



## THE HEART OF THE ARROWHEAD

FALL 2024



### AAUW Hibbing Branch Newsletter

#### In this issue:

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ Hibbing Branch Updates
- ◆ 2024/2025 Calendar
- ◆ Regional Events
- ◆ National News
  - Public Policy
  - Membership Matters
  - Five Star Program
- ◆ Hibbing Branch News & Extras
  - Upcoming Business
  - Literature Group
  - Book Sale
  - In Remembrance
- ◆ Branch Officers & Committees

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

***— Hillary Clinton***

#### Contact:

Sara Merfeld, AAUW-Hibbing  
Branch President  
merfeldsara@gmail.com

#### President's message —

Welcome back for another exciting year with Hibbing AAUW!

Last year was a great success celebrating 100 years for our branch and another outstanding book sale.

We are excited to welcome many new and prospective members this year.

The programs committee has been working hard to bring you new and exciting programs.

I encourage you to consider attending the Northland Get Together hosted by Ely this year. It is always great fun to meet and connect with other members from northland AAUW branches! More information about the Northland Get Together can be found in this newsletter.

Additionally, we will be hosting the event next year!

Have a great fall!

*Sara*



## AAUW-Hibbing Branch Calendar: 2024/2025

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

### PROGRAMS

September 19 Membership Fun!

October 24 Marlise Riffle, retired professor from the Minnesota State College system, gives us a Heads Up About Project 2025.

November 21 Conversation with Lisa Wyland, physical therapist and lifestyle medicine therapist

January 18 Ann Bussey discusses her life journey from Health Care Administration to her award-winning leading role in creating healthy aging policies for rural health care in Minnesota.

February 20 An evening with Jessalyn Sabin, one of our own AAUW scholarship recipients, and Academic Dean of Minnesota North College.

March 13 Musical master Vicki Gornick shares insights and humor from a life of music education and performance.

April NO PROGRAM

MAY 15 (tentative) Megan Reynolds & Amy Koivisto, co-authors of "Always, Patsy," discuss this passion project and the role they play in arts advocacy and advancement for all ages.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: AAUW Hibbing Branch Book Sale

Preparations have already begun. Books may be donated until October 30 by calling 218-340-2639. Before the sale in April, books can be donated in March at times to be decided. We are collecting puzzles and audio books, too.

Hauling date: March 29

Sorting: March 29- April 3

Selling: April 4, 5, & 6

For more information call Barb @ 218-340-2639

## NATIONAL NEWS

AAUW National is making a concerted effort to inform members of its objectives in the key areas of Public Policy, Membership, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion, C/U members partnerships and the Five-Star Program. All, is to be achieved this year through better engagement with members to the broad objectives of the organization, while sustaining the mission of Equity for Women and Girls.

Each key area is defined fully on the AAUW National website. Updates from AAUW National publication **Membership Matters** are provided here in this newsletter. Branches should use the information to build strong branch advocacy and programming.

### **PUBLIC POLICY: Staying Nonpartisan and State Events**

As a nonpartisan organization, any activities or statements conducted under AAUW's name must not show support or opposition to a partisan candidate or political party. This election season, make sure to follow [our guidelines for election activities](#). Public Policy officers hosted a webinar on September 4, at 3:30 p.m. ET that provided an in-depth discussion of how to stay on the right side of the rules when engaging in the election. The recording will be posted on the National website. Visit the [AAUW Policy Center](#) and learn where AAUW stands on the issues. <https://www.aauw.org/act/policy-center/>

**Voter Engagement: Town Halls and Watch Parties.** The AAUW National ***It's My Vote!*** campaign to educate people about issues we care about is just heating up. Branch Public Policy chairs have been provided information and may share it with members.

On August 31, AAUW collaborated on a [Celebration of Reading](#) in Washington, DC to stand up against censorship groups like Moms for Liberty.

