



## **Northwoods News - March 2023**

### **MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA**

Greetings, friends! It's hard to believe it's March already and Spring is on the way. What a busy and fun past few months our branch has experienced! Unhappy Hour, Public Policy sponsoring two Tuesday Group speakers as part of "Awareness....Then Change", hearing about Women in the Arts and Women in Music, a book discussion on the book Hamnet, our holiday celebration including a highly successful silent auction and, at our most recent meeting, an energetic program focusing on the Keys to Happiness, by our own enthusiastic certified Happiness Coach, Autumn Cole. We thank everyone who has helped to make our branch activities so successful and enjoyable. You're all amazing.

We hope that many of you were able to take part in the recent End of the Road Film Festival – it was a smashing success for the Ely community. Our branch member, Jan Guerin, was heavily involved in the event and we thank her for that. The Public Policy Committee provided pizza, beverages and brownies for the more than one hundred students who attended Indigenous Student Day. The Festival organizers and the students themselves expressed much gratitude for providing the lunch.

Last month we reminded you that Minnesota has a window of opportunity to include the Equal Rights Amendment on the State ballot in November 2024 with a goal of placing the amendment into the State Constitution. Hopefully, everyone who attended the February branch meeting completed their postcards and sent them off. Since that meeting, HF 173 and SF37 (ERA Amendment to the MN Constitution) have both just passed out of committee and are scheduled for a floor vote on March 8. It's very important once more to call and email Roger Skraba (651-296-2190), ([rep.roger.skraba@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.roger.skraba@house.mn.gov)) and Grant Hauschild

(651-296-1789), ([Use This Email Form](#)) and let them know you want them to pass these bills and get the ERA Amendment on the 2024 ballot! We need to keep the pressure on, so keep the calls, emails and postcards coming.

Our branch will shortly identify our 2023 NCCWSL recipient. College Representatives Kate Cowley and Carly Wogen have asked interested candidates at the college to submit an application. We were fortunate to receive \$500 from AAUW MN to help send the young woman who is chosen to Washington DC for this Leadership Conference this Spring.

This year's AAUW-Minnesota Annual Meeting will be held on April 29 via Zoom. Our branch has an opportunity to have five delegates participate. Please contact Andrea or Linda if you're interested.

AAUW National is partnering with Ms. Magazine to offer all AAUW members a free, one-year subscription to the legendary publication. You can sign up to get yours today using the link below:

[Ms. magazine and AAUW - Ms. Magazine \(everyaction.com\)](#)

Join us at the March 14 meeting when we will feature a speaker from Planned Parenthood. The presentation should be informative and timely. Hoping to see everyone then!

Linda and Andrea

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## CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### BRANCH MEETINGS for 2023 are as follows:

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

If you need a ride to a meeting or event, please be sure to contact Linda Sutton or Linda Bergum!

**BOARD MEETINGS** are held the fourth Monday of the month.

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## WRITING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

The Ely branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presented two scholarships to Ely teens for summer writing camp. Sophomores Lauren Rehbein and Morgan Lassi received \$500 each toward Northwoods Young Writers camp (formally known as Camp Atsokan).

This will be their third year attending this camp, which was founded by author Mary Casanova in 2019. Authors Margi Preus and Erin Downing Soderberg will also facilitate camp sessions, which run through June on Atsokan island in Rainy Lake. The purpose of the camp is to create sacred space not just for writing, but for sharing ideas and learning the art of critiquing. Two faculty from Ely will chaperone this year, English teacher Heather Cavalier and librarian Madeline Olson. For more information about camp, please visit <https://northwoodswriters.weebly.com> or email [hcavalier@ely.k12.mn.us](mailto:hcavalier@ely.k12.mn.us).

Pictured left to right are Linda Sutton, Morgan Lassi, Andrea Landro-Pike, Darlene Nemanich and Lauren Rehbein.



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## PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Ely, Public Policy Committee

By Mary Setterholm

**BREAKING NEWS:** HF 173 and SF37 (ERA Amendment to the MN Constitution) have both passed out of committee and are scheduled for a floor vote on March 8.

Call and email Roger Skraba (651-296-2190, E-mail: [rep.roger.skraba@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.roger.skraba@house.mn.gov)) and Grant Hauschild (651-296-1789, [Use This Email Form](#)) and let them know you want them to pass these bills and get the ERA Amendment on the 2024 ballot! We are so close to getting this done....let's drive it home!!!

