October, 2022 Volume 72, Issue 2

# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022

7:00 P.M.

FAIRWAY RIDGE COOPERATIVE BUILDING

COMMUNITY ROOM

3504 FAIRWAY RIDGE LN SW

PROGRAM: BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN OUR VOTING PROCESS

SPEAKER: LUKE TURNER, OLMSTED COUNTY ELECTIONS MANAGER

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



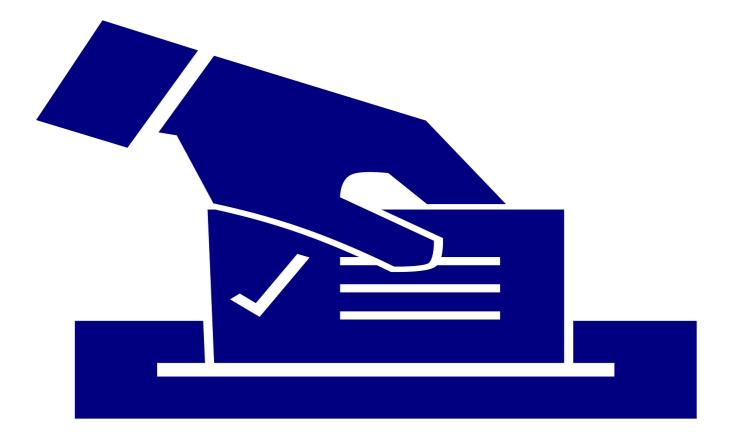


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For important information about updating your Yearbook directory listing!



#### **MEMBERSHIP**

For information, please contact Kathy Lawrence 507-285-9331 kathylawrence@charter.net or Jo Trachy 507-269-0091



# **OCTOBER PROGRAM**

Building Confidence in Our Voting Process Presented by Luke Turner, Olmsted County Elections Manager

Luke Turner joined Olmsted County's elections team in 2020, after a ten year career in the United States Air Force. He's used to responsibility and reacting quickly to problems. With his second regular election nearing, Luke would like to raise awareness of local voter procedures. He will address concerns about voting equipment, how errors are identified, pre-election testing opp9ortunities, multiple applications for ballots, voter fraud, and transparency of the process.

Please feel free to ask questions that have been on your mind since the last election. There will be plenty of time for Q and A and we hope for stimulating participation and discussion.

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

All branch members are invited to participate in any of the following groups. Please let the chair or discussion leader know in advance, if possible. Contact the chair, discussion leader, or host for additional meeting information.

#### BOARD MEETING-MONDAY, OCTOBER 3-7:00 PM

Location: Fairway Ridge. Board members: Notify Barb if you cannot attend. President: Barb Knutsen 507-285-5122 (home); 507-535-9175 (cell); <u>bknutsen45@gmail.com</u>

#### READING PLUS—MONDAY, OCTOBER 3—9:00 AM

Book: **The Orphan House** by Ann Bennett Leader and Host: Gay Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church Chairs: Gay Segar (507-398-9899; <u>hilltoplg@yahoo.com</u>) and Mary Jo Kelly (507-282-7030, mjkroch@gmail.com)

#### WHO'S WHO-TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4-1:00 PM

Book: **The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri Location: Zoom Chair: Chair: Joyce Wenz (joycewenz@yahoo.com)

#### BETWEEN THE LINES—DOES NOT MEET IN OCTOBER

Chair: Tjalda Nauta (617-797-5603; tjalda.nauta@gmail.com)

#### AFTERNOON READING-WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12-1:00 PM

Book: **The Music Shop** by Rachel Joyce Discussion Leader: Lynn Torsher Hostess: Kay Karsell Location: 2421 Dallman Lane SE Chairs: Judy Auger (judy auger@msn.com, 282-7922) and Laura Martin (martin.laura@mac.com 289-7895)

#### WORDS WORTH-WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12-1:30 PM

Book: **The Dickens Boy** by Thomas Kinneally Discussion Leader: Nancy Kampmeier Location: Homestead Chair: Barbara Knutsen (507-535-9175; <u>bknutsen45@gmail.com</u>)

#### US FOREIGN POLICY —THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 —1:00 PM \*NOTE EARLIER DATE!\*

Vivita will lead the discussion of Topic 3 "Putin's Russia" Location: Zoom Chair: Sara Staab (jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com)

#### READING WITH A PURPOSE—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27—7:00 PM

Book: **The Personal Librarian** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray Discussion Leader: Rajani Sohni Host: Julie Caesar 959 28th St NW Chair: Julie Caesar (288-9209; <u>rstgardner@gmail.com</u>)

#### YEARBOOK DEADLINE

## **IMPORTANT!**

The Yearbook deadline is October 25th to send your corrections or changes to Kathy Lawrence kathy-lawrence@charter.net.

