



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

THE PINE WINTER 2023

FROM the DESK of JAN CAREY, AAUW MN President



Happy New Year to all!

2023 is the year for women and girls. You will “hear us roar”! The MN Legislative session began with a noted ‘roar’. A snowstorm didn’t deter members and women from other partner organizations, for an ERAMN Capitol Rotunda Rally, January 3rd.

Beyond our ERAMN partnership, the work of AAUW MN is off to a good start. ZOOM meetings are in full swing. I’ve attended a number of state and national meetings. The first Branch President’s ZOOM meeting occurred November 16, 2022. These meetings are recorded. To view the ZOOM recording use the URL:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1geyg_s2TlbBmNBxnBqNYJeEhnpz8R0cO/view

The next AAUW MN Branch Presidents ZOOM meeting is January 19, 2023. Included here, is a recap of the items reviewed during the first meeting.

STATE LEADER TRAINING – The AAUW national board, alongside the Advancement Committee, will provide State Leader Liaison Regional Meetings. The goal is to share presentation tools and resources to help states and branches with fundraising and membership. Advancement Committee chair, Dale Satake of California, worked with national staff, Katrina Breese, to create a Power Point presentation for Funds and Fundraising. The titles of the presentations are: *Demystifying AAUW's Greatest Needs & A Focus on Fundraising*.

Each will stress the importance of Greatest Needs; the impact of AAUW’s research, education and advocacy work; the power of AAUW’s “seat at the table”; fundraising themes,

ideas and resources; and ideas for celebrating donors. **The PowerPoint presentations are GREAT branch program meeting topics.**

CRF – The national CRF – Contribution Report Form, which is used to list Funds donations – has been updated on the website and posted to state leaders. This information will be updated in “Membership Matters” which will be published by AAUW National office. **Subscribe to “Membership Matters” online at [Membership Matters: A News Hub for Leaders – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)**

AAUW National State/Branch Survey - The national office and board desires direct branch information; special events, scholarship program, fundraising, etc. Thus, a survey was developed for States and state branches. It was distributed to every state president and branch president. The deadline for submission was January 13, 2023. National reports there was a strong response.

AAUW MN Branch activities and events: As AAUW MN FB administrator, I will post branch activities and events. **Please send them to Jan Carey (jmcfree@aol.com).** I will redistribute them to Sandra, AAUW PINE editor and Ashley, AAUW MN Website manager. You may also, at any time post your activities, events and president reports to Sandra for any upcoming PINE issue. The ultimate goal is to use our Communication Platforms to reach our members and potential members for AAUW MN membership growth.

Urgent Messages: urgent messages, time-sensitive requests from national or state will be delivered via TEXT Messaging to Branch Presidents/Leaders. Please watch for messages that may pop-up from Jan Carey 218-966-7159.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 29, 2023! AAUW MN will conduct its Annual Meeting via ZOOM. Complete information is forthcoming. **WATCH YOUR EMAIL BOXES for announcements and information.**

If you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to contact me.

ERA RALLY AT STATE CAPITOL



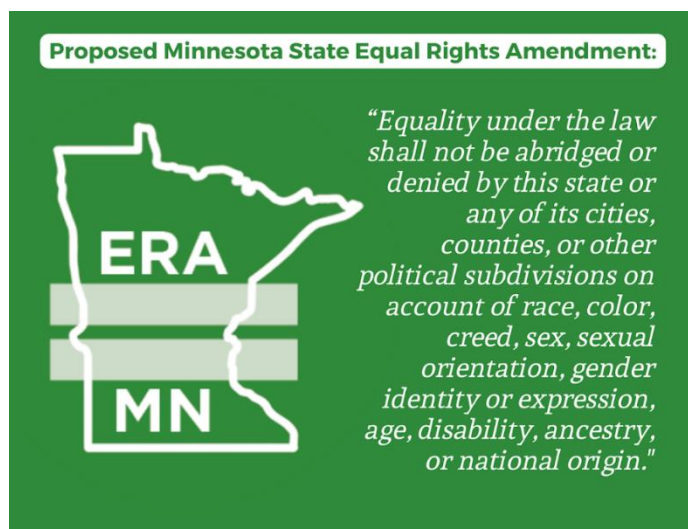
Although the snow storm kept many at home, some AAUW members made it to St Paul for the ERA Rally on Jan 3rd including Andrea Landro-Pike (co-pres. Ely) right of Gov Walz behind the ERA sign.

