

AAUW NEWSLETTER

October 2014

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Susan Rae Helgeland

You will be glad you attended the next Fargo-Moorhead AAUW Branch Meeting the second Monday of the month, October 13, 2014 beginning at 5:30 pm with the program start at 6:15 pm.

The program will be presented by Jeanne Hettich, Admissions Counselor at Minnesota State University Moorhead and recent graduate of the Counseling & Student Affairs Master's program. She focused on mental health counseling for college women and researched experience of new student orientation, on-campus programming, and volunteer experience with a local women's shelter.

Ms Hettich will present on "Campus Sexual Assault: Current Prevention Efforts." She came to our September meeting because she was concerned about the recent sexual assault case on MSUM campus. This is a timely and significant topic for us to explore. I hope you can make the meeting.

ND League of Women Voters has a great voter guide that explains all the measures. You can download it here <http://www.lwvnd.org/> The link is in the middle of the page.

Sandy Sidler, our Public Policy Chair, requested information from our National AAUW office and this is their recommendation related to the Parental Rights Initiative, Measure # 6. ND-AAUW should oppose this ballot initiative. There are two reasons for this recommendation: First, in its past, AAUW has adopted member resolutions endorsing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Although these treaties note the importance of parents and call for children to be kept with parents whenever possible, both treaties also call for the "best interests of the child" to be the "primary" and "paramount" consideration. That's the standard established by these treaties as well as the proposed ND parents. AAUW members have endorsed keeping the "best interests" of the child as the top concern of the state. The ND ballot initiative goes against that by giving parents equal weight to the child's interest.

Additionally, the language of the ballot initiative doesn't clarify what makes someone not a "fit parent." It says that the fitness of a parent "shall only be rebutted upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence," but it doesn't really define that. AAUW members in other states have worked on legislation to protect rape survivors from having to share custody with their rapists or abusers. It's a matter of concern that this shared parenting law could allow open the door to this happening or even becoming routine.

MINUTES: FM AAUW September 8 Branch Meeting

Submitted by Bobbe Shreve

Fargo-Moorhead AAUW September meeting was called to order at 6pm on September 8, 2014 at the Fargo Fry'n Pan.

The meeting agenda included approval of minutes from May 19, treasurer's report, a discussion of the location for the monthly meetings during the upcoming year, plans for the book sale to be held in November, a report on Public Policy and a review of the proposed program for 2014-15 year.

Susan Helgeland, the newly elected president, greeted attendees and shared her background as an AAUW member. The treasurer's report was presented and will be filed for audit. Sandy Sidler reported on the North Dakota public policy agenda. The draft of the FM AAUW Branch program for the up-coming year was distributed. Pat Schutt and Liz Poppenhagen reported on the fall book sale, which will again be held in the Moorhead Center Mall. A motion was made and approved to hold the sale the first week of November, collecting books the week prior to that date. Also, a recommendation to hold the January Brunch at Howard Johnson's hotel was approved by vote.

The pros and cons of the proposal to change the monthly meeting site to the Howard Johnson's Hotel were discussed. Parking would be convenient and a buffet dinner could be provided at a fixed cost. Disadvantages are the upcoming construction on 2nd Street and the lack of flexibility in price and choice of meals. No decision was made at this time. Changing the meeting date to the second Monday of the month was approved by vote after discussion.

Meeting Adjourned

Program

Karla Rose Hanson, NDAMI Communications Director, discussed *North Dakota Measure One* and Mark Altenburg shared *Lessons Learned in Minnesota*. These presentations were followed by discussion.

Announcements

The AAUW Book Club will meet on October 27, 2014 at Park East Lounge, One 2nd Street South at 7:30pm. Jan Jackson will lead the discussion of the book,

A First-Rate Madness by Nassir Ghaemi. All are welcome to attend but must arrive by 7:30pm so someone is present to open the doors, which are kept locked.

National Conference Held for College Women Leaders

by Dr. Yvonne Condell

Held at the University of Maryland in College Park June 5 to 7, some thirty AAUW leaders were invited to attend, including Dr. Yvonne Condell of the Fargo-Moorhead branch. AAUW leaders represented branches from across the United States as well as Puerto Rico to participate in the conference.

The keynote address was presented by Chelsea Clinton who spoke about the characteristics of effective leaders. At the session five "Women of Distinction" were honored. The 2014 Women of Distinction are as follows:

- Hattie Kauffman, television anchor and news correspondent (a University of Minnesota graduate);
- Lily Liu, cofounder, Public Stuff;
- Pamela Ann Melroy, former NASA astronaut;
- DiRionne P. Pollard, president of Montgomery College, Maryland; and
- Judy Smith, co-executive producer of Scandale and founder and president of Smith and Company

Nine hundred women student leaders representing colleges and universities across the United States were in attendance. AAUW branches in Minnesota and North Dakota sponsored several women leaders. The Minnesota branches were Brainerd, Ely, Grand Rapids, Rochester, and Willmar. The Jamestown branch sponsored a student. Workshops for the conference were presented daily from 10:15-11:30 a.m.; 1:345-3:00, 3:15-4:30, and 4:45-6:00 p.m. A total of sixty-four workshops were offered.

Conversations with AAUW leaders and students were informative and inspiring. Students range in age from tradition four-year students, older-than-average students to graduate and professional students. Students were studying at a variety

of institutions, such as community colleges, undergraduate public and private colleges and universities, and graduate and professional schools.



Thoughts on the Book Sale by Pat Schutt

On Saturday November 1, 2104 we begin collecting books and continue thru Wednesday November 5th with the sorting of books. The sale is on Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8, 2014.

Please sign up to work a shift or two at the Branch meeting on Monday, October 13th. You can also call Pat Schutt at [701-893-8889](tel:701-893-8889).

The door on the North side of the Moorhead Center Mall (Moorhead City Council) is very convenient to access the storefront. It is across from the gathering space in the Mall and very near the bathrooms.

Have you done some sorting in your bookshelves? Have you mentioned the sale to your neighbors? Remember to tell people that we use the proceeds for scholarships.

Beth Anderson will bring small “flyer reminders” you can cut apart and give to neighbors and friends to the Monday night meeting. They proved to be difficult to copy on an old computer. Also attached is the one-page larger flyer to display in grocery stores, dentist offices, and the like.

AAUW BOOK SALE

Friday, November 7

Saturday, November 8

Collecting books

Saturday Nov. 1

Sunday Nov. 2

Monday Nov. 3

Tuesday Nov. 4

Wednesday Nov. 5

Moorhead Center Mall

Yes: Paperback and hardback fiction and non-fiction

No: textbooks, magazines, or encyclopedias

