

THE PINE FALL 2022



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

President Jan Carey's Goals for 2022 – 2024

(Jan is out of the country, so instead of a note from her, *The Pine* includes this summary of her goals.)

Goal 1: AAUW branches need to increase visibility in order to increase membership.

Individual Board members and branch members may take steps to increase visibility by writing opinion pieces in local newspapers that are non-partisan and adhere to AAUW Public Policy. Branches may collaborate with like-minded organizations. AAUW name tags are available, which can be worn to public events, such as candidate forums.

Goal 2: Improve Communications. As a first step, the Board will establish a communications team similar to that of AAUW CA. The AAUW MN team is Jan , who is serving as administrator of AAUW MN Facebook; anew volunteer, Asley Sarne, a Dakota Tech student majoring in Computer Technology & programing, has just taken on the responsibility of being the website administrator; and Sandra Martell edits The Pine. Together, they hope to improve communications among and between branches and AAUW of MN.

Goal 3. Implement the Strategic Plan. Each Strategic Plan Goal has associated actions to be taken by the Board. By appointing Anna Voight to the Carol MacPherson Memorial Scholarship Board, we have already taken action to partially implement the Education Goal “Champion equal access to all levels and fields of education.”

Call for Board Nominations now open!

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN for President-elect, Vice President for Program, Vice President for Public Policy and Treasurer. The state nominating committee is looking for leadership talent for the years 2023-25 and is asking for your help. If you know

someone who has a particular interest or skill or you are someone like that, please tell a member of the committee (Patricia Scott, patwak@charter.net; Marlys Mestemacher, marlysmestemacher@gmail.com; Mary Chorewycz, marychorewycz@gmail.com; Pat Powers, pat.pow01@gmail.com; or Rajani Sohni, rsohni@gmail.com).

November 18, 2022 Deadline for Nominations for State Board Offices.

Meet Members of Your AAUW of MN Board & Officers

Jan Carey – President jmcfree@aol.com



Jan has served as AAUW MN President-elect, VP Public Policy and VP Program. She is an active member of the Hibbing Branch, currently serving as editor/publisher of her branch newsletter and administrator of its Facebook page. She has also held the offices of President and Public Policy Chair in the Hibbing Branch. Jan has been and continues to be a leader in many organizations in her community

and in professional organizations. She has a BA in Speech Communications and Theater Arts and a MA in Information Media from St. Cloud State University, as well as post-graduate study at several universities. As a former academic librarian, she brings research skills to the issues of the day.

Deanna Ensley - VP Program deannaensley@icloud.com

Deanna is a member of the Grand Rapids Branch and was elected to a 2nd term as VP Program for 2021-2023. Deanna joined AAUW in 2016 after moving to Minnesota in 2015. She is currently serving a second term as Co-President of her Branch. She has also served as the Branch VP Program. Deanna is an active volunteer in her community. She serves on the boards of the Itasca Trails Task Force, the Itasca County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission, the Itasca Unitarian Fellowship, and the Grand Rapids

Friends of the Library. Deanna holds a BA Degree from The Evergreen State College and a Non-profit Management Certification from Skagit Valley College. Before coming to Minnesota, Deanna's professional experience included Washington State Park and Recreation Commission Park Ranger; Industrial Insurance Claim Manager; Washington State Labor and Industries – Industrial Insurance Claim Manager, and Industrial Relations Agent (wage and hour compliance). Currently, she works for an adult foster care agency.

Pat Powers – VP Membership pat.pow01@gmail.com



Pat Powers is in her second term as VP Membership. Pat is also serving on the Nominating Committee for 2022-2023. Pat has also been VP Program. She has been a member of the Hastings Branch for about 40 years. Pat has served as Branch President and is currently Public Policy chair. She says, "AAUW has been a good organization to gain the personal development that is not offered anywhere in the working world." Pat is a retired Medical Technologist and graduate of the College of St Teresa. She learned early in her career that women have to advocate for themselves. Pat has a continuing interest in finding ways to attract members to AAUW and recognizes that each branch is struggling to find younger members. Pat's goal as VP Membership is to take the best ideas and pass them on to all the branches.

