

September 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

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And More...

Hello, all, and welcome back to our new season of AAUW programs, beginning September 10. We are so excited to be back, and hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer.

Your Board had to address some changes in member participation, which is sad, but we also want our members to know that we understand it – life happens! Our Communications Director, Jamie Swenson, needs to step down, but (thankfully!) will continue to produce our monthly newsletter (Hallelujah!). Jamie, thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for our Branch. Your efforts are truly appreciated. Kathryn Gainey has graciously agreed to step up and fill the Ads & Fliers position, as well as creating the program for our Fundraiser. Thank you, Kathryn! Chris Lepkowski is also having to step away from the Start Smart program at SCSU, but will be marketing the free Webinars available from AAUW National to her students (which cover the same type of material). Chris will continue to administer Scholarships for Young Leaders for us and continue to perform as our on-campus affiliate liaison. Thank you, Chris, for everything you contribute to the continued success of our Branch. We are truly grateful. At any rate, check the Monitor pages for your revised Board.

Our Fundraiser is going great and we are all really looking forward to a rousing good time! We have 14 wonderful raffle prizes and are finalizing everything. Make sure you get your early bird pricing of \$70 by purchasing an admission ticket before August 31.

The EventBrite link is: [Fundraiser Tickets](#).

Please check out the Sept. 7th event in Brainerd featuring a presentation by our Minnesota State President, Kelsey Waits. Details are in this newsletter.

NOTE: The deadline for registration for our September program is NEXT WEEK – SEPTEMBER 3!! Our speaker will be Ralph Carr, President of League of Women Voters, speaking on “Combating Misinformation and Disinformation in the Electronic Age”

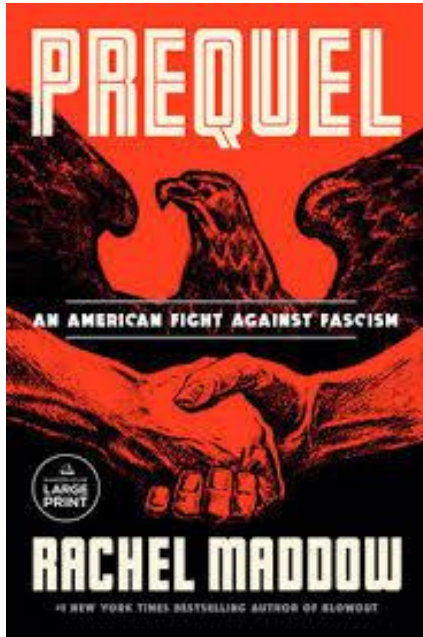
Why not send in your email reservation now, before you forget about it?

Finally, please see the next page for details about the changes in the parking policy at St. Cloud State. We will no longer be allowed to park for free in Lot “L” across the street from the Atwood Memorial Center for our meetings. You can pay to park in the 4th Avenue Ramp, or parking will be free in Lot “C” at 4th Ave/5th Street after 4:30 pm. For Saturdays and the daytime program in May, see the programs listing in this bulletin.

Looking forward to seeing you at the September meeting!

September 1, 2024

AAUW Book Club



The Thursday AAUW Book Club meets next on Thursday, September 26, @ 6:30 p.m., to discuss “Prequel” by Rachel Maddow. Lead by Kathryn. AAUW members can contact Mary Harlander-Locke if they are interested in joining.

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AAUW 2024 Webinar Schedule

These webinars are designed to provide you with the tools and knowledge needed to negotiate better salaries, enhance your career, and achieve financial independence. Whether you're a student stepping into the professional world or a seasoned professional aiming to advance, our webinars offer valuable insights for every stage of your career. Check out our schedule and secure your spot to start transforming your future today. All the below webinars are FREE for students from member institutions.



