



NORTHWOODS NEWS

Ely Minnesota Branch Newsletter

October, 2011

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.

Message from Teresa Sagen, Branch President

Our new AAUW year is off to a great start! Our September program was outstanding and generated lots of lively discussion during and after the meeting on how we can encourage the participation of young women and girls in the STEM fields. Our STEM committee is also planning a special event with the Ely schools and VCC in the spring. This past week, six members participated in our fall breakfast and highway cleanup. Seven members attended the Northeast MN Branches' joint meeting in Hibbing, where we heard from a young woman pursuing a STEM career. Both of these events provided a wonderful opportunity to interact with other members, both within our branch and with members of other branches. I look forward to seeing all of you at our October meeting and also at other AAUW activities.

October Meeting

Program:	Presentation based on the book, <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i> by Rebecca Skloot. The book deals with the implications of using cells, from a woman's tumor, for research without her knowledge or consent. Laura Moberly and Shelley Frederickson are the presenters.
When:	Tuesday, October 11, 6:45 PM
Where:	Vermilion Community College, Fireside Room
Directions:	Use the middle entrance to the college, continue back through the cafeteria, and take stairs or elevator up two flights.
Hostesses:	Nez Artisensi and Debbie Mackie

Invite a friend to a branch meeting, and offer them a ride. If you need new membership information, contact Lora DeWeese. [365-2455](tel:365-2455)

Biennial State Convention Survey

At the AAUW MN State Convention in Winona, the St. Cloud branch proposed the following resolution, which passed: "Be it resolved that AAUW of Minnesota consider a biennial convention to be held in years alternate to AAUW's national convention." A special committee is studying the ramifications of such a change, and will report its findings at the next state convention. To accomplish their task, the committee is surveying all members in Minnesota, and would appreciate a response from everyone. To provide some background, Teresa Sagen, Lucy Diesslin and Caroline Owens met to brainstorm some of the implications of changing to a biennial schedule in Minnesota. Their thoughts are summarized in the next paragraph. We will spend a few minutes at our Ely branch meeting discussing the proposed change and answering any questions. You may download the attached survey, and send it in via email or USPS. Copies of the survey will also be available at the meeting, and you can complete it then.

Some possible implications of changing to a biennial state convention:

(These are neither "for" or "against" the resolution, but are just food for thought.)

- Members, who attend both national and state conventions, would need to commit less time and money during the years when a national convention is held.
- Without the expense of a state convention, more branches may be able to assist members attending the national convention.
- The state may have an easier time finding a branch to host the state convention, if it is only held every other year.
- The state would need to devise an alternate voting procedure, since delegates currently vote each year at the convention. (State officers serve staggered terms to provide continuity on the board.)
- Bylaw changes would be required.
- The opportunity for annual sharing among Minnesota branches would be lost. The branches would lose the enthusiasm which members who attend a state convention bring back.
- Due to the expense, many members will only attend a state convention. Therefore members have fewer opportunities to attend a convention.

Opportunity to Help Educate Kids!

Thanks to AAUW Ely Branch members, students in Durant, Mississippi have a few more resources. Lucy Diesslin reports that she sent a box of supplies and also a check in the amount of \$250 to Barb Klun, sister of AAUW member Kelly Klun. Barb is teaching in Durant, as part of the Teach for America program. If anyone missed the September meeting, but wishes to make a donation, Lucy will be glad to accept and forward both donations of cash and school supplies.

Herbergers' Community Day

The fall Herbergers' Community Day is November 12th. Our presale date is November 5 from 10 AM to 12 noon, and we will be selling coupon books at all three Herberger doors. Selling coupon books to members of our community and at Herbergers during the presale qualifies us to sell on the more lucrative Community Day. Please mark November 5th and 12th on your calendars, and plan to volunteer one of these days. Remember this is how the branch raises money for local scholarships, sending a student leader to NCCWSL, community organizations, and AAUW legal advocacy and education funds.

