

**AAUW FARGO-MOORHEAD BRANCH**

**January 2015**

**PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

By Susan Rae Helgeland

I am excited to announce the speaker for our Annual January Brunch at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2015, at the Howard Johnson’s Hotel who is Kirsten Baesler. She serves as the North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction, having taken office on January 2, 2013. During her career Kirsten Baesler has served in many areas of education beginning as an elementary aide to children with intellectual disabilities. From there Kirsten Baesler began her evolution within the public school system as a library assistant, followed by a turn as a library media specialist, and finally as an assistant principal in the Bismarck Public School District.

Kirsten Baesler has two associate degrees from Bismarck State College, a Bachelor’s degree in K-8 education from Minot State University, an information and technology specialist degree from Valley City State University and a Master’s degree in education and library information technology from Valley City State University.

A resident of Mandan, Ms Baesler was elected to the Mandan School Board in 2004 where she served as president from 2005 until December of 2012. During her career in public education and as a school board member, Kirsten Baesler has served on local and state committees addressing issues impacting teachers, school boards and students. She is a strong advocate for children and public education. Ms Baesler has a passion for education. She brings with her to the Department of Public Instruction a deep desire to provide the best possible learning environment and experience to the children of North Dakota. The topic of her presentation is: *THE* *COMMON CORE HAS BECOME POLITICIZED.*

One of our Branch members, Lucia Schroeder, sent me this information on the development of Common Core State Standards (CCSC) and I want to share it with all of you.

“The CCSC was created at the request of the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers who felt a set of standards were needed so schools throughout the country would be on the same level. They also felt this would reduce the amount of money spent by each state to have tests developed for each state each year. They created the Common Core Initiative to develop the standards.

The group included business leaders, state school officers, educators, education researchers, and others. They started from the needed essential skills for success in careers and college. The process involved looking at what effective states were already doing as well as perusing advice from worldwide leaders in education. The developers divided the skills by grade level related to when they felt they should be taught. This required an understanding of what students were capable of learning at specific age levels.

The CCSC was first referred to as Benchmarks with the *final applications being left to each state.* Thus, the states maintain control with each state selecting who is in charge of the actual implementation. An emphasis is placed on reading for understanding of complex text at the high school level including reading in science and other advance subjects.  Similar rigor is applied to concepts in math.  Note: The CCSS was not developed or funded by the Federal Government.

Once the Standards were accepted, the difficult task of creating tests that would assess the students’ ability to meet the requirements began.  This is a difficult task. One group working on assessments at the high school level is the Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness. Some of the tests/assessments for advanced courses are being field-tested now.

Two major concerns are that the Standards are too difficult for some students, especially at younger ages, and that the common tests are too difficult. A misconception is that the CCSS is federally mandated. It is not.”

[http://ballotpedia.org/Understanding\_%22Common\_Core%22:\_Standards\_and\_Backlash?gclid=Cj0KEQiAwaqkBRDHx6rzxMqAobgBEiQAxJazJ3ZUSxdN5aa2mhx-nXAKlDj5IB5eShbeqWBkmVviRNQaAjn58P8HAQ](http://ballotpedia.org/Understanding_%22Common_Core%22%3A_Standards_and_Backlash?gclid=Cj0KEQiAwaqkBRDHx6rzxMqAobgBEiQAxJazJ3ZUSxdN5aa2mhx-nXAKlDj5IB5eShbeqWBkmVviRNQaAjn58P8HAQ)

The cost of the Brunch is $15 by check or cash at the door. I need to know right away if you are coming. Call me at 701-235-2333 or email at srhelgeland@gmail.com to RSVP. We will be at Howard Johnson’s Hotel, 301 1st Avenue North, Fargo at 10 am.

Welcome to our newest members: Liz Cambrone, Angie Bolstad, Alexa Ducioame and Susan Larson.

**FM AAUW Branch Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**December 8, 2014**

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

**Meeting agenda**:

-Approval of the November 10th minutes and the treasurer’s report,

-Report on the results of the annual book sale,

-Public Policy report,

-Discussion of the Saturday brunch to be held on January 10th.

Susan Helgeland, president, greeted members and read the AAUW mission. She also recalled the contributions of Mayor Walacker, who died recently.

**Reports:**

Sandy Sidler, public policy chair, reminded the members that April 14 is Equal Pay Day. Details for recognizing this day will be discussed at a later meeting.

Pat Schutt, Book Sale co-chair, reported on the fall book sale and proposed that it again be held in the Moorhead Center Mall next year. Ruth Stefonowicz, finance officer, reported that $1,809 from the book sale was deposited, bringing a total in the account to $2,660. There will be a review of the process to be held at Atomic Coffee. We will examine recommendations for next year’s sale. All are welcome.

Membership Chair, Maureen Kelly Jonason reported that the Branch has gained 7 new members and lost 3 members.

The January Brunch will be held at the Howard Johnson Hotel. Reservations are required. Kirsten Baesler of the ND Department of Instruction will speak on “Politicization of the Common Core.” Cost is $15. Contact Susan Helgeland for details.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

**Program:**

Jan Eliassen, Director of the Gladys Ray Shelter, spoke on the mission and history of the shelter. She also discussed the Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) issues. She was appreciative of the donations that members brought.

**Announcements:**

* The AAUW Book Club will meet on January 26, 2015 at Park East Lounge, One 2nd Street South at 7:30pm. Barbara Sidler will lead the discussion of *An Hour Before Daylight* by Jimmy Carter. All are welcome to attend but must arrive by 7:30pm so someone is present to open the doors, which are kept locked.
* The next F-M AAUW Branch meeting is on January 10 at 10am at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Fargo. Program will be the *Politicization of Common Core*; Speaker, Kirsten Baesler, ND Dept. of Instruction.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**by**

Ruth Stephanowicz

AAUW Jan 2015 - All Dates

9/16/2014 through 1/7/2015

Payee    9/16/2014- 1/7/2015

INCOME

Deposit    2,124.25

Dues    261.00

Opening Balance    853.22

TOTAL INCOME    3,238.47

EXPENSES

AAAUW ND    20.00

AAUW  MN    9.00

AAUW MN    9.00

AAUW National    294.00

AAUW ND    65.00

Bell State Bank    100.00

Frying Pan    23.78

Jan Eliason    25.00

Moorhead Center Mall    250.00

New Century Press    100.47

Sir Speedy    59.72

Sun Mart    9.80

TOTAL EXPENSES    965.77

OVERALL TOTAL    2,272.70

AAUW BOOK SALE 2014

$1909.25  Total Income deposited

Less Expenses:

$100.    Cash for change

$250.    Rent for Mall Space

$100.47 Ads for Book Sale

$450.47  Total Expenses

$1458.78 Total Net Income

\*A $30. Donation was given to 3 Janitors at the Mall

Distribution of Book Sale Net Income

$729.39 National AAUW 50%

$291.76 MSU-M Scholarship 20%

$291.76 NDSU Scholarship 20%

$145.88 FM Branch AAUW 10%

**Thank you to Roberta Shreve**

In recent months, Bobbe Shreve has stepped in and put out the newsletter in Beth Anderson’s place. In September 2014 I had just returned from a three-week cruise to Norway and the Baltic countries and was fogged out by jet lag. Last month in December I was in Sheyenne Crossings for three weeks after a hip replacement and once again could not participate in assembling the newsletter. Hats off to Bobbe who contributes to the organization in so many ways, many of them seen and some unseen.

On another note, for a number of years Bobbe has loaned the Book Sale an easel, which now appears to be missing. If any of you have it or know of its whereabouts, please contact Bobbe at (701) 235-6534.