Webinar	Date	Time
AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid	Thursday, September 12, 2024	12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Start Smart	Thursday, September 19, 2024	12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Foundations	Tuesday, September 24, 2024	12:00 - 12:45 p.m. ET
AAUW Work Smart: Refresher	Wednesday, October 9, 2024	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work/Start Smart Deep Dive: Developing Your Value Statement	Wednesday, October 16, 2024	12:00 - 1:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Finances	Wednesday, October 23, 2024	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid	Tuesday, November 5, 2024	2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Start Smart	Wednesday, November 13, 2024	2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart: Smart Future	Thursday, November 21, 2024	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work Smart: Refresher	Tuesday, December 3, 2024	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET
AAUW Work/Start Smart Deep Dive: Developing Your Value Statement	Tuesday, December 10, 2024	3:00 - 3:45 p.m. ET
AAUW Money Smart Deep Dive: Finances-Budget and Credit Management	Tuesday, December 17, 2024	3:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET

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Parking Changes at SCSU

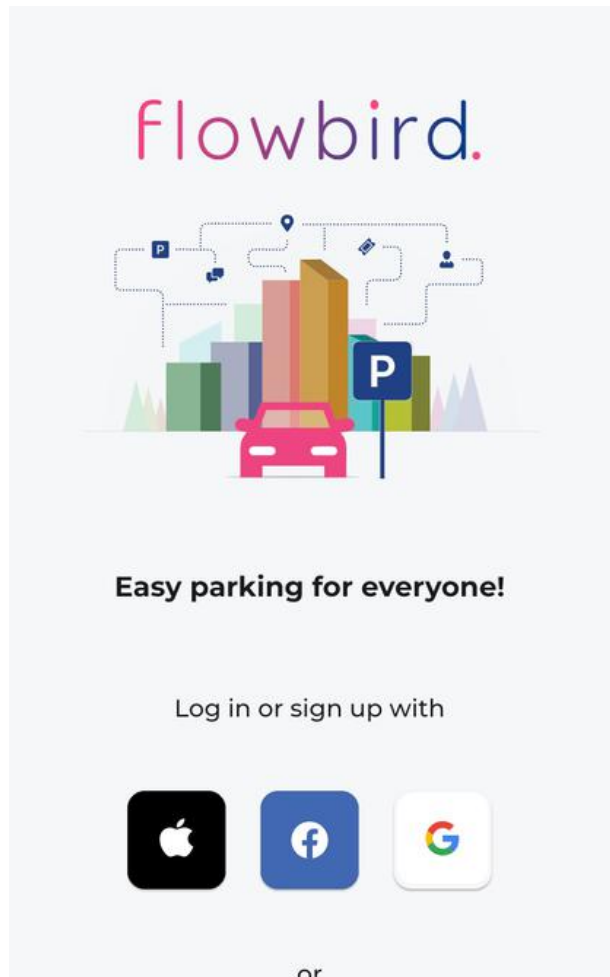
MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT:

Parking in Lot "L" across from Atwood Memorial is no longer free.

If you are attending a monthly meeting, you can pay to park in the 4th Ave. Ramp, or you can park for free in Lot "C" which is at 4th Ave/5th Street (free after 4:30 pm).

For the Saturday meetings, you can park free all day Saturday at the "C" lot.

For the May daytime meeting, you can pay to park at the 4th Ave. Ramp or the Miller Pay Lot.



DOWNLOAD THE APP

September 1, 2024

2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Tuesday September 10, 2024 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: 4th Ave Parking Ramp (Paid);
Free parking in Lot “C” 4th Ave/5th Street after 4:30 pm
(Ann Fleming) Ralph Carr, President of League of Women Voters
“Combating Misinformation and Disinformation in the Electronic Age”

“Fake news” now pervades our media landscape. False and malicious news spreads much faster on social media than honest evidence based information. Some media outlets and social media platforms deliberately reinforce false information. The rise of AI only exacerbates the problem. If we can’t stop it how can we mitigate its effects? First we need keep abreast of news sources that counter incorrect claims and report real news. Then the hard work begins. We need to act, both individually and collectively, to address the problem. I will share some ideas that I believe are making a difference. Maybe you have some good ideas, too. Let’s connect.

