



Faribault Branch Communiqué

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



~ February 2025 ~

President's Message

Greetings to all of you.

Please note.... The Meeting on February 24 will start at 1:30. This is to allow time for a celebration of the actual month that our Branch was started 100 years ago.

We will also be educated on the topic of Solar energy around the globe.

Our branch is allowed 4 voting delegates at the April 25-26 state meeting, so be thinking about attending.

Thank you, Pauline, for submitting your legacy story to last month's communiqué. I'm looking forward to see who appears this month.

Mary Niermann- President

Minnesota State Meeting



April 25 & 26, 2025

The Austin Branch of AAUW cordially invites you to the AAUW Minnesota 2025 State Meeting in Austin, the home of Spam.

Friday evening will be at the Austin Country Club and the Saturday meeting will be at the world-renowned Hormel Institute Cancer Research Center. You will experience many inspiring speakers and will be able to tour the Institute on Saturday. The ever-popular silent auction will return. Friday afternoon, optional excursions of the Spam Museum and other Austin sites will be available.

Please join Us.

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We will take a group picture in the honor of our 100th anniversary so we hope to see everyone on the 24!!

February Meeting



Congratulations Faribault Branch on 100 Years of Empowering Women

Monday, February 24

Rice County Historical Society

1814 Second Ave. NW

1:30 - 100-year celebration and short business meeting

2:30 - Program

Brian Ries, a Sr. Product Manager for Trystar will present a 30-minute overview of Trystar and their products and a discussion of the role of Product Managers/Offering Managers.

Brian Ries has been a Sr. Product Manager for Trystar since last May. He has a 25-year career in Technology Product Management along with having served as a nuclear engineering officer in submarines in the Navy.

Membership



WELCOME LADIES to the ACTUAL 100th. ANNIVERSARY of the ORGANIZATION OUR FARIBAULT BRANCH OF AAUW!

We made history on the date of February 25, 1925!

We had a wonderful program highlighting many of the accomplishments of the women, in our branch, from 1925 to 2025 at our Annual Christmas celebration.

Keep inspiring our present and future women and girls by your unwavering commitment to AAUW 's mission: to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Remember to invite someone to our meetings to continue to have our Faribault Branch stay **STRONG** and **PRODUCTIVE**!

Dues are still a bargain:

New-First Year membership - \$55.00

Regular membership - \$91.00

Please plan to attend our February 24th meeting at 1:30 at the Rice County Historical Society to officially celebrate our 100th anniversary. We will take a group picture, so your presence is important.

Let me know if anyone wants information on becoming a member.

Kathy Larson - Membership Vice-President

(1-507 -332-2525)

kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com

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Legacy Letters

A second "love" letter (tomorrow is valentine's day) to our branch in honor of our 100th Anniversary.

AAUW – Why Am I a member?

By Karen Rasmussen

My first exposure to AAUW – Faribault Branch was at the MN Academy for the Deaf at the end of the 2003 Tour of Homes, the last year of the house tours. I met Gloria Olson and Carol Quail who were stationed there, and they explained some of what AAUW was. At the time it seemed it would be a good way to meet new people as I was new in town. I was working at The State Bank of Faribault but hadn't really gotten involved in anything, yet.

Most of the members are not native to Faribault. Many of us were perhaps drawn together to meet new people and make friendships. That has certainly been my case, and I have many friends in AAUW and lots of acquaintances. It also has satisfied another human desire: to make a difference. Whether it be as the Scholarship Chairman, Co-Chair of Halloween Breakfast, Branch Treasurer for seven years and now another stint, Co-President Jr and Sr, Co-Membership, Bylaws Chair, helping host the State Convention and so on all in same way has hopefully made a difference. It has taken me out of my comfort zone of being an introvert. My mother was active in her Extension Homemakers Club and later in other organizations, so I grew up knowing you belonged to an organization and actively participated.

