



Faribault Affiliate Communiqué

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



President's Message for November 2025

Be thankful for everything that happens in your life; it's all an experience
Roy T Bennett

With the thanksgiving holiday fast approaching, we all have much in our lives to be thankful for even though somedays we strive to find those moments of gratitude.

Our involvement in AAUW gives us opportunities to give thanks, just look around you—

Thanks for our friendship with AAUW members.

Thanks, that most of us can make monetary donations to support women's issues encouraged by AAUW.

Thanks that we can learn and grow through our monthly programs and meetings. (Anyone doing a little more "moving" after last month's program?)

Thank yourself for doing all those little things daily for others in your life and be grateful that you can.

Thank yourself for taking care of yourself.

November has already been a busy AAUW month and there is much more to come. Sue Olson continues to provide us opportunities to socialize. We had a well-attended quarterly Birthday celebration and a Saturday social. We have book club coming up which Barb Dubbles continues to lead and organize.

Thanks to all who continue to help us engage in fun gatherings.

Our November meeting on the 24th will have a speaker as well as our annual silent auction. Bring your item(s) for sale and plan to buy some gifts and treats. Bring checks or cash, treasurer Karen will accept either. Let's try for a great fund raiser to match or exceed last years of over\$300

Pauline will be taking sign-ups and money for our December party and program.

Several members attended the November Owatonna AAUW meeting to hear from two speakers on safety and support for LGBTQIA+ residents and visitors.

November has given us many opportunities to be thankful to our branch for the many ways it provides us with friendships and learning. A big thank you to everyone that contributes Remember It's all an experience! **Be thankful.**

JoEllen Schulz, President

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November Affiliate Meeting

Monday, November 24

2:00

Rice County Historical Society

Program: Invasive Species

Invasive species are species that are not native to Minnesota *and* cause economic, social, or environmental harm, or harm to human health.

Minnesota's natural resources are threatened by a number of invasive species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, common buckthorn, and emerald ash borer. Invasive species can occur on land or in the water.
MN DNR

Speaker: Ryan Lermom, Extension Educator, Ag and Natural Resources for Rice and Steele counties.

Annual Silent Auction

Short Business Meeting

Looking Ahead:



December Gala

Start looking for items you may not want but someone else might! Wrap them in Christmas paper then add a bow and DON'T add your name. GUESS WHAT? At our AAUW Christmas gathering we are having a GIFT EXCHANGE. This will be an easy, friendly (maybe, as long as someone doesn't steal the present you want) end of the year activity. More info will be in the AAUW December Newsletter.

Betty Harmsen

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Christmas Luncheon and Party

*Please Register for Christmas Luncheon at the November Meeting or by Dec. 3

Monday, December 15 At the Cathedral of Our Merciful Savior

1 p.m. Meal (2 p.m. Program)

Cost \$15

Menu

Chicken breast on bed of white/wild rice mix

Cranberry Sauce

California Medley Vegetables

Coffee

Dessert: A Mix of Holiday Goodies

The Cathedral Women have another delicious holiday meal planned for our Christmas Party. Last year, it worked out well for members to sign up and pay at the November meeting. We will do that again. So, remember your checkbook or cash enough to pay for the holiday meal when you come to the 2 p.m. Monday, November 24 AAUW meeting at the Rice County Historical Society.

The November meeting is when we will have our annual Silent Auction so remember to bring an item for the auction and come prepared to bid on items. You will also need money for that.

For members unable to be at the November meeting, but want to sign up for the Holiday Meal, send a check for \$15 made out to Faribault AAUW to: Pauline Schreiber, 717 7 th St. NW, Faribault, MN. If you want to save a stamp, she has a mail slot on the left of the front door and you could drop off the check. Her house is white with red trim.

A member will not be considered registered for the meal unless paid by **the deadline of Dec. 3**. Members can still come to the 2 p.m. Christmas Party Program on Dec. 15, if they miss the deadline.