Tuesday November 12, 2024 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: 4th Ave Parking Ramp (Paid);
Free parking in Lot “C” 4th Ave/5th Street after 4:30 pm
(Linda Nistler-Schnabel) Elizabeth Bayer and Diane Nelson
Annandale Art and Textile Center
Mark your calendars for ANNANDALE ART AND TEXTILE CENTER

It's a 3 in one deal!!!

--shop for Christmas!

--support an excellent cause!!

--learn about a joyful and creative program in our backyard!!!

Our program will feature Elizabeth Bayer, Executive Director of AATC and Diane Nelson, Master Weaver and coordinator of Heart of the Lakes Weavers. They will share with us the story of their incredible journey to create a place of creativity and artistry for young adults with a variety of learning styles and abilities. Check out their website and Facebook page

<https://www.artandweaving.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/AnnandaleArtandTextileCenter>

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2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Tuesday December 10, 2024 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center

Parking: 4th Ave Parking Ramp (Paid);

Free parking in Lot "C" 4th Ave/5th Street after 4:30 pm

(Barb) AAUW Branch Members

"What is it like to live abroad?" Panel Discussion AND

Holiday traditions Cookie Exchange

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live (not just visit) outside the United States? What experiences could you anticipate? How was it for American women in different countries, in different cultures? We're going to be drawing on the extensive and varied experiences of our own Branch members, and it's sure to be a fascinating discussion. We're talking about former Peace Corps volunteers, students studying abroad, and faculty teaching abroad. Learn about what it was like living in the Middle East, China, Colombia, New Zealand and Australia – and more!

PLUS – We're doing a Christmas cookie exchange. If you want to participate, bring a dozen and take home a dozen. It's time to celebrate!

Saturday January 18, 2025 8:30 am – 10:30 am Atwood Memorial Center

Parking: 4th Ave Parking Ramp (Paid);

Free parking in Lot "C" 4th Ave/5th Street all day Sat-Sunday

(Caroline Williams) Matt Glaesman, Community Development Director,
City of St. Cloud

"Community Planning: Initiatives Achieved and New Objectives"

Mark your calendars for a Saturday AAUW breakfast and guaranteed interesting presentation? The City of St. Cloud is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan and 2020 Consolidated Plan which establish the future vision for physical development of the community. These documents address a broad range of land use matters including: land use & development, housing & neighborhoods, economic development, transportation & mobility, community facilities and parks & recreation. The presentation will highlight a number of the 2015 initiatives successfully implemented during the last decade. You'll also learn about a variety of new objectives, which will be defined and vetted through the community engagement process while the Comprehensive and 2020 Consolidated plans are being updated.

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2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Saturday February 15, 2025 8:30 am – 10:30 am Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: 4th Ave Parking Ramp (Paid);
Free parking in Lot “C” 4th Ave/5th Street all day Sat-Sunday
(Laura Hood) Cassandra Miles

“A Dining Table Conversation: How to Launch a Children’s Museum”

Join us in February to hear the Executive Director of the Great River Children’s Museum, Cassandra Miles, share the journey of how a single conversation at a dining room table can launch a movement! Did you know that St. Cloud will soon house the 2nd largest Children’s Museum in the State of Minnesota? This program is sure to uplift your spirits, remind you about the power of conversation, dreams, generosity of community and building a strong foundation for our children. This program is currently scheduled to be held at SCSU but stay tuned for the possibility of having the presentation and AAUW meeting on site at the Great River Children’s Museum opening in 2025!

Tuesday March 11, 2025 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (St. Ben’s)
Gorecki Center, College of St. Benedict
Parking: Free parking across the street from the entrance
(Keshia) Anita Jones
Erosion of Voting Rights & Women’s Rights

Nita Jones is a Family Advocate for the St. Cloud area school district 742, a community organizer, a program coordinator consultant, and a grant writer. As a community organizer, she has registered over 500 voters in the St. Cloud area. She has provided voter education and resources to the community for over eight years. Here are the topics she’ll discuss:

***Why we should vote**

***Why it matters**

***What's at stake**

***The solution**

Voters and women's rights are a priority. Our foremothers worked too hard and too long for the right to vote. All women need to understand why women should vote, why voting matters, and what's at stake for all of us! Now, more than ever, it's time that we stop allowing others to make decisions for us. It's time we have a voice in making decisions for ourselves.

