



MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA

We can tell that Fall has arrived – certainly by the beautiful falling leaves, the brisk mornings, and how early the sun sets and how late it rises. We held our first branch meeting of the year on September 12 with an exciting turnout of thirty-seven members at the GEL and several more on Zoom. We met two new members and visited with many returning friends. Julie Hignell from Ely Community Resource presented a slide show highlighting the many services provided by this amazing organization. It was all great until COVID made its appearance for a number of attendees a few days later. Apparently COVID hasn't finished with Ely.

On Monday, September 5, our branch joined with Ely EMPOWER at Hidden Valley and hosted Jamie Koppes from the Northern St. Louis County Sexual Assault Program. Jamie presented an informative and eye-opening program that gave a well-attended audience a sobering picture of the incidence of sexual abuse in our region. She also discussed human trafficking and provided helpful information for AAUW to assist in providing community education about this serious issue.

The branch has many exciting events happening in October. First, on Thursday, October 5, we will join together for our fall trash pick-up morning. We will start with breakfast at the GEL at 9:00 am and then head out to our pickup site on Highway 169. Jeanne Tomlinson will have our vests and trash bags and will direct us to our assigned locations. If you haven't participated in this activity before, consider joining us--it really is a lot of fun and a chance to get to have enjoyable conversation with some new friends. The more, the merrier!

Then, also on October 5, our Unhappy Hour event will take place with the “Dolly Parton Unhappy Hour Pub Crawl” from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. The four locations that are partnering with us are the Ely State Theater, Boathouse Brewpub, Northern Grounds and Kwazy Wabbit. Each venue will have a special discounted drink named to recognize the mission of narrowing the gender pay gap and a special Dolly Parton song to accompany the beverage. There will be AAUW representatives at each location with pertinent information about the continuing pay differential, particularly when we take race into the equation. (Please remember, there are the usual non alcoholic options available at each location for those of us who are not accustomed to having four alcoholic drinks in a week, let alone in one night! This event is for ALL of us, and the important point is supporting women’s pay equity and gathering with friends, young and not-young). Each participant will receive a passport to be stamped at each location, and then at 7:45, there will be a drawing at Kwazy Wabbit for generous gift certificates (don’t need to be present to win).

Quite a few of our members will be traveling to Duluth on Saturday, October 7, for the Northland Get-Together. This is a great opportunity to meet friends from other branches in Northern Minnesota. The focus of this year’s program is on Women’s Leadership and the speakers will include the Duluth Mayor, the President of St. Scholastica, the President of the City Council, and the City Attorney as well as other women in leadership positions in the community. It should prove to be an inspirational day and, since our branch will be hosting this event in 2024, we will want to be thinking about what we want our theme to be.

Our final event in October is an AAUW sponsored Tuesday Group presentation on Tuesday, October 31, by Tatiana Bergum, MA (who happens to be the niece of our AAUW Funds Chair, Linda Bergum). Tatiana, who is a Counter-Trafficking Advocate and subject matter expert, will present a program called Human Trafficking 101: Understanding the Dynamics. It’s guaranteed to be informative and will help guide the branch in our mission of preventing trafficking and supporting victims as well as educating the Ely community about a topic that is more prevalent than we would like to think.

Please note the very nice thank you letter from our NCCWSL scholar, Nicole Drahiem, included in the newsletter. To provide some context for our newer members, the National Conference for College Women Leaders (NCCWSL) is an AAUW program that invites student leaders from around the country to a three-day conference near Washington, DC for leadership training, inspiration and networking. Our branch sent Nicole this year. Nicole is a law enforcement student at Minnesota North College, Vermilion Campus. The NCCWSL scholarship has been a very important aspect of our branch activity, and the monetary support we provided this year was in excess of \$1,400. Nicole’s letter of

appreciation shows how meaningful this experience was for her and explains why we will continue supporting our scholars in this way.

Lastly, our October branch meeting will happen on Tuesday, October 10, at the GEL beginning at 5:30, 5:00 pm for social time. Ian Lah, from Northern Lakes Arts Association, will be our speaker. We hope to see you all at the meeting in October!

Andrea and Linda

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 5, Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup: Meet at the GEL at 9 am

- See article directly below this calendar

October 5, 5-8 pm, 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. Note: We just learned that Beth will talk to us in January, February,

or March due to a conflict, and one of the speakers from those months will be moved to November.

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 13, 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.

FALL 2023 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY LITTER PICKUP SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5

By Jeanne Tomlinson

Thanks so much to the more than a dozen members who signed up at our September 12 branch meeting to help out with our fall litter pickup and specified which days they'd be able to help. Since the majority were available on Thursday, October 5, that's the day we'll be doing it.

We'll meet at the Grand Ely Lodge (GEL) Evergreen Restaurant for breakfast at 9:00 AM, then head out to our 2-mile stretch of road on Hwy 169 after we've divided up into pairs and have our vests, trash bags, and marked maps. If it is raining, we'll probably cancel but we can still have a nice breakfast together.

Remember to bring gloves and wear shoes or boots with good ankle support. Dress for the weather. Layers are strongly recommended since it will be cool to start but may warm up. Even though you'll be wearing a bright yellow safety vest, plan to also wear light- and/or bright-colored clothing so that motorists can see you easily. For your skin protection, wear a hat and long sleeves, and apply sunscreen prior to arriving.

Even if you didn't sign up on September 12, you are more than welcome to join us! Please call or text me at 1-218-235-8470 or email me at tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com so that I can give a count to the GEL restaurant ahead of time.

