

Northwoods News - February 2024



MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA

Greetings, AAUW Ely Branch Members!

February is the month when our scholarship and award activities really ramp up. Through the generous donations of our branch members through silent auction and raffle purchases, pop-up fundraisers (like the fun Pie and Mimosa Breakfast we just had), and outright donations, our branch will grant approximately \$8,000 in scholarships!

A big thank you goes to our Fundraising Chair, Kay Vandervort, for making our fundraising activities successful (and fun). And a huge round of applause goes to our Scholarship Committee. Barb Soderberg and Darlene Nemanich have handled scholarships for many years and Sarah Paro joined the committee in November.

This year, a new and exciting "Women in the Trades" scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to a woman (high school or beyond) who has applied to or been accepted to a non-traditional trade program (ex. plumber, electrician, mechanic, construction worker, etc.).

The Minnesota North College – Ely Campus scholarship for a new or returning female non-traditional student was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 this year. Our branch has offered this scholarship for many years.

The Northwoods Young Writers Camp Scholarships will be granted to two teen girls again (\$500 each) to attend a five-day camp on an island on Rainy Lake by International Falls. Instructors, who are accomplished and published writers, work with the girls independently and in groups to develop and hone their writing skills. Some of the girls who have attended the camp are working to publish their work.

A scholarship (up to \$1,500) to AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be granted to a female college student for a three-day leadership conference in a Washington DC suburb from May 30 to June 1. This is a great opportunity for leadership training through workshops/panels from experts and well-known keynote speakers.

Our branch will be sending three fifth-grade girls to the STARBASE STEM Explorers Summer Program (\$1,300). The girls will get hands-on with rocket engineering, CAD design, GPS navigation, rover programming, and earth science investigation.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in applying for any of these scholarships, please contact Barb Soderberg, Darlene Nemanich, or Sarah Paro for more information.

Join us for the next branch meeting on February 13 at the Grand Ely Lodge. Our speaker is Beth Peterson from Vote-Run-Lead, a national organization with Beth as a Minnesota representative that provides training and resources to help women run for office. Come early at 5:00 for social time. The program starts at 5:30 followed by our branch meeting. Hope to see you there!

Andrea and Linda

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 6, 4:30 pm, Boathouse: Public Policy

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.

February 20, 4:30 pm, Boathouse: Public Policy

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.

NCCWSL - “NICK WHISTLE”

By Jodi Chaffin

Ever heard someone at an AAUW meeting say “nick whistle”? And you thought “What the heck is that?” “Nick whistle” is the pronunciation of the acronym for National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for leadership training, inspiration, and networking at their National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) each year. NCCWSL is a three-day conference held near Washington, DC and our Ely branch provides a NCCWSL scholarship for a college woman each year.

PIE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

AAUW members gathered together recently to eat pie and raise some money for our scholarship funds. You can look forward to another delicious event soon!



PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW Ely, Public Policy Committee

by Mary Setterholm

NEXT Public Policy Meeting: February 6 and 20, 4:30 at the Boathouse

This year promises to be eventful, with many key policy issues impacting gender equity being decided in Congress, in statehouses, and at the ballot box. Our branch will be working with Rotary to hold Candidate Forums later in the summer, and if the ERA Amendment is on the Minnesota ballot in 2024, there will be work for us all to do making sure we get passage.

Make your own commitment to be a well-informed and engaged activist and voter. Here are three ways to do it:

1. Invite three friends to become a Two-Minute Activist! Share this message to help AAUW build momentum for positive change in 2024.

2. Engage on the state level! Elected officials work for you, the voters—so urge them to stand up for gender equity. We are working with Kelsey Waits, Minnesota State Public Policy Chair, to identify better ways to stay abreast of bills progressing through our state legislature. Devising a "two-minute activist" process for our state legislature is the desired outcome.

3. Make sure you are ready for elections this year, including upcoming state primaries and caucuses. Confirm your voter registration to ensure its accuracy. [Click here](#) to find out Minnesota's primary and presidential election dates for 2024.



FUNDRAISING

By Kay Vandervort

Piggy Banks

Do you have an AAUW ceramic piggy bank? Have you decorated it? Are you filling it with all that random loose change you find at the bottom of your purse and littering your dresser?

More banks have been ordered and will be available any time. Then plan to bring your filled, decorated bank to the annual meeting in April for the emptying and pig parade. But because this is an ongoing fundraiser, we'll send you back home with your empty bank so it can be refilled over the summer.

