

May 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

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AAUW Book Clubs

Info From
State and National

And More...

Our Paramount High School Arts program was a big success. We sponsor this event every year, and award two prizes to the students our judges select. Thanks to Kathryn Gainey for chairing this event!

Your Board recently heard a report from Jamie Swenson, Advisor to the SCSU Student AAUW Branch. There are many advantages to having a student organization, working alongside our community branch. We can have materials printed at a lower cost, we can reserve rooms on campus at no cost, and we can appear at many student events to attract new members and publicity for our Branch. We will vote on continuing an active student organization at our next Board meeting.

We are pleased to advise that we have a FULL SLATE of candidates for your Board for the next term (2024-2026). We'll be voting on the new Board at our May program meeting – hope you will attend and help us greet new Board members.

Jamie Swenson attended a state-wide AAUW meeting on renewing and recruiting Membership. Several great ideas were presented, hopefully some of which we can implement next season.

Jan Benson and Barb Wismer attended the Minnesota State AAUW Annual Meeting in Hastings, MN and heard some terrific speakers. We were energized by a rep from ERA MN to send daily emails to our State legislators to put ERA MN on the ballot before the legislative session closes on May 20th (see details later in this bulletin). We also heard from the League of Women Voters regarding National Voter Registration Day to pre-register high school students 16-17, in September. The whole convention was a well-executed and enjoyable meeting. Hastings Branch did it up well!

We also discussed our upcoming program season 2024-2025. More later on that, after our wonderful May program decision activities party and business meeting. Hope to see you there!

May 1, 2024

VOTE NOW!



GREETINGS AAUW MN BRANCH PRESIDENT/LEADERS,

AN ALARMING STATUS REPORT HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO STATE PRESIDENTS. THE REPORT IS TO THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS VOTING IN THE AAUW NATIONAL BYLAW CHANGE. OUR STATS INDICATE THAT AS OF APRIL 18TH, 1132 AAUW MN MEMBERS HAVE NOT VOTED. NOT VOTED!

CONSIDERING WE ARE AN ORGANIZATION THAT ADVOCATES GET OUT THE VOTE FOR POLITICAL ELECTIONS, IT IS DISMAYING TO READ OUR VOTER TURNOUT STATS FOR THIS IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONAL ELECTION ARE SO VERY LOW.

THERE WERE GLITCHES THAT OCCURRED WITH SOME ADDRESSES WITH 'COMCAST.NET' MAIL SERVICE, AND MEMBERS WHO UNSUBSCRIBED AND EMAILS BUMPED BACK. TERESA SAGEN AND I WORKED TO RESOLVE THOSE EMAIL ADDRESS ISSUES.

SIMPLYVOTING REQUESTED CHANGES BY APRIL 26TH IN ORDER FOR ANOTHER POSTING TO THOSE MEMBERS.

AS A REMINDER, VOTING BEGAN APRIL 3RD. MEMBERS RECEIVED EMAILS FROM VOTE@SIMPLYVOTING.COM WITH THEIR UNIQUE ELECTOR ID AND PASSWORD TO VOTE. (MEMBERS WERE TO CHECK THEIR SPAM FILES)

ALL MEMBERS WITHOUT AN EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A PAPER BALLOT BY MAIL.

NO ADDITIONAL PAPER BALLOTS WOULD BE SENT DURING THE VOTING PERIOD.

VOTING CLOSES ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 AT 12:00 PM ET.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH MEMBERS. IF MEMBERS ARE STILL HAVING ISSUES, REPLY TO ME OR TERESA.

EXERCISING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IS INITIAL TO EVERYTHING WE DO.

THANKS.

JAN
AAUW MN PRESIDENT

JAN CAREY
JMCFREE@AOL.COM



SPARK A CHANGE
IN TOMORROW BY
VOTING TODAY



May 1, 2024

Upcoming 2024 Events Schedule

COME ONE, COME ALL,
THE MORE, THE MERRIER....

