



Grand Rapids Timberline

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT
AAUW GRAND RAPIDS
BRANCH MEMBERS

EDITOR: Myrna Peterson
myrnakay67@gmail.com
(218) 301-6028



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



December 8, 2025

Forest Lake Restaurant

4 PM Registration/Social

5 PM Dinner

6:15 PM Program

Choice of:

Chicken Caprese over Pasta

Coconut Shrimp

Walleye Almandine

8 oz Sirloin

(Served with bread, salad, potato and dessert)

Cost \$32 (includes tip)

You will make your choice of meal that night at Forest Lake.

Program: Make Your Own Christmas Present—

Quick and Easy Memory Wire Bracelets.

There will be an extra \$5 cost for program materials.

Presented by Anita Firman.

****RSVP to AAUWRSVPGrandRapids@gmail.com**

by Monday, December 1, 2025



Presidents Message

What a wonderful meeting. Fifty-one of our members attended the meeting and dinner - of course the dinner was delicious. We were served company chicken with wild rice. Yum! The book sale went well. It is interesting to see the different genres everyone reads.

Our speaker, Brittany Krauss, spoke about her "Unexpected Journey". She spoke about how resilience, a positive mindset and support helped her navigate her illness by turning pain into healing. In 2025 she opened her business as a massage therapist and owner of M.Y. Bodywork.

The state meeting will be held at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort in Brainerd on the 24th and 25th of April. More information will be coming in January.

Plan on joining together on **December 8th** at **Forest Lake Restaurant** for our **Holiday Gathering**. The cost is \$32.00 and a \$5.00 charge for an activity.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan LaVelle, President



***Travel Treasures

We brought in a whopping \$141 for scholarships!

- Ellen Edverson donated a much sought-after shawl from her cousin which came from Cornwall, England.
- Jean Gardner brought back a delft rubber duckie from Amsterdam, a Pocket Hug Bear and Firewood Licorice from Alaska, and napkins from Austria.
- Dianne Johnson donated Dorothy Molter's famous rootbeer from travels to Ely, Minnesota.
- Martha Lentz brought cherry jam and lefse from Door County, Wisconsin.
- Terri Friesen donated a 30-minute massage from M.Y. Body Work which is owned by Brittany Benson and who was AAUW's very inspirational speaker for the November 17th Program.
- Marlys Mestemacher donated Amish boysenberry jam from Lanesboro, Minnesota and chocolate and a peace feather from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Anita Firman donated Hyland Grog from her Road Scholar trip to Bayfield, Wisconsin.
- Linda Johnson brought pistachios from Wilcox, Arizona.
- Louise Koglin Fideldy donated a huckleberry dark chocolate fudge bar and huckleberry-apple butter from travels to Idaho and Montana.

Thank you all for donating items and purchasing chances!

We will have TRAVEL TREASURES at our December Christmas Party on December 8th!!!

***Thank you, members for supporting our bi-annual book fair.
We raised \$74 for our scholarship fund with the remaining books
going to Friends of the Library.***



Thank you,
Marlys Mestemacher &
Jean Gardner



****INTEREST GROUPS****

*****LITERATURE**

The Monday Morning Lit Group will meet at 9:30 AM on December 1st in the private dining room at Majestic Pines. Sue LaValle will lead our discussion of Sinclair Lewis' classic IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE. If members wish to make a monetary donation to Second Harvest, they may bring it to the meeting. We will, also, choose our books for early 2026 beginning with our February meeting. Coffee will be provided. For more information, contact Nancy Salmi at 218-244-6063 or nsalmi@earthlink.net.

*****WALKING & TALKING**

The fall and winter schedule has the group walking on Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM. As of October we will be on the Tuesday schedule. The locations change from week to week but usually are in the Grand Rapids area. The group is open to new members interested in walking. If you would like to join us, send your email address and cell number to Karen Karls at k.karls@yahoo.com. You will receive an email with the weekly walk location. Members walk when they can or want to; no need to RSVP.

