

Stanwood-Camano Branch of AAUW

In Touch



September 2023

Founded in 1936 - Celebrating 87 Years

Edited by Martha Huyler and Georgi Proulx



www.aauwsc.org

September 7th
Thursday
1:00 p.m.

September Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

September 14th
Thursday
7:00 p.m.

General Meeting
SCAF Meeting Room
26911 98th Dr. NW, Suite A
Stanwood
(driveway across from Jimmy's
Pizza entrance)

*Program: Tech Trek
Campers Share*

September 20th
Wednesday
JAVA Break
10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member*

President's Message

Helen Smith

Greetings, AAUW members and guests, I'm excited to lead the branch this year, my 25th year with the branch! We have a stellar leadership team for 2023-24 with lots of enthusiasm and goals for success. Success for us seems to be "catching", as we met in early August to go over plans for the year. Over and over again, committee chairs have their ideas in place, and they are ready to commit to the goal of encouraging women through philanthropy, education and advocacy.

Over the summer, several committee chairs have been busy. First, I want to thank Mary Chesney and her team who selected nine middle school eighth grade girls that we sent to Tech Trek Camp at Pacific Lutheran University. Karla Jacks, a newer member, donated her week to chaperone students through the day and night. It was exhausting and exhilarating to hear her tell about her experiences! We were well represented thanks to this branch team. Philanthropy at work!

Second, I want to highlight the membership team and the program chairs who have been lining up programs for our scheduled monthly meetings. The membership committee, under direction with Joanne Drewsen, has been contacting members to rejoin and signing up new members. We look forward to getting together in September to see each other. The program committee, under direction of Rose Olson, has lined up the Tech Trek campers to share their experiences and maybe even their future plans at this point because of their week at camp. Education at work!

Finally, it's up to all of us to promote advocacy for women and girls in all aspects of life. Speaking up when women are marginalized or attacked, encouraging women to further their education, supporting each other in times of need and loss. We are strong and resilient women who care about the future, as well as the present. Advocacy! Upward and onward, here we go!

September: Tech Trek Campers Share

Rose Olson

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday September 14 as we host the middle school campers who attended Tech Trek this past summer. Always a favorite program for the AAUW Stanwood-Camano Branch, we will see the results of all the hard work that goes into fundraising to support this important initiative, as we hear from the campers firsthand about their experiences during their week at Tech Trek.

We will meet in the Stanwood Camano Area Foundation's meeting room: 26911 98th Dr. NW, Suite A in Stanwood (driveway is across the street from Jimmy's Pizza entrance). For those who would like to join the meeting virtually, a Zoom link will be sent out before the meeting. Our September business meeting will follow the program.

Looking ahead, in November we will learn about the work of Days for Girls International from the DFG founder, Celeste Mergens. Days for Girls provides washable, reusable menstrual products internationally and in the United States. Stanwood-Camano chapter's sewing space operates in the Viking Village. Our branch has a few members that participate in this great endeavor. Learn more at www.daysforgirls.org.

Celeste's new book, The Power of Days: A Story of Resilience, Dignity, and the Fight for Women's Equity, will be released on October 3. If you plan to purchase a copy of her book, Celeste asks that you pre-order it from Amazon (or your favorite bookseller) on or before October 3 to help Amazon's algorithm boost the book's visibility. She says, "It would make such a big difference in helping to build momentum." Bring your copy to the November 9 meeting and she will sign books following her talk.

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Future Events

October 5th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

October Board Meeting
Community Resource Center

October 12th

Thursday

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting
Location & Program to be
announced

October 17th

Tuesday

JAVA Break

10:00 a.m.

Cookie Mill

*For Coffee and Conversation
Bring a Prospective Member*



Visit our branch website:
www.aauwsc.org

Public Policy

Go to:
AAUW Washington to keep
up with happenings in the
current legislative session
and to learn about areas
for action.

www.aauw-wa.org

AAUW Action Network
for Congressional items
regarding the national
issues for action.

[http://capwiz.com/
aauw/home/](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/)

PURSES! PURSES! PURSES! WE NEED PURSES!

Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell

September brings with it a sense of new beginnings as the lazy days of summer give way to the start of the school – and AAUW – year. And while we may not ourselves be starting a new academic year, we in the Stanwood-Camano Branch can take pride that purses we collected over the past two years are enabling three talented young women from our local area to start the new school year with fewer financial concerns.

For us, September means it's time to step our efforts to secure purses for Purses with Purpose 2024, scheduled for April 27, 2024. Pictured here are a few of the purses that have already been donated for our biennial scholarship luncheon and purse auction. Thanks to members' generosity, we are nearly halfway to meeting our goal of 200+ new or very gently used purses.

But we need more—approximately 100 more!—if we want to continue offering \$10,000 scholarships to deserving young women and eager Tech Trek campers. Right now, the stores are crammed with bargains as merchants empty the shelves of spring and summer merchandise to make room for fall and winter purses. Lovely purses that will sell well at our event can be found at bargain prices now.

With a January deadline for securing the purses needed for a successful event, we'll need to bring in at least 25 purses each month to reach our goal. So have fun shopping for that special purse to donate, comb through your closet for seldom used purses you will never carry again, and ask your friends to donate. If you prefer to have someone shop for you, send a check to AAUW-SC, P.O. Box 2652, Stanwood, WA 98292, and we will do the shopping for you.

New beginnings are full of promise. Working together, we can help ensure the success of PWP 2024!



Another Successful Tech Trek

Mary Chesney



Another successful Tech Trek camp has ended and at September's meeting you will hear from our campers about their adventures. And as one camp ends, we begin to prepare to recruit campers for next summer. I am hoping next year we have some girls nominated from both the Arlington and Lakewood middle schools. I have sent invitations to both schools offering to come with one of our past campers to share how camp has impacted middle school girls' lives. I have not heard back but it is still early.

As always, we love to have members be involved in the selection process. If you are interested in being part of the Tech Trek team, please let me know.

Your 2022-2023 Board

President

Helen Smith

Advisory President

Nancy Voelckers

President-Elect

Jackie-Lyn Olson

VP of Finance

Robin Hanks

VP of Finance-Elect

(open position)

VP of Membership

Joanne Drewsen

Assistant: Jackie DeFazio*

Thea Wellington*

Secretary

Linda Lynn

VP of Program

Rose Olson

Assistant: Karla Jacks*

Public Policy

Anne Milton

Communications

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler

* Appointed position, shares vote with VP

Activity Leaders

Purses with Purpose 2024

Georgi Proulx

High School STEM Scholars

Linda Demetre, Lael Williams

Scholarship Chair

Marianne McGarry-Bloom

Tech Trek Chair

Mary Chesney

AAUW Funds Coordinator

Jackie DeFazio

Candidate & Issues Forum

Elaine Richards, Lael Williams

Historian

Helen Smith

Diversity

Katie Farrey

Stanwood-Camano Give

Mary Raymond, Georgi Proulx

Sunshine

Mary Ann Schradi

Newsletter Team

Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler



Public Policy: Equal Rights Amendment

Anne Milton

Editors' Note: The ERA has been ratified by 38 states, seemingly meeting the required three-fourths needed to be approved. However, some of those states adopted it after a congressionally mandated deadline had passed, raising questions about the validity of those actions.

The focus of this September update will be the Equal Rights Amendment and the advocacy measures that are now underway. According to recent polling, 85% of Americans across gender and party lines support the Equal Rights Amendment.

However, a few months ago, U.S. Senate Democrats failed to win the necessary 60 votes to move forward with the resolution to revive the ERA. As we know, The ERA is designed to amend the Constitution to prohibit discrimination based on sex. The resolution would have removed a 1982 deadline for state ratification and reopened the process to amend the Constitution.

The Senate failure instilled even more momentum for change and the ERA Caucus is now forcing a Vote in the US House of Representatives. The process is called a "discharge petition"*. It will get all the representatives in the US House to vote on HJRes25, the bill to remove the deadline and acknowledge the ERA as the 28th Amendment. The petition was filed on July 19 and would allow Nevada, Illinois and Virginia to count towards ratification, thus passing the threshold to recognize the ERA as part of the Constitution.

Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger offers this clear summary: "Across our Commonwealth and across the country, generations of advocates pushed to guarantee constitutional protections against discrimination on the basis of sex — only to have their decades-in-the-making achievement blocked by an arbitrary deadline. But Congress has the power to honor the states' decision to enshrine the ERA as the 28th Amendment to our Constitution." "A century is too long to wait for equality. The resolution to affirm the ERA and remove the arbitrary time limit deserves full consideration in the House. This discharge petition* is a powerful act; the movement for equality will not be stopped."

There are seven WA House Representatives that have already signed the discharge petition including Rick Larsen who represents our branch's voting district (CD2). It is truly the branches and members who are the voice and strength of AAUW. What you say matters and elected officials do listen to their constituents.

Lastly, after the Senate defeat, Senator Schumer immediately filed a motion to reconsider allowing him to bring the bill to a second vote later this Congress. Senator Gillibrand then followed up and initiated the H.J.Res.82 bill to remove the ratification deadline and ask the US Archivist to file/publish the ERA as the 28th Amendment.

Stay tuned and I will keep you further updated as we progress on these vital initiatives.

**A discharge petition is a procedural rule that enables the minority party in Congress to force a vote on an issue without a report from the committee by 'discharging' the committee from further consideration of a bill or resolution. After a bill has been introduced and referred to a standing committee for 30 days, a member of the House can file a motion to have the bill discharged. The discharge petition must gain 218 signatures to advance.*



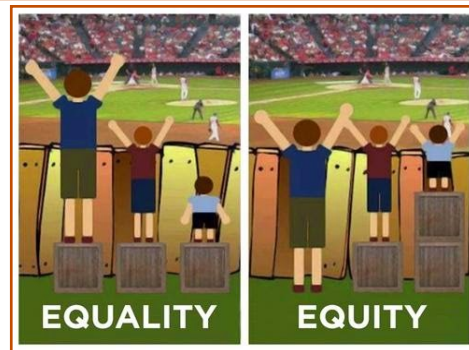
DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Spotlight

Katie Farrey

Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

Definition from PFLAG Skagit:

Definition: LGBTQ+ is an acronym that collectively refers to individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer. The addition of the Q for queer is a more recently preferred version of the acronym as cultural opinions of the term queer focus increasingly on its positive, reclaimed definition. The Q can also stand for questioning, referring to those who are still exploring their own sexuality and/or gender. The "+" represents those who are part of the community but for whom LGBTQ does not accurately capture or reflect their identity.



Upcoming Opportunities:

Sept 15-Oct 15, National Hispanic Heritage Month, a celebration of the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Sept 19, 6:00 P.M., Sno-Isle Library online

Beyond Borders - The Map of The Salish Sea

<https://sno-isle.bibliocommons.com/events/64c0088683899f3e00ae4064>

Branch Event Calendar for 2023-24

Below are the important dates for the coming year noting the program topic as available. Please make note and watch for updates.

September 14, Thursday - 7:00 p.m. - *Tech Trek Campers Share*
SCAF Meeting Room, 26911 98th Dr. NW, Suite A, Stanwood

September 20, Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. - Java Break at the Cookie Mill

October 12, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - Topic and Location to be announced

October 17, Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. - Java Break at the Cookie Mill

November 9, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - *Days for Girls International, Celeste Mergens, discusses her new book, The Power of Days: A Story of Resilience, Dignity, and the Fight for Women's Equity.*
Location to be announced.

December 7, Thursday - 12:00 p.m. - *Holiday Luncheon* - Location to be announced

January 11, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - Topic and Location to be announced

February 8, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - Topic and Location to be announced

March 14, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - *Debbie Dimitre Live*
Utsalady Ladies Aid Building, Camano Island

April 11, Thursday - 1:00 p.m. - Topic and Location to be announced

April 27, Saturday - **Purses with Purpose 2024** - Camano Center

May 9, Thursday - 7:00 p.m. - *High School STEM Scholar Recognition and Introduction of 2024 Tech Trek Campers* - Location to be announced.

