



Northwoods News - November 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA

Our branch has been BUSY since last month's newsletter! Community turnout was fabulous for our Dolly Parton's Pub Crawl Unhappy Hour on October 5 which focused on the pay inequity for women. A huge thank you to Committee Members Carly Wogen, Lucy Soderstrom, and Anna Heil, all younger members of our branch, who developed the event where community members visited four bars to get their "passport" stamped to be eligible for the drawing. Our branch received positive publicity via several media outlets, conveyed information about women's unequal pay, and received many comments/texts/Facebook posts from old, young, and in between that this was a really fun event. Read Anna Heil's article of the event in this newsletter!

The night before the Unhappy Hour Pub Crawl, Ely Trivia Night at the Boathouse (attended by over 70 people) selected our AAUW branch as

recipient of the trivia proceeds (\$318)! And our three AAUW teams' prowess at trivia (or lack of) was definitely not the reason we were selected as the recipient. AAUW's marvelous community event the next evening was one of the main reasons.

The morning of the Unhappy Hour, a dozen or so members of our branch participated in our Fall Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup along Highway 169 after having a fun breakfast at the GEL.

A couple of days later, twelve Ely branch members carpooled to the AAUW Northland Get Together in Duluth (we had the largest contingent of any branch in attendance). The impressive slate of women speakers included the Mayor of Duluth, Duluth's City Attorney, Duluth City Council President, and several other distinguished women. Our Ely branch is hosting the Northland Get Together next fall! If you would like to be on the Planning Committee, please let Linda or Andrea know.

And on October 31, seventy-five community members heard a powerful presentation about Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Minnesota at Tuesday Group. The presentation was sponsored by our Public Policy Committee with joint financial support from Ely EMPOWER.

Our Ely AAUW Board will soon be asking for branch membership approval at our next branch meeting to increase our budget for scholarships. Because of our generous members, our bank balance is currently over \$15,000 and is projected to still be almost \$11,000 at the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2024. This is significantly more than the bank balance of between \$4,000 and \$7,000 that we maintained from 2019 to 2021. There are so many worthy scholarships and camps for young women and girls (or even older women wanting to pursue higher education). We hope you will favorably approve this budget increase.

Join us for our next branch meeting on Tuesday, November 14, at the GEL or via Zoom. Our speaker will be Pam Turnbull who is a creative entrepreneur who transformed two historical properties, one of which is on the National Historic Registry. Come early for social time!

Andrea and Linda

Mark Your Calendars!

November 14, 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.

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

- 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.

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

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

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.

Participate in the “U in AAUW” Initiative

AAUW MN has a new initiative to increase AAUW membership in Minnesota. The AAUW MN Board is asking branch members to submit a photo labeled with your first name, branch, city/town and answer the question:

“Why are you the ‘U’ in AAUW?”

Example answers:

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

The submissions may be published as part of digital ads and e-editions of Minnesota newspapers.

The ‘U’ in AAUW can be YOU! AAUW members are ‘U’. Anyone can be the ‘U’ in AAUW. Be the ‘U’ in AAUW! Why are ‘U’ in AAUW?

Email to Jan Carey, President of AAUW MN, at jmcfree@aol.com
Thanks to those who participate!

Let's Talk About:
October's Unhappy Hour

By Anna Heil

Last month kicked off with some extra special flair as our Ely branch hosted its annual “Unhappy Hour” – an event bringing attention to the pay discrepancy between men and women in the workforce. The event took place on October 5th, Latina Equal Pay Day. This year, the Public Policy Committee decided to shake things up by changing the event from an hour long “mixer” affair to a bar crawl, spanning four of Ely’s local businesses and by focusing on encouraging folks from outside the organization to join in. The event also paid homage to Dolly Parton’s quick wit, timeless lyrics, and impeccable style in an accompanying informational flier that the roving crawlers carried with them and had stamped along the way. With passport in hand, patrons were able to sample a signature cocktail at each location, learn about AAUW’s national presence and local initiatives, and of course bump elbows with members and non-members alike. (We noticed lots of locals curious about the brouhaha, and even some out-of-towners who joined in on the fun!). Not everyone was decked out in rhinestones and pink, but many did take advantage of the life-sized Dolly Parton cut-out that traveled from location to location to take pictures.

