

# THE HEART OF THE ARROWHEAD

AAUW Hibbing Branch Newsletter

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Happy Spring and here's to another successful Book Sale.

## AAUW: Our Mission, Our Vision & Our Values

**Mission – To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**

**Vision – Equity for all.**

**Values – Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional.**

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

*– Hillary Clinton*



### BOOK SALE DONATIONS:

Donations for the 2025 AAUW Book Sale have been established.

MARCH 10-14; 17-21; 24-28, 2025

8am—3pm

PLACE YOUR DONATIONS inside the Hibbing Armory.

AAUW **will NOT accept** encyclopedias, old textbooks, VHS tapes, Readers Digest condensed books and magazines (except crafts)

# MEMBERSHIP

## AAUW: a place to belong

With over 1700 members in 22 branches, AAUW of Minnesota is a dynamic organization with a long history of learning and affecting change on issues like education, civil rights, equity in the workplace and on college campuses, reproductive rights and gender discrimination. In Minnesota, members often get involved at the local branch in learning activities or public policy action, gain leadership skills, and attend the AAUW of Minnesota Annual Meeting in the spring.

### Eligibility

Membership is open to people who hold an associate degree (AA, AS) or higher. Students working toward a qualifying degree may become student affiliates. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

[Click here](#) for a membership brochure or contact Marcella Schwecke, AAUW Hibbing branch membership-chair [marcella@gmail.com](mailto:marcella@gmail.com)

# EVENTS

## AAUW: a place to learn, to be entertained & informed

AAUW-Hibbing Branch Calendar: 2025 (updated time/location on AAUW Hibbing FB page)

February 20 General meeting, speaker, Dr. Jessalyn Sabin, Academic Dean of Career and Technical Programs at Minnesota North College and Eveleth Campus Director

March 13 General meeting, speaker, Vicki Gornick shares insights and humor from a life of music educator and professional organist

March 18 Literature group: *The Hidden Life of Cecily Larson* by Ellen Baker

April 4,5,6 BOOK SALE

May 15 Scholarship awards, Valentini's Restaurant, Chisholm

May 20 Literature group: *The Demon of Unrest*, by Erik Larson



# HIBBING BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS



## **FUTURE COLLEGIAN**

**TOP RANKING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GIRL FROM NASHWUAK, CHERRY, CHISHOLM OR HIBBING**

## **PROMISING COLLEGIAN**

**SENIOR GIRL WITH 2.7 G.P.A. OR HIGHER FROM NASHWUAK, CHERRY, CHISHOLM OR HIBBING**

## **VIDA B. ADAMS**

**MN NORTH HIBBING FEMALE GRADUATE PURSUING A 4-YEAR DEGREE AT A UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE**

## **SOPHOMORE**

**FULL-TIME MN NORTH HIBBING STUDENT ENTERING SOPHOMORE YEAR WITH G.P.A. HIGHER THAN 3.0**

## **KAREN LONSON MEMORIAL**

**HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WITH G.P.A. HIGHER THAN 2.7 AND IS PURSUING A DEGREE IN BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, OR MARKETING**

## **LIVES IN TRANSITION**

**FULL-TIME MN NORTH HIBBING STUDENT ATTENDING AFTER AN EXTENDED ABSENCE**

## Literature Group

Here are the remaining books and discussion meetings scheduled for 2024/25.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

“THE HIDDEN LIFE OF CECILY LARSON”

by Ellen Baker

Kathy Antilla, Hostess 2:30

TUESDAY, May 20

“The DEMON OF UNREST”

by Erik Larson

Nancy Lopac, Hostess 2:30

JUNE, 24

“FEVER IN THE HEARTLAND”

by Timotheer Egan

Gretchen Wright, Hostess 2:30

13165 Watson Bay Rd., Side Lake

HUGE THANKS for a great year of book discussions. Subject to change. Text Patty Miller at 218-966-2023 if you want to get a zoom connection.

What a great year of Books and Friendship!

