



# NORTHWOODS NEWS

Ely Minnesota Branch Newsletter

December, 2011

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Mission:	AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
Value Promise:	By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

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## Message from Teresa Sagen, Branch President

Our Branch continues to be involved in activities in support of our AAUW mission. Our participation in the Herberger's Community Days has again provided the resources we need for scholarships, LAF, and STEM activities. Thank you to the many members who purchased booklets and who worked on the presale and sale days. The STEM Committee continues to plan the February "workshop" for girls. This is proving to be an exciting endeavor that has sparked the interest of the Ely Public Schools, Vermilion Community College, the Girl Scouts, and other members of the community. In November, Caroline and I attended \$tart \$mart at Hamline University to observe first hand this workshop about wage negotiation. Young women, who will be entering the workforce this spring, gained valuable information and skills for negotiating salaries, a first step in reducing the pay gap. Maybe we can offer this workshop in Northeastern MN. Also in November, our Branch donated a wreath to the Festival of Trees, benefiting Hospice Respite. Thank you to all of you who give your time in order to make our Branch so vibrant. I look forward to seeing you at our December 13 meeting. To those of you who have headed to a warmer climate, keep in touch, and let us hear about AAUW news in other parts of the country. I wish you all a happy holiday season!

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## December Meeting

Program:	Food Safety Presentation, by Pam Freeman. Pam was co-owner and chef at the Mantel House Restaurant. She has also taught food safety at VCC. Food safety is especially relevant during the holiday season.
When:	Tuesday, December 13, 6:45 PM
Where:	U.S. Forest Service Kawishiwi Ranger Station
Directions:	Highway 169 east of Ely, across from the Wolf Center
Hostesses:	Laura Moberly and Shelley Frederickson

## Membership

Let's not keep AAUW a secret! Invite a friend to join you on December 13. Tell Lora DeWeese about people interested in learning more about AAUW, [pdeweese@frontierner.net](mailto:pdeweese@frontierner.net) or 365-2455.

## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to fill the offices of President, Treasurer, and VP Program. Please help the committee out by volunteering to serve.

## **Northwoods Hospice Festival of Trees**

Maxine Jacks and Jeanne Tomlinson were responsible for AAUW's beautiful wreath at the Festival of Trees silent auction. Thanks for contributing your time and talent.

## **Herbergers' Community Days**

Thank you to everyone for another successful fundraising event. The Ely Branch was eligible to sell coupon books during the Community Days event, because members generously purchased coupon books and the branch also participated in the pre-sale at Herbergers. The following members sold books at Herbergers: Marge Forsberg, Maxine Jacks, Caroline Owens, Teresa Sagen, Regina Johnson, Phyllis Olson, Pat Merfeld and Lora DeWeese. They raised a total of \$500! (This is in addition to proceeds from sales to members and the branch's share of the proceeds from coupon books sold at cash registers on Community Days.)

## **STEM Activity Day**

The Branch STEM Committee is moving forward with plans for a STEM activity day, scheduled for February 11 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM at Vermilion Community College. The next planning meeting is scheduled for January 6, at 1:00 PM at Northern Grounds. Some like to get there early and enjoy lunch prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome to join this meeting.

## **Book Discussion**

If anyone asks you for a gift idea, you might ask for a copy of *Civilization: The West and the Rest* by Niall Ferguson. Pam Webster and Gail Sheddy will lead a discussion of this book at our February branch meeting. Pam heard Neal Conan interview Niall Ferguson on NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, and predicts that Ferguson's theories about civilization will provoke a lively discussion.

## **Dates to Remember**

December 13	Ely Branch meeting, 6:45 at Kawishiwi Ranger Station
January 6	STEM Committee, 1:00 PM at Northern Grounds
February 11	STEM Project, 9:30 AM at Vermilion Community College
April 27 – 29	State Convention at Ruttger's Resort in Brainerd