Beth Nienow – Treasurer bethnienow@charter.net



Beth has been a member of the Rochester branch since 1997. She has held just about every position on the branch board except, ironically, Treasurer. Beth joined the AAUW MN Board in 2017 and is now in her 3rd term as Treasurer. Beth is an online bookseller with advanced degrees in literature and educational leadership. She has worked in public and academic libraries from North Dakota to Tennessee and places in between.

Saundra Martell – Secretary/Historian and *The Pine* Editor wave34145@gmail.com



After retirement and before moving back to Minnesota full time, Saundra was a member of the Marco Island FL Branch, where she served as President, VP Membership and Newsletter Editor. Saundra is a member of the Brainerd Branch where she is currently serving as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Saundra has a BA from Vanderbilt University and a JD from the University of Virginia. Her professional experience includes working as a trial lawyer, as Assistant General Counsel for the Navy Department, as a Special U.S. Attorney in the Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and as Board of Contract Appeals Judge. After moving to MN in 1981, she served as General Counsel for S J Groves & Sons, an international highway and heavy contractor and then as Director of Transactional Law for the University of Minnesota Office of General Counsel. Saundra has been active in and held leadership positions in many organizations.

Anna Voight - College/University Representative anna.voight@dctc.edu



Anna serves as the Associate Director of Student Life at Dakota County Technical College (DCTC). She received an AAS degree in Executive Assistant from DCTC, a BAS degree in Management from Southwest Minnesota State University, and an MA in Educational Leadership at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. A native of Farmington, Anna now resides in Apple Valley. As a strong introvert, Anna's favorite hobby is reading. She reads (or listens to) more than 100 books each year, primarily on the topics of leadership, psychology, continuous improvement, and personal development. She also enjoys taking her dog on walks, spending time with her nieces and nephews and supporting organizations that advance equity for women, help kids and care for incarcerated/previously incarcerated individuals.

Rajani Sohni – VP AAUW Funds rsohni@gmail.com



Rajani has been an AAUW member for over 20 years. She is serving on the Nominating Committee for 2022-2023. Rajani has served as Treasurer, Secretary, and Special Interest Group Chair for the Rochester Branch. Rajani has a Ph.D. Degree in Applied Physics. She works at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and is a Manager in the Department of Information Technology. Rajani and her husband, Youvraj, moved to Rochester in the late nineties. They have two adult children.

Teresa Sagen – Administrative Assistant tkswagen@gmail.com



Teresa is a past state Co-President, Website Manager, and Chair of the Nominating Committee. At the national level, Teresa has served as Co-Chair of AAUW's Fundraising Committee. She is a member of the Ely Branch and has continued to be active as President, VP Public Policy, VP Program, and Newsletter Editor. Teresa moved to the Ely Area in 1998 from Iowa City, where she taught at the University of Iowa and later served as an Educational Consultant for the State of IA. During retirement, Teresa has frequently observed student teachers for Western Governor's University. In the Ely Community, she has participated on the Boards of numerous organizations, including Friends of the Ely Public Library, VCC Advisory Board, EMPOWER, Lake County SWCD Board, and 3rd (now 6th) Senate District Board.

Kelsey Waits - VP Public Policy kelseywaits@gmail.com

Kelsey is a member of the Hastings Branch. She has a degree in Psychology from Wellesley College as well as a Masters in Statistics from the University of Connecticut. Kelsey has been involved in Minnesota politics at the local, state, and national level. In addition to being a current PhD student at the Humphrey School of Public Policy, Kelsey is also a mom of two amazing kids.

July 30, 2022 Board Meeting

The Board met for the first time at Hickley on July 30th. We got to know each other and learned about the procedures we will be employing in our Board and officer positions. We agreed to try to improve communications by holding ZOOM meetings with officers holding the same offices at the branch level. Jan reported that when she was VP Public Policy holding ZOOM meetings with branch VPs for Public Policy helped the group be more effective. Branch officers will soon be hearing from Board members to set up these ZOOM meetings.

In addition, the Board will be identifying and implementing other means of improving communications with and among branches. We will be adopting some of the ideas other states are using, such as California and Pennsylvania. Suggestions are welcome.

