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

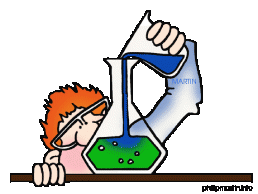
**Co-President’s Message**

Welcome to October! We can’t believe how fast this year has gone. It seems like just yesterday we were cleaning off the lawn furniture. Now we are thinking about testing the snow blower to get it ready for winter weather.

You are going to see a new feature in the newsletter. Peggy Benzkofer and Carolyn Bogott came up with the idea of highlighting one of our members each month. We have a wonderful membership full of intelligent, creative, and strong women who have a lot of share. Highlighting one member each month will give us all the opportunity to get to know these women and learn from them. This can also be the ice-breaker necessary to help our members get to know each other better. Be sure to take some time to connect with members you may not know well at our meetings. We all have a wealth of experiences to share with each other.

If Peggy or Carolyn contact you this year and ask if they can highlight you in one of our newsletters, we hope that you will consider their request. We look forward to reading about you all soon.

~Jill Maxfield and Catherin Haslag, Co-Presidents

**October Program**

The October 11th meeting will be in Room C 110 at Riverland Community College beginning at 6:30 with conversation and refreshments.

Following a brief business meeting, our own Catherine Haslag will bring us up to date on the amazing expansion of the Science Fair Mentoring Project. You won’t want to miss it because there is so much that is happening – including a major grant in conjunction with the Austin Public Library.

This project exemplifies what AAUW stands for.

See you at **Riverland at 6:30 Tuesday, October 11th – Room C110**.

Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Program Vice Presidents

**Small Groups**

**Great Decisions**

Great Decisions will meet next on October 24th in room C124 at Riverland Community College at 1 PM. On the eve of the international organizations 70th birthday, the United Nations stand at a crossroads. This year marks a halfway point in the organization’s global effort to eradicate poverty, hunger, and discrimination, as well as ensure justice and dignity for all peoples. But as the UN’s 193 member states look back at the success of the millennium development goals, they also must assess their needs for its sustainable development goals – a new series of benchmarks, which are set to expire in 2030. With the appointment of the ninth Secretary-General in the near future as well, the next U.S. President is bound to have quite a lot on his or her plate going into office.

**AM Book Group**

Morning Book Group is reading *Bettyville* by George Hodgman and will meet on October 20th.  Lois McConnell will lead discussion, and we meet at 9:00 a.m. at Perkins.  Our November selection is *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren.  Visitors are welcome - we can make room for you.

**PM Book Group**

The evening book group will be at Dorothy Krob's home on Tuesday, October 18th.  We will discuss *Travels with Charlie* by John Steinbeck. Please email sdkrob@charter.net if you will be attending. In November, we will discuss *Moonlight Sonata at the Mayo Clinic* by Nora Gallagher.

**First Friday**

First Friday Luncheon will be on Friday, Oct. 7th at 11:30 at Torge's.  Email Dorothy Krob at sdkrob@charter.net if you will be attending.

**Travel Group**

The Travel Club will be meeting at Kathy Kester’s home on Thursday, October 27th at 2:00 P.M.  We will be sharing more information on different National Parks.  If you would like to join us, please email or call, to let me know you are planning to attend.

**SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS**



**PEG SEATH’S 50 YEARS IN AUSTIN AAUW!**

Peg described her AAUW experience as follows:

“In the fall of 1963, I married Ron and moved to Austin. I didn’t know anyone here except Ron and wanted to make new friends, so I joined several groups. AAUW is the only one I stayed with for 50 years! I made good friends in AAUW and many of those early members I still consider good friends. The programs are excellent and I support the goals and policies of the national organization.”

Over the 50 years, Peg has held the following positions in our branch: Treasurer, Chair of “Taking hold of Technology”, Hospitality Chair, Secretary, and Historian. And she was President for two years at a very critical time when she helped to bring the branch back from a decline in membership.

As a child, Peg and her twin brother, lived in Illinois, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, as their father moved from church to church as a Congregational minister. She went to Mount Holyoke College for two years and graduated from Salem Teachers College in Massachusetts. East Hartford, Connecticut, was the site of her first years of teaching. Then she followed her parents to Minnesota and taught in Minneapolis for 11 years. She met Ron in at a Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church young people’s group. And Ron brought her to Austin. Ron and Peg have one daughter, who is married and has twin sons!

Peg will celebrate her 90th birthday in early November with a trip to Florida with her daughter and family to meet her twin brother and his wife and family.

Our branch has been honored and privileged to have Peg as an active member for so long. Thanks, Peg!!!!

**Tour of Homes**

The big day has arrived! AAUW Tour of Homes is tomorrow, Sunday, October 2nd from 1-5 PM. This year’s tour will feature three homes: Peggy & Glen Keener (2300 9 Ave SW), Mitzi & Cody Anderson (503 21st St. SW), and Jenelle Cummings (2301 10th St. NW). Please turn in your tickets/ ticket money to Jill Maxfield or Sue Grove prior to the tour or at the tour. Tickets are $15 each. The weather looks promising & it should be a great day! Jill Maxfield is chairing the event. Please contact her with any questions you may have at 501-859-6168!

**Austin AAUW General Meeting Minutes**

**September 13, 2016**

The Austin Branch of AAUW met on September 13, 2016 at 5 p.m. for a wine tasting event to welcome new and perspective members. The event was followed by a pot luck which, in turn, was followed by a short meeting.

Information was shared about the upcoming Tour of Homes. Members were asked to take packets of five tickets and to help to distribute posters. Sign-up sheets were passed around for workers at each of the three homes.

