



Faribault Branch Communiqué

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

May 2025



President's Message

First a reminder of the upcoming year end picnic. Get your reservation's To Pauline as soon as possible. I hope this nice weather holds for us.

Other than that I don't have a lot to add.

Just be sure to read through this Newsletter. There is always a lot of valuable information in here. See you at the Picnic.

Submitted by Mary Niermann Branch President.



Social Time Come to Janna's Market Grill for coffee, treats, breakfast or lunch at 11:00 on Saturday, May 17th. Submitted by Sue Olson.



Financial Report

The checking account balance as of May 1st is \$13,851.88.

Reminder: the dues currently are \$93 for those who aren't Life Members (theirs is \$19) or Honorary Life Members who pay nothing. New members pay \$56 for their first year.
Please pay your dues separately from the picnic (\$20). Thanks! *Submitted by Karen Rasmussen*



Minutes from April Meeting

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Program Come to the Spring Picnic and help celebrate the close of the 100th Anniversary Program Year.

The fun starts at 6 p.m. at Pat Umbreit's Roberds Lake home, 3593 Chappuis Trail.

Arna Farmer is catering the picnic. Signup deadline was May 9. The cost is \$20. Many have signed up and will pay that evening. If you haven't signed up, and want to come, text or call Pauline Schreiber at 507-602-0876 IMMEDIATELY! *Submitted by Pauline Schreiber.*

Directions to Pat Umbreit's home. 3593 Chappuis Trail

Take 7th Street (Joe's and Burger King) west also known as County Road 11, stay on County Road 11 also known as Roberds Lake Blvd for about 4 miles, turn left onto Chappuis Trail, (Wells Township Hall)

DO NOT TURN AT THE SMILEY FACE, GO ONE MORE BLOCK
BRING A LAWN CHAIR. *Submitted by Pat Umbreit*



Membership

MAY is filled with many opportunities to support the women and girls in our Faribault Community! We award financial help through **Scholarships** and **two FSHS Awards: the Female Athlete of the Year and the AAUW Sportswoman of the Year!** We have accomplished "Our

AAUW mission to advance gender equity, for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy " in many ways during our 100 years!

We should be so proud of all the women before us who have accomplished "making a difference in the lives of women and girls during the past 100 years."

Please consider asking a friend to join us. If everyone invited someone, we could double our membership. Now that we meet in the afternoon, more ladies might find it more convenient to attend our monthly meetings. Asking former members is another idea to increase our membership. They would only pay \$56 for this year.

I'm always telling other people about the wonderful, dedicated women in our Faribault AAUW Affiliate: we are dynamic, like-minded people from all walks of life!

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REMEMBER: PLEASE PAY YOUR YEARLY AAUW DUES AT OUR SPRING PICNIC ON MAY 19TH. - NOT ONLINE

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$93.00 NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES:\$56.00

Please contact Kathy Larson for more information:
1 507- 332 2525 or kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com
THANK YOU,
Submitted by Kathy Larson - Membership Vice President



Minutes for April 28, 2025 Faribault AAUW Business Meeting

The branch met at 2 p.m. Monday, April 28 in the Rice County Historical Society Museum's Carlander Program Room. President Mary Niermann began the meeting by reading the vision and mission statement of AAUW. She asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports published in the emailed newsletter. Hearing none, she deemed them approved.

Pauline Schreiber, Program V.P., passed around a sign-up sheet for the 6 p.m. Monday, May 19 Spring Picnic at Pat Umbreit's Roberds Lake home. The cost is \$20 with Arna Farmer catering the food.

The future of the Tri-Branch Luncheon was discussed because of the news that the Northfield Branch is disbanding. Next year would have been Northfield's turn to host the event. The luncheon could be a "Duel" luncheon with only Faribault and Owatonna, or another nearby branch could be asked to join. Niermann, Pauline Schreiber, Pat Rice, JoEllen Schultz, Karen Rasmussen, who attended the Austin State AAUW Convention banquet, had sat at a table with Hastings AAUW members. Hastings is about the closest branch to Faribault and Owatonna. They had been open to the idea, and said they do events with Red Wing, so that might be a fourth branch to add to the cycle of hosting the luncheon, if they were willing to join. Schreiber volunteered to first contact Owatonna AAUW with the idea, and then to contact Hastings and Red Wing.

Those attending the convention gave a short report. Niermann, who attended the Friday banquet at the Austin Country Club, reported on the entertainment at the banquet. A member of the Austin Branch did a show acting as Gertrude Ellis Skinner, an early-day Austin educator and community leader. She was elected the County Superintendent of School in the last 1800s, a rare occurrence for a woman being elected to such a position.

Rice, Rasmussen, Schultz and Schreiber, Faribault Branch delegates to the convention, reported on the keynote speaker, Mary Cathryn Ricker, executive director of the Albert Shanker Institute and a former Minnesota Commissioner of Education. She, also, has served, as the executive vice president of the American Federation of Teachers. She gave a hopeful presentation on how to work to strengthen public education at a time when, at the federal level, steps are being taken to weaken it.

