



Faribault Branch Communiqué

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



Presidents' Message for April 2022

"April Showers Bring May Flowers" but in Minnesota we still need to be on the alert for SNOW!! Ha ha. Our winter weather just seems to continue, on and on. Let's look on the "sunny side" while we plan for our Spring events:

OUR AAUW Book Sale will be the major planning topic at our *April 25th*. meeting. Please have your calendars along to sign up on the Book Sale schedule. We really need a lot of volunteers - family & friends- for various jobs. Flyers will be available to distribute, too.

The books will be moved to the mall on Wednesday morning, May 11th. On Thursday, May 12th until May 17th we will be sorting. Our Book Sale will officially open on Wednesday May 18 and continue until Wednesday May 25th (clean-up day). Starting May 7th, books can be dropped off at the Faribo West Mall (carts will be available).

Remember the **Tri-Branch Luncheon** will be on Zoom April 23-hosted by Owatonna. (Details below)

Our **AAUW State Convention** in St. Cloud is scheduled for April 29-30. Pat Rice, Mary Lillquist, Karen Rasmussen & Kathy Larson will be attending the convention.

"Climate change is now the Climate Crisis" is such an appropriate program for our world today! Please join us to hear a Faribault native speak on these issues. Let's give her a warm welcome and a large audience. Invite a friend :)

Your Co-Presidents' Kathy Larson & Pat Rice

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April Branch Meeting
Monday, April 25
Rice County Historical Society

Business Meeting 6:15 (Book Sale details)
Program 7:00



April Program -- Climate Challenges

Faribault native, Amelia (Amy) Vohs, is an attorney for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. MCEA's mission includes working in the courts, at the legislature and with public groups to enact, strengthen and enforce smart environmental law. They educate the public about environmental issues and support communities in efforts to protect the environment.

Amy will share her wisdom, experiences, and the challenges facing us. Bring your questions, and guests, as we learn about this urgent concern.

AAUW Book Sale May 18 – 24 Faribault West Mall

I have attached the Book Sale sign up sheets. As you will see, there are still tons of opportunities to work.

We are looking forward to another successful book sale after a pandemic enforced hiatus of two years. To ensure that we have enough help during sale days, we ask that our members volunteer to work **at least two** shifts. Sign-up sheets will be available at our April branch meeting and at our Saturday coffee socials. In addition, I will use email to let members know about days and times still needed to be filled. You can get back to me with email, text, or phone.

Reminder emails will be sent out to workers the day before their shifts. I know that unexpected things come up and members sometimes need to cancel but it would really help if each person took responsibility for finding her own replacement. Just let me know of any changes.

Together we can get the job done!! Liz Hartman

Email: ethartmanariz@gmail.com Phone or text: Cell # 507/339/0527



Calendar of Events

- Saturday April 16** Coffee 10:30 am Crack of Dawn
- Thursday April 21** Book Club 2pm Barb Dubbels
- Friday April 22** Earth Day “Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together ... all things connect.” —*Chief Seattle*
- Saturday April 23** Tri-branch Meeting via Zoom 11:30
- Monday April 25** AAUW Branch Meeting 6:15 business mtg.
7:00 program “Climate Challenges” Rice County Historical Society
- Friday and Saturday April 29-30** AAUW State Convention St. Cloud

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Tri-Branch Luncheon

From: **Eileen Newhouse** <ejnewhouse@gmail.com> Owatonna Branch

AAUW Virtual Tri-Branch Meeting on Saturday, April 23 at 11:30

If you watched any of the Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, you heard a lot about federal sentencing guidelines! How timely then that our Tri-Branch meeting speaker is chair of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission. We look forward to having you join us virtually for what promises to increase our understanding of an important element of our criminal justice system.

