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

**Co-President’s Message**

We are very excited to be your new co-presidents. In our first newsletter as co-presidents, we wanted to share the vision we have for our chapter with you. We have a wonderful membership already, but we are hoping to refresh our monthly meetings/programs to engage more members and attract new ones. First, let us tell you a bit about ourselves:

Catherine Haslag is originally from Bonnots Mill, MO. She lived in Springfield, MO for 11 years, during which time she obtained her BS and MS in chemistry from Missouri State University. She moved to Austin in 2011 after accepting a position as a chemistry faculty at Riverland Community College. She enjoys reading, crochet, biking, and cross-country skiing at the Nature Center.

Jill Maxfield is originally from Stockton, MO. She obtained her BS from Missouri Southern State University. She moved to Austin in 2012, and recently accepted a position as an EL teacher at the Community Learning Center. She enjoys reading, movies, walking with friends, and hot air ballooning.

When we were Program VPs, we tried to introduce some new program ideas to our chapter, and fortunately, Sue and Marijo want to continue with this idea. Some of the programs you will see this year are a result of an exchange of ideas between the 4 of us. We hope you enjoy some of these new ideas.

We have a lot of wonderful women in our chapter, but we feel like there are many of you we don’t really know. We want to get to know you all better. We would like to spend a little time at the start of each meeting discussing upcoming business and getting to know each other better. We want the general membership aware of and involved in the business portion of our chapter, not just board members. We want all of our members to be active in our events. We are stronger when we all contribute.

If you have any questions or ideas, please let us know. We would love to hear them. Also, please invite friends to attend our meetings. That is the best way to find new members. We are looking forward to a great year. ~Jill Maxfield and Catherin Haslag, Co-Presidents

**AAUW Austin Branch Program Committee**

We have a great line up of programs for this year. Listed below is a summary of September through January programming. We will start the year with a welcome wine and cheese which provides a perfect opportunity for all of us to invite prospective members. Our potluck supper will follow with announcements for the coming year. In January, we are going to have a Saturday luncheon instead of the Tuesday evening meeting. We plan to invite other branches to join us. Also, in February, we are going to go back to an old tradition of small groups meeting in individual members’ homes.

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| **SEPTEMBER 13** | **Time:** 5:00 Wine Tasting; 6:00 Potluck  **Location:** Christ Episcopal Church |
| **OCTOBER 11** | **Program:** Science Fair, Catherine Haslag  **Location: Riverland, Room C110** |
| **NOVEMBER 8** | **Program:** Poverty Project, Richard Lemons  **Location:** **TBD** |
| **DECEMBER** **13** | **Holiday Party**  **Welcome/Reminders/Social Time**  **Location:** Coffee House on Main |
| **JANUARY** **14** | **Saturday luncheon (will invite other AAUW branches)**  **Location: Austin Country Club**  **Guest Speaker: John Haymond − the Dakota tragedy** |

Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove, Program Vice Presidents

**Small Groups**

**Great Decisions**

Great Decisions will meet on September 26, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. at Riverland, room TBA. Our topic will be ‘The Koreas’. At the end of World War II, Korea was divided into two. The norther half of the Korean peninsula was occupied by the Soviet Union, the southern by the United States. Today, North and South Korea couldn’t be further apart. The North is underdeveloped, impoverished and ruled by a corrupt, authoritarian government, while the South advanced rapidly to become one of the most developed countries in the world. With such a wide gap, some are asking if unification is possible even desirable, anyone?

**AM Book Group**

Morning Book Group is currently meeting at Perkins at 9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month.  In August we were honored to have our author, Peggy Keener, discuss her book *Wonderful Mammaries*.  We are reading "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline for our September 15 meeting with Gerry Rustad leading the discussion.  Our October book will be *Bettyville* by George Hodgman with Lois McConnell leading.  New members are welcome.

**PM Book Group**

Evening book group will be at the home of Carolyn Bogott (406 21st St. NW) on September 20th at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss *Good Night Mr. Wodehouse* by Faith Sullivan. Please RSVP to Carolyn at [csbogott@charter.net](mailto:csbogott@charter.net). In October, we will discuss *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck.

**First Friday**

Because of the Labor Day weekend, First Friday will resume in October. Please contact Dorothy Krob at [sdkrob@live.com](mailto:sdkrob@live.com) if you would like to be included in the monthly contact list.  First Friday is an AAUW social gathering for lunch once a month at area restaurants.  Our First Friday lunch in October will be Friday, Oct. 7th at 11:30 at the Old Mill.

**Travel Group**

The Travel Club will meet on Wednesday, September 14th at 2:00 PM at Marsha Kuehne’s home.  We are going to share information on different National Parks.  This year (2016) is the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of our National Parks System and thus the reason we are sharing and learning more about several different parks. We hope you can join us.  Please let me know if you plan to attend by contacting me at [drgraber@charter.net](mailto:drgraber@charter.net) or 433-7897).  Thank you.

