

Post-retirement, Baldwin embarked upon her second career as a “professional volunteer.” Baldwin was a tutor and mentor with the St. Paul Public Library’s Reading Together program. She was a volunteer in elementary schools in her local school district and Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest (JAUM). In 2018 she was named a JAUM All-Star in recognition of her service.

Volunteering with elementary students caused her to reflect on the education she had received while attending a Lutheran grade school. She realized that God was calling her to start a school accessible to families regardless of income. Relying on the micro-school concept (a re-invention of the one-room schoolhouse), in the fall of 2021, Baldwin opened Laurel Community School. Laurel serves students in grades K-8. Baldwin’s vision is to plant Christian micro-schools across the Twin Cities.

Baldwin serves on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. She is also board Chair for TakeCharge MN, an organization dedicated to restoring the Black community’s cultural roots of faith, family, and education.

Baldwin holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Knox College and a Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law.

“Education means emancipation. It means light and liberty.” Frederick Douglass

St. Philip’s Church’s COVID policy states that we are not able to serve coffee or treats at our meetings. However, please feel free to bring your own coffee or water, if you wish, to the meeting.

Book Club

Shirley Tammen

AAUW Book Group will be discussing Trevor Noah’s *Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* on Monday, February 14 (Valentine’s Day) at 1:30 at Pleasant Hill Library.

Kristin Hannah’s *The Four Winds* is the selected book for Monday, March 14, 1:30 at Pleasant Hill Library. Hannah sets this novel in Nebraska during the dust storms in the 1930’s and in the fields of migrant workers in California.

Hastings Reads continue their 2022 events for Native American Voices: Celebration and Resilience. Author Angeline Boulley, who wrote our main selection, *Fire Keepers Daughter*, will be speaking at Hastings Art Center on Tuesday, February 15, 6:30-8 pm.

The Indigenous Drumming event has been changed to Wednesday, February 23, 6:30-7:30 at Pleasant Hill Library. Registration required via the Dakota County Library calendar.

The Family event will be held at the YMCA on Friday, Feb. 25, 6:30-7:30. Families with elementary age children will have fun with pizza, books and crafts related to the Native American theme.

Check the Hastings Reads calendar (in January’s TWIG) for other related happenings.

Speaking about books and sales. Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library will be hosting their semi-annual book sale on Friday, March 4th, 9-4:30 and March 5th, 9-4:30 and BAG SALE, Sunday, March 6th, 1-3pm. Check out those bargain books.

Web Page

Cheryl Read

Accidently delete your email with 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: hastings2017

Community

Margaret Goderstad

Hastings Arts Center:

- February 13th through the end of March – “An Affair of the Heart” by MN artist Sheri Grube. Her art work is inspired by her personal challenge of dealing with chronic illness, Dystonia. Her work offers an introspective look into what Sheri lays on her heart. Meet the artist on February 13.

- Be watching on the website for Coffee Concerts

River Valley Band:

- Sunday, March 6th at 3:00pm – Children’s Concert at Hastings Middle School Auditorium. The Children's Concert will feature concert band music for the audience, but will be of particular interest to children. Musical selections from movies such as "Lion King", "Star Wars", and "The Incredibles" will be featured along with other children's favorites.

LeDuc Historic Estate:

- March 19th at 3:30pm - Virtual Spring Equinox Tea. Pick up food & tea. Registration is required on dakotahistory.org.

Gadabouts

Cindy Toppin

Gadabouts is back in April!

Join us on **Friday, April 8 at 1:30** to hear Wisconsin singer Colleen Raye.

She is fabulous. For this performance, she sings Movie themes with the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra. The venue is the **Sheldon Theater in Red Wing.**

At this time, the Scarlet Kitchen is not taking group reservations for lunch. We may just go to the concert, and maybe coffee after, next door. Watch for more details.

I have 17 tickets with 14 spoken for already. **JUST THREE TICKETS LEFT SO GET YOUR CHECK TO ME SOON!**

Make out your check for \$22 made out to Cindy Toppin, as I have put them all on my charge card.

More details about pick up times in the next newsletter.

Let’s gather together again for a fun time!

