



May 2022 Newsletter



Save the Date
2022 AAUW Holiday Brunch and Market
December 3, 2022 at 9:30AM
Mississippi National Golf Links, Red Wing, MN
Trees, Trees, Trees!
Mary Ellen Halverson, chair
mary_ellen_halverson@yahoo.com
(651) 380-5201

Contact Mary Ellen if you'd like to be involved in this awesome and fun event. We will start the planning this summer. You can help with decorations, silent auction, bake sale, market place, registrations, programming....etc.



Note from the President: Hello All,

Can you believe it? The end of our fiscal year for AAUW-RW is upon us. Spring has finally arrived and it appears we will head right into summer. And, as usual we are busy as ever.

From an AAUW-RW stand point, I am pleased to report that we have had a lot of success stories. This year our branch secured three grants from AAUW-MN: The 2022 Strategic Plan Action Grant, on Improving Literacy Scores in 3rd Grade Readers on (MCA) MN Comprehensive

tests, by improving their learning environment; a Zoom Program Grant, which allows us to continue to use zoom programming for all our board meetings; and the NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) Grant, we sent two college students to the virtual conference this May. These grants were instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and initiatives without having to use our own funds. The total awarded to our branch was \$1075.00. With revenues down due to Covid we were very pleased. Our annual meeting this year was fun and we awarded five honorees for their outstanding contributions to the community and AAUW-RW: Dee Bender, Jane Donkers, Linda Flanders, Mary Ellen Halverson and Heidi Jones. This is all part of the "Greatest Needs Fund". Our branch was one of the top ten contributors at \$3,775.00.

Monthly programming has been great this year! A big thanks to Laurie for her work and flexibility with all the needed revisions.

Our Holiday Fundraiser is scheduled for December 3, 2022 at Mississippi National Golf links. Mary Ellen Halverson will chair the fundraiser again this year.

We still need a few more positions filled on the board for next year 2022/2023: Treasurer, with Jan



I want to thank our wonderful board of directors. They have worked so hard this year! Thank you! Thank you!

Carmen Bertelsen
President, AAUW-RW Area Branch

Sunshine:

I appreciate when I am made aware of a member who needs support or cheer. Keep sending those emails - thanks. Ann-Marie Rose aka Sunshine Lady

“Newbie” Member Social

On April 1st Board members and members who joined in 2017 to 2022 came together at the home of Ann-Marie Rose for an evening of long needed camaraderie due to social separation created by Covid 19. Laurie Andrews gave a demo on using AAUW National website. Members introduced themselves, explained why they joined and simple enjoyed each others company.

AAUW “Emerging

Scholar award recipient Dr. Ramani Durvasula celebrates “1 Million Subscribers” on YouTube. She is a leading expert on NPD, Narcissistic Personality Disorder. She is very insightful and worth your time to check out her YouTube channel; DoctorRamani.

Ann Marie Rose

AAUW Citizen of the Year Award – 2022

The Red Wing area branch of AAUW was pleased to give the annual Citizen of the Year Award to Connie Hanson at their annual meeting and dinner April 26. This award is given in memory of former member and community powerhouse Judy Christianson to someone who has demonstrated outstanding work and involvement in the Red Wing community.

Connie has been a tireless volunteer for our local CARE clinic since its inception in 2009. Their mission is to contribute to the health of the community by improving health care access, connecting people to resources, and promoting health education. During her time as board chair of the clinic she led a major move to a new space in the Seminary Professional Building. Following that move the organization accomplished a major dental service expansion under Connie’s guidance.

A graduate of St. Olaf College, Connie was a teacher and also became Dean of Students at Twin Bluff Middle School. She is active at United Lutheran Church, has served on the United Way Board, is a volunteer at the Sheldon Theatre, and has volunteered in numerous other ways in the Red Wing community. Congratulations, Connie!

Janet Brandt

5/2/2022 Treasurer's Report:

Savings balance: \$5321.99
Checking balance: \$2696.48

All statements have been balanced. There are pending reimbursement requests that I have received today. Approximately \$2000.00 of the checking account balance will be paid to AAUW National for dues renewal. Red Wing Area Branch dues will be received from AAUW National at a future date (to be determined by them).

There are 24 members entered for renewal in AAUW's Community Hub system that have not been processed due to a system problem at AAUW national. The entries made will be completed when their system is operational and instructions are given to complete the process.

Membership Report:

I am aware of two members who have self-renewed their dues in the Community Hub

system. There have been no reports generated by AAUW National and no deposits have been received for branch dues.

24 members were entered for renewal in the Community Hub system which did not complete the process. It will be completed when the system is again operational and completion instructions are given. Sandra Wollschlager was not found in the Community Hub system. I have initiated an inquiry to Angela Cooper and connect@aauw.org and will have her record reinstated as soon as possible so that her dues can be renewed. Lois Hesford was successfully entered as a new member using the ShapeTheFuture program in the Community Hub.

I have received additional dues checks but will wait until the Community Hub system is operational to try to enter any more membership renewals.

NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) :

College students Allain Hanson and Rachel Borgen are registered for the virtual conference to be held May 24-26, 2022.

Jane Hayden-Hart, Treasurer

AAUW MN State Convention St. Cloud, Minnesota April 29-30, 2022

The theme this year was 'We Are One'. The first event was a meet and greet social time where I met enthusiastic and interesting women from around the state. The Friday banquet featured a Zoom meeting with AAUW's CEO Gloria Blackwell, who spoke about AAUW's initiatives and goals.

Following the banquet, the St. Cloud Branch provided a program in celebration of their 100th anniversary this year. Members performed a skit which reviewed each decade of their history, introduced with a song from that decade. The members, dressed in period attire, each delivered a "voice from the past" representing an historic branch member speaking about the activities and community involvement of the branch.