*****SUNSHINE & CARING**

If any member of AAUW needs a bit of sunshine because of illness or a sympathy card, please let Nancy Raymond know, she is our SUNSHINE & CARING contact. She will send a card from AAUW. You can email her at: nmraymond14@gmail.com.



Grand Rapids AAUW Board Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025 - United Methodist Church

Susan LaVelle, president, called the meeting to order. Additional attendees were Janis Johnson, Karen Karls, Linda Johnson, Julie Skallman, Carolyn Chase, Pam Friesen and Vicki Holmstrom.

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

Treasurer's report:

- We currently have 77 members.
- Fall Northland Gathering: 29 members attended from our chapter. 23 attended from other chapters. Our total expenses were \$1585.25. We have \$338.75 left over.
- GRACF has received the \$4000 for the Lonson scholarship in 2026.
- We are a bit behind receiving member donations for the other scholarships. Hopefully we will receive a number of donations at the December holiday meeting.
- The budget for the summer picnic was \$110 and we spent \$44.33.
- The bank balance as of November 7, 2025 is \$6378 with \$5538 available to spend. \$840 is reserved for scholarships.
- Members can donate directly to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund at aauw.org. To donate to other national funds, contact our treasure for a paper Contribution Report Form. Details can be found on p. 22 of our Directory.

Programs: The December meeting has an extra \$5 charge for the program materials. This can be paid along with the dinner fee.

New Business:

- The next branch meeting is the Holiday Banquet at the Forest Lake Restaurant starting at 4PM on December 8.
- The State AAUW Meeting will be at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort, Brainerd, April 24-25.

Adjournment: Carolyn Chase moved the meeting be adjourned. Linda Johnson seconded the motion. The next board meeting is scheduled for 10:00, January 19, at the Methodist Church.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Vicki Holmstrom, Secretary



Christmas Trivia

Santa has a postal code in Canada. H0H 0H0

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer was created in 1939 by a writer for Montgomery Ward as a promotional gimmick for the department store's Christmas coloring book.



AAUW Grand Rapids MN Branch General Meeting Minutes November 17, 2025, United Methodist Church

The Grand Rapids branch of AAUW met at the United Methodist Church on Monday, November 17, for social time, dinner and program. There were 46 attendees including 2 guests.

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

Susan made the following announcements:

- We can sign up for the December meeting at tonight's meeting. There is an extra \$5 charge for the bracelet-making activity at the meeting.
- We can donate to our scholarships at any time now that we no longer have a special fund-raising activity at our December meeting.
- The State AAUW Meeting will be at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort, Brainerd, April 24-25, 2026. This is not a very long drive, so hopefully several of our members will want to attend. Car-pooling will be arranged.

Member announcements:

- Karen Karls said that the Friends of the Library are holding the Holiday Book Boutique in the Library Community Room on Monday November 24 from 10AM to 6PM.
- Pam Friesen said that there is now a Grand Rapids Area Library Fund at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation. This is a way to help support library operations which will be cut back next year due to significant cuts in revenue.
- This is a good time to donate to KAXE because matching funds are available.

Travel Treasures raised \$141 for our scholarship funds. The book sale raised \$74.

Terri Friesen introduced our speaker, Brittany Krauss, a massage therapist and owner of M.Y. Bodywork. Her presentation, 'An Unexpected Journey', told of her struggle with cancer and how it ultimately led her to a career that she loves.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Vicki Holmstrom, Secretary



Christmas Tree Facts

The first decorated tree was in Latvia in 1510!

It takes 7 to 10 years to grow a Christmas tree!

*For every Christmas tree harvested 1-3 seedlings
are planted to replace it!*

Christmas tree farms provide habitat for wildlife!

*There are 15,000 Christmas tree farms in the US
employing 100,000 people!*



Carol Rasmussen - December 2
Marlys Mestemacher - December 6
Linda Johnson - December 12
Susan Lynch - December 12
Gayle Coyer - December 27
Ellen Smilanich - December 31

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Websites for state and national AAUW information:

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

National AAUW website: www.aauw.org

ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION www.aauw.org

AAUW MINNESOTA www.aauwmn.net