



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

It's hard to believe that fall is almost here, and our first branch meeting of the season is around the corner. Our branch has been busy since our last meeting in May!

Our Fourth Annual Garden Party on July 15 was a fabulous success. A big thank you to Mary and Dave Setterholm for hosting the event at their beautiful home with glorious flower and vegetable gardens. And a huge thank you to Kay Vandervort who chaired the event, silent auction, and raffle along with the Garden Party committee. And thank you to all the members who donated items and experiences for the silent auction/raffle and food for the lovely luncheon. We couldn't do it without you. This event raised almost \$2,400 for scholarships, STEM workshops, and programs that support our mission of equity for women and girls!

In early August, our AAUW branch along with EMPOWER sponsored a one woman performance of the life of Jeannette Rankin who in 1916 was the first woman to be elected to Congress. J Emily Peabody, an actress from the Twin Cities, reenacted highlights of the fascinating life of one of the most progressive voices of the last century. This show won best drama earlier this year at the Tucson Fringe Festival and has been performed across the U.S.

Both the Garden Party and the Jeanette Rankin event resulted in several women wanting to support our mission and became new members of our branch!

Our branch's Public Policy Committee continued to meet during the summer and is busy planning numerous exciting events as you'll read below in the Public Policy section.

Two fun pop-up member gatherings were held – one in late May at the Boathouse and one on August 31 at Barb Soderberg’s beautiful home in Eagles Nest. These pop-ups are a great way to get to know other members better and welcome new members.

There is a great opportunity on October 7 to attend the AAUW Northland Get Together in Duluth. The program looks fantastic! The theme is “View from the Top: Women Leaders” which will highlight leadership issues. The impressive list of women speakers includes the Mayor of Duluth, President of St. Scholastica, President of the Duluth City Council, Duluth City Attorney, Director of St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services, an award winning author/scholar/AAUW Duluth Co-President, two CEOs, and several others. The event starts at 10 am and ends at 2:30 pm and includes lunch with the registration fee of \$35. We emailed information along with the registration form and we'll discuss at the next branch meeting. We anticipate several cars will be going to the event so we can carpool together. Note: Our branch will be hosting the AAUW Northland Get Together in Ely next year!

Join us for our first branch meeting this season on Tuesday, September 12 at 5:30 at the Grand Ely Lodge. We'll have our branch meeting, dinner, followed by our program - Julie Hignell, Executive Director of Ely Community Resource (ECR), will talk about the vital work of ECR with youth in the Ely area. Come early for social time!

Andrea and Linda

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

September 12, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting  
- Julie Hignell, Executive Director at Ely Community Resource (ECR), will discuss the vital work of ECR with youth in the Ely area.

September 25, 6 pm, Hidden Valley: Sex Trafficking  
- Presentation by Jamie Koppes, Director of the Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County, who will be sharing insights to her work and assisting us in developing an action plan to increase awareness and combat sex trafficking in our region. Sponsored by AAUW and EMPOWER.

October 5, time TBD, Boathouse/Northern Grounds/Ely Theater/Kwazy Wabbit: Ely AAUW Unhappy Hour Bar Crawl

- Highlighting the pay inequities of women with a focus this year on Latina women. Passports to stamp at each bar will also provide historical insights of the fight for equality.

October 7, 10 am, Duluth Coppertop Church: AAUW Northland Get-Together "View From the Top: Women Leaders"

- Featuring an impressive list of women speakers. Lunch is included in the \$35 registration fee.

October 10, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting

- Ian Lah, Executive Director of Northern Lights Arts Association (NLAA), will be covering the highlights of the 2023-24 NLAA upcoming schedule and the future of the Arts in Ely.

October 31, 12 noon, GEL: Human Trafficking 101: Understanding the Dynamics

- Tuesday Group presentation by Tatiana Bergum, M.A., Counter-Trafficking Advocate and subject matter expert.

November 14, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting

- Beth Peterson, Minnesota Senior State Director with Vote Run Lead, will discuss the political power of women as voters, candidates, and leaders to create and sustain an equitable democracy.

December 12, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting

- Holiday celebration with auction and raffle

January 9, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting

- Lisa Pugh will discuss her nearly 4,000 mile canoe trip from the headwaters of the Missouri River down the Mississippi to the Gulf.

