AAUW Northeast Metro (MN) Branch

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

May 2019 issue

Volume 41 No. 8

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May monthly meeting
Monday, May 13, 2019
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. May Program – Pamela Thinesen speaking on climate change
8:00 p.m. Branch business meeting
9:00 p.m. Adjourn
Refreshments being provided by Joan and Linda

Words from the President:

When you read this, Dale and I will be in California enjoying visits with long-standing friends from work, school and church during our 20 year sojourn in the San Francisco Bay Area. We have been fortunate to be able to return for reunions biennially since moving back to Minnesota in 1996. We are looking forward to green everywhere, blooms in abundance and friendly familiar faces. I will miss the May meeting but know that Janet will ably lead you through the needed business.

Friendly faces was one of the reasons that the "new" bylaws were approved at the April annual meeting. Voting members in attendance that night affirmed their intent to remain as an AAUW branch, connected to AAUW but also intentionally connected with each other. If you have looked over the new bylaws you noted that we will have needed to identify FOUR volunteers by the end of our June meeting for our branch to continue. Linda (Financial Officer) and Doris (Communications Liaison) have volunteered to fulfil two of those roles but we will need to have volunteers for Administrator and Record Keeper by that date. Ask yourself if you are willing to serve in one of those positions. (See #5 Update on transition towards a restructured branch**)**

The last day the Minnesota Legislature is scheduled to meet is May 23rd. Much is yet to be done since budgets, tax bills, and omnibus bills of many kinds are still in progress. Keep watching the progress of education-related bills and those which support justice for all Minnesotans. Be concerned citizens as well as caring individuals with hopes for our future together. Stay in touch with your elected senator and representative and let them know about bills you would like them to support.

Submitted by Vernita, Branch President

Program information for May 13, 2019
Pamela Thinesen of the Century College biology faculty will speak to us at our meeting on May 13. She has a B.A. in Biomedical Science from St. Cloud University and an M.S. in Biology from Portland State University in Oregon. Since 2000 she has taught classes in biology, general biology for non-majors, forensic biology, human biology, anatomy, and physiology.

Passionate about her subject, Pamela emphasizes the effects of human-caused climate change on the struggles of humans and other species, extinctions, and human health. She also served as part-time sustainably coordinator for two years until changes in personnel and attitudes brought changes.

It has not been an easy road. Students and administrators questioned the value of teaching climate change to health students. Some administrators and faculty were very uncomfortable with the truth about climate change and its importance in students' basic education.

Pamela continues reaching out and teaching her students, family and friends about protecting the only home we have.

Submitted by Joni, Program Co-Vice President

Branch meeting minutes
The pending April 8, 2019 branch meeting minutes can be viewed in the Members Only section of our web pages at https://nemetro-mn.aauw.net. The branch meeting minutes are listed as pending until approved at the next branch meeting which currently is scheduled to take place April 8, 2019.

Submitted by Joan, Co-Secretary

Transition towards our restructured branch
April 25, 2019 an email was sent to current members announcing that at the April 8, 2019 branch meeting the proposed Bylaws 2019 and the proposed Standing Rules were adopted by the branch. You can view the documents at https://nemetro-mn.aauw.net in the MEMBERS ONLY tab. As stated in these Bylaws, that take effect July 1, 2019, "The purpose of the AAUW Northeast Metro MN Branch will be for leadership to help members stay connected to AAUW, working to further the mission of AAUW and working to connect local branch members with each other."

In the April 25th email parameters of continuing as a branch were outlined describing the roles that must be filled according to IRS rules and AAUW to prevent us from disbanding; administrator, financial director, and record keeper. We added a fourth role, communications liaison for our branch needs.

Linda has volunteered to be Financial Officer and Doris has volunteered to be Communications Liaison. Both were accepted by the branch for their respective roles. We want to recognize that Robbie and Doris have also volunteered for other tasks which will be brought before the branch for acceptance once the four key roles are fulfilled.

We are announcing here in the May Itanyan that Jan and Joan have volunteered to share the responsibility of Record Keeper. Their volunteerism will go through the branch approval process at our May branch meeting.

Of importance to all who wish for our branch to continue*, we do not have a volunteer for the role of administrator.* **Now is the time for you to have conversations between your branch friends** to discuss the role, trying to ascertain creative solutions to fill it. Ask yourself, what strengths would you bring to the role of administrator? Is there someone or a couple members in the branch that you could combine your strengths with and split up tasks to help us fill it? The description of tasks for the Administrator is on our web pages (https://nemetro-mn.aauw.net) under the MEMBERS ONLY tab in the Proposed Policies and Procedures, Appendix A, found near the top of the page. If you have any ideas, please, be prepared to have a chat after the May branch meeting with those of us hoping to remain in our branch next year.

