



ROCHESTER (MN)
BRANCH

HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

7:00 P.M.—8:30 P.M.

ZOOM ONLY

A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS—

WHO IS LEFT OUT IN THE COLD?

**SPEAKERS: DAVE DUNN, DIRECTOR OF
OLMSTED CO. PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND
THE OLMSTED CO. HOUSING REDEVELOP-
MENT AUTHORITY; JEFF URBAN;
STATE SENATOR LIZ BOLDON**

**PRESENTED BY ROCHESTER AAUW AND
ROCHESTER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Join Zoom Event:

[https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/89437750682?
pwd=TMFwaq3m7MPKnVppH71zTrwiZDXhz7.1](https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/89437750682?pwd=TMFwaq3m7MPKnVppH71zTrwiZDXhz7.1)

SEE P.2 FOR OTHER WAYS TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING.



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IMPORTANT!

SEE P. 5

**For information
about making your
reservation for the
March Luncheon.**

**Reservations are
needed by March 1.**



FEBRUARY VIRTUAL PROGRAM:

A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS—WHO IS LEFT OUT IN THE COLD?

People experiencing homelessness is a harsh reality across the country, including for many in the Rochester area. How are our community and local governments responding to the need for temporary shelter, no-income housing, and affordable homes?

Dave Dunn, Director of Olmsted County Planning Department and the Olmsted County Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will bring us up to date on the current situation and local government initiatives to address it.

Jeff Urban, Outreach Pastor at Bear Creek Church, will describe what his church is doing with their property, the former Crossroads College, to provide housing opportunities. Jeff is also the Project Development & Community Outreach Director for the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing and will add his perspective from that role.

If her legislative calendar permits, State Senator Liz Boldon, representing parts of Rochester, and Vice Chair of the Senate's Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention, will join and update us on the current work of her committee.

This event is free and open to the public. There will be time for audience questions. We hope you can join us to learn more about this important and timely topic.

Join Zoom Event: <https://lwmmn-org.zoom.us/j/89437750682?pwd=TMFwaq3m7MPKnVppH71zTrwiZDXhz7.1>

Other options for joining the Zoom event:
If you are already logged in to Zoom, you can use

- Meeting ID: 894 3775 0682
- Passcode: 710574

To participate by phone only

- Dial: (312) 626-6799 (note this is long distance and landline users will need to dial a 1 first)
- Meeting ID: 894 3775 0682 (you will be told to follow with a #)
- Participant ID: enter # to skip
- Passcode: 710574 (you will be told to follow with a #)

INTEREST GROUPS CALENDAR

All branch members are invited to participate in any of the following groups. Please let the chair or discussion leader know in advance, if possible. Contact the chair, discussion leader, or host for additional meeting information.

BOARD MEETING—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5—7:00 PM

Zoom. Board members: Notify Barb if you cannot attend.

President: Barb Knutsen 507-285-5122 (home); 507-535-9175 (cell); bknutsen45@gmail.com

READING PLUS- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5--9:00 AM

Book: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Leader: Gay Segar

Location: Zoom

Chairs: Ruth Stroebe 507-271-3240 ruthstroebe@yahoo.com and Carol Hartley 916-712-8899 chartley2@comcast.net

WHO'S WHO--TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6—1:00

Book: *Mighty Justice: My Life in Civil Rights* by Dovey Johnson Roundtree and Katie McCabe

Location: Zoom

Chair: Joyce Wenz (joycewenz@yahoo.com)

BETWEEN THE LINES—NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

The group will discuss *Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club* by J. Ryan Stradal in March

Co-chairs: Karen Krueger brkck@charter.net and Pat Espeset patespeset@gmail.com

AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 —1:00

Book: *Hang the Moon* by Jeannette Walls

Host: Holly Ebel, 4075 Berkshire Rd SW 254-4028

Discussion Leader: Nancy Brubaker

Chairs: Judy Auger (judy_auger@msn.com, 282-7922) and Laura Martin (martin.laura@mac.com 289-7895)

WORDS WORTH—NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Chair: Mary Ann Kleis makleis@aol.com

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22—1:00

Majel will lead the discussion of Topic #2 "Global Trade and Green Energy" in the new Great Decisions book.

Anyone who is interested but isn't on the Foreign Policy email list can email Sara at jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com for information about the meeting.

