



## Northwoods News - March 2025

### MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS ANDREA AND LINDA

March is the month that our branch starts to award scholarships totaling \$8,000! This is possible through the generosity of our branch members who participate in our silent auctions/bucket raffles, pop-up fundraisers, and direct donations. It is also possible because of our awesome fundraising chair, Kay Vandervort, and branch members who assist in the fundraising efforts. Here are the five scholarships:

- The Minnesota North College – Ely Campus scholarship has been granted to a female non-traditional student for many years. The scholarship remains at \$2,000.
- The “Women in the Trades” scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to a woman (high school or beyond) who has applied to or been accepted to a non-traditional trade program (ex. plumber, electrician, mechanic,

construction worker, etc.).

- The Northwoods Young Writers Camp Scholarships will be granted to two teen girls again (\$500 each) to attend a five-day camp on an island on Rainy Lake by International Falls. Instructors, who are accomplished, published writers, work with the girls independently and in groups to develop and hone their writing skills.

- The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship (up to \$1,500) will be granted to a female college student for a three-day leadership conference in College Park, MD. This is a great opportunity for leadership training through workshops/panels from experts and well-known keynote speakers.

- The STARBASE STEM Camp scholarships (up to \$1,500 total) will be awarded to three Ely District girls to learn about coding, CAD design, and many other STEM-related activities.

On another topic, we are looking for one or two or even three members to serve on the Program Committee. The Program Committee (currently three members) comprises one board position. They serve similarly to the current president's position in which the two co-presidents serve as one board position. The Program Committee selects the programs for six branch meetings each year; the other three branch meetings are the two auction meetings and the annual meeting and do not need a separate program. It's a fun position and it's fun to serve on the board! Our annual meeting is coming up in April. Let Andrea or Linda know if you are interested.

Also, the Minnesota AAUW Annual Meeting is April 25-26. Please consider being one of five delegates for our branch. We will carpool to the meeting in Austin, Minnesota (home of SPAM) and your registration fee is paid by the branch. Contact Linda or Andrea for more information.

Join us for the next branch meeting on March 11 at the Grand Ely Lodge. 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.

Come early at 5:00 for social time; the meeting starts at 5:30. Hope to see you there!

Andrea and Linda

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### **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 Monday after the branch meeting each month.

## FUNDRAISING



When you donate to our Ely branch, where does the money go?

In 2024, our AAUW Ely branch gave \$9000 in scholarships!

If you have any great ideas for popups that will help boost our scholarship funds, please let Kay know!

## MEET OUR MEMBERS!

### SAY HELLO TO LUCY DIESSLIN!

I was born in Spring Valley, MN. I grew up on a dairy farm near Chatfield, MN. I attended a rural school for grades 1 through 6. In grades 7-12 I rode a bus to the Chosen Valley School. I graduated in 1958.

I went to Winona State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1961. The next two years I taught mathematics in Highland WI. Badger High School was my next job beginning in 1963 and lasting three years.

By this time, I knew I was going to be teaching for many years so decided I needed to get my next degree. So, I came back to MN with the goal of getting my Master's degree. Then I got a call from St Anthony Village and signed a contract. So, I went to summer school and took a few off-campus classes and got my Master's of Science

Degree in 1969. When Title IX became law, I was assigned to coach the JV volleyball team. What a learning curve as I had to learn the rules and react to the issues of young girls. I was at St Anthony school for 17 years.

In 1982 while attending Bemidji State, I met Blaine (Butch) Diesslin. We were taking computer science courses. We were married in August of 1983. Butch taught at Vermilion, and I taught mathematics at Ely Jr and Sr High Schools. I taught 16 years in Ely and retired in 1999. I spent 38 years and was the sole woman mathematics teacher until my last three years.

I have been active in many organizations and held many offices in the Methodist Church, AAUW, North Woods Partners, and ECR.

I never turned down a fishing or camping trip in the Boundary Waters. I took up quilting and have made quilts for my sisters, nieces, and nephews. I have always loved to travel and have taken many road trips to almost every State. In later years, Butch and I have gone on many cruises.



**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.