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Membership



gives us a special time with our THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY to be grateful for so many WONDERFUL BLESSINGS in our lives! Being a member of our Faribault AAUW Affiliate is one of the blessings I treasure. Throughout the many years I have been a member, I have developed many cherished friends who volunteer tirelessly to help girls and women achieve their educational goals in life! We work together, have a special camaraderie and have many enjoyable activities. Please

encourage other friends or family to consider joining us "So they can make a difference in the lives of women"

Our Halloween Breakfast was a very successful Scholarship Event! It showed the Fari-bault Community how we truly work together to help women reach their educational goals and independence. Many people commented that they appreciated our effort, work and time to provide this Scholarship Benefit! Great Work AAUW SISTERS !

Remember DUES: **New** - First Year Membership DUES (or rejoining after 2 years absent is only \$55.00

Regular Membership DUES- \$93.00 (only \$7.75 a month to help women)

For more information, please contact Kathy Larson -Membership Vice-President
1 - 507 - 332 - 2525 or kathyhillgerslarsen@gmail.com

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Recap of the 2025 Scholarship Benefit Halloween Omelet Breakfast



We grossed exactly \$5800.00 at the Halloween breakfast and the bill from the Legion for both the Legion and SAL is under \$2,000. We did good, really good! Thanks to everyone who sold tickets, came to work, put out signs, or traveled to get muffins. You stepped up and it exceeded my goal. We had almost 100% participation from members who contributed in some way.

A great big **THANK YOU!**

Though we started out slowly, we could have used more workers in the 9 to 10:30 time frame when things were hopping. With an aging membership that is challenged by standing and being on their feet, I'm not sure how long we can be sustainable. Maybe we will need to partner with a 4-H club, a scout troop, or National Honor Society students who need to have volunteer hours. Wouldn't it be something to work with NHS girls who later applied and received our scholarship?



We had a financial boost from Thrivent: \$250 plus a nice donation purchased the 400 muffins from Costco. I was surprised that the Lemon Raspberry muffins were the first to go, but they are my favorite so perhaps I shouldn't have been. The smaller muffins were a hit. The other three muffin varieties were Pumpkin-Streusel, Double Chocolate, and Blueberry Cream. Another Thrivent card purchased placemats, napkins, creamer varieties, and chocolate candies. Afterwards I found out that the quality of the chocolates left something to be desired. Customers seemed very satisfied

overall.

We served 294, slightly down from the 320-325 of recent years. There were 300 pre-

sale tickets sold, but only 250 came with 44 at the door. Our pre-sale price was \$3 less than last year and the expenses were lower, yet we netted our largest take yet. My hope is that if you were in any way involved, you feel gratified that you are making a difference to young women from Faribault.

Karen Rasmussen, Co-Chair

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AAUW Funds,

Public Policy Fund is Fund # 4514

FROM THE DESK OF BARB WONSON LIUKKONEN, AAUW FUNDS VP There are two new AAUW Funds addressing urgent and timely concerns: Defend Higher Education and Public Policy The Defend Higher Education Fund (# 4513) will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates across the country, provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus, and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward. Your support ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity. The Public Policy Fund (#4514) is focused on increasing the impact of our Action Network through growing the number of advocates across the country and providing timely, accurate, and actionable information about our key issues. This fund helps equip branches across the country with timely, customized talking points on core policy issues like Title IX, student debt, and pay equity. Support to this fund enables AAUW to reach and energize new advocates—strengthening our collective impact in the fight for gender equity in education and the workplace. They join our long-time funds to support equity for women and girls. The Economic Security Fund (#4449) ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women’s retirement security and quality of life. The Education and Training Fund (#4450) addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination. The Leadership Fund (#4452) supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations. The Greatest Needs Fund (#9110) is a vital source of unrestricted support that allows AAUW to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities. Contributions to any of those funds qualify to help your Branch recognize Named Gift Honorees at the spring 2026 State Meeting. For every \$750 contributed by a branch or individual members, your Branch will be able to honor a person who has contributed to AAUW.

