

“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 July, 2021 Member of the Month is: Ann Fleming

Psychologist, Traveler, Educator

I'm Ann Fleming. I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. My parents were both educated, with my dad being an attorney and later a judge. I had one brother, Clay. The family liked to go on vacations, such as road trips to California beaches, and backpacking trips in the Colorado Rockies. We built a mountain cabin in 1964. It's still in good shape, used regularly, and loved. I like to visit.

After graduating from the same public high school as my dad, I went to Oregon for college. I attended both Lewis and Clark College in Portland and graduated from Willamette University in Salem with a B.S. in Sociology.

I married my college sweetheart and we moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, so I could pursue my Masters in Social Work at Tulane University. My daughter was born there. We moved back to Denver where our son was born. The four of us then moved to Anchorage, Alaska, for my husband's job.

Most of my career was as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in various settings. My favorite adult years were spent in Alaska, despite a divorce. I had opportunities for many adventures with both my kids and friends to get out in the wilderness and enjoy the spectacular beauty.

At that time, there were no Ph.D psychology programs in Alaska, which was what I had decided to pursue. I chose a distant education program with in-person classes in Minneapolis several times a year, through Capella University. My degree was in educational psychology with a teaching emphasis.

I taught and did my research at a local, private university with a rural Native Alaskan distant learning program. I really enjoyed learning about how Native Alaskans are taking their education back to their rural villages to assist the community. I had a chance to

teach a few weekends in remote, native villages. I lived in Anchorage for 20 years.

I moved back to Denver where I stayed for nine years to be with my parents until the end.

I was able to move to Sauk Rapids in 2014, to be a full-time grandmother to my only two grandchildren. Here, I sought opportunities to meet new people, especially intelligent women. That is how I was encouraged to join AAUW and have been so glad to be a part of AAUW ever since.