

HIAWATHA HAPPENINGS

Red Wing Area Branch
American Association of University Women



Fall 2020

Dear Members,

What's been happening since our Spring newsletter? Sheltering in place continues to make our work, our contributions, our connectedness much less visible. So let me make visible those activities that have eluded us as a group.



Many of us missed having an Annual meeting in April. For the sake of approving our annual budget in a timely manner and taking care of other business, we had a successful board meeting via Zoom. Thanks to all of you for the highest participation and great response to the Annual Meeting ballot and mailing.

In June we had a new officers transition meeting at Bay Point Park. Sitting in a big circle, Lena introduced Catherine Friend as our new VP of Policy; as VP of Membership, Mary Ellen Halverson passed the torch to Gini Benton and Jennifer Staley – a dynamic mother-daughter duo as co-VPs of Membership. Ellen Hutchinson volunteered to step into the interim role of VP of Programs however has since chosen to step aside. Thank you to Ellen for the time and effort you made. Thank you Lena and Mary Ellen for your leadership and welcome Catherine, Gini and Jennifer.

On June 30th I had right knee replacement surgery, joining the chorus line of members who have had double knee replacements, with gratitude to Mayo's Dr. Michael Johnson for giving us new knees! But other July news is even better. Our philanthropic contributions made the Girls Woodworking Workshop a big hit for 12 girls. Also please note the warm letter

of appreciation from the Hope Coalition supporting women and children to find safe-haven during these hard times.

As you will read from our reports, August activity kicked into high gear. My heartfelt appreciation to Pat Welke for producing the Blue Book with support from our new Membership co-VPs; for our Hybrid Holiday Fundraiser Mary Ellen Halverson has been hosting committee meetings at her farm, bringing vision and creativity to orchestrate a whole new world of possibility for an event everyone looks forward to; and for all members of the board who have done their part to keep our organization on course. Our Book Club continues to be resilient in participation. If the great list of books in the Calendar section of the Blue Book inspire you, please contact LaVonne to join the Book Club.

For our Fall kickoff, I am working with Julie Martin who has generously volunteered to direct her middle school students to deliver the production of Reviving the Dead Ladies. I will work with her to record these performances (recitations from famous suffragists) and deliver them to you via our AAUW Facebook page or another method. We are hoping to deliver this in a few sessions in October. We will email everyone when we have more concrete information.

We are excited about the Bells, Bells, Bells Hybrid Holiday Fundraiser and hope the spirit of our enthusiasm will touch you all with a desire to participate in any way that you are able December 5th. There is more information on the Holiday fundraiser in this newsletter.

Catastrophe has struck so many parts of our country and the world. From the tragic loss of lives to COVID-19, to the fires burning across the West Coast, to Iowan's surviving a derecho storm and the hurricanes overwhelming communities on our Southeastern shores,

I pray for the health and safety of everyone touched by disaster. And our very own Liberty's, a landmark restaurant and historic corner building, shockingly collapsed by a single car...and a miracle no one was seriously injured!

Overall, we have a lot to be thankful for, don't you think? In these times of isolation and other troubling news, please use your Blue Book to reach out to other members for a phone call, a zoom visit, or reach out and ask someone to join you for a walk in the park.

Last but far from least, I want to bring your attention to two VERY IMPORTANT links at the end of the newsletter. The message is about *using our voices to*

change the conversation - with going to vote one of the most essential ways we can make our voices heard.

Click on **IT'S MY VOTE** and you will read AAUW National's priority. This Voter Issue Guide provides nonpartisan information about the policy concerns that are critical to women and their families. "

Their request is that we "use it to prompt conversations with neighbors, family, friends, and fellow voters about what's at stake in this election." Six key points are identified and broken down so that you can utilize them in choosing or selecting candidates.

Below this is a FANTASTIC Live Link to VOTE.ORG. This is a direct link to all voting information needed state by state. Just click on it, scroll down and see all the live links to each state. Or just go to <https://www.vote.org/state/minnesota/>

Warm regards, Burke

Public Policy Report

Submitted by Catherine Friend, VP Public Policy

I Will Vote in 2020 Because...

- ✓ Our branch is participating in a promotion organized by AAUW MN in which each branch submits a photo of one member accompanied by this completed statement: I will vote in 2020 because...
- ✓ The purpose is not to promote any candidate, party, or cause, but to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment by sharing why it's important to vote.
- ✓ Our branch representative is Burke Murphy, who wrote: **"I will vote in 2020 because it is my right and my responsibility to Seneca Falls, Stonewall, and Selma."**
- ✓ The promotion will be put into the form of a one-page ad. Because our branch lacks the necessary funds, we won't be running the ad in Red Wing (unless someone wants to donate the funds for an October ad!) Thanks to Burke for agreeing to help.



Book Club — 2020-2021



- Nov 12, 2020 *A Good Time for the Truth About Race in MN*, by Sun Yung Shin
- Jan 14, 2021 *The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdrich
- Mar 11, 2021 *Island of Sea Women*, by Lisa See
- May 13, 2021 *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett
- Sep 9, 2021 *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabelle Wilkerson

Membership Report

By Jennifer Staley, Membership Co-VP

We are honored to welcome two new members to our branch.

