



# Grand Rapids Timberline

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT  
**AAUW GRAND RAPIDS**  
BRANCH MEMBERS

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**MISSION: AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research education and advocacy.**



**April 21, 2025**

**Location: United Methodist Church**

**Social/Registration: 5:00-5:45 PM Dinner: 5:45 – 6:30 PM**

**Menu:** Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti, Salad, Brownie  
Cost \$15

**\*\*RSVP to [AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com)  
by Monday, April 14, 2025**

If you have a concern on your reservation, you can either use the reservation link or contact Linda Johnson directly at: [lindajohnsonj@q.com](mailto:lindajohnsonj@q.com) or 218-259-2305. Linda is our reservation expert, and she checks the reservation emails daily.

**Food Chair:** Jan Bilden

**Food Committee:** Pam Freisen, Nancy Raymond, Laurie Clausen

**The Spring Banquet will be at Forest Lake on May 19th. Cost is \$32.**

Dinner choices are:

Fresh Salmon

Beef Tenderloin Tips

Sizzling Smothered Chicken Breast

**Business Meeting and Program: 6:30 PM**

**Program Topic: The Life of a Writer**

Local author and historian, Susan Hawkinson, will discuss her novel for upper elementary readers, "The Adventures of Annie McCallum" (October 2023).

"The Adventures of Annie McCallum" takes place in 1955 in Woods Lake, a small town in northern Minnesota. Spirited fourth-grader Annie McCallum is determined to change the dress code so that girls can wear pants to school. Annie wants to cartwheel on the playground without showing her underwear and walk to school in cold weather without freezing her legs. She finds surprising allies in her quest. Her twin brothers and classmate, Terry McArdle, propose a new school uniform for boys and girls. Fourth-grade teacher Miss Oliver, who introduces Annie to women like Clara Barton and Coco Chanel, encourages Annie to stand up for what she believes in, which Annie learns has consequences. The new school uniform unites students across the school district and challenges the school board to change the dress code for girls.

### **President's Message**

Hello Friends!

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Many people showed up for the meeting in green.

The nominating committee announced the candidates for two positions. Pam Friesen will be running for VP of Programs. Julie Skallman and Carolyn Chase will be running for Treasurer. Carolyn will work alongside Julie for a while to learn the procedures necessary for a smooth transition. Voting will be held at the April 21st meeting.

Remember, the Hibbing Book Sale is on April 4th, 5th, and 6th. There are thousands of books for sale. Our branch will have our used book sale at the April 21st meeting. The money for this goes to the scholarship funds.

The **Hibbing AAUW Book Sale** is:

**Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM**

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM**

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

The State AAUW Convention will be held in Austin, MN on the 25th and 26th of April. Applications are available. The cost is \$125 which is due by March 25th. There is also information available for lodging.

At the April meeting you can start paying yearly 2025-2026 dues of \$100. This cost includes the National, State and local fees.

Our March meeting was followed by a very informative presentation by Itasca Life Options, ILO. The mission of ILO is to empower and provide opportunities for all ages and all abilities.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the April 21st meeting.

Susan LaVelle, President



### **\*\*\*Travel Treasures**

Thank you to everyone who brought items, and those who tried to win them! We added \$65 to our Scholarship Fund.

- Karen Karls supported our presenters by donating cookies from the Dragonfly Cafe: salted caramel chocolate chip cookies and peanut butter cookies. (Both are delicious!)
- Marj Lavalier re-donated a puzzle featuring Kamala Harris
- Julie Skallman had great adventures and brought jams from Chile Calafate Falkland Island, Diddle Dee jam aboard the Queen Victoria Ship and jams from her cruise around South America on Queen Victoria.
- Jean Hoshal had a nice winter in Florida and brought a starfish dish.

Thank you all!

***REMEMBER, OUR APRIL MEETING WILL BE OUR BOOK SALE!!!  
Bring books to donate, and money to buy more!!!  
Proceeds go to our Scholarship Fund.  
Unsold book will be donated to Friends of the Library.***

Thank you,  
Marlys Mestemacher  
Jean Gardner



### **\*\*INTEREST GROUPS\*\***

#### **\*\*\*LITERATURE**

The AAUW Monday Morning Lit Group will meet on April 7th at 9:30 AM in the private dining room at Majestic Pines. Ellen Edverson will lead our discussion of POWER AND LIGHT by Will Weaver. (In the early 1930s, a Norwegian immigrant family in North Dakota is broken apart after a violent crime is committed against one of its daughters/sisters. Young and progressive Jenny Haugen steps up and leads the family in its pursuit of justice.) Coffee will be provided. For more information, contact Nancy Salmi at 218-326-3147 or [nsalmi@earthlink.net](mailto:nsalmi@earthlink.net).



