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**March monthly meeting**

Monday, March 13, 2017  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
1965 County Road E., White Bear Lake, MN  
(This facility is accessible to persons with disabilities.)

**Schedule**

6:45 p.m. Welcome – grab a beverage, and connect with friends  
7:00 p.m. Branch meeting  
8:00 p.m. March Program: *Women Inventors*  
9:00 p.m. Adjourn

**Women Inventors**

Our program for March, Women's History Month, is on Women Inventors. We will have some general information about inventions and inventing, then talk about some specific women and show examples of some items women have invented. If there is time we may discuss some patterns and trends. You may be surprised by some of these remarkable "Inventive Women."

*Submitted by Janet, Program Co-Vice-President*

**President's Potpourri**

March is one of those months I think about as a bridge month. It's kind of still winter but also kind of spring. It's kind of a month without a holiday (unless you are Irish) but there are celebrations and commemorations galore. March 22 is World Water Day. Sounds like something we could just sort of easily skip over until we stop to think of the many women in our world who literally walk miles each day to provide fresh (or not) water for their families. Ponder that as you turn on your tap on March 22nd.

As AAUW members we most often think of March as Women's History Month, celebrated here in the U.S. since first introduced by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. March 8, International Women's Day, has been commemorated since 1911. This year's theme is "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business".

We will celebrate by being a part of the March program on Women Inventors. Be sure to attend to see what Janet and Joni have planned for us. We also celebrate moving into the next year as the nominating committee comes with candidates for President, VP Membership, and Secretary prior to our elections in April. We will talk all things MN state AAUW convention, too.

"March" implies forward movement to me. It suggests that we need to be moving forward together as a branch and as women who strive for equity for women and girls. We are in this together.

*Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Branch President*

**Branch meeting Minutes**

The pending February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 **minutes** can be viewed in the Members Only section of our web pages at <http://nemetro-mn.aauw.net>.

February branch minutes were emailed to all members 2.27.17 and are listed as pending until approved at the next branch meeting, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

*Submitted by Joan, Co-Secretary*

**2017 AAUW Minnesota Convention, April 28-29, Willmar**

Deadlines are approaching quickly for the April state convention. Our branch is entitled to THREE delegates; their information is due April 14<sup>th</sup>. Hotel registration is due April 7<sup>th</sup>. And convention registration itself is due April 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a Friday afternoon tour and reception at The Barn Theatre (complimentary) and two enrichment sessions on Saturday as well as training with state counterparts early on Saturday morning. We will have to make decisions about a branch display and/or auction items. I will have registration forms at the March meeting.

(The Minnesota Pine with convention details has been posted at <http://aauw-mn.aauw.net/>)

**Please let me know before the meeting if you are interested in serving as one of the delegates.**

Remember that I will be out of the country and unable to attend.

*Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Branch President*

**Check your city web pages for its Comprehensive Plan which affects affordable housing**

Each city in the Twin Cities metropolitan area is asked to update its Comprehensive Plan - - a 20-year vision for growth and re-development -- every ten years. The Metropolitan Council provides cities with projections and each city produces plans accordingly. Many municipalities are in the midst of drawing up the 2040 (!) plan and are interested in hearing from both residents and businesses. Check out your local city's website to see what planning is happening there.

To address its Comprehensive Plan, for example, a series of open-house style meetings are taking place in White Bear Lake as the process begins. (The first was 1/19 on Transportation. The second topic was Land Use at the 2/16 open house. The third, took place 3/16 addressing Housing and Parks.) The final meeting will take place April 20<sup>th</sup> focusing on Economic Competitiveness and Resiliency. The open houses are from 6-8 p.m. in the Public Safety Training room at 4700 Miller Avenue (behind City Hall).

**What is your city doing to formulate its Comprehensive Plan?** Aspects especially important to us as AAUW members is the provision of affordable housing for everyone, especially seniors, as household size is expected to continue to drop. Certainly economic competitiveness will need to address equity and equal pay. Search for "Comprehensive Plan" at your city web pages to review the plan in your city:

<http://www.centervillemn.com/>, <http://ci.coon-rapids.mn.us/>, <http://www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us/>, <http://maplewoodmn.gov/>, <http://www.newbrightonmn.gov/>, <http://www.cityofnorthoaks.com/>, <http://www.northstpaul.org/>, <http://www.ci.oakdale.mn.us/>, <https://www.stpaul.gov/>, <http://www.shoreviewmn.gov/>, or [compplan@whitebearlake.org](mailto:compplan@whitebearlake.org).

*Submitted by Vernita and Doris, "wearing the hat" of Public Policy*

**INTEREST GROUPS**

**Book Club**

*All branch members are welcome.*

Tuesday, March 28, 10:00 a.m., discussing *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow  
Home of Janet. Please advise Janet of your planned attendance.

Tuesday, April 25, 10:00 a.m., discussing *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner  
Home of Joan. Please advise Joan of your planned attendance.

**Gourmet Group**

*Any branch member and their guest interested in joining us is welcome to attend.*

Next gathering: Saturday, April 8, 2017, the time to be announced

Location: *Chimborazo* (Ecuadorian and Andean foods) 2851 Central Ave. NE, Mpls.

Reservations required, call or email Donna before April 3rd.

<p><i>AAUW has been empowering women since 1881</i></p>	<p><b>AAUW Mission Statement:</b> AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.</p> <p><b>AAUW Vision Statement:</b> 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.</p>
<p>For more information about AAUW check out our web sites</p>	<p><a href="http://www.aauw.org/">http://www.aauw.org/</a> - AAUW national level  <a href="http://aauw-mn.aauw.net/">http://aauw-mn.aauw.net/</a> - AAUW-MN state level  <a href="http://nemetromn.aauw.net/">http://nemetromn.aauw.net/</a> - our local northeast metro MN branch</p>