

June 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

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And More...

At our May Board meeting, Whitney Court updated us on the applications for the Scholarships for Young Leaders project. There is a great need, and Whitney and Chris Lepkowski have received over 19 requests. They will be selecting the winners and next Fall, after the selected applicants have submitted proof of their Fall enrollment and joined our Branch as student members, the scholarships will be awarded. In the meantime, Keshia Anderson-King is running the 8th Grade Graduation, which will be on June 8th at St. Cloud Technical College. We are contributing paper products for that event. Your Board also approved a motion to continue support for an AAUW Student Organization at SCSU, which Jamie Swenson will be administering. The committee for our annual Fundraiser event has selected a venue - the 2nd floor Cascade Room at Atwood Memorial Center SCSU. Our Fundraiser will be held October 8, 2024. Save the date! Committee members are currently soliciting raffle prizes (got anything you want to donate?), along with establishing musical entertainment for the event. We've got lots of great ideas! Your Board is also working to contact speakers for the upcoming program season, based on the ideas and voting that occurred during our May meeting.

Stay tuned as we get the season nailed down.

Welcome summer!

June 1, 2024

AAUW VOTE UPDATE

RESULTS OF BYLAWS CHANGE VOTING

Change to open up membership to non-degreed persons was defeated again. To answer the question, “Will we be able to vote on this again?” the National website says:

“AAUW members have the right to bring any bylaws amendment to the member-led Governance Committee for review. The AAUW Board of Directors decides what is put on the ballot each year for member vote, based on the Governance Committee’s recommendations. The national staff does not control, dictate or direct ballot initiatives for member vote. The AAUW membership could, at the recommendation of the Governance Committee and approval from the Board of Directors, vote on this issue in future years.”

As your Branch President, I will add that I join the AAUW Board of Directors in saying, “we are disappointed that the initiative to open AAUW’s membership did not pass...But AAUW's history is one of continual change and growth, even in the face of challenges. That same resilient spirit must guide us now as we seek to fulfill AAUW’s purpose to advance equity for women and girls.”

June 1, 2024

Post AAUW State Annual Meeting



The AAUW State Annual Meeting was held this year in Hastings, MN at the end of April. Jan Bensen and Barb Wismer went down to represent our Saint Cloud Branch. It was the first in-person State meeting since our Branch hosted in 2022.

The Hastings Branch did a beautiful job! They housed us at the newly-opened Confluence Hotel, which used to be a factory and only re-opened as a clean, beautiful, and re-purposed hotel in 2023. It was so convenient to hold the event, all meals and meetings, and be able to sleep just “down the hall”.

On Friday afternoon we had a terrific tour of the City Hall, a magnificent 19th century building. Friday was also the opening social hour and delicious buffet dinner. (The food was terrific throughout!). Megan Peterson, Executive Director of Gender Justice, spoke.

Saturday after breakfast we saw a video from Senator Amy Klobuchar, welcoming us to the meeting and talking about her work upholding and encouraging women. The business meeting was held, and the keynote speaker, Professor

Karen Kedrowski of Iowa State spoke. After lunch, Minnesota Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan talked about her experiences in State Government. It was fascinating. Then

Michelle Witte, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota spoke enthusiastically about the National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) held in

September. She pointed out that in the younger demographic (18-24), unregistered voters only voted about 10-20% of the time, while registered younger voters actually vote 90% of the time! We also saw a video from

Congresswoman Angie Craig (Hastings area Congresswoman.) The final presentation of the meeting was a panel of women entrepreneurs in Hastings, and it was quite fascinating to hear their stories. In addition to the traditional retail store owner, one of the women owns a brewery, and one has a textile store. Finally, the Silent Auction raised \$2,854.00, with an additional \$400 donated by the State organization in honor of past Presidents.

It was a very well-organized convention, and a great and inspiring time was had by all!



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ERA this Legislative Session???



ERA Minnesota

AAUW member Barb Wismer is with Betty Folliard, founder of ERA MN, and Rep Kaohly Vang Her, sponsor of the bill.

Jan Bensen and Kathryn Gainey also attended the session in St. Paul.

The legislative session included a large representation of the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life who disrupted the visitor rules on several occasions. "The bill passed 9-5 (along party lines) out of the committee and will now be moved to the House floor for a full house vote. It will then be sent over to the Senate for voting there."

The passage of this bill will lead to it being placed on the 2026 general election ballot for the people to decide if the state constitution 'should be amended to codify the right to equality.

June 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.

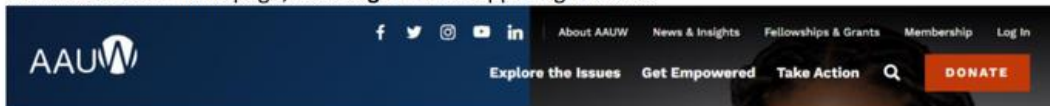
Whichever way you decide to renew your membership in 2025, I hope you will take pride in knowing that our work together is making a real difference in the lives of women and girls!

