

THE *94th* AAUW MN
ANNUAL MEETING



“HEAR US ROAR”



April 29, 2023

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2023 AAUW of Minnesota Annual Meeting

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AAUW MN Annual Meeting – April 29, 2023

President's Welcome & Statement

On behalf of the AAUW Minnesota Board of Directors and Committee Chairs, I welcome you to the 94th AAUW Minnesota State Annual Meeting, previously known as the State Convention. Our theme this year is *"Hear Us Roar"*. And many have heard us and will continue to hear from us as we champion AAUW's Mission and AAUW Minnesota's Strategic Plan Actions.

For over 140 years, AAUW (American Association of University Women) has fostered its mission of "equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research". We have given thousands of women a voice in the quest for equality and equity.

As members, you know that 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.

It is difficult to comprehend that now, in 2023, equality under the law, for women and girls in Minnesota, continues to be debated & challenged. And that is why AAUW MN has partnered with ERAMN to promote State legislation to enact gender equity as Minnesota Constitutional law. Adding ERA to the Minnesota Constitution through a ballot initiative is being sought. Our advocacy with ERAMN parallels AAUW MN Convention Resolutions passed at previous State Conventions and Annual meetings. When passed, Minnesota will join 27 other states who have recognized equity for women by enacting state Constitutional amendments. These 27 states have passed state equal rights amendments (ERAs) to their constitutions that provide various degrees of legal protection against discrimination based on sex.

Hopefully, by the time our Annual meeting convenes, the Minnesota Legislature will have passed this vital legislation.

Meanwhile, AAUW MN has completed other goals, objectives and actions in its Strategic Plan.

2022/23 Strategic Plan Accomplishments:

- Promoted branches to utilize programs created by AAUW National
- Continued scholarship opportunities for women

- Supported Branch STEM initiatives and programs
- Tracked State and National legislation in key areas of pay equity, women's healthcare, Title IX, ERA
- Continued scholarship support for the NCCWSL initiative
- Recruited members to serve in AAUW MN leadership positions
- Updated AAUW MN Website and employed a Website manager
- Utilized the AAUW MN FB page as a communication tool
- Established partnership with organizations that parallel our mission
- Established monthly ZOOM meetings between board leadership position and branch counterparts; i.e. Presidents, Membership, Programs, Funds, Public Policy, etc.
- Improved AAUW MN visibility by publishing Opinion columns (OP Eds) and Letters to the Editor (LTE)

AAUW MN board members have paved roads to consistent communication. The board listened to branch leaders as they expressed their views in our Board-to-Branch interviews. The Board set out to seek remedies and give attention to concerns. We have more to do. But the lines of communication are open and we are ready to remedy any issue or concern.

2023/24 Strategic Plan Forecast - Attention to and improvements in these areas are needed.

- Increase membership
- CU work – appoint a College & University Representative to establish effective, collaborative, relationships with administrations and students by sponsoring StartSmart/WorkSmart Training and other national initiatives as created
- Provide Leadership Programming for women
- Increase collaborations
- Market AAUW in creative ways; QR Codes, ZOOM meetings, Podcasts, etc.
- Develop project/program opportunities that are equitable and inclusive
- Increase Board and Branch diversity.

I am in deep gratitude to the members of the Board for their commitment to AAUW MN and their positions. Every question or issue I've encountered in this first year of my term, has been acted upon without hesitation or reservation. What an incredible group of women! My right arm is Teresa Sagen. She's magic. I know many branch members have bowed to her expertise as you've maneuvered through the challenges of "The Community Hub".

This is AAUW MN. We believe in the Mission. We believe in promoting it in our cities and towns across Minnesota. There are challenges. We worry about the solvency of our branches and our organization. But with the convictions and commitments of the women I've worked with and met, I know we can do anything. We are strong. We are invincible. We are AAUW MN.

"Hear Us Roar!"

Jan Carey
AAUW MN President



March 30, 2023

Greetings AAUW Minnesota Members!

Welcome to the Minnesota State Convention! I hope this gathering finds you healthy, happy and ready to enjoy your time together at the Convention.

First, please accept my sincere gratitude for your financial support and for the great work you've done over the years to build a better future for women and girls. AAUW Minnesota has played such an important role and contributed so much throughout the organization's history and now towards our current mission.

We, both at national and from your local efforts, are working harder than ever to achieve equity for women and girls. We still face ongoing challenges: systemic inequities like crushing student loan debt and a stagnant gender pay gap keeping millions of women from achieving financial security—and pushing equity further back after three years of the pandemic. Voting and reproductive rights are under assault all over the country, and bias and discrimination continue to keep women from excelling in lucrative STEM careers and ascending to top leadership roles. Together, we can continue to work towards lasting change through advocacy, activism and funding the future.

Over the past year, we've reached more people than ever with educational programs like NCCWSL, STEMEd for Girls, Work Smart and Start Smart. Our fellowships alumnae continue to change the world and our policy impact – driven by the many grassroots efforts of our members – has led to major advocacy wins like passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am so inspired by all that we have accomplished — but our work is far from finished. So, I hope that your time at Convention will be a celebration of our victories, as well as a call to action for tackling the challenges we still face. By working together, with a unified voice, I am confident we will continue making progress.

Thank you again for being an active and dedicated AAUW member and a passionate advocate for women and girls. I hope you enjoy your conference – please use this time to exchange information, learn new tools and techniques, and celebrate. Then return to your branches and keep moving towards 'equity for all!'

Sincerely,

Gloria L. Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer

Meet Our 94th AAUW MN Annual Meeting Presenter



Betty Folliard is Founder of ERA Minnesota (www.eramn.org) and a former three-term member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. As Minnesota House Representative, Betty served on Education Policy, Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy, and the Higher Education Finance Committees. She was Chief author of dozens of bills, but her primary focus has always been on Women's Rights and Equality. In 2014, she founded ERAMN and since then has maintained an unprecedented passion for women's equality and gender equity.

Former State Representative Betty Folliard is a nationally known thought leader, women's rights advocate, and founder of ERA Minnesota, an organization of thousands of activists and entities dedicated to adding an ERA into our State and National Constitutions.



Betty Folliard and Suzann Willhite (right), the current ERAMN President, at the passage of the ERA in the state of Virginia; now ratification of equal rights for women as a federal law is part of the next active waiting process in the U.S. Senate. Minnesota is one of the states in 2023 that is seeking, through a ballot initiative, an ERA amendment to the Minnesota State Constitution.

2023 AAUW MN Annual Meeting
April 29, 2023
ZOOM Communication Platform
AGENDA

WELCOME & Call to Order

Recognition of Past State Presidents and State Board members
Recognition of Past and Current National Board Members
Recognition of Current Board Members and Annual Meeting Parliamentarian
Moment of Silence in Memory of our AAUW MN members

Roll Call of Branches

A Message from AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell

Credentials Report

State Reports

Treasurer
AAUW Funds

New Business

Report of the 2021-2022 Financial Records Review Committee
2023-2024 Budget
Report of the Nominating Committee and Introduction of Candidates
Resolutions
Additional Business items

Keynote Presenter Betty Folliard

Recognition of Outgoing State Board Members

Introduction of State Board Members for 2023-2024

Messages from Senators Smith & Klobuchar (pending)

AAUW MN Annual Meeting (in-person) 2024 Announcement

AAUW Minnesota State Board 2022-2023

Elected Officers

PRESIDENT

Jan Carey—Hibbing
218-966-7159
jmcfree@aol.com

TREASURER

Beth Nienow—Rochester
507-923-7810
bethnienow@charter.net

SECRETARY/HISTORIAN

Saundra Martell—Brainerd
952-250-2611
wave34145@gmail.com

VP PROGRAM

Deanna Ray Ensley—Grand Rapids
218-301-0315/360-333-0228
deannaensley@icloud.com

VP MEMBERSHIP

Pat Powers—Hastings
651-592-6259
pat.pow01@gmail.com

VP PUBLIC POLICY

Kelsey Waits—Hastings
651-703-2055
kelsey.waits@gmail.com

VP AAUW FUNDS

Rajani Sohni—Rochester
507-250-1324
rsohni@gmail.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY REP
TBD

Appointed Officers

FINANCE CHAIR

Janice Quist—St. Paul
612-730-2591
jquist@gmail.com

PINE EDITOR

Saundra Martell—Brainerd
952-250-2611
wave34145@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Teresa Sagen—Ely
218-365-6461
tkswagen@gmail.com

Other Off Board Positions

EDUCATION CHAIR (Acting)

Deanna Ray Ensley—Grand Rapids
218-301-0315/360-333-0228
deannaensley@icloud.com

WEBSITE

Ashley Sarne—DCTC, Hastings
sarne.aj@outlook.com

BYLAWS CHAIR

Saundra Martell—Brainerd
952-250-2611
wave34145@gmail.com

AAUW of Minnesota Standing Committees

AAUW MN Nominating Committee 2022-2023

Pat Powers, Hastings Branch, Chair
Patricia Scott, Brainerd Branch
Marlys Mestemacher, Grand Rapids Branch
Mary Chorewycz, St. Paul Branch
Rajani Sohni, Rochester Branch

Financial Review Chair and Committee for FY22

Caroline Owens, Ely Branch, Chair
Jan Bensen, St. Cloud Branch
Deanna Ensley, Grand Rapids Branch
Janice Quist, St. Paul Branch
Beth Nienow, Rochester Branch

