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## –A Note to our Members,

*Carmen Bertelsen, President*



Happy New Year! Another year and a busy one at that! I'll start with a Fall roundup and what we have been doing since our Fall Newsletter.

### Here are the highlights:

**The Fall Kick Off** with Karen Kirkwood, from AAUW - St. Paul branch and former national

committee chair offered a great start to our program planning. Karen encouraged us to be bold and search out ways to make a statement in our community by filling community needs guided by national priorities: Economic Security for all women; Equal access to quality public education for all students and Social and racial justice for all members of society. As a result of the discussion and a survey presented by Dee Bender to those attending the event, followed by emails and survey questions to all members, Dee collated the survey results. We received a lot of good ideas. The information gathered will guide our programming plans for the next year. See the survey results in Dee's notes.

**October** – To further celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Title IX (the decision making it illegal to discriminate at any public education institution on the basis of sex) we met

at the Artist Sanctuary for a YouTube video featuring Representative Patsy Mink of Hawaii who introduced the Title IX legislation and fought across the aisle to make it happen. With cupcakes and fanfare, it was a real celebration at the newest art venue in Red Wing!

CONGRATULATIONS to member Heidi Jones for the Amos Owen Award on October 21, 2022.

**November** – Women in Leadership was our theme as we were to meet at MN State SE to view videos of women leaders and discuss the top 10 essential qualities of leadership. However snow and ice kept most of us home and on Zoom. Katie Hardyman, Business Relations Director at the school was able to link in those who made it to the college. This made for interesting logistics, but it turned out to be a good meeting for members as we were able to view the video from our student leader who attended the AAUW NCCWSL virtual event last June. Our financial support for her attendance was very much appreciated.

November was also election time and, as usual, AAUW-RWAB encouraged folks to vote and take part in our democratic process. AAUW-RWAB co-sponsored a forum with LWV (The League of Women Voters), attended Town Hall meetings, and Meet & Greets of candidates. Hurray for Freedom and our Representative Republic!

CONGRATULATIONS to member Becky Norton on her re-election to the city council.

CONGRATULATIONS to member Linda Flanders on her re-election and election to President of the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners.

December brought our one and only annual fundraiser and it was a big hit! *Trees, Trees, Trees*. I will not steal the show from our chairperson, Mary Ellen Halverson, who for the third year hosted this great event. Congrats to all who attended and contributed to this fundraising event and to those hard-working committee members for all that work. See pictures and comments later in this newsletter.

We closed 2022 on a high note, and we cheerfully move into 2023.

Here are the great events that are planned for the rest of our fiscal year:

**February 15** – We are co-sponsoring with the Historical Society for Black History month. Professor Joseph Mbele from the English Department at St Olaf will present: African Folklore & Fun. March 23 – We co-sponsor again with the Historical Society event for Women’s History month. The Speaker is TBD.

**April 10**— Annual Meeting. Come one, come all.

**May** – AAUW State Zoom Convention, details to come.

**May 19** – Friday, Kinestone Road Trip – Fountain City/ Lunch @ Larry’s Lookout. This should be really FUN!

**June 7** – Philanthropy & Celebration Picnic at Colvill Park Screened Pavilion

I will conclude with a heartfelt gift of hope for a wonderful 2023! May we be grateful for our blessings and gifts that have been bestowed upon us.

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## Treasurer’s Report

*By Laurie Andrews, Treasurer*

### Account Balances:

\$1084.28 - Checking.

\$5523.50 - Savings

All financials for the branch fundraiser, the Holiday Brunch have been taken care of. We have one outstanding check of \$50 to RW Arts for our January meeting. The budget for next year is our current priority. Let me know soon if you have thoughts on what our budget priorities should be - please email me.

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## Equal Rights Amendment 2023

*Janet Brandt, VP Public Policy,*

If you feel like you have been hearing about the Equal Rights Amendment for your entire life you are right!

2023 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ERA’s introduction into Congress. Minnesota was one of eight states to ratify the ERA in 1973. By 1977 a total of 35 states had ratified the amendment, three states short of the required 38. Although the official deadline for ratification has passed, Virginia was the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify it in January 2020. To complicate matters, some states have rescinded their ratification. For more on the complicated history see: [brennancenter.org](http://brennancenter.org) and search ‘Equal Rights Amendment Explained’.

