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March monthly meeting

Monday, March 19, 2018
White Bear Lake Area High School – South Campus *Auditorium* (east entrance)
3551 McKnight Rd., White Bear Lake, MN
(This facility is accessible to persons with disabilities.)

Schedule

7:00 to 9:00 PM March Program AAUW Northeast Metro Branch by invitation from the League of Women Voters, Minnesota will join the public for this event

Words from the President

March is a difficult month for me, maybe for you, too. I want winter to be finally over and yet we have snow, slush, gray skies, and not enough sunshine nor warmth to make it really feel like spring. I know that the days are getting longer as the hours of daylight increase but then daylight savings time happens and my mind and my body are confused again. Hang in there; spring will come!

Be sure to remember and celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th. Because nearly all of us in our branch have been privileged to travel and meet women from around the world, set aside some time during this day to remember those women (by name if you can) and ponder how we might work together with them to make the world better for everyone not just for today but for the future.

This year our March meeting will be a shared forum with the League of Women Voters and Common Cause. It will be an excellent event as we learn more about the new districts that will be drawn following the 2020 census. Come, be informed, and bring friends and neighbors with you to learn, too. April will bring our annual meeting and election of officers; be sure that's on your calendar, too.

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Branch President

Program Information for March 19, 2018

Our March program is on the topic of "Redistricting: Drawing 2020 Election Maps" co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area and Common Cause MN. All members are encouraged to invite family and friends to join in learning about the important issue of redrawing Congressional Districts following the 2020 census. Two separate proposals have been introduced in the MN Legislature.

These excellent panelists will be discussing the issues involved:

- Susan Brower, MN State Demographer
- Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Manager, League of Women Voters MN
- Tom Horner, 2010 candidate for governor and board member of Common Cause MN
- Steve Kelley, former legislator and senior fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- David Schultz, Professor of Political Science, Hamline University

This event will take place at the White Bear Lake Senior High School, South Campus Auditorium on Monday, March 19 from 7-9 p.m. The school is located at 3551 McKnight Rd. (at County Rd E) Use the auditorium entrance at the East end of the building.

Due to the change in date, time, and place, we will have no business meeting

Submitted by Janet, Program Co-Vice-President

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM AAUW - - AND UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP VOTE

This is too important for you to miss. For those of you who didn't catch the important email which was forwarded to our branch members last Monday, February 26, here is the information again.

You should have each received an email from AAUW on February 22nd telling of an upcoming membership vote on three proposals for Bylaws changes. Even though this is not an election year for AAUW leadership, the Board feels strongly that these changes are needed. You will notice that some of them sound familiar as they have been proposed and voted upon (unsuccessfully) before.

The proposed amendments address creating three-year staggered board terms, opening board service to those outside of the AAUW membership, and eliminating the degree requirement for membership. Voting will be available online from April 25 - June 9, 2018. We can discuss this further at our April meeting.

Submitted by Vernita

Branch meeting minutes

The pending February 12th, 2018 branch meeting minutes can be viewed in the Members Only section of our web pages at <https://nemetromn.aauw.net>

The branch meeting minutes are listed as pending until approved at the next branch meeting which will also be our Branch Annual Meeting on April 9th, 2018.

Submitted by Joan, Co-Secretary

Nominations for Officers

The 2018 nominating committee of Joan M., LouAnn H., and Joyce A. respectfully submits the following candidates for these positions as Northeast Metro AAUW elected officers:

Treasurer: Linda R.

Program Vice Presidents: Janet B. and Joni H., serving as co-vice presidents

Submitted by Joyce, Nominating Committee

Notice to members of proposed amendments to branch bylaws

As one of the 3 candidates for office this year who have said that they will serve **only one year**, I believe we need to have a change in the bylaws. The current bylaws say in "ARTICLE IX OFFICERS, Section 1 Officers, c. Elected and appointed officers shall serve a term of two years ..." I propose the word **shall** be replaced with the word **should** to amend our bylaws.

Additionally I think a serious discussion of reorganizing or disbanding needs to be pursued at our 2018 annual meeting. In April of next year we will need to fill all the officers' positions and there do not appear to be enough willing and able members to do so. This has been discussed before but I think it is now at a critical juncture. We need to decide (not just discuss) if and how to move forward and to make a plan for doing so.

Respectfully submitted - Linda R, Treasurer

Editors note: From the branch bylaws ARTICLE XIV, AMENDMENTS TO BRANCH BYLAWS, Branch Vote. Provisions of these bylaws not mandated by AAUW bylaws may be amended at a branch meeting by a two-thirds vote after a quorum is attained. Proposed bylaws amendments shall be sent to members at least thirty (30) days prior to the applicable meeting.

Bits and Pieces . . .

Did you see the article in the White Bear Press which reported that Neighbors Helping Neighbors (the thrift store near St. Stephens which presented the program at our September meeting) has just donated \$3,000 to the White Bear lake Area Educational Foundation, earmarked for the Angel Fund which helps families in need in the school district? You will remember that all proceeds from the thrift store are donated to local charities.

2018 is the first year where more than a quarter of the country's state legislators are women. The number is just a slight increase from 2016, but represents a symbolic milestone for women's representation in government.

Submitted by Vernita

May, 2018 Technology Program updates

Mark your calendars for the date and time changes for our May program and branch meeting!

The technology program will take place **Monday, May 7th, 2018** at the White Bear Branch of the Ramsey County Library at **1:00 PM** followed by the monthly branch meeting at 2:00 PM.

The topic selected by branch members from the Ramsey County Library class listings is "Internet Basics" in which the teacher will guide us on "how to access the Internet, navigate websites, and find information using a search engines." More information about the teacher/speaker will be provided at a later date.

Jason Lyons, Librarian, who manages classes for the Ramsey County system stated the woman who will be teaching our class is very "flexible and patient." He will advise her to help attendees feel welcome throughout the class to ask questions. Hopefully the experiences of last year for some of our members will not be repeated. If there is anything else that comes up from us, perhaps specific questions pertaining to Internet navigation, he'd be happy to forward those questions to the teacher.

Once again the library will provide a dozen tablets or laptops for our members to use during the class. However, you are encouraged to bring your own tablet or laptop computer which you would be more familiar with to follow along during the class.

Submitted by Doris, Communications Chairperson

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Club will meet at the home of Joan M on Tuesday, March 20 at 10 AM.

We will be discussing *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

Everyone is welcome, but please let the hostess know if you are coming.

Gourmet Group

The next gathering will be at Taste of India Restaurant on April 15, 2018 at 1:00 PM.

Donna will be emailing Gourmet Group members for their reservations.

To be added to the Gourmet Group, please, email Donna W or Janet B.

Continuing to send positive thoughts and prayers - -

Our friends Nancy and Robbie continue to face serious health issues. And other branch members or members of their family are also having health concerns. Our well wishes go out to all of our friends facing these tough times.

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