AAUW Minnesota College/University Representatives 2022-2023

Central Lakes College

Brainerd, MN

Mary Sam

msam@clcmn.edu

Anne Nelson Fisher

anne.nelsonfisher@clcmn.edu

College of Saint Benedict

St. Cloud, MN

Angela Whitney

awhitney@csbsju.edu

Dakota County Technical College

Rosemount, MN

Anne Johnson

anne.johnson@dctc.edu

Gustavus Adolphus College

St. Peter, MN

Brenda Kelly

bkelly@gustavus.edu

Jill Locke

jlocke@gustavis.edu

MN North College Vermilion Campus

Ely, MN

Kate Cowley

kate.cowley@minnesotanorth.edu

Annette Horvat

annette.horvat@minnesotanorth.edu

MN State University - Moorhead

Moorhead, MN

Heather Nesemeier

nesemeier@mnstate.edu

Riverland Community College

Austin, MN

Catherine Haslag

cshaslag@gmail.com

Amy Wagner

Amy.wagner@riverland.edu

St. Catherine University

St. Paul, MN

Rebecca Roloff

broloff@stkate.edu

Anita Thomas

ajthomas583@stkate.edu

St. Cloud State University

St. Cloud, MN

Melissa Brill

melissabrill@gmail.com

Mahogany Morrison

mmorrison1@stcloudstate.edu

St. Olaf College

Northfield, MN

Rosalyn Eaton

reaton@stolaf.edu

Marci Sortor

sortor@stolaf.edu

University of Minnesota, Duluth

Duluth, MN

Susana Pelayo-Woodward

swoodwar@d.umn.edu

AAUW of Minnesota Past Presidents

1923-25 Mrs. F. G. Atkinson (Rood)
1925-27 Mrs. James King
1927-29 Mrs. James Richardson
1929-31 Mrs. Schuyler Woodhull
1931-33 Mrs. H. F. Heimholtz
1933-36 Mrs. H. K. Painter
1936-37 Mrs. Herman Stark
1937-38 Mrs. John McCrory
1938-39 Mrs. Harry Kavel
1940-42 Mrs. Warren Wilson
1942-44 Mrs. Frederic Weld
1944-46 Mrs. Willard Matter
1946-48 Mrs. Lawrence Steefel
1948-50 Mrs. Frank O. Jones
1950-54 Florence Schneider
1954-56 Mrs. Emil Koski
1956-58 Mrs. A. J. Cole
1959-60 Mrs. E. R. Komarek
1960-62 Phyllis Gausman
1962-64 Dode Wonson
1964-66 Betty Christian
1966-68 Gladys Swanson
1968-70 Charlotte Reeve
1970-72 Alberta McNeal
1972-74 Eleanor Sulerud
1974-76 Enid Swanson

1976-78 Martha Nelson Ward
1978-80 Nancy Selby
1980-82 Helen Rudie
1982-84 Joann Paden
1984-86 Susan Lemke
1986-88 Jane Maddy
1988-90 Barbara Halweg
1990-92 Kay Cooper
1992-94 Alice Ellis
1994-96 Nancy Rustad
1996-98 Barb Link
1998-00 Linda Thielbar
2000-02 Sharon Finch
2002-04 Terri Griffiths
2004-06 Pat Sween
2006-08 Beverly Crute
2008-10 Karen Kirkwood
Mary Parcheta
2010-12 Carol Sheggeby
2012-14 Teresa Sagen
Caroline Owens
2014-16 Sharon Bigot
2016-18 Jan Bensen
2018-20 Lisa West
2020-22 Mary Ann Lucas Houx

Standing Rules of the 94th AAUW Minnesota Annual Meeting

(Virtual Meeting)

All persons should select “Mute” unless speaking

1. Any current paid member of AAUW MN and any college and university representative may attend the annual meeting.
2. Voting will be conducted by electronic ballot in advance of the meeting.
3. Only members who have paid their dues according to the AAUW data as of February 1, 2023 and any college or university representative may be a voting delegate.
4. Only eligible delegates shall be allowed to vote.
5. The AAUW MN State Board voted to suspend Article. XVIII, Section 4, f.,6, of the Bylaws adopted May 18, 2022, regarding resolutions from the floor for the Annual Meeting on April 29, 2023.

AAUW MINNESOTA 93RD ANNUAL STATE MEETING
April 29-30, 2022
Park Event Center, St. Cloud, MN

OPENING PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order: President Mary Ann Lucas Houx called the State Meeting to order at 5:00p.m. on April 29, 2022. She welcomed all attendees and thanked the St. Cloud Area Branch for hosting the meeting and sharing their 100th anniversary celebration.

Recognitions: President Houx recognized and thanked those who have served as past presidents of AAUW Minnesota. She announced that a gift of \$300 had been given in their honor to the Greatest Need Fund. President Houx also recognized and thanked 50-year Honorary Life Members.

AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell: Gloria Blackwell addressed the meeting via Zoom. She reviewed recent successes of AAUW in addressing the basics of our mission: education, advocacy and research on behalf of women and girls. She outlined the focus areas of AAUW's Strategic Plan: Education and Training; Economic Security, Leadership; and Governance and Sustainability and concluded with a call to action by all AAUW members.

Evening Program: Following dinner, Linda MacLeod, President of the St. Cloud Area Branch, presented the all-women color guard, and the National Anthem was sung by Nancy Hamilton. Linda then introduced special guests: President Robbyn Wacker of St. Cloud State University; Dr. Lori Putman, incoming St. Cloud Superintendent of Schools; and Tarryl Clark, Stearns County Commissioner. The St. Cloud Area Branch then presented a decade-by-decade retrospective of their past 100 years, with current members in the roles of former members reviewing the major activities of the branch. The evening program ended with music by a jazz trio and singers.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Houx called the Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting to order at 9:00a.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2022. She then recognized several groups: our college and university representatives, those who have served on National and State boards and committees; and current State Board members. She then called on Jan Bensen, St. Cloud Area branch member, to offer a memorial remembrance of David Kirkwood who had been a member of the St. Cloud branch, the State Board, and the National Board of Directors. President Houx announced that the AAUW MN Board had donated \$5,000 to the Greatest Need Fund in David Kirkwood's memory.

Roll Call: Secretary Linda Blaisdell called the roll of Minnesota branches, and 22 branches responded as present: Albert Lea, Alexandria Area, Austin, Brainerd, Duluth, Ely, Faribault, Fergus Falls, Grand Rapids, Hastings, Hibbing, Metro West, Minneapolis, Northeast Metro, Owatonna, Red Wing Area, Rochester, St. Cloud Area, St. Croix Valley, St. Paul, Willmar and Winona. She announced that a quorum was present to conduct business.

Credentials Report: Teresa Sagen, Administrative Assistant, presented the Credentials Report. She stated that there were 136 registrations for the Annual Meeting, with 9 guests. Further, she reported

that there were 90 eligible voters in attendance: 82 as branch delegates, 4 as past State Presidents; 4 as State Board members, and no College/University Representatives. **Teresa then moved the adoption of her report, and the motion carried.**

Standing Rules: Barb Liukkonen, Chair of the Standing Rules Committee, moved the adoption of the Standing Rules as printed in the meeting booklet. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting (via Zoom): Secretary Linda Blaisdell, on behalf of the Condensing Minutes Committee, moved that the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting as printed in the meeting booklet be approved. There were no questions or discussion, and the motion carried.

Annual Meeting Appointments: The St. Cloud Area branch recommended the following appointments for the Annual Meeting: Pages: Ginny Bisel, Roberta Lampi; Tellers: Sandra Williams, Mary Lou Lenz; Timer: Jonna Pucel. **The appointments were approved by the delegates.**

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Beth Nienow presented her report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year which was printed in the meeting booklet. There were no questions or discussion, and President Houx announced that the report as printed would be placed on file.

AAUW Funds Report: Barb Liukkonen, Interim AAUW Funds Vice President, presented her report on Minnesota branch gifts found in the booklet. She corrected the amount of Fund # 9110 to be \$80,364.08. She reported that the discrepancy between totals was due to the fact that National did not credit some branch gifts made in December, 2021, until 2022. Barb is working with branches to straighten out the situation so that they will receive the credits in either 2021 or 2022, whichever they prefer. **Barb Liukkonen then moved the adoption of the 2021 Funds Report, as corrected. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.**

Financial Records Review Committee: Chair, Jan Bensen, presented the Financial Records Review report as printed in the meeting booklet and moved its adoption. There were no questions or discussion, and the motion carried.

2022-2023 Budget: Janice Quist, Finance Chair, presented the proposed AAUW MN budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. **By the direction of the Finance Committee and the State Board of Directors, she moved the adoption of the proposed budget as printed in the meeting booklet.**

Nominating Committee Report: Chair Barb Liukkonen presented the slate of officers for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024:

Pat Powers	Membership
Beth Nienow	Treasurer
Kelsey Waits	Vice President for Public Policy
Saundra Martell	Secretary/Historian

Those proposed for the Nominating Committee for 2022-2023 were:

Patricia Scott
Marlys Mestemacher
Mary Chorewycz

Barb Liukkonen asked for nominations from the floor for the AAUW Funds Vice President position, and there were none. She asked for any further nominations from the floor, and there were none. **The slate**

of nominees was approved by the vote of the delegates, and Secretary Linda Blaisdell cast the elective ballot for those nominees.

Public Policy: Vice President for Public Policy, Jan Carey presented the Public Policy Priorities/MN Legislative Agenda for 2022-2024 found in the meeting booklet and in the brochures distributed to each table. **She then moved their acceptance. There being no discussion, the motion carried.**

Resolutions: Jan Carey, Vice President for Public Policy, explained the process for submitting resolutions from the floor since the committee had not received any resolutions prior to the Annual Meeting. **The rules establishing a time limit for discussion of resolutions were voted on and approved.** The following resolutions were presented from the floor:

- **Resolution #1** submitted by the Ely branch: "AAUW Minnesota actively supports and advocates for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment within the State and on the National level."
Resolution #1` was approved.
- **Resolution #2** submitted the Ely branch: "Branches in Minnesota will actively work to become inclusive in their membership, education, branch activities, and advocacy."
Resolution #2 was approved.

Jan Carey announced that the full text of the resolutions would be placed on the website and printed in *The Pine*.

Recognition of Board Members: Outgoing Board members, Linda Blaisdell, Cyndy Harrison, and Gail Glashen were thanked. The 2022-24 Board members were recognized: Jan Carey, President; Beth Nienow, Treasurer; Sandra Martell, Secretary/Historian; Deanna Ensley, VP Program; Pat Powers, VP Membership; Kelsey Waits, VP Public Policy; Janice Quist, Finance Chair; Teresa Sagen, Administrative Assistant, and Anna Voight, College/University Representative.