Other photos are Senator Mary Kunesh - chief author of the Senate ERA bill, Attorney General Keith Ellison rallying the crowd and Betty Folliard, ERA MN founder, speaking.



ERA Post Card – Send to Legislators

Contact Kesley Waits Keley.waits@gmail.com for hardcopies to send and share with friends, colleagues, neighbors etc.



FROM

Please
apply
a
postcard
stamp

ACTION AT THE MN LEGISLATURE:

1. Put a state ERA on the ballot to guarantee equality under the law for all Minnesotans.
2. Pass a resolution calling on U.S. Congress to enact the 28th Amendment - the federal ERA - now that all constitutional requirements have been met.

LEARN MORE at www.ERAMN.org

Prepared & paid for by ERAMN

TO

Public Policy - Article by Jan Carey & Kelley Waits

"Prior to the November 2022 mid-term election, AAUW (American Association of University Women) posted a statement, in local newspapers across Minnesota, for all voters to read and contemplate. The statement defined AAUW's national and state position and its alignment to AAUW Public Policy Priorities, Mission and ideals.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>.

AAUW's mission is equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. In its 140-year history, thousands of women have personally experienced its mission in action and the impact AAUW has achieved for societal change. AAUW has thoroughly researched and examined inequities toward women and girls. Its published research studies are acclaimed. Economic Security, Education & Title IX, and Civil Rights are critical issues for women and girls of Minnesota and America.

Before and after any election cycle, AAUW champions its mission and seeks solutions that work for all women and families. With the election cycle behind, AAUW will continue state, national and global work of advocacy. As we have already seen, progressive views and protections for women and girls will continue to be challenged. Thus, it is important to restate AAUW's strategic goal platforms as AAUW works to obtain gender equity

Economic Security. AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency through Equal Pay, the Paycheck Fairness Act, Retirement Security, Paid Leave, Workplace Harassment, and Health Care. It is our goal to achieve economic security for all women, support passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act to give women the tools they need to successfully challenge pay discrimination and to provide incentives to employers to comply with the law.

Education & Title IX. AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX. ~ Student Debt is a burden that disproportionately impacts women & borrowers of color and needs to be remedied. ~ AAUW opposes the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools. ~ AAUW advocates equitable access to education and climates free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault.

Civil Rights. AAUW advocates for equity, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society. ~ AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights. ~ The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has met the requirements for ratification. Minnesota ratified ERA in 1973. But it awaits US Senate action. ERA MN is in pursuit of adding ERA to the Minnesota Constitution through a ballot initiative. As those debates continue, AAUW will vigorously work to guarantee equality for women. ~ AAUW

advocates freedom in definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures, and vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights. ~ AAUW supports choice in the determination of one's reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services. Economic security and gender equity are not possible without ensuring reproductive freedom. This month's election made history in our state; for the first time, Minnesotans elected pro-reproductive freedom majorities to both chambers of our state legislature. Minnesota now has a pro-reproductive freedom trifecta in our state government. This trifecta means that Minnesota can not only defend against challenges to gender equity, but we can also proactively pass policies that will address gender and racial disparities in our state.

AAUW Minnesota is looking forward to helping our members engage with their elected officials, forming coalitions with other organizations who are focused on gender equity, and moving these important issues forward. Stand with AAUW and continue the road towards gender equity."



VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAM

The state program vice president works with state officers and branches to advocate for women and girls through development and implementation of programs and other projects that promote education and equity. She works with the host branch to plan the annual meeting and coordinates program grants and awards. If you are interested or would like to recommend a nominee, please contact Pat Powers pat.pow01@gmail.com. If you have questions, contact Deanne Ensley deannaensley@icloud.com, the current VP Program.

