

## THE PINE FALL 2023



### FROM the DESK of JAN CAREY, AAUW MN President



For the last 10 years or so, the rhetoric and words we use have become combative and divisive. Catch phrases permeate our vernacular easily. We've all heard them: unprecedented, we're in this together, in these uncertain times, a new normal, it is what it is, fake news, thoughts & prayers, you're on mute, enemy of the people, witch-hunt, CRT, cancel culture, and my favorite – woke. These phrases and words are so overused they've nearly become meaningless. Some universities and media researchers have suggested they be banned. Yet, phrases and words have meaning that matters. As Annie Reneau, author of, "It's time to flush these 10 meaningless & harmful buzzwords from our politics", published in Upworthy.com., states, 'Let's discuss ideas. Let's debate policy. Let's do so without slinging around buzzwords & phrases that oversimplify positions, play on people's prejudices & remove the nuance necessary for reasonable discourse.'

So what relevance does all of that have to AAUW and where we are today?

I have been watching the interviews conducted with Cassidy Hutchinson, as she promotes her book Enough. I concluded that one young woman's enlightened moment, has been every woman's mantra for a 100 years. We can and should add ENOUGH to lists of words and phrases that should never be banned. Women have suffered 'enough' for far too long.

America Ferrera's powerful monologue in the blockbuster movie, *Barbie* speaks to our need to shout, ENOUGH. Bring ENOUGH into today's vernacular as easily as

has been done with all the others. Bring it to the forefront in our daily conversation. In the monologue, America Ferrera's character, Gloria, extolls every challenge woman live with daily. She's had ENOUGH. As you read Gloria's monologue, think of AAUW's ideals, our research, our programs such as STEM and Work Smart/Start Smart, our advocacy, our public policy priorities, our messaging, our membership requirement, our drive for inclusion – equity – diversity and our commitment to full and constitutional Equal Rights for women & girls. Gloria said,

“It is literally impossible to be a woman. You are so beautiful, and so smart, and it kills me that you don't think you're good enough. Like, we have to always be extraordinary, but somehow, we're always doing it wrong. You have to be thin, but not too thin. And you can never say you want to be thin. You have to say you want to be healthy, but also you have to be thin. You have to have money, but you can't ask for money because that's crass. You have to be a boss, but you can't be mean. You have to lead, but you can't squash other people's ideas. You're supposed to love being a mother, but don't talk about your kids all the damn time. You have to be a career woman but also always be looking out for other people. You have to answer for men's bad behavior, which is insane, but if you point that out, you're accused of complaining. You're supposed to stay pretty for men, but not so pretty that you tempt them too much or that you threaten other women because you're supposed to be a part of the sisterhood. But always stand out and always be grateful. But never forget that the system is rigged. So, find a way to acknowledge that but also always be grateful. You have to never get old, never be rude, never show off, never be selfish, never fall down, never fail, never show fear, never get out of line. It's too hard! It's too contradictory and nobody gives you a medal or says thank you! And it

turns out in fact that not only are you doing everything wrong, but also everything is your fault. I'm just so tired of watching myself and every single other woman tie herself into knots so that people will like us. And if all of that is also true for a doll just representing women, then I don't even know."

## **MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN**

### **BE THE "U" IN AAUW**

As membership is declining in many states and branches are struggling to retain and gain members, the AAUW National board will conduct another vote in 2024, to change the Membership Requirement bylaw. Before the vote is taken, it is time for members to decide what we mean by being the 'U' in AAUW.

The 'U' in AAUW is YOU!

AAUW members are 'U'!

Anyone should be the 'U' in AAUW!

Be the 'U' in AAUW!

AAUW MN members and AAUW MN board may submit a self-photo to Jan Carey ([jmcfree@aol.com](mailto:jmcfree@aol.com)) labeled with the member's first name, branch and city/town answering the question:

**"Why are you the 'U' in AAUW ?**

**I am the 'U' in AAUW because \_\_\_\_\_.**

Some answers are:

- we are unified by AAUW's Mission of equity for women and girls;
- we are united as a strong voice for women's rights;
- we provide scholarships for underserved women & girls;
- we seek unanimity in equal pay for equal work;
- we unanimously empower women;
- for over 140 years, AAUW members have been united in the fight for gender equality; and
- we understand the injustices toward women & girls.

Add your answer. Answers will be posted on the AAUW MN website and FB page and included in editorial submissions to newspapers. They will be used in the creation of postcards similar to those we are using for ERA. In addition, a new Membership Brochure will be available to branches. Below see the proof of the brochure.

### Be the "U" in AAUW

With tens of thousands of active members, AAUW and its state arm, AAUW Minnesota, are dynamic organizations with a long history of affecting change on issues our communities care about.