Hastings Branch Grieves Two Hastings Branch Founders

Glenda Schnirring

The passing of two charter members of our AAUW branch provides the poignant pause of a time more than 50 years ago when two distinguished graduates from St. Theresa College, Winona, MN, moved to Hastings and became educators in its school system. In time, Patricia Giddings and Anita “Fran” Schoen chose to be among the first rostered members of the newly formed Hastings Branch of AAUW. They both served AAUW with dedication and loyalty through leadership roles and continued to devote their respective energies to the progressive initiatives of the branch for decades.

Fran Schoen, 86, died on Jan. 21 in Minneapolis. A memorial service will take place on Saturday, April 30, at 1 p.m. at the Hastings Golf Club followed by a celebration of life until 4 p.m.

Patricia Giddings, 98, died February 5, in White Bear Lake, MN where she was in hospice care. A visitation for Pat is on Friday, February 25, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Starkson Funeral Home. Pat’s funeral will be on Saturday February 26, at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Hastings AAUW has been named as a designated memorial recipient for Pat Giddings. Memorials should be mailed directly to treasurer, Carol Tobin, 4980 240th St. E., Hampton, MN 55031.

As an AAUW branch, we embrace the memories of these two women who ignited something very special for those of us who follow them.

Full obituaries can be found for Fran and Pat on the Starkson Funeral Home web site.

[Fran Schoen Obituary](#)

[Pat Giddings Obituary](#)

Treasurer's Report

Carol Tobin

Our check book balance is \$4,525.02 as of today. We are in a very good place with our finances.

The board did some preliminary discussion about setting a budget for the upcoming year. If you have concerns or ideas, we need to hear from you.

The dues for next year will be increased from \$93 to \$98. This increase is due to the increase in dues on the national level. Dues are paid in April. I am working on setting up the system for members to use the AAUW website to pay their dues using their credit or debit card. You will still be able to pay by check if you prefer.

Historian

Lisa Hedin

Wine Soiree, Summer 2021 (another reminder of warmer days)



Diversity

Peggy Horsch

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) are terms used in the alphabet soup of our times. In a recent national AAUW webinar, the presenter broke down their individual meanings and put context to the collective concept in a relatable way.

Diversity is representation. Diversity is being invited to the party.

Inclusion is involvement. Inclusion is being asked to dance at the party.

Equity is not equal. Equity means giving the individual the resources or support or opportunities to reach an equal outcome. Equity is being able to dance with everyone else at the party.

Now, here's the curve ball. Looking at the definitions and concepts you will note that a third party is making something happen, i.e., "being invited," "being asked" and "being able." All important for sure, but is that the end game? Obviously, not. So, enter "Belonging."

Belonging is a close and mutual relationship – being part of something. Belonging is choosing the theme of the party or the dance music.

Belonging is fundamental to our humanness. When you belong you fully participate.

I think the fairly recent movement of having DEI components in organizations is, for the most, missing the "belonging" part. If the DEI component is not accepted or embraced to the point of where it is at the table when decisions are made it is, as they say, "spitting in the wind." Just ask the NFL.

So, as we move forward, and we will move forward, look and advocate for "belonging."

Please let me know if you have any events or information to share on diversity, equity, inclusion **and belonging** in our community or the greater community.

Until next time.

Public Policy

Pat Powers

Call for Resolutions:

If you have a resolution to go to the State Annual Meeting, now is the time to bring it forward. If you don't remember what the resolution for the State Annual Meeting is all about, I can remind you.

Last year the AAUW Hastings Branch offered a resolution about the Education Opportunity Gap. There are many significant issues that you may want to see our branch forward to the 2022 Resolutions. Contact me pat.pow01@gmail.com and I will help you format and submit to the resolutions committee. At the end of the TWIG, there is an AAUW MN Resolutions Template and a copy of the resolution that our branch submitted last year.

AAUW MN Public Policy Priorities:

The bylaws direct the Public Policy Chair to review the priorities every 2 years and present to the State Board. At the Board meeting there was discussion of the list with suggestion to eliminate or further prioritize what had been established. It was decided that the priorities should be accepted and let the Branches decide if they wanted to focus on specific items. This list is impactful. It fits the goals of the Strategic Plan. In recruiting new members, this list says who we are. For many new members the Mission is described in these priorities. There will be a bookmark or brochure published for visibility of the priorities.

1. Economic Security for All Women

- Equity in the workplace
- Equal Pay
- Enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave

2. Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Instruction in STEM fields

- Opposition to the use of public funds for schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

3. Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including racially-motivated violence
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all
- Protection and expansion of voting rights

NCCWSL

Gail Glashan

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIPS!

