



An Invitation to the AAUW Minnesota State Convention

State Convention: The convention will be held in St. Cloud, April 29-30, 2022. We hope the Central Minnesota location will make it convenient for many to attend this two-day event. Our members are pouring their hearts into this convention to make it fun, interesting, innovative, and memorable! Opening ceremonies on Friday will feature dramatic readings depicting each decade from 1922-2022, to commemorate the centennial of the Saint Cloud Area Branch.

The overall theme is unity and the tagline, is WE ARE ONE! Many AAUW Minnesota branches also have a long history. What better time to unite harmoniously, share ideas, and come together? Minnesota branches have submitted information describing the most outstanding program offered in the last two years and the most successful fundraiser to benefit the community or *AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund*. It will be included in the convention program. If you want to include a newsworthy branch history fact or anecdote that would be great. Please email your responses to: Linda MacLeod (lmariemac1949@gmail.com) by March 15, 2022.

Finally, after a year or more of isolation, the convention offers a perfect opportunity to celebrate AAUW and all of our Minnesota members! Please save the dates and plan a short road trip to Central Minnesota. We will welcome you with open arms!

Parliamentarian: Barb Wonson Liukkonen has agreed to be the official parliamentarian for the convention.

Communications: Every Minnesota branch president or board representative was contacted last summer to ascertain that convention communications could be sent directly to members via email. Packets were sent electronically and hardcopies mailed via the postal service for branch duplication. Electronic attachments should be downloaded, saved to a computer, then re-attached for emailing to members. Attachments don't always go to the recipients when forwarding messages. Direct branch-to-branch communications should help to promote the convention.

AAUW Fundraiser: Many members that were contacted expressed their support in selling T-shirts, hoodies, and totes (the official AAUW logo is screened in white on a navy background) as a fundraiser to benefit AAUW. A promotional flyer is included in the convention packet. Members who can't attend, will be able to participate in the fundraiser. Hopefully, an attendee can deliver purchases to those who can't come. Inventory will not be stocked because the

orders will be placed per order and prepaid. Some branches may want to purchase these classy items and have a drawing to raise funds for AAUW on their own - a great idea by Cyndy Agle (Grand Rapids).

Registrations: There are three ways to register; designated branch members can copy forms from the packets and mail them via the postal service, registration forms can be downloaded from the Saint Cloud Area Branch website, printed out, and mailed. All registrations will be processed when received by our Finance VP. The checks should be made out to: AAUW St. Cloud and mailed along with the full payment to: AAUW St. Cloud, P.O. Box 7694, St. Cloud, MN 56302. One check is sufficient for all the convention fees/meals/ fundraiser items.

Saturday Afternoon Branch-Team Presentations (2:00-4:00): Instead of workshops in separate spaces, presentations on four topics will be offered to the general assembly. The presentations will be conducted by branch-member teams as follows:

- 1.) *Recruiting and Sustaining Membership* - Pat Obstarczyk (Saint Cloud), Kathleen Kohler (Minneapolis), Wendy Williams & Dr. Bonnie Edwards (Duluth)
- 2.) *Strategic Plans, Policy Booklets, and Bylaws* - Linda MacLeod (Saint Cloud) & Theresa Sagen (Ely)
- 3.) *Fundraising Events* - Cindy Leigh & Joyce Hummel (Saint Cloud), Pam Lande is securing expert(s) members (St. Paul)
- 4.) *Website Development* - Barb Wismer & Rene Kaluza (Saint Cloud) and Colleen LaBanc (Brainerd).

Convention attendees can choose the ones they're interested in, or stay for them all. Each presentation will be about 30 minutes long and backed-up with a master PowerPoint. These topics should be helpful and interesting for everyone. We can learn a lot from each other.

The program cover-art was created by a professional graphic artist, Collin Hummel. It's modern, reflects our values and the following message:

**AAUW Minnesota
WE ARE ONE
Saint Cloud Area (MN) Branch, Since 1922**

We would like to thank the AAUW Minnesota Board for the opportunity to host the 2022 State Convention and especially Deanna and Cyndy from Grand Rapids for their encouragement and advice.