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

Co-President’s Message

Welcome to a new and exhilarating year with the Austin Branch AAUW.  Carla and I are very excited to be serving as co-presidents to this community of smart, socially conscious, friendly, supportive, hardworking, spontaneously fun-loving women. Over the next two years, we hope to contribute in renewing our commitment to our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

As I write this message, I cannot help but to look back on the history of our Branch. In Mower County, for nearly 80 years, AAUW members have taken positions on the significant issues of the day - educational, economic, communal, and political - as they have affected the lives of women and girls. Our members have funded college scholarships, encouraged literacy for children, convened forums to discuss impending legislation, empowered young girls to make smart choices and have sought, in general, to break down barriers to gender equity.

Carla Anderson-Diekmann and Courtney Wyant

We will start the year with our Annual Fall potluck to be held at Christ Episcopal Church on September 9th. Bring your friends. It promises to be a spirited and informative evening.  As a new member last year at the Fall Potluck, I enjoyed making long-lasting friendships, creating memorable times, doing fulfilling work, laughing a lot and eating entirely too much. ~Courtney Wyant, Co-President

C:\Users\Rae Dawn\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\QH10R23X\MC900022903[1].wmfSeptember Program

The fall social and potluck is scheduled for September 9th at the Christ Episcopal Church at 6:00 p.m. It will be a great opportunity to share food and company with friends! Please bring a dish to share with the group along with stories and pictures from your adventures over the summer so we can catch up. Plates, cups, napkins, utensils and drinks will be provided.

**Small Groups**

**AM Book Group** The morning book group will meet at Barley's at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September18.  We are reading and will be discussing the book "The Emigrants" by Vilhelm Moberg.  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 *Winter Wheat* by Mildred Walker on Tuesday, September 16th at 7 PM at the home of Carolyn Bogott. Please RSVP to Carolyn at [csbogott@gmail.com](mailto:csbogott@gmail.com). Our October selection is *The* *Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

**Knitting & 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 be meeting at the Coffee House on Main on Thursday, September 11th at 2:00 P.M.  We will be planning out our calendar for the 2014-2015 year. Come with lots of new ideas! See you then!

**Great Decisions** Great Decisions will meet next 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 first luncheon of the season is scheduled for Friday, September 5th at 11:30 AM at the Old Mill. Please RSVP to Carolyn at [csbogott@gmail.com](mailto:csbogott@gmail.com) by Wednesday, September 3rd if you wish to join!

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **AAUW Monthly Financial Report** | | |
| **July - August 15, 2014** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Period: 7/1/14-8/15/14** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Opening Balance:** |  | **$11,665.07** |
|  |  |  |
| **Income:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dues Received | 650.00 |  |
| Banquet |  |  |
| Book Sale |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Income:** | **$650.00** | $12,315.07 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Disbursements:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dues Paid | 2,802.00 |  |
| Banquet | 92.24 |  |
| Banquet flowers |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Disbursements:** | **$2,894.24** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing Balance 8/15/14** |  | **$9,420.83** |

**Science Fair Mentors for Austin Public Schools**

C:\Users\Rae Dawn\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Z0ZL0TI6\MC900060329[1].wmfThis project is starting to take shape. Committee members (Catherine Haslag, Carolyn and Fred Bogott, Peggy Benzkofer, and Richard Lemons) have been contacting community organizations to promote this project, obtain lists of mentor volunteers, and secure funding and supplies. So far, Riverland Community College, Vision 2020, Mower Refreshed, the Welcome Center, Hormel Foods, The Hormel Institute, and Austin Utilities have all agreed to support our project. Mower Refreshed has offered us web space on their page so students and parents can access information and resources for the science fair. We are still looking for mentor volunteers, supplies for students to use and funding to assist in other student needs as they complete their projects.

We are developing fliers for mentors and students/parents. These will be available in both English and Spanish. Currently, we plan to host a kick-off activity at Riverland Community College in November using the science labs. Students will complete an activity to introduce them to the scientific method and get them fired-up for the science fair. Once this is complete, mentors will be available to assist students at Sumner and Neveln during their Afterschool Remediation Programs until the science fair, which is usually scheduled for late January or early February.

Mentors are encouraged to help as much as they are available, whether that is weekly, or just a few times during the science fair season. Even if science is not your strong point, students can still use help preparing their boards and practicing their presentation skills.

We will provide additional updates on this project as new information develops. If you are interested in helping in any way with this project (joining the committee, volunteering as a mentor, donating supplies/funds, helping to promote this project at your local church, etc.) please contact Catherine Haslag at [cshaslag@gmail.com](mailto:cshaslag@gmail.com) or our project email at [sciencefairmentornm@gmail.com](mailto:sciencefairmentornm@gmail.com).

**Hy-Vee Shop and Share Fundraiser – September 26-28**

This fall for our ‘off year’ fundraiser we will be participating in Hy-Vee’s Shop and Share fundraiser program. Many of you are likely already familiar with this program. Our membership will distribute slips of paper advertising the fundraising event to friends, family, co-workers and neighbors ahead of the event. We are not permitted to hand out slips at the store the weekend of the fundraising event. People who then shop at Hy-Vee during our designated weekend, September 26-28, will need to turn these slips in to Hy-Vee at check out. Hy-Vee will then donate 3% of sales from these purchases to AAUW. Slips will be available and distributed at our September meeting or you can contact Rae Dawn ([rao\_raedawn@yahoo.com](mailto:rao_raedawn@yahoo.com)) if you are unable to attend the September potluck. We hope you are all willing and excited to help spread the word!