Cyndie Traun holds an Associate of Applied Science degree from the Medical Institute of Minnesota. Cyndie is most interested in making an impact with other strong women, especially during this political climate.

Emily Guida Foos holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She is currently serving as the Executive Director at Red Wing Arts. Emily is excited to meet and work with other strong, like minded women.

Planning the Hybrid Holiday Auction





HYBRID HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

It has been customary for the American Association of University Women Red Wing Area Branch to hold its brunch and fundraiser in December. This year, using a different format, the Branch will host its first HYBRID HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER with “Bells, Bells, Bells” as its theme. Chief bell ringer Mary Ellen Halverson has been hosting planning meetings this summer at the Halverson farm (with complimentary tractor rides). Junior bell ringers who are assisting are Carmen Bertelsen, Gini Benton, Jane Hayden-Hart, Lena Kishaba, Jean Magnusson, Jan Pinsonneault, and Cheri Roberts. (See Pictures on Page 3)



Gluten Free



Regular

With no brunch being served, your “admission” will give you a choice of two breakfast gift boxes, made EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE FUNDRAISER: one, a gluten-free box of a pancake/waffle mix, and the other box filled with an assortment of Sturdiwheat sample pancake mixes. Each box will contain a bag of Jenny Lind gluten-free granola as well as other items. (The gift boxes will make excellent holiday gifts!)

Branch members will be given the opportunity to make a separate donation to the fundraiser. These donations will be divided 50% between National AAUW [501(c)(3) Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Funds] and 50% to the Red Wing Area Branch for branch activities. 50% of amounts donated will be tax-deductible.

For those wondering about Marketplace, which has always been a popular part of the fundraiser, don't fret. Marketplace is scheduled to be held in the spring.

Members will be receiving more detailed information soon. You may also check the AAUW Facebook page for updates on the fundraiser.



Empowering lives through HOPE

AAUW Red Wing
737 McSorley St.
Red Wing, MN 55066

June 22, 2020

Dear Red Wing AAUW,

On Behalf of HOPE Coalition, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks for your support of our Haven of Hope Women's Shelter. Your generous donation makes it possible for us to maintain our high-quality services to those coping with the trauma of domestic violence.

It isn't easy to sum up how important HOPE is to our clients, but I think that Kim's words will help you understand the impact of our work. "Things have really progressed for the better over the last year. If it wasn't for them . . . it gave us hope back. It gave us peace of mind. My kids are smiling now, and they look forward to going out and about. And they know that mom is getting better. The dignity is restored and it's nice that they're able to have this for families that come out of crisis."

In addition to making a significant difference in the lives of people like Kim, your gift allows us to continue addressing the larger, underlying issues that cause domestic, family, and intimate partner violence.

Thank you for choosing the Haven of Hope!

Warmest regards,

Kris Kvols
Executive Director
651-388-9360, Ext. 9, kkvols@hope-coalition.org

Below is the information for your records:

Date: June 15, 2020 Check #: 3458 Amount: \$1,250.00

Many thanks to the members of AAUW Red Wing for this generous award to assist women at the Haven of Hope domestic violence shelter! We will use it to help them navigate the impact of the pandemic as they move forward with their lives.

To learn more about HOPE Coalition: visit our website at: www.hope-coalition.org, watch client stories on our YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCScWv7degrcw8LnOCqRH2vw, or follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MNhopecoalition>.

HOPE Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and our tax ID number is 41-1720180. No goods or services were exchanged for the above-listed contribution(s).

HOPE Coalition, PO Box 247, Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
Business (651) 388-9360, Domestic Violence Crisis Line (800) 369-5214
Sexual Assault Crisis Line (800) 519-6690 www.hope-coalition.org
Equal Opportunity Employer / ADA



Although Makerspace RW is currently closed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to still offer our Girls Woodworking Workshop!

Thanks to ACE Hardware, ABC Lumber, AAUW, ArtReach, SawRise Woodworks, Red Wing Community Ed. and Rec and Goodhue County's Education District building!

Hats off to our wonderful instructors Katie and Randii and all the girls!

MAKERSPACE RW
A Regional Resource to: Learn. Create. Innovate

They are proud builders of new bean bag toss games, camp chairs and frisbee toss games!

We look forward to returning to our space at Minnesota State College Southeast tentatively in August.

Shannan Harris, Red Wing Ignite





Click the image to see the AAUW VOTER ISSUE GUIDE



Newsletter Information

Send information to: Pat Welke
1844 Bohmbach Drive, Red Wing, MN 55066
pwelke@gmail.com—651-380-3169

Minnesota Website: <http://aauw-mn.net>

Association Website: www.aauw.org

Association email: info@aauw.org

Red Wing Area Branch Website:

www.rwab-aauw.org

Facebook: AAUW-Red Wing Area Branch

Branch Email: rwabaauw@gmail.com

If your email address or other contact information changes, please notify me and one of our presidents ASAP so that you don't miss any of our AAUW email notices.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

President	Burke Murphy
VP Membership	Jennifer Staley Gini Benton
VPAAUW Funds	Jan Pinnsonault
VP Public Policy	Catherine Friend
Treasurer	Jane Hayden-Hart
Secretary	Carmen Bertleson
Board Members at Large	Candace Gordon Lori Ann Clark

Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research

Vision Statement: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.