



# NORTHWOODS NEWS

Ely Minnesota Branch Newsletter

March, 2009

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**Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

**Vision:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

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## Message from Teresa Sagen, Branch President

Thanks to members who participated in the strategic planning sessions and to those members unable to attend who sent their ideas. This opportunity to discuss our future and to share ideas has created new energy in our Branch. To energize our Branch further, I hope that each of you will consider attending the State Convention in April. Not only is the Convention an excellent opportunity to hear from other members and branches, but it also is a time for us to share our many activities and achievements. The keynote speaker is Erica Schultz, who will talk about girls in the sciences and who will moderate a panel of young women discussing issues girls face in school. Additionally, AAUW Executive Director, Linda Hallman, will lead a Town Hall Forum to discuss the proposed Bylaws revisions. The Branch will help delegates with expenses.

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## March Meeting

**What:** Discussion of books written by Bob Cary, led by Barb Cary Hall

**When:** Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 PM

**Where:** U.S. Forest Service Kawishiwi Ranger Station

Bob Cary (1921- 2006) moved from Illinois to Ely with his family in 1966, and founded Canadian Border Outfitters. His love of the outdoors was evident in his writing, music, art, and his work as a conservationist. In addition to writing his column, *Birdshot and Backlashes*, for the *Ely Echo*, Bob was the author of many books, including *The Big Wilderness Canoe Manual*, *Winter Camping*, *The Root Beer Lady*, *Tales from Jack Pine Bob*, *Bush Pilots: Legends of the Old and Bold*, *Ely Echoes: The Portages Grow Longer*, *Fishing and Hunting by Canoe*, *Fear Was Never an Option*, *Born to Pull*, *How to Catch Fish*, and *All American Outhouse Stories*. He illustrated many of the books he wrote, and also illustrated several books by other authors, such as the one by his nephew Frankie Paul, *Cool Fishing for Kids*.

Don't miss this chance to discuss the writings of this amazingly talented man. Although Barb suggests that members may want to read one or more of his books prior to our meeting, another option is to read his books after learning more about the author.

## **Invite a Friend to an AAUW Meeting**

The program at our March meeting will be interesting and informative. Be sure to invite a friend to come with you.

## **Senator Thomas Bakk: Minnesota Budget Crisis**

The Ely Branch of AAUW is a co-sponsor of a town meeting on March 14 at the Grand Ely Lodge. The forum begins at 2:00 PM, and members of sponsoring organizations are invited to a reception at 1:00 PM. Senator Bakk is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Taxes, and a member of the Property Tax Division of that committee. He is also a member of the Rules and Administration Committee, the Business Industry and Job Committee, and the Finance Committee. Judy Viken is looking for suggestions for questions for Senator Bakk to answer at the forum. Please e-mail your questions to either Judy ([jviken@frontiernet.net](mailto:jviken@frontiernet.net)) or Teresa Sagen ([tkswagen@frontiernet.net](mailto:tkswagen@frontiernet.net)) by Friday, March 6.

## **Paycheck Fairness Act**

AAUW is focusing on the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act by the U.S. Senate, and is urging members to communicate the importance of this bill to their senators. You can help by going to [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org), clicking on Advocacy, Public Policy, and Tools for Action. This is a convenient way to send an e-mail to Senator Amy Klobuchar.

## **Herbergers' Community Day**

Thank you to Barb Johnson, Maxine Jacks, Teresa Sagen, Jeanne Tomlinson, and Lora DeWeese for selling coupon books at Herberger's on our pre-sale day and on the Herberger Community Day. Thank you also to members who supported this fundraiser by purchasing coupon books.

## **Vermilion Community College and AAUW**

The college is in the process of becoming a College/University Partner with AAUW. The Ely Branch is supporting this endeavor by paying half of the \$125 fee. Students at Vermilion will now have the opportunity to join AAUW as e-student affiliate members at no charge. As members, they will have access to leadership development resources, be able to participate in discussions on the AAUW blog, receive electronic versions of AAUW publications, keep up to date on gender equality issues, and learn where representatives and candidates stand on issues important to women.

## **Women's Panel for Vermilion Community College Women**

The women students at VCC are working with AAUW and EMPOWER to organize a panel discussion of women working in careers in the out of doors. Panelists will share their experiences as women in non-traditional fields. As of this writing, panel participants are:

Nancy Hernesmaa, Superior National Forest Ranger

Amy Kireta, Research Fellow, University Minnesota Duluth Natural Resources Research Institute

Penny Jeffers, Outward Bound Staffing Director

Mary Manning, Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement, Grand Marais

Barb Soderberg, Public Service Team Leader, Superior National Forest, Retired

Jen Westlin, Park Manager, Bearhead State Park

The VCC students are inviting students at Ely Memorial High School to attend the panel discussion, which will be held on March 19th.

## **I Love to Read Activities**

The Ely Branch provided both financial support and volunteer support to the “I Love to Read” program during the week of February 16<sup>th</sup>. We purchased 10 copies of *The Klipfish Code* by Mary Casanova in order for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to each have 5 copies. In addition the following members read to children in grades Kindergarten through sixth, Head Start, and Happy Days pre-school: Judy Viken, Jan Hogan, Pat Merfeld, Debbie Mackie, Maxine Jacks, Kelly Klun, and Geri Koschak. Gail Shedly coordinated the “I Love to Read” program.

## **Three Year Strategic Plan**

Branch members met for a second session to work on the branch’s strategic plan. They took the ideas from the first session, and identified three major goals, attached actions to these goals, and identified who will be responsible for the actions, and when. Some action steps will take place in year two or three of the strategic plan, while others are on-going. Look for our strategic plan document, which will be sent via e-mail. Upon membership approval, it will guide our operations in the future.

## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee will submit the following slate at our March Branch meeting. Note that currently there is no nominee for the office of secretary. Please think long and seriously about stepping forward to fill this vacancy. To dispel some concerns, remember that writing the newsletter is not a responsibility of the secretary; help is available for distributing the minutes via e-mail; others are always willing to take minutes when the secretary cannot attend a meeting.

Membership Vice President	Lora DeWeese
Program Vice President	Laura Moberly
Secretary	Vacant

Thank you to Cindy Park, Phyllis Olson and Katherine Scheuer for their work as members of the Nominating Committee. Please let a member of the committee know of your interest in being nominated for secretary.

## **State Convention**

The AAUW of Minnesota convention is April 24 – 26 in Owatonna. The Ely Branch will have four voting delegates, and we need to be represented! The branch will pay for the cost of registration and also for two nights’ double occupancy. With all the changes happening in AAUW, this will be an interesting and exciting convention. It’s always fun to connect with other AAUW members from across the state. Look at [www.aauwmn.org](http://www.aauwmn.org) for more information, and call or e-mail Teresa to let her know you are interested in attending.