



Faribault Branch Communiqué

AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



“Pauline’s Presidential Pen

"It is not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it."
Lena Horne

I hope you are carrying all "the load" of the COVID-19 pandemic okay. It will be awhile before it will be safe to meet together indoors. We will have to continue with Zoom meetings until then. A spring picnic in North Alexander Park should be fine.

When I received an email from Kimberly Churches, CEO of AAUW, I was pleased that the Faribault AAUW Branch was recognized for its contribution to the Greatest Needs Fund. In fact, I replied to her email and told Kimberly Churches of our branch's long-time Women in History articles that are printed in the local newspaper.

I thank all of you for being members of AAUW. I appreciate all of you. Hope to see many of you Feb. 22 on Zoom.
Pauline

Message from Kimberly Churches

Dear AAUW Faribault (MN) Branch leaders and members,

We finally made it – 2020 is in our rearview mirrors. Goodness, what a year 2020 was! Heartfelt wishes to each of you for a healthy New Year ahead. I hope this note finds you all safe and well and that you've drawn strength during these challenging times from the bonds that connect AAUW members.

As we begin 2021, all of us at AAUW National will continue to work from home, as we have since March 2020—which seems like light years ago! Looking back, I'm so proud of our national office staff and all they accomplished: pivoting to virtual programs, increasing our advocacy and working with fierce commitment to further our mission, all in the face of unprecedented challenges. Looking forward, I am confident we will continue to meet the moment as our staff remains as hard-working and as motivated as we've ever been to secure equity for women and girls.

I just learned from our team that your Faribault Branch has made generous donations to support our greatest needs and the goals of our strategic plan. Please share my personal thanks with all those whose passion for AAUW's mission made these gifts possible. Your support is especially important now as COVID-19 has exacerbated and highlighted inequities that run deep and we have many challenges to address. Your generosity gives us a head start as we finally have turned the page on 2020 to embrace 2021 with determination, an abundance of resilience and clear-eyed optimism.

Please continue to take every precaution and be safe throughout this new year. Thank you, thank you, thank you for this gift and for all that you do! I hope to "see" many of you on a Zoom AAUW webinar soon.

With gratitude,
Kim Churches

February Program

At 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, we will have a Zoom meeting. Look for an email invitation from Liz. The program will be Emily Nesvold telling us about the Faribault Environmental Commission she is a member of. There will be plenty of time for questions. And, time at the end for chatting. *Pauline*

Secretary's Report

AAUW - Faribault Branch Meeting January 25, 2021



President Pauline Schreiber called the monthly meeting on Zoom to order at 7:02 on Jan. 25, 2021. She and our speaker, Sue Garwood, executive director of the Rice County Historical Society, were broadcasting from the Rice County Museum of History. Seventeen members attended.

New Business:

- Pauline reported for Kathy Larson that she had confirmed a date for our annual Halloween Breakfast at the American Legion on Oct. 31st, pending the resumption of normal activities in Faribault.
- Pauline and Julie attended a Zoom meeting with Dave Kirkwood from the Minnesota AAUW Board in December. She reported that AAUW is experiencing a 4-6% loss in membership each year and a subsequent drop in revenue. Our membership dues will increase an additional \$3.00 next year.
- We have 46 members and will hope to add 4 more next year to reach 50.
- Julie Olson thanked members for sending in additional contributions to help us to continue to fund scholarships this year when our fundraising is so limited.

- The book sale will probably be held in the early to late fall.
- The Board and program committee will have a Zoom meeting Monday, Feb. 1st at 2:00 p.m. where we will discuss our participation in the 5 Star Branch program.
- Kathryn Speulda asked for direction for our annual Faribault Daily News articles for Women's History Month. This will also be discussed at the Board meeting on Monday.

Sue Garwood then presented our program, giving an overview of the traveling exhibit: *A Century of Civic Engagement: League of Women Voters Minnesota* which is at the museum for the month of January. The 12-panel exhibit describes the activism of the League in initially promoting Women's Suffrage and voting rights and then their continued mission to educate voters on candidates, issues and voting regulations.

There followed an interesting discussion on discrimination in the workplace and educational opportunities as well as voting rights. Members shared their experiences with discriminatory practices for women in establishing a credit history, equal pay for equal work, restrictive employment opportunities and lack of family leave with no guaranteed job retention. Because AAUW has had a long history of sponsoring scholarly studies on social issues and challenging discrimination in the courts, members thought this might be a topic for our newspaper articles.

- The meeting resumed when Pat Rice (who was not able to join the meeting on time due to technical difficulties) shared that Liz (Betty) Strohfus will be featured in a *Wasp in the Spotlight* exhibit at the *National WASP WWII Museum* in Sweetwater, Texas from March through July. The exhibit unveiling will be held Mar. 20, 2021 with an evening of celebration. Motion by Diane Hagen, second by Pat Rice to encourage members to contribute to a memorial donation to the museum in Betty's honor. The motion carried. Donations can be sent to Julie Olson. Materials from our dedication ceremony for the *Liz Wall Strohfus Field* at the Faribault airport will also be donated for the exhibit.