When you contribute online at the AAUW Website/Donations, you will be able to designate which fund you want your gift credited to, or your Branch Funds chair can identify the fund you choose when sending in the Contribution Report Form (CRF) and check to the National Office.

The National Office sent the following:

Branches and members are encouraged to direct Public Policy contributions to the newly designated **fund (#4514)** rather than the former fund (#4337) This new fund fuels advocacy initiatives across key issues like pay equity, student debt, Title IX, and increased mobilization of our Action Network.

We will honor all gifts made to the former fund (#4337) through the end of the fiscal year while we complete this transition. This change ensures your support aligns with our updated structure and maximizes impact.

Online donation vs mail-in check with a CRF

More updates from the National office:

Branch Donations: Email connect@aauw.org to request an **Express Payment Link**. Be sure to include the amount and fund name when making requests.

Contribution Report Form (CRF): Please make a copy of the completed form and checks before sending. AAUW member names and IDs must be included in the form.

Donations to *Greatest Needs Fund* on behalf of members can be made using the Renewals and Donations app in the community hub if you have received a donation by check.

Mail-in Contributions: P.O. Box 98045, Washington DC 20090-8045. Tracking numbers are needed to search for uncashed checks.

That is, if your Branch wants to make your contribution electronically, instead of by mailing a check and a CRF, you can use connect@aauw.org to request an online express payment option. You'll need to have the amount you are donating and fund number when you request the link.

Remember to make copies of your CRF and the checks, especially personal checks, when you mail them in. If there is a question in the future, you will need to have those tracking numbers. And also remember, the mail is slow these days and the deadline for 2025 AAUW Funds contributions is mid-December.

You, or individuals, can make contributions to the Greatest Needs Funds online at the AAUW.org website, but you can't contribute to any other funds if you are using the website.

Getting a response from the National Office

I know some folks are frustrated by not hearing back from the National Office in response to your queries and concerns. Here's a suggestion that has worked for others.

Live Customer Support at Your Service Call 800.326.2289, 8:30-5pm, ET, weekdays or join us for **Office Hours** on [Tuesdays \(3pm ET\)](#) and/or [Thursdays \(3:30 ET\)](#) via Zoom with your inquiries and support needs. Reach us via email at connect@aauw.org! Do not email Member-info@aauw.org or Infosf@aauw.org; they are unmonitored.

At least one person has had great success accessing the Office Hours to ask questions. She said when she sends in her questions for the office hours to address, she often gets a rapid email response, even before the office hours happen.

If you have luck with using this strategy, I'd appreciate hearing about it.

Barb Liukkonen
AAUW-MN Funds VP

liukk001@alumni.umn.edu

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Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Karen Rasmussen, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

As of Nov. 14th, we have a current bank balance of \$14,254.07, but the SAL has not cashed their check, nor has the check for liability insurance cleared.

The net amount received from the Halloween Breakfast was \$3,834.70.

Karen Rasmussen, Treasurer

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

We don't meet until Thursday, November 20 but just a reminder that this month's book is Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Callahan. There are a limited number out there so if anyone wants to share let the group know you have it available.

We will meet at Nook and Cranny. The Discovery School teachers park along the side but there is an entrance to the grassy area for parking.

Ruth H. chose Winter Solstice by Rosamunde Pilcher for our December read. JoEllen has reserved that lovely room at Realife for our December potluck. December 18 at **noon**.

The next to choose a book are Kathy Kasten, January, Kathy Larson, February. and Mary Lillquist, March.