**AAUW Grand Rapids MN Branch General Meeting  
Minutes for March 17, 2025**

The Grand Rapids branch of AAUW met at the United Methodist Church on Monday, March 17, for social time, lunch and program. There were 33 attendees including 1 guest and the 2 speakers.

President Susan LaVelle opened the business meeting with the reading of the AAUW Mission Statement.

Susan reminded everyone about the Hibbing AAUW book sale at the Hibbing Armory April 4-6.

Louise Koglin Fidely announced that she and Kathleen Spencer, nominating committee members, have found candidates for both our open positions. Pam Friesen will run for Vice President of Programs and Julie Skallman and Carolyn Chase will be running for Treasurer. Carolyn Chase has agreed to work alongside treasurer Julie Skallman for the next two years. She will then run for the treasurer's position in 2027. Louise thanked all who thoughtfully considered running for these positions when asked. The election will be at the April meeting.

Both the Program Committee and the Historian Committee are in need of additional members. Let the committee chairs or Susan LaVelle know if you are interested or have questions.

It is not too late to sign up for the State AAUW Meeting April 25 & 26. It will be held at the Hormel Institute in Austin.

We need members to sign up as helpers for our Fall Gathering. Susan has posted a sheet in the front of our meeting room. Take a look at it and see how you might help.

Travel Treasures raised \$65 for our scholarship funds.

Karen Karls introduced our speakers, Lisa Lassen and Sonia Lindgaard. They are the Executive Director and Executive Assistant of Itasca Life Options (ILO). Their very interesting presentation covered the history of people with disabilities, as well as what ILO is doing currently in our community to empower and provide opportunities for people of all abilities.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Holmstrom, Secretary

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**Grand Rapids AAUW Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, March 24, 2025 - United Methodist Church**

Susan LaVelle, president, called the meeting to order. Additional attendees were Janis Johnson, Karen Karls, Julie Skallman, Marlys Mestemacher and Vicki Holmstrom.

**Secretary's report:** Marlys Mestemacher moved the minutes from the previous board meeting be approved as read. Karen Karls seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report:**

- Currently we have 82 paid members.
- The bank account currently has a balance of \$5790 with \$4285 available to spend.
- Treasurer Julie Skallman recommended that we keep our dues at \$100 despite the \$2 increase by National AAUW. Marlys moved that we do this and Karen seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Dues can be paid starting in April.
- We have 3 members who will be attending the State Meeting. They will be reimbursed the \$125 registration fee and milage, if requested.

**Dinner/Food Committee:**

Julie reported that Linda Johnson has been having problems with the reservation system. We will need to address these problems once she returns.

**Old Business:**

- Kathleen Spencer and Louise Koglin Fidely were appointed to the nominating committee. They found candidates for both our open positions. Pam Friesen will be running for Vice President/Programs. Carolyn Chase will be assisting Julie Skallman as the candidate for Treasurer.
- Northland Gathering: Susan will send Save the Date information to the presidents of the regional groups. A detailed flier will be sent out once the program has been set. Susan will establish a committee to deal specifically with the Northland Gathering arrangements.

**New Business:**

- State Convention is April 25 and 26: Marlys and Karen put together a basket of items from the Grand Rapids area for an auction item. Susan has taken care of any other items that need to be submitted for the meeting. Susan, Marlys and Janis will be going to the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Karen Karls moved the meeting be adjourned. Janis Johnson seconded the motion. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 9:30 at the Methodist Church.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Vicki Holmstrom, Secretary



### **Membership Dues for 2025**

Our branch will be holding the drawing for a free membership for anyone who has paid their 2025 dues by May 19 at our meeting that evening. I will issue a reimbursement check to the winner at the dinner or by mail the following day.

Checks for \$100 written to AAUW may be turned in at our April or May meetings. Please note DUES on the memo line of the check. You may include the meal cost on a single check by noting DUES + MEAL

Dues of all continuing members are payable on or before July 1. They can be sent to me at PO Box 5163, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 if you prefer that to paying at the April or May meeting.



- Ellen Edvenson - April 3**
- Margaret Barrick - April 4**
- Patricia 'Pat' Mahoney - April 13**
- Jean Halvorson - April 15**
- Emilie Zasada - April 17**
- Martha Lentz - April 17**
- Marsha Miller - April 20**
- Sally Hagman - April 25**

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*Follow the bunny. He has chocolate. Happy Easter!*

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**Websites for local, state and national AAUW information:**

Our Grand Rapids AAUW blog: <http://grandrapidsaauw.blogspot.com/>

MN AAUW website: <http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

National AAUW website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW MINNESOTA [www.aauwmn.net](http://www.aauwmn.net)