The meeting was adjourned.

Ruth Hildebrandt, secretary of the month

AAUW – Faribault Branch Board/Program Meeting February 1, 2021

Attending: Pauline Schreiber – branch president, Diane Hagen, Liza Hartman, Ruth Hildebrandt, Julie Olson, Gloria Olson, JoEllen Schulz, Karen Rasmussen, Pat Rice, Kathy Speulda and Pat Umbreit.

President Schreiber called the Zoom meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Business Discussion

- **Program ideas for February, March and April:** After brainstorming, the following programs were suggested (member contacting):
 - Changes at the Faribault Daily News (Pauline)
 - Diversity Coalition update (Gloria)
 - Faribault Environmental Commission (Pauline)
 - and, as a back-up - brain quizzes with Gloria Olson.
 Date of programs are subject to availability.
- **Annual Women in History Month articles in the Faribault Daily News.** After members shared the ideas from the January Branch meeting, they chose the topic "Women Making History: Frontline Workers During the Pandemic". Kathy Speulda is again spearheading this project. Four professions/occupations will be highlighted (writer(s) listed in parentheses):

- Medical workers (Karen R. and Jo Ellen)
- Pastors/ funeral home employees (Pat Rice)
- Educators (Pauline)
- International perspective: Georgia (Diane), Germany (Karen), Ethiopia (Julie) and Japan (Kathy)
- **Five Star Program:** Pauline had shared the criteria for the 5 Stars in the January **Communique**. Due to our restricted programs during this pandemic year, she felt we should postpone the decision to participate in this recognition program until 2021-2022 when we have resumed more normal activities.
- **Presidential vacancy:** Pauline encouraged members to think about possible candidates to take up this leadership position at the end of her extended term.
- **Treasurer's report:** Julie Olson reported that we will have funds remaining at the end of the year but since our fundraisers can only resume in the fall, if at all, the board members felt that we should not add any additional commitments.
- **Liz Strohfus Exhibit at the National WASP WWII Museum:** At the January meeting, a motion was passed to encourage our members to contribute to a memorial donation from our branch to the museum in honor of Liz. Checks may be mailed to Julie Olson.

The meeting adjourned,

Ruth Hildebrandt, secretary of the month

Treasurer's Report



No changes in bank balances this month. Checking stands at \$214.07, savings at \$5097.86. I have to comment on the success of our Zoom program this year. I think it has made a great difference in our feeling of togetherness in this difficult year. Book club, programs, and committee meetings have all proceeded without much interruption. Many, many thanks to our new techies and especially to Pauline for extra attention to learning those tricks of the

trade and then pursuing them. You have done a great job keeping our branch active despite great odds. *Julie*

Membership



February is the month of celebrating the loves and friendships in our lives! Just think of all wonderful friendships we have developed as A.A.U.M. members, by working together on projects and events to fulfill our "AAUW Mission" for women and girls.

Please keep in mind our A.A.U.W. Faribault Branch is still strong with **46 members** and welcomes new members. **Let's set a goal of 50 members in 2021.** We only need **4 more members** to reach that goal. * **A Valentine gift idea = sponsor a friend / relative by paying for a membership.**

For any information about Membership please contact Membership Vice-Presidents:

Kathy Larson kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com 332-2525

Kathryn Speulda kspeulda@yahoo.com 1 - 507 - 330 - 3941

Book Club

The Library Book by Susan Orlean was our January read. The book dealt with the April 29, 1986 Los Angeles Library fire which destroyed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more. Every one of us related to Orlean's love of books and libraries with stories of our own to share. It also cemented how even more necessary libraries are today!



We will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, February 16 at 2pm. February's book is *The Nickel Boys*, by Colson Whitehead

Barb Dubbels

A Message from Pat Rice

The National WASP – WWII Museum will be honoring our own Liz Strohfus at a program in March, entitled “A WASP in the Spotlight”. While we cannot be there in person, we can support the mission of the museum in Sweetwater, Texas by making a contribution in Liz’s name.

The museum seeks to educate us about this important time in our history, to honor the women who flew those airplanes and to keep their memories alive. Liz was trained there at Avenger Field and was a strong supporter of the museum. She attended their annual reunions.

Send your donations to Julie Olson, written to AAUW, as our Branch pays tribute to Liz. Julie will send one check for the total amount donated to the museum. Julie’s address is 2815 Village Drive, Faribault, MN 55021-2259. You can visit the museum at waspmuseum.org

The Faribault AAUW Branch Newsletter is published from September to May during our program year. The Editors are Emily Nesvold and Liz Hartman. Because of different operating systems and formats, articles other than Google Docs, should be submitted within the text of an email, not as an attachment. Items should be sent by the 10th of the month to either Emily enesvold@gmail.com or Liz ethartmanariz@gmail.com on alternating months. A reminder email will always be sent out.