

April, 2025  
Volume 74, Issue 7



ROCHESTER (MN)  
BRANCH



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For an invitation from  
Rochester LWV

# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

6:30 SOCIAL TIME

7:00 MEETING & PROGRAM

CHARTER HOUSE

NORTHVIEW ROOM

3RD FLOOR

PROGRAM: ADDRESSING THE CAREGIVING  
CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY

SPEAKER: TONI KAY MANGSKAU

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



SAVE THE DATE!

MAY DINNER MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21  
AT  
CHARTER HOUSE  
PROGRAM TO BE  
ANNOUNCED

### MEMBERSHIP

For information,  
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-  
lawrence@charter.net

or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

### APRIL PROGRAM: ADDRESSING THE CARE-GIVING CRISIS

YES, we are finally going to have this program!

Toni Kay Mangskau of Rochester is a social worker, and a lifelong advocate and volunteer helping those who suffer from bullying, injustice, homelessness, family medical problems, mental illness, chemical dependency, and other issues.

Toni was a determined campaigner for the paid family and medical leave bill that passed in the MN legislature In 2023. According to The Minnesota Star Tribune, "AARP Minnesota recognized Mangskau's work on the paid leave bill by giving her its 2023 Award for Excellence in Advocacy, celebrating her "commitment, perseverance, and collaboration" to improve the lives of people 50 and older and their families. Last year, her advocacy efforts were recognized by the National Patient Advocate Foundation."

Toni is coordinating an April care-givers workshop here in Rochester, and hoping to spur creation of a resource center for care-givers to receive information and support.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

### **WHO'S WHO—TUESDAY, APRIL 1—1:00**

Book: *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Location: Zoom

Chair: Joyce Wenz ([joycewenz@yahoo.com](mailto:joycewenz@yahoo.com))

### **READING PLUS—MONDAY, APRIL 7---9:00 AM**

Book: *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Leader: Carol

Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church

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

### **BOARD MEETING—MONDAY, APRIL 7—7:00 PM.**

Barb will send out Zoom information prior to the meeting.

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

### **AFTERNOON READING**

Chair: Judy Auger ([judy\\_auger@msn.com](mailto:judy_auger@msn.com), 282-7922)

### **WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9—1:30**

Book: *James* by Percival Everett

Location: 1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

Leader: Nancy Kampmeier

Chair: Mary Ann Kleis [makleis@aol.com](mailto:makleis@aol.com) 507-251-4741

### **READING WITH A PURPOSE—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23—2:00 PM**

Book: *The Night Birds* by Thomas Maltman

Host: Ione Schloegel, 2837 Wellington Lane SW

Discussion Leader: Ione Schloegel

Chair: Julie Caesar (288-9209; [rstgardener@gmail.com](mailto:rstgardener@gmail.com))

### **U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, APRIL 24—1:00 ZOOM**

The topic will be #6 The Future of NATO and European Security

Board  
Candidates  
For 2025/2026

President-Elect

OPEN!

One program VP

Maryette Braithwaite

One Membership VP

Jo Trachy

Treasurer

Carol Hartley

Membership Treasurer

Julie Gilkinson

Public Policy Chair

Amy Caucutt

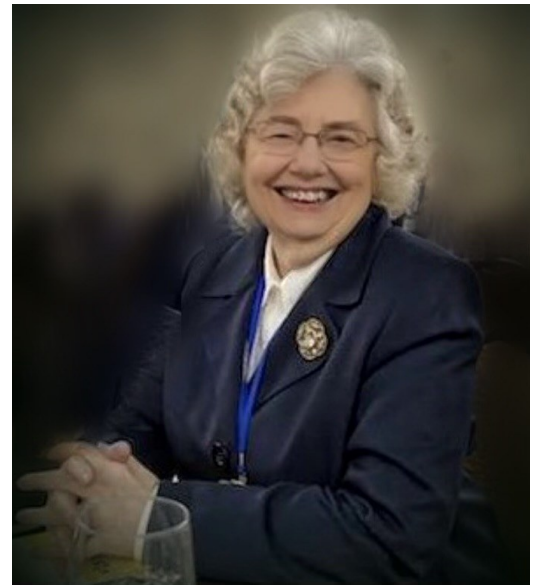


FROM THE  
PRESIDENT —  
BARBARA KNUTSEN

bknutsen45@gmail.com

507-285-5122

507-535-9175 (cell)



Our branch annual meeting is Wednesday, April 16. I am looking for a president-elect who would attend board meetings for the year prior to when her term begins in July 2026. This allows her to become familiar with the duties of the president and the function of the board. The President can be a shared position. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, provided the nominee has given permission.

