



MINNESOTA PINE STATE MEETING ISSUE SPRING 2024

FROM THE DESK OF JAN CAREY, AAUW MN PRESIDENT



On April 26, 2024, AAUW MN board of directors and Hastings branch planning team will welcome everyone to the 95th Annual Meeting of AAUW MN. Five more years until our 100th celebration. Imagine what we will achieve in 5 more years especially for our future members. We are poised to celebrate achievements by individuals and our organization. We will be at the Confluence. Confluence is defined by Webster's dictionary as "a coming or flowing together, meeting at one point." Our Annual Meeting will be held in Hastings, Minnesota, at the Confluence of three rivers – The Mississippi, the Vermillion and the St. Croix. Each join together to create a powerful force as it flows through the center of the United States to its final destination.

AAUW MN also has its rivers – they are Inclusion, Collaboration and Empowerment. Each river will take us on a journey to educate and inform. Our Inclusion River is one that gathers our Public Policy priorities to advocate an end to inequities; to address structural & systemic racism. The Inclusion River will begin its journey at our Annual Meeting on Friday evening as our key note speaker Megan Peterson, Executive Director of Gender Justice shares her work.

As I have received notices, newsletters and news from branches, I'm encouraged by the inclusion programming happening. Our branches are presenting programs to educate members and the public to the racial, ethnic & gender injustices that blanket our country. Branch program topics showcase how to eradicate intersectional bias & create a culture of involvement, respect, and connection. The richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds and perspectives can be catalysts to fully understand and realize everyone's potential. Congratulations to all branches who are reaching out, educating and advocating.

AAUW cannot exist without the Collaboration River. Our Strategic Plan addressed that goal and many branches have achieved its objectives. One of our collaborations is with ERAMN. Friday night, we will hear from Suzann Willhite, ERAMN Co-Founder and President Emeritus, who will provide an update to MN ERA Legislation and recap a successful ERAMN Rally at the Capitol. Nearly 100 AAUW MN members attended the rally by car and bus. It was an extraordinary event in the spirit of collaboration. AAUW MN is also collaborating with the League of Women

Voters. A number of branches have well-established relations with LWVMN. But AAUW MN has seen a decline to our partnership. Saturday, we will demonstrate our renewed relationship with a presentation by Michelle Witte, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Michelle will address a Voter Education project which includes the Secretary of State and AAUW MN branches.

Our river Empowerment will join the forces of the other two rivers to exemplify how women are a force to accomplish economic equity. Keynote speaker, Professor Karen Kedrowski, Director of Carrie Chapman Catt Center & Professor of Political Science, Iowa State University, will provide jaw-dropping information to the pay equity disparities facing women today.

And finally, a panel of female entrepreneurs from Hastings will provide insightful, personal stories they have encountered in the world of business.

Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment. These are the rivers that meet to form the Confluence known as AAUW MN, where we will collectively work together and move forward our Mission of Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy.

BREAK THE BARRIER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION – SUPPORT OPEN VOTE

AAUW members are about to make a crucial decision. Beginning April 3, 2024 members will have the opportunity to change our national bylaws and permit membership to those who do not hold degrees. The proposed language to individual membership reads:

Any individual who supports AAUW's purpose of advancing equity for women and girls shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership subject to completion of such informational procedures as the Board shall establish; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. The provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to AAUW membership.

AAUW's National Board of Directors, Governance Committee, Advancement Committee, Inclusion and Equity Committee and our Minnesota State Board of Directors all support this change. All members are encouraged to vote and vote "yes" to the bylaws change.

AAUW policies speak to equity, diversity and inclusion to move AAUW's mission forward for the next generation. We should demonstrate our imperative by including those who do not have post-high school degrees. By exercising an affirmative vote, members will advance their individual pledge to be a member of an inclusive, diverse, equitable organization.

AAUW's membership requirements have changed many times over our long history to become more inclusive. This next step is a way to celebrate all that makes us extraordinary with a larger pool of driven individuals. Treating each other fairly, with respect and compassion, is the foundation of AAUW and serves as the catalyst of our current and future efforts.