AAUW also proudly partnered with the ***YWomen Vote Gen Z Townhall***. It was a great opportunity to hear directly from Gen Z voters about their views on education equity, voting rights, and more.

During the September 10 Presidential debate AAUW provided links to Watch parties & provided wa-Bingo cards for some humor.

September 17 was National Voter Registration Day. AAUW National has provided [It's My Vote! stickers](#) for any branch that organized an voter registration event. This was the perfect opportunity to learn about the Electoral College - its origins, history, problems & possible solutions.

California Online will be doing a program on Project 2025 on October 22, 7pm (PT). Their

### **URGENT! Stay Connected: Re-Subscribe to AAUW Emails**

Are any members missing out on vital updates and important announcements from AAUW?

Ensure they stay connected by re-subscribing to AAUW emails to received publication such as Membership Matter and Washington Update. Simply forward or click on this link, [aauw.us/emailoptions](http://aauw.us/emailoptions) to re-subscribe and guarantee that they receive the latest news, webinars, and opportunities from AAUW.

## **NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT & DEI COMMITTEE WORK** (Jan Carey, committee member)

**AAUW National held a special Membership Gathering** on September 10, at 4 p.m. ET. AAUW National recognized our outstanding supporters and branches and shared updates on work in Policy, Programs, Membership, and more. A recording will be on the AAUW National website.

**New Member Discount Shape the Future Campaign FY25** is in process. If a branch recruited new members during FY24, the branch may be entitled to free national memberships to use as your branch wishes for anyone who qualifies for membership in AAUW. The status report and redemption form are available [online](#). Claim your free memberships by **September 30, 2024!** The FY25 Shape the Future coupon code is **STFFY25**, which provides 50% (\$36) off the national dues when processing a new member. Shape the Future: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/shape-the-future-campaign/>

### **AAUW National Membership Dues Rates**

April 1 kicked off the 2025 Fiscal Year (FY25) membership dues collection process for AAUW branches. FY25 National dues remain the same: Annual National (\$72), Students (\$18.81), and Lifetime (\$1,440). As of January 2024, all National dues are **FULLY** tax deductible!

### **College/University Members Partnerships**

**College/University** Membership dues are \$250 and include two free national memberships for their named representatives and free national student memberships. The newly designed [CU Member Toolkit](#) helps branches promote and engage with prospective and current campuses in your community. In addition to FAQs for members National has included a CU Membership Flyer, how to join/renew student members for free, as well as flyers to encourage students, staff and faculty on campus to access our Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy training available to all CU Members. Registration is now open for Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative (WEEI) webinars and the schedule is listed on [this page](#).

**Diversity/Equity/Inclusion** are integrated into Membership. Despite the outcome of the National Membership by-laws vote, National continues to emphasize the need to move forward as an inclusive and diverse organization for the purpose of achieving equity. Branches should asked: what does equity mean in your community? What did it mean in the past? What does your branch do to meet equity? The National DEI Committee is developing webinars to address issues and perceptions. Watch for upcoming announcements.



## FIVE-STAR PROGRAM:

### Five Star Resources and FY25

As fall begins, many branches are gearing up for their fall programs. The updated FY25 Five Star Program Criteria, covering branch activities from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, serve as a framework for branch success. Every branch has the opportunity to earn a star in one or more categories.

National encourages all branches to participate in the Annual Branch Survey so they can learn more about the impact members are making in local communities and how National can better support branches and members. The survey will be emailed to branch presidents on **September 12**.

The [Five Star Program Page](#) has been updated to show the criteria required to achieve stars this year. Additionally, the [Five Star Program page](#) now includes a Frequently Asked Questions section to address common inquiries. National will continue to update these resources throughout the year based on leader feedback.



### Community Hub Tools, Resources and Video Tutorials

Check out the resources on the [Community Hub: Tools and Resources Page](#) which include quick five minute video tutorials to help members and leaders navigate the Hub and perform tasks essential to your leadership role. More resources and [FAQs](#) to come!

