



## Faribault Branch Communiqué

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



~ May 2021 ~

*"It's not possessions you have that count. It's what you have inside."  
Bertha Spitzack, 95, A Morristown Sr. Citizen 1962*

### Pauline's Presidential Pen

**Happy Spring to all!** The quote I found working as a volunteer at the Rice County Historical Society. I am indexing the 4,000 files the museum has on various citizens who live or lived in Rice County. I think all members of the Faribault Branch have "what it counts inside." We all want to make our community, state, nation and world a better place to live for all, but especially girls and women.

#### *Spring picnic*

We are having an in-person meeting and spring picnic, *5 p.m. Monday, May 24* in Shelter 2 at North Alexander Park. It is the same shelter we had our August picnic at. It is the western end of the park. The branch board decided we should all bring our own picnic supper and not to share food in a potluck yet. There will be desserts and coffee. (I will make almond bars. Will several other member volunteer to bring a dessert? Call me at 334-9598, if you are willing.) Bring a lawn chair and we can space out.

#### *Leadership*

Kathy Larson, Julie Olson, and I have contacted possible presidential candidates, but have had no one accept. No one has volunteered to be



secretary. The secretary could be a volunteer from among board members to serve as secretary at monthly meetings.

We do need a leader or co-leaders. Faribault AAUW members have always stepped up to help out with projects, which makes the job of being president a joy. We need someone to step up to be our leader.

A big thanks to Karen Rasmussen for tuning into the May 1 MN State AAUW Annual meeting. I, as president of Gardeners Reaching Out with Service (GROWS), was in Central Park that day for Faribault's annual Arbor Day celebration which GROWS coordinates with the city Tree Committee. GROWS collected \$1,200 for trees to honor Rueben Tangren, long-time treasurer of GROWS and tree committee member, who passed away in March. We were able to have four trees planted in Central Park with the money and presented a check to the city that morning. We also watched as members of Rueben's family planted a Japanese lilac tree, the last of the trees to be planted.

I really do hope someone steps up to be president of the branch. I would like to see the Faribault branch celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025. My two-year term is over, and I will not be president again, having done two years as president alone in the late 1990s, and two years as co-president a number of years later.

Having read Karen's summary of the annual meeting, I thank her very much for sending it to branch members. I hope there is a member enthusiastic about the new AAUW, who will lead our branch.

Please consider being a presidential co-chair.  
Thank you all for supporting AAUW.

Pauline

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### Take-Aways from MN State Convention by Zoom on 5/1/21

10 am – 12:30 pm

By Karen Rasmussen

- 69 members participated from 23 branches out of the total of 28 branches.
- Voting for Candidates and Resolutions was done online by midnight April 15<sup>th</sup> by 24 branches with 99 members voting. All candidates were elected, and all resolutions passed.
- Jan Carey will be the new President on 7/1/221.
- Biggest by-law change was replacing the word "Convention" 59 times to "Meeting" in order to provide for meetings held either in person or electronically.
- The C/U (College/University) Rep is not functioning. The Board to solicit a C/U Rep to the Board.
- The national ballot item to remove eligibility requirement to not require a degree or certificate for membership has unanimous board approval.
  - Dues members pay is only 15-20% of the Association budget.

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote was to give equity to all. If we require something for membership that not everybody has, we are not equitable as we discriminate against those who haven't the time and/or money to attend college.
- We do receive major financial contributions from corporations and foundations, but not from all. Many potential contributors will not support us because we aren't equitable in our membership.
- We accept members globally and both men and women, so we aren't strictly American nor are we all Women. So, our name doesn't fit who we are, and our mission statement isn't practicing what we preach, which is equity for all. Need to include transgender, non-binary, all genders
- A=America (not, international), A=Association (not, only 1/5 of the Association are dues-paying members) U=University (not, changed in 2005) W=Women (not, men are welcome, not just binary women)
- AAUW is turning 140 and Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW, has as her theme "Embodying Equity." What will we be like at 150?
- As of 12/31/2020, 30,000 were reached by webinars, by 4/30/2021, 40,000 have been reached.
- \$4.8 million was awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year to over 200 recipients with a goal of advancing educational opportunities.
- 62,400 letters were sent to elected officials urging COVID relief for women.
- 1 million more women than men have lost jobs just since Jan. 1, 2021.
- With the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, so far, the Paycheck Fairness Act has passed the House and has been sent to the Senate. They would like to have our cell #s and emails to be able to send messages on our smartphones to keep up on this info.
- What's on the Equity Wish List? COVID Relief, Women's Economic Security, Pay Equity, Minimum Wage, Paid Family & Medical Leave, Flexible Schedules, Childcare Access, Workplace Harassment, Educational Equity (STEM, Title IX, Student Loan Debt)
- The Member Service Database is being re-evaluated this summer.
- Need to evolve to thrive...we are unique with the breadth and depth of our research, policy, and advocacy.
- There has been a 37% increase in the cost of tuition.
- How diverse is MN AAUW? Average is 73 years old and white.
- More people of color are on the national board than white.
- What to do to bring in new members:
  - Be much more inclusive, have an equity network as they want to be with their peers; ask questions, listen to black and brown women
  - Meet where they are to meet 20–40-year old's
- The 2022 State Meeting (previously known as Convention) to be held in St. Cloud as it celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Dates are set for April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Strongly encouraged us to donate money in lieu of having to pay mileage, hotel rooms, meals, registration fees, souvenirs, etc. How about it? Are we going to? (This was repeated more than once.) So, are we going to kick in some more?

