



MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA

Happy Just-About-Springtime, Ely Branch friends! (Never mind, since I started writing, the prediction is for another snowstorm this weekend). Our 2022-2023 Branch meeting season is drawing to a close--just two more meetings--our Tuesday, April 11 Annual Meeting and our May Banquet and Silent Auction event on MONDAY, May 8. It's been an active, educational and fun-filled year. It's also been a year of growth for our branch, increasing our membership to the most recent total of 70 members!

We'd like to welcome our two most recent members, Patti Stoddard, pattstod@msn.com, and Suzie O'Gorman, sogorman13@gmail.com. Both have joined the branch since our March meeting. Since September, we've added Deb Busch, Denise Case, Jean Gendreau, Marjory Wood, Lucy Soderstrom, and Naomi Doerr. We're so grateful for the growth and participation in our activities, and we want to be sure that we give a warm welcome to all our members, new and not-so-new. We are an awesome group of Ely women!

A huge thank you to our branch (and board) member, Linda Bergum, who presented at Tuesday Group, just last Tuesday, March 28. Dr. Bergum's presentation on "Treaty Rights and Indian Healthcare" continues our collaboration with Ely EMPOWER as part of the Awareness.....Then Change community educational initiative. The attendance was impressive, with 65 people in the room and 7 more on Zoom, many of whom I've never seen at Tuesday Group before. The attendance also speaks to the efforts of the Public Policy committee getting the word out. The Tuesday Group organizers are very appreciative of our branch involvement in such an important community resource.

Soon all members will receive a booklet and all the information needed to register for the AAUW State Convention on the morning of Saturday, April 29. This year's convention is being held virtually via Zoom. The theme is "Hear Us Roar," and the scheduled speakers will be fantastic and inspiring. Ely has submitted a Resolution on understanding and education on the issue of diversity. Delegates will vote on the resolutions prior to the convention, and the results will be disclosed on April 29. Ely has traditionally been quite active in presenting Resolutions for consideration, among them support for the Equal Rights Amendment and Paid Family Leave. If approved at the Convention, Resolutions are to be supported by each branch in the state during the upcoming year. Thanks so much, Kay Vandervort, for taking the lead in writing it.

Regarding the Equal Rights Amendment, the process is progressing through both the Minnesota Senate and the House of Representatives. H173 and SF37 are companion bills that are making their way through the Committee process at this time. So, as a refresher (remember "I'm Just a Bill" from Schoolhouse Rock?) before a bill becomes law (or amendment), it needs to go from:

- 1) Introduction,
- 2) Legislative Committee Review (where we are now in Minnesota),
- 3) Floor Vote,
- 4) Passage by Simple Majority,
- 5) Ratification by Statewide Ballot Measure, and finally,
- 6) Becomes a MN Constitutional Amendment.

So we have a way to go and must continue to keep the emails, postcards, and calls going to legislators, but all signs are hopeful.

Another exciting bit of news is that our branch has registered a Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus scholar to the NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) conference in Washington DC! Her name is Nicole Darheim and she's a Law Enforcement student who is very involved in campus activities and shows great leadership potential. Kate Cowley was instrumental in the selection process, and we're certain that we've chosen to sponsor a very worthy young woman.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude for all that you all do to make our branch a pretty special organization. It's a pleasure to spend time together doing good advocacy work, supporting the AAUW mission of equality for all women and girls, and having a whole lot of fun as we work together. Hope to see you all on April 11!

Andrea and Linda

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

BRANCH MEETINGS for 2023 are as follows:

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.

2023 STEM WORKSHOPS - APRIL 22

OUR 2023 STEM WORKSHOPS

Preparations are well underway for this year's STEM workshops to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 between 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM at MN North College-Vermilion Campus (VCC).

We have three great workshops lined up for our local area 5th through 8th grade girls!

Plop, Bubble Glow: Antacid Lava Lamps will be presented by local EBCH pharmacist Abby Sirek. The girls will be learning about acids and liquid properties by making a lava lamp with Alka-Seltzer and testing the pH of various liquids.

We have two instructors from a Duluth organization called STARBASE who are experienced STEM workshop instructors.

- Katie Lassi from STARBASE will host *What is in a Vernal Pond?* The girls will learn what a vernal pond is and why they are important. They will then use digital microscopes to investigate the microorganisms that rely on these ponds.

- Jessica Gudmundson from STARBASE will host the Mars Rover workshop. The girls will receive a brief introduction about the Mars rovers before learning how to code Lego SPIKE Prime robots. They will have the opportunity to complete a mission using the SPIKE robots that involves clearing rocks from a space to be used for a future Mars base.

Thanks to our college rep Kate Cowley, we already have labs and rooms booked for the event and have arranged for lunch for all participants in the college cafeteria.

