



## THE HEART OF THE ARROWHEAD

AAUW Hibbing Branch Newsletter

SUMMER 2024



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*"I believe the rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21st century."*

*– Hillary Clinton*

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### President's message —

**Happy Summer Everyone!**

**Hopefully you have all "weathered" the summer storms we've had and are getting to enjoy the summer months.**

**The past year was a ton of fun as we celebrated Hibbing AAUW's 100th year and another outstanding book sale.**

**The board recently met to set dates for our 24-25 meeting schedule. Additionally, the program committee will be meeting in July to come up with more fun and enriching presentations as well as chances to catch up with fellow members at various local establishments.**

**Hopefully you can all find time to join us throughout the year!**

**See you all in September!**

*Sara*



Congratulations to our Hibbing branch of AAUW members for having a phenomenal sale with probably the **most books, 100,000, and profits of \$22,486!** This was possible because many members hauled, sorted, and sold for 31 shifts. We saw steady progress with many members working extra shifts. Many members put up flyers, collected books from other people, and folded bags during the summer. The HHS Key Club, Hibbing Youth in Action, N-K National Honor students, Boy Scouts of Troop 1 and Victory Christian Academy students helped us immensely

### Special thanks for:

Publicity — Marilyn Kaeli

Map maker - Stefanie Carlson

Flyers - Stefanie Carlson

Collages and signs-Anita Forte & Charlotte Hanegmon

Storage & hauling-Pam Klune

Treasurer - Julie Takkunen with Pam Klune

Food - Ken's A-1, Theresa Cox, Donna Millner, Jeannie Brandstrom, Marcia Grahek, Stephanie Rancourt, and Kathy Laffin

Cardboard breakdown and removal in summer - Bob Kearney

This year we needed extra help in many ways. Thank you to the following relatives and friends: Lee Lehman, Ed Cox, Ken Kapella, Lance Takkunen, Brian Moody, Tony Ridlon, Ernie Hummel, Pam Rundell, Dale Spenser, Dan Ridlon, Sean Brletich, Sharon Schirmer, and Thistledew Restorative Justice Workers.

I apologize if I have forgotten anyone.

The following are some of those who generously donated towards rent, after-hours custodial fees and scholarships: Arsher Trust, Thrivent Financial, Super 1 Foods, Marilyn Kaeli, Patty Miller, Mary Jean Waters, Jeanne Bymark in memory of Mariann Lowen. Look for our thank you ad in the newspaper for more donors.

Once again, it was my pleasure, privilege, and honor to work with you to raise money for scholarships for women and girls. No task was too big or small for you to undertake, and you never gave up when the work seemed overwhelming. Throughout the nine days, you maintained your friendliness and sense of humor and probably worked harder and longer than you planned without complaining. I truly appreciated working with you.

**Let's look forward to another fabulous book sale in 2025!**

## BOOK SALE: GETTIN' READY for 2025

Books are now being accepted for the 2025 book sale. People may drop off up to ten boxes of books anytime in Barb's garage at : 3320 1st Ave. (service road) Hibbing, MN

If someone has more than 10 boxes of books, call Barb at 218-340-2639 to make arrangements to take books to the storage building.

We **do accept** puzzles, audio books, DVDs, and CDs

We **do not** accept-

- encyclopedias
- magazines (except craft)
- Readers Digests
- multiple copies of books
- old textbooks
- VHS and cassettes

Thank you! Barb Wojciak

## MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

You make it happen when you become a member of a powerful community that breaks through barriers facing women and families today.

Established in 1881, AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Minnesota has a membership of nearly 1,800 in its 24 branches spread over the state. It's a dynamic organization with a long record of affecting change on issues of importance to women, such as education, equity in the workplace and sex discrimination.

AAUW Hibbing branch has achieved membership success in 2023/24. And we expect to add even more members in 2024/25. A grand welcome is extended to all of our returning and new members — Emma Keeler, Kate Wagenbach and Jessalyn Sabin .

If you know of any prospective members, please send their names, addresses, and phone numbers to: Marcella Schwecke—[micaHANDmarcella@gmail.com](mailto:micaHANDmarcella@gmail.com)

Those of us have worked at the book sale know that our conversations with customers and AAUW members make the book sale a truly heartwarming, satisfying, and often humorous experience. Below are only a few of the moments to remember from this year's sale. These moments and many others inspire us to work hard again next year to make our sale possible for book lovers near and far.

**From Gail Carlson** Working alongside members that we either have known for years or we are just getting acquainted with is a big plus during sorting and selling. Members sharing thoughts, stories, life experiences makes the time go by and gives us a chance to widen our circles. Knowing we can sit at their table at meetings or just say "hi." Besides my love of reading this is something that keeps me helping at the Book Sale.

**From Reta Ridlon** There was a family on Friday that stayed from 9:30-4:30 . They shopped and sat and read. Then they shopped some more. They were on their phones a lot too.

**Others: From Nancy Erickson** Nancy handed an older gentleman a bag and said, "Maybe you'll get lucky." He gave her the side-eye!

**From Reta Ridlon** I love working the book sale! I normally sit at home and do crafts, but I found out I CAN walk and reach 15,700 steps in a day! The friends and exercise are fun and enriching with the knowledge from the other ladies.

**From Gail Carlson:** A lady from Ramsey was told about a big book sale in Hibbing. She drove up for the day and drove back that night, but not before I told her all the Hibbing sites she come to see another time.

