



## Faribault Branch Communiqué

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

**March 2025**



### **President's Message**

I hope that you all enjoyed the beautiful snow fall that we had last week. I was so glad to be retired and didn't have to worry about getting plowed out. It was great to just enjoy the scenery. By the time we meet again it will probably be all gone

This month we are focused on Women in History Month. I'd appreciate getting a copy of what's going into the paper. Thanks.

Speaking of the paper.. thanks for getting our 100th Anniversary celebration into the paper. I think that was Pauline. Great job!

Thank you, Karen, for your legacy letter in our Newsletter last month. Another great job!

Just a reminder to sign up for the Tri-branch lunch on April 12th.

*Submitted by Mary Niermann- Branch President*



### **Secretary's Report**

*Minutes for the Feb. 24, 2025 Faribault Branch AAUW Business Meeting*  
Members of the Faribault AAUW Branch met at 1:30 p.m. in the Carlander Room at the Rice County Historical Society Museum. President Mary Niermann greeted members and brought the meeting to order. It was 100 years ago this month that 21 charter members founded the Faribault Branch of AAUW.

Nineteen of the current members gathered for a photo, holding mini-cupcakes that Membership V.P. Kathy Larson brought for members to celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

Niermann's first item of business during the meeting was approval of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for the January meeting. Both were included in the emailed newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, she deemed them approved as written.

Niermann reported the Tri-Branch Luncheon will be 11 a.m. Saturday, April 12 at the Owatonna Arts Center with Torey's Restaurant catering the event. The cost is \$30. Guests are welcome. The Tri-Branch Luncheon speaker will be Hudda Ibrahim, a St. Cloud City Council member and educator at St. Cloud Technical and Community College. She has worked for over a decade in the field of Diversity and Social Justice. The deadline to send a payment to attend is March 31. Checks, written to Owatonna AAUW, can be sent to: Linda Bloom, 1250 Edgewood Place, Owatonna, MN, 55060.

Niermann said the Faribault Branch can have four delegates attend the Minnesota State Conference in Austin, April 25 and 26. She asked members to think about attending, and at next month's meeting, the four delegates will be selected.

Mary also read a letter from Rice County Historical Society Director Dave Nichols asking the group for a donation to the RCHS Museum's school busing fund to help pay the cost of student busing to the museum for field trips. This is the second year the RCHS is collecting donations. Last year, over 700 school children visited the museum compared with 250 the year before. Help with funding for busing showed its worth in the result of total numbers of students who came for field trips.

Pauline Schreiber suggested that donations to the school busing fund be taken from members in attendance rather than the Branch's treasury. Members agreed. A basket for donations was passed around with the result of \$154 collected for the field trip busing fund.

A National AAUW webinar on fundraising is scheduled for April 1, Niermann said. AAUW Funds V.P. Liz Hartman and Membership V.P. Kathy Larson said they would explore signing up for it and ask Treasurer Karen Rasmussen, not at the meeting, if she would like to sign up, also.

Hartman brought up the need for the Branch to create a silent auction basket for the Austin Convention. A wine and cheese basket was suggested. Members will bring donations to the March meeting.

Schreiber reported on the Women in History Month articles. This year's article will highlight Faribault AAUW's 100 year history including interviews with some of the Branch's newest 50-year members.

Niermann adjourned the meeting.

The speaker for the afternoon, Brian Ries, senior project manager for Trystar, was introduced by Barb Dubbels. Trystar has a manufacturing plant in Faribault and was started by a local family. Ries explained the modern needs for equipment to keep electricity flowing to the computers and other electronic devices that are used in hospitals, businesses, manufacturing, and mobile event businesses. Members felt it was a very informative presentation about a local business they had heard about, but knew little about. *Submitted by Pauline Schreiber*



## Membership

Having just celebrated our 100 Year Anniversary of our Faribault A.A.U.W. (Branch) now called an Affiliate, I hope you read through the document of our accomplishments, that Pauline Schreiber so graciously printed out for us! All the women before us in the past and our own group in the present should be very proud of how we have "Made a Difference" in the lives of women and girls!

Please mention some of our contributions when you talk to new prospective members. Even ask other former members if they would like to rejoin us. Maybe at this stage of their life it would be easier to attend meetings or work on committees.:)

Dues are still a bargain:

New-First Year membership is \$55.00.

Regular membership is \$91.00.

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

*Kathy Larson- Membership Vice-President*

(1-507-332-2525) [kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com](mailto:kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com)



## Coffee and Treats

Hi Everyone--Join us for conversation, coffee and treats at Janna's, 11:00 on Saturday, March 15th.

Thanks, *Sue Olson*



## Finance Report

Financial report: checking balance \$13,862.06. Late breaking news: Just received an email this (Monday) morning stating that the dues will be increasing \$2 each year over the next two years. Therefore, the dues we pay at the picnic will be \$93 for 7/1/25-6/30/26 and \$95 the following year. New member's dues will be \$56 and \$57, respectively.

*Submitted by Karen Rasmussen*



## Book Club

*In February, the AAUW Book Club met at the Nook and Cranny to discuss **Solito**, a memoir about a 9 year-old boy from El Salvador traveling to be reunited with his parents in America.*

March's book is *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly B. Bradley. We will meet again at the Nook and Cranny. **We will start earlier this time...1pm, Thursday, March 20th.** The first day of SPRING!



Celebrating 100 amazing years since foundation.

## AAUW Funds

"FROM THE DESK OF BARB WONSON LIUKKONEN, AAUW FUNDS VP Silent Auction at our State Meeting - Come and bid on wonderful items during the silent auction that will be held at our state meeting in Austin on April 25-26. Proceeds from the auction will be split between AAUW's Education and Training Fund, Leadership Fund, and Economic Security Fund. Branches are encouraged to bring new, creative, fun items for the auction. Baskets of books, gardening supplies, or tasty local treats are very popular, as are handmade gifts such as quilts, sweaters, art work or pottery. Event tickets or other opportunities are also welcomed. Your branch will receive AAUW Funds credit for the amount that your item raises. While you may use your credit card, we hope that you'll bring your checkbook or cash to cover items you bid on. This year we will be asking those who want to use their credit cards to cover the cost of fees. This year, we will also be asking bidders to write their checks to AAUW MN; they will all be cashed here and we will send a single check to the National Office for all the funds raised during the auction. That should shorten the time waiting for your checks to clear. The auction will be held on Saturday, April 26. High bidders will be able to settle up and pick up their 'swag' that afternoon before the end of the meeting. Branch Funds Chairs will be hearing more from me asking about what items they are bringing and with instructions on when to have them ready for set-up. Come ready to be wowed and ready to bid! I can't wait to see those polite battles that are often waged over that perfect basket of picnic fixings or the stash of mystery books, wine and crackers that everybody seems to want. Thanks for your support of AAUW Funds. NOMINATIONS FOR STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE"

At our February meeting, we voted to again participate in the Silent Auction at the State Meeting. Members agreed that wine, snacks, napkins, etc. is always popular with bidders. So, as our Faribault Branch AAUW Funds Chair, I challenge you to help stuff the pictured container to overflowing with epicurean delights! Please bring your items to our March 24, branch meeting.



Liz Hartman, AAUW Funds Chair



## Program



March 24 Meeting - Special Guest

Have you read any banned books lately? It's been a hot topic and is likely to flare up again.

Who better to inform us and answer our questions, than everyone's favorite Library Director, Delane James.

This is a great meeting to invite a guest AND you will probably want to take notes!

March 24 - Carlander Room at the Rice County History Museum -

Business meeting - 2:00

Program - 2:30

See you then! *Submitted by Gloria Olson*

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.