Recognition of Mary Ann Lucas Houx: Incoming President Jan Carey expressed our gratitude and appreciation to Mary Ann for her outstanding leadership and announced that a gift of \$300 will be made in her honor to the Greatest Need Fund of AAUW.

President Houx declared that the Business Meeting of the AAUW Annual Meeting was adjourned.

The remainder of the Annual Meeting was comprised of presentation of awards and distinguished speakers.

AWARDS

Gail Glashan referred the delegates to the meeting booklet for the listing of the branches that had received Strategic Action Plan Grants, NCCWSL grants, and the ZOOM grants. She then announced the Young Women for Equity Awards:

- **Natalie Miller**, a senior at Duluth High School received the high school student award of \$500.
- **Anne Zweber**, student at the College of St. Benedict, received the college student award of \$1,000.

Barb Liukkonen announced the AAUW Funds Awards as shown in the meeting booklet:

- She listed the top ten branch contributors to AAUW Funds, both in total amount given and per capita giving.
- Barb also announced the Named Honorees for each gift of \$750 to AAUW Funds

Pat Powers, Membership Chair, announced the Membership Awards (in order of number of members added): **St. Cloud, Austin, Ely, Hastings, Alexandria, and Willmar**

SPEAKERS AND BRANCH TEAM PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Brittany M. Williams, Assistant Professor of Higher Education Administration at St. Cloud State University and member of the St. Cloud branch shared her research on obstacles and opportunities for women within higher education and beyond. Dr. Williams received an AAUW Fellowship for her graduate work on the experiences of Black women administrators in higher education. More information about her work can be found at <https://www.brittanywilliams.com>.

Dr. Joy Plamann, Senior Vice President of Central Operations of CentraCare and President of St. Cloud Hospital, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Plamann spoke about health care trends: where we've been, lessons learned from Covid, and how we're headed toward a consumer-centric health care system and personalized medicine.

Branch Team Enrichment Seminars:

- **Website Development and Policies:** Barb Wismer and Rene Kaluza (St. Cloud), Colleen LeBlanc (Brainerd)
- **Membership Recruitment and Retention:** Pat Obstarczyk (St. Cloud), Wendy Williamson (Duluth), Becky Farber (Minneapolis)
- **Strategic Plan and Rules of Governance:** Linda MacLeod (St. Cloud), Teresa Sagen (Ely)
- **Fun with Fundraising:** Joyce Hummel (St. Cloud), Mary Chorewycz (St. Paul)

Outgoing President Houx closed the 93rd Annual Meeting by thanking attendees, the St. Cloud Area branch and President Linda MacLeod, the Park Event Center staff, and Teresa Sagen, Administrative Assistant. She then declared that the Annual Meeting was officially ended.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Blaisdell
Secretary/Historian

		AAUW Minnesota			
		FY 22			
		Full Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022			
			YTD Actual	FY22 Budget	Advance
Income		Refund of Convention Advance		\$ 1,000.00	
		Convention Profit	\$ 2,702.78	\$ 2,000.00	
		Other contributions	\$ 550.00		
		Membership Dues	\$ 11,452.00	\$ 15,813.00	
		Interest/Dividend Income	\$ 2.43	\$ 1.00	
		Advance Membership Dues for FY23			\$ 135.00
	900	Transfer from Savings/Investments (year end)	\$ 1,781.70		
		Total Income	\$ 16,488.91	\$ 18,814.00	135.00
Expenses	10	National Convention			
		State Convention			
	21	Host Branch Advance		\$ 1,000.00	
	23	Board Expenses	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,721.00	
	27	Award Recipient Costs/Gifts	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00	
		State Convention Total	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 3,221.00	
		Board of Directors			
	40A	Mileage	\$ 850.75	\$ 2,000.00	
	40B	Meals	\$ 799.18	\$ 800.00	
	40C	Lodging/Meeting Room	\$ 1,324.06	\$ 1,500.00	
	43	Financial Records Review	\$ 67.97	\$ 65.00	
	45	State Leader on Loan		\$ 250.00	
	48	Web Site		\$ 147.00	
		Total Board of Directors	\$ 3,041.96	\$ 4,762.00	
		Administration			
	50	Postage	\$ 31.48	\$ 120.00	
	51	Copying/Printing	\$ 285.64	\$ 350.00	
	53	Supplies/Stationery	\$ 204.41	\$ 150.00	
	54	Assumed Named Certificate			
		Administration Total	\$ 521.53	\$ 620.00	
		Other Expenses			
		Miscellaneous expenses	\$ 509.00		
	60	Minnesota Pine	\$ 499.00	\$ 1,100.00	
	110	Public Policy	\$ 207.00		
	70	Coalitions		\$ 750.00	
	75	Donations to AAUW Funds	\$ 5,600.00		
	80	Visibility/Marketing	\$ 11.42		
	700	Branch Project Grants	\$ 2,994.00	\$ 5,000.00	
	800	NCCWSL Grants	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 10,000.00	
		Transfer to Savings/Investments (year end)			
		Other Expenses Total	\$ 11,305.42	\$ 16,850.00	
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,488.91	\$ 25,453.00	
		TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,488.91	\$ 18,814.00	
		NET	\$ -		
		Checking Account Balance 6/30/2022	\$ 28,524.88		
		Savings Account Balance 6/30/2022	\$ 25,014.18		
		Total Funds 6/30/2022	\$ 53,539.06		
		RESERVE REQUIREMENTS \$25,000.00			

AAUW MN Financial Review Year ending June 30, 2022

Committee Members: Caroline Owens, Chair, Deanna Ensley, Jan Bensen, Janice Quist

Procedures:

1. The following documents were distributed to committee members to read prior to meeting with the Treasurer, Beth Nienow:
Prior year AAUWMN Financial Review Report
Financial Review section of the AAUW Finance Toolkit
AAUW MN Standing Rules
AAUW MN Board Minutes – 7/17/21, 9/25/21, 11/13/21, 2/5/22, 4/28/22
AAUW MN Financial Statement July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
2. The Committee met with Beth Nienow on March 8, 2023. Caroline met in person in Rochester, and the remaining committee members joined via Zoom. The following topics were discussed:
Contributions to AAUW Funds: \$300 contributed in honor of Mary Ann Houx, \$300 in honor of past presidents, and \$5,000 in remembrance of Dave Kirkwood.
There were no changes to the AAUW MN Bylaws during FY ended 6/30/22.
Four branches applied for and received project grants.
Four branches applied for and received NCCWSL grants for a total of 9 attendees.
A college student and a high school student received monetary awards through “Helping Our Branches”.
A sample transaction for reimbursement was traced from the requisition to the written check.
AAUW MN conducted no fundraising.
AAUW MN has two bank accounts – Checking and Savings. The bank statements reconciled with the financial records.
The 990N for the year under review was filed by AAUW on behalf of AAUW MN.
AAUW MN uses Quicken for its accounting software. The Treasurer and Financial Officer use a secure Google drive to share requests for payment forms, receipts, financial statements, and other financial information.

Results:

The AAUW MN financial records for the year ended 6/30/2022 were found to be in good order.

The Financial Review Committee has the following comments:

- The donation to AAUW Funds in honor of Lisa West has not been made. The Treasurer will make the donation upon the receipt of a Request for Payment form.
- Electronic votes should be recorded in the minutes of the next board meeting following the vote.
- Outstanding checks and deposits should be listed on the bank statements to avoid having to recalculate the reconciliation.
- An entry to balance the actual financial result is confusing. FY 2022 had a loss of \$1,781.70 and should be reported as such. This would also be true if the year ended with a surplus.

AAUW MINNESOTA Budget FY2024, Janice Quist Finance Chair

Actual
FY2021

Actual
FY2022

Budget
FY2023

Actual
FY2023
Q 1 & 2

Budget
FY2024

Planning Parameters

Membership			1712	1712	1622
Individual	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00

Income

Dues	\$ 14,289.00	\$ 11,452.00	\$ 11,317.00	\$ 14,071.00	\$ 11,317.00
State Meeting Profit		\$ 2,702.78	\$ 2,000.00		
Refund of State Meeting Advance			\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Interest / Dividend Income	\$ 2.43	\$ 2.43	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.02	\$ 2.00
Contributions	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 550.00		\$ 550.00	
Misc Income	\$ 850.00				
Silent Auction for AAUW Funds					
900 Transfer from Savings/Investments	\$ -	\$ 1,781.80	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 16,250.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$17,666.43	\$16,489.01	\$24,318.00	\$14,622.02	\$28,569.00
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Expenses

10 National/Regional Meeting					\$1,000.00
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State Meeting

21 Host Branch Advance			\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
23 Board Expenses		\$ 120.00	\$ 1,721.00		\$ 1,000.00
27 Award Recipient Costs/Gifts		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 1,500.00
State Meeting Total		\$ 1,620.00	\$ 3,221.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00

Board of Directors

40A Mileage	\$ 47.00	\$ 850.75	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 261.50	\$ 1,200.00
40B Meals		\$ 799.18	\$ 800.00	\$ 590.62	\$ 900.00
40C Lodging/Meeting Room		\$ 1,324.06	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 525.61	\$ 1,500.00
43 Financial Records Review		\$ 67.97	\$ 65.00		\$ 100.00
45 State Leader on Loan	\$ 1,800.00		\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
48 Web Site	\$ 30.16		\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Board of Directors	\$ 1,877.16	\$ 3,041.96	\$ 4,115.00	\$ 1,577.73	\$ 4,950.00

Administration

50 Postage		\$ 31.48	\$ 120.00	\$ 22.58	\$ 120.00
51 Copying/Printing		\$ 285.64	\$ 350.00	\$ 106.57	\$ 800.00
53 Supplies	\$ 123.81	\$ 204.41	\$ 150.00	\$ 32.40	\$ 150.00
Administration Total	\$ 123.81	\$ 521.53	\$ 620.00	\$ 161.55	\$ 1,070.00

Other Expenses

Miscellaneous Expenses		\$ 509.00		\$ 500.00	
60 Minnesota Pine	\$ 499.00	\$ 499.00	\$ 240.00		\$ 500.00
110 Public Policy		\$ 207.00			\$ 500.00
70 Coalitions	\$ 770.00		\$ 750.00		-
75 Donation to AAUW Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,600.00			
80 Visibility/Community Involvement		\$ 11.42			\$ 49.00
130 Nominating Committee					
150 Resolutions Committee					
700 Strategic Planning Grants	\$ 2,799.80	\$ 2,994.00	\$ 10,372.00	\$ 298.00	\$ 10,000.00
800 NCCWSL Grants	\$ 410.00		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 7,000.00
Misc Expense	\$ 350.00				
Other Expense Total	\$ 9,828.80	\$ 9,820.42	\$ 16,362.00	\$ 798.00	\$ 18,049.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 11,829.77	\$ 15,003.91	\$ 24,318.00	\$ 2,537.28	\$ 28,569.00
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NET ORDINARY INCOME (Income - Expenses)	\$ 5,836.66	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 0	\$ 12,084.74	\$ 0
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FYI

Checking Account Balance 1/11/2023	\$39,186.54
Saving Account	\$25,015.40
Total Funds 1/11/2023	\$64,201.94

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The AAUW of Minnesota Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for election prior to the 2023 AAUW of Minnesota Annual Meeting on April 29, 2023.