Please share this link with your branch members. A reminder will go out closer to the date of the meeting. We have also posted the link on our AAUW Owatonna website: owatonna-mn.aauw.net

Topic: AAUW Tri-Branch Meeting - Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines
Time: Apr 23, 2022 11:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85713743811?pwd=NFFMZjZ1MTICSHJIZjNRY2R6MEIjUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 1374 3811
Passcode: 749967

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Membership Memos:



History was made on April 6th.,2022 when Justice Jackson became the first Black woman to the Supreme Court! AAUW Branches of the U.S.A. through the years have given support and voice to women's' issues. Remember our AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Tell your friends how AAUW has strived to help women obtain success and recognition in their jobs. We can accomplish so much more for women if we work together. It's only \$50 for your AAUW membership for the first year. Encourage others to join us:)

Please contact: Kathy Larson - Membership Chair
1 - 507- 332-2525 kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Our balance is \$7,494.13 after March expenses. Rice County Historical Society meeting room use fee of \$25 and AAUW state convention dues of \$540 for 4 delegates were our March expenses

JoEllen Schulz



BOOK CLUB NEWS

We met via Zoom in March to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. Westover wrote a memoir about her growing up years within a radical Mormon family. She was briefly home schooled but eventually graduated from college. Her journey overcoming her family background was astonishing.

April is Poetry Month and each will share some poetry of their choice. We will meet on Thursday, April 21 at 2pm. Maybe the porch will be warm enough!!

Barb Dubbels

AAUW Socials



Hi Members,

Let's meet for coffee and treats at Crack of Dawn, 10:30 on Saturday, April 16th. Even if you're busy getting ready to host Easter you deserve a break!

Sue Olson

The article and picture (below) from our March 28 branch meeting were published in the Faribault Daily News. Thanks Karen.

Sue Garwood Presents to AAUW

Karen Rasmussen
Faribault AAUW Member



Sue Garwood, Executive Director of the Rice County Historical Society, gave a presentation at the March meeting of AAUW on the "Women of Rice County." RCHS is seeking to have 100 biographies of women from all walks of life that lived and worked in Rice County. She explained the project and its challenges of trying to get stories of women because of the unexpected hole in our collective knowledge of the past. For example, all that is known of Mrs. Henry Sibley is from 12 letters that have been found that she wrote and mailed to Wisconsin. People that are interested in contributing a biography to the project can contact the RCHS at 1814 NW 2nd Ave., Faribault, MN or online at www.rchistory.org.

Faribault AAUW Branch Meeting - March 28, 2022

Co-president Kathy Larson called the March meeting of the Faribault Branch of AAUW to order at 6:25 p.m. at the Rice County Historical Society Museum. She welcomed those attending and introduced our guest for the evening, Lavonne Venero.

Treasurer's Report: JoEllen Schultz reported that our current balance was \$\$7,519.13. Expenses included \$540.00 for registration for our delegates to the state convention. She also sent payment for the AAUW T-shirt/sweatshirt fundraiser as submitted with the pre-paid orders from our members. Her report was approved.

Secretary's Report: Approved as written.

Announcements:

- Kathy thanked Barb Dubbels, Pauline Schreiber, Rene Perrance, Gloria Olson, Karen Rasmussen and Kathryn Speulda for their articles published in the *Faribault Daily News* in celebration of Women's History month.
- April Events:
 - The Tri-Branch Luncheon will be held on April 23, 2022 and will be hosted by Owatonna. Because of concerns with the pandemic, the meeting will be held via ZOOM.
 - The monthly AAUW meeting of the Faribault branch will be held on April 25th at the RCHS Museum.
 - The AAUW state convention will be held April 29th – 30th in St. Cloud. Our 4 delegates are Pat Rice, Karen Rasmussen, Mary Lillquist and Kathy Larson.

New Business:

Spring Book Sale:

- The Book Sale will be held May 18th – May 24th at the Faribo West Mall.
- Moving day will be May 12th. Volunteers and truck are needed.
- Sorting days are May 12th to May 17th.
- Co-president, Pat Rice distributed a schedule for signing up to work shifts for sorting and for the sale.
- Advertising will include newspaper announcements, flyers, bank signage, social media posts, radio interviews and church bulletin inserts.