Removing the degree requirement is not meant to take anything away from current member accomplishments or AAUW's commitment to education. AAUW's endowment of well over a \$100 million will continue to grow and award fellowships and grants in increasing amounts each year (\$6.1 million last year). Nationally, 64% of woman currently in the workforce, do not have post-high school degrees. Our affirmation of inclusion will drive members to bring these women to AAUW and its commitment to educating women and girls through access to our many education awards.

Let us break our barrier for the next generation and vote. We often ask ourselves and others to turnout in political races and we are ardent in endeavors to get out the vote. Thus, it is also time for us to turnout for AAUW's national election. In 2021, a clear majority of those voting were in favor of the change (63%), but it takes a 2/3 vote to change a bylaw.

Please vote and let's finally open up AAUW. We're within reach of success and creating a secure future for AAUW and the voices for equity, diversity and inclusion.

Jan Carey, AAUW MN President

OPEN VOTE WEBINAR

Please join Kelsey Waits on March 28 at 6:30 pm for a zoom webinar discussing the Open Vote. Learn what it means and to learn why the MN State Board voted to endorse this measure. Actual voting for the measure will begin on April 3 and continue through noon on May 15. The zoom link for the webinar is: <https://tinyurl.com/openaauw>

Kelsey Waits, Vice President for Public Policy

95TH AAUW OF MINNESOTA ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 26 – 27, 2024 CONFLUENCE = INCLUSION, COLLABORATION, EMPOWERMENT

REGISTRATION

Registration should be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2024**. The Registration form is available on the AAUW MN website and in the Winter 2024 Pine.

AGENDA

Friday

- 2:00 pm Registration Opens
- 3:00 pm The City of Hastings Tour of City Hall, walk the river trail, shop downtown, see Vermillion Falls
- 5:00 pm Social Hour, Cash Bar, Bid on Silent Auction Items
- 5:45 pm Buffet Dinner
- 6:30 pm Suzann Willhite, ERAMN Co-Founder and President Emeritus
- 7:00 pm Keynote Speaker, Megan Peterson, Executive Director, Gender Justice

- 8:00 pm Continue Social Hour, Bid on Silent Auction Items
- Saturday**
- 7:30 am Registration Reopens
- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am Welcome from Hastings Branch President Lisa Hedin and Mayor Mary Fasbender, Flag Ceremony featuring active Military and Veteran women, and Welcome from AAUW MN President Jan Carey
- 9:00 am Business Meeting
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am Business Meeting
- 11:00 am Keynote Speaker, Professor Karen Kedrowski, Iowa State University
- 12:00 pm Buffet Lunch
- 12:30 pm Congresswoman Angie Craig Video (MN 2nd District)
- 1:00 pm Michelle Witte, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Minnesota
- 1:30 pm Closing of Silent Auction
- 1:45 pm Hastings Panel of Women Entrepreneurs, Jan Hertel-Moderator
- 2:30 pm Closing Remarks

The program is subject to include brief, pre-recorded video statements by Sen. Tina Smith, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, U.S. House Rep. Betty McCollum, and MN Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan.

RESOLUTIONS

The delegates to the State Meeting will vote on the following resolution submitted by Jacqueline Falk, Duluth Branch Public Policy Liaison:

“ERA IN MINNESOTA CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS the 2023-2025 National AAUW Public Policy Priorities directly call for the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); AND

WHEREAS the Minnesota Constitution does not have an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); AND

WHEREAS the lack of constitutional equality reaches every aspect of women’s lives; AND

WHEREAS the ERA would clarify, once and for all, that sex discrimination in employment and wages, reproductive rights, insurance, Social Security, education and more is a violation of constitutional rights; AND

WHEREAS the ERA would also provide new opportunities to seek legal recourse when an individual faces sex discrimination and would place the burden of proof on those who discriminate instead of those fighting for equality; AND

WHEREAS Minnesota AAUW is one of the allies of ERA MINNESOTA; AND

WHEREAS there are companion bills in the Minnesota Legislature, HF00173 and SF0037, with Equal Rights Amendment companion text providing "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended by adding a specific guarantee that equality of rights under the law shall not be

denied or abridged by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin.” and which require that the ERA be submitted to the people at the 2024 general election and if ratified be effective January 1, 2025.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AAUW Minnesota vigorously supports passing the ERA to the Minnesota Constitution.

IMPLEMENTATION: The AAUW Minnesota Vice President for Public Policy will provide the information in this resolution to members and encourage them to contact their Senators and Representatives to support the Equal Rights Amendment.”