We would appreciate your help in spreading the good news about the NCCWSL scholarship opportunities again this year! Because of the on-going pandemic, the virtual setting will also be the format this year. National AAUW just announced that the cost of registration for the virtual conference increased this year to \$165 (last year it was \$95). Minnesota AAUW will continue to contribute two scholarships to each branch. We are pleased to announce that our Hastings branch will provide the virtual NCCWSL experience up to **SIX** college-aged young women.

At the end of the TWIG, you will find a [flyer](#) with more details about the conference, and an [application form](#), to copy and distribute to prospective scholarship recipients. We have also sent an article to appear in the **Hastings Journal** periodically (first appearing on January 27) but prior to the deadline for applications on **March 10, 2022**.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Glashan, or any member of the committee: Pat Powers, Ann Skoglund, and Jan Junkman. We appreciate your help. This is a great opportunity to provide many young women in our area with a chance to participate in a world-class leadership conference. We are excited that the Hastings Branch may be able to again register up to six women to participate in the **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders 2022**.

Secretary

Arlene Wellemeyer

AAUW Business Meeting

January 24, 2022

St Philip's Lutheran Church

Members In-Person (18) and by Zoom (25)

1. President Lisa Hedin called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

In her greeting, she recommended reading the excellent January TWIG, which contains much good AAUW information, such as the progress report on our branch's recently adopted Strategic Plan, which is well on track. Some of the goals and activities yet to be completed have already been started. She noted that one of our new members, Cheryl Read, has volunteered to take over as Webmaster for the branch.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published. Motion: Glenda Schnirring; Second: Kathy Palmer.

2. Treasurer's Report: Carol Tobin

Our financial situation continues to look strong. Our budget balance in November was \$3,674.64; at the end of January the balance was \$4,826.06. Also our CD has come due. The interest earned is \$72.97 for a new balance of \$3,721.71.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. Motion: Danna Elling-Schultz; Second: Susan Cruse.

3. Committee Reports

a. **Membership:** Kathy Palmer reported that three new members joined in December. The official total of branch members stands at 90.

b. **Program:** Danna Elling-Schultz. February (Equity, Dr Alfrieda Baldwin; March (Title IX, Cathy Moen, ISD 200); April (Non-traditional professions: Claire Ferrar) and May (Inspiration/Writing, Diane Saed). The April meeting will be held at St Philips this year, rather than our traditional paid catered spring event.

c. **Public Policy:** Pat Powers noted there will be a rally at the Capitol rotunda, co-sponsored by AAUW, on January 31st in support of the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Equal Rights Amendment. The State AAUW Convention is planned for April 29-30 in St. Cloud, in-person.

A State AAUW event is in planning to mark the 50th Anniversary of passage of Title IX on June 23, 2022. Pat also listed some achievements of the Biden administration to date relating to women's economic security, e.g., the Defense Production Act, the American Rescue Act, the increased availability of Affordable Care Act health insurance.

d. **Book Club:** Shirley Tammen listed the many excellent upcoming events of the Book Club and Hastings Reads and encouraged members to participate. See TWIG and Hastings Reads for all details.

e. **AAUW Funds/HHS Scholarship:** Glenda Schnirring reported that the Hastings branch's donation of \$1000 to AAUW National objectives of "Greatest Need" has finally been confirmed as received by AAUW National.

She said that HHS Scholarship award selection will happen in late April. Anyone interested in serving on the selection team should please contact Lisa Hedin or Glenda Schnirring. Three people will be needed in addition to Glenda.

f. **Gad-Abouts:** Cindy Topping has purchased 17 tickets @ \$22 for a performance of movie themes by Colleen Raye and the St Croix Valley Orchestra on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 1:30 pm, Sheldon Theater. She was circulating a clip-board for in-person members interested in attending. Members on Zoom who are interested were asked to mail their checks to Cindy's home. Possibly, the group will be able to lunch at the St James Hotel before the performance. More details in the next TWIG.

g. **NCCWSL.** Gail Glashan announced the annual NCCWSL conference will be held online May 24-26, with ten scholarships to be offered by AAUW Hastings. Members will receive a Sprout soon with details for applications, deadline March 15.

h. **Community.** Margaret Goderstad listed several upcoming events at the Hastings Art Center, as well as a scotch tasting at the LeDuc Mansion. See HAC and Dakota County Historical Society websites for details. Also, a River Valley Band Children's Concert is planned for Sunday, March 6, 3 pm at the Hastings Middle School Auditorium.

i. **Diversity:** Peggy Horsch thanked all the members who attended Ellie Krug's Zoom presentation on January 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm. Motion: Gail Glashan; Second: Betty Hoeschen.