May Program

Tuesday, May 14, 11:30a.m.
Alumni Room, SCSU Atwood



Choosing AAUW Program Topics for FY 2025

The May program will have an exciting opportunity for members to choose the program topics for the coming season. During the May meeting, we will complete a guided activity to decide the most popular ideas. There will be large pages on the wall with various categories, such as empowering women and girls through arts/music, education, or natural resources. All people present will write one or more ideas on the large pages. Then, everyone will have 4 votes for their favorite ideas. The top 8 topics with the highest votes will become our program topics and will be provided to the Board.

Please come with your ideas. This can be topics of interest to you or something you want to learn more about. We need your participation! Looking forward to seeing you at the May program.

The deadline for reservation is May 7th. Cost is \$20 for national members and \$10 for student members.

COST OF COLLEGE?
FINANCIAL STABILITY?
SEXUAL HEALTH?
VOTING RIGHTS?
STEM?
SELF CARE?
HEALTH CARE AFTER RETIREMENT?
WOMEN'S RIGHTS?
EQUAL PAY?
SOLAR ENERGY?
ANIMAL TESTING?
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS?
AFFORDABLE HOUSING?
DEI?
MENTAL HEALTH?
IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON EDUCATION?
LGBTQIA+

May 1, 2024

HIGH SCHOOL Art Exhibit JUDGES



THE AAUW JUDGES: DENNIS AND JOYCE HUMMEL, MARY LOU LENZ AND KATHRYN GAINY



THE 2D AND 3D WINNERS: LYDIA HOLMGEREN (SARTELL) AND SYNNOVE LUMLEY (ELK RIVER)



TESTIMONIALS:

“THE NECKLACE (THE LIGHT BELOW) IS A MESSAGE OF RESILIENCE AND COURAGE FOR EVERY GIRL .”

MARY LOU LENZ

“COLORFUL WONDER (A SELF-PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A CHILD) PORTRAYS A YOUNG GIRL AS A CURIOUS, BRIGHT EYED GIRL WHO WILL GROW UP AN MAKE A GREAT FUTURE AAUW MEMBER.” K. GAINY

May 1, 2024

HIGH SCHOOL Art Exhibit WINNERS

3-D WINNER
THE LIGHT BELOW
SYNNØVE LUMLEY
ELK RIVER HIGH SCHOOL
GRADE LEVEL 12



Sterling Silver, Carnelian
3D

Teacher's Full Name
Elizabeth Rebrovich

Artist Statement

This piece shows that the light is still there although it is being weighed down and overshadowed. The crescent represents the shadow my disability casts over my life with the 15 rings along the top edge representing the symptoms I struggle through and endure every day. The light below the crescent is barely holding on by the five rings that attach it to the crescent. It is only those five rings that represent the things that are keeping my light from falling. The carnelian in the center of the light represents the courage and strength I need to keep hanging on.

Watercolor
2D

Teacher's Full Name
Michael Carlson

Artist Statement

The name of my painting is "Colorful Wonder". The painting depicts me as a child in a bright yellow shirt and rainbow headband set against a colorful blue background. I played off the bright colors in the original photo to inspire the style of my painting. I wanted to create a whimsical rendition of the original photo to visually connect the whimsicality of childhood, leading to my decision to use watercolor. To create my painting, I first sketched the girl, and then I painted in the lightest shades of color, leaving the lightest highlights white. Next, I built up darker and darker colors until the contrast between colors created a realistic picture. The most evident element of art in my painting is color. I used bright colors to emphasize the youthful whimsy style I was aiming to achieve. Contrast is the most evident principle of art. The contrast helps create depth and establishes a sense of realism.

COLORFUL WONDER
LYDIA HOLMGREN
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL
GRADE 12



May 1, 2024

ERA this Legislative Session???



