiman10@gmail.com*

Update from Previous Scholarship Recipients

Kari Podominick



I received an AAUW scholarship when I went back to school to get a degree in Psychology. I graduated in May of 2008 from Bemidji State University and started working for Range Mental Health Center's ADAPT program shortly after graduating. I am still working with the ADAPT program today. I am very thankful this scholarship program was available to me and other women seeking to further their educational goals.

Submitted by Darlene Nemanich, Scholarship Committee

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

AAUW Vision: Equity

[Opening on the AAUW Ely Board](#)

for All

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

AAUW Funds Position

- Educates and informs the Branch of local, state and national AAUW Funds activities. The AAUW Fund includes 4 major fund umbrellas – Greatest Needs, Education & Training, Leadership, Economic Security and Governance and Sustainability. For more information on the Funds, go to [AAUW Funds](#)
- Informs the branch membership about fundraising for AAUW Funds at both local and state levels and as necessary, suggests new fundraising ideas. (The person in this position is not responsible for all branch fundraising activities. Rather, the AAUW Funds' VP informs the branch membership about any fundraising efforts at the State Convention for which the branch is given credit.)
- Maintains communication with the State Funds Chair regarding donations, programs, and state fundraising activities
- Maintains communication with the Branch Treasurer regarding AAUW Funds donations, expenses, and recording credit for AAUW Funds donations
- Informs members of AAUW Legal Advocacy activities and relevant court cases

If interested in this position, please contact Teresa at 218-235-

8349 tkswagen@gmail.com or Lucy at 218-235-

1029 lucydiesslin@gmail.com The Board currently meets on the 4th Monday at 9:00 a.m. at the GEL. A Zoom option for Board meetings can be arranged if you are unable to attend in person.