

July 1, 2025

THE MONTHLY MONITOR

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



Saint Cloud Area (MN) Branch *Memo From The Board*

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And More...

Well, it's been an "interesting" summer so far for your President. Illness, trip to Paris, illness again.....but it didn't disrupt my trip, so I'm happy. Just feeling a bit far behind re my AAUW duties.

As a matter of fact, I couldn't even conduct our June Zoom Board meeting, so we did that via email. (Crazy, I know). Here's the updates I have for you all:

As you all know, the scheduling for this season depends on when our premier program speaker, Judge Laura Provinzano, can speak. We have suggested March 2026, and have been closely coordinating with the Judge's office. The recent dreadful shooting of Speaker Melissa Hortman, her husband Mark and their dog has impacted the Judge's office regarding security. Coordination with CSBSJU is being handled with Dr. Whitney Court. We've been told that the Judge's office is actively working on solidifying this schedule, as they know we are anxious to schedule the rest of our season. We were also told that the Judge is eager to speak to us, having been an AAUW Scholarship Recipient in her youth. Isn't that great?

We've also been asked to get a count for the number of AAUW Branch members planning to attend, for the appetizers/snacks order. I URGE YOU TO PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT. You can start by using our existing reservation system and noting it's for the Judge Laura event, even though we don't know exactly the date. That will help us get a feel for the numbers from our Branch.

I sent my quote for the right side of the branch website stating why I joined/ belong/ support AAUW. Have you sent Rene your quote yet? I urge you to do so, as this personalizes our site in a wonderfully unique way.

We had a terrific June gathering (absent our sickie Pres) and you can read about it later in this newsletter. Don't forget our planned August Gathering at the Martini Lounge, 11 5th Ave. S., St. Cloud on August 26th 4:30-6:30. No need to make a reservation. There is a \$12 minimum per person spent if we can to eat the food. Do join us!!

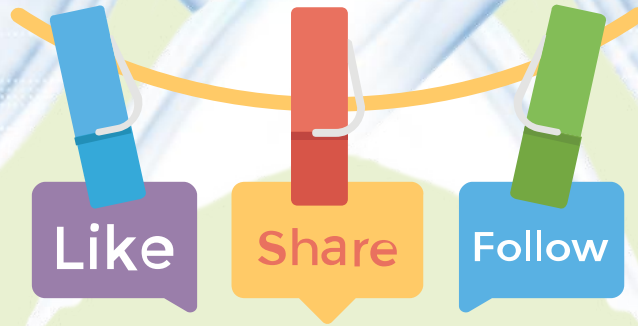
- Barb

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

We are happy to have anyone contribute to the social medias and continue to stay active, reach out to Ceci McNair through email: cecimcnair@gmail.com to have any photographs or updates posted! By maintaining an active social media presence, we can find new members and keep the community posted on our events. Thanks so much for your engagement and support!



BRANCH WEBSITE

Why AAUW?

We're looking for some short testimonials to use on our AAUW branch website. We hope they will encourage new members and inspire existing members.

Please write 1-2 sentences that tell us why you love AAUW or why you enjoy membership or just answer one or more of the questions below. Include your name and how many years you have been a member.

Email your notes to website coordinator Rene Kaluza at: renevk1@gmail.com

Why do you belong to AAUW?

What are the benefits of AAUW membership for you?

Where do you think our AAUW has an impact?