PRESIDENT ELECT 2023-2024

DEANNA ENSLEY

Deanna is currently serving her second term as the AAUW MN VP of Program and has agreed to be nominated for President Elect. She joined AAUW in 2016 after moving to Minnesota in 2015. Deanna is a member of the Grand Rapids Branch. She has served as the Branch Co-President and VP of Programs. Deanna holds a BA Degree from The Evergreen State College and Non-profit Management Certification from Skagit Valley College. Before coming to Minnesota, Deanna's professional experience included Washington State Park and Recreation Commission Park Ranger; Industrial Insurance Claim Manager; Washington State Labor and Industries – Industrial Insurance Claim Manager, and Industrial Relations Agent (wage and hour compliance). Currently, she works (for the past 2.5 years) for an adult foster care agency.

Deanna is an active volunteer in her community. She serves on the following Boards in the community: Itasca Trails Task Force, Itasca County Parks and Recreation Commission, Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission, Itasca Unitarian Fellowship, and the Grand Rapids Friends of the Library.

VP PROGRAM 2023-2025

Vacant (No candidate has applied for this position.)

VP PUBLIC POLICY 2023-2025

KELSEY WAITS

Kelsey, the nominee for VP Public Policy, has substantial experience in the field, having served as a member and as chair of the Hastings School Board and chair of the Dakota County Extension Committee. Kelsey has worked as a lobby coach for OutFront MN PAC and she ran for MN State Legislature in 2020. Although she has been engaged in partisan politics, she says she feels more than confident that she can maintain the line between a partisan and non-partisan role. Kelsey has a master's in Public Policy with a focus on social policy and is currently a PhD student at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs studying historical discrimination, social movements, and creating political change. She has been a member of the Hastings branch since 2017.

TREASURER 2023-2025

BETH NIENOW

Beth, the nominee for Treasurer joined AAUW as a member of the Rochester branch in 1997. She says that she only wanted to belong to a book group and go to an occasional general meeting if the topic interested her. Since then, she has held just about every position on the branch board and is now the State Board Treasurer. Beth has graciously agreed to continue on as Treasurer.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2023-2024

(2 additional members are needed from the branches)

MARY CHOREWYCZ has agreed to continue on the Nominating Committee. Mary is from the St Paul Branch and is a past president of the St Paul Branch.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ALTERNATE 2023-2024
VACANT – NO CANDIDATE HAS APPLIED

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We would like to thank who agreed to be nominated for these important leadership roles on the AAUW of Minnesota State Board of Directors.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee
Pat Powers, Hastings Branch
Rajani Sohni, Rochester Branch
Marlys Mestermacher, Grand Rapids Branch
Pat Scott, Brainerd Branch
Mary Chorewycz, St Paul Branch

Resolution #1

ERA IN MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS the 2021-2023 National AAUW Public Policy Priorities directly call for the passage and ratification of the ERA. AND

WHEREAS the Minnesota Constitution does not have an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). AND

WHEREAS the lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women's lives. The ERA would clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination in employment and wages, reproductive rights, insurance, Social Security, education, and more is a violation of constitutional rights. Importantly, the ERA would also provide new opportunities to seek legal recourse when an individual faces sex discrimination and would place the burden of proof on those who discriminate instead of those fighting for equality. AND

WHEREAS Minnesota AAUW is one of the Allies of ERAMN.org. AND

WHEREAS there are companion bills in the Minnesota Congress, HF00173 and the SF0037 with inclusive Equal Rights Amendment companion text: The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2024 general election. If ratified, the amendment is effective January 1, 2025. The question submitted must be: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended by adding a specific guarantee that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged 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. AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AAUW Minnesota will vigorously support passing the ERA for the Minnesota Constitution.

IMPLEMENTATION: The AAUW Minnesota State Public Policy VP will provide the information in this resolution to the branches to provide to their members and encourage them to contact their Senators to pass SF0037 and their Representatives HF00173.

Submitted by

Minneapolis Branch Public Policy Sub Committee

Veronica Johnson, Public Policy Chair

veronicajj@aol.com, 612-747-3108

Resolution #2

Ratification of ERA

WHEREAS the 2021-2023 National AAUW Public Policy Priorities directly call for the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA.) And

WHEREAS the ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923 and was ratified by 35 of the necessary 38 states by 1977. However, Congress imposed an arbitrary deadline to complete ratification by 1982. With the ratification by Nevada, Illinois and finally Virginia in 2020, we are now closer to the finish line than ever. Now, Congress must do its part to make women's constitutional equality a reality. H.J. Res. 25/S.J. Res. 4 would remove the deadline for ratification, allowing states like Nevada, Illinois and Virginia to count toward ratification, and recognize that the ERA is now the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. And

WHEREAS the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would, once and for all, guarantee constitutional equality between men and women. Its ratification would provide the constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law and that these rights cannot easily be abridged.

WHEREAS the ERA has 3 sections: Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. Section 3: this amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AAUW Minnesota will vigorously support ratification of the ERA in the 118th Congress.

IMPLEMENTATION: The AAUW Minnesota State Public Policy VP will provide the information in this resolution to the branches to provide to their members and encourage them to contact their Senators to pass S.J. Res. 4 and Representatives to pass H.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution to remove the deadline for ratification of the ERA in the 118th Congress (2023-2024).

Submitted by
Minneapolis Branch Public Policy Sub Committee
Veronica Johnson, Public Policy Chair
veronicajj@aol.com, 612-747-3108

Resolution #3

Inclusion/Diversity

WHEREAS research indicates that when any underserved or marginalized population gains equal status and access to opportunity, there is an exponential benefit to all populations.

WHEREAS the AAUW mission is: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

WHEREAS the vision of AAUW is Equity for All and the values we hold include being nonpartisan, fact-based, principled, inclusive, and intersectional.

WHEREAS many of the materials available to branches to promote equality focus on statistics and visual representations of white women and girls when, as members, in keeping with our value of Equality for All and values of being inclusive and intersectional, we are working with a broader audience in our public activities.

WHEREAS the 27 branches in the state serve communities that include diverse ethnic and racial populations. An understanding of the broader audience coupled with the rise in hate crimes has intensified the need to assure that throughout the state we value, partner with, and become allies in the broader work toward Equality for All.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Branches in Minnesota will actively work to become inclusive in their membership, education, branch activities and advocacy.

IMPLEMENTATION: Specific implementation steps will be determined by individual branches based on their overall size and activity level, with a focus on finding ways to create welcoming and inclusive environments for new member recruitment, nurturing and engagement.

Branch program committees or individual designated by the branch president will focus at least one program on helping members become better informed on issues for all diverse populations and/or learning how to be allies in the broader struggle for equality. This program could be a guided discussion, book review and discussion, speaker, or other program type as appropriate.

The branch membership committee or person designated by the branch president will take steps to create welcoming and inclusive environments for new member recruitment, nurturing and engagement.

Branches are encouraged to share their speaker/program ideas and their member recruitment plans through the state website or through any other methods as determined by the AAUW Minnesota Board.

Submitted by AAUW Ely Branch
Kay Vandervort, VP Membership
khv771@gmail.com 218-235-6102

VP Membership Report and Membership Awards for 2023

Pat Powers, VP Membership

“It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and the responsibility, and of individuals working together as a community, to better their lives and their children’s future.” Robert F Kennedy

Community, fellowship, society, humanity pushes us toward joining, being a part of an organization, part of a group that we identify with. AAUW fulfils some of the needs to belong and we know that this organization is working toward making life better for ourselves and for the next generation.

What are we working towards? What do we stand for? What draws us to be members? It is what we stand for. If we look to the Public Policy Priorities, we see economic security for women. Women are half the population. They should see equity in the workplace, equal pay, work-life balance, access to career development and a secure retirement. Women should have equal access to quality public education. We need funding for equitable education from pre-school to post-secondary degrees. We need to break into all the fields of study where equality means that we earn the same as anyone doing the same work. Yes, we see that we need social and racial justice. Look at healthcare, autonomy for our own bodies, protection from violence, civil rights, voting rights.

You are part of the team and team decisions are stronger than those you would make on your own. We are a community. We reach out to our individuals and become better versions of ourselves. We are inspired by each other and become enthused to support all the ideas to accomplish our goals.

We may not have thought that we are working together to accomplish big things, working together as a community to better our lives and the lives of our children’s future but that is where we are. That is what really is the basis for membership. Bring a friend, have a coffee, engage the greater community to join our efforts. Collaborate with like-minded groups. The AAUW priorities are what women see as common goals.