A reminder that the AAUW MN Annual Meeting will take place Friday afternoon through Saturday, April 25-26 in Austin. Rochester branch is entitled to six voting delegates. As of now, only Sara Staab and myself plan to attend. Please let me know by April 11 if you would like to be a delegate. I would encourage all members to attend as these meetings are very uplifting and informative.

Kelsey Waits, AAUW MN President, has been working with League of Women Voters on some partnership opportunities. They have created a membership drive video that is on their Facebook page and they have invited other branches to share. The link to the video is <https://www.facebook.com/share/1AT9pdg6Pn/?mibextid=wwXlfr> They also wrote a joint opinion piece for the Star Tribune physical paper on Monday. There are also discussions about a potential joint lobby day at the end of April.

I encourage you to go to the AAUW website (aauw.org) to learn more about how AAUW is advancing fair pay and economic equity and leadership for women.

## An invitation from LWV Rochester

League of Women Voters of Rochester Program

Thursday, April 24th, Zumbro Lutheran Church

6:30 pm Check-in and Social Time

7:00-8:15 pm Program

### Policy, Politics & Public Service: Stories with Sheila Kiscaden

You are invited to join us to hear our guest speaker, Sheila Kiscaden, speak about her years of public service in state and local politics. Coffee and dessert will be available during the social time.

Sheila Kiscaden's influence and leadership runs wide and deep. Her public service began with Olmsted County Human Services. She was called back from maternity leave to play a critical role in the State Hospital shut-down task force. She served 14 years as a MN State Senator with the unique distinction of having served as member of three different parties—Republican, Independent, and DFL—during those terms. She recently retired after 12 years on the Olmsted County Board. All this was again a backdrop of furthering her education, raising a family, and other community service. She has led a fascinating life and we look forward to hearing her speak. Sheila has a chapter in the LWVR book "Taking the Lead". The event is free and open to the public--bring a friend!

The LWV annual membership meeting will follow the conclusion of Sheila's presentation. Non-members are welcome to stay to observe and learn more about the League.

### Minnesotans for Equal Rights

ERA MN and Gender Justice kicked off the Minnesotans for Equal Rights Coalition. The coalition is supporting the 2025 legislative campaign for the ERA, and when passed will also be behind the ballot campaign work. The coalition is made up of organizations, advocacy groups, unions, policy leaders and others who explicitly commit to advancing an intersectional and inclusive Equal Rights Amendment. Kelsey Waits will represent AAUW MN as part of the coalition, but if you are interested in signing up as well (as an individual or as your branch), please do. They are looking for people with experience coalition building, fundraising, communications, policy work, etc. The sign up link is here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAwLNt05bMx3-YwUX4FQwvhafaUHfX3ZgM6h\\_26bcvNmpCFQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAwLNt05bMx3-YwUX4FQwvhafaUHfX3ZgM6h_26bcvNmpCFQ/viewform)

AAUW ROCHESTER

626 GATES LN SW

ROCHESTER, MN  
55902

**Web sites:**

National AAUW:

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

MN AAUW:

[aauwmn.net](http://aauwmn.net)

AAUW Rochester:

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

From Membership Treasurer  
Julie Gilkinson:

## AAUW MEMBERSHIP HEADS UP!

The National AAUW Board has approved a modest dues adjustment —\$2 per year over the next two years. So when you re-new for 2025-26 you'll owe \$74 for National + \$9 for State + \$30 for our local branch = \$113.00. An increase of \$5 was proposed, as "the cost for member support increases annually, and dues have not kept pace." But the board was cognizant of the burden to members of increasing dues, so it kept the increase more modest.

Your renewal is not needed until June 30th for most of us, so this is just a "heads up" message. Actual renewal information will come in next-month's Highlights.

From AAUW Funds VP Sara Staab:

## AAUW RESPONDS TO ATTACKS ON EDUCATION

AAUW remains steadfast in its commitment to higher education. In response, We have launched two new funds: the Public Policy Fund and the Defend Higher Education Fund.

[Read our statement here.](#)

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