



NORTHWOODS NEWS

Ely Minnesota Branch Newsletter

September, 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

This year our Branch is celebrating its 85th Anniversary! In the decade that the Branch was initiated, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote, the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced to Congress, Wyoming elected the first woman as a governor in the U.S., and Minnesota allowed women to serve as jurors. It is exciting to know that the Ely Branch continues to be an important part of the community even after 85 years. The Program Committee has planned interesting and enjoyable mission based programs and activities for the year. I hope that each of you will participate and invite potential members to join us. It is because of your participation and enthusiasm for the mission of the AAUW that the Branch continues to thrive. I look forward to seeing you at our September 13 meeting.

September Meeting

Program:	STEM: New Program Offerings at VCC, presented by Teresa Neufelder, Chemistry and Physics Instructor
When:	Tuesday, September 13, 6:45 PM
Where:	Vermilion Community College, Room CL104
Directions:	Use the middle entrance to the college, classroom on left
Hostesses:	Darlene Nemanich, Lucy Diesslin, and Caroline Owens

Membership

This is a good time of year to invite people to come with you to an AAUW meeting. There are many women who would love to become an AAUW member, so do them a favor and invite them! If you need membership information, contact Lora DeWeese.

pdeweese@frontierner.net, 365-2455

Opportunity to Help Educate Kids!

Barb Klun (sister of AAUW member, Kelly) is teaching in Durant, Mississippi, in one of the poorest school districts in the United States. It is so poor that the teachers supply most of the supplies for their students and for their own needs. Upon graduating from the University of Minnesota, Barb was accepted by Teach for America, a very competitive federal program. She is looking forward to making a difference in the lives of her students. However, this is very difficult without the school supplies we all take for granted. Barb's salary is minimal, so she has few resources of her own.

Lucy Diesslin discussed this situation with the AAUW Board, who suggested that AAUW members be given an opportunity to contribute money or supplies at our September meeting. Lucy says that Barb will be most grateful for anything we do. Checks should be made out to Lucy Diesslin, and she will total them, and send one check to Barb. She will also ship any supplies that are donated. Here are some suggestions from Barb:

Pencils and pens (blue and red)	Post-It-Notes
Permanent markers	Cough drops
Crayons	Baby wipes
Rubber bands	Plastic cutlery
Stapler and staples	Colored paper
Paper clips	Extension cords
Thumb tacks	Three hold punch
Push pins	Air freshner
Glue sticks	Printer ink (Canon PG-210 – black)
Color coded dots	Adult scissors
File folders	

Darlene Nemanich reports that Pamida is selling 3 colored folders and filler paper for 1 cent each, so members may want to take advantage of this bargain.

One Person Sunshine Committee

Phyllis Olson has agreed to continue to send cards to AAUW members, and she needs everyone's help. Please let Phyllis know of someone whom needs to be remembered. olsonpr@frontiernet.net, 365-5693

Publicity

Please let Teresa Sagen know if you are able to help with publicity. A two person team would be even better! The branch puts a notice about meetings in the local papers, and also sends a story and/or a picture about special events to the papers. The Ely Branch has always been given good coverage. txsagen@frontiernet.net 365-6461

Nominating Committee

Although we are just beginning the AAUW program year, it is not too early to start thinking about elections in the spring. Please let Teresa know about your willingness to serve on the branch Nominating Committee. The committee will be looking for candidates for the offices of President, Treasurer, and Program Vice President, who will serve with the two continuing Program Vice Presidents.

Relay for Life

Thank you to Nez Artisensi and Maxine Jacks for taking charge of the AAUW team, which participated in Ely Relay for Life on August 12. Team members included Marge Forsberg, Lucy Diesslin, Pat Merfeld, Judy Viken, Lora DeWeese, Ione Klima, Gail Shetty, Teresa Sagen, and Jeanne Tomlinson. They raised \$1,265 for the fight against cancer.

Northland Get Together

Hibbing is hosting the third joint meeting of northern AAUW branches: Grand Rapids, Ely, Brainerd, Duluth, Virginia, and Hibbing.

