

Southern Highlights

Austin Branch

Volume 21, Issue 5

January 2023



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

Snippets from Sue

By Sue Grove

Happy New Year!

I'm excited about our upcoming events – especially the Story Show this **Saturday, January 7**. Be sure to get the word out and sell your tickets so we can fund our Riverland scholarships.

Thank you, Jennifer Lawhead, for hosting our December social. It was great fun, even with the lousy weather.

The Travel Group met on December 21 and shared Christmas memories and special items from over the years. Ann Odegaard shared her love of Spode Christmas dishes and their connection to a trip to London years ago. She shared a Christmas Cracker with the person whose birthday was the most recent. Joyce Goetz was the lucky winner and got to wear the lovely crown inside the cracker.

Here's to a great 2023!



When We Meet Again

By Angie Loecke & Jeanne Poppe, VPs Program

Our January meeting will be attending The Story Show on **Saturday, January 7** at Riverland. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Please note the February meeting will be on Saturday, February 11 at McPhail Music Center. Details will be forthcoming.

Promote the Third Annual Story Show

By Jen Lawhead and Jenni Braaten, Co-Chairs

Our primary fundraiser for the year is this **Saturday, January 7**. The Story Show's theme is OPPORTUNITY. We all have the incredible opportunity to have a once in a lifetime experience with our friends, family, and community members this Saturday night.



Hearing the stories of others is an opportunity to build connection, empathy, and strengthens a community. We look forward to sharing a very special night with you.

Who can you invite to join us?

Once again, the line-up for the show includes:

Coach Kris Fadness
Emma Haugen
Mike Ruzek
Varinh Van Vugt
Dr. Ted Hinchcliffe
Trish Harren (AAUW Member)
Denver Ritz
Brittany Carlin

Thank you to our AAUW members who are volunteering to help the night of show with ticket sales or handing out programs: Nancy Christopherson, Sue Grove, Catherine Haslag, Carolyn Rugg, and Vickie Spyhalski.

If you need tickets, you can get them at Sweet Reads or by texting or calling Jenni Braaten at 507-481-7176. If you have ticket money ready to be turned in, also reach out to Jenni. If you are still selling your tickets, please bring them to the show in an envelope with your name, checks or cash, number of tickets sold, and the number of tickets not sold. We need this information to better track tickets sales.

We are excited to bring forth the third annual Story Show!

Take Action for Equal Rights Amendment

Please join AAUW-MN, ERA Minnesota and other organizations, this Tuesday, January 3 for [#Day1forERA](#) on the first day of the state legislative session.

Neither the Minnesota nor the U.S. Constitution specifically provide equal legal protection under the law regardless of sex and gender. This is the 100th anniversary of the ERA's first introduction into Congress

(first introduced in 1923 by Republican Congressman Daniel Read Anthony, nephew of the great Abolitionist & Suffragist Susan B. Anthony).

[ERA Minnesota](#) worked with legislators to draft a bill to present to the MN House and Senate this legislative session. Once the bill passes both chambers of the legislature, and is signed by the Governor, it's up to the general population of Minnesota to ratify the amendment.

The bill states: "Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin."

Help us make *equal legal rights for all* a reality.

Take Action

- 1) Meet at the State Capitol Rotunda at 11:30 a.m. for legislator visits and a rally. RSVP [here](#).
- 2) If you can't make it to St. Paul, you can still make a difference! Email our State Senator Gene Dornink (sen.gene.dornink@senate.mn) and State Representative Patricia Mueller at (rep.patricia.mueller@house.mn) and ask them to support the ERA ballot initiative legislation this session. Remember to say you're a constituent and include your address!

First Friday Luncheon

First Friday Luncheon will be this Friday, January 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Bella Victoria. If you plan to attend, please text or email Dorothy Krob at 507-279-0920 or sdkrob@live.com by Thursday afternoon.

Evening Book Group

Evening Book Group will meet on Monday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Carolyn Bogott's home, 406 21st St. NW, to discuss *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Please email Carolyn at csbogott@charter.net or call 507-443-4457 if you plan to join us.

AM Book Group

The Morning Book Group will meet at Perkins Restaurant on Thursday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m. Liz Richardson will lead the discussion of *Brood* by Jackie Polzin.

Great Decisions

We will discuss *Biden Foreign Policy* on Monday, January 23 at noon in the east building at Riverland. I will bring the books for 2023. If you are unable to attend, please let Peggy know how she can get the book to you. Call or text her at 612-770-9328 or email pjbenzko@gmail.com.

Travel Club

The Travel Club will meet on Wednesday, January 25 at 1:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We will be sharing travel experiences using the prompt, "I Should Have Stayed Home." This should be an interesting topic to share and hear. I hope that many of you will join us.

Financial Report

By Rae Dawn Rao, Treasurer

AAUW
11/28/22-12/28/22

Period: 11/28/22-12/28/22

Opening Balance: **\$7,202.60**

Income:

Story Show Tickets	\$ 680.00
Memorial Funds - Evelyn Guentzel	\$ 100.00
New Member Dues	\$ 78.00

Total Income: **\$ 858.00** \$8,060.60

Disbursements:

Dues Paid - National + State	\$ 76.00
Story Show Ticket Printing - Diamond Ridge	\$ 87.45
Story Show - Haley Harms Creative Marketing Content	\$ 200.00

Total Disbursements: **\$363.45** \$7,697.15

Closing Balance 12/28/22 **\$7,897.15**

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

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Minnesota State Website

<http://www.aauwmn.org>

Association Website

<http://www.aauw.org>