Saturday was a full day beginning with the business meeting and election of officers. The new state president is Jan Carey. Details of the Funds report were in the convention handbook. Red Wing was recognized in the list of total gifts by branch (\$3,775.00) and as seventh in the Top Ten per capita (\$74.02). Resolutions were presented related to inclusivity in membership, Equal Rights Amendment.

Four branches, Red Wing among them, received Strategic Plan Action Grants this year and those projects received a summary of the grant in the convention handbook. Red Wing was also listed as one of 5 branches receiving a Zoom license grant and one of 5 receiving a NCCWSL grant. Only one other branch besides Red Wing received 3 grants.

There were two main speakers on Saturday. Dr. Brittany Williams, who teaches at St. Cloud State University, spoke on diversity in membership. Following lunch, we heard from Dr. Joy Plamann, President of St. Cloud Hospital. She spoke briefly about COVID and some of the lessons learned in the health care field and highlighted some of the ways Centra Care, the largest health care employer in the region, is addressing the future of care and staffing needs.

The last two hours were back-to-back presentations from various branch members with expertise in the areas of Website development and policies, Membership recruitment and retention, Strategic Plan and rules of governance, and Fundraising. Attendees were sent home with lots of good ideas and food for thought. Thanks again to the branch for this chance to learn and network with the great women who are AAUW.

Janet Brandt

Strawberry Bruschetta's

Ingredients:

- 1 French baguette or French bread, sliced ¼ inch thick
- ¼ cup of olive oil
- 1 pound of strawberries
- 2-3 Tbsp chopped fresh basil



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Lay baguette pieces in a single layer on a baking sheet, brush both sides or only one side of Baguette/French bread with olive oil and bake until golden brown, 15-18 minutes.
3. In a medium bowl, toss together the strawberries and basil
4. When baguette is done, spread strawberry mixture on top of baguette.

Icing:

1. 6 oz of cream cheese
2. 3 Tbsp confectioner sugar
3. 3 tsp of honey

Mix together until creamy and drizzle over the baguette that has the strawberries on it. Use a cake decorator to create the drizzled look.

Carmen Bertelsen

Philanthropy Corner



This has been another great year. We have funded the woodworking program for the girls, worked with the United Way for a reading library for youth of Red Wing and Hope Coalition. If you have any other ideas on projects and funding, please let us know.

Thanks much to ALL, Jan Pinsonneault

From VP Program - Laurie Andrews

Just a note of thanks to members who were able to attend the winter events. Because of COVID and MN winters, attendance was down. We had some good ideas and tried hard, so I know 2022 - 2023 will be a really good year.

Please feel free to email or text me any program ideas you have of a good program for next year. Your ideas can be elaborate or simple, just help us get the idea juices flowing. I am planning to schedule a "Coffee on the Deck" at my home to invite members who have an idea or want to help with programming to come for an idea and planning session. Look for this toward the end of July.

As educated women, we know the importance of gathering for a learning experience. Not only is new knowledge important to stimulate our brains, but the social aspect of gathering to learn is also very important

Let's keep learning together! It is new knowledge important to stimulate our brains, but the social aspect of gathering to learn is also very important

Let's keep learning together!

Trivia Night - joint AAUW and LWV's event.

The winning team and the losing team.



A GREAT time was had by ALL.

Red Wing Area Branch Strategic Plan Action Grant 2022

Last winter Laurie Andrews, Carmen Bertelsen and I began talking about what our branch might do to receive an Action Grant from AAUW MN. We initiated a project with the Red Wing School District and asked United Way and the Red Wing Public Library to partner with us.



AAUW, a national organization founded in 1881, has a long history of advocating for education and so does our branch, founded in 1927. Our local branch is partnering with United Way to provide a bookshelf at a local laundromat with free books in English and Spanish for children grades K-5. We chose to build on that program with a project to support 3rd graders in the district as they prepare for their first statewide reading/literacy test. The percent of Red Wing students who met or exceeded the standards of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments has declined from 62% in 2017 to 40% in 2021. We all know how challenging the last few years have been for everyone and we were simply proposing to demonstrate community interest and support for the students, parents or guardians, and the teachers.

Our goal was to help create some excitement, fun and engagement around this test event and to encourage students to feel positive and value their own abilities.

Our project was awarded a \$600 grant from AAUW-Minnesota as it supports the state's advocacy for education, collaboration and community involvement.

Each 3rd grade student received a handmade cloth bag with a note for parents, a library card application form, a short story with a multiple-choice test, book marks, a pencil, crayons and a coloring sheet featuring plants which grow on Barn Bluff, a snack, a fidget, and a peppermint.

The women who sewed bags for this project are members Mary Ellen Halvorson, Marg Henke, Barb Hanson, and friend of the branch Jane Ward. These four women sewed 180 bags with over 50 fun and colorful designs and the children from all reports absolutely loved them.

We received thank you notes from many of the students and their enthusiasm and gratitude shines through. Some

of them mentioned they would be using the bag to carry their library books.

I want to express appreciation for the support from the Red Wing School District staff – Jess Whitcomb, Emily Seefeldt, Dawn Wettren and the 3rd grade teachers. United Way and the Red Wing Public Library have both provided enthusiastic support from the start and donated time and materials and we are so grateful for their help.



We will be meeting with district staff to evaluate the project and review results of a survey that was sent to the 3rd grade teachers.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the project and keep in mind that we may do this next year and ideas and help in any way would be welcome.

A big thanks to all the members who supported this project and offered ideas, skills and encouragement.

Janet Brandt – VP Public Policy Article Heading

AAUW Red Wing Branch
www.rwab-aauw.org

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