February 14, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting

- Kelly Klun, Klun Law Firm (and AAUW branch member!) will discuss estate planning.

March 12, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting

- Pam Turnbull will discuss how she transformed two properties through innovative restoration; one is an 1890s era Winton schoolhouse that she has renovated with repurposed and reclaimed items, and the other is an 1897 Victorian home in Hibbing that she turned into a bed and breakfast and is now on the National Historic Registry known as the Mitchell-Tappan house.

April 9, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting

- Annual meeting

May 14, 5:30 pm, GEL: Branch meeting  
- End of the year banquet and silent auction

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.

## **SPRING 2023 AAUW-ELY ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

By Jeanne Tomlinson

Success for our Spring 2023 roadside litter pickup! We restarted a pre COVID tradition of meeting for breakfast prior to heading out to our Highway 169 stretch of the road, and those of us who met for breakfast at the Grand Ely Lodge all agreed that it does make it more fun.

We also continued a post-COVID tradition of doing it on more than just one day. At our May 8 branch dinner meeting, there was a signup sheet for possible volunteers to indicate which of four days from May 17 to May 20 would work for them, and then I picked the two days that had the most possible workers (Wednesday, May 17 and Friday, May 19).

We ended up with 9 volunteers total. Linda Sutton, Lucy Diesslin, Sue Peterson, Denise Case, and I picked up trash east of Wolf Lake Road on Wednesday, and Linda Bergum, Majory Wood, Caroline Owens, Pam Ransom and I covered the west end of our stretch on Friday, May 19 in spite of some misty conditions.

We'll be doing this again soon, so if you feel like you missed out, you can watch for a sign-up sheet at our September 12 meeting or contact me and let me know you're interested.

## **AAUW-ELY STEM WORKSHOPS IMPACT?**

By Jeanne Tomlinson

Did you see the following article in the July 29 Ely Echo (p.4) about Phoebe Helms being one of 76 recipients of the Alworth Scholarship? This is a \$20,000 scholarship which only goes to students who plan to major in a STEM field in college. That happens to be the scholarship program for high school seniors that we promoted at our April 22, 2023 STEM workshops, even though our workshops are for 5th through 8th graders.

Out of curiosity, and because Phoebe's name sounded familiar, I checked our STEM records and confirmed that she had attended all 4 of our workshops from 2016 through 2019. Although we cannot know for sure if she would be pursuing such a degree anyway, it sure seems possible that our STEM workshops had an impact on at least one girl!

## Helms one of 76 chosen for Alworth scholarship

The Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund, founded in 1949, has awarded its latest round of scholarships to 76 northern Minnesota high school seniors pursuing bachelor's degrees related to science, mathematics, engineering and medical fields of study.

The 2023-2024 Alworth Scholarship recipient from Ely High School was Phoebe G. Helms.

Recipients from 30 high schools across 10 counties will each receive \$20,000, distributed over eight semesters, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. A list



Phoebe Helms

of the many fields of study that qualify for Alworth funding is at [www.Alworth-Scholarship.org](http://www.Alworth-Scholarship.org).

"The Alworth Memorial Fund was set up to provide regional students with opportunities to be scientists, mathematicians, engineers, doctors, nurses, cancer researchers and many other careers to be of benefit to humanity," said Patty Salo Downs, Executive Director of the Fund. "We have another outstanding group of

scholarship recipients again this year, and we wish these fine young women and men well in their studies."

The Alworth Memorial Fund has distributed more than \$54 million among nearly 5,500 motivated young people during its history. The Fund is available to students in 60 high schools, plus those who are homeschooled, in these 10 northern Minnesota counties: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching and St Louis.

Additional information about the fund, including how to apply for future scholarships, is at [www.Alworth-Scholarship.org](http://www.Alworth-Scholarship.org).

The next scholarship application period, for high school students graduating in 2024, runs Nov. 1 through Jan. 15, 2024.

# **PUBLIC POLICY**

## **AAUW Ely, Public Policy Committee**

**by Mary Setterholm**

The Public Policy Committee has been busy over the summer months, and continues to work hard to bring the mission of AAUW alive in Ely.