Patty

# AAUW STATE NEWS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: (Click on the picture)



## “Cultivating Hope Through History”

AAUW MN ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 25-26, 2025

HORMEL INSTITUTE

AUSTIN, MINNESOTA



Greetings from Spamtown USA!

The Austin Branch of AAUW is looking forward to welcoming you to our town on April 25th and 26th for the AAUW Minnesota Annual Meeting. We have a busy two days planned for you.

The main hotel is the Double Tree by Hilton. We will have members in the lobby starting at noon to provide information. Registration packets will be available at the Austin Country Club beginning at 4:30 and again on Saturday morning at the Hormel Institute.

On Friday afternoon, self-paced tours are available at the Spam Museum (corner of 101 3rd Ave NE and Main St.) and Hormel Historic Home (208 4th Ave NW) (the former home of George A. Hormel). Sweet Reads Bookstore – across from the Spam Museum and owned by one of our members – is also looking forward to welcoming you.

We will have members of our branch in all three locations as resources. If you choose to have dessert and coffee/lemonade at the Hormel Home, there is a \$5.00 charge. You can pay for it when you register. When you arrive, we will have a list at the site, so no ticket is necessary.

The official conference begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday at the Austin Country Club. There will be a cash bar and time to socialize. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. The highlight of Friday evening will be a presentation by one of our members, who will portray Gertrude Ellis Skinner, who is officially recognized as a pillar of Austin and was a woman ahead of her time. We will hear in her own words about some of her adventures on her worldwide travels in the late 1800s.

On Saturday, check-in for Silent Auction items and breakfast will begin at 7:30 at the Hormel Institute, a world-renowned cancer research facility. The day will include the official annual business meeting; Mary Cathryn Ricker, Executive Director of the Albert Shanker Institute, will be the keynote speaker. There will be time for bidding on the Silent Auction and networking with State Board members on specific topics and members from other branches. After lunch, we will hear from a Hormel Institute scientist and tour the multi-million-dollar Hormel Institute, a branch of the University of Minnesota's cancer research division.

We look forward to hosting you in Austin!

Sue Grove, President Austin Branch

## More STATE NEWS ...

### The AAUW of Minnesota Board Needs You!

Our vision—Equity for all

Will you get on-Board?



Joining the AAUW of Minnesota State Board will connect you with terrific members from around the state who work to promote AAUW's mission—To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. It's time for you to share your talents!

We are seeking candidates to serve on the state board of directors for the following positions:

- President-Elect 2025-2026 (one year term and becomes President 2026-2028)
- Vice President Program 2025-2027 (a two-year term)
- Vice President Public Policy 2025-2027 (a two-year term)
- Treasurer 2025-2027 (a two-year term)
- Nominating Committee 2025-2026 for 2026 elections (3 members and 1 alternate)

All you need is a strong belief in the mission of AAUW and a willingness to learn and grow. Rewards for state service include leadership development, camaraderie, and teamwork with other leaders. An applicant may be self-nominated, nominated by your branch or branch board of directors, or any individual.

Contact any Nominating Committee member to express your interest in a position or get a nomination form or email [aauwminn@gmail.com](mailto:aauwminn@gmail.com). If you have questions, contact the Nominating Committee or board members who currently hold the position in which you are interested.

Mary Chorewycz St. Paul [marychorewycz@gmail.com](mailto:marychorewycz@gmail.com)

Teresa Sagen Ely [tkswagen@gmail.com](mailto:tkswagen@gmail.com)

Karen Kirkwood St. Paul & St. Cloud [KarenSKirkwood@cs.com](mailto:KarenSKirkwood@cs.com)

Kelsey Waits Minneapolis & St. Paul [kelsey.waits@gmail.com](mailto:kelsey.waits@gmail.com)

# AAUW NATIONAL NEWS

## ADVOCACY



### AAUW: a place to express your voice

#### HELP ONE ANOTHER TO MOVE FORWARD AS ONE VOICE

National priorities inform state and local action. Biennial priorities for national action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership.

#### AAUW NATIONAL PLATFORM –

To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

#### SHARE AND COMMUNICATE TO ALL MINNESOTANS

Initiate vigorous public policy programs at the branch level.