AAUW Minnesota Membership Awards Top 5 Branches with Membership Increase for 2023

St Cloud Branch	15
Ely Branch	14
Hastings Branch	14
Austin Branch	3
Hibbing Branch	3

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS FEB 1 2023
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

BRANCH	Life Member (MBL)	Annual Branch Member (MOB) (+Students)	Total 2023	Total 2022	Rate of Change %
Albert Lea	0	15	15	20	-25
Alexandria Area	0	12	12	12	0
Austin	3	64	67	64	4.7
Brainerd	1	34 (2)	37	37	0
Duluth	12	62	75	83	-9.6
Ely	4	62	66	52	26.9
Faribault	9	35	44	45	-2.2
Fergus Falls	1	41	42	45	-6.7
Grand Rapids	4	75	79	81	-2.4
Hastings	2	101 (1)	104	90	15.6
Hibbing	3	61	64	61	4.9
Hutchinson	0	10	10	12	-16.7
Metro West	8	27	35	35	0
Minneapolis	38	215	253	291	-13.1
Moorhead	1	1	2	7	-71.4
Northeast Metro	2	9	11	11	0
Northfield	7	17 (1)	25	26	-3.8
Owatonna	3	19	42	40	5.0
Red Wing Area	2	47 (2)	51	51	0
Rochester	24	82	106	107	-0.9
Saint Cloud Area	9	102 (25)	136	121	12.3
Saint Croix Valley	4	27	31	37	-16.2
Saint Paul	24	257	281	293	-4.1
Thief River Falls	0	17	17	18	-5.6
Virginia Area	0	15	15	16	-6.2
Willmar	5	26	31	30	3.3
Winona	2	20 (1)	23	25	-8.0
National Members who pay State dues			0		
TOTALS	168	1453 (32)	1653	1710	-3.3

AAUW Minnesota State VP Programs Annual Meeting Report 2022-23

I, Deanna Ray Ensley, as the VP of Programs, submit this report to the membership for the AAUW Minnesota State Virtual Annual Meeting of Saturday, April 29, 2023.

As I end my fourth year of service on the State Board, I have continued to learn to handle more assignments. We have come out of the downturn from the pandemic with some minor changes on our State AAUW Programs. I continue to learn and improve in my performance and tasks as AAUW MN VP of Programs on the state level. I, also, have been acting AAUW MN Education Chair.

We have to continue to consider how to maintain/increase membership, some decrease due to Covid-19 plus more complicated possible generational issues of priorities and interests. Hopefully, through revised and improved programs, we can encourage members to be more involved with the AAUW mission and activities. We have had to keep alignment with continually changing state and organizational mandates, even as some of our members desire to return to closer to familiar life. There will be continued research to redesign grant applications, purposes, activities, and allotments to accompany social and cultural changes.

Jan Carey, as the current AAUW Minnesota State Board President, is very knowledgeable about what is current within the state and national AAUW, plus with what is important to all Minnesota's, young and older. Grant monies continued to be made available to branches to assist with a variety of projects from NCCWSL to promoting all education, equal pay for women and for whatever our imaginative members can dream up.

I have continued my work with the Grand Rapids AAUW Branch, as the VP of Public Policy. This has had a very slow beginning but have some increased interest. I plan to continue to be on the Grand Rapids Branch Board in some capacity, with continued big State Board ambitions for the immediate future on into the upcoming years.

See you next April in person....

AAUW MN
2023 Annual Meeting
Public Policy Report
Submitted by Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN VP Public Policy

A huge thank you to all of the AAUW Public Policy Chairs for helping me get started in my first year as VP of Public Policy. It has been an exciting year as I get my footing and we work together to advocate for AAUW's priorities, both in Minnesota and nationally. This has been a great opportunity for me and I have loved getting to know all of you.

Goals completed in 2022

- Attended AAUW national SPPC (State Public Policy Chairs) monthly ZOOM meetings
- Began monthly update meetings with PP branch chairs
- Continued statewide Email communications to PP branch chairs
- Provided Public Policy updates for publication in The Pine.
- Provided Public Policy updates for the AAUW-MN website
- Worked with PP branch chairs to send over 800 postcards to legislators in support of the ERA
- Worked with PP branch chairs to send 450 postcards to legislators on each of the following AAUW priority issues: Gender Equity in the Workplace, Investment in Education, and Reproductive Rights
- Hosted a presentation for PP branch chairs to educate them on both the federal and MN ERA

Visioning for 2023/24:

Continue building relationships with PP branch chairs and working with them to learn how to better support the advocacy efforts of their branches. Taking a cue from SPPC training sessions and the new national website, AAUW-MN Public Policy envisions a program that will invigorate members and promote advocacy through:

- Submitting updates to be shared on Public Policy page of the state website
- Continued monthly meetings with AAUW MN branch public policy chairs/contacts;
- Creating and hosting AAUW-MN State Public Policy webinars;
- Continue to increase AAUW MN's visibility in Minnesota political advocacy efforts
- Continue building relationships with other organizations who share AAUW's advocacy priorities

AAUW MN Public Policy Priorities

1. Economic Security for All Women

- Equity in the workplace
- Equal Pay

- Enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave

2. Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Instruction in STEM fields
- Opposition to the use of public funds for schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

3. Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including racially-motivated violence
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all
- Protection and expansion of voting rights

There is much work to continue, as normalcy inches forward. Stay well, stay safe.

Moving Forward – Collectively Advocating

.....

AAUW Funds Report and Named Grant Honorees

Rajani Sohni, AAUW MN Funds VP

The Minnesota AAUW funds contributions for 2022, based on the latest reports received from National AAUW, are listed below:

Branch Gifts: \$28,014.00

Individuals Gifts: \$75,459.36

The majority of the donations were made towards supporting the 9110-AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. The other funds supported by MN AAUW are: 4450-Education & Training Fund, 4449-Economic Security Fund, 2504-National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarships, and 4452-Leadership Fund.

Based on the most recent report received from National, the highest branch contribution amount is from the Minneapolis branch with the Rochester branch having the highest total of individual contributions.

The report does not include a break-down of actual individual and branch contributions. Due to this, publication of further details, such as Top Ten total gifts and Top Ten per capita donations, are not included in this report. Every branch contribution represents the generosity and support of programs vital to the organization.

Through their AAUW Funds contributions, many branches across Minnesota qualified to honor special people as Named Grant Honorees. A branch was able to recognize one special person for every \$750 that it contributed to one of the previously mentioned AAUW funds.

Below is the list of 2022 Named Grant Honorees. We acknowledge and thank these women, who were recognized for their contributions to AAUW, their branches, and their communities. AAUW MN branches should be proud of their work and financial awards they've each given in the names of these deserving individuals.

Brainerd	Beatrice Eades
Duluth	Dr. Bonnie Edwards, Diana Brainard
Ely	Karen Reichensperger, Darlene Nemanich, Barbara Liukkonen
Faribault	Kathy Larson, Karen Rasmussen, Sue Olson, and Kathryn Speulda
Grand Rapids	Donita Soucek
Hastings	Lisa Hedin
Hibbing	Becky Kapella

Minneapolis	Rita Britton, Ellen Copperud, Carol Sheldon, Heidi Girsch, Shari Parsons, Beverly Erickson, Barbara Taft, Peggy Pluimer, Martha Wilson, Jennifer Johnson, Glenna Case
Northeast Metro	Linda Ruggles
Owatonna	Pamela Schultz
Red Wing	Janet Brandt, Carmen Bertelsen
Rochester	Judy Argue, Maryette Braithwaite, Kathy Lawrence
St. Paul	Cheryl Brown, Pam Lande, Jan Parkman, Jan Anderson, Sandy Crum



**THE AAUW BOARD OF DIRECTORS WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND
THANK THESE VISIONARY MINNESOTA LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS**

Anonymous

Karen M. Christenson

Yvonne C. Condell

Susan J. Grove

Catherine Haslag

Carol A. James

Veronica Johnson

Marilyn Kaeli

Karen S. & David

Kirkwood

Mary Lillquist

Barbara C. Link

Bani Q. Mahadeva

Elizabeth Mahan &

Thomas Shaw

Eileen Newhouse

Beth Nienow

Alta M. Oben

René L. Perrance

Jaime Price Anderson

Karen L. Reichensperger

Noell W. Reinhiller

Patricia M. Rice

Colleen E. Rolling

Robert Rosenbrook

Teresa K. Sagen

Nancy E. Sommer

Barbara Wonson-Liukkonen



For more information on joining the AAUW Legacy Circle, please contact
AAUW Advancement Director Heather Miller at planned-giving@aauw.org or (202) 785-7766.

AAUW MN Secretary/Historian Annual Report

I prepared and distributed Minutes of the July 30, 2022 Board Meeting; prepared a record of August 25, 2022 action by email to appoint Ashley Sarne Website Manager; prepared and distributed Minutes of the Oct 22, 2022 Board Meeting; prepared and distributed Minutes of the Jan 14, 2023 Board Meeting; and added these documents to the AAUW MN electronic and hard copy records. Before each Board Meeting, I compiled Board Member Reports and distributed them to all members by email. I also contacted Branches to determine contacts for archive issues.

Saundra Martell

AAUW MN *Pine* Editor Annual Report 2022-

I prepared and published the Fall *Pine* and the Winter *Pine*, sending each to Branch Presidents to be resent to members. In preparation of each issue of the *Pine*, I reviewed AAUW MN Board minutes, contacted Branch Newsletter Editors and other officers, and reviewed Branch and AAUW MN social media and websites for content. I also included in the *Pine* content sent to me by Branches.

Saundra Martell

AAUW MN Website Manager Report

A Website Manager is responsible for the overall performance and maintenance of a website. They serve as the primary contact with Site Resources for website updates. Their primary goal is to ensure that the website runs smoothly, updates content regularly, and analyzes user-friendliness. The updates that have been done so far were:

- Post branch newsletters
- Change broken links to working ones
- Rearrange main menu tabs and adding them to the to avoid overcrowding, increase user readability, improve user experience
- Organize links and add Facebook page preview to sidebar menu
- Add an 'Around the State' homepage section that showcases MN branches events and highlights
- Add a 'Take Action' page on main menu that showcases events and announcements about ways to get involved with AAUW's work
- Create a welcome graphic on homepage

Ashley Sarne

AAUW MN Administrative Assistant Report

The year was productive and enjoyable as I worked with other Board members and branches as we maneuvered the AAUW Community Hub. With the cooperation of branches and board members, I updated and compiled the 2022-2023 AAUW MN State Directory, the Helping Our Branches in 2023 Booklet and finally, the AAUW MN 2023 Annual Meeting Booklet.