**Please ensure your branch officers' information is up to date in the Community Hub.**

**<https://www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update/>**

#### Stay Connected: Re-Subscribe to AAUW Emails

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Ensure they stay connected by re-subscribing to AAUW emails. Simply forward or click on this link, [aauw.us/emailoptions](https://aauw.us/emailoptions) to re-subscribe and guarantee that they receive the latest news, webinars, and opportunities from AAUW.

ENGAGEMENT



## Community Hub Tips and Highlights

To improve the ways members use and interact with the Community Hub, National highlights some frequently raised items or questions that can benefit all members.

**Add/Join Members** - To add/join a new, lapsed, or transfer members, follow these quick steps when managing your roster.

1. **Actions > Add Individual** which puts an individual on the roster.
  - o This action triggers a notification that is sent to the President/Administrator, Membership VP and Finance Officer which informs that an individual has been added to the roster. **NEW!** Please note that the language in this notification has been updated and the Subject has been changed from 'New Member Notification' to 'A New Individual Has Been Added to the Branch Roster'.
2. Then you must click **Join Individuals** to process their payment.
  - o *Hint:* You can tell that a payment hasn't been processed for a new member if the **Member\_Type** column on the exported roster is blank.

## Renewal Reminders and Reimbursements!

Both College/University and Branch Members for those branches that opted to have National send renewal emails for self-renewal, will be sent each month during the week of the 20th! Members without email addresses will require outreach from the branch.

When members self-pay online, their dues generally include national, state, and local. Finance officers receive a copy of the member's confirmation (receipt) to help in knowing who has paid and what dues were included in the payment.

AAUW reconciles the dues receipts monthly, then deposits them via ACH to your branch bank account at the end of the **following month**. A separate disbursement report follows that includes member names and payment details to match your deposit.

## Don't Lose Your Affiliate Tax-Exempt Status with the IRS

All AAUW-affiliates must file a tax return each year. The simplest option for non-profits is Form 990-N, which AAUW can prepare if your annual gross receipts are \$50k or less.

To have AAUW file your 990-N, complete the group exemption form **by October 15** in the [Community Hub](#). Go to MY AFFILIATIONS, then click the button next to your affiliate name. Choose TAX INFORMATION, then click the button at the top that reads: CLICK TO REQUEST 990N 07/01/2023-06/30/2024. The principal officer is the finance officer. Verify that your (EIN) is correct, so your filing isn't rejected. If you do not qualify to file Form 990-N, AAUW cannot file your return. Filings/confirmations will be processed in the order in which they are received, so please bear with us as we file for each affiliate!

[Watch the 990N Tutorial](#)



## HIBBING BRANCH NEWS & EXTRAS

### Meetings and Agendas

The Hibbing branch board has prepared **upcoming items of action and discussion at upcoming business meetings**. Please note the following:

- Name Grant Honoree will be announced
- Vote on the Proposed Annual budget at the **October meeting**
- A **membership assistant is requested** to assist the branch membership chair
- Report of the Branch Audit will be submitted at the **October meeting**
- Discuss the restructure of the Cultural Interest Committee
- Volunteer to become a C/U rep
- Revisit a Publicity chair
- Volunteer to become a Special Projects chair

**Literature Group** (Dates, time, location are flexible; 2:30pm unless noted)

Book Title	Date	Location
<i>Hannah, Kristin: The Women</i>	9/24	Sportsman's Restaurant, Hibbing
Napolitano, Anne: <i>Hello Beautiful</i>	10/22	Patty Miller, 29108 W. Shore Lane, Pengilly
Larson, Erik: The Demon of Unrest	11/19	(Mike's Pub or Sammy's pending)
Grover-LeGarde: <i>Night of Memory</i>	1/21/25	Sylvia Lehman, 337 Mesabi Drive, Hibbing
Pataki, Allison: The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post	2/18/25	Barb Wojciak, 3320 1st Ave., Hibbing
Baker, Ellen: <i>Hidden Life of Cecily Larson</i>	3/18/25	Kathy Antilla (Location pending)
To be named	5/20/25	Kathy Laffin, 22150 Kodiak Rd., Nashwauk
To be named	June ?	Gretchen Wright, 13165 Watson Bay Rd, Side Lake