There are nine members who have renewed for 2019-2020. Many that have not joined are members who support us in spirit through their membership, which is greatly appreciated. However, they rarely attend branch meetings. The term for all volunteer roles is one year. Business meetings are anticipated to take place during daytime hours.

Submitted by Doris on behalf of members helping restructure; Christine, Jan, and Linda

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Are you feeling the restructured branch is not for you?
No explanation is needed. We know this bare bone branch will not be for everyone who has been a part of Northeast Metro (MN) Branch for so many years. Those of us who started down the path of restructuring wanted to offer members another option to disbanding. We appreciate *everyone's* friendship and hope all will feel comfortable with attending the meetings the rest of this year.

Should you wish to remain a member of AAUW there is an option for you to consider. The online branches across the country are growing. Some are specific to their state like Iowa eNetwork. But other branches describe themselves as being non-bordered, unrestrained by geographical barriers.

A couple branches to checkout;

- Founded in California, ca-online.aauw.net
- Founded in North Carolina, site.tarheel.aauwnc.org (Celebrating their 10th anniversary year and in their ranks are members from Minnesota)

Submitted by Doris on behalf of members restructuring; Christine, Jan, and Linda

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Branch delegate's report AAUW-MN Grand Rapids Convention
Thanks for the opportunity to represent our branch at the AAUW Minnesota State Convention in Grand Rapids. It was very enjoyable. 23 branches out of 29 were represented with 145 attendees. A proclamation from Governor Walz declared Saturday as AAUW Minnesota Day in honor of the great work we do for women and girls.

I accepted our AAUW Funds Award for Top Ten per Capita, we were in 4th place, at the Friday night banquet. Dr. Kathy Annette, President and CEO of the Blandin Foundation, gave a very informative and entertaining talk about her life as a native American, a woman doctor and her work at the foundation. She loves her job and the opportunity to help so many.

Our LAF speaker on Saturday was Dr. Zoe Spencer. So far, she has lost her case alleging wage discrimination and retaliation but will be appealing to the Supreme Court. She was very upbeat in the throes of adversity and was very grateful for our support. She called AAUW National just to let them know the outcome of her case. She didn't know we had funds available to help and was so grateful for all the information, funds and personal support she received. She said we were a lifesaver not just with money but having others who understood her fight and believed in her and came to court and sat on her side.

A slate of officers was elected. A resolution supporting DACA carried. After much discussion and amending a resolution to include for membership anyone endorsing our AAUW mission did not carry. It was pointed out that we would lose our affiliation with national by offering this option. Several members asked that the resolutions be sent to the branches prior to the convention so that they could be discussed with the membership as provided in the bylaws.

The afternoon ended with a choice of 2 of 5 breakout sessions and the close of the silent auction. I had delivered our check on Friday. There were many beautiful and practical garden baskets and items so I am sure they did very well.

Submitted by Linda, Delegate to 2019 AAUW MN Convention

REMINDER TO VOTE

April 1, 2019 AAUW members received an email with their member IDs and personal Voter PIN numbers encouraging us to vote for AAUW board members and Public Policy Priorities. The email from Kim Churches, AAUW Chief Executive Officer looked like this:

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION
VOTE 2019

Dear (your name),
Your voice and your vote are vital to AAUW's future. That's why it is so important for you to participate in the 2019 AAUW National Election to elect members to our board of directors and set AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. ***Online voting is now open and will close on May 14 at 6:00 p.m. ET.***

We encourage you to vote online to ensure your ballot will be received and counted immediately. … You can find more information about the candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors and the 2019–2021 Public Policy Priorities on the AAUW website.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at connect@aauw.org or 800.326.2289, Monday–Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

We are grateful for all you do, and I encourage you to vote today. AAUW's future is in your hands.

Thank you for standing with us,

Kimberly Churches
Chief Executive Officer

VOTE NOW

Submitted by Doris, Communications Chairperson

An invitation from AAUW-MN

Dates to note and tasks to do

- May 13, Branch meeting and program
- May 14, Voting closes for 2019 AAUW National Election for board members and policy priorities
- May 25, AAUW Women of Minnesota attend Minnesota Lynx game

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