VERMILION CAMPUS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

By Darlene Nemanich, Co-Chair of Scholarship Committee

On Thursday, September 14, representing the Ely branch of AAUW as co-chair of the Scholarship Committee, I attended the Vermilion Campus Foundation Scholarship Banquet at the Grand Ely Lodge. Generally held each spring, the program was rescheduled in September due to the inclement weather in April 2023.

Many generous donors have established scholarships to the Vermilion Campus Foundation. Fifty-three generous organizations/donors awarded 129 individual scholarships to MN North-Vermilion students for a total of \$141,121. Students who were recipients of scholarships during the 2022-23 school year were honored along with Joanne Coombe, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020, and Pam Brunfelt, recipient of the Vermilion Supporter Award. Pam taught at VCC for over 20 years and has been a member of our branch and past president. Congratulations to Pam!

A little background about our AAUW scholarship, which has been awarded annually since 1989: Criteria states that the candidate be a new or returning part-time female nontraditional student. Branch members established the scholarship to help and encourage women who have been away from the educational setting to pursue new career goals. Since its inception, 20-plus women have received the scholarship.


The Ely branch of AAUW is pleased to have the opportunity to encourage women to pursue their education.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Ely, Public Policy Committee

by Mary Setterholm

Public Policy is busy prepping for the Dolly Parton Unhappy Hour, bringing attention to the day Latinas finally make as much as white men did in 2022! Join us as we work our way from the State Theater to the Boathouse, to Northern Grounds and ending at the Kwazy Wabbit.



**PUB CRAWL
THURSDAY 10/5
5-8PM**

Pick up your Pub Crawl Passport at any of the participating locations:

Ely State Theater **Boathouse Brewpub**
Northern Grounds **Kwazy Wabbit**

Join AAUW-Ely on a trip through time as we discover the history of women in the workforce, Dolly's music, and Ely.
Those who collect passport stamps at all four locations will be eligible for door-prize drawings at the Kwazy Wabbit at **7:45pm**







FUNDRAISING



Is your piggy bank full? Bring it to any meeting! Or feel free to bring your spare change in a zip lock bag if that works better for you.

We're looking for 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.
- 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.)

AAUW NCCWSL

(National Conference for Women Student Leaders)

May 31-June 3, 2023

By Nicole Drahiem

This conference was full of women from all over the US and its territories. I just want to say thank you for choosing and sending me. It was definitely an eye-opening conference, and I have met people I now call friends.

The first day was travel and a welcome get together. There were games, pool, bowling, and movies. It was definitely a good way to talk to people, I talked with someone from Pennsylvania also studying a career in the National Resources world; it was great to talk to her and share our experiences. Next, I talked with someone from New York who was studying cosmetology, and that was a very interesting conversation since we were complete opposites and both had no clue about each other's fields of study. Overall, the first night was great. I got to see how many people were really at the conference.

The next day was lots of fun; I went to the welcome ceremony and sat next to someone from Puerto Rico. She told me about the obstacles she had to go through just to go to college. After talking to her, I really think we have it easy. Then I went to some breakout sessions. One was about women in the workforce and receiving equal pay. I learned we still have a long way to go before that will happen, but with the people at this conference, I feel it will come faster than people think. The other session I went to was how to manage your finances, and that was super helpful to sit in on and listen to the panel talk about smart ways to manage your finances. The last session I went to was learning how to help rape and sexual assault survivors cope with a traumatic event such as these. I also learned how there are support groups and nonprofits out there to help but not as many as there should be. This session is one everyone should listen to and get tips on no matter what field you're going into.

After that, I met my roommate. She is a math major from Boston, and through her I met this group of women from UConn. We all spent the night in D.C together getting dinner and exploring and getting to know each other. The rest of the time at the conference I hung out with this group. They were a blast to be around, and they were all in the political science field. It was so awesome getting to meet and hang out with them, and some of them I still talk to.

Then, on Friday, I went to one of my favorite breakout sessions, learning about toxic and healthy relationships. It was a session that could help me in Law Enforcement and everyday life with friends and family. It was eye opening listening to a survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault and how she tried to help her sister out of an abusive relationship. I learned so much through this breakout session. I then went to a career panel that talked about how our justice system works and how it's run. It was interesting to see how all the different parts of it are run and operated. The last session I went to was

how to manage your time and how to have effective time management, which I needed to sit in on. It was a good session to end the day with.

After all the breakout sessions were through, we had an awards ceremony and a reception which was cool to go to. After it was all over, me and the group from UConn decided to explore Maryland one last time, and we went to Oxon Hill which is a park town, and it was a blast.

The last day, we all listened to Minda Harts' speech and then the closing speech. After that, we said our goodbyes, then made our way home.

All in all, it was an amazing conference where I learned lots, had some eye opening experiences, and met some great people who some I now call friends. Again, thank you so much for choosing and sending me, it was an amazing experience.

MEMBER UPDATES

We're excited to welcome three new members since the last Northwoods News! Please welcome:

Joan Schopp-Hunn joanhunn@gmail.com

Jessica Kulik jessrkulik@gmail.com

Alexia Springer alexia@elyfolkschool.org

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Kay can be reached at 218-235-6102 or khv771@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ely Branch of AAUW respectfully acknowledges that we are on the homelands of the Lake Superior Bands of Ojibwe people and within the ceded lands of the Treaty of 1854, where they retained rights to hunt, fish, and gather.

We also recognize other Indigenous peoples who lived here before the Ojibwe people. These include Dakota, Cree, and other tribes that have occupied and utilized this land.

We recognize the perseverance and survival of our Indigenous neighbors who continue to live throughout this region. We're deeply grateful for the multitude of ways that the Anishinaabeg have and continue to contribute to collective well-being through sharing of knowledge and time.