Teresa K Sagen

AAUW MN Helping Our Branches in 2023

**Submitted by Deanna Ray Ensley, AAUW Minnesota State VP Programs, Acting
AAUW MN Education Chair**

An AAUW MN Strategic Plan for 2021–2026 was approved in 2021 by the AAUW MN Board and is closely aligned with the focus of the AAUW National Strategic Plan. The plan includes four goals: Education and Training, Economic Security, Leadership, and Governance and Sustainability. The board approved grant money to help Minnesota branches implement the Strategic Plan Actions, working to achieve AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

There were no applications for the Young Women for Equity Awards to be announced at the 2023 annual meeting. A \$500 award for a young woman in high school and a \$1000 award for a young woman in college were available! These awards are based on a project or activity specifically addressing women's and girls' equity issues, reflecting AAUW's mission.

The Leader on Loan Program provides branches the opportunity to have a board member, team of state leaders or teams of past leaders provide branch support.

AAUW MN has made a new connection by teaming up with the Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship (CEM). This is a private family scholarship for women who have a five-year or longer accumulative gap in their post-secondary education and who are attending or have been admitted to Minnesota colleges and universities. Let's continue to spread the word! Information and application forms for all of the above, can be found in our AAUW MN Helping Our Branches in 2023, on the AAUW MN website: <https://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

For more information, see <https://aauw-mn.aauw.net/helping-our-branches/>

AAUW of Minnesota Helping Our Branches 2023

Grant applications were read and evaluated by AAUW members. Reader comments included: ‘...we should fund Duluth's Northland Gathering request’, ‘Overall, it’s a great project! Please award them the funding!’ Here are snapshots of branch projects. Read follow-up reports in future AAUW MN *Pine* newsletters.

Strategic Plan Actions Grants awards...

1. Duluth’s “AAUW’s Mission to Advance Gender Equity for Women and Girls Through Research, Education and Advocacy” \$500.00

This event will focus on leadership issues for women welcoming Duluth’s Mayor Emily Larson and our own AAUW Minnesota State President Jan Carey. Additionally, two plenary panels to include representatives from such areas as green energy and sustainability; sports; STEM; ministry; politics; arts; politics and activism and farming.

2. Red Wing’s “Improving Literacy in Third Grade Readers” \$1000

Our goal for this year, is to have more of a positive impact on literacy scores for our third graders in Red Wing, Minnesota, by supporting a fun and creative learning environment for our students.

3. St. Cloud’s “Preparing & Presenting Work Smart/Start Smart at 2023 NCCSWL” \$1,250

Jan Bensen (Past President) with an assistant, Hannah Mikels, will design and present Work Smart and Start Smart to the NCCSWL attendees with the result being a video to reintroduce these great sales trainings to young women throughout Minnesota.

NCCWSL \$500 Grants were awarded to...

One grant was offered per branch for those branches who have sent students in the past. This covers most of the registration cost for a college student to attend leadership training, inspiration, and networking at AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders aka NCCWSL 2023.

Brainerd Ely Red Wing Hastings Duluth Rochester Minneapolis



Branch Highlights

2022-2023

AAUW MN Branch Highlights 2022-2023

AAUW Albert Lea

One of the Albert Lea branch program highlights was a presentation by Stacy Lang, the daughter of Barb Lang, AAUW Program Chair for 20 years. Stacy's career is in designing costumes for movies and celebrities. Stacy spoke about her career using a PowerPoint to a crowd of ninety people at the Marion Ross Theater. Her folks, Neil and Barb, managed this theater for many years. Our fundraiser was a great success!

AAUW Austin

The Austin Branch has had a lively year starting with an Ice Cream Social in August and local candidate forums live-streamed on Facebook in October. We had a social event in December with members bringing books to exchange.

In January, we hosted our third annual Story Show for scholarships to Riverland Community College. Various community members graciously agree to share their stories on a topic, which this year was "Opportunity". We raised over \$4000.00 through this event.

In March, we are hosting our annual Women's History month assembly at Austin Senior High School and sponsoring Women's History projects in the AP History class.

We have also had a professional financial planner talk to our members about the importance of women taking control of their own finances no matter what stage of life we are in.

We also have two active book groups, a Great Decisions group, a Travel Group, and a once-a-month just come lunch.

AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area

Brainerd hosted the **Northland Get Together in October 2022**. Six Northeastern Minnesota AAUW branches participated in the gathering. There were 45 participants at the NGT. It had been several years of planning due to covid.

The theme keynote workshop focused on understanding Indigenous and Immigrant Women's challenges. A panel of women presenters shared powerful life stories about historical trauma, epigenetics and how trauma changes the genes, the ways in which women have to adjust to the challenges to help their family and community survive. The afternoon program included holiday decorating tips from a local business owner and Master Gardener volunteer.

2023 is the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Brainerd AAUW branch. Plans have been made to celebrate on March 11, 2023. But Mother Nature intervened, and the celebration has been postponed to September 16, 2023. The Branch History committee has been scouring the Crow Wing County Historical Center archives, members materials and have developed a branch history booklet.

The successful **Brain Buster Trivia Challenge** was held on January 21, 2023. Rebecca Timmins is the new Quiz Master. The questions were difficult. There was one "perfect" round by one team. That is a first-

time occurrence. The event raised funds to provide scholarships to Central Lakes College students through the CLC Foundation. Comments were “this was the BEST trivia challenge ever”!

AAUW Duluth

The Duluth Branch had our Summer Social in September and announced that we had 3 scholarship winners this year. In October we toured the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, its art, and architectural features. Our November Program, "Our Common Call to Hospitality-Welcoming Afghan Newcomers," told the process of the Peace Welcome Circle and two young Afghan women shared their moving stories of escaping Afghanistan and relocating to Duluth. Our Winter Social in December was filled with music, our speaker shared his story and LGBTQ culture, and donations were collected and delivered to Safe Haven women's shelter.

In February, we continued, "The Daughters Series" over Zoom and Sarah Bosch (daughter of branch member, Nancy Aldridge) spoke about her joy to be the Science Specialist at Horace Mann Elementary in St. Paul and how she works to bring racial equity to her classroom. On International Women's Day, Jackie Falk, our Duluth Branch Public Policy Liaison, provided us with the history of ERA legislation and ways to help push it over the finish line. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for May at the beautiful Kitchi Gammi Club with speaker, Dr. Melissa Walls, Director of the Center for Indigenous Health's Great Lakes Hub.

We co-sponsored three events with local partners: the Twin Ports Trafficking Awareness Month Opening Ceremony in January; "Fannie Lou Hamer: Stand-Up," a documentary film about the civil rights leader, and its discussion in February; and in March a presentation about the National Popular Vote by Eileen Reavey, National Grassroots Director for National Popular Vote.

AAUW Ely

During the 2022-2023 AAUW year, our branch has provided several presentations that were well-attended by the Ely community as part of a multi-year educational project called Awareness...Then Change. This initiative, launched in 2021, is designed to increase understanding, honor the heritage of the area, and set the stage for supporting policy and social action to reduce risk and support the resilience of Indigenous women and children. In September, the branch hosted "Unhappy Hour" for the community at a local coffee house/bar to educate the public about the pay inequities of our BIPOC sisters with particular focus on Indigenous women. In October, the branch invited a coordinator from PAVSA (Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault) to discuss current issues facing the Native American population and ways we can become allies and help build safer, more responsive systems for all. In November, a grassroots organizer from the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa spoke about local economy building for Indigenous populations and the food sovereignty movement. In February, we hosted a pizza luncheon for about 125 students that attended a day of Indigenous-focused films as part of the four-day End-of-the-Road Film Festival at our local theater. In March, the branch held a community event focusing on the Treaty of 1854 and the impact on Indigenous healthcare as presented by a physician (and Ely AAUW Board Member). Ely EMPOWER (a local advocacy group for women in the Ely community) contributed a portion of the funding for the "Awareness...Then Change" initiative.

Last summer, our branch hosted two community events with big turnouts celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX. The first event was a presentation with two impressive speakers – an Olympic gold medal winner from the 1988 U.S. wheelchair basketball team and a starter on the U.S. Junior Pan American Gold Metal team and all-time leading scorer at the U of Iowa. The second event was an

inspirational presentation highlighting the positive impact Title IX has had on 15 Ely area women – young and old – sharing their stories.

The branch, jointly with Ely Empower, sponsored three girls at a four-day Engineering Camp at Itasca Community College last summer. In the fall, a scholarship was provided to a female student at Minnesota North College. In February, scholarships were awarded to two sophomores for the five-day Camp Atsokan Writing Camp next summer. Every spring (except during Covid), the branch holds a STEM Workshop for girls in Grades 5-8. We plan to send a young college woman to NCCWSL this June.

Our auctions and raffles during our Garden Party in July, the Holiday Celebration in December, and the End-of-Year Banquet in May as well as member donations go a long way in funding our scholarships and programs. We believe most of our membership increase since February 2022 is due to interest in our mission-based programs and visibility in the community because of our events. And we are thrilled that about 30 percent of the new members are under the age of 35.

AAUW Faribault

Since meeting two years on Zoom, our group has returned to meeting again in person. In October we sponsor a get to know your Candidate Form for elections of our local government and State Senate and Representative, allowing the public a question answer program.

Hosting a large Halloween Breakfast is a big fund raiser for our scholarship program. In the Spring we also have a Book Sale fundraiser. Local support of both events is well received.

Our Book Club group is also very active discussing many great books as well as taking tours to bookstores and a play on a book reading.

For Women of the Month, our group writes articles on women in history or local women which are published in our local newspaper. Our monthly meetings are planned with interesting speakers with women who are in business or politics.

