



Northwoods News - January 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA

Welcome to the New Year, friends! Let's hope that 2023 is a year filled with peace, kindness, equity, and activism. We look forward to an exciting year for our branch and for AAUW as a whole. There are many causes to support that will improve opportunities for women and girls. With the current political atmosphere in our Minnesota legislature, we have the chance to help get the Equal Rights Amendment into the State Constitution - finally.

Reflecting briefly on the activities of 2022, we are certainly pleased with what the Ely branch has accomplished through the generosity, enthusiasm, and hard work of our members. We've continued to introduce young girls to opportunities in STEM careers and provided scholarships to college-age young women. The Public Policy team has done important community outreach through the Tuesday Group venue to cast a spotlight on the needs of and resilience within the Native American community. The Committee has also celebrated milestones such as the 50th anniversary of Title IX and hosted another UnHappy Hour, this year pointing out the earning discrepancies between white and BIPOC women. The branch sponsored a school board candidate forum that received rave reviews within the community. We can be very proud of the visibility that our branch has achieved in Ely for our activism, education, and support of equality.

In addition, all these activities and accomplishments are done in such a spirit of joy, collaboration, and fun! For example, our annual Garden Party event, where we eat, socialize, and raise funds for our branch, has drawn women from around the

community - members and non members alike. This results in a highly successful fundraiser and a wealth of new members. So many contribute to the success of this and other events.

Our programs for the end of 2022 have included speakers and performers that featured women in music and visual arts. The presentations were a great reminder of the many talents of the women in our branch as well as those in the broader Ely community. What a special place we live in. And just a short time ago, we celebrated the holidays with a social dinner and successful fundraiser that brought in more than \$1,200. We're very appreciative for the generosity of our members who contribute in many ways so that we are now able to increase our scholarship levels significantly in 2023. We're truly grateful for all of you.

Linda and Andrea

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

BRANCH MEETINGS for 2023 are as follows:

REMINDER! The January 10 meeting will be a book discussion, but if you haven't read it, please attend anyway!

January 10th – Book discussion of *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell
- Jan Guerin leading the discussion

February 14th – Keys to Happiness
- Autumn Cole

March 14th – Planned Parenthood
- Peggy Stolley and Planned Parenthood speaker

April 11th – Annual Meeting
- No program

May 8th - End of the Year Meeting
- Banquet, Silent Auction

Program Committee: Sally Koski, Peggy Stolley, Sue Peterson

BOARD MEETINGS are held the fourth Monday of the month.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Ely, Public Policy Committee By Mary Setterholm

On January 3, several of the Ely Branch will be attending the first day of the Minnesota Legislature, meeting with Representative Roger Skraba and Senator Grant Hauschild and encouraging rapid passage of the Minnesota State Equal Rights Amendment. The 2023 Minnesota State Equal Rights Amendment bill reads: *"Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin."* We are hoping to see this amendment on the 2024 ballot during the next election cycle. Even if you aren't traveling to this rally, you can help with this initiative by writing and calling Senator Hauschild and Representative Skraba to encourage their rapid passage of these bills.

The Public Policy committee meets next on Tuesday, January 17th at 4:30. We will meet at the Boathouse. Our goal will be to finalize the next year of our Awareness...Then Change ongoing initiative, continue work on bringing 'Start Smart' to Minnesota North Colleges, Vermilion Campus, and determining what additional areas to address in the coming year. We are excited about the work ahead – join us if you are interested in helping to shape the coming year!

Jessica Anderson
Pam Ransom
Mary Setterholm
Public Policy Chairs

FUNDRAISING



Thank you to everyone who donated and purchased for the silent auction/bucket raffle at our December holiday meeting!

MEMBERSHIP

If you are talking to someone who wants to join AAUW and you don't have a membership form, tell them to Google – AAUW Ely MN, then click on the site.

On our webpage, they can click on the membership form. They can print it out and mail it in with a check.

Kay can be reached at 218-235-6102 or khv771@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ely Branch of AAUW respectfully acknowledges that we are on the homelands of the Lake Superior Bands of Ojibwe people and within the ceded lands of the Treaty of 1854, where they retained rights to hunt, fish, and gather.

We also recognize other Indigenous peoples who lived here before the Ojibwe people. These include Dakota, Cree, and other tribes that have occupied and utilized this land.

We recognize the perseverance and survival of our Indigenous neighbors who continue to live throughout this region. We're deeply grateful for the multitude of ways that the Anishinaabeg have and continue to contribute to collective well-being through sharing of knowledge and time.