

August 1, 2025

# THE MONTHLY MONITOR

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



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

### IN THIS ISSUE

Memo From The Board

Branch Update(s)

SCSU Student Organization

Events/Programs

Book Clubs

AAUW State & National

And More...

Your Board had no meeting in July, we're just enjoying our summer. We hope to see you at the August gathering! 😊

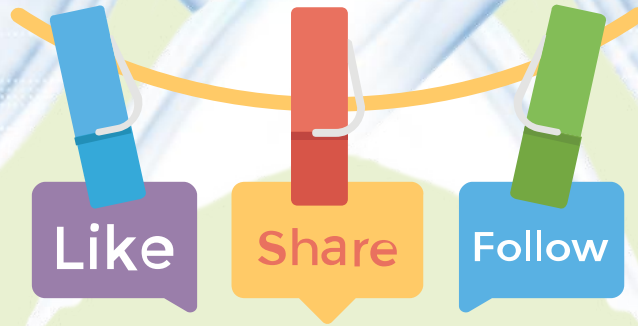


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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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?





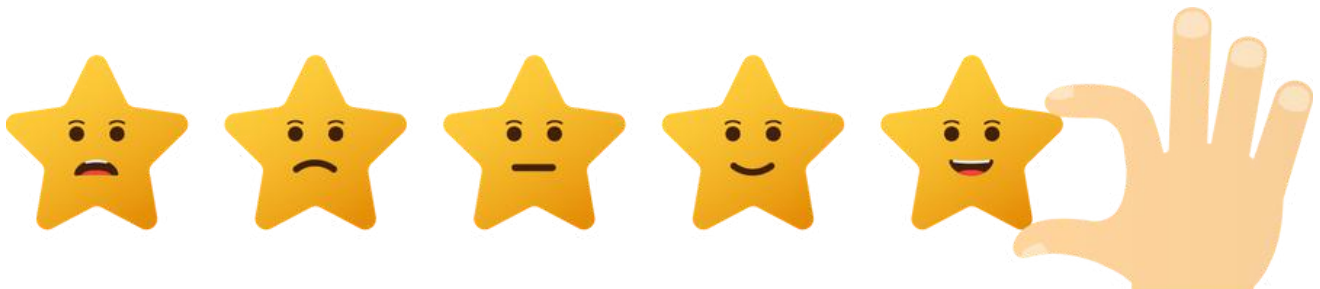
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## Member Feedback



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](mailto: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, Treasurer

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

**Email:** [aauwsaintcloud@gmail.com](mailto: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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## August Gathering

# SAVE THE DATE



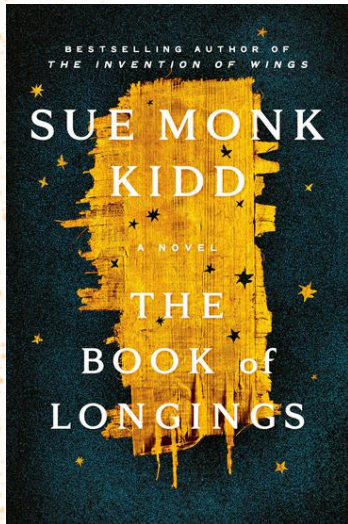
**August 26, 2025**  
**4:15-6:00 PM**  
**Martini Lounge**

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, August 28, 2025 @ 6:30p.m. to discuss “The Book of Longing” by Susan Monk Kidd.

Hosted by: Donna

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

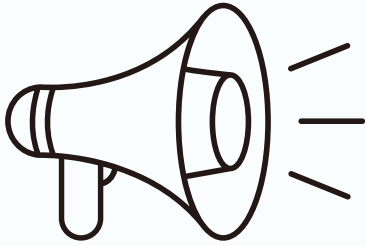


**OPEN**  
Fundraising  
Committee

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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.

