



**Itanyan** a Native American word meaning "To grow by reason"

September 2018 issue

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Volume 41 No. 1

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**June monthly meeting**

Monday, September 10, 2018

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. September Program

8:00 p.m. Branch business meeting including discussion of branch continuation options

9:00 p.m. Adjourn

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**Words from the President**

**ANOTHER NEW YEAR . . .** We are among the fortunate people who get to enjoy two "new years" annually. We certainly celebrate the turning of the year on January 1<sup>st</sup> but we also get to begin once again with a new program year each September. It's almost as if we women who appreciate our years of education are reminded of the beginning of a new school year when we once again gather to learn, share and make decisions. September 2018 is no different.

We in the Northeast Metro Branch are more than aware that our membership has not only not increased for several years but that we have lost membership. We have spent time thinking about, talking about, and now will be looking at decisions we will have to make about our branch. Our September business meeting will hear a report from the committee who volunteered to look at options for continuing as a restructured branch as well as hearing what it would involve should we choose to disband our branch. If you were not part of the restructuring discussion and have an alternative idea, do come prepared to offer it, too. Following the September meeting, we will be asking for a mail vote on how we move ahead.

So – "Happy New Year" again and see you on September 10<sup>th</sup> when our program will be always timely as we learn about "Working for Change" from an invited speaker who was unable to be with us last year.

*Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Branch President*

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**Program information for September 10, 2018**

Pearl Mitchell Jackson will speak at our September meeting on "The Power of Connections: Working for Change". Her background is in social work, and she served as Administrator of Volunteer Services for Ramsey County. She served on the Board of Directors of William Mitchell College of Law and worked with the Minnesota International Center and the International Institute of Minnesota. Pearl has been an active Girl Scout for more than sixty years where she served on the Board as well as in many other positions. She has won awards from her alma mater Hamline University and the Northstar Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. She promises to tell us things we don't know!

*Submitted by Joni, Program Co-Vice President*

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### **Branch meeting minutes**

The pending June 11, 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 takes place September 10, 2018.

### **Board meeting minutes**

The pending July 31, 2018 board meeting minutes can be viewed in the Members Only section of our web pages at <https://nemetromn.aauw.net>. The board meeting minutes are listed as pending until approved at the next board meeting which takes place Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 10 AM.

*Submitted by Jan, Co-Secretary*

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### **Notes from the Summer Board meeting**

1. The board voted to **combine** the branch's **two bank accounts**, checking and savings, into one checking account. This will simplify bookkeeping for the treasurer and interest on a checking account is minimal at best today.
2. When **minutes of branch meetings** are posted on our branch website, please contact the secretary(s) if you have **corrections** rather than waiting for the next meeting. This will allow the secretary(s) to be aware of them and will assure you won't forget by the time of the meeting. The change should help make the meeting run more smoothly, too.

*Submitted by Doris, Communications Chairperson*

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### **Reminder of branch vote, ballots to be returned by October 8**

#### **(Information emailed to members August 5, 2018)**

The September 10, 2018 branch business meeting will include a presentation from the restructuring option committee (volunteers appointed by Vernita last Spring) with their proposal of how we might reorganize our branch. Information will also be presented on what would be involved in disbanding our branch.

For members unable to attend the September 10th meeting, an electronic copy of the restructuring proposal, AAUW disbanding guidelines and any other option presented can be requested from Doris. *However, for members not in attendance September, 10, the handouts explaining options presented at our meeting will be included with the ballots.*

The branch board of directors will be asking our members to choose by October 8 between disbanding our branch, restructuring our branch beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year or if one is presented, an alternative option offered by one of our members. Ballots will be mailed to members asking that they be returned before October 8. Any of the decisions will require that we begin plans quickly.

*Submitted by Doris, Communications Chairperson*

*On behalf of the board of directors*

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### **Planning to present an alternative option to restructuring or disbanding our branch?**

Please bring with you to the September 10<sup>th</sup> branch business meeting a written description of your proposal. If accepted as an option by the members in attendance, your proposal will need to be included with the ballots. It would be a courtesy, but not required to let Vernita, Branch President, know you are planning to present so there is time allotted in the agenda.

*Submitted by Doris, Communications Chairperson*

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### **From AAUW Mission in Action - -**

After careful consideration, AAUW has opposed the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. While it is true that Judge Kavanaugh is an experienced juror, review of his available record has made clear that he holds positions that are fundamentally at odds with AAUW's mission — Judge Kavanaugh has shown opposition to women's access to reproductive health care and contraception, has called into question the protections of the Affordable Care Act, and his record shows that he is willing to do grave harm to women by upending employment and labor rights and restricting voting rights. **Call your senators to urge them to oppose Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation.**

Did you miss joining the AAUW phone call about what's happening at the Supreme Court? You can still hear the recording. Here's the address: <https://www.aauw.org/event/2018/07/supreme-court-review-call/>

On July 27, 2018, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund hosted a wrap-up call covering the October 2017 U.S. Supreme Court term featuring resident expert, Deborah J. Vagins, AAUW's senior vice president of public September, 2018 Itanyan

policy and research. Vagins discussed the impact of the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court and provided analysis of six cases dealing with reproductive health, economic security, employment and labor rights, and voting rights — all cases that significantly impact women and girls.

*Submitted by Vernita*

**INTEREST GROUPS**

**Book Club** will meet at the home of Janet B. on Tuesday, September 25 at 10 AM. They will be discussing *The Widows of Malibar Hill* by Sujita Massey. Everyone is welcome, but please let the hostess know if you are coming.

At their meeting the book club group will also discuss the schedule for the year and thoughts on becoming independent from the branch.

*Submitted by Janet B.*

**Gourmet Group** has not determined plans for the upcoming year.

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

**Personals**

Keep Nancy Hendrickson's husband Duane in your thoughts. His cancer has returned. If you would like his address to send a card or his phone number contact Doris.

**Dates to note and things to do**

- **Call your senators to urge them to oppose Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation**
- September 10, 2018 branch program and business meeting, St. Stephen Lutheran Church
- September 25, 2018 Book Club
- Read or review *Uncle Tom's Cabin* before the November 12 branch program. Program speaker Nancy Koester, author of *Harriet Beecher Stowe, a Spiritual Biography* suggests the read/review.

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