MEMBER UPDATES

MEMBER UPDATE!

We're excited to welcome two new members since the last Northwoods News. Please welcome:

Reggie Holt reggie.holt@yahoo.com

Peggy Kronick peggy.kronick@gmail.com

MEET JACKIE ENDER!

My name is Jackie Ender, and I moved to Ely with my husband at the end of May 2023. How did we get here; it sure wasn't a straight journey, but Ely became part of my life very early on.

I was born to Swiss parents in Capetown, South Africa. As a photographer, my dad had us travel quite a bit. After several years in Africa, we moved to Milwaukee where I started school. From there, we moved back to Switzerland where I restarted my education as I had to learn Swiss German, a language that is only spoken, and Switzerland has 32 different dialects of it! In school, we learned proper German, French, Italian and English, so at least one of them came easy!

We went back to the USA every year for some extended summer vacation, and during one of those we ended up in Ely. My parents fell in love with this place and bought a lot on Farm Lake around 1972.

I got a degree in business and started working for an American management consulting firm in Zürich. From there, I worked for the largest European travel agency and was in charge of organizing the Concord round the world flights, that's how long this is ago!!!!!! After meeting my husband, we moved together to Singapore where our first daughter was born. We returned to Switzerland after a few years, had our second daughter, and when she was only three months old, we moved to Shanghai, China, where we stayed for seven years.

During those years I continued working, this time for Swissair, building up a customer base for them in China, as well as running the daily background business of a pre-school. At that time China was considered a hardship country, and we were lucky enough to be able to travel all over Asia as a family every three months as well as extended home leaves that often brought us to Ely.

Then in 1997, we bid Asia farewell and moved in with my parents who had just finished their house on Farm Lake as we had to figure out what was next for us. After less than a year, life took us to Dallas, TX for a couple of years, then we inched north to Wichita, KS. I took some art classes at WSU and as art was always a keen interest of mine, I started my own faux finishing company that was rather successful for 10 years. Our daughters both moved to Miami to study at the University of Miami. One is a marine biologist, and the other is a criminal defense attorney. During that time, my husband took a job in Italy, outside Milan, so our lives focused again on Europe.

Both my parents have passed on, but we kept the house on Farm Lake, as it's for all of us a real home base. We took the last overseas assignment in 2019 to Germany, rode out COVID over there and used the time to start remodeling our home here. Now we're almost done, loving being up north; making new friends and having more time for longtime friendships. I finally will have ample time to delve into all my hobbies eg; mosaic, oil paint, pottery and quilting! We just became grandparents and so introducing a new generation to this great place and all the opportunities we have here will be an added joy.



SAY HELLO TO JEANNE TOMLINSON!

I was born and raised in Southern California, primarily in Indio CA, and attended Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL from 1967 to 1971 for my undergraduate BA with a

major in mathematics. My goal at the time was to become a math teacher but one year of graduate school as a TA at Indiana University convinced me that teaching was not for me.

Over the next four years I worked for General Electric at a refrigerator assembly plant in Bloomington IN, starting in sub-assembly and line work, moving up to office work and then key-punching and after some night courses became a computer programmer which I discovered was the perfect career for me.

In Fall of 1976 I went back to graduate school at Ohio State in Columbus OH, got married, and then earned my MS in Computer Science in 1978. I stayed in the Columbus area for the next 29 years, working as an information technology analyst/programmer for Columbia Gas Corporation, Bull's-Eye Marketing (my husband's company), and American Electric Power.

During much of that time I was also very involved in Scouting with my husband, son and daughter, serving as BS den leader, GS troop leader, BS troop committee member, GS service unit registrar, Orienteering Club scout liaison and GS council member.

We moved to Ely early in 2007 which had always been our goal after decades of wonderful resort stays and BWCA fishing and camping trips. As soon as we moved here, we joined the Ely United Methodist Church where I met Lucy Diesslin who invited me to attend an AAUW-Ely meeting in September 2007. It was being held at the home of Caroline Owens – we were meeting in member homes back then. I joined immediately and shortly thereafter volunteered to become Treasurer when Lucy announced that she would be leaving the position after seven years. Tip for any new member: The best way to get to know people in an organization is to get involved on the Board and BEYOND the regular meetings! I'm also still active in our church, have volunteered with Northwoods Partners as an exercise buddy and board member and continue to volunteer as a driver, and participate in many community events. I can't imagine wanting to live anywhere else. This community is amazing and living on the edge of the BWCA is still a dream come-true.



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.