Jan also reported on her activities at the national level. The National Advancement Committee has determined that the most significant issue facing AAUW, at all levels, is declining membership. The committee found

that the vote on whether to dispense with the education requirement for membership failed largely because so few members voted. In MN, of the 1,718 eligible voters, only 437 voted. The MN vote was 285 Yes, 14 No and 12 abstained.

Jan also serves on the Inclusion and Equity Committee, which is tasked to improve diversity awareness and inclusion within AAUW membership. She recommended that branches make use of the Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) Toolkit and the DEI Plug & Play Programs.

The Board adopted a calendar. See below and announced that the **2023 AAUW MN State Convention/Annual meeting will be held via ZOOM on Saturday April 29, 2023.**

Because this was the first meeting of a new Board, members did not provide reports. In the future, the substance of the reports will be published in *The Pine*.



The new AAUW of MN website editor, Ashley Sarne, a student at Dakota County Technical College, attended the virtual NCCWSL conference on May 24–26, 2022. She was sponsored by AAUW Hastings Branch. She shared her experience as part of an article in the August 1st DCTCNEWS. Asley had this to say,

“If I were to be asked which session was my favorite, it will be a difficult choice because each has its own unique way of leaving me with so much knowledge, inspiration, and encouragement. It was a struggle choosing which session to attend per schedule, but the good thing was that other sessions were recorded. These sessions truly contributed to my personal and professional growth.

“Hearing the stories behind the success of these women who have achieved so much within their profession was motivating. Behind success comes struggles, and hearing what it took for these women to be where they are now made me realize that they are humans, too, and they were once young and still trying to navigate the world around them—like me today.

“Their success did not happen overnight and their path to success is not linear from point A to point B, but rather more branch-like. Their stories gave me motivation that I can be successful like these women someday, excelling in my career path, being a voice of change, and empowering young women.” Similar reports have come back from other attendees. What a great program.

Activities, Events etc. of Branches Around the State

Brainerd Lakes Area Branch

NORTHLAND GET TOGETHER (A gathering of branches from Duluth, Ely, Virginia, Brainerd,



Hibbing, and Grand Rapids) Saturday Oct. 8, 2022 at the Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter, MN 56425, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. The Northland Arboretum encompasses over 400 acres in the heart of Brainerd/Baxter. The morning theme is SPARK: ZISIKINE: CHISPA (English: Ojibwe: Spanish) meaning flicker, gleam, a small but important amount of steps toward knowledge and sparking

awareness and activism by understanding indigenous and immigrant history through personal



life stories of women. Out speakers will be Susan Beaulieu (above) Jan Kurtz (left), and a panel including Rocio Fernandez Lugo and Maritza Ornelas. Susan has been a University of MN Extension Educator and is a PhD candidate at the U of M in Sociology and Pharmacology. She is a

member of the Red Lake Nation. Jan is a Brainerd Branch member, retired Central Lakes College Spanish and World Cultures instructor and author of Northern Shores Southern Borders. Rocio, an Argentinian, is a Bilingual Advocate with Hands of Hope Resource Center in Long Prairie.

Maritza, originally from CA and of Hispanic/Latina heritage, is a Head Start Family Service Worker. Lunch will be catered by Chef Mikes. The afternoon will feature Tracy Srock's decorating demonstrations. Tracy is the owner of Morning Glory Flowers and Pies. She is a Master Gardener. Tracy will also provide treats. Ginger Kopp, Master Naturalist and Brainerd Branch member, will lead trail walks in the aboriginal. Some accommodations are available in the homes of Brainerd Branch members. In order to be sure of lunch, registration is due no later than Sept 30th ! Thanks to a grant from AAUW of MN, the fee is \$35.

Duluth Branch

Tour of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College



Learn about the campus, its art and architecture in a special tour led by Duluth Branch member Courtney Edwards, who

is an advisor at the College. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is a union of cultures in which no one is made to sacrifice their identity, yet each strives toward the same goal of becoming better through a postsecondary education. FDLTCC is the only state and tribal college in the nation and is grounded in the faith that all people become better by walking together. The mission of the college is to provide higher education opportunities for its communities in a welcoming, culturally diverse environment while demonstrating the values of respect (Manaaji'idiwin), integrity (Gwayakwaadiziwin), and compassion (Zhawenjigewin) for all.