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

If you are interested in bringing forward a resolution, additional opportunity for submission is available when a call for resolutions from the floor is offered. In order to propose a resolution from the floor, the delegate must provide a written or digitized version of the resolution that has been approved for format and inclusion of all needed sections. In order to get approval, the resolution must be provided to Vice President for Public Policy Kelsey Waits at 8 am on Saturday, before the convening of the meeting. AAUW resolutions should reflect AAUW Public Policy Priorities and the mission of AAUW.

SILENT AUCTION



AAUW MN branches please help AAUW MN make a meaningful gift to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund by participating in the Silent Auction. The Greatest Needs Fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly to critical issues such as a new threat to Title IX and to quickly join social justice movements like #MeToo. The Greatest Needs Fund also lets AAUW maintain a current major media presence. Silent auction item suggestions include themed baskets (chocolate, Italian dinner, games, theater night, baby), gift cards for gas or food or Amazon, Lottery Tickets, hand-made items, etc. Bring your silent auction items to the Registration Desk when you arrive. Tables will be set up in the conference space where we will be holding our meeting. With each silent auction item, please provide the Branch Name, the name of the item, the value of the item and a minimum bid suggestion. You do not need to provide a bid sheet. The Silent Auction will end at **1:30 pm on Saturday**. Payment can be made by cash or check (preferred) or credit card (least preferred). Silent auction items will be available at the close of the auction.

PUBLIC POLICY 2024-26 AAUW-MN PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES BIENNIAL ACTION PRIORITIES

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW advocates:

- Strengthening and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education;
- Adequate and equitable funding for and access to quality public education, including early childhood education, for all students;
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools;
- Increased support for and protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and comprehensive sexual health education;
- Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women, including alleviating the debt burden that disproportionately impacts borrowers of color and exacerbates the racial wealth gap; and
- Support for practices that halt the flow of students from schools to prisons, including reforming school disciplinary practices that disproportionately punish girls and students of color.

To achieve economic security for all women, AAUW advocates:

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits;
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, free from systemic barriers and biases, including vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination statutes;
- Closing the gender and race gaps in leadership opportunities for women of all backgrounds;
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care and paid family, medical, and sick leave;
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship;
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential;

- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from privatization;
- Access for all women to the full range of health care services to ensure economic security; and
- Increasing the number of quality jobs that pay a living wage.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates:

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights;
- Complete, accurate and timely collection of data, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender identity to inform policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation;
- Self-determination of one’s reproductive health decisions;
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care, including insurance, and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients’ rights;
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities;
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women’s and girls’ concerns;
- Freedom in the definition of self and family, including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures; and
- Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

MARCH 2, 2024 BOARD MEETING

The Board met via ZOOM.

President Jan Cary reported that the National Advancement Committee is developing a Membership Webinar that is scheduled to be presented via Zoom on March 27th, which includes a script she has prepared. Jan will be asking the Ely Branch to participate in a panel discussion to be included in this webinar. She will also be asking Austin and Albert Lea to participate in the panel discussion. In addition, she sent branch presidents an update which is attached.

Vice President Program Karen Kirkwood moved that a Strategic Plan Action Grant be provided to Red Wing Branch in the amount of \$1,000 for the third year of their literacy program. Sandra Martell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. She also reported that eleven branches have applied for NCCWSL grants.

Secretary/Historian/PINE Editor Sandra Martell reported that she had prepared minutes of the Feb 3, 2024 meeting and published The Winter Pine.

Pat Powers, Vice President for Membership reported that she had Public Policy and Membership brochures reprinted and took them to the ERA Rally.

Vice President for Public Policy Kelsey Waits reported that there were between 50 and 100 AAUW members at the ERA rally at the capitol. She further reported that AAUW MN is being considered an important partner with Gender Justice and ERAMN in supporting the MN ERA Amendment. Jan Carey reported that Kelsey Waits made a wonderful speech at the rally. Kelsey Waits is working with a number of organizations that will continue to enhance these relationships, including The League of Women Voters.

