Our Mission: To honor women and girls, empowering them through education, service and leadership development.

**Ann Bancroft Featured at AHS**

**Women’s History Month Assembly**

Ann Bancroft, Polar Explorer, will be our presenter this year. We brought her to AHS five years ago and the staff asked us to bring her again. The assembly will be held at 8:45 AM on February 23rd in Knowlton Auditorium. Branch members only are welcome to attend, but please let Carolyn Bogott know that you are planning to come as seats are limited.([csbogott@charter.net](mailto:csbogott@charter.net))

Many thanks to all of you who have donated funds to this project. We also had generous donations from Austin Human Rights Commission, Noon Lions, Early Risers Kiwanis and Austin Rotary. Here is a brief description of Ann Bancroft:

“One of the world’s preeminent polar explorers, Ann Bancroft has received numerous awards for her accomplishments and public service. She helps women and girls throughout the world pursue their dreams through grants provided by the Ann Bancroft Foundation and, through Bancroft Arnesen Explore, offers educational curricula aimed at inspiring young people to achieve their individual goals and fulfill their personal potential.

Ann Bancroft’s life is distinguished by the number of firsts she has achieved. In 1986, she became the first woman in history to cross the ice to the North Pole, traveling 1,000 miles by dogsled from Canada’s Northwest Territories. In 1992–93, she headed an all-woman team to the South Pole, becoming the first female to cross the ice to both the North and South Poles. Bancroft also led the first American women’s team to transit Greenland, and teamed up with Norwegian explorer Liv Arnesen to become the first two women to sail and ski across the Antarctic landmass.”

We are proud to be able to bring such an outstanding woman to speak to the students of AHS.

**February Program**

What’s happening at the Hormel Institute?

A lot of changes have been happening recently at the Hormel Institute. We will learn more about these changes at our February 9th program. Mandie Siems with the Hormel Institute will give us an update on these changes and how the Institute is expanding. In addition, Rebecca Morris, a scientist with the Institute, will tell us about challenges she faces in a male-dominated field. This month’s program will be held at Riverland Community College in Room C110. Please park near the theater and enter the building through door E5. Room C110 is down the hall on the right. Social time begins at 6:30 PM with the program starting at 7 PM.

Jill Maxfield and Catherine Haslag, Programs Co-Chairs

**Small Groups**

**AM Book Group**

Morning book group is reading John Adam for our February meeting. Janet Gilbertson will lead the discussion. We will meet at Perkins at 9 AM on February 18th.

**First Friday**

First Friday will be at the Torges on February 5th at 11:30 AM. Email Dorothy Krob by February 4th at [sdkrob@live.com](mailto:sdkrob@live.com) to RSVP.

**PM Book Group**

Evening book group will be at the home of Dorothy Krob on February 16th at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.  Please RSVP to Dorothy at sdkrob@live.com. Our March selection is *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens (the Page Turner’s 2016 selection).

**Travel Group**

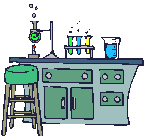
The Travel Club met January 21st at Ann Odegaard's home. Ann shared her experiences of traveling to all of the Presidential Libraries. It was such an interesting program and we all learned many new and different information from the program. She even treated us with some of the favorite snacks of several Presidents.   
  
The Travel Club is NOT going to meet in February.

**Great Decisions**

Great Decisions meets Monday, February 22 at 1:00 at Riverland, Room TBD.

**Topic 1: Shifting alliances in the Middle East**

The execution of prominent Shi'a cleric Nimr al-Nimr by the Saudi Arabian government has reignited sectarian tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The two countries have severed diplomatic ties with each other as a result.

**Science Fair Mentoring Project Update**

The students are finishing up their experiments and beginning work on their boards.  The STEAM Expo will take place on **Friday, February 26, 2016** at IJ Holton Intermediate School for students in grades 3 - 6.  The competitive judging will occur for **Grades 5 & 6:  8:15 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.  and for Grades 3 & 4: 10:15 A.M.  – 12:15 P.M.**  They are still looking for judges.  AAUW is providing a special award this year and it would be helpful to have people who can judge for the day.

You may assist with just one or both of the sessions.  Training and a judging rubric will be provided.  No experience is necessary to be a judge.  Training will take place from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. on the day of the competition. Last year around 340 students participated in the competition and we are anticipating more entries this year!  If you would like to judge, please reply to this email Lindawy Sorenson*at*

[*lindsay.sorenson@austin.k12.mn.us*](mailto:lindsay.sorenson@austin.k12.mn.us) with the information listed below.

