



# Southern Highlights



Volume 11 Number 2

October 2012

## Shaping the World One Woman at a Time



Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Co-Presidents

### Co-President's Thoughts

I hope you are enjoying these glorious fall days. I always find myself more energized at this time of year and hope you do too. Our AAUW year started off on a high note with such a great turnout at the September meeting and Yesenia's program on her conference in Panama.

Our October meeting, "Women to Women – it's my Vote", will hopefully energize us all to get out to vote and to encourage all women to vote. AAUW has provided us with a ton of resources that we will share with everyone. Bring guests!

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the Minnesota State Convention on April 26, 27, and 28. It is in Rochester this year, so we need to send a huge group. Attending a state convention really gives the sense of being part of the larger organization that has influenced and continues to influence how policies affecting women are shaped. Did you know that AAUW is now the only major women's organization that has a full time public policy director? Her name is Lisa Maatz, and we have her coming to Austin in March for the Women's History Assembly at Austin High School!

Our small groups are off and running. If you are interested, check them out! We have two book groups, a travel group, arts and entertainment group, Great Decisions, a lunch group and a knitting group. If you have another interest, let us know and we can propose another group at any time.

Take care, enjoy the beauty of fall, and we will all gather on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Riverland Community College, Room C 107 at 6:30.

Sue Grove  
Co-President



### October Program

The election season is in full swing! So, please join us on October 9<sup>th</sup>. *Get Out the Vote!* will be presented by Sue Grove and Evelyn Guentzel. The theme of the evening will be AAUW's campaign to support advocacy for women and girls and will inform us about AAUW's stand on various issues. Resolutions passed at the Minnesota AAUW Convention last April will be presented. In addition, Janet Anderson, Judy Enright, and Jeanne Poppe will answer questions about running for, holding office, and the particular challenges faced by women in politics.

Plan to come for social time and autumn treats beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Room C107 at Riverland Community College. The program will start at 7:00. We hope to see you all on October 9<sup>th</sup>!

Kari Bain & Yesenia Mendoza  
Program Committee Co-chairs

## **Small Groups**

These groups are open to any member wishing to attend.

### **Morning Book Group**

The AM Book Club met at GYMOCHA on 14th Street NW for our September meeting/discussion. We decided that the private space was so comfortable that we made a reservation for our October 18th discussion too. We will meet at GYMOCHA at 9AM to discuss *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. Please feel welcome to join us on any third Thursday of each month. Selections chosen for discussion are: *Midwives* by Chris Bohjalian for November 15th, *The Other Wes Moore* for December 20th, and William Faulkner's, *The Sound and the Fury* for January 17th. For information or suggestions, please call Lois McConnell at (507) 433-8101.

### **Evening Book Group**

We will be discussing *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed on Monday, October 1st at the home of Kathy Kester at 7 PM. Please RSVP to Kathy at [kkester@isd500.k12.mn.us](mailto:kkester@isd500.k12.mn.us). On November 5th we will be discussing *Small Island* by Andrea Levy.

### **First Friday**

We will be at the Old Mill at 11:30 on Friday, Oct. 5th. If people are interested who haven't attended before they can email Dorothy at [sdkrob@charter.net](mailto:sdkrob@charter.net). Please RSVP to Dorothy.

### **Travel Group**

The AAUW Travel Club will meet on Thursday, October 11th at 2:00 PM at the home of Liz Richardson (2207 - 7th Ave. N.W.). Liz' friend, Kathy Stutzman will be sharing information from her many trips to Nicaragua. She will share some of the aspects of the culture, people, music, and poetry of Nicaragua. She has a great deal to share with our group. We hope you are able to join us. Please call DedaRae (433-7897) or email her, if you plan to attend by Wednesday, Oct. 10th.

## **Great Decisions**

Great Decisions discussion group will be meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:00 at Riverland Community College. The discussion will be on Indonesia. This from the website: "Having emerged from authoritarianism in the last 15 years, Indonesia has made remarkable strides politically, economically and socially. Yet the new, democratic Indonesia is still a developing country facing considerable challenges. How can Indonesia continue its path of growth, reform and prosperity? What is Indonesia's role in the global community?"

If you are interested in attending, please let Sue Grove know and she will get you a copy of the article to read before the meeting. We always watch the video presentation by the Foreign Policy Association, so even if you haven't read the article, please join the group. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at noon at Riverland Community College, Room to be announced.

## **Silent Auction Basket**

In the spirit of advance planning, we would like to start thinking about and collecting for our Silent Auction basket to take to the Minnesota State Convention the end of April. We thought of "Our Favorite Things" as a theme. So, between now and April, as you think of something you really like; you could get it and give it to Marijo or Sue to put in the basket. We would then be ready to assemble the "goodies" in April without having to rush. Put your creative thinking caps on and bring us fun items.

