



Faribault Affiliate Communiqué

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

December 2025



President's Message

Gratitude, help us to see what is there instead of what isn't. Annette Bridges

With the holiday seasons, Hanukkah, Christmas, Bodhi Day, Kwanza, and others fast approaching and Thanksgiving in the rear view mirror we are experiencing a joyful but busy season.

Planning gatherings with family and friends; preparing food and menus; baking, shopping, and partaking in all the events of the season—. Oh My, are we overwhelmed yet.

Maybe you celebrated some other December special days or have some on your calendar.

For example:

December 2. Build Joy Day

December 3. Make a Gift Day

December 4. National Cookie Day

December 6. St. Nicholas Day

December 12. Festival of Unmentionable Thoughts

December 14. Free Shipping Day

December 15. National Ugly Sweater Day

December 20 Go Caroling Day

December 21. Don't Make your Bed Day

December is also Bingo Month, Egg Nog Month, Read a Book Month
(these and many more can be found on parade.com)

I had fun with these and hope you enjoyed them

As we approach this end of the year, 2025, and the passing of another year, we can reflect on gratitude to remind us the more we practice thankfulness, the more we have to be grateful for. Gratitude turns what we have into enough. Melody Beattie

Happy Holiday. Hope to see you at our Christmas lunch on December 15 where we can celebrate together in preparation for December 16 which is National Chocolate Covered Anything Day. That one's got to be my favorite. Gratitude for all the good things (CHOCOLATE) in my life

JoEllen Schulz



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Secretary's Report

Minutes for the Nov. 24, 2025 Faribault AAUW Business Meeting

The Faribault Affiliate met at 2 pm. Nov. 25, 2025 at the Rice County Historical Society. President JoEllen Schultz conducted the meeting. She asked if there were any corrections or additions to either the Secretary's or Treasurer's reports that were printed in the branch emailed newsletter. Hearing none, Schultz declared both approved.

Treasurer Karen Rasmussen gave a final report on the Halloween Breakfast Fundraiser. After expenses, the Branch net \$3,834. Kathy Larson reported sending a "thank you" to the crew from the Sons of the Legion who made the omelets for the breakfast. Members thanked Larson and Rasmussen, the co-chairs of the event, for their hard efforts and attention to details that helped make it a great success. Karen Rasmussen, also, reported a changed in State Bank of Faribault's procedures meant to prevent fraud in business accounts. She has signed the Affiliate up for online banking, which she is capable of doing. Otherwise there would be a \$100 charge, a month, for the procedures the bank will be using to prevent fraud, starting next year.

Pauline Schreiber, program V.P./secretary, passed around a sign-up sheet for the Monday, Dec. 15 Holiday Party. It will be at the Cathedral of Our Merciful Savior's and the Women of the Cathedral will be providing the meal. The cost is \$15. Betty Harmsen is organizing the program, which will be a gift exchange. Members are to wrap up an item and not put their name on the package. There will be a game played to decide the order of picking a package. The gift item can be a "white elephant" item or something you already have on hand that you would like to wrap up for the exchange.

Kathy Larson brought cupcakes in honor of Mary Lillquist's 90th birthday. Members sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

Schulz declared the short meeting adjourned. A silent auction was held as part of the meeting.

Barb Dubbels introduced the program speaker, Ryan Lermom, who spoke on "Invasive Species." He is the Ag and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Rice and Steele Counties.

Submitted by Secretary Pauline Schreiber

December Gala



GUESS WHAT? At our AAUW Christmas gathering we are having a GIFT EXCHANGE. Start looking for items you may not want but someone else might! Or look for a “white elephant” gift. Wrap them in Christmas paper; add a bow, and DON’T add your name.

This will be an easy, friendly (maybe, as long as someone doesn’t steal the present you want) end of the year activity. The activity will start about 2:00. . If you don’t come to the lunch and want to be part of the gift exchange come with a wrapped gift and

your in!!! *Betty Harmsen*



Social Time I'll make reservations at Janna's for 11:00 on Saturday, December 20th.

Merry Christmas, *Sue Olson*



Book Club *Winter Solstice* by Rosamunde Pilcher is the AAUW Book Club's December read. We will meet at RealLife in the community room for our annual potluck luncheon at noon on Thursday, December 18. *Barb Dubbels*

November Program

Ryan Leron spoke on “Invasive Species.” He is the Ag and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Rice and Steele Counties.





Membership

Hello to all of our Faribault A.A.U.W. Affiliate Members!
It was just a year ago we were celebrating our 100th year of being a Faribault A.A.U.W. Affiliate!!

What an amazing accomplishment to have existed and given back to our community of Faribault for 100 years.

This year our MOTTO is ACTION for our A.A.U.W. organization.

What an opportunity to show ACTION! A suggestion would be to give a year membership to a relative or friend to our wonderful Faribault A.A.U.W. Affiliate.

For a new First year member or previous member rejoining after 2yrs, dues are ONLY \$55.00. Remember our Regular Membership Dues: \$93.00. New- First Year membership: \$55.00

Kathy Larson

TREASURER

Financial Report as of 12/10/2025:

- ☐ Checking account balance \$12,987.21.
- ☐ \$1500, as budgeted, paid for "Greatest Need Fund" (all donations by 12/31/2025 to be matched/doubled!) But there is a \$10 charge per \$500 for using credit card, however, I could see no other way of paying.
- ☐ 27 members have committed to going to the 12/15 Christmas Luncheon.
- ☐ Another \$150 has been designated for the Halloween Breakfast for a current total of \$3,984.70—less than the cost of a Christmas lunch to break \$4000!
- ☐ Silent Auction ~ deposited \$220, \$174 was bid items and \$46 in donations.
- ☐ Positive Pay will take effect 1/1/2026 (no cost to affiliate to help prevent check fraud, but more work for check writer(s)).
- ☐ Not counting members who have told us they do not intend to renew, we have Mary Ann Godwin, Sue Willcutt and Wendy Williams as expired members. If anyone talks to them, find out if they intend to maintain their membership. Renewals are now treated as a calendar year, rather than July 1 st to June 30 th , though technically the new year for memberships starts April 1 st . So, the membership roster currently has 36 members.

Karen Rasmussen

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.