In support of the End of the Road Film Festival "Indigenous Student Day" (Friday, February 10th) , we served lunch to approximately 110 students from Nett Lake, Mesabi East, Vermilion Country School, and Ely High School. We also hung a red dress display in the Ely Folk School as part of the MMIW Panel discussion after the showing of the documentary "Bring Her Home." The students and staff were very appreciative and the pizza and bars were gobbled up.

Our next event will be a Tuesday Group presentation on March 28th by Linda Bergum entitled "Treaty Promises and Indigenous Health Care". We hope to see you there. This presentation is part of our ongoing "Awareness...Then Change" series.

If you haven't sent your ERA postcard to our MN Representative and Senator, please do. If you need a postcard, please reach out to Andrea Pike or Pam Ransom for a card. Our goal is to get the bills out of committee and passed to assure the amendment is on the 2024 ballot. HF 173 has been referred to the State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee, chaired by Representative Ginny Klevron. This committee meets Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. The bill is not currently scheduled for a hearing. Consider making a call to Representative Klevron (651-296-5511) requesting the bill be scheduled on the agenda. SF 37 has been referred to Judiciary and Public Safety, chaired by Senator Ron Latz. This committee meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The bill is not currently scheduled for a hearing. Consider making a call to Senator Latz (651-297-8065) requesting the bill be scheduled on the agenda.

The next Public Policy Committee meeting is March 7th , 4:30 at the Boathouse. Join us as we continue defining and planning our events.

Jessica Anderson  
Pam Ransom  
Mary Setterholm  
Public Policy Chairs

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## FUNDRAISING



Stuff those piggy banks. They are welcomed at any meeting---the fuller (and more frequent) the better. Note: we still have more banks if anyone needs a new one.

**ALSO....Learn to make truffles March 11 from 10am to noon at the Ely Folk School and \$5 of your registration fee will be donated back to AAUW! Advance registration required on the Folk School website. Participants will take home a tasty sampling of truffles!**

**Watch for details coming by e-mail for a movie night pop up soon. We'll have dinner at the Boathouse and attend the showing of the movie *80 for Brady* at the State Theater. The movie starts March 3 but we are most likely to go the second week. The way our movie nights work is we'll pass an envelope during dinner and everyone is invited to make a contribution toward our mission-driven AAUW projects. Feel free to invite friends and partners/spouses to movie night and participants are welcome to attend both dinner and the movie or one or the other.**

**Round up donations for our upcoming May dinner auction as well as for our upcoming summer event. Gather items from your basement or attic, from friends and family and be sure to invite any artists or crafters to donate an item. Do you have a friend who offers massages? It would be great to have a couple of those or other types of service gift certificates. Could you offer a sunset cocktail cruise on your boat or do you create unique baked items or have a specialty dinner you could make and take? Can you plan and bring items for a kid's birthday party? Think outside (and inside) the box for any and all items you think someone might enjoy. Donations are accepted anytime and the sooner the better so that if items need to be combined there is plenty of time to do that. Get your items to Kay Vandervort at a meeting or at 629 E. Boundary St.**

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## **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](mailto:khv771@gmail.com).

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## **MEMBER UPDATES**

### **Meet Lucy Soderstrom!**

My name is Lucy Soderstrom. I moved to Ely the summer of 2020 from Tacoma, Washington, after my job for the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound had been shuttered due to the pandemic. I had grown up visiting Ely with my family and had spent two summers in college leading trips for Widjiwagan, so Ely felt like a familiar place to ride out the Covid-19 pandemic. My plan to move back to Washington after the pandemic ended never came to fruition, because unfortunately, the Covid-19 never quite went away.



I ended up adopting a dog and working a handful of parttime jobs until the summer of 2021, when I took over Betty Firth's role at the Ely Folk School. I had turned it into a full time Program Director job by the end of the year. I also served as Program Coordinator for the End of the Road Film Festival and am involved with Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness. It has been so rewarding to get to know the Ely community! I feel lucky to be surrounded by inquisitive and thoughtful people.



## **Meet Mary Setterholm!**

In 2006, driving home from a Winter weekend in Ely, I told my husband Dave I could retire in Ely. He stopped the car in the middle of the highway and said, "You know, Winter lasts 6 months in Ely, and November and April are gray, wet, and cold with nothing to do--are you sure you want to retire there?"

I said yes, and 90 days later the house we raised our 6 girls in was sold and we were buying property in Ely. We moved here full time in 2014 and built a greenhouse so we would have something to do in April. We occupy our time raising and harvesting a substantial vegetable garden and continually cutting down the Balsam trees that threaten to take over everywhere.

We are blessed with 7 grandchildren (and maybe another one or two on the way). The first week in August and the last week in December finds the multitude of beds in our house filled when they all come for "family week."



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## 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.