Getting together socially is very important for our group holding monthly coffees and dinner for groups of birthdays. Planning a social meeting time for the group to take part in meditation, relaxation or a craft is also important to us.

AAUW Fergus Falls

The Fergus Falls AAUW branch hosted their Holiday Tour of Homes fundraiser on November 5th, 2022. Six Fergus Falls homeowners opened their beautifully decorated homes for the public to experience holiday décor ahead of the season. They included a Habitat for Humanity home, two historic homes (one on the 100-year registry and one 150 years matching our Fergus Falls' sesquicentennial), a Shouse (Shed house), and a home with a wood shop to appeal to both men and women. 15 area businesses donated their décor or other goods to make the event a success.

Branch members participated in the event by volunteering, promoting, purchasing tickets, coordinating, baking, and giving financial support. We sold 575 tickets which raised more than \$12,000 towards scholarships for women.

Event chair Karen Nitzkowski says, "It's our only fundraiser which we use to provide scholarships for women to attend institutions of higher education. It's so rewarding to be able to award scholarships to

amazing women. The essays from the women who apply showcase a depth of character and resiliency giving hope for our future.”

AAUW Grand Rapids

First, we have a program at each of our regular meetings. One of the favorites was the program: Reflections from the Polish-Ukrainian Border: Impacts on Women started off the fall with Presenter, Bernadine Joselyn, Former Diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Russia. Her presentation titled, Reflections from the Polish-Ukrainian Border: Impacts on Women gave us insight about the plight of women from her recent travels to the Polish-Ukraine border to assist war evacuees.

Second, one of our fundraising efforts was to fund two camperships for one middle school girl and one high school girl to attend the Minnesota North College – Itasca Summer Engineering Camp (STEM). Our members also donated supplies and funds for snacks to support the STEM effort.

AAUW Hastings

Here are a couple highlights from what has been a really great year in Hastings. We have grown our membership to more than 100, increased the number and type of scholarships being given by the branch and achieved some really great fundraising and fellowship.

- Two Summer Fundraising/Fellowship/Membership events were an amazing success -
 - First, AAUW Hastings hosted a used book sale tent at the Hastings Rivertown Days Arts and Crafts Fair in July 2022. We were able to have members work together before, during and after the sale to build fellowship within the Branch. The booth was prime visibility for AAUW Hastings Branch during the two days of our community's summer celebration. Gross sales exceeded \$700 allowing our branch to cover event costs, increase our support of Hastings Reads (an annual community "one-book" event in February), and contribute to our Branches high school scholarships.
 - Second, AAUW Hastings hosted our second Wine Soiree in August 2022. This was done as our branch's primary fundraiser (7 raffle items), Share the Future membership event, and program year kickoff event. In all categories expectations were exceeded. Over \$5,000 was raised for high school and NCCWSL scholarships, the event was a primary driver for moving our membership to over 100 from 87 the previous year (6 Shape the Future Members joined at this event), and attendance at our programs all of 2022-23 has been higher than previous years.
- AAUW Hastings reconsidered our high school scholarship program. For many years we have been providing a \$2,500 scholarship to a Hastings HS female graduate with high academic achievement. Upon reconsideration by a committee of interested members, it was decided to offer two scholarships to the 2023 graduating class, the first of \$2,000 using previous selection criteria and second of \$1,000 to a Hastings female graduate who is entering a trade or 2-year college program supporting vocational training in a male dominated field. We are excited to assess the success of this scholarship switch over the next few years.
- AAUW hosted a joint program with the Hastings High School Feminism Club with representatives of the MN Federal Reserve discussing equity regarding women's wages and economic value, specifically through COVID. This was a program funded with AAUW MN's Strategic Plan Program Grant.

AAUW Hibbing

The Hibbing branch has had another wonderful year. Our biggest event each year is our famous annual book sale. Last year we held our first sale since the start of the pandemic, and it was a record-breaking year for sales. We were able to give out larger scholarships to all applicants. The sale had typically been held in early February, but due to scheduling conflicts with our building, we had to move it later in the spring. Patrons definitely seemed to enjoy the better weather for venturing up here (some coming from the cities and even farther), so we decided to keep holding it in the spring. We are actively preparing for the 2023 sale coming up in May.

Throughout the rest of the year, we enjoy exceptional programs. We recently welcomed a presentation from a former Future Collegian whom we helped send to Washington DC to complete research for her master's project. We've also welcomed area medical professionals and a sign language specialist, and we will get to meet a local police canine who specializes in electronics detection. In addition to our wonderful programs, we are also continuing our bus trips to see plays in Duluth.

AAUW Metro West

We are operating this year with a reduced number of officers, so our activities have been focused on monthly programs as well as an active book club. It has been great to be able to meet in person again, after meeting by Zoom during the pandemic. We are trying something new this year: most of our meetings have been luncheons at the Gold Nugget Restaurant in Minnetonka. We order from the menu, then enjoy a program followed by a short business meeting. We have had a variety of interesting and educational speakers, including Hopkins School Board member Katie Pederson; Cheryl Engelbretson, culinary nutrition expert, personal chef, and health & wellness coach; Dr. Alisa Tomette, founder of Wholistic Health U., provider of health programs for seniors; and Kelly Hinnenkamp, Annandale City Administrator.

AAUW Minneapolis

It has been a year of change for the Minneapolis Branch of AAUW. After over 70 years of owning the Gale Mansion and starting and operating the Gale Business, we decided to sell both. The Covid 19 pandemic made running an event business very challenging. Having a house that was 111 years old and in need of constant repairs was also difficult. Our branch decided it was time to focus on being an organization rather than a house and a business. Surprisingly we received offers fairly quickly. On October 14, 2022 we sold our house and business. We are now renters instead of owners and continue to meet in the Gale Mansion. We are in the process of developing a new strategic plan and deciding how we will move forward to meet the AAUW mission of equality for women and girls.

In the process of getting ready to sell the house, we have found a treasure trove of historical pictures and articles. We recently received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to complete an oral history of the Minneapolis Branch. So far two of our members have been interviewed. Four or more are soon to share their knowledge of our branch. When this is complete, we hope to apply for another grant to digitalize our archives. The Hennepin County Library has agreed to store our historical documents.

We continue to have 3 programs every Monday. The programs this year have been outstanding. It would be difficult to choose just one or even two to write about. The next program seems to be better than the last one. Each Monday we meet in person and on Zoom for those members who cannot attend or who are out of town. We have had speakers from other states and countries who speak to us on

Zoom. Visit our website if you are interested in seeing some of the wonderful speakers, we have had this year and those yet to come. minneapolis-mn.aauw.net

AAUW Owatonna

The Owatonna branch kicks off every fall with our annual fundraiser, **The Taste of Steele County**. We have twelve generous restaurants who donate their food and their time to serve samples for up to 300 community members. The proceeds go to fund scholarships and camperships for women and girls from Steele County. It also provides funds to send young women to the NCCWLS conference.

The Owatonna branch loves to read! We have two active book groups. Members can go to either or both.

The Owatonna branch members have enjoyed many wonderful programs this fall and winter. In November our program was titled Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice. We discussed some of the challenges females face in this current landscape. In January, our program was titled More than Buzzwords- Celebrating Diversity for a More Inclusive World. We learned more about diversity, equity, and inclusion from The Alliance for Greater Equity organization in Owatonna. In February, a St. Olaf professor presented her program titled Sacred Waters. She discussed water's generative and destructive capacities and how water has long intrigued human societies. Attendees learned how we can all be more aware of our relationship with our regional watershed and the struggles of water disparities worldwide.

Please visit our website at owatonna-mn.aauw.net

AAUW Red Wing Area

On August 7th, 2022, we featured a public celebration of the 50th Year of the passage of Title IX in our River City Days Parade. We sponsored a large float pulled by a pickup. On the float we had an enthusiastic group of young Girl Scouts (Brownies) tossing a basketball back and forth and into the basketball hoop. The girls were working on their Sisterhood badge or a Good Citizen badge. Other sports paraphilia strewn about the whole float – complete with balloons and flyers featuring the contribution of Title IX to girls in sports and academia. This event gave visibility to our local AAUW branch. Several members marched alongside the float passing out AAUW information on membership, upcoming events and of course candy to onlookers.

Perhaps our most notable endeavor this year was our Literacy Program. Thanks to the grant received from AAUW-MN we created an ongoing program promoting 3rd grade literacy through efforts to improve their learning environments. The purpose: To support and encourage 3rd grade students when they take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) test for the first time in reading and literacy. We collaborated with teachers, the RW Public Library, United Way, local businesses and parents as partners. Our members sewed roughly 190 bags. The bags contained a parent information sheet about the importance of good nutrition/sleep, a short story with practice bubble test, #2 pencil, a bookmark to color, library application, coloring sheet about local native plants, (3) colors, a fidget toy, a healthy snack and a peppermint.

We advertised the program in the local paper, school and through our outreach events monthly. Each year we will re-evaluate the program's success and determine how to further improve our programming. Education is a cornerstone for AAUW. A collective effort to improve literacy in communities with parents/students is huge! Students need to know we support and care about them! We, believe this program could be a model for other communities.

AAUW Rochester

This year we were excited to be able to meet in person for our general meetings. We have seven general meetings during the year, including two dinner meetings and one luncheon. At our luncheon meeting this year our silent auction raised funds to support sending our NCCWSL student to the conference in May. Our general meetings are held in the evening at various Rochester locations. Topics we have heard about this year include collaborative programs at our community college which allows high school students to receive college credit while attending high school, a detailed description of the voting process in Olmsted County, a local singer/songwriter performing her original songs, author Virginia Wright Peterson discussing her latest book on the history of Rochester, and a high school senior describing her research into breast cancer.

Most of our board meetings are held via Zoom for convenience of our members and to avoid having to get out on the dark, cold winter evenings.

Our branch supports six book clubs, which attract new members, and a long-standing Foreign Policy discussion group which selects topics from the Great Decisions book.

Through the efforts of our Membership officers, we have been able to maintain a steady number of members and recognize many of our members who have become Honorary Life members (50+ years).