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From member Joan Koonman

**Subject: Dear Fellow Members of AAUW,**

For over 60 years I have been a proud member of AAUW, The American Association of University Women. I am a paid Life Member and an Honorary Life Member. I belong to the Faribault, Mn and LaCrosse, WI Branches. I have been a branch president, held various board positions, served on the MN AAUW State Board for 6 years and have attended 23 State conventions, including a virtual one this year. I have also attended 4 Association Conventions. In 1981, I was part of the branch members from MN and IA that bused from MN to Boston to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAUW, The American Association of University Women.

Now, 40 years later, we are being asked to vote on a proposal that will change the whole intent of the Founding women and the one requirement that makes us a unique organization: A Degree! This is a slap in the face to the Founders and to all those who came after them! Are we so desperate for members that the doorway to membership is being opened to everyone? What has happened to setting goals for achieving membership and to the right to require standards for admission? By removing the Degree Requirement, you are gutting the core purpose of the Association and it would be hypocritical to continue using the name AAUW. It would no longer be The American Association of University Women but become AAA, The American Association of Anybody!

In these days when institutions of higher learning are graduating a record number of women in fields previously male-dominated, where are the female engineers, the computer experts, the IT programmers, the AI designers, etc.??? They are not AAUW members because they, like most graduates, have not heard of AAUW. These are the people that we should be focusing on for members!

When I graduated, in 1952, 2 members of a Detroit branch of AAUW addressed a senior assembly to talk about AAUW, its mission and its value to women. 5 years later, after moving to LaCrosse, WI I saw a newspaper article about the AAUW branch Fall meeting. I remembered the assembly in Detroit and wanted to learn more about AAUW. I attended and I joined. After all these years I have never met another member who learned about AAUW because a local branch addressed the graduates. WHY NOT!!!

Many branches have local recognition because of community activities such as Art Fairs, Candidate Forums, Book Sales etc. One year I worked at the Faribault, MN Branch's annual AAUW Book Sale and heard a woman ask her teenage son "what does AAUW stand for?" He responded, "I think it's some kind of an athletic group, probably wrestling." It's not enough to say AAUW. To get name recognition we need to add, proudly, in announcement's and publicity releases,

*AAUW  
The American Association of University Women.*

And we need name recognition! Every branch should have a publicity chair, be it a new position or the task of newsletter editor, membership or other member to publish monthly meetings, speakers, activities and contact information, even for Zoom meetings. Use those smart phone cameras for publicity not just for selfies. Look at your newspaper and see how other

organizations are using publicity. Photos of new officers, scholarship winners, convention attendees, all are good opportunities to include contact information about membership.

If there is a university. college (community or tech) near your branch learn how you can meet with the graduates and distribute AAUW information about membership, scholarships and fellowships. Meet the guidance counselors, the alumnae officers, the bookstore personnel, etc. Have plenty of AAUW brochures and contact information available to distribute to graduates.

Summer provides a great time to plan a Fall membership campaign. When your branch has finalized its program and speakers schedule, print it (along with contact info) on free bookmarks to be distributed at your local libraries. Scan your newspaper for articles about new businesses, new employees, new teachers and new retirees.

Don't remove the Degree requirement! Instead, let's seek those qualified for membership. Being a member of AAUW, The American Association of University Women is a goal to be earned, just as a degree is earned. Just as it was when founded 140 years ago.

Sincerely,  
Joan C. Koonmen  
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### Membership Memos for May:

Our May AAUW Faribault Meeting and outdoor gathering will be a wonderful opportunity to see and visit with everyone after such a long time of being isolated because of the pandemic !!! Remember to invite any interested new members, too. **We only need 3 more new members to reach our goal of 50 members.**

Please remember that our dues will go up a bit (\$3.00) because of rising costs. Dues for a new member or ( a returning member that hasn't joined in 2 years) **is \$50.00.**

Dues for renewing your AAUW membership is **\$81.00** this year. **That's only \$6.75 a month!** WOW!! It's a worthwhile bargain for all the great work that's being accomplished to promote our mission "to advance equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." Think of all the scholarships our A.A.U.W. Branch has awarded for many years in our Faribault community! That's just one of our accomplishments.

