

AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area 2024-25 Highlights

The Brainerd Lakes Area AAUW branch continued its strategic focus on economic security for women with a program open to the public called “Equal Pay for Men and Women” on Sept. 7, 2024. AAUW Minnesota President Kelsey Waits presented information on gender pay equity based on research by the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota and the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Economic security was also the focus of several fall branch meetings, including a tour of the Lakes Area Food Shelf in Pequot Lakes in September with members donating money and food, and a program on Women Caregivers—Health and Economics.

Our book discussions included “The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers on NPR”, “Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America”, “Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians but Were Afraid to Ask”, and “Killers of the Flower Moon”. One book, “The Women They Could Not Silence”, about women in the 1800s being committed without just cause to insane asylums by their husbands provoked a rousing discussion about how unfair treatment of women has continued until fairly recently with members sharing personal examples from banking, workplace and other relationships.

We held our 17th annual Brain Buster Trivia Event on January 18, 2025. With 24 teams participating and lots of creative costumes and team names (Mad Hatters, Smarty Plants, Loon Rangers), we raised nearly \$4,000 for local scholarships.