**PUBLIC POLICY NOTES**

By Evelyn Guentzel

This has been an amazing and too short summer, and soon it will be time for all organizational activity to begin. Welcome back to long-time members and welcome to all new members. Each year the goal of public policy is to keep all members apprised of issues that AAUW supports at both the state and national levels. It is nonpartisan; it concerns itself with the roles of women in our society that are rich and varied, and ways in which equity or the lack of it is perceived in all facets of this society. The observations and research engaged in by leadership makes all of us more aware of who we are and how we can be positive forces in our community and our country. Topics covered here are not random. They are determined by issues that are timely and of concern for the status of women. AAUW strives to be current and aware of issues that are of concern to women.

With that in mind, I refer you to AAUW’s suggestion to take a look at YouTube where you will find the following videos:

* Don’t be sorry, be confident. Assert yourself.
* Teach your children well. Girls can be intelligent and beautiful.
* Doing something “like a girl” isn’t an insult. What does it mean anyway?
* Beauty takes countless forms.
* You don’t have to bend until you break.
* Resist the tropes. Maddie and Tae demonstrate the point in their song, “Girl in a Country Song”.
* You can’t be one of the guys.

From AAUW’S 2-Minute Activist—a chance to participate IN YOUR OWN WAY!

* AAUW California cosponsored SB1349 to improve Title IX compliance in school athletics. The bill is headed to Gov. Browns desk where he can sigh or veto it.
* Thanks in part to AAUW members advocacy, American workers will be able to access improved workforce training and pursue better jobs. Women will have access to nontraditional careers and find high-wage, high-skilled jobs. Thank your representative for voting for this legislation.
* It’s time to act. The U.S. Senate is considering legislation to protect women’s access to all forms of contraception without cost, and your senators need to hear from you immediately.
* The Senate acted last July (that's right, almost one year ago), so it is long past time for the House to update our broken immigration system.
* Support Paid Family and Medical Leave. “I believe we can do better as a society and I do think that we are not delivering on our promise to families in this country. DIA, AAUW member in Tennessee.

Do you know that “there are only two statues of women on the National Mall? Of the 76 museums, memorials, and exhibits in Washington, D.C., Only 4 feature works or accomplishments of women. Women have mostly been left out of our national narrative. “ (Joan Bradley Wages, President and CEO of the National Women’s History y Museum initiative to build a Women’s History Museum on the Mall.)

Save the Date! Minnesota State Convention for AAUW is in Austin on April 10-11, 2015! More details coming soon!

**AAUW Summer Board Meeting**

AAUW Summer Board Meeting was held on August 5th at the Austin Public Library.

The secretary’s report was read and approved. Nicole reviewed the proposed 2014-15 budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2014-15 budget. Motion carried.

The board appointed Marijo Alexander and Sue Grove as co-chairs for the State AAUW Conference to be held in Austin on April 10-11, 2015.

Carla will update the 2014-15 Board Member information and send it to Board members.

Catherine Haslag reported on the 2014-15 program schedule. Almost all programs are in place. As Program VPs, Catherine and Jill will also be in charge of reserving a place and setting the menu for the spring banquet. Catherine will hand out a schedule at the September meeting. Jill has agreed to again serve as Hospitality Chair and will bring a sign-up sheet to the September meeting. DedaRae suggested we have callers to remind members of the monthly meetings, and agreed to organize callers for the year.

Catherine Lemons reported on membership. Currently there are 52 paid members and 18 or 19 unpaid members. The Board divided the names of those not yet paid and will give them a reminder call. Dues are to be sent directly to Catherine Lemons at Christ Episcopal Church ($65 paid to AAUW). On August 26, 5:00-6:30, there will be a wine and cheese social for prospective members. Catherine sent out 17 e-vites.

No update on the website, but Ruth suggested that Board members visit the website and our Facebook page before our next Board meeting.

Carla gave an update on the State Convention, which will be held in Austin April 10-11, 2015. Our branch has received $1,000 from the State AAUW to help with convention expenses. Marijo and Sue reported that plans are going well. The theme for the convention will be “Full Steam Ahead”, which will tie in with possible tours of the I J Holten STEAM School and the Hormel Institute.

The Board discussed possible fundraisers. Rae Dawn will look into HyVee’s “Shop and Share”, and at the September meeting Carla will ask if there are members willing to open their homes as a B & B for the State Convention (with donations going to our branch).

Carla led a discussion about small groups, with updates as to time and place of meetings. The Arts and Entertainment small group is in need of a chair. Carla will bring this up at the September meeting.

Catherine Haslag gave an update about the Science Fair. There has been a good deal of positive support from the community, and so far there are around 20 people signed up as mentors. The kick-off will be in November, with the Science Fair taking place in January or February.

Next meeting will be a potluck dinner at Christ Episcopal Church (301 3rd Avenue NW) on September 9. The Board will meet at 5:45 and dinner will begin at 6:00. A brief board update will be given at the dinner.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Monson, 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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