

February 1, 2024

THE MONTHLY MONITOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF AAUW ST. CLOUD (MN) AREA BRANCH



Saint Cloud Area (MN) Branch

Memo From The Board

BY AAUW BOARD

IN THIS ISSUE

Memo From The Board

Talent & Strength
Survey

AAUW Book Clubs

TECH SAVVY

Upcoming 2024 Events

Info From
State and National

News From Our Friends,
League of Women Voters
of St. Cloud Area

In December/January, your Board voted unanimously to fund the 2024 Paramount Center for the Arts Festival with a \$1,000 sponsorship grant, and two \$250 student awards. We also voted to allocate funding for the Flash Funds programs which had utilized funds during the 2023 calendar year, as follows:
Flash Funds for Minority Women – SCSU \$500.00
Flash Funds for Minority Women – CSB \$400.00

Your Board unanimously voted to refrain from NCCWSL participation in 2024, and form a committee to investigate participation in 2025. While we are supportive of the program we do not have volunteers to manage our participation.

Your Board voted and approved a \$125.00 donation in support of the D-Blake Center Eight Grade Graduation event, to be held at SCSU on June 8, 2024. We are so pleased to be able to help again this year with this event.

Our Finance Chair Barb Wismer has devised a way to track all our expenses, from initial request through to showing the source of funds. This was a request from the State organization, to begin such tracking and to improve our audit trails.

We remain in great need of volunteers to work with our existing Board members, and take over those positions when this fiscal year ends on June 30, 2024. We are forming an Executive Search Committee, but if your skills and talents can be applied to assist our Branch in any way, please contact us. We'd really like to get new Board members trained but will, of course, be available to answer any questions or concerns.

As always, if you have any suggestions regarding programs, committees, activities, or anything else regarding our Branch, please feel free to contact any of your Board members. We're here for you, and for AAUW!

February 1, 2024

Talent and Strength Survey

**147
Current
Members**



Did you complete the survey???



Are you interested in a position on the AAUW executive board???

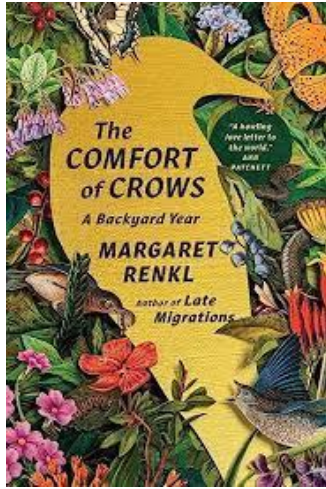
Board President
Board Finance VP
Membership VP
Recording Secretary & RS Alternative
Programs VP
Communications VP
SCSU Representative

Contact Barb Wismer today.,

bwismer1040@gmail.com or (616) 206-8677

February 1, 2024

NEWS FROM AAUW BOOK CLUBS



One of the AAUW Book Club meets next on Thursday, February 22nd @ 6:30 p.m., to discuss “The Comfort of the Crows” by Margaret Renkl. This meeting will be lead by Suzanne via Zoom. AAUW members can contact Mary Harlander-Locke for the Zoom link.

Submitted by Kathryn Gainey

If you'd like to join our book club, please contact Mary Harlander-Locke (mary.harlanderlocke@gmail.com). The schedule of books they are reading can be found on the AAUW Branch website.

“Love this group!! Such an amazing group of women!! 💖💖💖” - Linda N S

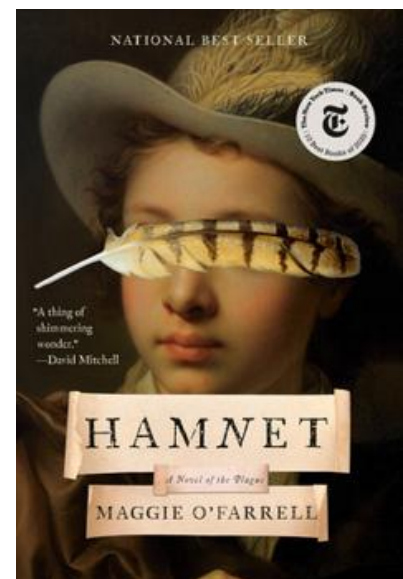
“I truly adore you all. It's so wonderful to dig deep and have such meaningful conversations - it really means a lot to me that we share”. - Barb

On Wednesday, Feb 7, at 1:00pm, the AAUW Afternoon Book Club ...the longest running local group, will meet to discuss “Hamnet, a Novel of the Plague” by Maggie O’Farrell followed with dessert and discussion. Marcia Summers is presenter; hostess Constance Crane.

Location: 6670 Northwood Lane, St. Cloud in the dining hall on ground level... Enter the door south of the main entrance. If you are new, call Molly Ewing for more information, 320-252-2166.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Mary Lou Lenz



February 1, 2024

Upcoming 2024 Events Schedule

February Program - Tech Savvy

February 24th, 2024

Saint Cloud State University



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

REGISTRATION for fifth- through eighth-grade girls interested in attending the 2024 Tech Savvy is now open.

THE EVENT: Bring a friend or friends and join us on St. Cloud State University's campus for this one day event! Attendees can choose from a wide variety of fun, engaging, interactive workshops that help you explore and learn about the STEM field, and if it might be a perfect fit for your future!

ATTEND: Cost is \$10 (includes materials, lunch, swag, and raffle tickets for sponsored prizes). Sign up early, as space is limited!

VOLUNTEER: Please consider volunteering at Tech Savvy. The event runs from 7:30am to 3:00 and volunteers are needed for all that day. Come for a few hours to help register, or come to help serve lunch and clean up or stay all day and do both. It's a great event. Call or email Ginny Bisek at 320-260-5996 or ginnybisek@gmail.com, or Jan Bensen at 320-260-5462 or bjjb72gmail.com.

