

# HIAWATHA HAPPENINGS

Red Wing Area Branch  
American Association of University Women



Fall/Winter 2019

## Year in Review

It is hard to believe that half a year has gone by since stepping into my new role as President of Red Wing Area Branch of AAUW. Fortunately time can be benchmarked by the good company of our new board and the rewarding activities and events of our organization.

I want to express my gratitude to Pat Welke for being an absolute anchor for this organization and also gratefully acknowledge the participation and contribution of our board, who provide structure, leadership and support for AAUW and community. Thank you Rechelle, Jane, Lena, Mary Ellen, Jan, Carmen, Candace and Lori Ann.

To begin our summer activities, AAUW contributed to some Girl Power in collaboration with Community Education and Red Wing Ignite to support the delivery of the first girls woodworking workshop at the MakerspaceRW.

Ten girls built two benches to be located in our schools for students who need a friend.



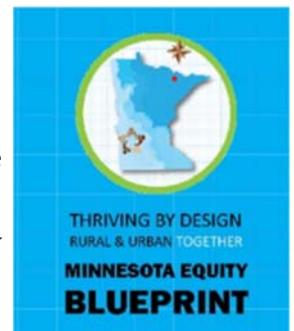
Our new term began in July as we rallied to prepare for the River City Day's Parade. Combining forces with the League of Women Voters, we dressed in white in our best rendition of the suffragists, topped off with the millinery magic of Mary Ellen Halverson, who crafted over a dozen chapeaus and suffragist sashes for all to wear.



We carried our enthusiasm forward September 9th at the City Council meeting where Mayor Dowse read the Proclamation, honoring the 100th Anniversary of Minnesota Ratifying the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution granting National Suffrage to Women.



Member turn out was terrific for our September Kick-off at the Goodhue County Historical Society where we heard from Jane Leonard, President of Growth & Justice, a leader in the Thriving by Design initiative to deliver the One MN Equity Blueprint to our



incoming new Governor. Afterwards, the overarching question members asked was "how will it make a difference on the ground?" As a delegate to this initiative for SE MN, I will keep you posted on that progress. Rechelle provided AAUW hospitality with a beautifully displayed assortment of treats.

Keeping our eyes on the prize, we gathered together in October to learn more about the status of the Equal Rights Amendment from Kathleen Murphy, co-founder of MN ERA. We watched the video *Legalizing Equality* by Heroica Films and had a great discussion.

November brought members together for a cozy evening in the home of Lynda Kern, Red Wing Branch historian, to review our herstories so beautifully organized by Lynda in scrapbooks. Thank you Lynda!



And the final event of the year, our annual Holiday Brunch was the pièce de résistance.

The Mad Hatter's Holiday Tea Party theme was replete with dazzling holiday table displays, clever and saucy Alice in Wonderland characters as our event greeters and moderators, generous contributions by so many to make the auctions successful and it was a whopping financial success for the organization. For those attending, some creative effort was required and proof of that was in the turn out of fanciful and fun holiday Hatters. Photos tell it best! Congratulations and wholehearted thanks to the many who worked long and hard on this event. These women really raised the bar. As they passed the torch to us for next year, we hoped some of you would brave taking up that mantle and be the 2020 co-chair. Since then, Mary Ellen Halverson has stepped forward to chair next

year's Holiday Fundraising Brunch with the proposed theme of Silver Bells. Please join Mary Ellen in support of this endeavor.

Speaking of books, pick up your BLUE BOOK to look forward to the next six months of AAUW activities and events. You don't want to miss our January 9th event sponsored by our Book Club and hosted by Joan Kovacs at Red Wing Village Cooperative, 2533 Eagle Ridge Drive, Red Wing. We will discuss *The Founding Sisters and the 19th Amendment* by Eleanor Clift (copies still available at Fair Trade bookstore). The event will begin at 5:30 with a light soup supper. Please rsvp Joan at [joankovacs@yahoo.com](mailto:joankovacs@yahoo.com).

We are still conjuring up the best options for February and will keep you posted. In the meantime, save the dates in March for the Sheldon Theater event "Production of Seven" and that very fun Trivia Night event with LWV's at the Elks Lounge. If it's not in the Blue Book, contact Pat, Rechelle or me for more information.

In today's world, gathering together as women to share in each other's company, to build community through civic engagement and contribution, we are making our world a better place, a more meaningful place to live, love and thrive in.