- Economic security for all women
- Equal access to quality public education
- Social and racial justice
- Increased representation of women in leadership





*Transforming women's lives  
for more than a century.*



For additional information contact:  
Pat Powers, AAUW MN VP Membership  
Email: pat.powers@gmail.com

We Welcome you to Become an  
**AAUW Member**



*We are tenacious and trailblazing — advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!*


AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century. Join us to take on one of the most defining issues of our time: gender equity. Find the membership option that's right for you and learn about how your AAUW membership makes a difference, the benefits and perks that come along with an AAUW membership, and how to get involved in your local AAUW community.




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### Join Us

- **State and National Member:** Includes membership in National AAUW and AAUW Minnesota. This member is not affiliated with any local branch. Dues: \$72 for National, \$9 for MN. Join online at <https://www.aauw.org/membership/> or send a check to the AAUW MN Treasurer, Beth Niemi
- **Branch Member:** Find your branch. Branch dues will vary. National dues: \$72. MN State dues: \$9.
- **Join online or with your branch membership chair.** <https://www.aauw.org/membership/>
- **National Member Only:** Includes membership only in National AAUW. Dues are currently \$72, with \$69 is tax-deductible (the \$3 is not deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 5010 (4) Lobby corps and get-out-the-vote activities). This member is not affiliated with a local branch or state.
- **College/University Members:** Institutions can join AAUW. College/university (C/U) representatives are appointed by an AAUW C/U member institution to serve as the liaison between students and AAUW.
- **E-Student Affiliate:** Students can join as affiliates for free when their college or university is an AAUW member. Students enrolled in a regionally accredited educational institution can join for \$18.81. (1881 is the year AAUW was founded.) Students enrolled in colleges or universities that are AAUW college/university members can become e-affiliate members at no cost. Minnesota State Dues for Student Affiliates is \$2.00.
- **Student Affiliation:** Undergraduate students at institutions that are not AAUW College/University members can join AAUW for \$18.81 a year. Minnesota State Dues for Student Affiliates are \$2.00.




**AAUW's Mission:**  
To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



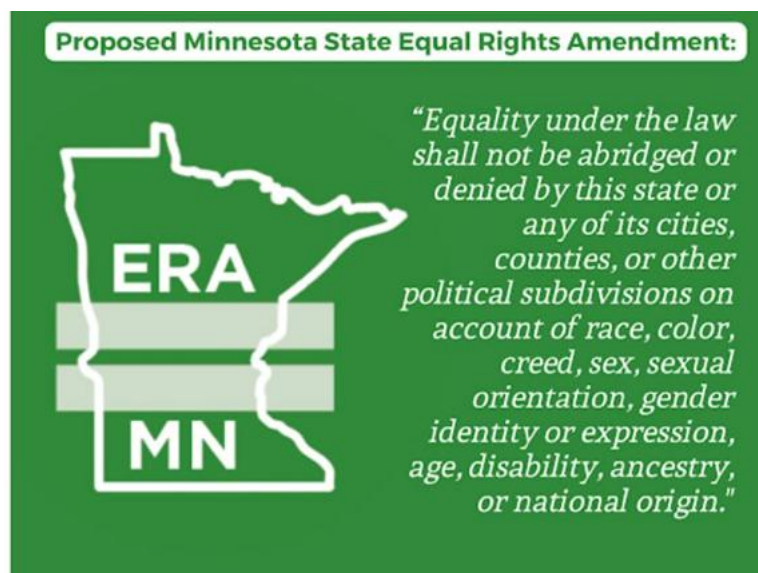
### Why should I join AAUW?

- Meet dynamic, like-minded people from all walks of life.
- Keep your mind active; practice your skills.
- Support women and girls.
- Make a difference in your community.
- Make your voice heard on important legislation.
- Receive corporate discounts.




Spreading the message Riverbend Days, Hastings, MN

## February 12th is the First Day of the Legislative Session



**Rally for ERA**  
**Minnesota Capitol Rotunda**  
**10am-noon Feb 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Show up.**  
**Put ERA on the 2024 Ballot**

### 2024 Helping Our Branches Booklet

The Helping Our Branches Booklet outlines the following opportunities for 2024:

- Ten \$500 Strategic Plan Action Grants - Information about the grants can be found on pages 3-4 of the booklet. These grants will be awarded in the spring of 2024 but you have until the end of December 2024 to complete your program/project/event to allow for more flexibility.
- Ten \$1000 NCCWSL Grants - Information about the grants can be found on page 5. Note that we have increased the NCCWSL grants to \$1000 to help defray the cost of sending a student to NCCWSL. As soon as the 2024 NCCWSL information is available from AAUW, we will update the booklet to reflect this information. In the meantime, start conferring with your C/U Representatives to identify a deserving young college student who would benefit from this leadership opportunity.
- Young Women for Equity Awards for one High School Student (\$500) and one College Student (\$1000) - See pages 6-8 for the requirements and application procedures. Unfortunately, we had no applicants for these awards in 2023. This year, let's make sure that we once again have the opportunity to award two worthy young women with these awards. The

fall/winter is a good time to mentor a high school and college student in identifying a project/event that would qualify them for this award.