Contact Us: techsavvystc@gmail.com

February 1, 2024

Upcoming 2024 Events Schedule



March 12

Reservation deadline March 5

Tracing the Spread of COVID — Tracy Hodel

5:30-9 p.m.

Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University

Cost: \$20 national members; \$10 student members

St. Cloud's director of public works will talk about wastewater purification in St. Cloud and surrounding cities, including how wastewater was used to track the spread of COVID.

Pick up a FREE
AAUW Directory
at the March
meeting.



April 9

Reservation deadline April 2

Educating Young Girls in South Africa — Helen Lotara

5:30-9 p.m.

Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University

Cost: \$20 national members; \$10 student members

Lotara, a recent St. Cloud State graduate, is founder of a school for young girls in South Africa. Lotara earned her master's degree in administration at SCSU.



May 18

Reservation deadline May 11

Year in Review; Membership Appreciation

5:30-9 p.m.

Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University

Cost: \$20 national members; \$10 student members

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION...

Email: aauwsaintcloud@gmail.com

Subject Line: Reservations

Email Body/Message: Please reserve [#] places for [Name] for the program on [Date]. I am a [Member, Student or Guest] and I require a [Special Dietary Needs] meal. Thanks!

February 1, 2024

Upcoming 2024 Events Schedule

AAUW is a co-sponsor of the annual High School Art Exhibition at the Paramount. Two artworks (one 2d and one 3d) will be selected for a \$250 cash award. If you would like to help make the selection of the AAUW award, please contact Kathryn Gainey.

At the art reception on Friday, April 26th, we will need volunteers to help host the event. Our organization will have an information table for visibility to the community.



Submitted by: Kathryn Gainey

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

Annually, more than 30 area high schools located within a 35-mile radius of the Paramount are invited to participate in an art exhibition and competition. Our galleries usually feature about 100 pieces created by local students annually and celebrate the work of public school art teachers.

EXHIBITION DATES

Onsite galleries will be open to the public from April 2 – 26th

A virtual gallery will also be made available to view the artwork online

(Check back in April 2nd for the link).

Art Reception: Fri, April 26 || 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Awards Ceremony: Fri, April 26 | 6:30 – 7:00 PM (artwork will be taken home by students at the conclusion of the ceremony).

We hope students, along with family and friends participate in the evening filled with music, food, and awards centered around the culmination of your work as committed and inspiring teacher.

GALLERY HOURS

Historic Lobby and Gallery Saint Germain, main levels

Mon – Fri || 10am – 5pm

Sat || 10am – 2pm

Always Free to Attend. Always Inspiring.

If you would like to purchase a particular piece from the Art Exhibit, please contact the Gift Gallery.

February 1, 2024

News from AAUW State and National



This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee to open membership by to eliminating the degree requirement for membership in AAUW..

Key Dates for 2024 Vote

- April 3 | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
- May 15 | Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET and results announced online

The board firmly believes that the proposed amendment is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. The board urges a vote in favor of the amendment.

February 1, 2024

Whats happening with the LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. CLOUD AREA???



Dialogue & Drink Thursday

Thursday, February 8, 2024 5-7PM

House of Pizza, 4040 Second St. S, St. Cloud, MN

104th Anniversary Membership Dinner

Saturday, February 17, 2024 4:30-7:30PM

Kelly Inn, 100 4th Ave S, St. Cloud, MN

Important Dates for 2024 Election Year:

Presidential Primary: March 5, 2024

- Early registration deadline: Feb. 13, 2024
- Early/mail-in voting: Jan. 19 - Mar. 4, 2024

State Primaries: August 13, 2024

- Early registration deadline: July 23, 2024
- Early/mail-in voting: June 28 - Aug. 12, 2024

General Election: November 5, 2024

- Early registration deadline: Oct. 15, 2024
- Early/mail-in voting: Sept. 20 - Nov. 4, 2024



Now that the holidays are in the rearview mirror it's time to focus on 2024. This is a presidential election year, and it's also the time for our annual Winter Planning meeting. Our

Winter Planning meeting will be held in person at the Library with a Zoom option on January 27 at 1:30 PM.

February 1, 2024

Meet Your Board Members



VACANT
Branch President



Barb Wismer
VP Finance



Pat Obstarczyk
VP Membership



Jamie Swenson
VP Communications



Jan Benson
VP Public Policy



Joanna Pucel
Program Coordinator



Jacqueline Ampe
Monthly Programs VP



Laura Hood
Monthly Programs VP



Linda Nistler-Schnabel
Monthly Programs VP



Linda Saupe
Monthly Programs VP



Joyce Hummel
Social Chair



Mary Peterson
Social Chair



Caroline Williams
Social Chair



Molly Ewing
Recording Secretary



Mary Wagner
Finance Assistant



Whitney Court
CSB Representative



Jamie Swenson
SCSU Representative



Rene Kaluza
Website Design



Kathryn Gainey
Newsletter Editor



Chris Lepkowski
Start Smart Program
Chair



Jan Benson
Tech Savvy Program
Chair



Whitney Court
NCCWSL Program
Chair

Want to join the board?

Contact us today!

February 1, 2024

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Do you have a special announcement or event you would like to share with all the AAUW St. Cloud Area (MN) Branch members?

**Want it included in our next
Monthly Newsletter???**

**SEND YOUR
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENT
DETAILS WITH PHOTOS TO
JAMIE SWENSON
JAMIE_2992@YAHOO.COM
BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH TO
BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER.**



Disclaimer: There is no guarantee that your information will be shared but we will do our best to get it shared in the following newsletter.