Presentation: Evening of Improv, Hastings Black Dirt Theater.

AAUW Mission Statement

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW Vision Statement

Equity for all.

Minnesota State Website

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

National Website

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

AAUW Hastings Board

President -----	Lisa Hedin
VPs Membership -----	Kathy Palmer
	Jackie Rigelman
VPs Programs -----	Danna Elling Schultz
	Mary Ellen Fox
	Diane Saed
Secretary -----	Arlene Wellemeyer
Treasurer -----	Carol Tobin
AAUW Funds -----	Glenda Schnirring
Book Club -----	Shirley Tammen
Community -----	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity -----	Peggy Horsch
Gadabouts -----	Members
Historian -----	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality -----	Kathy Stockman
	Patty Todnem
NCCWSL -----	Gail Glashan
Newsletter -----	Linda Bindman
Public Policy -----	Pat Powers
Fundraising -----	Ceil Strauss
Web Page -----	Cheryl Read

AAUW MN RESOLUTIONS TEMPLATE AND HELPS

(Information in parentheses includes helps for each section.)

WHEREAS...

(This section provides background, explaining the need and rationale for the resolution. **Resolutions should be written as they relate to AAUW’s national and state Mission and Public Policy.** There may be several reasons for the resolution. Pick those strongest and most pertinent in support of the resolution. Each “Whereas” ends with “and” to lead into the next “Whereas” until ready to begin the Therefore section.)

THEREFORE...

(This section is the actual resolution, what you want to have accomplished. It begins with “Therefore be it resolved that...” a certain action will take place, such as equal pay for equal work in all state agencies.)

IMPLEMENTATION...

(This section includes, according to state bylaws, action to be taken on the resolution. This section moves the resolution forward and directs the action to be taken to achieve the proposal. For example, the action might direct the state board on behalf of all members to write a letter to the Governor requesting him to budget monies to be directed towards equal pay for equal work in all Minnesota state departments and agencies.)

RESOLUTION SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Submitted by branch, committee or individual(s). Circle one.

Contact name _____ Branch Affiliation _____

Contact email _____ Phone _____

COMPLETE & RETURN 60 days prior to the AAUW MN State Convention

Jan Carey, AAUW MN Resolutions Committee, 403 Highland Drive, Hibbing, MN 55746

or

jmcfree@aol.com (preferred)

AAUW of Minnesota Resolution
March 16, 2021
Resolution from AAUW Hastings Branch

Whereas, Systemic Racism emerges from policies, often unseen, that turn racism into something hidden and unknowable which affects societies and institutions and

Whereas, dramatic inequalities/disparities exist in Minnesota high school graduation rates between white students and students of color positioning Minnesota 47th in the disparity level in 2021, resulting in 64.8 % of Minnesota's black students graduating (Ciresi Walburn Foundation for Children report), as compared to 89% of white students and

Whereas, fact based evidence states that 4% of the 63,000 Minnesota educators are teachers of color or Native American negating the ideal of students having teachers who mirror their heritage being significant and it's known Pre K-12 classroom populations are 35% students of color or Native American and

Whereas, communities of color have a diminished access to health care which affects educational preparedness and success and

Whereas, access to housing for non-white populations has been controlled by policies that discriminate in areas of mortgage interest rates, home insurance rates, and redlining of areas where non-white persons can live and

Whereas, white privilege ensures that whites have access, which may be known or unknown, for building lifetime assets as enabled by post WWII GI bill and Veterans Administration housing legislation, both of which were granted only to Caucasian veterans, resulting in minimal accumulated wealth for blacks thus curtailing the passing on of accumulated assets and

Whereas, voter suppression efforts are targeted at communities of color and the indigent making the objective of a democratic system of governance riddled with barriers and

Therefore, be it resolved that AAUW of Minnesota supports closing the academic opportunity gap for all students with a special emphasis on students of color and working toward greater awareness among AAUW of Minnesota's membership and the greater community regarding existing educational disparity through advocating for greater financial and educational system access which would lead to better high school completion outcomes.