If interested in judging, please provide the following information about your preferred contact information: name, occupation, email address, postal address, and telephone number.

Catherine Haslag

Science Fair Mentoring Project Coordinator

**You Can Help Judge Our 11th Women’s History Contest at AHS!**

The judging of our branch’s eleventh Women’s History Contest at AHS will be on February 12 in two sections: 7:55 AM--10:00 AM and 10:40 AM--12:30 PM. It will be held in the Commons, just outside of Knowlton Auditorium. Branch members are welcome to come and view the displays and hear the students explain what they have done. The teacher, Dennis Schwab, will have evaluation sheets for use in judging the projects. Please email Carolyn Bogott ([csbogott@charter.net](mailto:csbogott@charter.net)) if you can help with the judging.

The cash prizes for the winners will be awarded at the all school assembly on February 23 when our branch is bringing Polar Explorer, Ann Bancroft, so speak to the students. (See below). The prize money is a budgeted item each year.

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| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | | | | |
| **January 1 - January 25, 2016** | | | | | |
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| **Period: 1/1/16 - 1/25/16** |  | |  | |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | | **$7,319.63** | |
|  |  | |  | |
| **Income:** |  | |  | |
| Donation - Women's Hist. Speaker | 120.00 | |  | |
|  |  | |  | |
| **Total Income:** | **$120.00** | | $7,439.63 | |
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| **Disbursements:** |  | |  | |
|  |  | |  | |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$0.00** | |  | |
|  |  | |  | |
| **Closing Balance 1/25/16** |  | | **$7,439.63** | |
| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | | | | |
| **November 28 - December 31, 2015** | | | | | |
|  | |  | |  | |
| **Period: 11/28/15 - 12/31/15** | |  | |  | |
| **Opening Balance:** | |  | | **$6,912.58** | |
|  | |  | |  | |
| **Income:** | |  | |  | |
| Dues Received | | 195.00 | |  | |
| Donation - Women's Hist. Speaker | | 470.00 | |  | |
|  | |  | |  | |
| **Total Income:** | | **$665.00** | | $7,577.58 | |
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| **Disbursements:** | |  | |  | |
| Directory printing | | 50.80 | |  | |
| Sept. Rec. Event Invites/ Stamps | | 23.35 | |  | |
| Postage | | 9.80 | |  | |
| Dues Paid | | 174.00 | |  | |
|  | |  | |  | |
| **Total Disbursements:** | | **$257.95** | |  | |
|  | |  | |  | |
| **Closing Balance 12/31/15** | |  | | **$7,319.63** | |

**PUBLIC POLICY**

Evelyn Guentzel

Happy New Year!

AAUW advocacy influences public policy at the national, state, and local levels, and 2015 was no exception.  Here is a brief recap:

—Action Network members sent over 250,000 emails to their legislators, both statewide and nationally. Each Thursday AAUW Action Fund’s Lobby Corps hits Capitol Hill to show members of Congress how many of its constituents are activists for priorities.

—The Lobby Corps made more than 1300 visits to senators and other members of Congress about issues important to women and families.

—New Title IX coordinator materials have been issued. The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights published the first-ever official tools for Title IX Coordinators. The resources are free, and include a guidance letter and manual, and reinforce coordinators’ authority to support their efforts to ensure implementation.

—Several AAUW leaders (From ME, OH, MS, NC, WI, GA, CO, MN) were a key part of lobbying efforts advocating for critical civil rights protections and gender protections in federal K-12 laws.

—AAUW’s Lisa Maatz was invited to testify at the House Education and Workforce Higher Education Subcommittee Hearing on “Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses.”

—AAUW released the Fall 2015 edition of The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap, which includes new information and tools about AAUW”S expanded state policy efforts.

—AAUW released "Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women’s Success in Engineering and Computing” including recommendations to federal and state policy makers for increasing girl’s and women’s participation in STEM fields. There was a packed briefing at Google!

To be continued……………AAUW is on the move.

W Monthly Financial Report

November 28 - December 31, 2015

Period: 11/28/15 - 12/31/15

Opening Balance: $6,912.58

Income:

Dues Received 195.00

Book sale proceeds

Donation - Women's History Speaker 470.00

Donation - Kiwanis

Total Income: $ 665.00 $7,577.58

Disbursements:

Directory printing 50.80

Sept. recruiting event invites & postage 23.35

Postage 9.80

Dues Paid 174.00

Total Disbursements: $257.95

Closing Balance 12/31/15 $7,319.63

*Mission Statement*: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

*Vision Statement:* AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

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AAUW Southern Highlights

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