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2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Tuesday April 8, 2025 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: 4th Ave Parking Ramp (Paid);
Free parking in Lot “C” 4th Ave/5th Street after 4:30 pm
(Suzanne Rodell) Ellen Heneghan, Charlotte Stephens
Our Region’s Natural Parks and Trails

Learn how the Natural Parks and Trails Coalition, (a local organization you’ve likely never heard of), has had an extraordinary impact on preserving our natural heritage. Our group has worked for three decades to create park land acquisition and trail development. Hear about the challenges and triumphs, and what was learned along the way. With gorgeous photos, you will also learn about stunning nearby natural parks as well as four regional trails.

Tuesday May 13, 2025 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: 4th Avenue Ramp or Miller Pay Lot
(Barb) Annual Business Meeting plus AAUW National Speaker (Video or Virtual)
“Current Status of AAUW National Lobbying Efforts”

In addition to holding our annual Member Recognition and Business Meeting (including reports from our Financial, Membership, and Public Policy chairwomen), we have requested a speaker (either on Video or Virtually) from AAUW National. We’re hoping to secure an update on National lobbying and advocacy efforts, including what is being promoted, current status and how AAUW National promotes issues in support of our mission.

Backups/Extra:

(Bonita) Dawn Loven, Development Director, Paramount Arts Center
(Jan) for Janell Kendell – Stearns County Judicial Campus
Chris Lepkowski for Start Smart

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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.



September 1, 2024

Annual Fundraiser Event Update

Join us for a

A Toast to Fall

We told you the time and place, now it's time to tell you more about this fabulously exciting gala!

During our cocktail hour and dinner, we'll be serenaded with dinner music by T. J. Stang, a wonderfully-accomplished pianist. Our entertainment will be Janelle Kendall and her Wheelhouse Trio. She's played many venues in our area, including Summertime by George!

Here are some of her other performance dates this summer:

Perfect Storm:

Summertime by George (headliner) Wednesday July 17

St. Mary's Cathedral Block Party (headliner) Saturday Sept. 7

Milk and Honey Concert Series Saturday Sept. 21

Walter's Wheelhouse/Wheelhouse Trio:

Ultimate Sports in Waite Park Friday June 28 (full band)

Paynesville Koronis Concert Series Thursday July 11 (trio)

Summertime by George (opener with special guests) Wednesday August 14
(full band)

Ultimate Sports in Waite Park Thursday August 15 (trio)

Art in Motion (Holdingford) Saturday October 5 (trio)

We are using EventBrite again this year, so you can simply go to the [link](#) and purchase your admission and raffle tickets.

Note: We're doing an "early bird" special again this year. Purchase your admission ticket before August 31 and it will only be \$70!! NOTE: This means if you attend our summer gathering at the Martini Lounge on August 28th and buy your tickets, you'll get the special pricing!

Your Fundraiser committee has also decided to continue the special student pricing this year; students will only need to pay \$10 for both admission and the meal.



September 1, 2024

Annual Fundraiser Event Update

Raffle Prizes

Iranian Dinner for 4 – donated, prepared, and presented at Donna Nordang's home

Ethiopian Dinner for 4 – donated and presented at Donna Nordang's home

Transportation by Barb Wismer to Minneapolis Institute of Art for Spring "Art in Bloom" exhibition

Basket of BestSellers – donated by the AAUW Evening Book Club; includes several recent books as well as a Barnes and Noble gift card

Specially Made Garden Whirligig – donated by Kathryn Gainey, a one-of-a-kind individually crafted beautiful addition for your garden, along with some additional garden art

Special Dining Experience – donated by Ann Fleming

Art Print – donated by Barb Wismer

Pottery Tea Set – donated by Jan Bensen

.....with more raffle prizes to come!

And we will have, once again, our cabin weekend to be auctioned off, courtesy of Jan Bensen.

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets...