**Other comments & observations:** \* A man said that he had recently talked books with a former roommate whom he hadn't seen in years. His friend recommended Calico Joe by John Grisham. He came late to the sale on Saturday and found it! \* A lady who received an AAUW scholarship, gave \$12 to the donation box saying she was giving back from being blessed with a scholarship many years ago. \* Carolyn Kangas came to the sale late on Sunday looking for a Chinese cook book. She found one! \* Thanks to Peg Vidmar for cleaning the women's toilets much better than they had been cleaned! \* A benefit from the book sale is that women see AAUW and our work for scholarships. Six applications and information were handed out during the sale. \* Someone overheard customers say: "You can't have too many Bibles." \* You're buying the book because it is purple, your favorite color. \* On Monday after the sale, a sergeant came with a work crew from Thistledeew. He knew Barb because she had been a teacher for both of his kids. As they were getting ready to leave, Barb shook the sergeant's hand and he gave her a hug saying she was a sweetheart in front of all the men! \* Many customers thanked us for all the work we do to make the sale possible.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Upcoming regional events of interest

**AAUW MN Brainerd Area Branch Event: *Equal Pay for Men and Women*.** A presentation by Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN VP Public Policy/AAUW MN president-elect, Northland Arboretum, Brainerd MN, 10am, September 7, 2024 .

**AAUW MN Ely Branch: Northland Gathering, *Neighbor to Neighbor-Bringing Advocacy Home, Grand Ely Lodge, October 12, 2024, 9:30am-2:30pm.***

### AAUW-Hibbing Branch Calendar: 2024/2025

DATE	MEETING	TIME	LOCATION	PROGRAM
Sept 12	Board	5:15pm	TBA	
Sept 19	General	5:15pm	TBA	TBA
Oct. 24	General	TBA	TBA	TBA
Nov. 21	General	TBA	TBA	TBA
Jan. 18	Board	TBA	TBA	
Jan. 18	General	TBA(brunch)	TBA	TBA
Feb. 20	General	TBA	TBA	TBA
Mar. 13	General	TBA	TBA	TBA
Apr. 4,5,6	BOOK SALE			
May 15	General	TBA	TBA	TBA
June	Board	TBA	TBA	

## AAUW MN: President's Final Message to Branches

My parting message as AAUW MN president is featured in the Summer Edition of THE PINE. You may read the entire message there. Branch presidents received a separate mailing with detailed information to message to branch leaders. I strongly encourage and request that branch presidents share the information with branch members. I even color-coded the information to correspond with a branch designee/committee chair with hope that will be a helpful way to share the information.

I also included a review of the AAUW MN Strategic Plan and the areas we completed actions and implementations. We've done well in many areas. But there is still work to be done.

Here, in an abbreviated version, are key points to carry forward to branch members.

1. Membership: Members of the AAUW National Advancement Committee have asked national staff for a response & reaction to the Open UP AAUW membership vote result. Affiliates need assistance as we maneuver the after effects. Those after effects have begun. Members, who are leaving AAUW as a result of the failure of the vote, is very unexpected. Thus, state leaders are seeking, from national, an action response and a strong, inciteful membership campaign.

2. Leadership recruitment: The Advancement Committee and National staff are developing a workbook to feature creative methods to recruit and fill leadership vacancies. The document will be shared upon completion.

3. Partnerships/Collaborations: Partnerships & collaborations are the responsibility of affiliates. Please find like-minded organizations to cooperate with and demonstrate the value of AAUW.

4. Communications: Communications issues are prevalent everywhere. AAUW MN provides every tool to communicate through the website, FB page, THE PINE, email postings, postcards, newspapers and phone calls. But we can't make members read, open email or the website or follow on FB. Please try to be cognizant to all the tools being used to keep members informed.

5. Public Policy Priorities: Promotion of public policy priorities at the branch level is going to be critical as we move closer to November 5, 2024. I can only say 'women must prevail'. Convince every person, every gender, every ethnicity of the importance of their vote in national and state elections. Our lives literally depend on it.

My term of office ends June 30, 2024. It has been my pleasure to have served as your AAUW MN state president. I look forward to new responsibilities with AAUW MN. And, I will continue service on two National Committees— Diversity/Equity/Inclusion and Advancement.

Thank you, each and every one of you, for all you do to support AAUW and promote the mission of AAUW to the best of your ability.

Stay well, stay safe!

*Moving Forward ~ Collectively Advocating*

*Jan Carey*

## AAUW-Hibbing Branch Officers: 2024-25

<b>President</b>	<b>Sara Merfeld</b>
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Marcella Schwecke</b>
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>Gretchen Wright &amp; Becky Kapella</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Laffin</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Julie Takkunen</b>

### Like & Follow AAUW on FB.

Follow AAUW-Hibbing

Follow AAUW MN

Follow AAUW

Don't forget to mail the newsletter to a friend or prospective member.

**Print/address/fold/stamp/mail - It's that easy!**

## AAUW-Hibbing: Committees & Chairs

**Programs,** Gretchen Wright & Becky Kapella

**Public Policy,** Nancy Erickson

**By-Laws,** Sara Merfeld

**Membership,** Marcella Schwecke

**Book Sale/AAUW Funds,** Barb Wojciak

**Scholarships,** Shanna Eskeli & Sara Merfeld

**College/University Liaison,** (open)

**Cultural Interest,** Mary Enge & Peggy Vidmar

**Historian,** Mary Petron

**Special Projects,** vacant

**Reservations,** Pam Rooney & TBA

**Future Collegians,** Sue Moody & Lynn Stish

**Literature,** Patty Miller

**Special Funds,** Jeannie Brandstrom

**Sunshine,** Marilyn Kaeli

**Publicity,** (open)

**Newsletter Editor/FB Administrator,** Jan Carey



HIBBING (MN)  
BRANCH