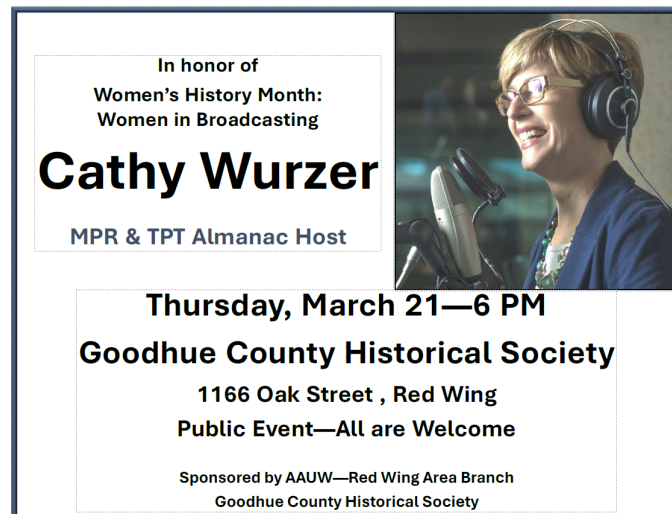
Nominating Committee Chair Pat Powers reported that there are no nominations for the 2025 Nominating Committee or for Membership Vice President or College/University Representative. The nominees are:

- a. President – Kelsey Waits;
- b. Vice President Membership TBD;
- c. Vice president AAUW Funds – Barb Watson Liukkonen; and
- d. Nominating Committee for 2025 elections, Mary Chorewytz of St. Paul Branch, the other position and an alternate are TBD.

Annual Meeting. The Board discussed plans for the annual meeting and scheduled the annual board meeting for Friday, April 26, at Pat Power’s home in Hastings at 10 am.

BRANCH UPCOMING ACTIVITIES, EVENTS ETC.

RED WING



The poster features a photograph of Cathy Wurzer, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a blue blazer and a headset, smiling while speaking into a microphone. The text on the poster is as follows:

In honor of
Women's History Month:
Women in Broadcasting

Cathy Wurzer
MPR & TPT Almanac Host

Thursday, March 21—6 PM
Goodhue County Historical Society
1166 Oak Street , Red Wing
Public Event—All are Welcome

Sponsored by AAUW—Red Wing Area Branch
Goodhue County Historical Society

MINNEAPOLIS

April 18th members will tour **Landmark Center** in downtown St Paul, which may include visiting the Schubert Museum and the Gallery of Wooden Art and enjoying a noon piano concert in one of the courtrooms.

April 22, *From Me to You* representatives will be in front of the Gale Mansion between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. to accept donations of clothes.

ST CLOUD

April 9, 5:30-9 p.m. Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University
Educating Young Girls in South Africa — Helen Lotara

DULUTH

April 7, 3 pm, ZOOM,
Kelly Mullan, “#emBODYgram: Feminism, Fatness and
Visual Representation”

Duluth AAUW is pleased to present one of
our scholarship winners
KELLY MULLAN



Sunday, April 7 at 3:00
Via Zoom
<http://tinyurl.com/AAUWFeminismfatness>

Kelly will share her doctoral research:
**#emBODYgram: Feminism, Fatness
and Visual Representation
on Instagram**

Kelly's work considers the "impact of
absence" of fat bodies on social media for
teenage women in Duluth. She will
explain how such "absence" ensures a
lack of exposure to bodies that represent
demographics seen in everyday life,
thereby skewing the practice of social
comparison.

HASTINGS

March 25, 2024, 7:00 pm

Diaries of Jane Doe: Historical Perspectives on Women's Health in Dakota County presented
by Caillean Magee, Science Museum of Minnesota Visitor Experience Assistant Manager who
will take a deep dive into how women have been viewed in Western Medicine throughout time
and what that meant for women in Dakota County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

ST CROIX VALLEY

April 8, 2024, First Presbyterian Church AAUW State Board Vice President for Public Policy
Kelsey Waits will discuss the state and national public policies of AAUW.

ST PAUL

April 9, 2024, Poetry Day

10:00 a.m. – Member Poetry Readings: Limericks and Odes

11:00 a.m. – Connie Wanek, Poet

12:00 p.m. – Luncheon – SignUpGenius Link

1:15 p.m. – John Minczeski, Poet

CONTACT INFORMATION

Board Members

President Jan Carey, jmcfree@aol.com

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VP Program, Karen Kirkwood, KarenSKirwood@cs.com

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Sandra Martell

Editor

March 20, 2024