Starting at Ely’s Historic State Theater, Unhappy Hour participants tasted the “MADhattan” and learned about the 19th amendment. At the Boathouse Brewpub, the signature drink was a “Disgruntled RUMbling,” and the focus topics were birth control, abortion, and parental leave. Continuing on to Northern Grounds, the theme cocktail was a “Working Girl,” and the associated information aptly delved into education, the workforce, and the professional woman. The event concluded with a dance party at the Kwazy Wabbit, where folks sipped on “Dolly Juice” and learned about the full breakdown of women’s pay inequity as it stands today.

As a reminder, here are the current numbers...

Wage gap per dollar for all workers (including part time):

White men - \$1.00

Asian women - \$0.86

White, non-Hispanic women - \$0.73

Black women - \$0.64

Latina women - \$0.54

Indigenous women - \$0.51

The event concluded with a prize drawing for pub-goers who had visited all four locations and gotten their passport stamped four times. Gift certificates from each of the locations were awarded to the four lucky winners. The winner of the Wabbit gift certificate was a man who just happened upon the event and decided to join in the fun!

The hard work of the Public Policy Committee (and in particular our own Carly Wogen, who outdid herself in spearheading the event) definitely paid off in this fun and spirited take on an Ely AAUW classic. Intergenerational attendance, new membership, and renewed support for the Equal Rights Amendment were among the highlights of the evening. Thanks to all who attended and who helped pull this great event off!

Here is a related article you may be interested in: [Gender Pay Gap Research Wins Economics Nobel](#).

















Public Policy

**AAUW Ely, Public Policy Committee
by Mary Setterholm**



Your Public Policy Committee is busy planning and working to complete the next phase of our ‘Awareness...Then Change’ initiative. The focus for 2024 will continue to expand the work begun this year on Human Trafficking. This focus began in earnest with the August joint EMPOWER & AAUW meeting at Hidden Valley where Jamie Koppes, Education Coordinator for the Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County discussed that organizations work to support victims of sex trafficking in our communities. The second presentation by Tatiana Bergum at Tuesday Group entitled Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Minnesota continued this initiative. The presentation addressed the myths about human trafficking, federal and state response to human trafficking and exploitation, terminology, data surrounding youth in MN, protective factors and resiliency, best practices, and prevention.

These two programs set the stage for further work in our community, educating law enforcement, health care workers, and hospitality staff in our community to improve identification and response. You will see more of these efforts in 2024.

In the meantime, what can each of us do to learn more about this

issue and become better activists to prevent exploitation and advocates to support victims?

Understand the basics:

Signs of Human Trafficking can include:

- 1. An inability to come and go as you wish.**
- 2. A minor (under 18 years old) performing sex acts for money or something of value such as food, clothing, housing, alcohol, or drugs.**
- 3. A pimp or another individual is controlling you.**
- 4. You have few or no personal possessions and are not in control of your own money**

Sex Trafficking occurs when an adult is compelled to engage in commercial sex by force, fraud, coercion, or any time a minor is engaged in commercial sex.

Anyone can fall victim to human trafficking. Human trafficking is not limited by sex, socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity. Traffickers prey on individuals seeking better opportunities, often with promises of a better life.

Who are traffickers?

- Traffickers can be anyone – adults or children, male or female. Some are strangers, and others are peers, friends, or romantic partners. Traffickers may meet victims in-person or online.**
- Family members will sometimes traffic their own relatives for money or drugs.**
- Traffickers may make offers of false employment, such as modeling, singing, or dancing.**
- Traffickers may also pose as a boyfriend, romantic partner, or caregiver to build trust, power, and control before exploiting their victims.**

Where does human trafficking occur?

- **Human trafficking can happen anywhere, both in rural and urban communities.**
- **People can be trafficked in legal industries such as factories, farms, construction sites, restaurants, bars, or private homes in your community.**
- **People can also be trafficked through illicit means, including internet-based commercial sex, street-based commercial sex, brothels, and the drug trade.**

Why is it hard for people to leave trafficking situations?

1. **Traffickers work hard to stop victims from leaving. They use physical force such as rape and kidnapping or threaten to hurt the victim or someone the victim cares about.**
2. **Traffickers may control through blackmail, such as threatening to share personal information or explicit photos.**
3. **Traffickers take time to build trust and an emotional connection. They may manipulate victims into believing they are the only person who loves them.**
4. **Traffickers separate victims from their friends and family, making them depend on the trafficker for their basic needs.**

Anyone can join in the fight against human trafficking. Here are some ideas to consider.

