



The Clarion



Notes From the President

Important issues will be decided with midterm elections on November 2, 2010. The issues are critical BUT often overlooked by many who have forgotten that the right to vote is a responsibility and privilege. One vote can and often does make a difference in the outcome of an election. Do not remain silent and let others do the voting for you.

AAUW has endorsed the **Power of One Vote** as an incentive to encourage members to participate in the fall elections. In keeping with the **Power of One Vote** AAUW Winona and the Winona Chapter of The League of Women Voters will again sponsor **2010 Social and Political Issues that Impact Women in Winona: A panel discussion of women leaders**. This forum will be held at the Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical College on Thursday, October 7th 4:30p.m to 7:30p.m. Panel members include Eryn Redig, Women's Resource Center, Marcia Ward, Winona County Board, Lynn Theurer, retired

Director Winona County Community Health Services, Senator Erickson Ropes, Senate District 31, and Karin Sonneman, attorney and assistant Winona County public defender. Current issues to be discussed include Healthcare Reform, Economy, Poverty, Education, Violence and Emerging Issues. Your participation and support is important but in particular bring a guest to this informative issues discussion.

Another issue that membership should be aware of is the Paycheck Fairness Act. The Senate is back in session and action is required by the end of September to pass the bill. The House passed the bill in January 2009. This critical bill will provide greater safeguards against pay discrimination, which would be a fitting way to recognize the value of every American worker. When recently polled, 84 percent of American voters expressed support for a new law to create more avenues for women to receive fair wages.

As we start a new year, do keep in mind the power of new membership to support our

strength as an organization. AAUW encourages diversity and equity for all women and girls.

Joan Greshik, President Winona Branch

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

October Calendar

October 7: Branch Meeting 4:30 pm, Minnesota State Southeast Technical College.

October 7: Branch Board Meeting, following Branch Meeting.

October 21: Clarion Deadline.

October Branch Meeting

Please note the TIME, DATE, and PLACE for the October meeting.

The October branch meeting is on Thursday, the 7th, at Minnesota State College Southeast Technical.

We'll be treated to a panel on the Political Issues Affecting Women, starting at 5:30 in the Auditorium.

This meeting is co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters.

Remember --- NO Saturday meeting in October.

We hope that many members will turn out and bring guests, neighbors, friends, relatives.

Special Interest Groups

Adventures in Dining – On September 30, the group is dining at “Twigs” in Rochester. The October 28 adventure hasn't been chosen yet. Watch your e-mails for further information.

Mona McMahon Bridge – This group will meet at 1:00 pm on October 13 at Jeanette Steiner's home.

Gourmet – This group will meet on October 19 at 6:30 pm at Marian Carroll's. The theme is a Moroccan meal.

Literature - The afternoon group will meet at 1:00 pm on October 19 at Donna Peterson's home. Mary Breunig is the discussion leader.

The evening group will meet at 7:15 p.m. on October 26 at Marian Carroll's home. Co-hostess is Patte Peterson. Barb Shields is the discussion leader.

Both groups are reading "Mornings in Jenin" by Susan Abulhawa.

“500” Group – This group will meet on October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Carolyn Kosidowski's home

Knit Pickers – This group meets every Thursday at Callista Court from 2 – 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

AAUW Association Website and Email

<http://www.aauw.org>

info@aauw.org

AAUW Minnesota State Website
<http://www.aauwmn.org>

Congratulations, Jo Gerlach on your 95th Birthday September 30, 2010.

Jo is a lifetime member of AAUW Winona and served as president from 1980-82. Jo also chaired the AAUW Minnesota State Convention in the mid 1980s. Jo continues to be active in the AAUW Winona Literature and Knit Pickers Interest Groups. Jo resides at Callista Court, Winona.

DIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. The Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund also value and seek diversity. For all three corporations of AAUW there shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Education Foundation

I hope that you had a relaxing summer and that you are ready for our fall colors and cooler temperatures. We are well on our way to meeting our 2010 goal of \$500 for our combined LAF/EF fund. Through our fundraising efforts at our branch meeting and at the AAUW silent auction, we have raised \$418.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Our final fundraising effort for this year will be held at our November meeting. We will host a silent auction of handmade gift baskets and holiday wreaths. There will be a fun holiday raffle as well. So, plan on

attending and participating in our EF/LAF fundraiser.

As Minnesota AAUW members, we can be proud of our accomplishments, too. According to Janet Wettergren and Julie Ollila, our Minnesota co-vice presidents for AAUW Funds, AAUW Minnesota has earned four Top Ten State awards:

- Ninth place in total state giving – all categories combined
- Seventh Place in total state giving to the Legal Advocacy Fund
- Fourth Place in total state giving to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund
- Seventh Place in total state giving to the Leadership Programs Fund

Again, thank you for *everything* that you do to support our EF and LAF fundraising efforts. Your gifts provide educational opportunities for women and girls, giving them opportunities for a lifetime of success.

Enjoy fall!

Diane Dingfelder, EF Chair

Membership Recruitment Successful

On September 23rd Carolyn Kosidowski graciously opened her home to AAUW for new member recruitment. Joan Greshik, President, began the evening by presenting information about AAUW beginning with the mission statement, “AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research”. Marian Carroll provided information about the many interest group options available to members. Rose Cyert, explain the cost to join and the benefits gained by women and girls by becoming a members of AAUW. Because of these

efforts AAUW Winona has two new members, Mary Leahy and Kaylene Engel. Please welcome Mary and Kalene to our Branch.