The meeting adjourned. K Pauline Schreiber introduced Sue Garwood, executive director of the Rice County Historical Society who presented an overview of the museum's ongoing project to create biographies of women who made significant contributions to Rice County history.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hildebrandt, secretary

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Branch member, Sue Stout, continues to update us on what is happening in the Minnesota House and Senate. She takes them from their media services and none of her opinions are expressed here. We thank her for this important feature in our newsletters.

Legislative Update

This is the time of year that the Minnesota Legislature begins to move large funding bills or Omnibus bills through the committees in anticipation of final passage by the House and the Senate. Information regarding some of these large bills are contained in this article and were taken from the information provided by the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate Media Services from the week of April 4.

Minnesota House of Representatives

\$259 million omnibus health finance and policy bill gets committee approval

With a sizable budget surplus at hand, now is the right time to make expansive investments to improve health care for all Minnesotans, says the sponsor of the omnibus health finance and policy bill Tine Liebling.

“As we work to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the investments in this bill will improve the health of Minnesotans while reducing their costs,” said [Rep. Tina Liebling](#) (DFL-Rochester).

The House Health Finance and Policy Committee approved [HF4706](#), as amended by [a delete-all amendment](#), Friday and sent it to the House Ways and Means Committee on a 10-7 party-line vote.

Liebling, chair of the committee, said the bill focuses on ways to support the behavioral health workforce, mental health workers, and community health workers, including grants, scholarships, and technical assistance.

Access to health care would also be increased, Liebling said, especially for seniors, people with a disability, and people in historically medically underserved communities.

[Rep. Joe Schomacker](#) (R-Luverne) said he is concerned the bill would create too much bureaucracy, doesn't do enough to help the state rein in health care costs, and that the proposed changes to MinnesotaCare could have unintended negative consequences.

Policy provisions in the omnibus health finance and policy bill include those that would:

- improve access to Medical Assistance for people with disabilities by fixing the “[spend-down](#)” limit;
- establish loan forgiveness programs for health care workers, including those serving in rural and underserved areas;
- establish a [MinnesotaCare public option](#) effective Jan. 1, 2025;
- permit all enrollees to opt out of managed health care plans;
- expand the community health worker workforce;
- fund eight regional drug overdose prevention teams;
- establish a voluntary [home visiting program](#) for families expecting or caring for an infant;

- lower patient enrollment fees for the medical cannabis program to \$40;
- establish the [Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program](#);
- distribute no-cost [COVID-19 tests, masks, and respirators](#) to individuals;
- establish a [Health Care Affordability Board](#) authorized to set health care spending growth targets;
- expand adult dental coverage under Medical Assistance;
- establish a [dental home pilot project](#); and
- establish a grant program for remediation of lead sources in drinking water in schools and child care settings.

\$100 million in new money, increased college access part of higher ed bill approved in committee

(Excerpts from article by House of Representatives Reporter Pratic Joshi)

A plan to expand postsecondary opportunities for more Minnesotans got a passing grade Wednesday April 6th.

Sponsored by [Rep. Connie Bernardy](#) (DFL-New Brighton), a bill was approved 11-6 along party lines by the House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee.

On its way to the House Ways and Means Committee, the omnibus higher education finance and policy bill would provide \$100 million in supplemental funding in fiscal year 2023, with \$57.46 million going to the Office of Higher Education, \$32.53 million to the University of Minnesota, and \$10 million to the Minnesota State system.

[MORE: [View the spreadsheet](#)]

The bill would open doors and opportunities for Minnesota students and their families, helping them get their education credentials and employable skills for long-term economic prosperity of the state, Bernardy said.

[Rep. Michael Howard](#) (DFL-Richfield) called the bill a targeted effort to help students afford college. "It's incredibly reasonable."

Lifting the "most needy" is the right thing to do, so no one is left out, added [Rep. Mohamud Noor](#) (DFL-Mpls).

In part, the bill would create a grant program for state college students that would cover any remaining tuition and fees based on the recipient's reported family income. It would also create a grant program to assist in creating or expanding postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

It would add \$3.24 million for American Indian scholarships, \$1.5 million for grants to underrepresented student teachers, \$731,000 for student emergency assistance, and \$493,000 to the state grant program.

