



AAUW of Minnesota Helping Our Branches 2022

The AAUW MN Board 2022, prioritized opportunities through grants and awards for branches, tying together the national, state, and branch focus to advance equity for women and girls. Strategic Plan Actions grant applications and Young Women for Equity Award applications were read and evaluated on a point system by three AAUW members, none were read by the same branch that applied. Readers were anonymous and did not confer. Reader comments included: 'Looks like it will be a great program and good use of AAUW funds!' 'Looks like a great opportunity for the branch and the surrounding community to advance the mission of AAUW!' 'Each of these Strategic Plan Actions will be of benefit for the branch's community!' Here are snapshots of branch projects. Read follow-up reports in future AAUW MN Pine newsletters.

Strategic Plan Actions Grants were awarded to ...

1. AAUW Brainerd Branch...\$500

AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area Branch will host an annual gathering of six NE Minnesota AAUW branches, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Virginia, Ely, Duluth, and Brainerd. The theme for the Northland Get Together 2022 is 'Open Your Eyes to the Intersectionality of Indigenous and Immigrant Racial Injustice for Women.' Speakers representing the Indigenous, Latino, and Hispanic communities will engage the participants in active learning processes that will give them hands on experiences to use in working with other cultural exposures. The identified objective is to embody the goals and spirit of inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality across all AAUW activities and participants as stated in the Main Area of the Strategic Plan, Governance and Sustainability. The program event will be October 8, 2022.

2. AAUW Ely Branch...\$500

AAUW Ely, working together with several community groups, are scheduling a series of four workshops and presentations which will expand public knowledge about how Indigenous women are negatively impacted by under-employment and unemployment, inadequate health care, and the high incidence of domestic and sexual violence. This project speaks to the Strategic Plan focus area of Economic Security. Through a year of reading and presentations to the Public Policy Committee about systemic racism and its effects, they learned that we all come to the table with a lifetime of bias and prejudice. They also learned that the best way to advance equity for all populations, and specifically the most predominant ethnic minority group on the Iron Range, is through a combination of policy advocacy and education of the community as a whole. The four presentations are scheduled June-November, 2022.

3. AAUW Hastings Branch...\$500

AAUW Hastings, Hastings High School Feminism Club, and the local diversity group, Hastings Thrive, are sponsoring the joint presentation by two speakers from the Minneapolis Branch of the Federal Reserve who have worked extensively in the area of gender disparities and the economic impact on women, the state of Minnesota economy, and the national economy. Shining a light on the recent work in this area fits the goal of AAUW MN's Strategic Plan of Economic Security, to champion pay equity federally, and in all U.S. states and territories. The event will be open to the public and is scheduled for October 24, 2022.

4. AAUW Red Wing Branch...\$600

AAUW Red Wing is looking to improve literacy scores, which have fallen drastically, for 3rd graders in Red Wing, by crafting a fun and creative learning environment for students and parents. The focus of improving the learning environment aligns with AAUW MN's Strategic Plan to 'Champion equal access to all levels and fields of education'. Their objectives include collaborating with school staff and community partners, promote test readiness and nutrition/sleep during the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) test week, and delivering resources to help excite 3rd grade students value their abilities and do their best. The MCA is scheduled for April 18 and 19, 2022. Results of their project will be shared with the school board, teachers, parents, AAUW membership and faith organizations involved, as a means for future programming.

Zoom License Grants \$149 were awarded to...

1. AAUW Fargo-Moorhead Branch
2. AAUW Hastings Branch
3. AAUW NE Metro Branch

4. AAUW Red Wing Branch
5. AAUW Rochester Area Branch
6. AAUW St. Cloud Area Branch

NCCWSL Grants of \$165 were awarded to...

Two grants were offered per branch, which covered the registration cost for a college student to virtually attend leadership training, inspiration and networking at AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders aka NCCWSL 2022.

1. AAUW Brainerd Branch.....1 student
2. AAUW Ely Branch.....2 students
3. AAUW Hastings Branch.....2 students
4. AAUW Red Wing Branch.....2 students
5. AAUW Rochester Branch.....2 students



AAUW MN Young Women for Equity Award 2022, \$500

High School Student

Natalie Miller

For the past 6 years, Natalie Miller has competed in National History Day, a yearlong competition centered around researching a past event or movement that changed the course of history. Her research paper, which was published in 'The History Teacher' - 'Too Strong for a Woman: How Bernice Sandler Created Title IX to Break Barriers for Female Faculty in Higher Education' won 2nd place at Minnesota State, and 1st Place at History Day, National. An application evaluator comment stated: 'Natalie's research on Title IX and her current activism supporting women and girls' equity is exemplary. She uses her passion for historical research to both educate and lead.' Natalie plans to attend Yale University in the fall. Congratulations, Natalie!



AAUW MN Young Women For Equity Award 2022, \$1,000

College Student

Anne Zweber

Anne Zweber hosted an event and invited three students from various faith backgrounds whose religious and/or cultural practices include head coverings to be a part of a conversation. Head covering is a very common and ancient practice, yet many women still face stereotypes and misconceptions today. A space was created for women to authentically share their stories and what this practice means to them in their spiritual and cultural lives. Evaluators of the application commented: 'Anne's project was significant and an important event having advocacy and education at its core, specifically addressing women's and girls' equity issues. Anne planned, organized and lead the forum-the impact of the discussion was proved, since there was interest enough for a follow-up program. This was an excellent submission and wish I had been there.' Anne is working toward a BA in Elementary Education at the College of Saint Benedict, expected graduation 2023. Congratulations, Anne!

Submitted by Gail Glashan, AAUW MN Education Chair