READING WITH A PURPOSE—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28—2:00 PM

Book: *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams

Host: Ione Schloegel 2837 Wellington Ln SW 288-3295 ischloegel@charter.net

Discussion Leader: Barb Knutsen

MEMBERSHIP

For information,
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-lawrence@charter.net

Or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

Trachy.jo@gmail.com



FROM THE PRESIDENT —

BARBARA KNUTSEN

Barbara Knutsen

bknutsen45@gmail.com

507-285-5122

507-535-9175 (cell)



This month we will resume our general meetings after a brief two-month hiatus. We are collaborating with the Rochester LWV to present a program on Rochester's homelessness. This program will be via Zoom, so watch your e-mail for an invitation to participate.

To support our branch's endowed scholarship for a female UMR student, Marilyn Stewart is hosting a wine and cheese event on Saturday, February 17. I hope many of you plan to attend. Please RSVP to Anne Lund (Chancellor Lori Carrell's assistant) to lundx334@r.umn.edu or call 507-258-8001 by February 12. Chancellor Carrell and a student will present an UMR 2024 update. Two student scholarship recipients will tell us how important scholarships are to them.

In April, AAUW National will ask members to vote on a membership by-laws change which will allow anyone who supports AAUW's purpose of seeking equity for women and girls to become members, without a degree requirement.

Following is the rationale behind this change:

The AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee recommend approval of the following bylaw amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. This change will align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today's world. We remain committed to higher education as a pathway to eliminate barriers that hold women back and to enhance their leadership opportunities at all levels. We admire the effort of the inspiring women who have led the way in earning their degrees. We recognize, however, that in today's world higher education degrees are one of several paths needed to advance equity for women and girls. Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience all are alternative paths to obtaining education and the skills needed to become leaders and advocates for ending discrimination against women. <https://openupaauw.org/>

Eliminating the degree requirement enables us to expand our voice and our reach, our ability to fulfill our purpose, and will open more opportunities to address the needs of all women. AAUW's name, which continues to have significant brand recognition for AAUW as a women's rights organization, will remain the same if the amendment is adopted.

Our board firmly believes that the proposed amendment is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. The board urges a vote in favor of the amendment. Two dates to keep in mind: April 3: Voting opens (online voting is encouraged) and May 15: Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET and results announced online.

Also, mark your calendars for the Saturday, March 16 luncheon at the Country Club. Make your reservation by March 1! Details are on p. 5.

AAUW FUNDS: Thanks to everyone who responded to the Thanksgiving AAUW Funds Letter. We raised \$3660 from 44 donors to support AAUW's mission! ~Sara Staab

Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SPRING EDUCATION LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 16

Rochester Golf & Country Club

Cricket Room

11:30 Social Time

12:15 Lunch served

12:45 Speaker and branch meeting

Speaker: Michael Olson, recipient of the Mayor's Educational Excellence Award

Lunch Menu

Vegetable Wild Rice Soup and choice of sandwich

Turkey and Havarti with Herb Aioli on Sourdough

OR

Roasted Vegetable & Fresh Mozzarella on Focaccia

RSVP BY MARCH 1

Send a check made out to AAUW for \$26 to

Sara Staab

1172 Grey Fox Ave SW

Rochester, MN 55902

UMR event hosted by Marilyn Stewart

Saturday, February 17 from 2-4 p.m.

Wine and cheese provided

High Point Condominium
600 Fourth Street SW
Social Room, Main Entrance

*Parking on the street, the lot behind the condo
or the nearby Presbyterian Church*

Kindly RSVP by Monday, February 12
to Anne Lund at lundx334@r.umn.edu or 507-258-8001



AAUW ROCHESTER

626 GATES LN SW

ROCHESTER, MN
55902

Web sites:

National AAUW:

www.aauw.org

MN AAUW:

aaumn.net

AAUW Rochester:

[www.facebook.com/
AAUW-Rochester-
Minnesota-](http://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Rochester-Minnesota-)

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You are receiving this e-mail as a member of the Rochester Branch of AAUW.

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

Our newsletter mailing address is

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626 Gates LN SW

Rochester, MN 55902

Rochester branch email

aauwrochmn@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

April 26-27, 2024

AAUW MN ANNUAL MEETING

“Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment”

The Confluence Hotel & Conference Center

Hastings, MN

**Keynote speakers presenting the issues of the day alongside
AAUW Mission-based Advocacy.**



MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW! VISIT <https://aauw-mn.aauw.net/> and AAUW MN FB