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

**Co-President’s Message**

This was taken from the DailyOm and is very applicable to where we are at this moment.

**Becoming Our Own Role Models**

*By Madisyn Taylor*

There was a time where women stood together in a bond of sisterhood, women supporting women.

As women embrace the fullness of who they are as individuals, they may find themselves supporting other women, helping others to reach the level of inner comfort and outer freedom that they themselves have found. Among those who are less sure of themselves and their place in the world, it may be more common to criticize other women than to seek their help. But there are things that a woman can only learn from another woman, as there are things about being a man that can only be learned from other men. We all recognize that we have much to learn from each other regardless of gender, but sometimes we could use a supportive role model that gives us a more precise example of what and who we can become.   
  
There was a time where women stood together in a bond of sisterhood, women supporting women. It is only natural that the pendulum swings out of balance for a while so that we may have the experience of what we do not want. It is up to women to bring the pendulum back into balance and bring back the sacred sisterhood we yearn for at our core.

If we envision a world where women support each other and help each other find their place in an ever-changing world, then we can become the change we want to see. Jealousy, envy, criticism, and judgment are refuges for the insecure. As we help others to become self-assured, we create a world in which all people help each other, regardless of gender. Only women can make the change in how women are seen and understood, not just by other women but by the world at large. The way we speak about each other to other women and to the men in our lives informs everyone to treat us with the respect that all women, and all people, deserve.

AAUW is women supporting women. Unless our membership is active, this structure fails. Let’s keep that support going. Let’s keep our membership active. This is our way of starting an active conversation on this matter. If you have been an inactive member, please let us know what can be done to get you more engaged. We need to you be a part of this.

~Jill Maxfield and Catherin Haslag, Co-Presidents

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | |
| **October 1 - October 31, 2017** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Period: 10/1/17 - 10/31/17** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$6,916.21** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
| Dues Received | 65.00 |  |
| House tour | 4,655.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** | **$4,720.00** | $11,636.21 |
|  |  |  |
| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
| Dues Paid - National | 49.00 |  |
| Dues Paid - State | 9.00 |  |
| Cash for house tour | 225.00 |  |
| Chamber bucks for house tour | 75.00 |  |
| Stamps | 9.80 |  |
| Insurance | 185.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$552.80** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 10/31/17** |  | **$11,083.41** |

**November 14th Program**

**What’s New in AAUW?**

**Karen Kirkwood, AAUW National Board Member**

**6:30 PM**

**Riverland Community College**

**West Building**

**Room B116**

(Park in South Lot and enter main door – W 1)

We are fortunate to have Karen Kirkwood from the national AAUW Board of Directors coming to Austin to talk about vital AAUW initiatives and answer our questions. Karen recently attended a national board meeting and will bring us up to date on “What’s New in AAUW?”

Karen Kirkwood is a member of the AAUW St. Paul (MN) Branch and the AAUW St. Cloud (MN) Branch. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota. She has served AAUW as a branch and state president and has held various board and committee positions. She is currently a co-fundraiser for the St. Cloud Tech Savvy events. Karen was a member of the successful Charting the Course campaign. She has been employed as a special education teacher, a legal advocate for a battered women’s shelter, the owner of a home-based small business, the office manager for the Minnesota Education Association, and a mental health practitioner for toddlers with autism. In addition to her AAUW experience, Karen has served on several volunteer boards and committees in her community.

Her husband, David, a former national AAUW Board member will also be here.

Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Program Vice Presidents

**Small Groups**

**Great Decisions**

Great Decisions will be meeting at 1:00 in room C110 at Riverland on November 21.  In the light of recent events we must consider the “enduring challenge of Nuclear Weapons."

**AM Book Group**

The Morning Book Group will next meet on November 16th at 9 AM at Perkins.  We will discuss *THE HANDMAID’S TALE* , a1985 novel by Margaret Atwood which explores themes of women in subjugation and a look at what society can become.

**PM Book Group**

The evening book group will next meet on November 20th at the home of Barb Hunter. We will discuss Homegoing by Yaa Gysasi. Please RSVP to Barb at hunterbarb41@gmail.com. We will not be meeting in December.

**First Friday**

First Friday Luncheon will be held at 11:30 on Friday, November 3rd at the new restaurant, Bella Victoria, in the Terp building. Please email Dorothy Krob at [sdkrob@live.com](mailto:sdkrob@live.com) if you plan to attend.

