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**Mission Statement**

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

**Vision Statement**

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leaders in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

## A Message from our President – Snippets from Sue

As you read this, I will be on my way to Europe for a Christmas Market Cruise on the Rhine and Mosel Rivers, ending with 2 nights in Paris.

Sadly, I will miss our Christmas meeting at the Coffee House – one of my favorite events.

We have a busy year ahead, starting right away with the Story Show on January 10 th.

I look forward to seeing you all at our various small groups and meetings. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sue

## December Meeting

All superheroes need time to rest, reset, and recharge with others. Please join us on December 9 from 5:30-7p for our holiday social time. This month, we will gather at Coffee on Main for conversation, snacks, and beverages. Please bring a gently used and wrapped book for our annual book swap and a snack to share (optional).

You will also have an opportunity to donate to the [Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota](#) at this event. This will help the immigrant community obtain legal support during their immigration process.

Soft background Christmas music will be provided by the trio, Reminisce: Steve Krob on sax and clarinet, Sue Hays on keyboard, Lee Bjorndal on guitar and vocals.

## Branch Updates

### Evening Book Group

Evening Book Group will meet on 12/15 and discuss "Telephone of the Tree" by Alison McGhee. Sue Grove is the host and discussion leader for this month.

### Morning Book Group

The Morning Book Club will not meet in December. However, our book for the February discussion is *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard.

### Travel Club

The Travel Club will be meeting at the home of Catherine Haslag (401-14th Street NW) on Thursday, December 18th at 2:00 PM. (Note the later time) Catherine will be sharing information about her summer trip to the "West." Also, if anyone has a Christmas memory that you want to share, the group would enjoy hearing/seeing that also.

I look forward to Catherine's program and hope this date works out for many of you.

Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Thank you.

Enjoy this special Season.

DedaRae

### First Friday Luncheon

First Friday luncheon will be December 5th at Bella Victoria at 11:30.

Please RSVP by Thursday at 6:00 to:

Dorothy Krob 1-507-279-0920

### Great Decisions

There will be no Great Decisions in December. We will resume in January with the new book.

### Women's History Month - Date Set for Women's History Assembly at AHS

We have arranged to bring Emily Ford, Iditarod-level dog musher, long distance hiker and gardener at Glensheen Mansion in Duluth to be the Women's History Month assembly speaker at Austin High school. The date will be March 2. Time TBA. Members are invited to attend. Stay tuned.

### Public Policy

Holiday greetings to everyone! I recently listened to a webinar sponsored by the national AAUW on working collectively with other organizations for social change. I won't give you an in-depth summary, but I want to share a few ideas from the panel discussion. One issue that was discussed was understanding the difference between the political and the partisan. As a non-profit organization the AAUW cannot be partisan. However, we certainly can be active in supporting specific issues. A concern arises though when we begin to work collaboratively with other organizations that may be partisan. AAUW is planning to hold another seminar (possibly in January) on this issue. Another idea that was discussed was the importance of understanding where the members of your local chapter are politically before attempting to connect with other groups. One of the panel members described how her chapter became involved with the Dignity Index (a program that fosters positive communication across political issues). This program fit well with what was important to their members. This leads me to the question of how our chapter wants to be involved in public policy issues. In our current political climate, I think we all feel an urgency to be actively involved. But what does that mean for us as an organization? I know that most of our members are already quite active in groups and programs. Is there a need for our chapter to become more involved in specific issues? Or can we be better served by supporting one another in the work which we already doing? Would it be helpful to have a group discussion about this? As the public policy person for our chapter, I would appreciate your feedback! Thank you! Happy Holidays! Submitted by Angie Loecke anloেকে3@gmail.com

### Story Show

We are so excited to bring forth the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Story Show, on Saturday, January 10, 2026! As in years past, it will be at the Frank Bridges Theater at Riverland, with the theme, of the "Power of Hope". We have been able to raise over \$16,000 over the past few years for the scholarship commitment to Riverland. We are asking everyone to sell 6 tickets again to make this event successful yet again. Tickets are available at Sweet Reads and will be distributed at the December meeting. If you need tickets, please reach out to Jenni Braaten Winch, and arrangements can be made to get you tickets. We are also working with Riverland this year to offer tickets on sale through their box office. There is a flyer posted on the AAUW Facebook page so please share with your page and promote within your social media. We rely on word of mouth and social media to promote create exposure for this event, while minimizing overhead costs. Sharing and commenting on social media is a great way to accomplish both. Here is line up for this year's show and a little sneak peak of who they are:

Sue Grove (AAUW Member)  
Sarahi Duenes (nursing student)  
Adam Boes (New owner of Super Fresh)  
An Le (LGBTQ Advocate, Hormel Institute)  
Bob Rosel (retired postal carrier, community volunteer)  
Jen Wiebrand (Matchbox Theater and Second Act)  
Linden Anderson (National Turkey Federation leader)  
Emily Hovland (Austin teacher, Mower County CEO program)

Help us make it another successful fundraiser! We are looking forward to sharing all the stories of hope from our Austin community members!

Jen Lawhead & Jenni Braaten Winch  
Story Show Co-chairs

# Financial Report

AAUW		
10/29/25-11/23/25		
Period: 10/26/25-11/23/25		
Opening Balance:		\$8,773.99
Income:		
Membership Dues (National + State + Local)	\$ 474.00	
Donation	\$ 500.00	
Total Income:	\$ 974.00	\$9,747.99
Disbursements:		
Dues (National + State)	\$ 378.00	
Story Show - Diamond Ridge Printing	\$ 88.00	
Mower Co. Historical Society - Stipend for Nov. Meeting	\$ 50.00	
Total Disbursements:	\$516.00	\$9,231.99
Closing Balance 11/23/25		\$9,231.99