Thank you all for your membership and participation, *Burke*



# Treasurer's Report

By Jane Hayden-Hart, Treasurer

Greetings as we approach our fiscal year 2019-20 half-way point on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

"The Mad Hatter's Holiday Tea Party" fundraiser Holiday Brunch on December 7 at Mount Frontenac Golf Course was a festive way to get into the holiday spirit! Thank you to the Brunch Committee and all who assisted in organizing and making sure everything ran smoothly. The Alice in Wonderland characters were superb and thank you to Jen Mathees, Lyndsay and Camryn Nelson and Heather Thielbar for their portrayal of the well-known storybook characters. Tea sets brought by members to decorate the tables added a personal touch.

The Holiday Brunch is our one big yearly fundraiser. We surpassed our fundraising goal of \$7000.00 with your generosity. The sum of \$7,453.39 was split 50/50 with half going to the national AAUW

Economic Security Fund (Legal Advocacy) and Education and Training Fund and the remaining half staying with the Red Wing Area Branch to fund local AAUW programs which benefit women and girls. "Thank you!" to all who participated with their attendance at the Brunch and the item donations to Silent auction, Live auction, MarketPlace, Tea Time Treats, Quilt drawing, and monetary donations received—whether there in person or sent in the mail. Please also thank your guests for coming and their generous support of the AAUW.

Ask the Treasurer": Can I take a tax deduction for my 2019 AAUW dues and donations?

AAUW National and AAUW-MN are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Our AAUW Red Wing Area Branch is not.

For 2019 tax purposes, any personal donation made directly to AAUW National or AAUW-MN is fully tax-deductible. A thank-you letter will be sent from them noting

the amount of your donation and its tax deductibility. For dues paid to the AAUW Red Wing Area Branch, \$65.00 of full year AAUW national and AAUW-MN dues and \$35.50 of Shape the Future AAUW national and AAUW-MN dues are tax-deductible. \$3.00 of the national dues are not tax-deductible because they are used for lobbying purposes. Work on the Fiscal year 2020-21 budget will soon be in process. The current fiscal year ends on June 30, 2020. While that seems far into the future, it takes a good amount of time to gather and analyze the numbers. If there is projected income or expenses from programs proposed during that time, please forward your projected amounts to me as soon as possible

As a reminder—Please keep a copy of all receipts which are approved for reimbursement. We want to maintain a strong paper trail to substantiate payments made from the branch's accounts.

Have a good winter season!

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## Membership—Did You Know????

By Mary Ellen Halverson, VP Membership

With your AAUW membership, you're "part of a community dedicated to changing the climate for women and girls. It also means you have access to some great discounts and special services exclusively offered to members." According to the AAUW website, these benefits will not only enhance your personal and professional life but will also save you money! Every time you use one of your benefits, you are supporting AAUW's vital work.

What are these benefits? Well, hererer weeee goooo!

Say you want to take a vacation or perhaps a cruise (CruisesOnly) and

need to rent a car (Hertz, Dollar, Thrifty) to get there. Knowing that you can save on rental cars by having your own car insurance (GEICO), you sign up for that as well as pet insurance (Nationwide) in case Barfy needs help while you're gone. Or, if you happen to get sick yourself, there's always that FREE RX prescription savings card! This vacation has sparked a latent interest in pursuing an educational opportunity so AAUW will help with a scholarship, too (IE University). While doing your report on the adventures you had, Office Depot will help you save on school supplies.

If these discounts aren't where you are in life, there's always LTC Global which will help you with Long Term

Care insurance for your entire family, i.e. children under 18, grandparents, aunts, uncles and in-laws!!!!

Simply put, the companies referenced honor AAUW membership with discounts. Check all these out by visiting <http://www.aauw.org> When you login in using your member number, click on Membership and then Benefits for AAUW Members. Your member number is on your membership card. You may also ask me or our treasurer Jane Hayden-Hart and we will look it up for you.

I have used the Hertz rental car discount....it's easy with the code AAUW gives you! Happy savings in the new year!

# Beautiful Tea Set Centerpieces



# A Full House and a Great Event



# Parade of Hats



Best Hat Competition



Debbie O'Donnell and Becky Foot



## Newsletter Information

Send information to: Pat Welke  
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Association Website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
Association email: [info@aauw.org](mailto:info@aauw.org)

Red Wing Area Branch Website:  
[www.rwab-aauw.org](http://www.rwab-aauw.org)  
Facebook: AAUW-Red Wing Area Branch  
Branch Email: [rwabaauw@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 2019-2020 Board of Directors

President	Burke Murphy
VP Program	Rechelle Parent
VP Membership	Mary Ellen Halverson
VPAAUW Funds	Jan Pinnsonneault
VP Public Policy	Lena Kishaba
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.

Bring your Family Fare receipts to Maureen Nelson at the United Way to help earn revenue.