- Leader on Loan Grants - This is your opportunity to request a speaker from the state board/Committees by completing the application on page 9 of the booklet. These requests can be made anytime during 2023-2024 by completing the form and submitting it to Jan Carey, AAUW MN President.
- Carol E MacPherson Memorial Scholarship - See page 10 of the booklet for more information.

A copy of the *2024 Helping Our Branches Booklet* is on the AAUW MN website and may also be reached by clicking on [2024 Helping Our Branches Booklet](#).

### AAUW MN Past Presidents' Lunch



On August 24, in St. Paul, the previous state presidents attended the Past President's Lunch. In the photo above from left to right: Beverly Crute (2006-2008), Alice Ellis (1992-1994), Barb Link (1996-1998), Jan Bensen (2016-2018), Kay Cooper (1990-1992), Lisa West (2018-2020), Pat Sween (2004-2006), Mary Ann Lucas Hoax (2020-2022), Karen Kirkwood (2008-2010) and Teresa Sagen (2012-2014).

### September 30, 2023 Board Meeting

The Board met at Grand Casino Conference Center, Hinckley, MN.

President Jan Carey reported that she had increased visibility by attending a zoom meeting with Office Voter Outreach director with the office of Secretary of State Steve Simon and a meeting at Grand Rapids with Secretary Simon; attended planning sessions for the Central States Regional conference; attended AAUW Advancement Committee meetings via zoom; attended AAUW Degree

Requirement Task Force meeting; attended AAUW State Liaison zoom meetings; attended AAUW Inclusion & Equity committee meeting via zoom; attended planning sessions with ERAMN and has been assigned to ERAMN Strategic planning group. She has worked on developing a communications committee/team, prepared to resume Branch President Zoom meetings, posted Branch and National Facebook notifications, continued to add and refresh AAUW MN website & Facebook page. In order to implement Strategic Plan Action items, she has continued to work with the Website Manager with updates to the AAUW MN website, continued membership with ERAMN Advisory Group, continued membership with AAUW Advancement Committee and I&E Committee, continued monthly meetings with AAUW Regional States Conference planning committee, continued to search for a C/U Representative and for a MN Diversity Officer. She has also communicated with struggling branches.

Vice President for Membership Pat Powers presented a proposed membership brochure, which the Board members discussed. She will have changes made to incorporate the discussion points. She also raised an issue that has arisen with members whose branch has disbanded and who want to be members of AAUW MN. The Hub structure provides for National members or Branch members. So, members who wish to be state members and have joined as National members may become state members by sending the Treasurer, Beth Neinow, a check for state dues, which is \$9.00.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Sagen reported that she has assisted branches with Community Hub as requested and updated their officers on the Hub if not completed by the Branch, worked with Ashley Sarne and Site-Resources to update website, set up Zoom meetings as requested using the AAUW MN Zoom account, attended Financial Review Committee Meeting for FY23 as requested by Committee Chair, completed the 2024 Helping Our Branches Booklet and posted it to the website, and distributed the booklet to Branch Presidents, requested information from Branches to complete the 2023-24 State Directory (ongoing) and provided AAUW and Pay Equity information to a Northfield Member to use for a display. She plans to continue to work with Site-Resources to administer the website, complete and distribute the 2023-2024 State Directory and to complete spreadsheets of Board Member's branch counterparts. Her concerns or Items for

Board Discussion were further promotion of AAUW MN grants and awards, disbandment of Branches (Northwest Metro and Hutchinson officially disbanded. Thief River Falls is voting in September. No response from treasurer of Moorhead Branch who did not renew membership.)

AAUW Bylaws Committee Chair Sandra Martell submitted revised bylaws required by National. There is no change in the AAUW MN bylaws except replacing the model bylaws with new model bylaws. The bylaws were filed effective September 30, 2023.

### Board to Branch Calls


During the month of November, each member of the Board will contact several branches to ask questions intended to identify their needs.

### Update to Website Manager Position

Please send all submissions for the AAUW MN Website to Teresa Sagen at [tkswagen@gmail.com](mailto:tkswagen@gmail.com) .

## **Activities, Events etc. of Branches Around the State**

### **St Cloud**



**Book Banning**  
A Cultural Crisis

**AAUW**  
The American Association of University Women  
Red Wing Area Branch

**INVITATION**  
We invite you to attend a program that explores the cultural impact on intellectual freedom created by book banning.