Kelsey Waits, Minnesota State AAUW VP for Public Policy and Jan Carey urge AAUW members to support adding the ERA to our state constitution. AAUW is also urging members to advocate for Congress to include ERA in the federal constitution.

CALL, WRITE or EMAIL the MN Speaker & Majority Leader to let them know we need the State ERA passed in 2023!

### See addresses below:

Rep. Melissa Hortman (DFL) District: 34B  
Speaker of the House  
463 State Office Building \*  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4280  
E-mail: [rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn](mailto:rep.melissa.hortman@house.mn)

Kari Dziedzic (60, DFL)  
Senate Majority Leader  
2203 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-7809  
Use The Email Form

To find your representatives and their emails go to: <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>.

For more background on the legislative history in Minnesota see: <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/womenstimeline/details?recid=19#:~:text=Minnesota%20was%20one%20of%20eight,continue%20the%20push%20for%20ratification>. For additional information regarding Minnesota see: <https://eramn.org>

*As Alice Paul argued in 1923, unless women’s rights are written into the framework of our government, they are never really secure.*

## Membership:

*Laurie Andrews, VP Membership*

Our membership in 22/23 has grown with these new members:

**Jane Kono** in August after our River City Days appearance in the parade.

**Deb Gilson** in September after I stopped at the Episcopal Church to ask to use the space for our Fall Kickoff meeting.

**Alida Herling** in October at the meeting at the Artist Sanctuary to celebrate 50 years of Title IX.

**Jan Miland** in December at the Holiday Brunch after she realized she could do dual membership as she is still a member of the Grand Rapids Branch.

Welcome to each of you, and we are so glad you are with us!

Each has a unique story as to how they joined, but they all share our mission for women's equity.

We hope to introduce you at our next meeting so everyone can greet you, and we can tell each other a bit about us.

Remember to invite new people you meet to all our meetings and events (exception is the Annual Meeting in April). If you enjoy coming, they will too! Don't leave it to the Membership VP to bring in new members - YOU can too!

The Shape the Future Program from National gives anyone who joins at our upcoming events half-price National dues. Their total will be \$76 instead of \$91 for their first year. Perhaps this is an incentive for someone on the fence, so feel free to offer it.

Thank you to all members for spreading the AAUW mission to our community!

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## AAUW Funds

*Lois Hesford, VP Funds*

At our Red Wing Branch AAUW Board Meeting on January 3, 2023, the Board approved \$500 Contribution to United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce Counties in support of the Little Blue Bookshelf placing books into the hands of young readers. What is a Little Blue Bookshelf? The Little Blue Bookshelf is a bookshelf stocked with gently used or new books appropriate for children from birth through 3rd grade, which is placed throughout the community where families with young children visit. Children can select a favorite book to read and take home. In particular this contribution would enable offering more books printed in Spanish or bi-lingual for the Blue Book Program.



*L to R, Lois Hesford, Marilyn Nelson, Laurie Andrews*

# September Kick Off Ideas for Programing

Dee Bender, Secretary

Our September meeting featured speaker, Karen Kirkwood, on the board of State and National AAUW. The MN board has identified the 4 Public Policy Priorities as Education, Economic Security, Leadership/Governance/Sustainability and Philanthropy. Following Karen's talk, members responded to those priorities with programing ideas. These and all other suggestions will help the summer team planning our programs for '23-'24.

Here are a few of your responses in each category:

## Education of Women and Girls:

- ◇ Explore limits to post HS learning for women of all ages
- ◇ Invite teachers and other educators to discuss curriculum/banned books
- ◇ Learn from people of color and LBGTQ individuals about bias and limitations
- ◇ Encourage STEM classes and new learning

## Economic Security for all Women

- ◇ Educate women/girls about what's needed for secure financial future

- ◇ -Understand pay scales for jobs/non-traditional roles in RW to increase awareness
- ◇ Explore how retired women, professional and other, are faring in this economy
- ◇ Invite financial advisors to inform about maximizing our financial futures

## Leadership/Governance

- ◇ Invite women on RW city council/commissions to share their path to leadership
- ◇ Learn from women in non-profit leadership roles how to increase the skills of future leaders - Ask branch members to share their journey to leadership and learn from each other
- ◇ Find ways to support working women ie creative daycare options

## Philanthropy

- ◇ Create scholarship fund for girls of color to pursue advanced training
- ◇ Mentor young women, set up mock job interviews, support local nonprofits
- ◇ Fund classes like woodworking and coding, host Brave New Girls again
- ◇ Provide the High School food shelf with feminine hygiene products



**National Conference for College Women  
Student Leaders  
(NCCWSL) Announcement  
AAUW Red Wing Area Branch  
*Scholarship Opportunity for College Women***

*Carmen Bertelsen, President*

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), Red Wing Area Branch, announces an exciting opportunity for a Red Wing area female college students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), to be held Wednesday, May 31 through June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. This year the conference will held at the University of Maryland. More detailed information will be forthcoming.

