Our Mission: To honor women and girls, empowering them through education,

 service and leadership development.

Co-President’s Message

In our effort to be a resilient AAUW branch, we held our first meeting of this pandemic year on Zoom on September 8. Thirteen were in attendance and we are hoping more of you will join us in this format next month. (If you need advice on how to get on Zoom, reach out to our “techie whiz”, Catherine Haslag at 417 827-6989 or cshaslag@gmail.com. You can Zoom from your smart phone or an ipad or computer with a camera and microphone.

For our September program, Amanda Kiefer from the Mower County Elections Office gave an informative and enthusiastic presentation about her work preparing for the November election and then answered questions from members. Clearly, Mower County has very dedicated people who will make sure every vote will be counted. Amanda’s advice is the same as we are hearing from other sources.

If you want to vote from home, request your ballot soon. When it arrives, fill it out by following carefully all the instructions. Either mail it promptly or take it to City Hall to the election office (on the second floor) and submit it by hand. Or you may go into the election office and complete the whole process there in person any time after September 18. All precincts in-person voting on November 3 will be at the Holiday Inn.

Here is the contact for Amanda if you have questions:

Amanda Kiefer   
Phone: 507-437-9535   
Fax: 507-434-2646   
Email: [amandak@co.mower.mn.us](mailto:amandak@co.mower.mn.us)

“Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you've lost, or you can accept it and try to put together something that's good.”   
― Elizabeth Edwards

Carolyn Bogott and Jen Lawhead

Co-Presidents, Austin Chapter – AAUW

**October Meeting**

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, the October AAUW meeting will be held via Zoom again. Dr. David Krenz, Superintendent of Austin Public Schools, and Lori Volz, Finance Director, will join us to share the proposed referendum the school board is seeking in the upcoming election. Please consider joining us to learn what the referendum entails.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86908176801?pwd=anplQm95R1d0M1FPM3ovWFl2dVpGdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0817 6801  
Passcode: AAUW20

Jenni Braaten and Barb Hunter

Program Co-Chairs

**Small Groups**

**Evening Book Group**

Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom on Monday, October 19th at 7 PM. Dorothy Krob will be leading discussion of *The Girl With Seven Names* by Hyeonsea Lee. Please RSVP to Rae Dawn at [rao\_raedawn@yahoo.com](mailto:rao_raedawn@yahoo.com) so that you can be sent a reminder Zoom link via email. In November, we will be discussing *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Please find October’s Zoom Link info below:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78577143940?pwd=a2pLNjhiUkg1aml2cDVCajFReGNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 785 7714 3940

PassCode: 4v9vqA

**Other Small Groups**

At this time, other small groups are on pause until further notice.

**Membership**

Currently, AAUW has 52 members. Due to COVID 19, we have lost members who did not renew. Please keep in mind that once we all get through this challenging time; we will need to reinvite former members back to join us but also build the membership up to maintain stability.  This year, the membership directory is delivered via an electronic PDF document which is being sent out along with this newsletter. No paper copies will be distributed this year. Since many of the usual AAUW branch activities are meeting with other members face to face or in small groups, which is not recommended with COVID19 pandemic safety guidelines, such meetings have been suspended. Likewise, monthly meetings are listed as "to be determined" (TBD) as we wait for a future time when we can meet in person again. Please consider this a working directory and continue to be flexible as health guidelines may change. Any new updates on small groups or monthly meetings will be in the Southern Highlights newsletter.

Annie Warner & Jenni Braaten

Membership Co-Chairs

**AAUW Meeting Minutes**

September 8, 2020 at 6 PM via Zoom

**Members Present:** Carolyn Bogott, Catherine Haslag, Jennifer Braaten, Annie Warner, Barb Hunter, Rae Dawn Rao, and Nicole Cizik

**Treasurer’s Report**

Nicole presented the budget for the 2020-21 year; however, because of the coronavirus, it is hard to determine a final budget for the year. The fundraisers we normally hold (the house tours, story event, and library book sale) are dependent on the what is happening with the coronavirus. She budgeted as best she could, based on the information she has at this time. The AAUW State Convention, Women’s History event at AHS, and the spring banquet are also contingent on what happens with the coronavirus. Even with the drop in fundraising events and costs, the budget will be at a nearly $4,000 deficit. Our account balance at the start of July was $13,289. The branch will be able to cover this deficit.

Jennifer made a motion and Catherine seconded it to reimburse Barb Hunter for the cost of her Zoom account this month. This motion was unanimously approved. Nicole moved and Jennifer seconded to approve the proposed budget. This motion was unanimously approved.

Catherine will setup a zoom meeting for AAUW to use each month for their meeting using her personal account so AAUW does not need to pay for virtual meetings.

**Monthly Programs**

Barb and Jenni reported they are setting up programs month-by-month to see if members want to attend via Zoom and which presenters are interested presenting via Zoom. They will continue to update members as they develop the program.

**Membership Update**

Jenni and Annie reported at 52 members have paid their dues. Three members have said they will pay their dues, but Jenni has not received their checks as of this meeting.

The membership directory is almost complete. Waiting on the members who have yet to pay and the monthly programs to be finalized. It will be sent out online this year and not printed.

**Other Business**

Carolyn reported that the author of *Waking Up White* is presenting in November. She thinks the event will be virtual but has no further information at this time.

Nicole has selected the scholarship winners for the AAUW Mentoring Scholarship. She is waiting to verify the students are registered for classes.

Pillars of the Community – Carolyn will be putting more information in the newsletter about a possible nominee. AAUW members are encouraged to submit women for this honor. Carolyn adjourned the board meeting at 6:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Haslag

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.

**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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