Place: Amelia's, 2601 First Avenue, Hibbing
Date: Saturday, October 1
Time: Registration and Coffee at 9:30 AM
Cost: Lunch, including gratuity, is \$15.00

Agenda:

10:00 Welcome
10:15 Surprise Speaker
10:30 Group Discussions: Stretch Yourself
11:20 Establishing Goals
11:30 Lunch
12:30 Christie Kearney, a Senior Water Resources Environmental Engineer with Barr Engineering, will discuss STEM and its impact on girls in our area. Christie lives in Hibbing with her husband and two daughters.
1:20 Door Prizes

To make your reservation, sign up on September 13th at our branch meeting, or contact Teresa Sagen tsagen@frontiernet.net, 365-6461 by September 25th. Make your check payable to Hibbing AAUW in the amount of \$15.00, and give it to Teresa no later than September 25th.

Vermilion Community College

Vermilion has renewed its AAUW college/university partner membership. This entitles all students at Vermilion to free AAUW e-student affiliate memberships, with access to online AAUW membership benefits and e-mail alerts. They get educated on issues that matter to their future, receive priority for many AAUW grants, become empowered to find their voice, and are connected to women who are national as well as international leaders

The Ely Branch plans to continue to build strong ties with Vermilion College and to support students. Promoting women's education has always been the centerpiece of AAUW's mission. AAUW National has hired a manager of college/university relationships, and has developed several programs to help branches support college students. You may be familiar with some of them: The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), Campus Connections e-newsletter, Elect Her – Campus Women Win, funding for Campus Action Projects, and \$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation Workshop.

So far the Ely Branch has helped two Vermilion students attend NCCWSL, two years ago on our own, and last year with \$500 help from AAUW MN. (See last month's newsletter.) We plan to take advantage of the same offer from AAUW MN this year.

Herbergers' Community Day

The fall Herbergers' Community Day is November 12th. Our presale date is November 5 from 10 AM to 12 noon, when we will sell coupon books at three 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. The fall and spring Herberger Community Days have been our branch's fundraiser. Last year we raised over \$2,400 by selling coupon books to our members and other Ely people, by selling coupon books at Herbergers on a presale day and on Community Day, and by receiving a portion of the receipts from coupon books sold at cash registers. Last year we used the proceeds for scholarships, helping a student attend the NCCWSL Conference, defraying some state convention costs, donations to local organizations, and donations to AAUW education and legal advocacy funds. Mark November 5th and 12th on your calendars.

Public Policy

If you do not already receive the *Washington Update* via email from AAUW, you may want to consider signing up. This e-mail keeps you up to date on public policy issues affecting AAUW. To sign up, go to www.AAUW.org, click on LEARN, and then click on Publications and Washington Update. Look for the directions on how to subscribe.

Legal Advocacy Fund

Lulu Sun v University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Soon after Lulu Sun spoke at the AAUW Minnesota Convention about her sex and race discrimination case, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination decided in favor of Dr. Sun. It ordered her promotion to full professor and awarded her lost wages.

Cioca et al v Rumsfeld et al

In the most recent case adopted by AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund is, sixteen servicemen and servicewomen have filed a lawsuit against the Department of Defense, because they were raped, sexually assaulted and harassed by active duty members of the military. The case was filed in the state of Virginia on February 15, 2011, and AAUW adopted the case in May, 2011. The plaintiffs' lawyers are researching and writing a white paper detailing charges and reforms they want the military to make regarding sexual assault and would be willing to drop the suit if the military adopts it. They anticipate the government will file to dismiss the case.

National Audit Committee Member

Caroline Owens was recently appointed a member of the Audit Committee for the AAUW national organization. If you attend a National Convention (highly recommended), watch what you say to the National President, Carolyn Garfein. You just may end up on a committee!

Dates to Remember

September 13	Ely Branch meeting, 6:45
September 19	STEM Committee, 1:00 PM at Northern Grounds
September 25	Reservation deadline for "Northland Get Together"
September 26	Ely Branch Board meeting, 12 noon at the Gel
October 1	"Northland Get Together" (Joint AAUW Branch Meeting) 9:30 AM at Amelia's in Hibbing
November 5	Herbergers' Presale, 10 AM – 12 noon
November 12	Herbergers' Community Day
April 27 – 29	State Convention at Ruttger's in Brainerd