

February, 2025  
Volume 74, Issue 5

# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

6:30 P.M. SOCIAL TIME

7:00 P.M. MEETING & PROGRAM

CHARTER HOUSE

NORTHVIEW ROOM

3RD FLOOR

PROGRAM: WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

SPEAKERS: KATIE REINHART & JESSI HANSON

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



ROCHESTER (MN)  
BRANCH



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SEE P. 6

For important information about making your reservation for the Spring Luncheon before the March 1 deadline!

# SAVE THE DATE!



AAUW MN State Meeting

April 25-26, 2024

Austin, MN

## MEMBERSHIP

For information,  
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-  
lawrence@charter.net

or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Representatives from NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction) SE Minnesota will introduce us to their personal roles in the construction world. A variety of education choices, their efforts to climb the “construction ladder,” what they have learned from their experiences, as well as their plans for the future will be discussed. Please join us to welcome Katie Reinhart of Kraus Anderson and Jessi Hanson of Benike.



## 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.

### **BOARD MEETING—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3—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)

### **READING PLUS- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3--9:00 AM**

Book: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

Leader: Gay Segar

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)

### **WHO'S WHO--TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4—1:00**

Book: *Connie: A Memoir* by Connie Chung

Location: Zoom

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

### **AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12—1:00**

Book: *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

Host: Judy King, Charter House 507-254-7897

Discussion Leader: Judy Auger

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

### **WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19—1:30**

Book: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Location: 1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

Leader: Kay Morcomb

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

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

Book: *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis

Host: Ione Schloegel, 2837 Wellington Lane SW

Discussion Leader: Elaine Schmidt

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

### **U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27—1:00 ZOOM**

Contact Sara Staab for meeting information, 507-261-9803

## NOMINATION OPPORTUNITY!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to exercise your leadership skills?

Consider nominating yourself for the position of President-Elect! You would spend one year attending board Meetings and learning from Barb and others before becoming President.

Interested? Contact Barb or any current Board member.

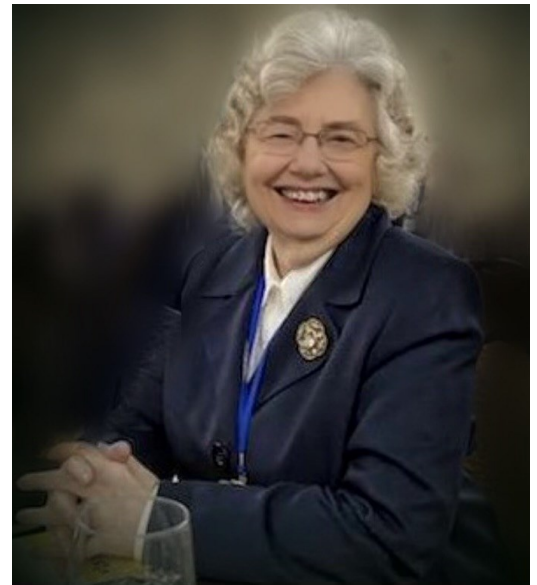


## FROM THE PRESIDENT — BARBARA KNUTSEN

bknutsen45@gmail.com

507-285-5122

507-535-9175 (cell)



In this divisive political climate it is more important than ever to support women and girls in education, salary negotiations, and women's rights.

AAUW makes it easy to make your voice heard. Sign up on the AAUW website to be a Two-Minute Activist. As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive urgent e-mail notices when your advocacy is needed most. You will be provided with all the tools you will need to contact your members of Congress, write letters to the editor in your local newspapers, connect with your state legislators about pressing issues and more. To sign up, go to the National AAUW website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) Click on **Take Action** and in the right column, choose **Two Minute Activist** and then sign up with your contact information and Submit. You will receive a confirmation e-mail from AAUW Public Policy with links for more.

On the local level, the board agreed to support the Gateway Science Fair again this year by contributing \$100 to be used for a middle school student award and \$100 to be used for a high school student award. We also voted to contribute \$50 for general expenses in running the science fair. These contributions are taken from our remaining Community Projects Funds.

Be sure to sign up for the March luncheon and I will see you at Charter House February 19.

## FROM AAUW FUNDS VP, SARA STAAB:

Thanks to everyone who donated to AAUW for the Thanksgiving Letter fundraiser. Our branch raised over \$2000 to support the work of AAUW.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Marilyn Stewart

Has been awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota. The formal citation from the Board of Regents states:

*Because your lifelong commitment to public service has benefited and inspired so many; because you broke several glass ceilings in multiple public service organizations; because your leadership, advocacy and vision helped create a new campus of the University of Minnesota in Rochester; because you paved the way for the education of hundreds of new health care professionals so they may also serve the greater good; because you are an extraordinary leader who continues to champion education while epitomizing what it means to put service over self – the Regents of the University of Minnesota hereby confer the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, for public service.*

**Congratulations, Dr. Marilyn Stewart!**



## ERA RALLY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

AAUW members and others from around the state, including AAUW Minnesota President Kelsey Waits (left), filled the state capitol rotunda Tuesday morning, January 14 in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. The bill passed in the Minnesota House of Representatives last session and has now been introduced in the Minnesota Senate. Follow SF473 to track its progress. Thanks to Amy Caucutt for the photos!

## SPRING LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 15  
Charter House  
City View Room, 22nd Floor

11:30 Social Time  
12:15 Lunch served  
12:45 Speaker and branch meeting

### Speaker:

Toni Kay Mangskau  
“Addressing the Caregiving Crisis in our Community”

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.

### Lunch Menu

**Choose one salad and one soup.**

Chicken Cobb Salad (Avocado, Romaine, Olives, Blue Cheese, Tomato, Bacon, Egg, Grilled Chicken)  
Spring Garden Salad (Toasted Garbanzo, Spring Mix, Peas, Feta Cheese, Radish, Cucumbers, Avocado, Grilled Asparagus, Dijon Vinaigrette)

Bacon Corn Chowder  
Navy Bean Soup

**\*\*\*\*\*RSVP BY MARCH 1\*\*\*\*\***

Send a check made out to AAUW for \$15.00 to  
Sara Staab

1172 Grey Fox Ave SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

Indicate your soup & salad choice on the memo line.

AAUW ROCHESTER

626 GATES LN SW

ROCHESTER, MN  
55902

### Web sites:

National AAUW:

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

MN AAUW:

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

AAUW Rochester:

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

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