**SPEAKERS**

<b>Laurie Hertzell</b> Journalist - Author	<b>Kimberly Edson</b> Librarian - Reading Advocate
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Thursday • October 19th, 2023 • 6:00 - 8:30pm  
Social 6:00 - 6:30pm

**Location: Anderson Center at Tower View - Barn**  
163 Tower View Drive, Red Wing, MN



## ELY



November 14, - 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.**

## Hastings



October 23 - **Perspectives on Women in Law Enforcement**  
Hennepin County Sheriff  
Dawanna S. Witt

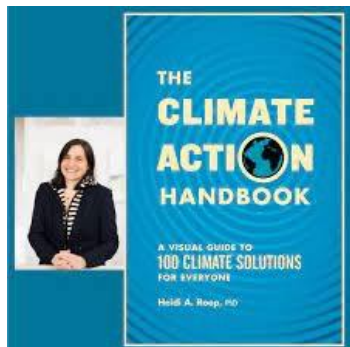
## Minneapolis



### **Mitten Collection**

We will collect gloves, mittens, hats and socks for the children of two Minneapolis elementary schools again this year. Bring your donations on Mondays in October and November. Look for the mitten box.

## Owatonna



November 13<sup>th</sup> - **Dr. Heidi Roop** is the Director of the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership and an Assistant Professor of Climate Science and Extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota. Her research and Extension programs combine **cutting-edge climate science and effective science communication to increase the use and integration of climate change information in decision-making.**

## St Croix Valley



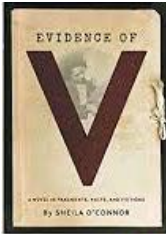
**State Representative Josiah Hill** will be discussing his work as a freshman legislator, the legislation passed in 2023, and a preview of 2024.

**Brainerd** celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a program of personal remembrances, a display of mementoes, a Branch History Book and a party.



## BRANCHES ARE READING

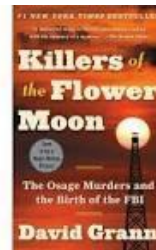
### St Cloud



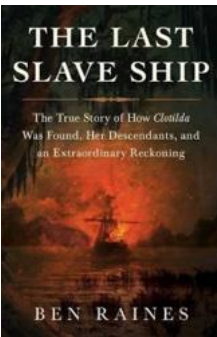
[Evidence of V](#) by Sheila O'Connor

### Grand Rapids

[Killers Of The Flower Moon](#) by David Grann



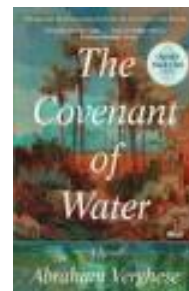
### Minneapolis



[The Last Slave Ship: The True Story of How Clotilda Was Found, Her Descendants and an Extraordinary Reckoning](#) by Ben Raines

### Owatonna

[The Covenant of Water](#) by Abraham Verghese



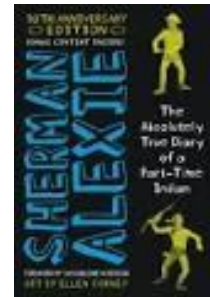
## Rochester



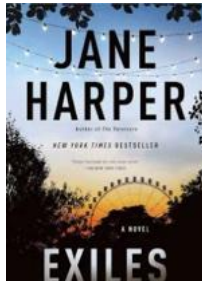
Good Night, Irene by Luis Urrea

## St Crois Valley

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie



## St Paul



Exiles by Jane Harper

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Board Members

President Jan Carey, [jmcfree@aol.com](mailto:jmcfree@aol.com)

VP Membership, Pat Powers, [pat.pow01@gmail.com](mailto:pat.pow01@gmail.com)

VP Program, Karen Kirkwood, [karenkirwood@cs.com](mailto:karenkirwood@cs.com)

VP Public Policy, Kelsey Waits, [kelseywaits@gmail.com](mailto:kelseywaits@gmail.com)

VP AAUW Funds, Rajani Sohni, [rsohni@gmail.com](mailto:rsohni@gmail.com)

Treasurer-Beth Nienow, [bethnienow@charter.net](mailto:bethnienow@charter.net)

Secretary/Historian – Sandra Martell, [wave34145@gmail.com](mailto:wave34145@gmail.com)

College/University Representative, \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Assistant, Teresa Sagen, [tkswagen@gmail.com](mailto:tkswagen@gmail.com)

Bylaws Chair, Sandra Martell, [wave34145@gmail.com](mailto:wave34145@gmail.com)

Pine Editor, Sandra Martell, [wave34145@gmail.com](mailto:wave34145@gmail.com)

Web-site Administrator, Teresa Sagen, [tkswagen@gmail.com](mailto:tkswagen@gmail.com)

Facebook Administrator, Jane Carey, [jmcfree@aol.com](mailto:jmcfree@aol.com)



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