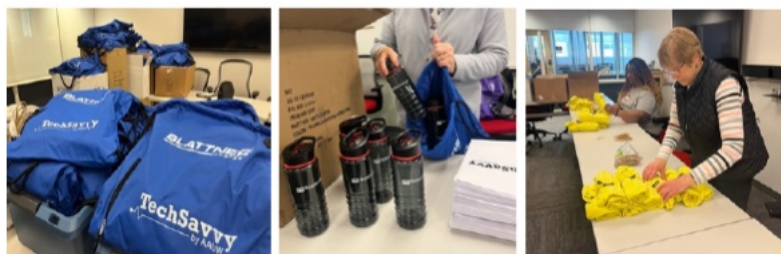
AAUW St. Cloud

TECH SAVVY 2023 OVERVIEW

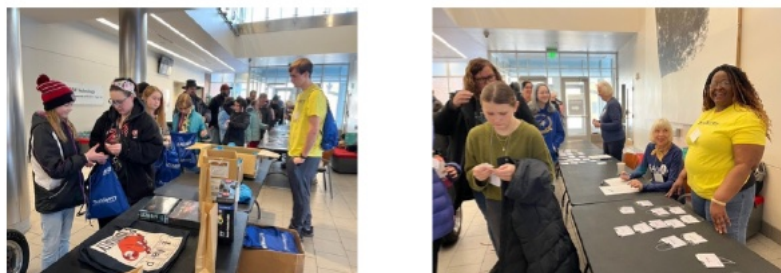
By the numbers...

Submitted by Jan Bensen

- 89 girls attended from 17 schools and three Boys and Girls Club locations
- 15 workshop presenters
- 25 college student STEM majors
- 15 adults from the planning committee and the local AAUW branch
- COUNTLESS volunteers made this event happen!



Filling the backpacks with pens, water bottles, notepads, playing cards, snacks, and more.



Students checking in and getting all their goodies and the workshop schedule.

AAUW St. Croix Valley

The St. Croix Valley Branch has had an active year beginning with a celebration of our 75th Anniversary complete with “diamonds” as part of our centerpieces. Stories were shared, and scrapbooks were on display during our September potluck. Programs this year have included a presentation by an organization working with recent Afghan refugees, a panel discussion by local librarians concerning their experiences with banned books, volunteer work restocking food shelves and sorting donated clothing at Valley Outreach in Stillwater, a visit to ArtReach to learn about their work in assisting local arts organizations and to view the work of local women artists, and our annual Holiday luncheon. Members are also active in our Book Group, Movie Group, Theater Group, and Gourmet Group. These groups meet monthly or bimonthly, and activities vary from discussion of a book or movie, to attending a production of a play at a Twin Cities theater, to preparing and sharing a brunch, lunch, or dinner based on a theme (this year’s theme: Dinner Diplomacy). During the summer, we usually plan a fun outing and a book discussion based on a “light” book.

AAUW St. Paul

Submitted by Carol Hanson, AAUW St. Paul President

Our year has been busy as we get back to full speed. We have had a great turnout in terms of new members this year, with about 20 joining us. We continue to provide about 45 programs throughout the year. Our theatre gatherings at the History Theatre in St. Paul are going well. We have attended two plays this year, with the third on the horizon. We keep in touch with our members through our constantly improving website.



We have expanded our evening programs to three so far, and we hope to do more. In October of 2022, we hosted Prof. Gavrilyuk, founder of REBUILD UKRAINE,

addressing the crisis and Minnesota-based efforts to restore hope in Ukraine in a moving program of words and images, with live music by pianist Ora Itkin and cellist Laura Sewell.



In March of 2023 the title of our program was *United States Diplomacy Today: In the 2020s, What Do American Diplomats Do and How Do They Do It?* Ambassador Ross Wilson, Chair of Global Minnesota’s Board of Directors was our speaker. As a career diplomat between 1979 and 2021, he served as United States ambassador to Azerbaijan and Turkey and as chargé d’affaires in Turkey, Georgia, and Afghanistan. Our third program, taking place this April is featuring Kevin Kling. Kevin Kling is an American storyteller and a commentator for National Public Radio.

Renowned Chinese pipa player and composer, Gao Hong graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing where she studied with pipa master Lin Shicheng.

As a composer, Ms. Hong has received numerous commissions from a variety of foundations and her works have been performed by world-class musicians in many parts of the concert world. In 2000, *Song of the Pipa*, a play based on Ms. Hong's life and the life of Chinese poet, Bai Juyi, received 20 performances by Theater Mu and featured live musical accompaniment and new compositions by Ms. Hong.



Our residence has continued to have upkeep done, from a new dishwasher to freezer repair, and just general maintenance required to keep an old house alive and vibrant. The College Club business does well, and we have had more than 100 weddings in the previous year. We are busy!

AAUW Thief River Falls

October 2022

As we welcome a change of seasons and the upcoming winter months, thoughts of navigating icy sidewalks and preventing falls cross our minds. Working on increasing strength and balance have become priorities for many of our fitness programs. Our October AAUW program, *Staying Fit after Fifty* presented by Arnie Reilly, Exercise Specialist at Sanford Wellness Center will be held at the Wellness Center. Members were instructed to wear comfortable clothing as Arnie taught simple exercises that focused on strength and balance.

November 2022

AAUW Women of Honor

The Thief River Falls Branch of the American Association of University Women selected Valerie Larson Heyn and Heidi Armstrong Garry as the 2022 AAUW Women of Honor. The women were selected for their leadership abilities, career accomplishments and service to their communities.

AAUW has been hosting Women of Honor since 1983 and has honored 129 women who have made outstanding contributions to the area. Valerie and Heidi were honored at a reception that was held on November 21 at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. Valerie was introduced by Faith Rud while Heidi was introduced by Deb Zak.

February 2023

AAUW met at the Thief River Falls Food Shelf on Monday, February 20, 2023. Alecia Hunt, Food Shelf Director, arranged to serve a lunch based of foods available for those who use the Food Shelf to feed their families. Following a tour of the facility and an update on trends in food shelf usage in the area, Alecia also highlighted the work of the Salvation Army as she is also on the board for that organization. AAUW members volunteer as bell ringers for the Salvation Army and wanted to know how the funds are used. AAUW members donated over 90 pounds of personal hygiene products to the Food shelf for the program.

AAUW Virginia

The Virginia Branch of AAUW has had programs with a variety of speakers and topics.

We sponsor two scholarships at the Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN. The scholarship for a non-traditional woman in the sciences, humanities, arts and fine arts, math, and engineering, is awarded each fall at the scholarship banquet at MRC.

The Dr. Barbara Avren Memorial Scholarship is awarded every two years to a woman at MRC studying

the sciences, medicine, or engineering.

The Virginia AAUW does a Plant Sale as a fundraiser to support primarily our first scholarship. It is done with the Cherry Greenhouse in May and is widely supported by our Iron Range communities. In the last few years, our typical plant sale with beautiful plants, vegetables, and herbs, became a gift certificate fundraiser. The gift certificates are available for use before Mother's Day.

Our Spring Banquet last May included dinner at the Eshquaguma Country Club. The Hibbing Branch of AAUW were invited guests. Our speaker discussed her work at the Star of the North Maternity Home, in Duluth and Hibbing, with unwed and displaced mothers as they transition.

Our summer gathering was a potluck at one of our member's lake home on Lake Vermilion. We dined on the deck overlooking the lake. Our speaker did a presentation on her role in the corporate world, from a female engineer's perspective.

This fall, our Virginia branch sponsored a Candidate Forum for the Mayoral and City Counselor races. Our members organized, chaired, hosted, and moderated the forum. Candidate introductions, pre-determined questions distributed in advance, and questions were asked of all of the candidates in random order. At the completion of all the questions, the format included a Q and A with the audience. This took place at MRC, and it was a privilege to participate in.

Two of our members met with Renee Passal, our local WDIO Channel 10 News anchor and reporter, with her cameraman. The interview revolved around our upcoming election and the importance local elections play in our lives. It was also a message to exercise our right to vote.

Linda Tyssen, from the Mesabi Range Paper, wrote an article with information from two of our members, regarding our Virginia Branch of AAUW, our purpose and Mission Statement, our 2 scholarships, the Plant Sale, our programs, and our local history.

This winter, one of our members gave a presentation on her work with the State of MN as a Community Action Grant Manager. Her liaison work supports Tribal Nations and helps grant recipients to be successful and compliant with the law in their anti-poverty efforts.

An additional presentation was from an elementary school counselor and the need for her services that are provided in our local schools.

We also had a presentation by another member on the Mesabi Fit Coalition, formerly the Y. There was a discussion of the progress on the community to secure funding, write grants, and gather community support for classes and programs in the future.

This concludes a very busy year of the Virginia Branch of AAUW.

AAUW Willmar

The Willmar Branch of AAUW had an exciting 2022-23 season with several highlights. In October we hosted award-winning children's author Mike Wohnoutka for a brunch and presentation open to the community. Tickets sold out, everyone had a wonderful time, and we raised money for local scholarships as well.

Mental health was in the spotlight this April with a community talk by Mindy Greiling, former state legislator, mental health advocate, and author of a book about her family's own journey with serious and persistent mental illness. Her presentation was followed by a panel of local mental health providers. We had multi-generational fun this year with a craft project that drew on our longstanding partnership with the girls' group home. We had a well-timed educational program in the fall on voting, and we spent a Saturday morning at the movies with the AAUW documentary "Granny's Got Game."

As a plus, we welcomed five new members to our AAUW Branch this year! We look forward to another exciting year in 2023-24!

AAUW Winona

Our members were active in a number of mid-term local mid-term election activities. AAUW and the LWV collaborated on the local candidate forums in the Fall of 2022. There was also an election recap panel discussion with two local university political science professors and the Winona County Auditor in November. All the presentations were well attended.

Our Branch Centennial is going to be celebrated along with our Annual Meeting on April 22nd, 2023. We have been collecting quite a bit of the Branch history including pictures of officers, presentations and activities during the last 100 years that will be included in the program booklet for all attendees to take home.