**TEXT Patty Miller for Zoom meeting connection or additional information. 218-966-2023.**



### In Remembrance

In memory of Hibbing branch member, Barb Paskovan, who gave 44 years of dedication, service and advocacy to AAUW. For many years, Barb served as historian. As calling committee member, she ensured members would be notified of meetings and events. She contributed her best talents to AAUW and truly represented the Heart of the Arrowhead.

AAUW Hibbing branch extends its deepest sympathy to the family members and friends of this remarkable woman.

We honor her today and always.



## AAUW Northland Gathering 2024

Saturday, October 12, 2024  
Grand Ely Lodge: 400 N Pioneer Rd Ely, MN 55731

Theme: Neighbor to Neighbor: Bringing Advocacy Home  
How can you use the resources in your community to support and create change within your town. Learn from panels of community leaders in Ely on how they create change and advocate for the needs in Ely while using the resources available.

### Schedule

- 9:00 Registration - Breakfast Buffet & Coffee/Tea
- 10:00 Welcome Comments & Break the Ice Activity
- 10:30 Panel #1 - Lacey Squier, Manager, Boundary Waters Connect; Lucy Soderstrom, Executive Director, Ely Folk School; Ian Lah, Executive Artistic Director, Northern Lights Artist Association
- 11:30 Break
- 11:45 Lunch Buffet
- 12:45 Panel #2 - Lisa Porthan, Executive Director, Northwoods Partners; Julie Hignell, Executive Director, Ely Community Resource; Lou Wiggins, Executive Director, SAGE Foundation
- 1:45 Break
- 2:00 Fundraising/Program Idea Discussion
- 2:30 Closing Comments
- 2:30 Facilitated Networking event with panelists for those interested.

Optional Activities:  
Friday & Saturday: International Wolf Center [Plan Your Visit](#) | International Wolf Center  
Dorothy Molter Museum [Visit Dorothy Molter Museum in Ely, MN](#) ([rootbeerlady.com](#))  
North American Bear Center [Hours, Admission, & Location](#) - North American Bear Center  
Shopping around town or Walk the Trezona Trail  
Saturday: Northern Lakes Concert Series - Tribute to Nashville [Pier Country](#) | Northern Lakes Arts  
Int'l Wolf Center - "What's for Dinner?" Program, Saturday 7:00pm-8:00pm [What's for Dinner?](#) ([ely.org](#))

Please Register by October 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Vegan/Gluten Free (circle)

Are you staying in Ely Friday or Saturday night? FRI SAT

Please mail this form and \$35 to Linda Sutton: 582 Garden Lake Rd Ely, MN 55731



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## AAUW-Hibbing Branch Officers: 2024-25

<b>President</b>	<b>Sara Merfeld</b> merfeldsara@gmail.com
<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>Marcella Schwecke</b> marcella@gmail.com
<b>VP Programs</b>	<b>Gretchen Wright &amp; Becky Kapella</b> gretchenbw@gmail.com beekykapella@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Laffin</b> kathylaffin49@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Julie Takkunen</b> julie.takkunen@gmail.com

### Like & Follow AAUW on FB.

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**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,** (vacant)

**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,** (vacant)

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



HIBBING (MN)  
BRANCH

*Heart of the Arrowhead:* AAUW-Hibbing Branch Newsletter is compiled by Jan Carey and member contributors. c2020

**The Heart of the Arrowhead**  
**403 Highland Drive**  
**Hibbing, MN 55746**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE