



NEWS FOR AND ABOUT AAUW – GRAND RAPIDS, MN BRANCH

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FROM THE PRESIDENT – Happy New Year to all!

It was fun to share teacher stories at our tables during our November meeting. Hearing Teresa Alto's research discoveries further enhanced our memories and experiences. At our January meeting we will enjoy an update from Judge Hawkinson on the Wellness Court. The program committee is rethinking our February meeting so watch for details. The cost of transportation, an event and dining out may be more than we want to undertake at this time.

Public Policy met and discussed recommendations by Robert Reich in his book, *Aftershock*. Next month we will be back at Bixby's but at 4 PM to discuss tax reform. All of these topics hopefully will make me a better listener when our candidates begin to make their rounds in 2012 before the election. I hope to be better informed through our group. How about you?

Our thanks to all who contributed to our birthday party of AAUW in November. The outpouring was wonderful and our scholarships are healthier because of you. We continue to hold true to our mission of helping women advance their education. Speaking of money, I sent a check to AAUW's campaign to help turn out the women's vote in 15 key states in 2012. I signed the pledge and put my money where my "mouth" is. It's like the starfish story. I maybe can only help a few, but for those few it makes a difference.

Great to have so many "lovely" women at our Christmas party at the Methodist Church. We had such a wonderful meal and great entertainment. Our thanks to Deb, our caterer, and the youth who performed so beautifully. Thank you too for the many birthday bags that will be delivered to the food shelf. If you forgot, bring one next month and I'll see that it's delivered.

Happy New Year to all!

....your pres, Nancy Raymond

QUOTABLE

"How important it is to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes."
- Maya Angelou

**** BRANCH NEWS ****

January 16th Dinner Program

Methodist Church, 5:30 PM Social, 5:45 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Business, 6:45 PM Program
Dinner reservations to: Charmayne Nelson, 326-4178, by Wed., Jan. 11.
Menu: Tortellini Meatball Soup, relish tray with cheese, breadsticks, dessert

TOPIC: Itasca County Wellness Court

Judge John Hawkinson and other team members of the Itasca County Wellness Court will talk about the successes and challenges of the program. Wellness Court in Itasca County was established in April 2007 with a mission to unite judiciary, criminal justice entities, substance abuse treatment providers, and the community to enhance public safety, ensure offender accountability, reduce substance abuse, restore offenders to law abiding productivity, and reduce the financial impact on society. The program is geared specifically for drug offenders with non-violent criminal histories, and in 2009 was expanded to include gross misdemeanor and felony level DUI offenders.

The Itasca County Wellness Court is one of only two drug/DWI courts in the nation that have a Joint Powers Agreement with a Tribal Court (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe). District Court Judge John Hawkinson and Leech Lake Tribal Court Judge Korey Wahwassuck preside jointly over Wellness Court hearings.

AAUW Grand Rapids Branch Programs 2012

February 20: Program to be determined.

March 19: "Nonprofits in Northeastern Minnesota" with presenter Mary Streufert, Regional Coordinator for MN Councils of Nonprofits.
Location: United Methodist Church.

April 16: "Career Pathways: Secondary and Post-secondary Partnerships."
Speaker to be decided. Location: Itasca Community College.

May 21: Special spring program. "Aprons: History & Social Significance" with presenter Elizabeth MacLeod. Place: Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge.

Other activities of interest for AAUW members

- **March 8, 2012:** International Women's Day
- **April 17, 2012:** Equal Pay Day
- **April 27-29, 2012:** AAUW State Convention at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, Minnesota (Brainerd area). Grand Rapids AAUW is a co-host and volunteers from our branch will be needed at this event.

** INTEREST GROUPS **

LOVE TO PLAY BRIDGE

Group meets on 4th Monday at 9:30 a.m. at hostess' homes.

Jan. 23: Marney Smith, hostess

Feb. 27: Betty Akre, hostess

SNOWBIRD BRIDGE

Group meets at 12:30 p.m. on 1st Thursday of the month at Bixby's May-December. No more meetings until May.

CREATIVE ART

Painting Day or Open studio is held at Lawron Presbyterian Church every Tuesday, 9 AM until people want to leave. Margaret Z. Morris sends an email to those interested each week, including if this group will not meet some weeks. Bring your lunch. This is open for anyone of any level of painting or any media. We have watercolor and acrylic, and welcome other media. No cost or instruction, learning from each other and having fun. Contact Margaret at 999-9683.

LITERATURE – Monday group

Group meets on 1st Monday at 10:30 AM at Bixby's. Please let the contact person know if you will be gone.

Jan. 9: *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht, contact: Nancy Salmi

Feb. 6: *Cleopatra: A Life* by Stacy Schiff, contact: Marney Smith

LITERATURE – Wednesday group

Group meets on 2nd Wednesday at 10:30 A.M. at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Contact is Barbara Zimmer, 327-0911.

Jan. 11: *My Name is Mary Sutter* by Robin Oliveira

PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Public Policy Discussion Group will be held at Bixby's, Thursday, Jan. 26, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The book *After Shock* by Robert Reich will be discussed. And we will again be discussing the article, "Can the Middle Class be Saved?" by Don Peck, which was published in the September issue of *Atlantic Magazine*. We hope that many members will be able to attend our timely discussions. Contact is Emilie Zasada, 326-4909.

SCRABBLE ANYONE?

The Scrabble group meets September through May on the 3rd Thursday of each month, from 9:00 AM to noon at River Grand at 355 River Rd. Please come and be ready to play at 9

AM with your scrabble board. We are play in the lounge facing the river. No reservation needed. Contacts: Barbara Zimmer or Margaret Z. Morris.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

This group meets the second Monday of the month. Any members who would like to join this group to go on new outings each month, should contact Marney Smith, 326-2923, or Karen Karls, 326-2053.

Jan. 9: Meet at 2:45 PM at Shaw Florists in Downtown Grand Rapids for a lesson on flower arranging. Bring your own container to put flowers in. The group will pay for the flowers it uses and will go out to dinner afterward.

WALKING & TALKING

For the winter, the group will walk on **Tuesday afternoons**. The meeting place varies and those who participate get a weekly email from Irma Benner on where to meet and any directions. New members are welcome. Contact person is Irma Benner at 326-1879. Let her know if you would like to be added to the group's email list and notified about each week's walking location.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS – *Best Wishes!*

2 – Marney Smith

8 – Liz White

31 – Marian Barcus

9 – Margaret Koch, Lois Scanlon

20 – Jodi Gulbraa

11 – Gunny Gunsolly

27 – Karen Wennen

AAUW National News

Here's an interesting bit of news on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) for women and girls from www.aauw.org

Tamara E. Brown is the founder of the AAUW Tech Savvy program. A chemical and biomedical engineer, she is past president of AAUW Buffalo New York and a member of AAUW's national Leadership Corps. Below are some comments on STEM from her blog:

Today, as I ponder issues concerning women and STEM, I revert back to the questions from my professional life: **What's the problem?** Simply: Girls continue to reference society's gender-stereotypical views of STEM. Females are disproportionately represented in many STEM fields; too many young women exit undergraduate engineering programs. Industry retention of female talent is low. The result: Lack of a sufficient STEM "pipeline".

What's at stake? For women, the consequences include a very real economic impact and the inability to reach full professional potential. These consequences are weighty.

However, there is another compelling consequence. An insufficient STEM pipeline results in an under-competitive national workforce. This is not a women's issue; it is a national concern.

The cost has never been greater. America's future depends upon having a prepared, technological workforce, one that addresses the problems of tomorrow *today*. There is no doubt that technology and agile approaches are keys to our nation's competitiveness. In

order to lead, we need *all* of our best talent--prepared and on board. These talented folks must be active in our labs and engaged throughout industry. They have to be present in our colleges--and actively encouraged in middle school science and math classes. The talent has to exist throughout the entire pipeline.

So one more important, final question: **Where and when do we begin?** The challenge is to change the culture. My own "can-do" spirit for STEM began in my hometown of Vicksburg and was encouraged in Nashville. I have had a chance to pass it along in Buffalo. I look forward to continuing to do so.

The challenge is, in part, for each of us-- at home or community, your school, and in industry. **You can further a supportive culture for women in STEM--wherever you are.** There is no time to wait."

For the complete article, go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/12/13/our-challenge-change-culture-support-women-stem>

*** * BRANCH MINUTES * ***

AAUW GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH MEETING, November 21, 2011 United Methodist Church

Nancy Raymond welcomed all and announced that AAUW National was 130 years old! She thanked the caterers for a delicious meal and talked about our Christmas party that will be on December 19th at the Methodist Church. She mentioned that the cost will be \$12. The party starts at 5:30 p.m. with punch and appetizers and will include a special dinner with music and chocolate dream cake. She asked that members donate cake mix, frosting and candles to make birthday bags for the Food Shelf. Nancy also announced that Special Interests Group would meet at the end of the meeting. Marnie Smith introduced her daughter, Maren Hagen, who was our only guest.