Promotional activities are already in progress. Ads have been scheduled with the Ely Echo and the Timberjay newspapers, and electronic and printed copies of the event flier will be distributed to area schools and home school families during the first couple of weeks of April.

Area Girl Scout troops have already been notified about our event, and we already have 5 girls signed up!

We're also sending an electronic copy of the flier to all AAUW-Ely branch members to pass on to any eligible girls. If you haven't received an electronic copy of the 2023 STEM Workshops flier yet, please let Jeanne Tomlinson know.

If you are interested in helping with the promotional activities, please come to our next STEM Committee meeting on Thursday, April 6 at 10 AM at the Ely United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (305 E Camp St – back door).

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help out. We will be having some last-minute preparations on Friday, April 21 at 2 PM also at the Ely United Methodist Church if you would like to help with that. And we can always use a few more on the day of the event even if just for an hour or two. If you are in town and just want to stop by and check it out, please feel free to come by.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Ely, Public Policy Committee
By Pam Ransom

During the month of March, the AAUW-Ely Public Policy Committee worked on three key initiatives to include:

- Human Trafficking:

- * We're learning more about Human Trafficking in the U.S., and then we'll take the next steps to include developing posters to be put up in women's bathrooms in restaurants, bars, and gas stations in Tower, Ely, Babbitt and Winton.

- * We identified "human trafficking specialists" including Tatiana Bergum (Linda Bergum contacted her niece, who works for the National Human Trafficking Training Center), and Autumn Cole has spoken with Jeanne Olson who works at the Virginia Sexual Assault Program. Both Tatiana Bergum and Jeanne Olson stated that each one would be interested in making presentations in Ely.

- Linda Bergum's Tuesday Group Presentation "Treaty Promises and Indigenous Healthcare":

- * Posters advertising this presentation were printed and then hung up throughout the Ely area.
- * On March 28th, Linda Bergum made the presentation "Treaty Promises and Indigenous Healthcare" at the Tuesday Group in the Grand Ely Lodge. It was a GREAT success!

- Ely Branch Resolution for upcoming AAUW State Meeting:

* Kay Vandervort recommended that our Chapter submit a Resolution for the AAUW State Meeting. There was some discussion, Kay agreed to do some editing, and "The Resolution" was submitted to AAUW Minnesota.

Jessica Anderson
Pam Ransom
Mary Setterholm
Public Policy Chairs

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.

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.

MEMBER UPDATES

Meet Patti Stoddard!

Patti Stoddard holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She is the former choir director at Hibbing High School, where her choirs toured extensively, including three European performance tours. She was awarded the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award in 2013 at New Haven, Connecticut.

Patti is currently a full-time real estate agent in NE MN and is the director of the Grace Choir at Grace Lutheran Church in Ely. She is the inventor of the Doggy Bunk Bed.

Patti and her husband, Pete, have one daughter, Rachel, a physical therapist at St. Luke's in Duluth. Patti enjoys boat riding with family and friends.



Meet Marjory Johnson Wood!

Marjory Johnson Wood
Bachelor of Arts, Communication
Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Master of Science Business & Management
National-Louis University, Chicago, Illinois

I am a native Minnesotan currently living in Aurora, Minnesota. I am a widow. My beloved husband, Michael, unexpectedly passed away after suffering a heart attack on February 1, 2021. We were and now I am the guardian of two grandsons now 16 and 18.

During my career, I worked in the computer and computer network technology industries and academia. I was a consultant to organizations such as the IRS as they installed their computer networks. During the nineties, I was the Director of Marketing for an Internet Services Organization. This was the era of the Internet moving from the world of government projects, educational institutions, and research into the commercial world, The World Wide Web. The final stage of my career was with Concordia University in Saint Paul MN as Director of Organizational Management and Communication. Working with people, whether they were mentors, coworkers, or students, provided me with a richness of life and a commitment to the development of community and connection. Working with students was a passion that fueled my work as a teacher and mentor. My work experience was in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, the Washington DC area, and client sites nationally.

Now I pursue my artistic ambitions. I am an artist and author of two published children's original Scandinavian folk tales which I also illustrated. Living among the wild boreal forests, lakes, and bogs of northern Minnesota is inspiring and provides deep calm and peace for me. The darkness of our northeastern night skies are the perfect canvas for the mystical Aurora Borealis, one of my favorite watercolor painting subjects. I have exhibited award winning paintings at the "Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute" since 2002. I love the folk art of my Scandinavian heritage. I've studied and painted in the Norwegian art of Rosemaling and Swedish art of Dalamalning at the Vesterheim Folk Art School in Decorah, Iowa. For me, the expression of art through our heritage is a deep connection to our ancestors and those we love.

I live adjacent to the Giants Ridge recreation area which is the perfect place to continue engaging with my love of running and being out in our natural world as I train for my next half marathon. I'm registered to run in Grandma's Gary Bjorkland 1/2 Marathon in Duluth on June 17.



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.