ERA Minnesota

TIME TO CRANK UP THE ERA LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN

FROM ALBERT LEA, TO ZUMBROTA, FROM INTERNATIONAL FALLS TO WINONA, FROM GRAND RAPIDS TO RED WING, FROM MARSHALL TO STILLWATER, LEGISLATORS NEED TO HEAR FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS:

> THAT DESPITE ALL THE COMPETING ISSUES AT THE LEGISLATURE THERE IS NOTHING MORE CRITICAL FOR THE ECONOMIC SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF ALL MINNESOTANS THAN ADVANCING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT,

> THAT DISCRIMINATION IS NOT A MINNESOTA VALUE,

> THAT EVERYONE DESERVES THE SAME RIGHT TO THE SAME RIGHTS,

> THAT EQUAL RIGHTS ARE A MINNESOTA VALUE,

> THAT MINNESOTA IS UNEXCEPTIONAL WHEN IT COMES TO EQUALITY: THE ERA WILL UPDATE OUR PRE-CIVIL WAR STATE CONSTITUTION BY ADDING ANY EQUALITY CLAUSE - LIKE 27 OTHER STATES ALREADY HAVE,

> THAT EQUALITY IS FOR ALL, AND ALL MEANS ALL,

> AND THAT THE ROBUST ERA WILL PROVIDE THE STRONGEST PROTECTIONS POSSIBLE AGAINST HISTORIC STEREOTYPES AND DISCRIMINATION THAT LEAVES TOO MANY MINNESOTANS BEHIND.

Proposed Minnesota State Equal Rights Amendment:



eramn.org

"All persons shall be guaranteed equal rights under the laws of this state. The state shall not discriminate against any person in intent or effect on account of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex, including but not limited to pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and reproductive freedom, gender identity or gender expression, or sexual orientation."

THIS INFORMATION WAS SHARED ON BEHALF OF BETTY FOLLIARD

May 1, 2024

Membership Renewals and Update

Membership Renewals for 2024-2025

Our members are vital in making AAUW the only organization to advance gender equity for more than a century. Our support helps AAUW to work with lawmakers to reshape unfair systems and to invest in women who will go on to change the world.

As we approach the start of fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024), many members will begin receiving email from AAUW National reminding them to renew your membership. Fortunately, our dues will not change for FY 2025 - National (\$72), State (\$9) and Branch (\$27) all remain the same as the previous year! Also, once again, you will have an opportunity to renew your membership online or by personal check. Our Membership VP, Pat Obstarczyk will share further information about payment methods and processing at the April, 2024 meeting and via future emails.

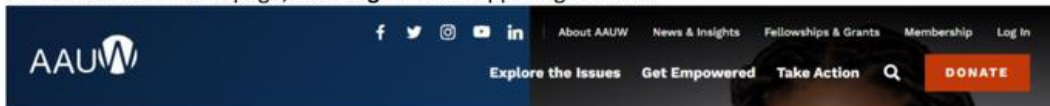
Whichever way you decide to renew your membership in 2025, I hope you will take pride in knowing that our work together is making a real difference in the lives of women and girls!

AAUW Community Hub: How to Self-Renew for Existing Members

The Community Hub allows existing members to log in and renew their membership and donate.

Login to your **Personal Snapshot** one of two ways.

- From the AAUW homepage, click **Log In** in the upper right corner



- or go to my.aauw.org.

A screenshot of the AAUW login form. It has a title 'Log In'. Below it is an 'Email' field with an email icon. Below that is a 'Password' field with a key icon. At the bottom is a blue button labeled 'LOG IN'.

May 1, 2024

It's Time To Vote



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..

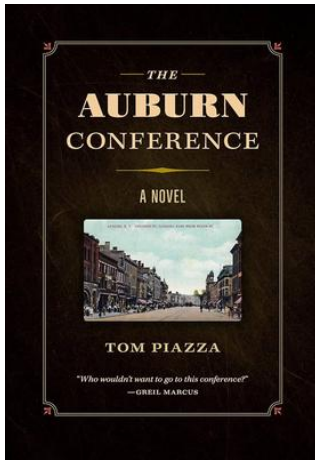
Key Dates for 2024 Vote

- 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.