Implementation:

The AAUW of Minnesota Board will make an intentional effort to give voice to branches about equity at the center of Pre K-12 public education. Educate members by making one program available annually statewide for aauw members on education achievement gaps.

Branch Public Policy chairpersons will provide no less than 5 advocacy alerts annually to AAUW MN members regarding state level legislative actions regarding disparities in education which will inform members of issues important to the mission of AAUW and direct them to weigh in as activists on legislation that is beneficial to improving equity in educational performance between BIPOC and white students.

AAUW branch presidents will provide direction for members to support their local public schools to help close the educational gap. Support could include partnering with other like minded organizations on one event annually to raise community awareness regarding racial educational gaps.

RESOLUTION SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Submitted by branch, committee or individual(s). Circle one.

Contact name Pat Powers Branch Affiliation Hastings Branch

Contact email Pat.pow01@gmail.com Phone 651-592-6259

COMPLETE & RETURN 60 days prior to the AAUW MN State Convention

Jan Carey, AAUW MN Resolutions Committee, 403 Highland Drive, Hibbing, MN 55746

or

jmcfree@aol.com (preferred)



**AAUW Hastings Branch announces scholarships for the virtual
National Conference for
College Women Student Leaders 2022**

NCCWSL

Leadership for Today and Tomorrow!

May 24– May 26, 2022

We invite you to apply for a NCCWSL scholarship to the nation's premier virtual leadership event! The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Hastings Branch announces this exciting opportunity for Hastings area sophomore or junior female college students to attend the virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders aka NCCWSL. The scholarship covers the cost of registration, \$165. Six scholarships are available.

You will join hundreds of college women from around the country for two+ days of virtual leadership training, inspiration, incredible speakers, awardees and networking. NCCWSL offers skill-building workshops and educational panels that are designed to challenge and inspire you to make an impact on your campus and in your community long after you leave the conference.

Workshops are divided among the following leadership objectives.

- **Leadership development:** Develop and strengthen a leadership narrative through voice, skill set, and mind-set.
- **Professional development:** Build a professional tool kit for postgraduate life.
- **Activism:** Know the how, why, and when to take action.
- **Women's issues:** Gain a better understanding of issues and policies affecting women and of AAUW's role in empowering women.
- **Identity and diversity:** Own one's personal identity and role in increasing and supporting diverse voices.

Apply today!

The deadline for completed applications is Thursday, March 10, 2022.



Email Gail at AAUW Hastings Branch to obtain an application form...

AAUWHastingsBranch@gmail.com



Or visit the AAUW Hastings Branch website at...

<https://hastings-mn.aauw.net>

For more information, visit... <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/nccwsl/attend/>



National Conference for College Women Student Leaders 2022

Leadership for Today and Tomorrow

NCCWSL

May 24– May 26, 2022

AAUW Hastings Branch NCCWSL Scholarship Application

American Association of University Women

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____

College/University _____

Mailing address: Street Address, City, State, Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Cell phone number _____

Name of high school attended _____

High school city and state _____

What will be your academic status fall 2022? ___Sophomore ___Junior ___Senior

Community Involvement and Leadership Experience...

- Please provide, in 100 words or less, your definition of leadership.
- Please describe in 100 words or less, how your background and interests will contribute to the diversity of the conference and what you personally would like to gain from this experience.
- Please attach a resume or vitae, including any extracurricular activities...
e.g. clubs, employment, memberships, internships, volunteer activities, along with conferences or training sessions in which you have participated.
- Please send your completed application by **March 10, 2022**, along with the above to:
AAUW Hastings Branch NCCWSL Committee, c/o Gail Glashan, 2120 Louis Lane, Hastings, Minnesota 55033
or email completed application to: AAUWHastingsBranch@gmail.com

Applicant's Certification

I verify that the information provided in this application is correct. I agree to notify the sponsoring AAUW Hastings Branch within three business days the status of my acceptance. I agree that if awarded a scholarship, I am responsible for participating in all conference activities and providing a written report to the sponsoring AAUW branch.

I will provide full reimbursement to AAUW should I fail to participate fully, or if I am unable to attend the conference for any reason.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____