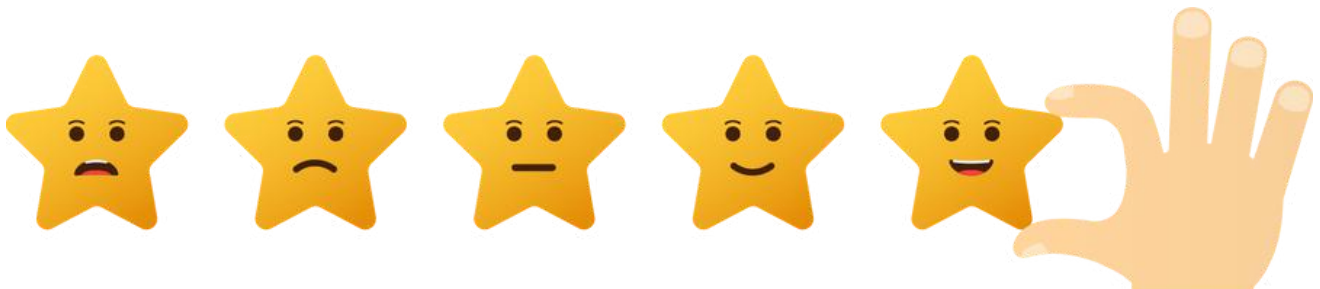
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Member Feedback



We're starting a new feature in the newsletter and calling it "Member Feedback". If there is anything you wish to comment on (either positive or negative), do please let us know.

Send your comments to Jamie Swenson, jamie_2992@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month, and she'll add it to the next month's newsletter. We're looking forward to hearing from you!



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AAUW Student Organization at SCSU

Meet The AY 2025-26

AAUW Student Organization Officers at SCSU

Meet Aditi, SCSU Student Organization President

"I am originally from Nepal and came to the U.S. to pursue my bachelor's degree in information systems. Leaving my parents behind especially with both my sibling and I studying abroad, was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. But this journey has been full of growth, challenges, and unforgettable moments.

My time at SCSU has been truly transformative. I have connected with amazing people, gained real-world experience, and learned so much about myself. This campus has shaped me into a more confident, independent, and open-minded person. Through AAUW, I aim to create a welcoming space where students can have open, meaningful conversations about equity, empowerment, and education. I believe learning should be exciting and engaging, not just something we do for a grade. I want to encourage more students to get involved, speak up, and explore leadership opportunities. My hope is to help others feel as inspired and supported as I have felt during my time here." - Aditi



Aditi Dhakal, President

Meet Maria, SCSU Student Organization Vice President

"Hello! My name is Maria Shavers, and I'm an incoming freshman at St. Cloud State University, majoring in Political Science. I'm incredibly excited to join the AAUW student organization and bring my ideas, experiences, and passion for leadership to the table. As the former Student Council President at St. Cloud Tech High School and a proud member of the Young Women's Initiative Governor's Cabinet, I've had the opportunity to grow as a leader and advocate. These roles have shaped my drive to make a difference and uplift others, especially young women.

Volunteering at past AAUW events has been both inspiring and motivating. It's what encouraged me to take a more active role in this organization and continue contributing to meaningful change. I believe in the power of student voices and want to help empower others to step into leadership, get involved, and use their talents to create a better world. I'm especially passionate about creating space for conversations that matter and encouraging students—on campus and beyond—to participate in causes they believe in. I can't wait to meet everyone, exchange ideas, and work together to make a positive impact throughout the year ahead!" - Maria



Maria Shavers, Vice President

Meet Victoria, SCSU Student Organization Secretary

"Hi! My name is Victoria Helfenstein, and I'm a dedicated biochemistry student with a deep passion for science, advocacy, and community engagement. I'm committed to advancing equity in education and creating inclusive spaces that empower women and underrepresented voices in STEM. My academic journey is driven by curiosity and a desire to make meaningful contributions both in the lab and in the broader community. Outside the classroom, I'm actively involved in student organizations where I support initiatives that promote leadership development, academic success, and social responsibility.

As a student officer in AAUW, I'm excited to contribute to an organization that aligns so closely with my values. I hope to help foster a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all backgrounds feel encouraged to explore leadership opportunities and advocate for meaningful change. Through outreach, collaboration, and shared purpose, I'm committed to helping AAUW continue its mission of empowering women and advancing equity on campus and beyond!"

- Victoria



Victoria Helfenstein, Secretary

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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.**

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June Gathering



A summer AAUW gathering was held at Art in Motion in Holdingford on June 24th. Fay and Peggy organized the fun luncheon. Art in Motion is more than a restaurant. It is stop on the Lake Wobegone bike trail and it is immersed with art, music, and a gift shop. It also features a unique menu. Artists do classes and retreats here, and local music is performed both inside and outside.