\$10 /each or 12/\$100

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Pics From August Gathering



Good Times



life is good

September 1, 2024

2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients

Once the school year ended, Chris and Whitney went through the packets for the 19 applicants for the Scholarships for Young Women Leaders and made our selections. It was a tough decision, and we had many, very worthy, young women in the pool. We decided to split the allocated \$3500 to 5 different students at \$700 each. Here are our awardees:

SCSU Students:

Roxanna Iradukunda is a rising senior who is majoring in Accounting and minoring in Cybersecurity who will serve as the chapter board president of the Women in Cybersecurity this coming school year.

Garima Shrestha is a rising senior majoring in Information Systems, and served as a project team leader where she lead impactful awareness campaigns and fundraising initiatives focused on alleviating global poverty. She is also fluent in three languages including English, Nepali, and Hindi.

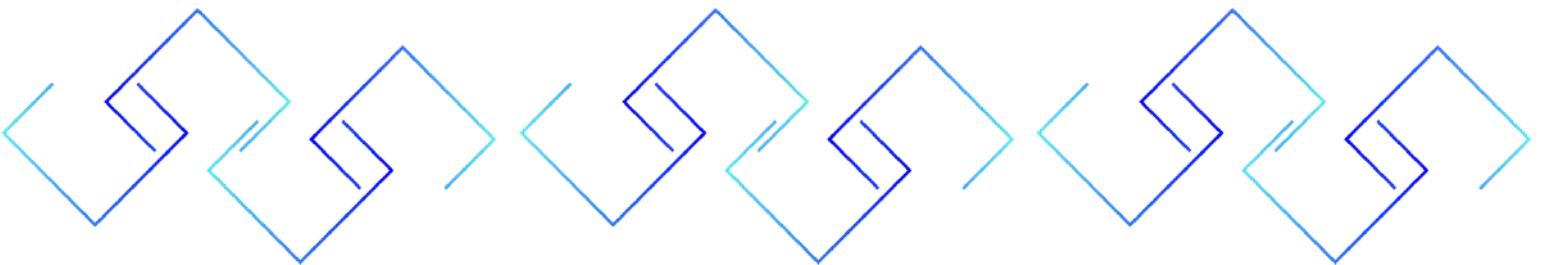
CSB Students:

Cecilia McNair is a rising sophomore majoring in Political Science and minoring in English and Data Analytics. In her first year at CSB, she co-founded the political science club, co-chairs the College Democrats, joined Model UN, and holds jobs both on and off campus.

Ella Jean Martin is a rising senior majoring in Biology with a Public Health minor. Ella is dedicated to inclusivity work at the SJU Outdoor University, through the Bonner Leadership Program, as a Women's Shelter Advocate Intern, and in the various campus organizations she is a part of like the Indigenous Student Association and the Summer Leadership Fellows.

Abby Robinson is a rising sophomore who serves on the CSB Student Senate as the Sustainability Representative, is in the Honors Program, is a recognized CSB Women in Leadership Scholar, and works as a life guard and student peer academic coach. She is a dedicated servant in all aspects of her life.

Notifications to students are on their way, and we will encourage the remaining pool to apply again in the future, to utilize our Flash Funds (if eligible and in need), and to join our branch if interested.



September 1, 2024

Brainerd Branch Event

Equal Pay for Men & Women

Unequal pay exists now in the U.S. and Minnesota

Does your employer provide equal pay for men
and women?

Pay equity can impact student loan
repayment and retirement income.

\$.81



versus



Which are you receiving for equal work?

Find out more about Gender Pay Equity
Attend a free community information session

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Northland Arboretum

10:00 a.m. registration, light refreshments

10:30 am speaker – Kelsey Waits,

AAUW MN President 2024 -2026

AAUW MN Public Policy Chair 2022 – 2024

PhD Student in Public Policy

at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Question and Answer session with presenter.

Dialogue on community concerns related to pay equity and to form a
Community Action plan to affirm Pay Equity in the Brainerd Lakes Area.



Sponsored by the Brainerd Lakes Area AAUW branch
www.Brainerdlakes-mn.aauw.net / FB AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area Branch

Call Julie at 218-829-6338 for more information.

September 1, 2024

HELP NEEDED

A little help from friends, please ...