I love to travel. One of my favorite memories of going to state conventions was a side activity in Winona of going to the Minnesota Marine Art Museum and seeing the exhibit of original masters such as Monet and Rembrandt. Other conventions I have attended, that I can remember, include St. Paul, Austin and Duluth. Other out of town ventures I have enjoyed have been to the History Theater in St. Paul and Tri-Branch luncheons in Northfield and Owatonna. Our social activities, which at one time included painting at the Upper East Side and jewelry making at Glass Garden Beads, now include quarterly birthday luncheons, coffee and treats at Janna's on the third Saturday, plus our annual Christmas at the Guild House and a picnic in May.

The monthly programs have given me a greater understanding of many topics. The candidates' forums have been insightful. Even where the events are held has broadened my experiences and knowledge. Creating the "Hats Off" booklet in 2015 for our 90th Birthday and the Cameo Booklet while I was president in 2015-16, were real learning experiences about my fellow members as well as doing things on the computer. And while I mention computer tasks, I ought not to forget the flyers for the Book Sales, Breakfasts and scholarships, the Awards Certificates, and the trifold for naming the Liz Wall Strohfus Field in 2017, etc. Believe it or not, it is more difficult to create four quarter-page flyers on a page than to create a page. My photo editing skills also have expanded.

"Anyone who keeps learning stays young" according to Henry Ford. With AAUW and its many learning opportunities, I'll never grow old!



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

"The Rice County Area United Way sponsors and administers Imagination Library in the Rice County area. The program is free to families of all income levels who live in these communities: Dundas, Dennison, LeCenter, Faribault, Lonsdale, Kilkenny, Montgomery, Morristown, N strand, Northfield, Warsaw and Webster.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library helps families develop children's early literacy skills by providing free, high-quality books to children from shortly after birth until their fifth birthday

new, age-appropriate book arrives each month, addressed to the child. As children become old enough to understand, they are thrilled to get their monthly book in the mail.

Imagination Library is free to children, but only when caring adults donate. For \$30 a child, you can sponsor a year of books! For \$150 you can sponsor a child for all 5 years prior to kindergarten!"

At our January meeting, we voted to give \$250 from our December Silent Auction fund as a one-time donation.



Shown accepting the check is Laura Riehle-Merrill the new Executive Director of Rice County Area United Way. We had a wonderful visit with Laura at Janna's Market. We knew we had seen this vibrant outgoing lady before and were thrilled to find out that she had been our speaker (Title Nine- Where we stand) at the Tri Branch Luncheon in Northfield in April 2023.



AAUW Funds

Minnesota is an AAUW Funds Star! Over the past 15 years, even as our Minnesota AAUW membership numbers have declined, branches and individuals have stepped up to support AAUW Funds. In fact, we have - amazingly! - increased our per capita contribution here in Minnesota from \$27 (per member) in 2010 to \$54 (per member) in 2023. Thanks for all your support of AAUW Funds and the great work we achieve together. Keep up the good work!

Named Gift Honorees - Each Branch that contributes at least \$750 to one of four national AAUW Funds will be able to recognize a Named Gift Honoree, and that \$750 includes contributions made directly by individuals. Each month your Branch AAUW Funds Chair receives a print-out of all funds credited to your Branch, so she can track those direct contributions as well as those sent in by the Branch. The four funds that meet MN AAUW's criteria for Named Gift Honoree status are: · Fund# 9110, AAUW's Greatest Need (which provides much-needed flexibility and responsiveness); · Fund# 4450 Education and Training (including Fellowships, Public Policy, Research); · Fund# 4449 Economic Security (including LAF, Work Smart and Start Smart); and · Fund# 4452 Leadership (including NCCWSL, Campus Action Projects, and Empower).

Barb Wonson Liukkonen, AAUW MN Funds VP

(Our branch voted, like last year, to contribute \$1,500 to the Greatest Need Fund)



Treasurer's Report

The Financial Report as of Jan. 31, 2025: we had a balance of \$14,110.99.

Feb. 12, 2025 a \$250 check to the Rice County Area United Way for the Imagination Library.