DedaRae Graber

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| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | |
| **July 1 - August 30, 2016** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Period: 7/1/16 - 8/30/16** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$8,364.61** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dues Received | 385.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** | **$385.00** | $8,749.61 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Riverland Scholarships | 2,000.00 |  |
| Dues Paid - National | 343.00 |  |
| Dues Paid - State | 72.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$2,415.00** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 8/30/16** |  | **$6,334.61** |

**Public Policy**

Welcome back to Austin Branch for the 2016-2017 year of programs and socializing. We continue our building of awareness of AAUW’s program to promote women’s issues with the goal of ensuring equality in all areas of our society—education, economy, career and workplace, gender gap, pay equity, sexual assault, etc. Here are a few examples of AAUW’s concerns at this point in time:

--Women’s voices in the newsroom: women are underrepresented in journalism— evening broadcast news-32%; print news-37%; internet-42%; bylines-38%; foreign affairs and national security segments-22%; economic issues-22%. Interesting observation.

--In 2016 The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department Labor, and the Office for Federal Contracts Compliance Programs have been charged by the President with colleting summary pay data by gender, race, and ethnicity from business with 100 or more employees (over 63 million people). The goal is to gain insight into discrimination across industries and occupations. Transparency will ensure fair pay.

--The Public Policy Program is an initiative which gives all members the opportunity to have input about priorities on the national, state, and local levels. Until December 5, we all have an opportunity to comment on the policy proposals for 2017-2018. In April e-mailed pins will be sent to members and the Spring *Outlook* will include a voter guide providing information about candidates for AAUW’s officers, bylaw proposals, Public Policy proposal and resolutions. On April 14, online voting begins. The deadline for requesting a ballot is May 4 and it must be posted by May 22. The national convention will be held in Washington D.C. June 14-17, 2017. Online voting ends June 15 at 9 P.M. and election results will be announced online and at convention.

--At the September meeting you will have access to a “State of the Union” bingo card you can use to keep track of the way women’s issues are being addressed. AAUW wants to ensure those women’s voices—young, old, and in between are heard and their votes count. In her recent letter, Linda Hallman, AAUW’s Chief Executive Officer, asserted that “When women vote, elections results change. Election officials start to reflect the wide diversity of the United States and they are more likely to uphold the will of ALL people they are elected to represent—including women.” The fact sheets being distributed focus on such issues as campus sexual assault, gender pay gap, reproductive rights, and college affordability. The campaign theme is "It’s My Vote: I Will Be Heard."

-- As the year progresses we will have more information about AAUW’s programs. I continue to be impressed by the thoughtfulness of AAUW’s research and activism.

Evelyn Guentzel, Public Policy Chair

**Tour of Homes**

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We will once again host our AAUW Tour of Homes this fall on 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). All members will be asked to assist on the day of the tour and to help sell tickets. Tickets will be $15 each and are also available for purchase at Hy-Vee and The Coffee Shop on Main. Jill Maxfield is chairing the event. Please contact her with any questions you may have at 501-859-6168!

**AAUW Board Retreat**

**Food & Friends – Planning the Year Ahead**

**July 13, 2016**

AAUW held the annual board retreat at 5:30 p.m. at Steve’s Pizza on July 13, 2016.

Warm Up Activity - Jill Maxfield led a warm up activity with the group. The following officers were present: Catherine Haslag, Jill Maxfield, Nicole Cizik, Sue Grove, Marijo Alexander, Catherine Lemons, Jennifer Lawhead, DedaRae Graber and Carolyn Bogott.

President’s Address – Catherine Haslag addressed the group sharing the vision of a stronger and more committed branch. Catherine also reported on the new AAUW email address and drop box account for all AAUW documents. All officers that are interested will have access.

Account information:

[AAUWMowerMN@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWMowerMN@gmail.com)

(Password: AAUWMowerCounty)

The dropbox username and password are the same as the one for gmail.

Secretary’s Report – There are no minutes in the binder starting in 2016. The officers present will check to see if they have hard copies of any of the missing minutes. We will ask Rae Dawn Rao for copies of the monthly newsletters from January – May to use as a record of events during those months. Sue Grove reported that we have a box at the Historical Society with the Austin AAUW history.

Treasurer’s Update – Nicole Cizik went over the estimated expenses and receipts for the year. The group discussed what AAUW funds are and allocated 750.00 for this year. We also discussed shifting funds around later in the year to provide more money to help cover national convention costs if needed. Jill Maxfield, Catherine Haslag and Nicole Cizik audited the AAUW account on July 6 and presented the audit letter to the board. Carolyn Bogott made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 budget. Marijo Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Program Schedule Update – Sue Grove and Marijo Alexander presented the program schedule for 2016-2017. A couple of changes include a Saturday luncheon for the January meeting and a Potluck in member homes for the February meeting. They will try to secure the library for meetings if possible. Carolyn Bogott suggested a possible program on race relations presented in a workshop format.

Membership Update – Catherine Lemons reported that only 8 members are currently unaccounted for. A list was passed around and board members chose names from the list of 8 to contact regarding payment of dues.

House Tour Update – Sue Grove reported that we have 3 homes for the tour. If we do not have a 4th home, we may consider offering coffee and snack at the Episcopal Church. Jill Maxfield is the Home Tour Chair.

Science Fair Project Update – Catherine Haslag reported that the grant she wrote with Ann Hokanson at the Library was awarded for additional science opportunities for students in the Austin community. Catherine also stated that there is a strong need for mentors for the Science Fair Project.

Additional Fundraising Projects Update – We decided not to pursue other fundraisers this year since we will have the income from the Home Tour.

New Business – No new business. DedaRae Graber made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting will be September 13, 2016 at Christ Episcopal Church. The wine tasting will start at 5:00 p.m. and the Potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Catherine Haslag adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Maxfield

*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

1001 22nd Ave. SW

Austin, MN 55912