



January Newsletter 2022

“Sunshine”

Please remember to contact Ann-Marie Rose if you know of any member who needs encouragement or sympathy or should be recognized for achievements.

2021 AAUW Cookie Jar Jewels was a SUCCESS!

Mary Ellen Halverson

Our annual Holiday brunch and fundraiser was held at the Red Wing Golf Course on December 4, 2021. After a cancelled 2020 event, we were excited that nearly 60 tickets were sold for this year. Nearly half of these were for guests so Kudos to all the members who brought guests. All donations were divided between the National AAUW Funds and The AAUW Red Wing Area Branch.

During the event, the golf club served a brunch catered by the River Valley Catering Service in River Falls. Ruth Neurhaugan presented a brief history of cookie cutters and showed several items from her collection. Each table was decorated by members who loaned their cookie jars for centerpieces. Thank you.

Maureen Novitsky, a guest of Pat Welke won the drawing for the cookie basket

The total income of the event reached \$6,256.16! After our expenses were paid, we were able to donate \$2,125.08 to the National AAUW Funds



President's Message Happy New Year!

Over the last few months, it has been my privilege to serve as the AAUW Red Wing Area Branch

President! As we move forward, it is my hope that we will bring some of the shared wisdom of our past presidents and members to the forefront. There have been so many accomplished women in our branch. I value education, as do our members. I consider myself a lifelong learner. I hope to use my talents to accomplish a great deal for our organization in 2022!

During this new year, by empowering all of us to not only pursue our mission to advance our organization through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, we will directly act on initiatives. Our organization is stepping up to actually lead efforts to further improve the lives of our members and community we live in. We will become even more relevant! As always, we will continue to support efforts that advance our mission, but as mentioned; we will actively venture into filling our community's needs. More to come on promoting our organization

accounts which were matched at the national level. These funds go to the Economic Security Fund (Legal Advocacy) and the Education and Training Fund. Our own treasury gleaned \$2,125 for operating expenses and local philanthropy.

Save the date: Saturday, December 3, 2022 is the tentative date for our next event.

We need a chair...who would like to be a part of this fun, creative and energetic committee? Many of these members have agreed to stay on.

This year's committee included:

- Lena Kishaba and Cheri Roberts on the Silent Auction and Bake Sale
- Jean Magnusson on the Cookie Basket Drawing
- Burke Murphy on the Live Auction
- Ann-Marie Rose on the Market Place
- Deb O'Donnell and Becky Foot on the Registration
- Jane Hayden-Hart on Reservations and Finances
- Jan Pinsonneault on Promotions
- Mary Ellen Halverson Chair

and efforts. Watch for details in the coming weeks and months.

SAY YES...to stepping up!

Winter Won't Last Forever . . .

and neither do our various committee and board positions! The Red Wing Area Branch of AAUW needs member leaders to continue to help promote equity for women and girls by serving in one of the following ways for 2022-2024:

1. Member at-large to serve with Ann-Marie
2. Nominating committee member to serve with Cheri and Lena
3. Vice-President of Membership
4. Treasurer

Help stay warm by volunteering to fill the open positions listed above by contacting:

- Emily Guida Foos
emily@redwingarts.org
- Lena Kishaba
lkishaba@tmail.com
- Cheri Roberts ccnnrv@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Update on AAUW Funds for Philanthropy



I have the best job in our branch and that is to help distribute funds for community needs. This year we were able to distribute to three great organizations.

First was to the Ignite Girl's woodworking shop. This is the third year in a row and the smiles on the girls tell the story. The project teaches life skills and builds self-esteem.

We were also able to donate funds to the

United Way for a children's 'Blue Book Shelf'

program. The books are for anyone who needs them. This was spearheaded by Laurie Andrews. If you can, please donate new or good used books to keep the shelf full. Especially needed are Hispanic books for ages pre-school through elementary children.

AAUW sent \$500 to Hope Coalition for help the women's shelter. We are fortunate to have this organization in our community. Hope Coalition helps others in so many ways.

Jan Pinsonneault



Judy Christianson Citizen of the Year Award



Every spring we honor a citizen who has done outstanding work in our community to advance our mission of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. We are now accepting nominations for this award. Do you know of someone that AAUW should recognize? The person does **not** need to be an AAUW member.

To nominate someone, please provide the following information.

Name of nominee

Phone, street address and email address

Your nominee's community and professional contributions

Send this information in an email to Janet Brandt at janetbskadi90@gmail.com.

Let's continue to recognize those in our community who deserve recognition for helping advance our mission.

Deadline: March 1, 2022

Here are the last three years, as listed on the branch website;

2019: Marcia Jensen, Dawn Wettem

2020: Anne Wildenborg

2021: Ann Seymour

Attempting to keep everyone safe and feeling secure, we implemented a vaccine and mask mandate at all events. We will keep that in place until the numbers allow us to lift it. Meeting in person is an important social need for all of us.



Fall programming went well, except for a glitch in each one! But we improvised at the last minute and all went well.

September Kick-off welcomed Department of Public Health personnel from Goodhue and Wabasha Counties.

Approximately 20 members participated. Dinner was provided by Wisteria Tea Room and was delicious as always. My main takeaway from their presentations was that the departments were underfunded previous to the pandemic and proved how under funding these departments can have grave implications. When a crisis does hit, as it did in 2020 they were not as prepared as they could have been. Scrambling during a crisis is not helpful for the public they are trying to serve. Demanding truth in advice to the public from a small staff allows false information to run faster than their information can travel. We need to support fully funded Public Health Departments if we expect good service from them.

