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

Mission in Motion

*My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.*

~Maya Angelou

These are inspiring words from the late Maya Angelou. Last year several members from our chapter took it upon themselves to craft an inspiring mission statement for our Austin AAUW branch: “To honor women and girls, empowering them through education, service and leadership development.” How can you take these words to heart and really set this mission into motion?

That is a loaded question! Consider what you are most passionate about. The closer it is to your heart, the more meaning and fulfillment you will find from the efforts you put in to this great organization. There are many great opportunities that our AAUW chapter has to offer which can help you to live the mission more fully. First and foremost, get involved! Whether it is attending a monthly general membership meeting to learn more about local or global issues, heading up various projects like our women’s history month initiatives or science fair mentoring, or simply connecting with other members through our various small groups, your impact can only be felt if you make yourself part of ‘the team’. For more ideas on ways to be involved with AAUW please visit: <http://www.aauw.org/get-involved/>.

[https://fbcdn-profile-a.akamaihd.net/hprofile-ak-xap1/v/t1.0-1/e2/p48x48/155918_750619548295598_1245559678_n.jpg?oh=0cec8e48d6ed6d74dcf35a7af31d85b5&oe=54C4703D&__gda__=1422548895_3ad2351a95b644281c587e9e54080a6d](https://www.facebook.com/austinartworkscenter?hc_location=timeline)October Program – Austin ArtWorks Center

We will be touring the Austin ArtWorks Center this month on Tuesday, October 14th. Social hour begins at 6:30 pm with our meeting and program beginning at 7 pm.  The ArtWorks Center opened on August 23rd and is located at the corner of Main Street and 2nd Avenue (300 N Main Street) in downtown Austin.  The center acts as a gallery for local artists' work and offers classes for community members who wish to learn more about painting, pottery, and other art forms.  Come and see work from local artists and learn about the many educational opportunities this facility has to offer. Membership supports the Austin Area Commission for the Arts which envisions a vibrant and successful community enriched by diverse arts, entertainment, and cultural activities.

**Small Groups**

**AM Book Group** The morning book group will meet at Barley's at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 16th.  We are reading and will be discussing the book "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak.  Gerry Rustad will lead the discussion. If this time and place work for you, we’d love to have you join us.

**PM Book Group** The evening book group will discuss *The* *Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kiddon Tuesday, October 21th at 7 PM at the home of Catherine Lemmons. Please RSVP to Catherine at [richncath@aol.com](mailto:richncath@aol.com). Our November selection is *The War Bride* by Helen Bryan.

**C:\Users\Rae Dawn\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\94HS6ER1\MC900237231[1].wmfKnitting & Handiwork**

We continue to meet most Saturdays at the Coffee House on Main at 9:30 AM. You need not be able to knit/ do handiwork to attend!

**Travel Group** The Travel Club will meet on Thursday, October 9th at Kathy Kester's home ( 16322 - State Highway 105 ) at 3:00 P.M. Please notice that we are meeting at 3:00, not 2:00 P.M. Many of the Travel Club members have traveled to Austria, so for the October program we will be sharing "Memories of Austria!"   We encourage all members, who have traveled to Austria, to bring photos and/or items that they purchased while traveling there and to be willing to share stories connected with these items.  Please RSVP [drgraber@charter.net](mailto:drgraber@charter.net) or call (433-7897) if you plan to attend. We hope to see you on October 9th.

**Great Decisions** Great Decisions will meet on Wednesday, October 1st at 1:00 pm at Riverland.  If interested in attending, contact Sue Grove for room information which is still being assigned.

**First Friday** Our next luncheon is scheduled for Friday, October 3rd at 11:30 AM at the Old Mill. Please RSVP to Dorothy Krob at [sdkrob@live.com](mailto:sdkrob@live.com) or by phone by Wednesday, October 1st if you wish to join!

**Supplies and Help needed for the Science Fair Mentoring Project**

Let’s support own branch member, Catherine Haslag, who is spearheading a plan to mentor kids at Sumner and Neveln Schools for science fair projects. She has put in many hours organizing this effort, and her enthusiasm and charisma is infectious!! She has marshaled lots of help in the community but she needs your help too!

We hope lots of you will volunteer as mentors, but there are other ways you can help out as well:

1. Volunteer to be a host at one of the school sites when the mentoring is going on.
2. Volunteer as a shopper to get equipment for the projects once the children decide on their topics.

1. Donate supplies: pencils, rulers, construction paper (both white and colored), stick-on name tags, transparent tape, letter stencils, and paint pens. These can be brought to the AAUW meetings in October and November.

For more information contact:

Catherine [cshaslag@gmail.com](mailto:cshaslag@gmail.com),

Carolyn Bogott [csbogott@charter.net](mailto:csbogott@charter.net), or

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| Peggy Benzkofer [pjbenzko@gmail.com](mailto:pjbenzko@gmail.com).  **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | |
| **August 16 - September 15, 2014** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Period: 8/16/14-9/15/14** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$9,420.83** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dues Received | 830.50 |  |
| Donation | 10.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** | **$840.50** | $10,261.33 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dues Paid | 730.00 |  |
| Membership directory | 36.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$766.00** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 9/15/14** |  | **$9,495.33** |

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**PUBLIC POLICY NOTES**

By Evelyn Guentzel

**AAUW: EMPOWERING WOMEN SINCE 1881**

Powerful words, those words! I keep learning more new things about AAUW’s initiatives to empower where girls are meeting women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). at experiential summer camps. What are they learning at camp?

* STEM fields are solving some of the world’s big problems.
* Girls discover new passions and careers that align with them.
* Negative stereotypes can be fought and girls can follow their dreams through high school, college, and beyond.

TECH TREK has been in existence since 1998, is backed by research, and by design it piques the interests of girls at the weeklong camps. It was founded in California by AAUW member Marie Wolbach with the help of a Community Action Grant. California now has ten Tech Trek camps on eight college campuses. Since then, camps have been expanding to campuses in Alabama, Florida, Ohio, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, and most recently, New Jersey and Iowa. (Minnesota, where are you?)

STEM camps have been built for girls, by women. What happens, and how does it work?

* It gets messy: hands on activities may include building rockets or extracting DNA, e.g.
* Girls see STEM in action through daylong field trips, meet and greet sessions with professionals and up-close looks at careers.
* Camps are held on college campuses, so girls can envision themselves on one in four years.
* Camps have access to cutting edge technology.
* “AAUW members work with teachers, parents, campuses, and local STEM professionals to personalize the program for the community.
* Girls are recommended in seventh grade by their math and science teachers, after which they apply and are selected by a committee. The cost? $50.

WOW! LEARN MORE AT AAUW’S WEBPAGE.

**AAUW PROGRAMS**

* RESEARCH: Gender equity issues in education and the workplace
* CAMPUS LEADERSHIP: helping to shape the lives of future leaders.
* STEM: Encouraging the leveling of the playing field through action.
* CASE SUPPORT: Discrimination in higher education and the workplace.
* EDUCATIONAL FUNDING: $ 4.3 million was awarded to support 278 women in professional and academic careers in 2012.
* GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: Supporting social and economic development
* PUBLIC POLICY: Equity for women and girls
* MEMBER LEADERSHIP: Development opportunities

Questions about voting in Minnesota? Check this website for the Secretary of State: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=134>

*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**

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AAUW Southern Highlights

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