The main business meeting, keynote speaker and luncheon were held at the Hormel Institute of Cancer Research. Its scientists work with both the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic. Four scientists from the Institute gave presentations following the luncheon.

Shultz reported on the short trailer shown to convention-goers from the documentary “Zurawaskiv versus Texas.” The Minneapolis Branch is showing the documentary film on July 16 at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., at Main Cinema, 115 SE Main St. It tells the story of three Texas women who had complicated pregnancies and were denied abortion services that would have been better for their health. For Amanda Zurawaskiv it resulted in her being unable to have children after measures to save her life. The three women are suing the state of Texas.

Faribault’s wine basket for the convention’s silent auction had a high bid of \$120, the delegates reported. Liz Hartman, V.P. of AAUW Funds, was thanked for her efforts to collect donations for the basket, as well as those who donated items to the basket.

Rasmussen brought up reimbursing those attending the conventions for their expenses. There was \$600 in the budget for convention expenses which would not cover all their expenses. It was \$130 for registration and about \$72 a piece for the delegates’ one-night lodging. After a discussion, Kathy Larson made a motion to “reimburse expenses for all those who attending the convention. We have the money.” Liz Hartman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

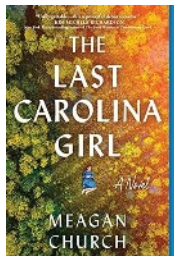
Niermann’s final action was to present Pauline Schreiber with a 50-year Life Member AAUW Certificate and letter from National AAUW Executive Director Gloria Blackwell thanking her for 50 years of supporting AAUW’s mission and commitment to the organization.

Niermann adjourned the business meeting.

Speaker

Larry Gavin, a local poet and retired Faribault High School teacher, read some of his poems. In addition, he told stories about his life and the Minnesota authors he knew. He was very entertaining.

Submitted by Secretary Pauline Schreiber



Book Club

The AAUW book club celebrated Poetry Month once again with each member sharing a poem. It was the best time EVER! Also had our poetess emeritus share one that she had written. Liz, you are amazing.

May's book is *The Last North Carolina Girl* by Megam Church.

We meet Thursday, May 15 at 2pm at Dubbels'. *Submitted by Barb Dubbels*

State Convention Attendees

Mary Niermann, Pauline Schreiber, Pat Rice, JoEllen Schultz, Karen Rasmussen



Tri-Branch Luncheon

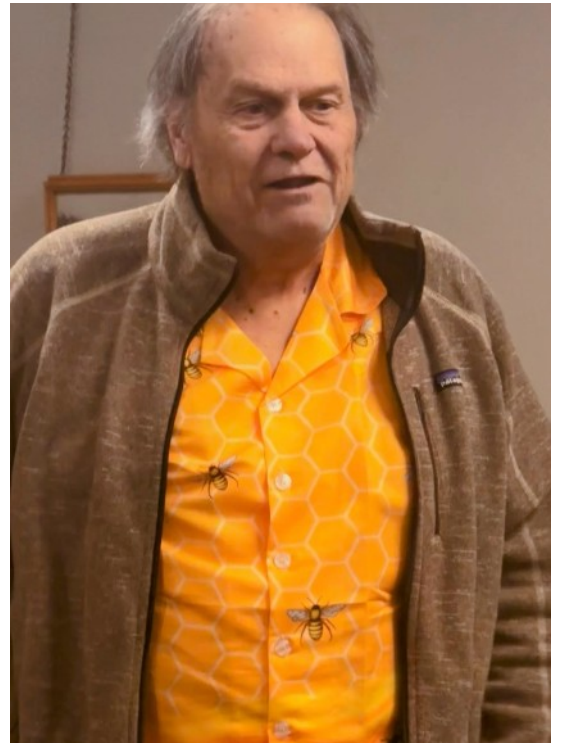


April Meeting Highlights

Mary presented Pauline a certificate acknowledging 50 year of membership and becoming an Honorary Life Member. Now she joins 8 other Honorary Life members of our branch.



Larry Gavin presented an informal program of story-telling and reading poems from his books. His grandson had given him a shirt to wear that matched the cover of one of his books and had pollinators. The pollinator group had just put up a display in the hallway between the library and the community center, so it was very timely.. Pat had seen a plaque and thought of Larry and his beagle so was delighted to give it to him.





Annual Picnic: The fun starts at 6 p.m.

at Pat Umbriet's Roberds Lake home, 3593 Chappuis Trail. Arna Farmer is catering the picnic. Signup deadline was May 9. The cost is \$20. Many have signed up and will pay that evening. If you haven't signed up, and want to come, text or call Pauline Schreiber at 507-602-0876 IMMEDIATELY!

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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.