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August Gathering

SAVE THE DATE

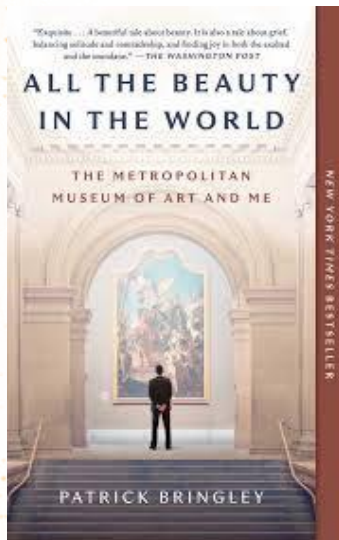


August 26, 2025
4:15-6:00 PM
Martini Lounge

Join fellow members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for a lively social gathering at the chic Martini Lounge on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, from 4:15 to 6:00 PM. Last year's social gathering was a hit and this year looks promising to be even better! Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktails, and engaging conversation in a relaxed, informal setting. Whether you're reconnecting with familiar faces or meeting new members, this is a wonderful chance to celebrate our AAUW community. We can't wait to see you there!

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AAUW Book Clubs



The Thursday AAUW Book Club meets next on Thursday, July 24, 2025 @ 6:30p.m. to discuss "All the Beauty in the World" by Patrick Bringley.

Hosted by: Barb

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

Note:

The AAUW's Wednesday Literature Group is on summer break.

Want to join in on the fun, contact Molly Ewing at 320-252-2166



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Message from Membership Matters



Renewal Notice Reminders: Branches that have not opted out of having National handle renewal reminders will have emails sent to their members the week of the 20th of each month in conjunction with the schedule below. Finance officers receive confirmations as members pay online.

Month of	Expire Group Reminder #1	Expire Group Reminder #2	Expire Group Reminder #3	Expire Group Reminder #4
Apr 2025	5/31/2025	4/30/2025	03/31/2025	02/28/2025
May 2025	6/30/2025	5/31/2025	4/30/2025	03/31/2025
Jun 2025	7/31/2025	6/30/2025	5/31/2025	4/30/2025
Jul 2025	8/31/2025	7/31/2025	6/30/2025	5/31/2025
Aug 2025	9/30/2025	8/31/2025	7/31/2025	6/30/2025
Sep 2025	10/30/2025	9/30/2025	8/31/2025	7/31/2025
Oct 2025	11/30/2025	10/30/2025	9/30/2025	8/31/2025
Nov 2025	12/31/2025	11/30/2025	10/30/2025	9/30/2025
Dec 2025	1/31/2026	12/31/2025	11/30/2025	10/30/2025
Jan 2026	2/28/2026	1/31/2026	12/31/2025	11/30/2025
Feb 2026	3/31/2026	2/28/2026	1/31/2026	12/31/2025
Mar 2026	4/30/2026	3/31/2026	2/28/2026	1/31/2026

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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



Leah Stanek
Co-VP membership



Jan Benson
VP Public Policy



OPEN
VP Programs



Molly Ewing
Recording Secretary



OPEN
Recording Secretary
Alternate



Pat Obstarczyk
Co-VP membership



OPEN
VP of
Communications

Executive Board Members

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



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



OPEN
Start Smart Event -
SCSU



Christi Siver
Start Smart Event - CSB



OPEN
Student Membership
Liaisons - SCSU



Joyce Hummel
Fundraising
Committee



Kathy Kampa
Fundraising
Committee



Cindy Leigh
Fundraising
Committee



Whitney Court
Scholarships for
Young Leaders



Barb Wismer
Flash Funds Chair



Keshia Anderson-King
8th Grade Graduation



OPEN
Student Membership
Liaisons - CSB



Fay Bolin
Fundraising
Committee



Peggy Lodewyk
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee

May 1, 2025

AAUW Newsletter Welcomes New Submissions

LATEST NEWS



**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.