October's meeting was changed to Burke Murphy speaking about the Learn to Earn Program through the Goodhue County Ed District. It's a great story - it reflects state legislature investment through the Mn Dept of Labor and Industry in career and technical education. Grants and school district investments make this happen and help students find a future in their education. We all enjoyed hearing one of our own members speak with passion about a program that brings education to the real world of work.

November's meeting brought us into the political world with two of our own members speaking about their experience running for a local office and how difficult the process really is. It made us all proud to hear of their courage to step up and the thick skin it takes to follow through. Thank you to members Linda Flanders and Lori Ann Clark for bringing their stories to us.

In 2022, we start off with postponing our January event to February because of the virus! Michelle Larson, Executive Director of the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce will speak in February. Michelle is new to the position, so hearing her take on how the business climate is will be of interest to us all. It amazes me that so many new businesses are starting in Red Wing and the moves some have made to better their business.

March's event will be a joint program with the League of Women Voters at the Goodhue County History Museum. Watch for those details as well.

May's event will be a picnic where we will highlight branch accomplishments of the year. Keep this event in mind for a guest and potential member.

Update on Public Policy:

In May 2021, AAUW adopted public policy priorities developed with input from staff and from members around the country. The priorities underscore our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy, and are meant to provide a basis for member actions at the local, state and national level.

These positions are shaped by a commitment to be non-partisan and fact-based, and to act with integrity. Equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. The three main priorities for the next two years are: 1. high quality public education; 2. economic security plus social and physical well-being; 3. work to guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice.

AAUW Minnesota's strategic plan has also just come out this year and the board will be looking at their goals and objectives which also have priorities for public education, economic security, plus leadership and governance. Our branch is hoping to utilize grant opportunities provided by the state. Please get in touch with Carmen or I if you have any questions.

Janet Brandt
VP Public Policy

Update on Climate Actions

We are entering a very important election season. Here are ACTIONS you can participate in to be heard:

Precinct caucuses will be held on February 1, 2022, at 7 p.m.

For more information about precinct caucuses, check the Secretary of State's website or contact your preferred political party:

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucuses/>

2-hour Caucus training times are the same information and are available online at **Land Stewardship Project (LSP) calendar**,

<https://landstewardshipproject.org/category/blog/> or

ISAIAH/FIN Goodhue Co caucus training: Sunday 1/23, 6:30-8:30pm:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/S3CnvngfRUKMoKYilGtqOg2>

Or SMN-wide training on Sat. 1/29, 10-12:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/2DAgdvKLOoKVQxywFCt7xg2>

Atmospheric Carbon is the largest contributor to climate change.

This market-based solution **to put a price on carbon**, originated in the Reagan Administration, and creates an incentive to further develop cheaper energy technologies. Economic studies consistently point to this policy as one that can hold warming to the 1.5°C increase recommended by climate scientists. It will reduce emissions while protecting low-and middle-income families.

You can do your part.

Tell our President and Senators to support a commonsense solution to climate warming. This webpage makes it easy: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/get-loud-take-action/>

Environmental Resolutions from three organizations:

DFL Climate Caucus Resolutions: <https://dflenvironment.org/our-resolutions/>

Land Stewardship's 2022 caucus Resolution:

<https://landstewardshipproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-Soil-Health-Resolution.pdf>

A Republican climate resolution entered in the U.S. house in 2017:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/195/cosponsors?>

[q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Environmental+stewardship%22%5D%7D&r=1](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/195/cosponsors?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Environmental+stewardship%22%5D%7D&r=1) +

Clean Elections MN is a non-profit, non-partisan group of Minnesotans dedicated to educating ourselves and others about ways to maintain and enhance the democratic power of ordinary citizens.

https://cleanelectionsmn.org/?mn=tml6e7pGGXbY5JDD5ElJKLlfwIymEZjd_Dm7.ZllOM_ffQ3UV6iet

Anne Wildenborg

AAUW Red Wing member

Citizens' Climate Lobby Red Wing Group Leader

LWV Red Wing Environmental team leader

651-380-0840

And MORE:

Membership Matters: by Jane Hayden-Hart

We have 51 members this fiscal year 2021/22.

At the October 16, 2020 meeting, the AAUW National Board of Directors voted to increase the Individual National Member dues \$5.00 in FY2023 and \$5.00 in FY2024. At the present time our yearly dues are \$86.00. State and branch dues have remained the same for many years. We have not received confirmation of the increase for the coming fiscal year. The membership dues campaign usually starts in mid-March. Members may pay by credit card or by check. An announcement will be made when we hear more from AAUW National.

NCCWSL: (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) by Jane Hayden-Hart

The Red Wing Area Branch has \$900.00 left over from the 2020 AAUW-MN scholarship that was awarded to our branch for NCCWSL. Covid restrictions made it necessary for AAUW National to cancel the 2020 conference in its entirety. The 2021 conference was changed to a virtual conference. Hannah Rodgers and Megan Jeranek attended the virtual conference.

There has been no announcement from AAUW National regarding a 2022 conference. We have had some interested conference candidates though and will proceed when we have more definite information from our national NCCWSL office.

New Member Event: by Ann-Marie Rose

There has been a longstanding tradition to welcome new members with a private reception given by board members. Covid has taken away personal contact and support AAUW Red Wing has always given its members. The "Newbie" event hopefully will help rectify this closeness. This event is tentatively scheduled for the Spring - more information to follow.

The End

As our new year starts, may everyone be safe and have a great year.