Marijo & Sue



## Public Policy

Look no further than our own Minnesota Pine, Fall 2012, for information about voter ID and the marriage amendment. Minnesota's State Public Policy VP, Char Kahler, has written definitive articles on both topics: "Encourage Rather than Discourage Voting," and "Marriage Amendment" --MN Cities Take a Stand. As you may or may not know, AAUW, both national and state, have presented the Vote NO position on both these amendments. Regardless of our personal positions, we need to understand the impact that these amendments can have on individual citizens.

David Schultz, Professor of Public Policy at Hamline University has said this: "Voter fraud at the polls is an insignificant aspect of American elections. There is absolutely no evidence that voter impersonation fraud has affected the outcome of any recent elections in the U.S

In the same issue, Karen Rowley and Carrie D'Andrea have provided sources to examine the Affordable Care Act. While the need for improving health care and health care systems is not disputed, the way to do so is subject to debate.

AAUW continues to be in the forefront on issues of national concern. Public Policy and Government Relations Director, Lisa Maatz was in the 'thick of things" at both national conventions. She spent time in both convention halls talking with delegates, party power brokers, and others about our policy priorities, and the nonpartisan campaign to educate and turnout voters--"It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard." No group is advocating for women's issues more than AAUW!

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy has found that 72 percent of adults and teens believe that policymakers who are opposed to abortion should support access to birth control.

Did you know that 10 million girls are married every year before the age of 18? The United Nations Population Fund is working with governments around the world to enact and implement laws prohibiting child marriages. In the U.S. House of Representatives there is legislation which proposes to end child marriages and to connect international assistance programs to such legislation. Both the House

and the Senate (which has passed legislation to end child marriage) have declared these marriages to be a human rights abuse under U.S. law.

IT'S YOUR VOTE TOO—BE HEARD

Evelyn Guentzel, Public Policy Chair



## **AAUW Monthly Financial Report September, 2012**

**Period:** 9/1/12-9/30/12

**Opening Balance:** **\$9,794.00**

**Income:**

Dues Received 780.00

Scholarship Donation 500.00

**Total Income:** **\$1,280.00** \$11,074.00

**Disbursements:**

National Dues 588.00

State Dues 108.00

Supplies - Pot Luck 14.65

RCC Foundation 2,500.00

**Total Disbursements:** **\$3,210.65**

**Closing Balance 9/30/12** **\$7,863.35**

**AAUW General Meeting  
September 12, 2012**

AAUW Board met at Christ Episcopal Church. Present were Kari Bain, DedaRae Graber, Sue Grove, Evelyn Guentzel, Barb Hunter, Kathy Kester, Dorothy Krob, Yesenia Mendoza, Ruth Monson and Mary Kay Wilson.

Secretary's report was reviewed and approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. Mary Kay reported that the Pizza Ranch fundraiser brought in \$483.94 and the Board agreed that this would be a good way to raise funds in the future.

A gift of \$500 was received from Sandy Jarvis, who received an AAUW scholarship in 1988. Sandy returned the money to AAUW with her thanks, with the intention that the money be used for future scholarships.

The 2012-13 budget was approved. The budget, published in the May newsletter, was approved with one small change: "space rental/banquet" was increased to \$200 in order to keep the cost of the spring banquet as low as possible for the members.

Yesenia and Kari reported on this year's program. Kari will publish the updated program schedule in the October newsletter.

Barb gave a membership update. She said that there are still 17 members from last year that have not paid dues. She requests that members inform her of address/email/phone number changes. Sue reported that the new member wine and cheese social went very well.

Sue reported that plans are in place for the Women's History Month program at Austin High School. She also reported that the AAUW State convention will be April 26-28 in Rochester. She and Marijo have offered to help with the silent auction.

Newsletter items are to be submitted to Rae Dawn on or before the last Friday of September.

Agenda items are to be submitted to Sue and Marijo on or before the first Tuesday of the month.

The October Board meeting will be at 5:45 p.m. on October 9 at Riverland, Room C107. Members will gather at 6:30 p.m. for social time, and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. The October program will be "Women to Women – It's My Vote", presented by Sue and Evelyn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Monson, Secretary

**New Census Data Shows No Progress in Closing Wage Gap**

This month, the U.S. Census Bureau released 2011 income data revealing that women continue to earn only 77 cents, on average, to every dollar men earn, virtually unchanged over the last decade. The numbers are worse for black and Hispanic women, who make an average of 64 cents and an average of 55 cents, respectively, for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.

AAUW believes that equal pay for equal work is a simple matter of justice for women and as such has been at the forefront of research and advocacy on pay equity for many decades. The 2011 Census data demonstrates the need for Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act – use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist Network to urge your elected officials to support the Paycheck Fairness Act and help us achieve pay equity nationwide.

-As written in AAUW's Washington Update



*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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