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

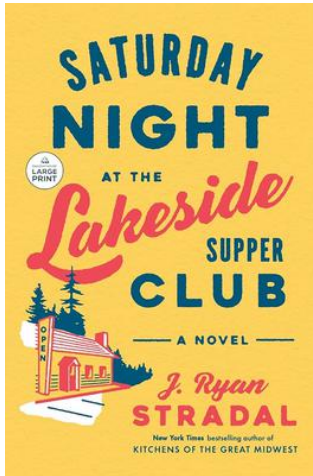


- or go to my.aauw.org.

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

June 1, 2024

NEWS FROM AAUW BOOK CLUBS



The Thursday AAUW Book Club meets next on Thursday, June 27, @ 6:30 p.m., to discuss “Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club.” by J. Ryan Strabel. Hosted by Julie.

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, June 5, at 1:00pm the book club will meet at Hester Park. The AAUW Wednesday Afternoon Book Club will be selecting books for 2024-2025.

Bring your own chair and refreshments.

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

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Mary Lou Lenz



June 1, 2024

May Program Review

We had such a good time at our May meeting! Started off with a bang – a dance routine from the Senior Dance Team! We really enjoyed that so much. Then we launched into the annual May membership appreciation awards. Joanna Pucel received a special lifetime membership honor, along with a lovely placque. New members were: Diana Atkins, Jan Holtz, Garima Schrestha, Adanna Uzoechi. One year membership honorees were: Julie Kerr, Deyo Ajayi, Anne Marie Johnson, and Lyrae Ganz. Five year membership honorees were: Rene Kaluza, Robbyn Wacker, Caroline Williams, Barb Wismer, Laura Hood, and Sara Crever. Fifteen year membership honorees were: Mary Ann Kieser, Connie Crane, and Cleone Ashley. After a delicious picnic lunch (burgers and pasta salad!), we ran through the business portion of the meeting with reports from Finance, Membership, and Public Policy. The incoming slate of nominations for the new Board of Directors term 2024-2026 was unanimously approved. New Board members received carnations and our fervent applause. Then Ann Fleming ran our programs activity, where we all had sharpies and listed our program ideas for the coming season on large poster-sheets hung on the walls. Then we each had four star stickers to make our choices of all the ideas. Your Board will be reviewing the results and helping to establish our next season programs. Thanks, Ann, for such a good idea! We had a terrific meeting, and are really looking forward to our next meeting in September. See you there!



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Senior Dance Team Opportunity



The Whitney Dance Team performed before the May 14th meeting at SCSU. (AAUW members on the team include Ann Fleming and Kathryn Gainey. SCSU student volunteer coaches are Lucy and Grace)



June 1, 2024

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR A MONTHLY PROGRAM...

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!

Deadline to make reservations is ONE WEEK from the date of the program.

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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

June 1, 2024

Meet Your Board Members

Executive Board Members



Barb Wismer
Branch President



Jan Benson
Co-VP Finance



Mary Harlander-Locke
Co-VP Finance



Molly Ewing
Recording Secretary



Kathryn Gainey
Recording Secretary
Alternate



Pat Obstarczyk
Co-VP membership

Executive Board Members



Leah Stanek
Co-VP membership



Jan Benson
VP Public Policy



OPEN
VP Programs



Jamie Swenson
VP of
Communications

Voting - Standing Board Committee Chair Members



OPEN
Monthly Program
Chair



Caroline Williams
Co-Social
Chairwoman



Joyce Hummel
Co-Social
Chairwoman



Rene Kaluza
Website



Jamie Swenson
Monthly Newsletter



OPEN
Social Media

Voting - Standing Board Committee Chair Members



OPEN
Meet-a-Member



Kathryn Gainey
Directories



OPEN
Ads & Fliers



Joanna Pucel
Archives



Chris Lepkowski
SCSU Representative



Whitney Court
CSB Representative

Non-Voting Advisory Board



Jan Benson
Tech Savvy Event
Chair



Keshia Anderson-King
JEDI (Justice, Equity,
Diversity & Inclusion
Chair



OPEN
NCCWSL Event Chair



Whitney Court
Scholarships for
Young Leaders



Barb Wismer
Flash Funds Chair



Keshia Anderson-King
8th Grade Graduation



Christine Lepkowski
Start Smart Event -
SCSU



Christi Siver
Start Smart Event - CSB



Jamie Swenson
Student Membership
Liaisons - SCSU



OPEN
Student Membership
Liaisons - CSB



Fay Bolin
Fundraising
Committee



Peggy Lodewyk
Fundraising
Committee



Joyce Hummel
Fundraising
Committee



Kathy Kampa
Fundraising
Committee



Kathryn Gainey
Fundraising
Committee



Cindy Leigh
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee

June 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.