Barb

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AAUW Socials



Hi Members! Let's meet for treats and talk time at Janna's at 11:00 on Saturday, November 15th!
Hope to see you there!
Thank you,

Sue Olson

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Faribault AAUW Branch Meeting

Minutes for the Oct. 27, 2025 Faribault AAUW Business Meeting

The Affiliate met at 2 p.m. Oct. 27, 2025 in the Rice County Historical Society, in its Carlander Program Room. Members of local Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional society for women educators, joined us. There were 24 attending between the two groups.

The first order of business was approval of the September minutes and treasurer's report printed in the emailed newsletter. President JoEllen Schultz asked for any additions or corrections, hearing none she deemed them approved.

Schultz, also, told members that Julie Olson, together with Treasurer Karen Rasmussen, had completed an audit of the Faribault Affiliate's financial accounts. All is in order.

Due to National AAUW changes, the term "branch" is no longer used for local AAUW organizations and instead they are considered, and named, "affiliates."

Rasmussen, co-chair of the Halloween Breakfast with Kathy Larson, gave a preliminary report on the Faribault Affiliate's Halloween Fundraising Omelet Breakfast. It was held Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Faribault American Legion from 8 a.m. to noon.

She reported that 294 adults and four children were served. There were 250 pre-sale tickets sold and 44 at the door. Donations collected during the breakfast totaled \$273. A Thrivent grant had been used to purchase muffins and candy. Preliminarily, Rasmussen said, \$5,800 was taken in. Expenses will need to be taken out of that gross. She will report on the profits at the November meeting.

"It was very successful and I thank everyone who sold tickets and volunteered to work during the event and those who picked up the muffins at Costco," Schultz said. "A special thanks to Karen and Kathy for their hard work organizing the breakfast."

Schultz reminded members that the Owatonna Affiliate has invited members to its 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11 meeting at the Mineral Springs Brewery in Owatonna. The program is on the LGBTQIA+ community. The speaker will be Kelsey Waits, MN AAUW president and advocate for transgender individuals. She directed Liz Hartman, co-newsletter editor, to send an email to members reminding them of the meeting. It had been in the September newsletter, but she wanted to make sure those interested know that they can carpool with others to attend the program.

Barb Dubbels from the program committee reported that the November meeting's program would be an invasive species with Ryan Lerna, Rice-Steele UM Extension Agent, as speaker. Also, the annual silent auction will occur at the meeting. Members may bring items or baked goods that they believe their fellow members will bid on. Pauline Schreiber, Program V.P., told members that the December Christmas Party on Monday, Dec. 15 would be at the Cathedral of Our Merciful Saviour's, and again a caterer meal will be served. The menu and price will be in the November newsletter. Betty Harmsen is in charge of the program. Schreiber encouraged members to sign up and pay for the Christmas Party meal at the November meeting. "It worked well doing that last year," she said.

Schultz said she had received a printed copy of Faribault AAUW's bylaws, which have not been updated in a number of years. She asked those interested in helping revise the bylaws to contact her.

Rasmussen, also, provided an updated on insurance provided by the National AAUW for Affiliates. She went over what it covered. After her presentation, Pat Rice made a

motion to approve paying the \$220 it would cost for a year; Liz Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Hartman gave an update on the datacenter proposed to be built on 83 acres north of Faribault adjacent to Faribault's Industrial Park. She reported that the Minnesota Center for Environment Advocacy is suing the company building the proposed center because an Environment Impact Statement has not been done on the project. An Environmental Assessment has been done, but that is not the same, she said, and citizens need to know the "cons" as well as the "pros" of the project.

After her presentation, Mary Lillquist made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Carmen Tripp seconded the motion. The motion carried.



Gloria Olson introduced the speaker for the program, Dede Howie from Ignite Fitness. She told how exercise and muscle building can keep women healthier as they age. Olson, who uses Howie as a personal trainer, said, "Something is better nothing. Do what exercise you can."

Pauline Schreiber, Secretary

Motion is Lotion!

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Our Members: Socializing, Working, Learning and Taking Action.



Saturday morning brunch at Janna's in October.