ATTENTION PLEASE:

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

NCCSWL 2023 May 31 - June 23, 2023

Early Bird Registration Ends April 3, 2023

Regular Registration Ends May 5, 2023

AAUW of Minnesota and AAUW Minnesota Branches announce scholarships for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, at The University of Maryland.

AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for two days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at our National Conference of College Women Student Leaders aka NCCWSL!

The acronym is pronounced 'Nick-Whistle'.

AAUW MN is offering ten \$500.00 grants, one grant per branch, to branches who send a student to NCCWSL. (Note: If NCCWSL is Virtual, grants will be offered for online registration, one grant per branch who sends a student to NCCWSL.)

If interested, please call or email Deanna Ensley right away, 360-333-0228, deannaen@icloud.com with questions.

October 22, 2022 Board Meeting

The Board met in Oct at Grand Casino Conference Center, Hinckley, MN. President Jan Carey reported that she has attended a number of candidate meetings and forums. She attended *The Northland Get Together* and encourages the creation of other regional meetings of branches. She also recommends that branches make QR Codes with a link to branch webpages or the AAUW MN website that can be made into stickers or coasters to be put in public areas.

She reported one serious issue generally confronting states and branches is loss of membership. AAUW's policy on Choice does not appear to be a significant cause for loss of membership. In addition, there is no plan to take action soon with regard to open membership.

VP AAUW Funds VP Rajani Sohni reported that each donation requires submitting the Contribution Report Form (CRF) in order to credit branches, individual members and to be sure the donation goes to funds the donor wants to support. The eligible funds are

listed in the CRF. It takes so long for checks to be cashed that credit may not be given in time for the year of the donation. If possible, donate on-line.

CRF link: <https://ww3.aauw.org/resource/contribution-report-form-crf/>

AAUW Funds Page <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/how-to-support-aauw-through-fundraising/>.

Submit Named Grant Honoree(s) in January 2023. Each \$750 donation entitles a branch to name one honoree.

VP Programs Deanna Ray Ensley has been promoting, distributing, and advocating AAUW programs and grants throughout the state and planned and received a grant for a “Get Out the Vote” gathering at Ball Club, MN on the Leech Lake Reservation.

Treasurer Beth Nienow has been answering questions from branch treasurers and board members, deposited checks, kept records, prepared a financial report, and paid reimbursements and expenses.

Finance Chair Janice Quist managed RFP payments.

VP Public Policy Kelsey Waits began participating in the monthly meetings with VPs of Public Policy across the country and had an introductory zoom meeting with branch public policy chairs across MN. She also sent branches election information including early voting information, AAUW voter guide and how to find sample ballots. She created and shared social media images (along with suggested language to post) for public policy chairs to share with their branches and post on social media and had one-on-one conversations with a few branch policy chairs who were unable to make it to the introductory zoom meeting.

Membership VP Pat Powers reported that AAUW National office is now sharing all new members with the Membership VP of the states. Addresses and email addresses are included. She is sending new members a welcome letter with pertinent information about websites and public policy priorities.

Secretary/Historian and Editor of The Pine Sandra Martell prepared and distributed Minutes of the July 30, 2022 Board Meeting and prepared a record of the August 25, 2022 action by email to appoint Ashley Sarne Website Manager. She also edited and published The Fall Pine.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Sagen worked on the AAUW MN State Directory and assisted Branch Presidents and Treasurers to use the AAUW Community Hub. She also worked with AAUW Site-Resources and Ashley Sarne, the new Website Manager, to revise the AAUW MN’s website.

The Board approved a motion establishing a premium Canva account.

The Board revised the calendar adding a ZOOM Board Meeting on January 14th.

January 14, 2023 Board Meeting

The Board met via ZOOM.

The board approved donating \$1,000 to the Greatest Needs Fund.