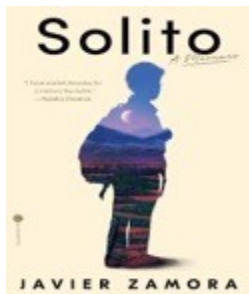
This was proceeds from the Silent Auction (\$220) and personal donations.

Karen Rasmussen



BOOK CLUB NEWS

The AAUW Book Club met in January to discuss "one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years", The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. And we did a "masterful" deed by finishing discussing a 736 page novel by 3:30!



February's book is Solito by Javier Zamora. We will meet at the Nook and Cranny at 2pm on Thursday, February 20. Coffee and treats will be available for purchase.

Barb Dubbels



Hi everyone,

Join us this Saturday, February 15th at 11:00 at Janna's for coffee, treats and conversation. Hope to see you there!

Stay warm, Sue Olson



We had a nice turnout for our birthday celebration at the Depot but only one “birthday gal” (JoEllen Schulz- Jan 20) was able to attend.



Warm birthday wishes go out to these gals also!!

Kathy Kasten -Jan 18

Gloria Carter- Feb 1

Bonnie Becker – Feb 22

Emily Nesvold - March 22

Sue Stout - Mar 27



A fun, informative and interactive January program with our City Administrator, Jessica Kinser.

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Community Outreach

It is no secret that our branch members are active in more than one organization. Karen Rasmussen and Kathy Larson have tickets for the Legion Auxiliary's salad luncheon. Last year they promoted an AAUW table and will do the same this year. So seek out these ladies for tickets to help out the auxiliary and to join in on the good food and the fun.



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Secretary's Report

The Faribault Branch of AAUW met at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan, 27, 2025, at the Rice County Historical Society, in its Carlander Program Room. The business meeting was conducted by President Mary Niermann. Her first item of business was the November Secretary's report printed in the December newsletter, and the November and January Treasurer's reports printed in the January newsletter. (There was no Business Meeting in December because of the Christmas Party and the celebration of Faribault AAUW's 100th Anniversary. Thus, no December Secretary's In the January newsletter. She asked for additions or corrections,

hearing none, she approved them as printed.

She, also, announced that instead “Branches”, the units of AAUW are now to be called “Affiliates” of National AAUW.

Treasurer Karen Rasmussen gave an update on money from the Silent Auction held in December from what was reported in the January newsletter. She said additional money for items has been received and the new total for the auction is \$223.

Members discussed a suggestion by a member at the November meeting that Faribault AAUW give a donation to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The program encourages literacy by the gift of books to children. One member brought up the issue that it may be improper for one non-profit to give a donation to another non-profit, and the fact local AAUW fundraisers are advertised as being for scholarships. A collection of money from individual members willing to donate to the Imagination Library would be more appropriate. Another member, however, suggested the money raised at the December Silent Auction could be donated, since that money came from individual members. After a bit more discussion, Pat Rice made a motion that the Silent Auction money be rounded up to \$250 and that be donated to the Imagination Library as a one-time donation. JoEllen Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rasmussen reported on a science fair she attended at Shattuck-St. Mary’s School and the extremely sophisticated projects students reported on. She suggested that Faribault AAUW give a donation of \$500 to the program. There was no second. Several members thought there needed to be more research into whether there is a need for donations to the program or if it is already well funded. The issue was tabled until more research is done.

Liz Hartman, co-newsletter editor, made a plea for more “Legacy Letters” from members on the value of AAUW in their lives for the next newsletter.

Niermann announced that the Tri-Branch Luncheon will be in Owatonna in April, but she has not received the details yet.

Pauline Schreiber reported that the 2025 State AAUW Convention will be April 25 and 26 in Austin. The banquet will be at the Austin Country Club the night of April 25 and the Business Meeting and Programs will be on April 26 at the Hormel institute for Cancer Research.

Schreiber made a motion to adjourn; Schultz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The speaker for the meeting was Faribault City Administrator Jessica Kinser who spoke of her background and the challenges of her job.

Submitted by Secretary Pauline Schreiber

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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 or Liz ethartmanariz@gmail.com on alternating months. A reminder email will always be sent out.