June, Sunday - 1:00 p.m. - *Scholarship Tea and Annual Meeting* - Date and Location to be announced



Scholarship 2023 Tea

Photos Courtesy of Martha Huyler

June 25 was a beautiful day at the Camano City Schoolhouse to welcome and honor our three scholarship recipients and their families. The schoolhouse was full of members and guests to enjoy a marvelous tea.



Scholarship Winners for 2023:

Left to right:
Kate Hovda, Caroline Rawls, Stella Seth



Branch Named Honorees

The following members were acknowledged at the Scholarship Tea for their contributions and support of our branch this past year. (pictured left to right)

Joanne Drewsen for her innovative work to increase membership and visibility of our branch in the community.

Mary Chesney for her leadership as Tech Trek Coordinator and her efforts to engage the middle school staff to participate in this student opportunity.

Doris Taylor for her creative contributions to the Program Team and her service to the Tech Trek Committee and Book Group.



Jackie DeFazio, Gay Campbell, Georgi Proulx



Thea Wellington, Marianne McGarry-Bloom



Joanne Drewsen, Mary O'Connor, Mary Ann Schradi



Cheryl Allen



Martha Huyler, Nancy Voelckers



Robin Hanks, Judy Prince, Helen Smith



Mary Chesney, Katie Farrey, Anne Milton



Mary Pilkington, Mary Raymond, Linda Demetre



Hannah Garrett, Georgi Proulx, Emily Garrett



Camano City Schoolhouse

August BBQ/Picnic at Camano Hills Pavilion

Photos courtesy of Martha Huyler

What a group we had at the Camano Hills Pavilion Branch BBQ/Picnic! We collected eleven fabulous purses and a few checks for procurement purchases. Congratulations to our raffle winner, Kathy Cunningham; she went home with a basket of wine, savory, and sweet treats.

Several guests attended...thank you Craig for being our grill master. A big welcome to Lisa McCarthy who we hope will join the branch. It was wonderful to meet you.

We sure do know how to begin a new year! Thank you to everyone who attended, brought purses, and joined in the fun and great conversation.



Rose and Craig Olson



Martha and Rich Huyler



Cheryl Allen, Kathy Cunningham



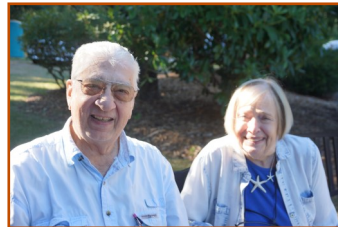
Lisa McCarthy, Lynda Buehring



Oren and Gay Campbell



Jack and Judy Trammell



Frank and Jackie DeFazio



Linda Demetre and Mary Raymond



Greg and Georgi Proulx



Dave and Thea Wellington



Don and Joyce Leak



Mary Dicker



Mary Pilkington



Getting Ready for the Raffle



Joan Pang Draws the Winner



Scrumptious Desserts

Special Branch Activities

Day Trippers

An informal gathering of members with time and interest to participate in a variety of outings.

Lynda Buehring
Jill Johnstone
Jodie Brand

JAVA Break

Meet for coffee/tea and great conversation getting to know your fellow members. Bring a prospective member too if you would like.

Nancy Voelckers

Movie Group

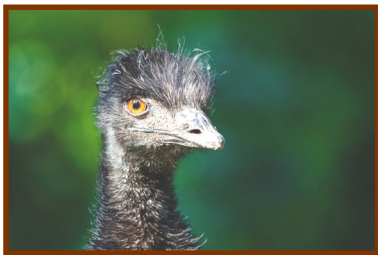
Meet for a movie at our local Stanwood Cinema. Watch for an email invitation. Suggestions are encouraged.

Anne Milton
Georgi Proulx

Book Group

Open to all members. Join us for lively conversation if you've read the book or if you just want to come join the discussion.

Katie Farrey
Marianne McGarry-Bloom



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follow us then

SHARE to increase
our visibility in
the community.