The chosen student(s) will receive a scholarship to fund the conference, transportation and expenses. Ten scholarships are available through AAUW-MN. Attendance at the conference is a valuable lifelong learning experience for young women to enhance their college and professional career.

The conference will also host representatives from other colleges and employers. The selected student(s) will have the chance to hear from, meet and network with many attendees and renown speakers.

The deadline for application this year is Monday, April 3, 2023. At this time, our branch has (3) applicants. A big thank you to Kay Humphreys and Burke Murphy for the second year, offering to help select the candidate(s) attending.



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## **Judy Christianson Citizen of the Year Award**

Every spring we honor a citizen who has done outstanding work in our community to advance our mission of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We are now accepting nominations for this award. Do you know of someone that AAUW should recognize? The person does **not** need to be an AAUW member.

To nominate someone, please provide the following information.

Name of nominee

Phone, street address and email address

Your nominee's community and professional contributions

Send this information in an email to Janet Brandt at [janetbskadi90@gmail.com](mailto:janetbskadi90@gmail.com).

Let's continue to recognize those in our community who deserve recognition for helping advance our mission.

**Deadline: April 1, 2023**

Here are the last three years, as listed on the branch website;

2019: Marcia Jensen, Dawn Wettern

2020: Anne Wildenborg

2021: Ann Seymour

2022: Connie Hanson

## Nominating Committee

Lena Kishaba and Cheri Roberts, Nominating Committee

The Red Wing Area Branch of AAUW has thrived because of members who not only believe in equity for women and girls but are also willing to write letters, march, and participate in activities to support the mission of to come together as evidenced by the most recent Holiday Fundraiser which was enjoyed by all in attendance. Not only did members unselfishly contribute multiple donations, but also friends and supporters of the Branch were most generous in providing auction items. To continue to keep the Branch relevant, we are seeking new leaders to come up with fresh ideas for programs to keep members engaged. Serving as officers for terms beginning in July 2023 and ending in June 2025 is an excellent way to be involved in AAUW, learn more and promote ideas of the organization. We are looking for people to serve as— President, Secretary, \*\* Treasurer (one year term this

time), VP Public Policy, VP Membership, \*\* VP AAUW Funds, VP Programming, Board member at-large \*\* 1. Nominating committee (one person's term will be for three years; others will be for two years) 1. 2. 3.

NCCWSL ( National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) Offices marked with \*\* have people who have expressed interest, but others are also invited to submit their names.

Job descriptions of the offices are in the By-Laws which may be found on our website, [www.rwab-aauw.org](http://www.rwab-aauw.org). If you have specific questions of the office or of the time commitment expected, contact any of the present officers who are listed in the "Blue Book." Please contact either Lena Kishaba ([lkishaba@gmail.com](mailto:lkishaba@gmail.com)) or Cheri Roberts ([ccnrv@gmail.com](mailto:ccnrv@gmail.com)), the members of the nominations committee, to indicate your interest for the offices.

Election is at the annual meeting in April, and terms begin on July 1, 2023.

## AAUW January Event

was at the Red Wing  
*Jan Pinsonneault, Communications*



Clay and Creative City on Old West Main, January 23. Hosting was Cherish, manager of the Clay and Creative City Center. She presented the need for the Center's inception

plus its history and a summary of all the other items in which Red Wing Arts is involved— more than most of us realized. We, of course, had a good selection of beverages and appetizers for all to enjoy.

Cherish demonstrated a printing art project for all of us to participate in. It was great fun to get everyone involved.



## Book Club

March 9, 2023 *The Arbornaut* by Meg Lowman

May 12, 2023 *The Gift of Years*, by Joan Chittister

September 8, 2023 *Radiant* by Liz Heinecke



## Sunshine

Please remember to let Ann-Marie Rose know about events that require reaching out, so she can send out a Get Well, Condolence or Congratulations card.

# TREES, TREES,

## 2022 Holiday Brunch