**Travel Group**

Liz Richardson is going to host the Travel Club November Meeting on the 9th at 1:30 P.M.  Liz will be sharing information about when they recently traveled to Acadia National Park in Maine and they also went on a Road Scholar Adventure which was on a schooner off Camden, Maine.  Joyce Goetz will be sharing information on Crater Lake National Park in Oregon.  Please let me know if you plan to attend via email or phone (433-7897).  Thank you.

~DedaRae Graber

**Needle Arts (Coffee) Group**

If anyone is interested in Saturday morning at the Coffee House, call Sue Grove, 433-5464!

**SPOTLIGHT ON JENNI BRAATEN**

Jenni Braaten grew up on a farm near Austin. She holds a bachelor's degree from the U of MN Twin Cities and a master’s degree in clinical social work from University of St. Thomas/St. Catherine's University in St. Paul. After college, Jenni worked for a few years before deciding to pursue a personal interest in other cultures and moved to Mexico. She lived there for almost eight years and taught English at a bilingual Catholic high school. She says it was a fantastic experience.  “I deeply treasure this time, the learning as well as some life-long friendships which were forged. During this point in my life, I fell in love with the country, culture and people and often feel I have a bit of Mexican in my soul. I travel back to my second home as often as time and finances allow. “

Currently, Jenni works at the Albert Lea High School as a school social worker. Her caseload is primarily students with "Emotional & Behavioral Disorder". “The students with whom I have the opportunity to work often come from unhealthy, unfortunate, and disadvantaged home environments. I'm quite passionate about advocating for these students, both within the school system, but also within the broader community. It often feels they are the invisible kids to both the community and within the school system. On the tough days I try remember this anonymous quote: ‘The kids who need love the most, will ask for it in the most unloving ways.’ I find this quote often rings true in that the students with difficult and challenging behaviors are most often those who have experienced significant trauma in their young lives.”

Jenni became interested in AAUW partly because of her love for Jane Addams. Addams “has a remarkable story and was a founding member of AAUW, in addition to numerous other social justice organizations which are still functioning today. Oh, and she did win the Nobel Peace Prize for her work as well! (Take that Sigmund Freud!)” Jenni goes on to say “I was also at a point in my life when I wanted to become more involved in an organization which promoted equity for women as I see many areas of inequity in the world today. I thought it would be good to meet other strong, educated, and open-minded women to make social connections, but also to promote a broader social justice issue for women. I have a ten year old daughter and being able to work on creating a more equitable world is an important component for me as a parent as well.”

You are a treasure to our Austin Branch, Jenni!

**AAUW Board Meeting Minutes**

October 10, 2017

AAUW board met at the Oakland Education Center. Present were Catherine Haslag, Jill Maxfield, Nicole Cizik, Marijo Alexander, Catherine Lemons, Sue Grove, Jenni Braaten, Carolyn Bogott and Peggy Benzkofer. Catherine H. called meeting to order at 5:40.

Catherine introduced a special award for young women who have worked for equity. Jenni made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board retreat. Catherine L. seconded the motion and the motion passed. Nicole reported that there is no Treasurer’s report as there was no change. The final accounting for the House Tour has not been completed.

The program for November will be Karen and David Kirkwood who are national board members of AAUW. The meeting will be held in Rm. 116 in the West Building of Riverland. Sue pointed out that there is much parking near the entrance.

There are 60 paid members. A discussion was held of the wine and cheese party previous to the pot luck for new members. One idea was to have wine and cheese with heavy hors d’oeuvres instead of a potluck.

Marie will continue to update the website.

Women’s History Month event planning continues with several ideas for speakers. Suggestion was made to ask Blandin Foundation for input.

Catherine Haslag reported on the Science Fair Mentoring project. It is rolling along with a dedicated classroom at Neveln and the opportunity to volunteer during the day at Banfield. A grant to the Austin Area Foundation has been submitted.

The State Convention will be held in Faribault on April 27th and 28th, 2018. It is hoped that many people will be able to go as it is so close. It has been decided to take up a collection instead of donating a basket as the bid on the basket is consistently less than its worth.

Jill reported on the House Tour with a total of $4,470 on hand with more receipts to come in. Expenses included the ticket printing and $75 in chamber bucks. This amount also includes the change for each house. In any event, the amount raised was very successful. Marijo made a motion to adjourn. Nicki seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted: Peggy Benzkofer, Secretary

*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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