Pat Mahoney, Scholarship Committee, announced that we had contributed \$976.00 to our scholarships in honor of our 130th AAUW anniversary.

Marcia Anderson then introduced our speaker for the evening, Teresa Alto. Ms. Alto is an ICC English instructor. Her talk was titled: The "Schoolmarm" as Feminist -- How school teachers helped women win voting and other rights.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

AAUW-GRAND RAPIDS BRANCH BOARD MEETING November 28, 2011, Public Utilities Building, 4:00 PM

Present: Audrey Erdman, Pat Mahoney, Karen Karls, Marilyn Rossman, Sandra Nyvall, Marilyn Clark, Marcia Anderson, Betty Brandt, Jean Hoshal, Nancy Raymond, Mac Custer

Nancy Raymond opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The minutes from our October 24th Board Meeting were accepted with one correction: At the coffee at Audrey Erdman's, we were interested in what the guests liked about AAUW as well as any concerns they might have.

The Treasurer's report as of November 12, 2011 was accepted. We have the following balances: General account: \$3,221.38, Local scholarship ICC: \$478.00, Educational Foundation: \$1,519.88, Savings: \$1,684.26 for a total of \$6,903.52.

Pat Mahoney added that the total given for our scholarships at our birthday party at our last meeting was \$1,111. Some members specified which scholarship they wanted to contribute to, while others did not. The specific contributions went directly to those scholarships and the rest of the money was divided equally between the ICC and the GRACF scholarships. The ICC Scholarship gained \$473 and the GRACF Scholarship gained \$638.

Audrey Erdman discussed the membership coffee she had hosted on Saturday, November 19th. She said that there was a lot of positive feedback and several good suggestions (new small groups, many activities and another cultural group that might go together to plays or concerts). Another coffee will be planned for Spring 2012. Audrey also mentioned that we have 3 new members (Betty Anderson, Pat Mortenson and Janet Neurauter), which brings our total membership to 94.

Marilyn Rossman announced that the next Public Policy meeting will be at her house on December 1st at 4:30 p.m.

Sandra Nyvall, Hospitality, said that there were two members assigned to handle welcoming new people and table assignments for each month remaining in our schedule. Sandra suggested that members wear aprons for the final meeting at Ruttgers.

There will be no AAUW newsletter in December. The next issue will be the first week in January with a deadline of December 30th.

The program for our December meeting was discussed. We will have punch and appetizers from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., dinner from 6:00 p.m. to 6:40 p.m., performance in the sanctuary from 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and dessert with the performers and their parents afterward. We are encouraged to bring "birthday bags" for the Food Shelf to have available for children. We also purchased two poinsettia plants for gifts for the caterers.

The Historian Committee is asked to bring the scrapbooks to all the meetings so everyone can get a chance to see them.

Members are asked to start looking for a good candidate for the Washington, DC leadership meeting for young women this summer. This opportunity is open to any college woman. We would prefer someone from our local area.

Nancy Raymond reported on the State Convention meeting that she and Marilyn Rossman attended at Emily. Our branch will be heading several areas. We are responsible for the "Best of Branch" booklet, pages and timers for business meetings, ice breakers which will be going on during registration. Nancy and Marilyn suggested that we do a "Table Talk" with monitors from our branch. for the ice breakers. We would set up several tables with monitors and prepared questions to discuss. We will have a practice run for this activity in March. Also, we will be introducing speakers at the break-out sessions. Nancy Raymond has donated a Liz White painting for the silent auction at the convention.

In New Business, we will be hosting the Northern AAUW Branches for a meeting in September. This will take place on September 8th and will involve registration, speaker (Karen Christenson) and brunch.

The next Board Meeting will take place on January 23, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. at the Public Utilities Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

**AAUW CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 19, 2011
Methodist Church**

Nancy Raymond, President, welcomed us all to our Christmas get-together. We had a delicious meal prepared by our caterer, Deb Cleven and her assistant. After dinner, we were entertained by a string quartet from the Itasca Youth Orchestra. We gave them a well deserved standing ovation at the end of their performance, which we all enjoyed very much! Members also brought birthday bags (cake mix, icing and candles) for the Food Shelf, which Nancy Raymond will deliver. We all enjoyed talking to the young people from the string quartet while we had dessert.

Respectfully submitted,
Mac Custer, Secretary

ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS – FOR MORE INFORMATION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION www.aauw.org
AAUW MINNESOTA www.aauwmn.org