Northland Get Together

Hibbing hosted the third joint meeting of northern AAUW branches: Grand Rapids, Ely, Brainerd, Duluth, Virginia, and Hibbing on Saturday, October 1. Darlene Nemanich, Pam Fossum, Lucy Diesslin, Phyllis Olson, Teresa Sagen, Maxine Jacks, and Caroline Owens attended from the Ely Branch. Attendees were urged to stretch themselves in all areas of their lives. Christie Kearney, a Senior Water Resources Environmental Engineer with Barr Engineering, told some highlights of her engineering career, how she promotes engineering, science and math in schools, and some of the activities she does at home to get her daughters and their friends excited about science. The Ely Branch shared information about the Chemistry Technology program at VCC, the subject of our September branch meeting, and passed out brochures, in hopes of spreading the word to both traditional and non-traditional students.

Science Technology Engineering Math

The first meeting of a committee to plan STEM activities for upper elementary and/or junior high girls was held on September 19th. AAUW intends to partner with VCC, and the Ely School District. Two representatives met with Kim Belcastro, the Ely Superintendent of Schools, who was very enthusiastic about the idea. Science teachers have also indicated an interest. The next planning meeting is scheduled for October 17, 1:00 PM at Northern Grounds. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Road Side Litter Pickup

Did you notice how clean the AAUW section of Highway 169 is? On Friday, September 30th, Deb Mackie, Ione Klima, Pam Fossum, Lucy Diesslin, Teresa Sagen and Caroline Owens met at the Boat House Pub for breakfast, and then headed out to pick up whatever flew out of vehicle windows during the summer. Did someone purposely fling out a pair of Jockey briefs?

Sunshine Committee

Don't forget to tell Phyllis about someone whom needs to be remembered with a card.
[365-5693](tel:365-5693)

Publicity

Emily Brown has volunteered to be Publicity Chairman for the Ely Branch. Thank you, Emily.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is in need of members. Please let Teresa know of your willingness to serve on this committee.

Legal Advocacy Fund

AAUW will co-sponsor a summit at Hunter College in New York City on October 15, 2011, that will focus on workplace sexual harassment. Anita Hill is the keynote speaker. Look for the online broadcast of the summit.

Public Policy

After President Obama and Secretary of Education Duncan announced plans to waive certain requirements of the No Child Left Behind law by allowing states to apply for waivers of specific mandates, AAUW issued a statement. The last paragraph is quoted below.

Go to www.aauw.org for the complete statement.

“This waiver process should in no way serve as an end run around the accountability standards currently set for our schools. Before being let off the hook for their failure to meet their legal obligations to our children, states and schools that have failed to abide by NCLB standards must show publicly and in sufficient detail how they will improve their practices to make sure all our students are prepared for college and rewarding careers. AAUW will monitor this issue closely to make sure “flexibility” for states indeed improves student outcomes.”

***Miss Representation* Documentary**

This documentary was shown at the AAUW National Convention in DC. Now all members will have an opportunity to see it. It will be on OWN (Oprah Winfrey’s Network) on Thursday, October 20 at 8:00 PM. *Miss Representation* brings together some of America’s most influential women in politics, news and entertainment to give audiences an inside look at the media’s message and depiction of women. Women in the documentary include Condoleeza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Margaret Cho, Rosario Dawson and Gloria Steinem. The film explores women’s under-representation in positions of power by challenging their limited and often disparaging portrayals in the media, and makes the case that the media shows youth, beauty and sexuality to be women’s primary values, not their leadership abilities.

Dates to Remember

October 11	Ely Branch meeting, 6:45 in the Fireside Lounge at VCC
October 17	STEM Committee, 1:00 PM at Northern Grounds
October 24	Ely Branch Board meeting, 12 noon at the Gel
November 5	Herbergers’ Presale, 10 AM – 12 noon
November 12	Herbergers’ Community Day
April 27 – 29	State Convention at Ruttger’s in Brainerd