[www.facebook.com/
stanwoodcamanoaauw](http://www.facebook.com/stanwoodcamanoaauw)

Book Group

Katie Farrey, Marianne McGarry-Bloom

All members are invited to join the Book Group whether you have read the book or just want to join the conversation. Please contact Katie Farrey if you want to be added to the email list.



September 11, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Gay Campbell

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

"Set in 1960s California, this blockbuster debut is the hilarious, idiosyncratic and uplifting story of a female scientist whose career is constantly derailed by the idea that a woman's place is in the home, only to find herself starring as the host of America's most beloved TV cooking show. Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the 1960s and despite the fact that she is a scientist, her peers are very unscientific when it comes to equality."

October 2, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Martha Huyler

Interiors of Chinatown by Charles Yu

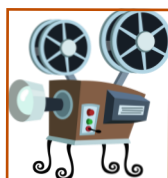
"From the infinitely inventive author of How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe comes a deeply personal novel about race, pop culture, assimilation, and escaping the roles we are forced to play"

November 6, 2:00 p.m. at the Home of Mary Pilkington

The Many Daughters of Alfong Moy by Jamie Ford

From the New York Times bestselling author of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet comes a powerful novel about the love that binds one family of women across generations. Dorothy Moy breaks her own heart for a living. As Seattle's former poet laureate, that's how she describes channeling her dissociative episodes and mental breakdowns into her art. But when her five-year-old daughter, Annabel, exhibits the same behavior and begins remembering things and events she has never experienced, Dorothy believes the past has truly come to haunt the present. If she doesn't take radical steps, her daughter will be doomed to face the same debilitating depression that has marked her life.

For more information, contact Katie Farrey or Marianne McGarry-Bloom.



See You At the Movies!

Georgi Proulx

We're getting our cinema groove back. July we saw *Sound of Freedom* and August was *Oppenheimer*. Both generated lots of conversation. It was suggested that we add dinner afterwards to share our thoughts of the movie. What do you think? Watch your email for our next movie. Hope you can join us.



JAVA Break

Georgi Proulx

This get together is growing in popularity. Our July 18 gathering was on a Tuesday and we had eleven people...the most ever so it was decided that each month we will alternate between the third Tuesday and third Wednesday so more members can join us throughout the year.

Next **JAVA Break** will be on Wednesday, September 20. We hope to see you at the Cookie Mill in Stanwood at 10:00 a.m. October's gathering will be Tuesday, October 17. Please save the dates and bring a friend!

Let's share a mug and create muffin crumbs together...join us!

General Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2023

Program: Scholarship Tea at the Camano City Schoolhouse, Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Scholarship winners are: Kate Hovda, Caroline Rawls, and Stella Seth.

Attendance: (20) Nancy Voelckers, Georgi Proulx, Martha Huyler, Judy Prince, Katie Farrey, Helen Smith, Anne Milton, Cheryl Allen, Jackie DeFazio, Marianne McGarry-Bloom, Doris Taylor, Thea Wellington, Mary Pilkington, Mary Chesney, Linda Demetre, Joanne Drewsen, Robin Hanks, Mary O'Connor, Mary Raymond, and Mary Ann Schradi. Guests: (18) Kate Hovda, Caroline Rawls, Stella Seth, and their families/friends.

Call to Order: Nancy Voelckers called meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

Named Honorees: Nancy Voelckers recognized three members being honored by the board for their work this year:

Mary Chesney for her leadership as Tech Trek Coordinator and her efforts to engage the middle school staff to participate in this student opportunity.

Joanne Drewsen for her innovative work to increase membership and visibility of our branch in the community.

Doris Taylor for her creative contributions to the Program Team and her service to the Tech Trek Committee and the Book Group.

Secretary: Georgi Proulx presented May 11 general meeting minutes for approval as printed in the June newsletter. Motion to approve the May 11 general meeting minutes: Jackie DeFazio moved, Judy Prince seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer: Nancy Voelckers presented the operating budget for 2023-24 as published in the June newsletter. Martha Huyler moved that we approve the operating budget, Mary Chesney seconded, motion passed.

May financials described receipts of renewal dues and program expense for STEM recognition and the students' gifts. Marianne McGarry-Bloom inquired when expense receipts for 2022-23 were due; Nancy reported June 30.