Invite elected officials to branch events.

Utilize local print media, social media and public access television channels to promote branch initiatives & events.

Communicate your thoughts and ideas to:

Nancy Erickson, Hibbing Branch Public Policy chair, at:

[nancyerickson@hotmail.com](mailto:nancyerickson@hotmail.com)

or

AAUW MN VP Public Policy at: [aauwminn@gmail.com](mailto:aauwminn@gmail.com)

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#### AAUW of Minnesota Stands Against Racism

AAUW MN mourns the murders of George Floyd, Philando Castile, Breonna Taylor, and far too many others. Police and general violence, and anti-black racism are at emergency status. Racist violence is a part of our country's history and society, and it must stop.

Since its inception, AAUW has advocated equity for women and girls. AAUW has a history of advocacy that moved our country to change many of its practices. Our AAUW advocacy efforts evolved to represent a firm belief in equity for all. But more work is needed.

Minnesota has experienced first-hand the severity of inequality and inequity. Recent events demonstrate the need to bring this long journey of systemic racism and inequity to an end.

This journey will require everyone to listen to all people, to reshape power, to redefine systems, to probe deep-set biases, and to question many aspects of our daily lives. To that end, AAUW MN affirms its advocacy to fight racism and obtain equity and inclusion for all.

Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN President & Jan Carey, AAUW MN VP Public Policy

## AAUW NATIONAL NEWS:

### From the Desk of AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell

Dear AAUW Leaders,

For those who were able to tune in to this week's AAUW Winter Member Gathering – thank you for your participation. The recording has recently been posted and we hope you take the time to share it with your members:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PDN1kZsNXQ>

In this critical moment as we navigate the transition to a new administration and uncertainty looms, we need to remember to take care of ourselves, support one another and those who look to us for support.

Even if we can't see the entire path ahead and progress may take more time, our collective efforts must continue to shape a future where women's economic equity isn't just a dream but a reality.

The resilience of AAUW as an organization cannot be overlooked--and all we have invested in women and girls demands that we remain focused and purposeful.

We face significant challenges for equity and attainment in education. As advocates, our resolve will be tested like never before.

**Our reality:** Across the nation, laws and policies hinder equal access to quality education. From budget cuts to legislative rollbacks, the road ahead is tough.

**Our resolve:** Our efforts to advance women's economic security through higher education remains critical. The progress we've made is at risk — and we must be vigilant in fighting back.

**Our advocacy:** We are ramping up our efforts to influence policy surrounding enforcement of Title IX civil rights protections and supporting essential college-access programs.

**Our support:** Our Fellowships & Grants programs will continue to support women scholars globally.

**Our community:** We will strengthen our network to create a united front for change.

AAUW's foundation is unwavering and rooted in strength, courage, and purpose. Side by side, we will continue the fight—for the women, girls and communities we cherish, the impact we elevate, and the legacies we create.

With your ongoing support, we will persevere.

In solidarity and with gratitude,  
Gloria L. Blackwell

# AAUW's FIVE CALLS to ACTION

## 1. JOIN

a. AAUW's Main Membership Page: <https://www.aauw.org/membership/>

## 2. LEARN

a. Recent Virtual Events:

i. Table Talks: Tips for Bold Conversations [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6m-\\_nM8gXc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6m-_nM8gXc)

ii. Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women's Economic Security <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku1D3t6g1Lg>

b. AAUW's FY24 Annual Report: <https://l.feathr.co/fiscalyear2024annualimpact>

c. The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap (2025 Update): <https://www.aauw.org/issues/equity/pay-gap/>

d. Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy Trainings: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/>

## 3. ACT

a. Ask the Senate: Examine Record of Ed Secretary Nominee McMahon: <https://aauw.quorum.us/campaign/105979/>