I'm seeking a review team for the Branch's website.

I'm looking for 4-6 volunteers to assess the site. This is a short-lived volunteer task. One and done. Even if you don't use the site, you can be helpful.

When you volunteer, I will send you a short list of items to consider about the site. You'll be asked to visit the site and consider it from a couple of perspectives and submit a few notes. Not hard work.

Contact Rene Kaluza at renevk1@gmail.com if you're willing to help. Thanks!

September 1, 2024

Stearns History Museum Event



Mike Knaak

"St. Cloud Municipal
Band: Bringing Music
to the Community since
1861"

Wednesday September 11, 9am

Join members of the St. Cloud Municipal Band as they talk about the group's long history, dating all the way back to the Civil War. Local talent, from college students to those who've been playing for 50 years, still play to enrich the lives of our community.



Free for Museum Members, \$7 for non-members

www.stearnshistorymuseum.org

320-253-8424

September 1, 2024

Stearns History Museum Event



FREE 1980S BAND CONCERT!

Join us on the Museum lawn as the St. Cloud Municipal Band plays some of the most familiar and catchy tunes of the 1980s! Bring a lawn chair or a blanket, some snacks, and enjoy the show!

STEARNS HISTORY MUSEUM

235 33RD AVE S. ST CLOUD, MN 56301

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

MUSIC STARTS AT 630 PM

Questions? Call 320-253-8424, or find us at www.stearnshistorymuseum.org

September 1, 2024

Stearns History Museum Event



STEARNS
HISTORY
MUSEUM

www.WarnerSongs.com

Free Fall Folk Concert "Dennis Warner & the D's"

Saturday, September 14, 2024

2 pm

Warner Lake County Park

143 County Road; Clearwater, MN

Make-and-Take Crafts available too!



For more information contact Ann Marie @ development@stearns-museum.org or call 320-253-8424

September 1, 2024

St. Cloud Rotary



ST. CLOUD ROTARY'S
SUMMERTIME
by George!

CHEERS! | WEEK 8 - SEPTEMBER 3

**Join us for the #SBG24 Finale on Tuesday,
September 3!**

Opening Act at 5:00 PM | Headliner at 6:30 PM



Get Your Commemorative T-shirts & Can Koozies

There are still plenty of t-shirts and can koozies for sale at the Rotary tent! Proceeds go towards community programs.

\$15 T-shirts

\$5 Can Koozies!

September 1, 2024

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

Important Dates for 2024 Election Year:

General Election: November 5, 2024

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

LWVSA Special Dates

September 11, Unit Meeting

September 16, Public Information Forum for Stearns County voters on the subject of a sales tax for a new Justice Center. A range of public officials have agreed to participate as a panel.

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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



OPEN
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



Cecilia McNair
Social Media

Voting - Standing Board Committee Chair Members



OPEN
Meet-a-Member



Kathryn Gainey
Directories



Kathryn Gainey
Ads & Flyers



Joanna Pucel
Archives



Chris Lepkowski
SCSU Representative



Whitney Court
CSB Representative

Non-Voting Advisory Board



Jan Benson
Tech Savvy Event
Chair



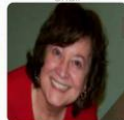
Keshia Anderson-King
JEDI (Justice, Equity,
Diversity & Inclusion
Chair



OPEN
NCCWSL Event Chair



Whitney Court
Scholarships for
Young Leaders



Barb Wismer
Flash Funds Chair



Keshia Anderson-King
8th Grade Graduation

Non-Voting Advisory Board



OPEN
Start Smart Event -
SCSU



Christi Siver
Start Smart Event - CSB



OPEN
Student Membership
Liaisons - SCSU



OPEN
Student Membership
Liaisons - CSB



Fay Bolin
Fundraising
Committee



Peggy Lodewyk
Fundraising
Committee

Non-Voting Advisory Board



Joyce Hummel
Fundraising
Committee



Kathy Kampa
Fundraising
Committee



Kathryn Gainey
Fundraising
Committee



Cindy Leigh
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee

September 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.