You can also call Kathy at 285-9331.



## FROM THE

PRESIDENT -

## **BARBARA KNUTSEN**

Barbara Knutsen bknutsen45@gmail.com 507-285-5122 507-535-9175 (cell)



It's time to fall into AAUW branch activities. I hope you will feel able to join us for face-to-face meetings in October and November. Our program VPs have some exciting programs planned.

I also would like to encourage you to participate in our many book and foreign policy interest groups. All members of AAUW are welcome to attend any discussion, whether they choose to become a member of the group or participate as interest and schedule allows. Other opportunities for groups could be dining out or attending plays as a group.

Your continued support of AAUW enables studies, such as the gender pay gap, to take place. I want to share with you Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell's statement on the latest findings by the US Census Bureau:

In a calculation of the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau comparing full-time, year-round workers, women took home 83.7% of the pay that men did—a figure that is not statistically different from the pay gap in 2020. In addition, a more comprehensive calculation that compared everyone with earnings in 2021 (including part-time and seasonal workers) found that women were paid a shocking 77% of men's wages last year. And the pay gaps for Black women (64%) and Latinas (54%) were beyond egregious when compared to white, non-Hispanic men.

In coalition with other equity organizations, AAUW this year used this new calculation that assesses all workers. Our goal was to get a fuller sense of the wage gap at a time when millions of women were forced out of the workforce due to layoffs and increased caregiving demands. The results underscore a grim reality: Women still face a pay gap that has, at best, stagnated over the past several years and, at worst, widened further.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We are thrilled to have two new branch members, Carol Hartley and Janet Richert. Get to know Carol and Janet in their own words below. At our September General Meeting, we also recognized our two newest 50-Year or Honorary Life members, Julia Caesar and Jeanette Williams. Julia and Jeanette will be featured in the next *Highlights*.



# Carol Hartley chartley2@comcast.net

I am excited to be a new member of the Rochester AAUW. My reasons for joining this group are to meet new people and become more involved in the community. I chose AAUW primarily because of the organization's support of education and equity for women and girls. I look forward to learning more about the various Interest Groups. I love reading so definitely will be checking out the book groups. I also recently attended the very interesting and informative September General Meeting.

My husband, Keith, and I moved to Rochester in 2018. We came from California where I had spent the first 70+ years of my life ... so quite a change! I was previously a member of an AAUW chapter in Sacramento, California. My work career spanned thirty-five years first as a computer programmer and then as an IT manager for electric utility operations.



# Janet Richert richerj1@prodigy.net

I recently moved to Rochester from Portland, OR to be closer to my only child (Catharine Richert, Senior Correspondent for Minnesota Public Radio) and my three young grandchildren. Moving to Rochester has been a life-changing experience for me. It is a joy to now be part of my family's daily life and to take an active role in the growth and development of the children. The icing on the cake has been meeting and marrying Ken Brown, currently Olmsted County Commissioner for the Second District. Ken has four grandchildren of his own, so we stay pretty busy!

A former senior vice president with LabCorp, I retired as dean of the undergraduate program at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University. I have a B.S. in Languages from Georgetown and an MBA in finance from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. Though I have engaged in a variety of volunteer and social activities since arriving in Rochester, the pandemic definitely limited my opportunities for making new friends. For that reason, I am looking forward to meeting the interesting women (and men) of AAUW and to attending monthly events and book clubs.

#### AAUW ROCHESTER

626 GATES LN SW

ROCHESTER, MN 55902

Web sites:

National AAUW:

www.aauw.org

MN AAUW:

aauwmn.net

AAUW Rochester:

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AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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