President Jan Carey and VP Public Policy Kelsey Waits wrote a pre-election opinion, which is reproduced on pages 4 & 5. Jan attended planning sessions with ERAMN for ERAMN Lobby Day Rally, but the snow storm prevented her attendance at the ERA Rally. She also posted two-minute activist letters to legislators, hosted a Branch President's ZOOM meeting and posted branch and National Facebook notifications on the state Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064780113967>). She also worked with Website Manager Ashley Sarne to update the AAUW MN website. She continued membership with ERAMN Advisory Group and continued memberships with AAUW Advancement Committee and DEI Committee. She reported that she intends to attend AAUW State Leader Liaison Meeting, Upper Mid-west Group, on January 16th. The meetings will focus on the issues that will be voted on by the members in the spring election, including bylaws changes. She will also attend the AAUW National Advancement Committee meeting on January 17th.

VP Membership Pat Powers organized two Zoom meetings open to all branch membership chairpersons. They had great discussions with both groups about their successes with recruiting and retaining members. She noted that many agreed with Rosanne Blass of Brainerd that branches need to be more friendly. One way is to assign seats so that new members and visitors can talk with members more easily.

VP Programs Deanna Ensley distributed AAUW MN Helping Hands booklets promoting AAUW MN State Grants.

VP Public Policy Kelsey Waits began monthly meetings with branch public policy chairs. She gave a presentation to the St. Paul Branch about being political vs. being partisan, post-election plans, and what issues were important to them. She worked to organize and prepare branches for the ERAMN Rally.

VP Funds Rajani Sohni sent out contribution reports from National to Branch Funds Chairs - one for individual donations and one for branch donations.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Sagen completed AAUW MN State Directory and distributed it. She revised and distributed Helping Our Branches 2023. She assisted Branches with Community Hub, as requested, and worked with Ashley Sarne to update AAUW MN's website.

Chair of the Nominating Committee Pat Powers and her committee have obtained permission to nominate three officers. The nominees for state board will include Deanne Ensley for President Elect, Beth Nienow for Treasurer and Kelsey Waits for VP Public Policy.

Website Manager Ashley Sarne discussed changes made so far to the website, including correcting broken links, bringing Branch links up to date, revising headings, using the sidebar for events and creating "Around The State" to highlight branch activities, 3 branches at a time. In response to discussion, she will remove out of date information and photos.

C/U Representative Anna Voight reported that because of issues/challenges with colleges renewing their memberships nation-wide, National is doing more to connect C/U reps.

Secretary/Historian/Pine Editor Sandra Martell prepared and distributed Minutes of the Oct. 22, 2022 Board Meeting and contacted Branch Newsletter Editors and other officers for material to include in Winter Pine.

Plans for the Annual Meeting The Board discussed plans for the **April 29, 2023 Annual Meeting**. The Board chose the theme **“Advocacy, Education, Research - Hear Us Roar”**.

Activities, Events etc. of Branches Around the State

St Paul - REBUILD UKRAINE, RESTORE HOPE

One hundred members, spouses and friends deepened their understanding of the urgent situation in Ukraine at the AAUW-St. Paul Evening Program on October 19, 2022 at 990 Summit Avenue. After a glass of wine with friends, everyone sat down for A Taste of Ukraine, a Ukrainian dinner featuring specialties from Kramarczuk’s in Minneapolis – borschch (Ukrainian beet soup in meat broth) and rye bread, potato-cheese varenyky (pierogi dumplings) with roasted onions, and Ukrainian-style cheesecake with cherry topping. AAUW’s Chef Christophe rounded out the dinner with a traditional French Chicken Kiev - renamed Chicken Kyiv for the evening.

Volunteer Ambassador Mark Sweere from Rebuild Ukraine introduced the program by lighting 3 candles: commemorating all who have died since the war began, honoring the resolute resistance and resilience of the Ukrainian people, and in tribute to all who respond to the suffering in Ukraine and work to end the war.