St Cloud Branch

Presentation by Tanya Gertz, a Board member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA), a



statewide arts advocacy organization committed to lobbying the Minnesota State Legislature and Congress to provide opportunity for everyone to have access to and be involved in the arts. She is also Executive Arts Director at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University.

St Paul Branch

Journey of a Native Artist, Angela Two Stars

The artist Angela Two Stars (Dakota, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate) is the first Indigenous artist commissioned by the Walker Art Center to create a work for the museum's Minneapolis Sculpture



Garden. "Okciyapi" (Help Each Other) has been a tremendous success, becoming a gathering place. "Okciyapi" is a 47-foot-wide labyrinth-like structure with concrete seating that contains 24 panels highlighting Dakota words and phrases and QR codes that cellphone users can scan to hear stories told by Dakota speakers.

Ely Branch



For every \$1 white men earn:
White Women earn 73 cents
Black Women earn 58 cents
Native Women earn 50 cents
Latina Women earn 49 cents



hosts

UNHAPPY HOUR 2022

Northern Grounds

September 20 4:30 - 6:00 PM

32% DISCOUNT ON BEVERAGES
 reflecting MN 8th District gender pay gap

BRANCHES ARE READING

Minneapolis Branch

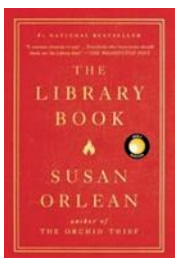


Once in a Blue Moon Lodge by Lorna Landvik

The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson



Moorehead/Fargo Branch



The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Brainerd Branch

Main Street by Sinclair Lewis

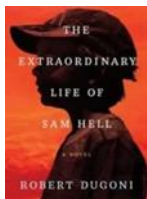


The Dressmaker of Auschwitz



by Lucy Adlington

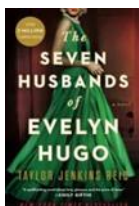
Owatonna Branch



The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni



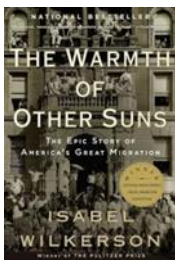
Necessary Lies by Diane Chamberlain



The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo, by Taylor Jenkins Reid

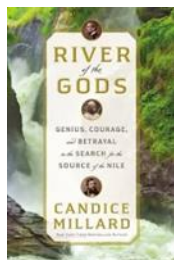
Redwing Area Branch

Island of Sea Women by Lisa See



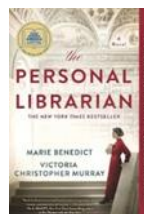
The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

St. Cloud Branch

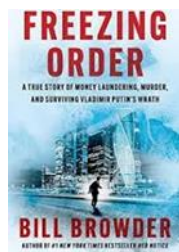


“Rivers of the Gods: Genius, Courage, and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile” by Candice Millard

“Personal Librarian” by Marie



Benedict



“Freezing Order” by Bill Browder

AAUW of MN 2022 – 2023 Calendar

September 19, 2022 Nominations Open for State Offices for 2023 Elections

September 20, 2022 Fall Issue of *The Pine*

October 22, 2022 State Board Meeting

November 18, 2022 Deadline for Nominations for State Board Offices

December 16, 2022 Deadline for AAUW Funds Contributions

December 20, 2022 Winter Issue of *The Pine*

February 18, 2023 State Board Meeting (ZOOM)

TBD Deadline for NCCWSL Requests to State

TBD Deadline for NCCWSL Early Registration

TBD Deadline for Branch Resolutions to VP Public Policy

March 2023 Women's History Month

March 8, 2023 International Women's Day

March 20, 2023 Spring Issue of *The Pine*

April 12, 2023 Equal Pay Day

April 29, 2023 AAUW MN State Annual Meeting (ZOOM)

May 2023

TBD NCCWSL National Conference

TBD Post-Annual Meeting Issue of *The Pine*

June 1, 2023 Deadline to report 2023-2024 Branch Officers to State and National

June 20, 2023 Summer Issue of *The Pine*

June 30, 2023 Deadline for current member renewal dues. (Starting in Spring 2023, New Members dues are renewed a year from the month they joined.)