



Northwoods News - February 2025

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA

Greetings, Ely Branch Members!

We've arrived at the latter part of winter, and so much is happening in Ely – the Winter Festival, Film Festival, the WolfTrack Classic Sled Dog Race, the Art Walk and so much more. There's always a lot to do in our little town! It's a very busy time for our branch board and committees, too - beginning the selection of our scholarship recipients, setting the budget for next year, preparing for the AAUW Minnesota Annual Meeting in Austin, Minnesota as well as planning our Ely Branch Annual Meeting in April.

Soon we will be looking to the membership to consider a board position during the next term. Perhaps you'd be interested in joining the Program Committee and helping to plan upcoming branch meeting programs? We'd also like someone to consider working with our co-secretaries during their next term in order to "learn the ropes" and be ready to assume that role when the current secretaries have completed their term. It's difficult to take on a board position without any training, so this would be a really good chance to take on the job with some confidence and experience. Please let Andrea or Linda know if you'd like to discuss any of these positions further.

Since our branch meeting was on the same day as the opening day of the legislature in St. Paul, none of our members were able to attend the ERA Rally this year. Because of the makeup of the current state legislature, it is very unlikely that we will see movement toward adoption of the ERA into the Minnesota State Constitution this session. On the national front, days before the end of his term, President Biden affirmed the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. AAUW applauds this effort, but many challenges are expected. Our branch will continue to focus on making the ERA a reality.

Remember that our February meeting will feature a book discussion of "My Antonia," by Willa Cather. Our own member, Jan Guerin, will lead the discussion. Jan has taught English Literature and Film Studies and Communications at the high school and college levels. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you haven't read the book. The discussion is guaranteed to be very interesting.

As always, we want to take the time to express our gratitude for all the incredible women who make up our branch. There are so many of you who have been involved for many years and have served the branch as officers, board members and leaders of committees. We honor your past work and we've learned from your leadership. Now we see emerging leaders among our newer (and often much younger) members. It is wonderful to see that there will be many talented, committed women carrying the banner for years to come. Thanks to everyone for your individual contributions to make the branch successful!

Linda and Andrea

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 11, 5:30 PM, GEL - Branch Meeting

Jan Guerin, AAUW member, has taught English Literature, Film Studies, and Communications both at the high school and college level. She will facilitate our large group discussion on the novel *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. All are welcome to the book discussion, whether or not you've read the book.

March 11, 5:30 PM, GEL - Branch Meeting

Nichole Boitz, owner of Studio North Dance and Fitness, will speak about the development of her business, which was started several years ago, and the programs and facilities available there.

April 8, 5:30 PM, GEL - Branch Meeting

Annual Meeting.

May 13, 5:30 PM, GEL - Branch Meeting

End of year banquet and silent auction.

If you need a ride to a meeting or event, please be sure to contact Linda Sutton!

BOARD MEETINGS are held the fourth Monday of the month.

PUBLIC POLICY

By Mary Setterholm

AAUW is modifying the Public Policy Priorities. We are reprinting them here in the newsletter to assure all of you see them. AAUW MN uses these priorities to define the state priorities, and in turn, your Public Policy Committee uses both the national and the state priorities to formulate our project priorities. Our current study period to understand and support community needs and services for local women's economic security. The focus on inclusion and support for LGBTQ+

individuals is a topic we will submit as a resolution at the AAUW MN annual meeting. Adopted resolutions require each branch to implement activities supporting the resolution. The following is from the AAUW website:

The AAUW Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors recommend the following changes to the Public Policy Priorities.

The proposed principles continue to emphasize core values regarding education, economic security and social justice. The proposal removes issues that, while valuable and important components to equity, go beyond the scope of AAUW's focus on higher education and were so broad as to not provide guidance on the types of policy approaches that would be in line with AAUW's mission.

The proposed policy priorities for federal advocacy focus on equity in higher education and are chosen based on critical need, political viability, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

Below is a summary of proposed changes for 2025-2027:

- Specific endorsement of the 2024 Title IX regulations which provide increased support for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault and clarify Title IX protections for students who are LGBTQ+, pregnant, or parenting.
- Clear articulation of support for inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in policies around school and workplace protections.
- Emphasis on specific components important for women's economic security including education, pay equity, caregiving burdens, retirement safety nets, and access to contraception and abortion.
- Recognition that the Equal Rights Amendment has met the constitutional requirements for ratification as articulated in the U.S. Constitution.
- Removal of broad statements about poverty reduction, housing, health care for all, gun violence, immigration, and campaign finance reform.
- Clear articulation that AAUW's public policy focus is domestic.