Our previous 2-year project of getting local businesses to sign an Equal Pay for Equal Work affirmation, extending our community focus on pay equity throughout the year, will be featured in a poster presentation at the Midwest Regional Conference October 19-21st.

On September 25th, our Ely branch of AAUW and EMPOWER will hold a joint meeting at Hidden Valley. Jamie Koppes, Director of the Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County, will be sharing insights to her work and assisting us in developing an action plan to increase awareness and combat sex trafficking in our region.

On October 5th (Latina equal pay day 2023-Latinas women working full time, year round are paid 57 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men), we will host an Unhappy Hour Bar crawl in Ely, themed after Dolly Parton songs, with passports providing historical insights of the fight for equality as well as education for the next steps to reach equal pay and representation.

On October 31st , we sponsor the Tuesday group presentation by Tatiana Bergum, M.A., Counter-Trafficking Advocate and Subject Matter Expert, entitled Human Trafficking 101: Understanding the Dynamics. This event will be the first step on the action plan we build at our September 25 th meeting.

With all the upcoming events planned, our Public Policy committee currently meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 4:30. Small groups working on individual events may meet at additional times.

# FUNDRAISING



Is your piggy bank full? Bring it to the September meeting. We'll empty them with a goal of refilling the pigs by the annual meeting (or sooner). Piggy banks will be available for those who do not have one. Feel free to bring your spare change in a zip lock bag if that works better for you.

## Pop Up Fun

We had a great time for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Barb and Kurt Soderberg's home on August 31. And we're looking for other members who would like to host a get together. The event is easy to do and requires the following of the host:

- Determine who to invite based on amount of space available. For example; at Barb's house, we included spouses because there was enough room.
- The host determines day and time as well as providing a non-alcoholic beverage, glasses, plates, and napkins.
- Is there a theme? Will we learn something or do something or just get to know each other better?

The guests:

- Bring either a beverage or food item (depending on the nature of the particular pop up).
- Make a donation to AAUW (But that's free will. The most important thing is that we come and have fun together.)

We're pleased to report that we were able to add \$320 to our treasury and expect to get one or two new members because of the event.

## FOURTH ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY IN ELY

The AAUW Ely Branch held its fourth annual summer Garden Party on July 15, 2023, at member Mary Setterholm's home on Farm Lake in the Ely Northwoods. Mary and her husband, Dave, produce an amazing array of vegetables throughout their property and in a greenhouse as well as tending a variety of flower gardens scattered throughout.

The day began with a silent auction comprised of donations from members that included artwork, food, wine, and donated experiences. There was also a bucket raffle and door prizes to be drawn for at the end of the day. The branch has an experienced, intrepid fundraiser in member Kay Vandervort, who has an artistic eye for making the auction items irresistible. Attendees socialized while starting their bids, sipping wine and non-alcoholic beverages, and sampling appetizers.

After a luncheon of tasty salads and desserts and bidding complete, the sunny day developed into a sudden rain shower, driving the sixty-plus women inside where the prize drawings took place and the auction items were collected by the lucky winners.

Once again, the event was a huge success, with more than \$2,000 collected for branch scholarships and programs to support our mission. Four new members were enrolled under the Shape the Future campaign and a good time was had by all.

Thanks to Alison Bell and Di White for the photographs.









## MEMBER UPDATES

We're excited to welcome a number of new members over the spring and summer months who attended the Garden Party, the Jeannette Rankin event or simply through connections with current members. Please welcome:

Holly Brodt [hollybrodt320@gmail.com](mailto:hollybrodt320@gmail.com)

Ruth Katz [ruthkatzely@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkatzely@gmail.com)

Jacqueline Ender [j.ender@att.net](mailto:j.ender@att.net)

Sue Smith [pastorsusansmith@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsusansmith@gmail.com)

Catherine Bogolub [cbogolub@comcast.net](mailto:cbogolub@comcast.net)

## MEMBERSHIP

If you are talking to someone who wants to join AAUW and you don't have a membership form, tell them to Google – AAUW Ely MN, then click on the site.

On our webpage, they can click on the membership form. They can print it out and mail it in with a check.

Kay can be reached at 218-235-6102 or [khv771@gmail.com](mailto:khv771@gmail.com).

## 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.