Celebrating birthdays at Joe's Bar and Grill

on November 5th. Happy birthday to:

Anne Wieber Oct 1
Pat Rice Oct 29
Mary Niermann Dec 8
Betty Harmsen Nov 4

Shelly Rockman Oct 2
RuthAnn Marsh Nov 13
Judy Graham Dec 23

Kathy Speulda Oct 26
Carol Quail Nov 24
Karen Rasmussen Dec 27

**Faribault AAUW presents another
very successful
Halloween
Scholarship Breakfast!**





Shelly and Pauline with the wonderful Sons of the American Legion kitchen crew!









On Tuesday, November 11, six members from our Faribault Affiliate drove to Owatonna (7th member, Shelly, lives in

Owatonna and is a member of both affiliates.) for a program presented by the Owatonna Affiliate entitled "Fostering a Sense of Safety and Support for LGBTQIA+ Residents and Visitors in Our Community."

Kudos to Owatonna members for acting on resolution #3, submitted by Ely at the 2025 State Meeting.

"WHEREAS AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society and for freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes in homes, schools, workplaces and communities and; WHEREAS AAUW advocates for freedom in the definition of self and family including protection from discrimination and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures and WHEREAS it has been established that only male and female genders will be recognized in the United States and WHEREAS all Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) activities and support are currently halted in the federal government and strongly discouraged in the private sector and WHEREAS LGBTQIA+ individuals of all ages indicate they feel threatened and unsafe in the current political environment THEREFORE be it resolved that AAUW branches in Minnesota will work toward fostering a sense of safety and support for LGBTQIA+ residents and visitors in their communities."

We heard two powerful presentations that provided us with glimpses into the lives of a gay priest in Owatonna and the mother of a transgender child, who also happens to be our AAUW State President.



Reverend Nathan Black completed a Master of Divinity with a Concentration in Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 2018 and was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota in 2025. Nathan is currently serving as a hospital Chaplain in Owatonna.



Kelsey Waits, our AAUW State President, is an outspoken advocate for transgender rights in her personal, professional, and academic lives. In addition to her advocacy work, Kelsey is a PhD student at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs where she is studying the rise of anti-transgender policies and their impact on the LGBTQIA2S+ community. In tandem with her PhD studies, she is currently working for the State of Minnesota as the Research Director for the Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.

Below are a few thoughts by some of the Faribault attendees:

Pauline: "I was glad I went to the meeting. I learned that it is difficult to be a parent of a trans child, and even more difficult to be the child. We need to be supporting all children and trans children need emotional support."

Kathy: "The reason I attended was to become more informed about the transgender issues. There were so many factors in the transgender issues especially concerning the strong prejudice against them, strong policies against women & so much misinformation about their situations."

I had so much respect for the speaker, a mother, with a transgender child, explaining how so many people are misinformed & hate transgender people. She displayed such courage speaking out & trying to tell the public how unfair some in society are reacting to transgender people.

The other speaker, a gay Pastor, impressed me with his positive attitude to educate others about the ways to peacefully combat the prejudices & hatred of gay & lesbian people. It was a very powerful session in understanding how much work still needs to be done to have Society accept all people whether they are like or different from us!!

I'm PROUD AAUW has taken a positive stand to support all kinds of people regardless of race, religion or sexual preference."

JoEllen: Reverend Black spoke about courage and community and building beloved resistance in rural MN. I was surprised by the resistance in Owatonna to programs like Owatonna Rainbow.

Liz: Even though Minnesota is considered one of the best places to be a LGBTQ person, we learned that they are still confronted with acts of hostility and untruths. I was awed by the way in which both speakers spoke about AAUW. Reverend Black said that he found a safe and secure place within the Owatonna Affiliate and Kelsey Waits said that when she went to her first AAUW meeting, she knew she had found her people!

JoEllen and Liz

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Betty, Emily, Shelly and Liz at the No Kings event, in Owatonna, protesting policies!

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.