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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

I hope everyone is staying warm during our tundra-like weather. I'm just back from a week in Houston, which was a great break.

The Story Show was a huge success! Thank you, Jen and Jenni, for your hard work on this fantastic program. It not only raises money for scholarships, but it is also a highlight for AAUW.

In February, we will focus on another of AAUW's priorities – women's right to choose and the terrible experiences many women face. We will be offering a public screening of the Jane Project and hosting a book study. See the article from the Program Committee for details.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sue

February Meeting

We are warming up for Women's History Month in March with TWO programs in February.

First, we will screen *The Janes* documentary on February 10 from 6-8pm at Riverland Community College, Room 100. Park near the Riverland Theater and enter through Door E5. Walk straight down the hall. Room C100 is at the end of the hall. We will have someone in the hall to direct people as well. [Click HERE](#) to view a trailer of this film. There is seating for approximately 65 for this event.

Second, we will hold a discussion on *The Story of Jane* by Laura Kaplan on February 23 from 6:30-8pm at Sweet Reads in Austin. This book discusses a determined group of women in the Chicago area who provided safe abortions before Roe V. Wade. Copies of this book are available for purchase at Sweet Reads. Thanks to a generous donation, a limited number of free copies are also available.

Both of this month's programs are open to the public. Please invite a friend. Please complete this survey if you want to participate in the in-home brunch potlucks we will hold in March by February 23 at noon. We will communicate further event details by March 1 with all who complete this survey.

Branch Updates

Evening Book Group

Evening book group will meet at Judy Pesonen's house and Carolyn Bogott will be the discussion leader on February 16th. The book for this month is Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Morning Book Group

The Morning Book Club will meet at the Austin Public Library on February 19th at 10:00 to discuss *The Stolen Queen* by Fiona Davis. Lois McConnell will lead the discussion.

Travel Club

The Travel Club will meet on Thursday, February 19th at 1:00 PM at the Fireside Room at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We will be planning future gatherings and adventures. Please bring your calendars and lots of good ideas with you. Please let me know if you are or are not able to attend. Hope to see you there. Thank you. DedaRae

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet on Monday, February 23rd at noon at KSMQ to discuss Trump's Tariffs.

First Friday Lunch

First Friday luncheon will be at 11:30 at Bella Victoria on Friday, February 6th.

Please text Dorothy Krob at 1-507-279-0920 if you'd like to attend.

Deadline for RSVPs is 6:00 pm on Thursday, Feb. 5th.

Women's History Month

The presentations of the Women's History Projects for representatives of our branch will be held on February 2. Those signed up to view the projects are Sue Grove, Peggy Benzkofer , Mary Malherrek , and Carolyn Bogott.

Our speaker for the AHS women's history assembly will be Emily Ford, outdoors woman, Iditarod and John Beargrease musher, and gardener at Glensheen Mansion.

The assembly will be held at 9:31am on March 2. Branch members are welcome to attend. There are seats for us in the front middle section of Knowlton Auditorium.

Women's History Events

Learn more about the underground movement to help women access abortion care prior to Roe v Wade.

The Story
of Jane

THE LEGENDARY
UNDERGROUND
FEMINIST
ABORTION SERVICE

Laura Kaplan

The Story of Jane Book Discussion

February 23, 2026 from 6:30-8pm at Sweet Reads Bookstore, 407 Main St N, Austin

Copies available for purchase at Sweet Reads. Thanks to a generous donation, a limited number of free copies are also available.

The Janes Documentary Screening

February 10, 2026 from 6-8pm at Riverland Community College, East Building Room 100



Use the QR Code to view the documentary trailer.

Seating is limited and first come.



These events presented by the Riverland Community College Amnesty International and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Austin Branch of the AAUW.



RIVERLAND
Community College

AAUW
Austin (RIO) Branch

Public Policy

Every month as I write this there are public policy issues that are becoming more and urgent. In the midst of all the turmoil, the national AAUW continues to work to advocate for equal opportunities for women. I would encourage everyone to read the email that Gloria Blackwell, Executive Director, recently sent (dated 1/21/26). Since many of our members are teachers or retired teachers there may be particular interest in a webinar on "Promoting AAUW Education Values through School Board Advocacy". The webinar is scheduled for February 12th at 7:00 PM EST and you can register through Gloria's email or from the AAUW National website. On a local level, I would urge members to attend the Minnesota caucuses. The precinct caucuses are being held on February 3rd starting at 7:00 PM. The Republican caucus is being held at Ellis Middle School and the DFL one is at the Ruby Rupner Auditorium at the Hormel Nature Center. At the January meeting, Catherine Haslag shared information on local activities that members might consider becoming involved with. Check out her blog "Crucible as Myself." at: <https://crucibleasmyself.com/whatcanido/> Stay safe, stay strong. Angie

Building Block Bonanza

Finding a date for his fundraiser has proved difficult. Presently we are hoping to schedule it for Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 AM. Please let us know if you can be there to help that morning. It will be an event similar to the Puzzle Palooza at the library. Teams of 2, paying \$20 each person to participate, will compete to put together a Lego-like kit in the least time. We will have prizes and refreshments.

This will be held in a Riverland classroom.

If you can help that day contact:

Morgan Carlson- mecarl091@gmail.com

Carolyn Bogott- csbogott@gmail.com

Story Show

Our 6th Annual Story Show is in the books. We are so grateful for our members who sold tickets and promoted this event in our community. Personal stories are the threads that stitch communities together. In tumultuous times—when uncertainty, fear, or division run high—sharing lived experiences reminds us that we're not alone. Stories humanize abstract struggles, build empathy across differences, and create spaces where people feel seen and understood. By listening to one another's truths, communities find resilience, solidarity, and the strength to move forward together.

Thank you to the many ticket sellers and program passers on the night of the event and to Lisa for selling tickets at Sweet Reads!

We were able to make a net profit of \$5249 from this event. A new record for our scholarship recipients. This is due to your amazing ticket sales, but also due to generous gifts from former storytellers. Both Mike Ruzek and Nilesh (Sunny) Mehta made sizable donations to our event. We are so fortunate that previous storytellers not only support The Story Show by attending but through additional financial gifts as well.

Financial Report

AAUW		
12/29/25-1/22/26		
Period: 12/29/25-1/22/26		
Opening Balance:		\$9,755.99
Income:		
Ticket Sales - Story Show	\$ 4,246.00	
Total Income:	\$ 4,246.00	\$14,001.99
Disbursements:		
—		
Total Disbursements:	\$0.00	\$14,001.99
Closing Balance 1/22/26		\$14,001.99