[MORE: [Additional bill details](#)]

Republicans see some positives, but also note the bill is lacking in a number of areas.

For example, [Rep. Jon Koznick](#) (R-Lakeville) wondered about a lack of tuition freezes at four-year colleges. Families who pay through for their wards would ultimately bear the cost of eliminating tuition for lower and middle income students at two-year colleges as proposed in the bill, he said.

[Rep. Marion O'Neill](#) (R-Maple Lake) said the systems always ask for more funding, but it doesn't always directly benefit students first. She said the University of Minnesota recently raised tuition by 1.5% while giving raises to administrators.

Sympathetic to their funding needs, [Rep. Sondra Erickson](#) (R-Princeton) said it's a violation of state statute to directly appropriate funds for the operation of tribal colleges that are not under state's jurisdiction. "We would need specific policy to support that."

The companion, [SF3510](#), sponsored by [Sen. David Tomassoni](#) (I-Chisholm), awaits action by the Senate Finance Committee.

Minnesota State Senate

(Information from the Minnesota Senate Media Services on actions taken by the Minnesota Senate)

Senate Passes Bill Extending Minnesota Premium Security Plan

On a vote of 47-20, the Senate approved the conference committee report Thursday, March 31, to extend the Minnesota Premium Security Plan, also known as reinsurance, for three more years.

Sponsored by Senator Gary Dahms, R-Redwood Falls, the bill allocates \$700 million to a reinsurance fund, which assists health care insurance companies providing plans in the individual market to cover high-cost claims. About 180,000 Minnesotans purchase their insurance in the individual market, and proponents contend state-funded reinsurance is a necessary tool to limit premium increases. Opponents argue that reinsurance does not address the causes of high health care costs.

Bill providing Drought Relief Passes Senate

The Senate unanimously passed a bill Thursday, March 31, providing relief to farmers impacted by the 2021 drought. Sponsored by Senate Agriculture Chair Torrey Westrom, R-Elbow Lake, the bill allocates \$10 million dollars, the bulk of which supports grants of up to \$5,000 for producers of livestock and specialty crops, to farmers located in counties throughout the state.

The bill also includes funds to reimburse farmers who secured drought relief loans. In response to the recent avian influenza outbreak, the measure further appropriates \$1 million to the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing equipment.

Members of both parties spoke in support of the bill, recognizing the important contributions of Minnesota's farmers. Westrom cited a bumper sticker on the back of his grandfather's pickup that stated, "If you complain about farmers, don't talk with your mouth full." The bill was sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

Senate Votes on Omnibus Tax Bill

On a 42-24 vote, the Senate gave its initial approval Thursday, April 7, to a tax bill that would reduce the state's first tier income tax rate from 5.35 percent to 2.8 percent, eliminate income taxes on all social security benefits and provide state tax conformity to a number of federal provisions.

Senate Tax Chair Carla Nelson, R-Rochester, said that the state's \$9.2 billion budget surplus is evidence of overtaxation. Lowering the first tier rate will help all taxpayers and removing taxes on social security benefits will help prevent seniors from moving out of state, she said. "We are standing in quicksand here, and the world is moving around us and the money is moving with it," she said. "People are leaving our state because they cannot afford to retire here."

Senator Anne Johnson Stewart, DFL-Wayzata, an engineer, suggested that a better use for the budget surplus would be repairing Minnesota's flagging infrastructure. Senate Minority Leader Melisa López Franzen pointed out that the tax bill will not benefit more than 500,000 lower income Minnesotans. "The number of people left out of this bill would fill Target Field, where the Twins play, more than thirteen times," she said.

The vote on the tax bill exemplifies a primary focus of the Republican-led Senate as members return home for the Passover/Easter break. Chair Nelson told members that an additional tax bill to deal with property taxes and other issues will come at a later date. SF 3682 was laid on the table, because tax bills must originate in the House.

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.