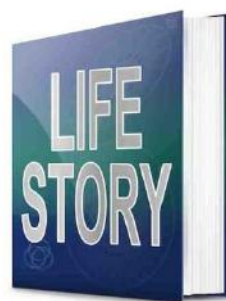
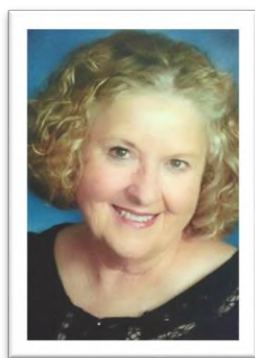




“Meet A Member” – Stories from AAUW – Saint Cloud Area Branch

We like to feature one of our accomplished members each month by asking them to tell us their stories.

Our December 2020, Member of the Month is: Cindy Leigh



Small Town Girl

I grew up in the very small town of Lake Lillian in west central Minnesota.

My father owned one of two grocery stores in our town of 350 residents. From an early age, my siblings and I worked in the store beginning with bagging potatoes into 10 pound paper bags. We each were paid five cents for bagging 10 bags! My mother was a stay at home mom focused on raising six children. Our parents wanted us to know a world outside our small town and we frequently motored to Minneapolis. I have wonderful memories of going to the Ice Follies, Minnesota Twins games, auto shows where we met the Lennon Sisters, and Christmas outings to see the city lights, Dayton’s window displays and to have our pictures taken with Santa!

In 1965, I graduated from St Mary's High School in Bird Island, Minnesota and went on to receive my BA degree in Education from then St Cloud State College and later my MA degree from St Mary's Winona with an emphasis on *Teaching the Gifted and Talented Student in the Regular Classroom*. A highlight of my college years was working one summer at St Mary's Lodge in Glacier National Park and years later, I returned to work another summer with my former, now deceased husband.

My teaching career began and ended teaching first graders in Foley, Minnesota for 34 years! I am not sure if my job was made for me or I was made for my job. I loved it! I held several offices in our Foley Education Association. To this day, I still have contact with many former students and parents, frequently attending graduations, weddings and baby showers.

AAUW for the past 40 years has been a passion. I was inspired to join because of the annual home tour which was held to raise funds for scholarships and local charities. I went on to chair the home tour for two years. In addition to holding branch offices, I also was an officer in the Arts Group, and was a charter member of the branch's Money Talks Investment Club. In 1989, as president of our branch, I was invited by Secretary of State Joan Growe, to join a People to People delegation to the Soviet Union. I represented education and had the unique opportunity to visit several elementary schools in four Russian cities.

I have been retired for 17 years and enjoy every moment spending my winters in Naples, Florida and traveling the world. So far, my favorites have been the Greek Islands and one summer spending six weeks in an apartment in Florence, Italy, appreciating all the galleries, museums, restaurants and traveling to other beautiful areas of Italy. Other passions include daily yoga, biking, walking, reading, orchestra concerts, Broadway musicals and strolling my favorite Florida beach in search of the elusive sand dollars.