It'll be great to see all our Faribault A.A.U.W. members at our May Meeting .



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

Kathy Larson [kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com) 332-2525

Kathryn Spedulda [kspedulda@yahoo.com](mailto:kspedulda@yahoo.com) 1-507-330-3941

**Thank you for your continued support.**

Submitted by Kathy Larson

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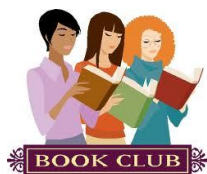
## Treasurer's Report

Our spring meeting! May marks picnic month, membership month, and other good things. I, for one, am grateful that we made it through this whole year relatively unscathed: meetings have been held regularly, committees are functioning, book club is in fine shape.

And we have some money left: Savings, \$5363.18, and Checking \$132.01. We have two unpaid bills for scholarships totaling \$1,000, and a few miscellaneous charges, but we are in good shape. The big question, of course, remains our two funding projects. Stay tuned and see you at the picnic.

Julie Olson, Treasurer

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## BOOK CLUB NEWS

Because April is National Poetry Month, the AAUW book club meeting focuses on sharing poems. The variety shared was inspiring as always.

*Arrowsmith* by Sinclair Lewis is May's book. At present there is a Sinclair Lewis exhibit at the Minnesota Historical Society which some of us hope to attend.

We will meet Tuesday, May 18 at 2 pm.

Barb Dubbels

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## Members Matter

We hope you will take the time to go and see GROWS Pollinator Committee's photo exhibit, featuring area gardeners, at Buckham Center during the month of May. Several of our AAUW members have had a part in this

educational endeavor to help protect our native pollinators.

## AAUW – Faribault Branch Meeting

April 26, 2021

President Pauline Schreiber called the April AAUW Faribault Branch meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. on April 26, 2021 via ZOOM. Fifteen members attended.

### Unfinished Business:

- **SCC Named Scholarships:** One of our scholarship winners from 2020 did not use the scholarship so we have an additional \$750 scholarship that we can award this

year. At the Apr.9<sup>th</sup> board meeting, members decided to recommend that we award two \$750 scholarships in 2021 using the \$750 unused scholarship funds remaining from our 2020 budget and \$750 from this year's budget to fund the second scholarship. Motion by Pat Rice, second by Mary Lillquist, that the AAUW Faribault branch award two South Central Scholarships in 2021. The motion carried. Julie Olson will contact Gail Kaderlik, Executive Director of the Faribault Foundation regarding our decision.

- **Election of Officers:** JoEllen Schulz has agreed to fill the position of treasurer. We still need to find candidates to fill the positions of president and secretary. Since we have to inform the state and national offices in June of our branch officers for 2021-2022, we will have to determine our leadership position at our May meeting. Members are encouraged to network to find members within our organization who would fill these positions and investigate how other organizations are dealing with this issue of finding volunteers.
- **Halloween Breakfast Fundraiser:** Motion by Emily Nesvold, second by Julie Olson to proceed with plans to hold this annual fundraiser at the American Legion on Oct. 31,2021. The motion carried. Kathy Larson will meet with the Legion representative later this spring to finalize plans.
- **Fall Book Sale:** The decision to hold this fundraiser can be made once we have details on the location confirmed and on the pandemic restrictions foreseen for the fall. We will discuss this further at the May meeting.

#### **Announcements:**

- **Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District request:** Teresa DeMars has asked that we let our membership know about conservation programs that will take place this summer targeting women who rent land. Pauline will investigate the details of our involvement and will present the information at the May meeting.
- **Annual Book Donation to Buckham Memorial Library:** On our behalf, Pat Rice purchased the book, *A Woman's War, Too: Women at Work During World War II* by Virginia M. Wright-Peterson, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. She can submit a bill to be reimbursed for this excellent selection.
- **Annual May Picnic:** Pauline announced that the May 24th picnic will be held at shelter #2 at North Alexander Park at 5:00 p.m. Members can bring their own lunch and beverage. The board will provide an individually wrapped dessert treat.

The meeting was adjourned.

Pauline introduced our guest speaker, Suzanne Rook, Regional Editor of *APG Media of Southern Minnesota*, who described the changes at the Faribault Daily News due to the conversion to a regional paper. Members asked questions about the changes and offered ideas for local stories of interest to the Faribault community.

Submitted by Ruth Hildebrandt, secretary of the month.

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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](mailto:enesvold@gmail.com) or Liz [ethartmanariz@gmail.com](mailto:ethartmanariz@gmail.com) on alternating months. A reminder email will always be sent out.