Another important order of business was the election of Katie Ulwelling as Vice President for Membership. Laura Tjomsland made the motion and DedaRae Graber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Peggy Benzkofer, Secretary

**Public Policy**

AAUW reminds us that equity is still an issue. My last memo from AAUW national office listed 79 examples of how this is true!  Below are some direct comments from the recent AAUW publication, “The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap” originally written by Catherine Hill, Vice- President of Research in 2011.

"In 2015, women working full time in the United States typically were paid just 80 percent of what men were paid, a gap of 20 percent (Proctor et al., 2016). The gap has narrowed since 1960, due largely to women’s progress in education and workforce participation and to men’s wages rising at a slower rate.

At the rate of change between 1960 and 2015, women are expected to reach pay equity with men in 2059. But even that slow progress has stalled in recent years. If change continues at the slower rate seen since 2001, women will not reach pay equity with men until 2152

The gender pay gap has lifelong nancial effects. For one, it contributes directly to women’s poverty. In 2015, 14 percent of American women ages 18–64 were living below the federal poverty level, compared with 11 per- cent of men. For ages 65 and older, 10 percent of women and 7 percent of

The impact of the pay gap has also deepened in recent years as a result of changes in family structure. Between 1967 and 2012, the proportion of mothers bringing home at least a quarter of the family’s earnings rose from less than a third (28 percent) to nearly two-thirds (63 percent). Today, 40 percent of mothers with children under the age of 18 are their families’ primary or sole breadwinners (Glynn, 2014). As families increasingly rely on women’s wages to make ends meet, the gender pay gap directly affects men and children as well."

This article is well written and very thorough and well worth your time to read, especially if you are still in the work force and or have children impacted by pay inequity. Comparable worth is not universal and women’s salaries on average can differ from men’s by as much as $10,000 or more.

This issue is huge this election season. We need to elect representatives at all levels who are sensitive to the impact pay equity has on individual careers and families.

You can go to AAUW’s website and find a copy of Voter Bingo to track candidates support or lack of support for women’s issues.

Evelyn Guentzel, Public Policy Chair

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | |
| **August 31 - September 30, 2016** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Period: 8/31/16 - 9/30/16** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$6,334.61** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** | **$ -** | $6,334.61 |
|  |  |  |
| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| House tour copy expense | 112.00 |  |
| Cash for house tour | 225.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$337.00** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 9/30/16** |  | **$5,997.61** |

**Science Fair Mentoring Project –**

**At the Austin Public Library!**

The Science Fair Mentoring Project (SFMP) is beginning its third year. To date, we have helped 118 different students participate in the STEAM Expo, 19 of those students participated for 2 years. We also supported 21 students from Neveln in participating in the Regional Science Fair in Mankato in April.

This year, the program is expanding. We are mentoring at Neveln as well as Banfield. The SFMP is also partnering with the Austin Public Library and Riverland Community College with the help of a grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide support to Austin elementary and intermediate school students who want to participate in the STEAM Expo (science fair). A summary of events that will be hosted as a result of this partnership is provided below:

* Provide kick-off activity at each school with demonstrations lead by Mad Science of Minnesota. These events are designed to expose students to the scientific method and get them excited about science.
* Purchase additional chrome books and Wi-Fi hotspots students can check out through the Austin Public Library for use in completing their science fair projects.
* Offer Saturday Science School at the Austin Public Library to teach students about the scientific method and provide guidance in selecting and completing a science fair project.
* Develop a one-stop website with information about the STEAM expo and resources for completing a science fair project.
* Offer evening workshops to assist parents in understanding how to complete a science fair project so they can better assist their children.

Dates for these events will be communicated to you soon. We need volunteers to help with these activities. Mentor orientations are scheduled for October 25 and November 2 at 6:30 at the Austin Public Library. If you wish to mentor, you only need to attend one of these dates.

If you have any questions about this partnership or the activities and resources listed above, or would like to volunteer please contact Catherine Haslag at [ScienceFairMentorMN@gmail.com](mailto:ScienceFairMentorMN@gmail.com). You can also check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sciencefairmentormn/](http://www.facebook.com/sciencefairmentormn/).

Bits and Pieces

-Excerpt from AAUW Washington Update

• The Obama administration set new standards in their federal child care subsidy programs, requiring states to perform annual, unannounced inspections and criminal background checks on educators. These regulations aim to ensure that child care environments are safe and in qualified hands.

• Between 2010 and 2014, the number of women in need of publicly funded family planning service rose by 5 percent, depicting an additional one million women in need. The Guttmacher Institute released updated data on contraceptive needs and services this month, which also shows the success of and necessity for contraceptive service and Title X-funded clinics.

• For every 100 women who get promoted, 130 men advance from an entry-level position to a manager, a new study found. This demonstrates that women hit the glass ceiling early in the workplace. The study surveyed over 34,000 employees from companies including General Motors and Morgan Stanley.

• The U.S. Senate overrode President Obama’s veto of the controversial Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Bill, which would allow victims of the 9/11 attacks to sue the government of Saudi Arabia. This is the first successful override of Obama’s presidency.

• The U.S. Senate has confirmed the fewest civilian nominees—such as judges, regulators, and ambassadors—since 1988. The Senate is also on track to confirm the fewest Article III judges since 1952.

*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.

**Southern Highlights Editor:** Rae Dawn Rao [rao\_raedawn@yahoo.com](mailto:rao_raedawn@yahoo.com) **Minnesota State Website:** <http://www.aauwmn.org> **Association Website:**  <http://www.aauw.org> **Association e-mail: info@aauw.org**



\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AAUW Southern Highlights

1001 22nd Ave. SW

Austin, MN 55912