The founder of Rebuild Ukraine, University of St. Thomas Professor Paul Gavriluk opened his talk, REBUILD UKRAINE, RESTORE HOPE, by recapping efforts of the Minnesota-based non-profit in response to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Working with partners in Eastern Europe, Rebuild Ukraine is saving the lives of Ukrainian defenders, refugees and children by providing urgently needed humanitarian aid. Since February Rebuild Ukraine has raised \$500,000 for medical transport vehicles, medicines, food, medical supplies (tourniquets, first aid kits), protective gear, and solar batteries. These urgently needed supplies are procured via trusted partners in Eastern Europe (primarily Lithuania), then driven to a central distribution point in Ternopil, Ukraine, from where they are delivered to designated points across Ukraine. Because Rebuild Ukraine is an all-volunteer organization, administrative costs are negligible. By sourcing goods from vendors across Eastern Europe, shipping costs and delays are averted. Goods purchased abroad with money wired from the

States also extends the purchase power of each dollar raised. The result is a nimble program where all gifts can be immediately put to work responding to emergencies.



Ora Itkin, piano and Laura Sewell, cello, specifically chose music In Memoriam, performing works by Bach, Brahms, Pärt and Chopin. At the very end they closed the program with a touching Benediction composed by the late-Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) who had lived on Summit Ave.

To learn more about REBUILD UKRAINE or to join this effort, please see: rebuild-ua.org.

Article written by Cheryl Brown.

Faribault added more than \$3,000 to its scholarship fund at the Omelet Halloween Breakfast Benefit for Scholarships on Sunday, Oct. 30th at the Faribault American Legion. One of the scholarships goes to the Faribault High School Sportswoman of the Year.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

AAUW BOOK SALE

MAY 5, 6, 7, 2023

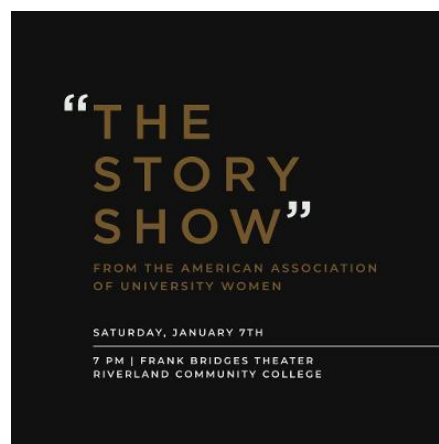
HIBBING ARMORY
2310 BROOKLYN DRIVE
ACROSS HWY 169 FROM MINNESOTA NORTH
COLLEGE—HIBBING

FRIDAY MAY 5	SATURDAY MAY 6	SUNDAY MAY 7
9:30AM—8:00PM	9:30AM—5:30PM	9:30AM—2:00PM
\$1 PER BOOK	.50 PER BOOK	\$2 PER BAG



Hibbing Books may be donated on April 1st. The Owen's Family Charitable Foundation has donated \$4,000 to Hibbing's 2023 book sale!

Austin The Story Show 2023! On Jan 7th, the Austin Branch held a fundraiser at The Story Show. The story tellers shared how they responded when Opportunity Knocked in their life.



Saint Cloud

Tech Savvy 2023 Registration Open Until Feb. 6



Fifth- through eighth grade girls can sign up now for 2023's Tech Savvy session Feb. 25 at St. Cloud State University.

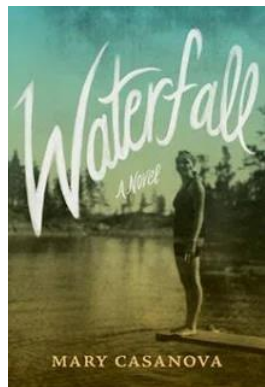
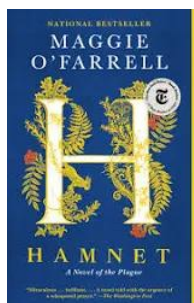
Daughters, granddaughters, nieces, neighbors, friends, troops and groups are welcome and encouraged to join the day of fun exploring science, technology, engineering and math.

Learn more and register at

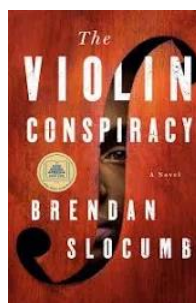
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tech-savvy-2023-stem-for-girls-5-8-grades-tickets-461032619977>

BRANCHES ARE READING

Ely Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell



Grand Rapids Waterfalls by Mary Casanova



Minneapolis

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb

The Children's Blizzard by Melanie Benjamin

