

October, 2025
Volume 75, Issue 2

HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

7:00 P.M. MEETING & PROGRAM

CHARTER HOUSE

NORTHVIEW ROOM

3RD FLOOR

PROGRAM: SUSTAINABILITY

SPEAKER: KAYLA BETZOLD

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



ROCHESTER (MN)
BRANCH



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SEE P. 5

For important information about updating your Yearbook directory listing!



MEMBERSHIP

For information,
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-
lawrence@charter.net

or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

Trachy.jo@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: SUSTAINABILITY

Kayla Betzold is the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Rochester, Minnesota, where she manages initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and build resilience through strong community partnerships. She leads work on electric vehicle charging policy, grant funding, and long-term strategies to support the City's clean energy and climate goals. Kayla was a member of the Leadership Greater Rochester Class of 2025 and served as project manager for the Community Impact Project, which focused on strengthening local connections and opportunities for youth.

Before moving to Minnesota in 2024, she served the City of Louisville, Colorado, overseeing environmental programs, projects, and policy initiatives in alignment with the City's Sustainability Action Plan. With over a decade of experience in municipal sustainability, Kayla brings deep expertise in advancing policies and partnerships that foster healthier, more sustainable communities.



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, OCTOBER 6—7:00 PM.

Barb will send out Zoom instructions.

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

WHO'S WHO--TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7—1:00

Book: *On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service* by Anthony Fauci, M.D.

Location: Caribou Coffee, 19th St NW next to Goodwill

Chair: Joyce Wenz (joycewenz@yahoo.com)

BETWEEN THE LINES—NO MEETING IN OCTOBER

November book is: *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

Chair: Julie Gilkinson 507-289-2762 jgilkinson@gmail.com

READING PLUS- MONDAY, OCTOBER 6--9:00 AM

Book: *Lone Dog Road* by Kent Nerburn

Leader: Deb

Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church

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

AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8--1:00

Book: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman

Host: Holly Ebel, 4075 Berkshire Rd SW, 507-254-4028

Discussion Leader: Lynn Torsher

Chair: Judy Auger (judy_auger@msn.com, 282-7922)

WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8—1:30

Book: *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

Location: 1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

Chair: Mary Ann Kleis makleis@aol.com 507-251-4741

READING WITH A PURPOSE—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22—1:30

Book: *The Last Mona Lisa* by Jonathan Santlofer

Host: Ione Schloegel, 2837 Wellington Lane SW

Discussion Leader: Ione Schloegel

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

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, October 23—1:00

Host: Edna Mezacapa, 3501 Fairway Ridge Lane SW

Topic 5: International Climate Cooperation

**AAUW ROCHESTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2025/2026**

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Please contact any current

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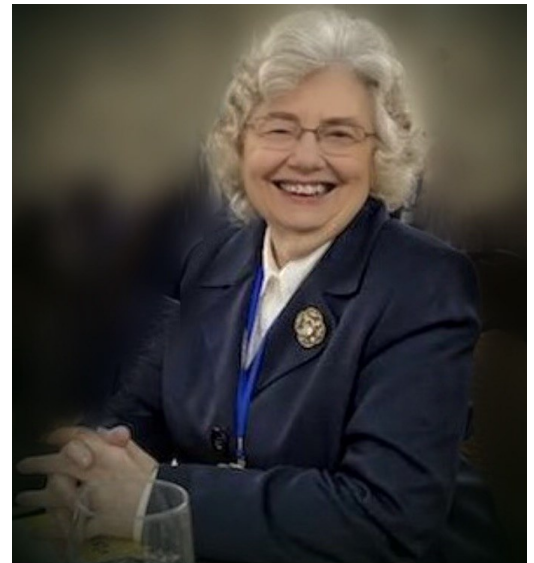
**FROM THE
PRESIDENT —
BARBARA KNUTSEN**

Barbara Knutsen

bknutsen45@gmail.com

507-285-5122

507-535-9175 (cell)



This fall we will meet the first recipient of the Rochester AAUW scholarship to the University of MN Rochester. Her name is Abby Grant, and several of us will get to know her at a luncheon for all scholarship recipients and sponsors on Saturday, October 4.

At our September general meeting, Nancy Brubaker shared the following article from the Minnesota Star Tribune which included a quote from our AAUW UMR scholarship recipient.

“Enrollment is exploding at the University of Minnesota Rochester. As campuses throughout the state and nation wrestle with how to manage declining enrollment, Rochester is trying to figure out how to handle rapid growth. The campus has 350 freshmen, an 80% increase from last year. Somewhere in this success story, there may be lessons for other colleges. The campus is niche, offering only two courses of study, both in the health sciences, so students arrive with distinct plans. Extra cheers to student **Abby Grant** from Lonsdale who arrived with 30 credits and a plan to study radiology and described a similar pattern of classmates enrolled at the mostly commuter campus. “We know what we’re doing, we know what our plan is to get it done.’ Instead of people like, ‘No, I want to do partying.’ That is not why any of us are here,” she said.”

LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

FINANCIAL AUDIT

The audit of the financial status of the Rochester Branch AAUW for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 has been completed. Based upon my review of the financial records and supporting documents submitted by the treasurer and membership treasurer, it appears that the annual financial report properly shows the branch's financial status.

Barbara L. Swart, Auditor (507-289-5846)

YEARBOOK

The deadline for additions or corrections to the yearbook/directory will be October 15th. Send updates to Kathy Lawrence at Kathy-Lawrence@charter.net

STRATEGIC PLAN

AAUW has developed a Strategic Plan to promote equity for women and girls in education and the workplace.

1. Fund Higher Education • Provide grants and fellowships for women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields like STEM. • Support women in academia and research. • Build networks for alumnae to lead and expand AAUW's impact globally.

2. Remove Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace • Champion legislation supporting paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, pay equity, and workplace harassment protections. • Promote inclusive, safe, and accessible educational environments through enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws.

3. Strengthen AAUW's Reach • Support an effective network of states and branches through aligned strategies and initiatives like the Five-Star Program. • Grow organizational sustainability through member engagement and impact evaluation.

Join the AAUW Action Network to get alerts on topics which need to be supported by your Congressional representatives.

AAUW ROCHESTER

626 GATES LN SW

**ROCHESTER, MN
55902**

Web sites:

National AAUW:

www.aauw.org

MN AAUW:

aauwmn.net

AAUW Rochester:

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