1. **Learn the [indicators of human trafficking](https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/program-overviews/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/safe-harbor/family-first-prevention-services-act-training/) on the TIP Office's website or by taking a training. Human trafficking awareness training is available for individuals, businesses, first responders, law enforcement, educators, and federal employees, among others. <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/program-overviews/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/safe-harbor/family-first-prevention-services-act-training/>**

2. **Volunteer and support anti-trafficking efforts in your community .**
3. **Watch and discuss films about human trafficking. Contact your local library and ask for assistance identifying an appropriate book to learn more.**
4. **Encourage your local schools or school district to include human trafficking in their curricula and to develop protocols for identifying and reporting a suspected case of human trafficking or responding to a potential victim.**
5. **Become a mentor to a young person or someone in need. Traffickers often target people who are going through a difficult time or who lack strong support systems. As a mentor, you can be involved in new and positive experiences in that person's life during a formative time.**
6. **Learn how to recognize traffickers' recruitment tactics , how to safely navigate out of a suspicious or uncomfortable situations, and how to reach out for help at any time.**
7. **Encourage local businesses to provide jobs, internships, skills training, and other opportunities to trafficking survivors. Encourage them to consult the Responsible Sourcing Tool and Comply Chain to develop effective systems to detect, prevent, and combat human trafficking.**
8. **Encourage the College students you come in contact with to Take action on campus. Join or establish a campus club to raise awareness about human trafficking and initiate action throughout their local community. Encourage a college student to consider doing one of their research papers on a topic concerning human trafficking. Request that human trafficking be included in campus curricula.**
9. **Encourage your Health Care Providers to Learn how to identify the indicators of human trafficking and assist victims. With assistance from local anti-trafficking organizations, extend low-cost or free services to human**

trafficking victims. Resources from the Department of Health and Human Services can be found on their website.

Fundraising



Piggy Banks are always welcome! Stuff your bank with your random change and bring it to any of our regular meetings to be emptied. Make it a goal to fill it at least twice a year, and you will be instrumental in helping us increase the donations we are able to make to help students with their educational needs. Thank you for all your efforts in this regard!

The Christmas auction is just around the corner! We welcome all donations but need to either have them in hand or in the case of baked goods, know what's coming by the end of November. It would be great if you could **bring your donations to the November meeting**. Otherwise, drop them off at Kay's house.

This is our second largest fundraiser for our scholarships and projects.

What can you do to help? Some things we are specifically looking for:

- Baked goods (very desirable at Christmas time but always)
- Gently used items ready to be passed to a "good home"
- Arts, crafts, quilted items
- Gift certificates for spa type stuff, restaurants etc.
- Baskets we can recycle to put items in
- Wine---lots of it
- A fun or unique experience---for example, could you make an ethnic dinner for a small group or teach a craft to a gathering of a few friends?
- Pottery

Congratulations to Eva Stevens!

Congrats to Eva on this prestigious award!!!

Ely resident one of three industry leaders to be inducted to Minnesota Real Estate Hall of Fame

The University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business announced an Ely resident will be inducted this year into the Minnesota Real Estate Hall of Fame along with two other people.

Eva Stevens of Ely, retired president of United Properties Investment and COO of United Properties, will be honored for their outstanding business performance, high standards of ethics, and commitment to community improvement. The induction ceremony will occur on Nov. 15 at the Golden Valley Country Club.

The Minnesota Real Estate Hall of Fame was established in 2010 by the Shenon Center for Real Estate at the University of St. Thomas Opus College of Business to honor, preserve and perpetuate the names and outstanding accomplishments of leaders across Minnesota who have made transformational contributions in real estate and demonstrated care and



concern for improving their communities. The qualities of this year's Hall of Fame inductees prompted planners to invite as their guest speaker retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page who served on the State's highest court from 1992 until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2015.

Stevens has a well-earned reputation as an innovator, inspiring teacher and a steady leader with a superb gift for completing complicated, time-intense projects with enthusiasm and energy

that inspire her team.

One of Stevens's first jobs as an accountant at Coopers and Lybrand was creating the financial model supporting the bond sale for the Downtown Dome Stadium completed in 1982. During her tenure at United Properties, Stevens led – through both favorable and difficult real estate cycles - a number of innovation initiatives designed to drive productivity, increase transaction efficiency and reduce financial risk.

A gifted communicator, Stevens has been a dedicated mentor to young professionals both inside and outside of United Properties. Colleagues describe her as a natural teacher, coach and fun "godmother" who shares indispensable advice for success. Her formula includes hard work, solid research, surrounding herself with smart people, and humility to learn from mistakes and try new solutions.