This document is intended to outline the overarching core values guiding AAUW's policy work to provide flexibility at the federal, state, and local level. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of specific

issues critical to ensure equity for all.

FUNDRAISING



By Kay Vandervort

If you have a great pop-up idea you'd like to organize, just let Kay know. We're always looking for your input. It could be a craft party, a cooking demo, a potluck, a movie and dinner or trip to a ball game.

Maybe it should be a hike in the woods. How about cheese and cocktails? Remember how much fun we had with our pie for breakfast? What's your thought? We'd love to hear it.

We had fun painting pigs at Jackie Ender's house! Thanks to all who participated and especially to Jackie for hosting in her beautiful home!



MEET OUR MEMBERS!

INTRODUCING KRISTEN ANTHONY!

My name is Kristen Anthony, and I have lived in Ely for a little over 9 years. Before landing here, I lived in many other beautiful places including Christiansted in the Virgin Islands; originally, I am from a small town called Pittsburg in Kansas. My family is very important to me. Even though I live far away, I visit regularly. I am very fortunate I still have two grandmothers and a grandfather, awesome supportive parents, a brother, sister-in-law, and a niece who just started college. My family and I do a couple of adventurous vacations every year. I really like exploring new places.

I have a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology and Microbiology from the University of Kansas, an Associates Degree in Exercise Science from Kansas City Community College and most recently certificates for Wilderness First Responder and Fireline EMT from Minnesota North College on the Vermilion Campus. I truly enjoy learning new skills and information.

Since moving to Ely, I've worked for the Department of Natural Resources for Bear Head Lake State Park and Gooseberry Falls State Park. Then I spent 5 years with the USPS getting to know many different people in town. Most recently I acquired a job as the accounting manager at the Ely Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

I love living in Ely because I am addicted to the outdoors! I ski, ice skate, hike, and fish during the winter months. In the summer and fall, I am usually out swimming, biking, hiking, paddling, floating around, or foraging for mushrooms or other forest snacks. I dance with the Reflections dance team; it's very fun! I have a husky who is 11, very sassy but she is always ready to adventure.

One day I hope to have a little slice of land to homestead on. Currently I own a house in town and spend a lot of hours in the garden during the summer, then many hours canning and preserving

the foods in the fall to enjoy the rest of the year. I feel fortunate to have such a beautiful town and wilderness area to call home. Thank you for letting me share about myself. I look forward getting to know all of you!



SAY HELLO TO JUDY KLUN!

Judy Klun (O'Brien) was born in Chicago, Illinois, into a close-knit family of five. Her father worked as a building engineer at the University of Chicago, while her mother dedicated herself to raising Judy and her siblings.

Judy's athletic prowess was evident from an early age, and she excelled in basketball, tennis, and track at Harold L. Richards High School in Oak Lawn Illinois. Once Title IX became a law, Judy and two friends went to the athletic director to request that the girls be allowed to participate in sports. Permission was granted, and the first girls track team was formed. They took 3rd place in state. Their achievements earned them a place in the Harold L Richards Hall of Fame.

After high school, Judy pursued her passion for education at Winona State University by obtaining a BS degree in Physical Education, and later, a Health Education degree at UWS. With her degree in hand in 1978, Judy returned to Chicago, teaching at Thornton High School, making significant contributions to the school's basketball

program. She was chosen coach of the year by her colleagues.

In a life-changing move, Judy relocated to Ely, Minnesota, where she met and married attorney Larry Klun. Together, they raised four children: Kelly, Lauren, Barbara, and Tom. Judy dedicated thirty -six years to the Ely School District, teaching Physical Education, Health, and later, Technology. Her commitment to education led her to earn a Master's Degree in Media and Technology from the College of Saint Scholastica in 1999.

Judy's remarkable career in education spanned nearly 40 years, culminating in her retirement from Ely Public Schools in 2016. Her legacy continues to inspire students and educators alike.



MEMBERSHIP

If you know someone who might like to join us, bring them to any meeting to check us out with no pressure. Or, schedule a coffee get together for the person and invite another member or two to talk about 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.