AAUW MN Convention 2011

We were very much pleased with response to the request for support to the MN State Convention 2011 shown at the September Branch Meeting. Thank you to the following members Marion Hopkins, Alice Keller, Bev Spande, Marsha Yancy, Kay Shaw, Phylliss Mae Johnson, Marianne Olson, Marcia Chaffee, Barb Shields, Robin Richardson, Marg Wallerich and Diane Hanke, who have either offered help at the meeting or at another time.

Not all those who volunteered have been given a specific task, yet. Some tasks that still need to be filled are: printing of the convention booklet (the State Board provides the contents), word processing and making copies of "The Best of the Branches", assembling the convention packet for the attendees, manning the registration table, pages for the business meeting on Saturday morning of the Convention and all the other tasks that may arise.

If you are interested in any of the listed tasks contact Rose at 454-3555 or rcyert@hotmail.com. Again thanks for the generous support shown. It is very much appreciated.

Rose Cyert and Joan Greshik

**AAUW Winona Meeting
September 11, 2010
Purple Rooms Winona State University**

President, Joan Greshik called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

Mission: AAUW advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

A thank you from the Great River Shakespeare Festival was read regarding the meal supplied by branch members over the summer.

Minutes: Marsha Yancy read the minutes of the summer transition meeting to the branch membership. The minutes stand as read.

Treasure's report: Mary Breunig announced one correction of transposed numbers to the financial report published in the Clarion. The branch account balance is \$2030.08 as of 9/11/10. The branch has a paid membership of 48 including 3 life members for 2010/2011. The AAUW fund account has a balance of \$1030.37. The financial report stands as corrected.

AAUW Funds (Educational Foundation and LAF): The branch has raised \$318 toward our 2010 goal. An additional amount was raised at the silent auction at the spring convention, but the amount has not been released. It is believed that will add over \$100.

Program: The programs planned for the year are published in the September Clarion. Plans for March, International Day, have not been finalized. There is no Program Chair. A volunteer is sought to introduce the speakers at each program.

Membership: There is no Membership Chair. Members have been encouraged to pay their dues online. This allows the Association to pay the state and branches their portion.

Public Policy: No report given

Old Business

1. Strategic Plan: A copy of the strategic plan was circulated during the meeting. This 10 page document

will be emailed and shared with the membership.

2. State Convention: The AAUW Minnesota State Convention will be held in Winona on April 29 and 30 and May 1. The title of the convention is "Bridging the Gap for Women and Girls". Joan and Rose Cyert have been meeting with a state planning committee. The convention usually brings in funds to the branch that sponsors it. The convention will have its own financial officer; Marge Wallerich has agreed to fill this post. The state loans the local branch \$1000 to help finance the expenses. This amount is repaid after the convention. Convention plans include: Friday evening event at the Marine Art Museum, sessions, meeting, lunch and dinner on Saturday, continental breakfast on Sunday. It is unsure if there will be a silent auction or Eleanor Roosevelt run/walk. Rose outlined a list of duties to be accomplished by volunteers from the branch. The branch will need to publish a convention program and a Best of the Branches award list. Volunteers are needed.
3. Investment Update: Rose Cyert contacted Kim Renk. The \$750 for the scholarship recipient has already been withdrawn. The investment account balance stands at \$15,327.49.

New Business

1. New Member recruitment event will take place on Thursday, September 23rd at Carolyn Kosidowski's home at 7 pm. Member sponsors are encouraged

to attend with the potential members. Please forward names and addresses of potential members to Joan for an invitation. The attendees will learn about AAUW Winona and the available interest groups.

2. Winona Reads: the branch will plan to assist with the Winona Reads program again this year. Joan will contact Pat Nolan concerning our involvement.
3. Winona League of Women Voters debates: Rose passed around a sign up list for volunteers from AAUW Winona to assist with these events. The national association supports community involvement in events such as these or that address the Power of One Vote program.
4. Budget: Mary Breunig will email the approved annual budget to the membership following board approval. The branch lost \$624 during 2009-2010. The proposed budget shows a possible loss for this year. A discussion of cost cutting measures ensued. Meeting refreshments will remain coffee and juice. Copies of the Clarion and Member Directory will continue to be mailed to members who do not use email. Every effort will be made for all luncheon fees to cover the cost of the luncheon, even if prices need to increase. Possible ways to increase revenue and membership were discussed.

The membership year goes from July – June, historically the renewal dues are paid in the spring and deposited at that time. Paying dues during the actual program year would help Mary show the correct revenue for the year. The proposal of paying dues online would help in this respect. Members are encouraged to make a donation if they partake of refreshments.

- 5. AAUW Funds November fundraiser:** There will be a fundraiser for the funds at the November meeting. There will be a raffle of a wreath and gift basket, and a silent auction of a wreath and gift basket. A winter theme will be featured. Members are encouraged to attend and donate to this cause.

Announcements:

- Anyone wishing to opt out of AAUW Minnesota emails please contact Joan via email.
- MN Pine is now available via email.
- AAUW Rochester has joined Winona to complete the Mona McMahon Scholarship Fund.

Winona Branch of AAUW Treasurer's Report

N/A

The next branch meeting is October 7th at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical. A panel of local experts will discuss Political Issues Affecting Women.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20am.

Submitted by,
Marsha Yancy, Secretary

Winona Branch 2010-2011 Contacts

President Joan Greshik

Finance Officer
Mary Breunig

Newsletter Gail Bradbury