As a long-time active

member of NAIOP, Stevens has served on local and national boards and committees, including the Executive Committee of the National Board of Directors, Governor of the Research Foundation and Chair of the Board of Trustees. She was active many years in a NAIOP National Investment Management Forum. She is a member for the Research Foundation Visionaries. Stevens is recipient of the Minnesota Chapter President's Award, NAIOP's highest honor for individuals.

A 35-year cancer survivor, Stevens has used her personal experience to rally the real estate community to find ways to purchase a building for the Upper Midwest's Club Twin Cities which is part of the national Cancer Support Communities, the Upper Midwest's largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing and supportive services.

Member Updates!

Meet Sue Smith!

I was born on January 21, 1949 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I was an only child of loving but strict parents who were in their mid-40s when I was born. My father worked for an insurance company – I never could

figure out exactly what he did! – and my mother had worked as an executive secretary before I was born. It was important to them that our family be involved in the church in which I was baptized. We were faithfully there every Sunday, and I could count on the fingers of both hands the number of times I missed church before I was 18 years old. It was very important to my parents that I attend Lutheran schools – I joke that my “claim to fame” is that I have never attended a public school in my life. I attended a Lutheran grade school, Lutheran high school, Lutheran college, and Luther Northwestern Seminary in St Paul, MN. In college, I majored in education and sociology. I never taught in a school, but I used my education degree during my time as a Lutheran pastor. For much of my working life before I attended seminary, I worked for various state agencies which helped people from all parts of society: mothers with young children, young women attending college who needed help, and the elderly.

My husband, Larry and I have two children. Our son Matthew lives in Burnsville, MN, and is a single father to two children--Jordan, who is in his second year of college, and Shaina, who is married and the mother of two girls, Olive and Willow. Our daughter Katherine lives with her husband Ed in Orlando, FL.

My husband and I have lived in many places as he has followed his call as a Lutheran pastor. While he was serving a congregation in Omaha, NE, I began “wondering” about becoming a pastor but didn’t follow through because I would have had to move away from my family to begin classes as a seminary.

Then we moved to Eagan, MN, a suburb of St. Paul, where Larry became a “mission developer” and started All Saints Lutheran Church in Eagan. I functioned as a “pastor” while Larry was developing the congregation by literally starting many activities that happen in a congregation, but I was still not officially a pastor. Shortly after we moved to Eagan, I was driving to Target and literally heard a voice in my head saying, “Time for you to go to seminary.” I ignored that for two and a half years but eventually “gave in” and began classes at Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul. I graduated and was ordained in 1993.

During my time as a pastor, I served in congregations full time and as an interim pastor. When I became an interim pastor, my daughter Katherine observed that this type of ministry best served who I am as a person. I have served congregations in the Twin Cities area, Long Island NY, Kenosha and Racine, WI, and Hibbing, MN, which was my last congregation where I served as an interim pastor for two years. I loved being a pastor, especially the privilege of people sharing their lives with me.

Larry and I retired within one week of each other in 2014. Years before that, we came to Ely for vacation for 23 years and in 2000 made the decision to build a home and retire here in Ely. We purchased our land in 2000 and built our home in 2010. We love living here in Ely.

I look forward to meeting my colleagues in AAUW and being a part of making a difference in the lives of women and girls in our community and beyond.

Say hello to Kay Vandervort!

My degree is in secondary education with majors in English and speech, and I taught both in high school and technical college before moving to a career as a freelance journalist. I worked as a journalist for five years before moving on to a thirty-or-so-year career in not-for-profit management. I was director of four different Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies. The smallest was half a county in Wisconsin, and the largest was eight counties in northern lower Michigan. In between the last two of those agencies, I spent seven years as director of a county-wide volunteer center. I facilitated trainings at both regional and statewide conferences on topics related to non-profit marketing, volunteer management, and volunteer recruitment and screening.

As to who I am, though, probably the most accurate definition is “a dabbler.” My college roommate and I made a pact that we would learn something, meet someone, and create something every week of our lives, and that is a promise I stick to. It’s why I talk to strangers in

stores and bars. It's why I have fiddled with all kinds of arts and crafts and even made my own snowshoes. It's why I love all the discussion groups I participate in and the books I read.

I retired to Ely in 2014 although I do work part time at the Dorothy Molter Museum in the summer and teach some classes at the Folk School. Two of my favorite activities are book club and writing group, although AAUW ranks right up there too.



Membership

Have a friend who might be interested in joining? Either of the presidents or Kay are happy to follow up with that person.

Membership forms are available at all meetings, or you can schedule a coffee time and invite a member or two to join you and your friend to talk about what we do and why we love AAUW.

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.

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