Review of the financials will be coordinated by Martha Huyler and Nancy Voelckers to occur in July.

Election of Officers: Nancy Voelckers announced the slate of officers for FY2023-24:

President: Helen Smith

Advisory President: Nancy Voelckers

President-elect: Jackie-Lyn Olson

Secretary: Linda Lynn

VP Finance: Judy Prince

VP Finance-elect: Robin Hanks

VP Program*: Rose Olson

VP Membership*: Joanne Drewsen

*Finishing second year of two year position

Appointed Positions:

Communications: Georgi Proulx

Public Policy: Anne Milton

Communication Assistant: Martha Huyler

Program Assistant: Karla Jacks

Membership Assistants: Jackie DeFazio, Thea Wellington

Mary Chesney moved to accept the slate of officers as noted above; Mary Pilkington seconded; motion approved.

Signature Cards: President (Helen Smith/Nancy Voelckers), President-elect (Jackie-Lynn Olson), VP Finance (Judy Prince), and VP Finance-elect (Robin Hanks) will be the signers on our Coastal Bank accounts for FY2023-24. Motion to approve the above said officers as signers on our accounts at Coastal Bank for FY2023-24 was made by Katie Farrey and seconded by Anne Milton ; motion approved. Judy Prince will go to the bank and get the new signature cards started after receiving the signed June 25 minutes from Georgi Proulx.

Membership: Joanne Drewsen shared 32 renewals have been received of the 56 members. Five are on a different renewal schedule. It was suggested the phone tree contact those members awaiting renewal. Please continue to bring potential members to our activities.

Program: Doris Taylor reported the Camano Hills Pavilion has been reserved for the August 10 BBQ at 4:00 p.m.

DEI: Katie Farrey requested a tweak to the Land Acknowledgement adding the Snohomish Tribe and rewording the description of the Tulalip Tribe to the "Tulalip descendants." A reminder the Land Acknowledgement and links for explanation are in the June newsletter. Consensus was to make the suggested changes.

See page 9

General Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2023

Public Policy: Anne Milton reported her concentration this past year was the state priorities and the bills that resulted. The National priority is the 23/24 voting rights legislation that she will keep an eye on in 23/24.

Tech Trek: Mary Chesney shared we are sending nine campers; Karla Jacks is Dorm Mom this year. Karla's week of assistance will be a different week than when our campers are attending. After the high school STEM recognition, Mary realized that two of our high school honorees had also been Tech Trek campers. She is working on plans to include these two girls in sharing their positive experiences with Arlington and Lakewood middle schools hoping to encourage participation in the nomination process.

Activity Groups:

Book Group: Katie Farrey stated the group is looking at the book list for 2023-24.

Movie Group: Georgi Proulx asked about interest in *Dial of Destiny* releasing June 30. She and Anne Milton will watch for other choices and asked members to share their interests.

Day Trippers: Mary Ann Schradi shared the trip to Outback Kangaroo Farm, Rhodes River Ranch, and Oso was wonderful. Great day and the pictures prove it.

JAVA Break: Nancy Voelckers announced the next JAVA Break is on Tuesday, July 18, 10:00 a.m. at the Cookie Mill. Changing up the day to Tuesday may allow others to join us.

PWP 2024: Georgi Proulx reported the next steering committee will be on Wednesday, July 26, 1:00 p.m. at Mary Pilkington's home. Procurement's next meeting is Tuesday, July 18, 2:00 p.m. at Gay Campbell's home to begin processing purses. Bring purses to the August 10 BBQ at Camano Hills Pavilion, 4:00 p.m. and bring purses! Please leave tags on all new purses to save the team time establishing fair market value.

New Business: Georgi Proulx shared a thank you to Nancy Voelckers for her tenure as president. Her gift from the board and leadership team was lovely decorated collage photo frame; thank you to Jackie-Lyn Olson for arranging.

Adjourn: Nancy Voelckers adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Georgi Proulx

Secretary



Even if you're on the
right track, you'll get
run over if you just sit
there.

~Will Rogers