## 4. SHARE

a. Fellowships and Grants Information: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

b. State by state data on the gender pay gap: <https://www.aauw.org/issues/equity/pay-gap/>

c. AAUW National's Value to Members and Affiliates

i. Administrative

1. Community Hub: Tools and Resources: <https://www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update/>

2. State and Branch Tools: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/>

ii. Subject Matter Expertise

1. Speaker Request Form: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/request-a-speaker/>

iii. Volunteer Coordination

1. AAUW National Board and Committees: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/committees/>

iv. Training, Resources and Tools

1. General Leader Resources and Tools Page: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/>

2. Five Star Program: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

3. Membership Matters (Newsletter for Member Leaders) <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/>

4. Connect Team Office Hours for Member Leaders every Tuesday and Thursday – Registration is at the bottom of the page: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/>

v. Branding and Marketing

1. Download AAUW Logos and Branding Materials: Branding Materials

2. AAUW In the News: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/in-the-news/>

3. AAUW Press Releases: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/>

vi. Policy and Member Advocacy

1. AAUW's Advocacy Work: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/>

## 5. GIVE

a. Ways to Give: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/ways-to-give-aauw/>

b. Legacy Circle: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/ways-to-give-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>

c. FreeWill: [https://www.freewill.com/smartgiving/aauw?](https://www.freewill.com/smartgiving/aauw?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=aauw_waystogivepg)

[utm\\_source=partner&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=aauw\\_waystogivepg](https://www.freewill.com/smartgiving/aauw?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=aauw_waystogivepg)







## AAUW NATIONAL NEWS

What's happening: As a valued member leader of AAUW, I wanted to let you know that the AAUW Board approved a modest dues adjustment — \$2 per year over the next two years.

New national dues: \$74 starting April 1, 2025, and \$76 starting April 1, 2026.

Why it matters: Member dues are an important funding source for AAUW. While costs for member support increase annually, dues have not kept pace. During the feedback process, we heard from more than 750 members. The Board's decision to increase dues by \$2 reflects an adjustment to the original proposal to lessen the burden of a dues increase on members while keeping pace with inflation.

Your member dues help fund member services such as:

- **Administrative Support:** Assist with dues processing, Community Hub management, 990N filings, branding materials, and toolkits (e.g., DEI Toolkit, College/University Member Toolkit).
- **Website Support:** Update and manage ~500 branch and state websites and provide ongoing Site Resources support.
- **Member Trainings:** Hold regular virtual member gatherings and training programs.
- **Member Engagement:** Organize member-led groups and committees like Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, and national committees.
- **Speaker Engagement:** Offer National speakers for branch meetings and state conventions.
- **Real-Time Support:** Connect Team provides daily assistance and semi-weekly "Office Hours" for member leaders.

And more!

The bottom line: We heard you. The dues increase balances AAUW's financial sustainability with the member feedback we received.

Thank you for being an engaged leader!

With gratitude,

Shannon Wolfe, AAUW Managing Director & Chief of Staff



Attend the AAUW Fundraising Webinar Tuesday, April 1, 2025 (invitation will be emailed to every member of AAUW)

The focus of this webinar will be:

- \* the national budget;
- \* how our dues are allocated
- \* examples, interviews, video collage, branch highlights of fundraising events and activities across the country. **WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR THIS INVITATION!!!!**

## AAUW-Hibbing Branch Officers: 2024-25

### President

Sara Merfeld  
merfeldsara@gmail.com

### VP Membership

Marcella Schwecke  
marcella@gmail.com

### VP Programs

Gretchen Wright  
gretchenbw@gmail.com

Becky Kapella  
beckykapella@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Kathy Laffin  
kathylaffin49@gmail.com

### Treasurer:

Julie Takkunen  
julie.takkunen@gmail.com

## 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 Wojcik

**Scholarships,** Shanna Eskeli & Sara Merfeld

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

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

**Historian,** Kate Wagenbach

**Special Projects,** vacant

**Reservations,** Pam Rooney & Pierina Bussey

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

**Literature,** Patty Miller

**Special Funds,** Emma Keeler

**Sunshine,** Marilyn Kaeli

**Publicity,** (vacant)

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

## 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!



HIBBING (MN)  
BRANCH

***Heart of the Arrowhead:* AAUW-Hibbing Branch Newsletter is compiled by Jan Carey and member contributors. c2025**

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

PLACE  
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