



# NORTHWOODS NEWS

Ely Minnesota Branch Newsletter

May, 2009

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

In reviewing this past year, I believe we have many accomplishments to celebrate! We completed a Three-Year Strategic Plan, our road map for emphasizing “mission based” programs, connecting with and providing service to our community, and attracting and maintaining a diverse, involved membership. During this year, we co-sponsored a Candidates’ Forum, a Town Hall Meeting with Senator Bakk, and a career panel discussion for Vermilion Community College students. We reminded people to vote by placing VOTE signs in store windows. We donated a decorated wreath to Northwoods Hospice Respite’s silent auction, at our December meeting we collected donations for the Ely Food Shelf and raised money through a raffle for the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, and we continued our co-sponsorship of the “Books for Babies” program. We also purchased books for the “I Love to Read” program, and many AAUW members volunteered to read in classrooms. In the fall we picked up trash along a two mile stretch of Highway 169, and will do it again later this month. We raised funds by participating in two Herberger Community Days, allowing us to provide a college scholarship to a local non-traditional student, donate to the Legal Advocacy Fund, and make a special donation to the Education Foundation in honor of Isabelle Koski. On April 26<sup>th</sup> I was privileged to accept the Mission in Motion Award on behalf of the Ely Branch at the AAUW Minnesota convention. We were designated a “Mission Powered Branch” for excellence in advancing the AAUW mission. Thanks to each of you for your many contributions.

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## May Meeting

Program: Spring Banquet, followed by Bob Cary book discussion, led by Barb Cary Hall  
When: Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 PM social time, 7:00 PM dinner  
Where: Grand Ely Lodge

Barb had originally agreed to speak at our March meeting, which was cancelled due to bad weather. We are fortunate that Barb has agreed to join us for our banquet.

Dinner will be a buffet, and the cost is \$18.62, which includes tax and tip. You pay at the dinner. Please make your check payable to Grand Ely Lodge.

**Call or email Maxine Jacks no later than Thursday, May 7 to make a reservation.**

**365-6540 [MaxJacks@citlink.net](mailto:MaxJacks@citlink.net).** (If you signed up at the April meeting, you have a reservation.)

## **Time to Pay Dues**

Our Treasurer, Jeanne Tomlinson, will collect annual dues for the 2009-2010 membership year at the banquet on May 12th. Dues are \$65.00 (\$49 national association, \$9.00 state, and \$7.00 local). Remember, \$46.00 of the \$49.00 national dues is tax deductible, under the new AAUW structure. If you are unable to attend the banquet, please mail your dues to Jeanne Tomlinson, 549 Loop Road, Ely MN 55731. Check should be made payable to Ely Branch AAUW.

## **State Convention**

Our delegates to the state convention, Maxine Jacks, Lucy Diesslin, and Teresa Sagen, were very impressed with this year's convention. They reported that the break-out sessions and the speakers were excellent. Adding to their enthusiasm were two awards presented at the Saturday evening dinner.

"Mission Powered Branch" Award The Ely Branch of AAUW was one of three branches in the state to be awarded the Mission Powered Branch award, in recognition for excellence in advancing the AAUW mission. This is the highest level of the Mission in Motion program. To qualify a branch needs a three year strategic plan, plus it must have

1. collaborated with an educational institution, a library or a community based program for children,
2. developed at least three programs/projects which focus on the mission, and
3. taken steps to retain and add members.

Comments from the selection committee included "Impressive submission," "Nice collaboration with VCC," "You definitely keep AAUW's mission at the forefront."

Young Women Breaking Through Barriers for Equity Award We nominated Mara Brogan, a student at Vermilion Community College, for this award for her leadership in planning and participating in the Women in the Outdoors panel discussion at VCC on March 19. The Ely Branch of AAUW co-sponsored this event with the VCC Women's Group and EMPOWER. Mara was a key member of the planning committee and also moderated the panel discussion. Eight panelists shared their experiences with VCC students on such topics as their preparation for entering their career field, challenges of working in a non-traditional career, pay equity, harassment, and tips for advancing. Mara and her parents attended the awards dinner during the convention in Owatonna. Mara was one of three young women selected for this AAUW state award, which was presented to her by Karen Kirkwood, AAUW State Co-President.

## **Ely Branch Scholarship**

Dina Janke is the recipient of the \$500 scholarship awarded to a non-traditional student from the Iron Range. Dina says, "I decided to go back to college for a career change after working in clerical jobs for many years, realizing my heart just wasn't in it, and they were usually jobs that were leading me nowhere." Dina has always had an interest in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. Upon graduation from Vermilion next fall, Dina will transfer to Bemidji State University to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology, with a Wetlands Ecology emphasis. Dina has three children and two grandchildren.

## **Adopt-a-Highway**

It's time to clean up our two mile section of Highway 169. We will be picking up trash on Thursday, May 28, after fueling up with a good breakfast at the Boathouse Brew Pub on Sheridan. Meet at 8:30 AM to eat and get organized. Be sure to bring gloves and wear boots. Jeanne Tomlinson is in charge of this again, and really appreciates lots of helping hands. If you have questions, call or email her. 365-5867 [tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com)

## **National Convention in St. Louis June 26 - 28**

At the national convention in 2007, delegates approved a restructuring of AAUW, effective July 1, 2009. AAUW will become a more unified organization with one mission. The primary corporation will be the current Educational Foundation, containing the membership, most of the assets and most of the programs. The current Association will exist solely for the purpose of voter education, voter guides and other related activities, which cannot be carried out by a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Delegates to the 2009 AAUW National Convention will vote on proposed revisions to the bylaws, aligning the bylaws to the new structure. The most recent edition of AAUW's *Outlook* has an excellent summary of the proposed bylaws. This information is also on the AAUW website, [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Look under "News and Information" and click on Bylaws Q&A. Some of the changes include giving every member a vote on national business, providing more flexibility on all levels (branch, state and national), and making support for AAUW's mission and purpose the only requirement for membership. Because the primary organization will be a 501(c)(3) corporation, \$46.00 of our national membership dues will be tax deductible. The other \$3.00 supports political activities, and is not deductible.

## **Dode Wonson**

AAUW branches in Minnesota have been notified of the death of Dode Wonson on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Those who have attended Minnesota state conventions no doubt remember her. She served as State President from 1962 – 1964, and remained active in AAUW until her death.

## **Opportunities for Member Participation**

Our branch is looking for a Sunshine person (or it could be a committee) to send cards to members in case of illness, a death in a member's family, acknowledgement of a special accomplishment, or communication to a member that she has been missed. Please consider taking on this position. You would be providing a much appreciated service to members. Contact Teresa Sagen. 365-6461 [tkswagen@frontiernet.net](mailto:tkswagen@frontiernet.net).

We have been asked to form an AAUW Relay for Life Team, and participate in the Ely Relay for Life event on the evening and morning of August 14-15. Interested members will have an opportunity to sign up at the May meeting. You may also sign up by contacting Teresa.