May 1, 2024

NEWS FROM AAUW BOOK CLUBS



The Thursday AAUW Book Club meets next on Thursday, May 23, @ 6:30 p.m., to discuss “*The Auburn Conference*” by Tom Piazza. Held at Linda Nistler-Schnabel’s home.

AAUW members can contact Mary Harlander-Locke if they are interested in joining.

Submitted by Mary Harlander-Locke

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

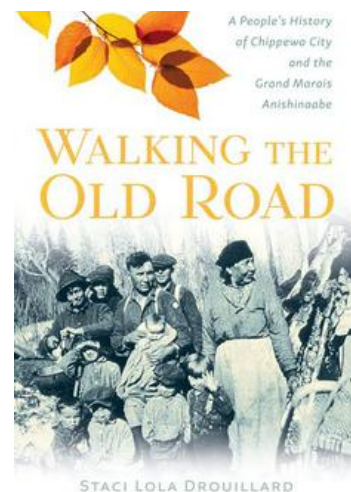
“I truly adore you all. It's so wonderful to dig deep and have such meaningful conversations - it really means a lot to me that we share”. - Barb

On Wednesday, May 1, at 12:00pm for an pot luck. The AAUW Wednesday Afternoon Book Club will be discussing “*Walking the Old Road*” by Staci Lola Drouillard. Hosted by Helen Bettendorf.

If you are new, call Molly Ewing for more information, 320-252-2166.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Mary Lou Lenz



May 1, 2024

Senior Dance Team Opportunity



Interested in joining A SENIOR DANCE TEAM?

It started with a Dance Fitness class. Some of the students in the class suggested starting a Dance Team after seeing a University of Minnesota Senior Dance Team perform during a half-time basketball game. In sharing our idea with Whitney Program Director, Kylie Weller, we had their support!

In looking for a coach, the SCSU Gerontology Department was contacted to see if someone in their classes might want to volunteer as coaches. Luckily, two experienced Dance Team dancers took on the project.

For the last month, Lucy and Grace have been working with seniors to teach them all about a dance team. For instance, synchronized dancing, often with motions that match the music or tell the story of the song, are combined. Putting on a performance is also an important part of a dance team. Therefore, if we get our act together, our Whitney Senior Dance Team will perform for you at the May 14th luncheon at SCSU.



COACH LUCY - A SENIOR AT SAUK RAPIDS HS WHO HAS BEEN DANCING SINCE SHE WAS 3 YEARS OLD. SHE WAS ON THE SR DANCE TEAM FOR 4 YEARS.



THREE OF THE WHITNEY SENIORS PRACTICING SOME DANCE MOVES - DAYNA, JEAN, AND ERIKA.

May 1, 2024

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



St. Cloud Community Policing Agreement 2024

Wednesday May 8, 2024 1:00PM

Bremer Room, St. Cloud Library

1300 W. St. Germain St, St. Cloud, MN 56301

LWVSCA Summer Planning 2024

Thursday, July 11, 2024 5-7PM

Crooked Pint, 58 Division St, St. Cloud, MN

Important Dates for 2024 Election Year:

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

Unit Meeting Schedule

May 8, Community Policing Update

May 1, 2024

Meet Your Board Members



VACANT
Branch President



Barb Wismer
VP Finance



Pat Obstarczyk
VP Membership



Jacqueline Ampe
Monthly Programs VP



Laura Hood
Monthly Programs VP



Linda Nistler-Schnabel
Monthly Programs VP



Jamie Swenson
VP Communications



Jan Benson
VP Public Policy



Joanna Pucel
Program Coordinator



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



Kathryn Gainey
Newsletter Editor



Chris Lepkowski
Start Smart Program
Chair



Jan Benson
Tech Savvy Program
Chair



Whitney Court
CSB Representative



Chris Lepkowski
SCSU Representative



Rene Kaluza
Website Design



Whitney Court
NCCWSL Program
Chair

Want to join the board?

Contact us today!

Empowered
Women
Empower
Women



May 1, 2024

**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.