**AAUW FARGO-MOORHEAD BRANCH**

**FEBRUARY**

**February 18 AAUW BRANCH MEETING**

The February AAUW meeting will be held at the Fargo Fry'n Pan at 5:30pm. Ermina Altoda will present a discussion on “New In American Life-Life in Fargo/Moorhead”.

Besides announcements, the business meeting will be spent completing the Strategic Plan, started in November. (See further information below)

Pat Schutt will serve as greeter and Lucia Schroeder will present a current event item related to AAUW’s mission and theme.

**The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** meets at 10am on Saturday, February 23rd, at Atomic Coffee in downtown Fargo. Please feel free to join this group. Your input on the workings of the chapter is always appreciated.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The Strategic Planning committee started work on this plan in November and identified the following goals and objectives:

**GOAL #1: MEMBERSHIP**

\*Attract and maintain an involved and diverse membership

\*Revitalize Branch meetings to increase membership and attendance

**GOAL #2: MISSION-BASED EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS**

\*Support STEM projects

\*Develop programs on current and past women’s issues

\*Develop and share programs on pay equity

**GOAL #3: PHILANTHROPY**

\*Identify areas of philanthropic needs

\* Develop new fundraising to support initiatives

**GOAL #4: RESEARCH**

\*Promote research provided by National AAUW

\*Disseminate research to appropriate audiences

\*Collaborate with local organizations who have a shared mission

**GOAL #5: ADVOCACY**

\*Advocate for pay equity for women

\*Promote freedom from violence against women

We will be continuing the work on the strategic plan as part of our meeting. The assignment will be to identify the action steps that will move our Chapter forward in meeting these objectives. Action steps must be concrete and doable within the time frame. They may be as simple as making a single contact or as complex as planning a fund-raiser or conference. They may involve one person, a committee, or the entire membership.

Please review these objectives and start thinking about possible actions. We will be working together brainstorming as a group to list as many ideas possible. These will then be refined by the executive committee and brought back for final approval at the annual meeting.

**FM AAUW BYLAW CORRECTION**

The executive committee discovered that when the bylaws were amended last March to change the requirements of president, wording was overlook in Article VI-Officers Section 1e. Wording should be corrected to read as follows:

 *The following officers shall be elected in odd years: president-elect, secretary; and membership officer.*

Because this change is editorial and consistent with the intent of the Bylaws, no vote is required.

**YOU ARE NEEDED!**

**Election for branch officers will be held at the May meeting. Officer candidates are needed for the following positions:**

 **President-elect**

 **Secretary**

 **Membership chair**

**Please volunteer by indicating your interest to any board member. If you are asked to serve, please agree!**

**PATH Donations Collected at the December Meeting**

In December we supported the “Welcome Basket” project sponsored by PATH, the nonprofit agency that provides services to children and families in foster care. Our chapter helped youth who are moving from foster care into independent living by filling two baskets with basic household items. The baskets were delivered just in time for the holidays. Thank you for your very generous support of these young people.

**SURVEY SAYS!**

\*\*\*Have you filled out your AAUW Survey yet? It came in the mail within the last month. It is simple and straight-forward and easy to fill out. They even provide the envelope. Getting this information on our entire membership is ESSENTIAL for the national board and staff to learn how best to serve AAUW members. They need to know who we are and what we want! The envelopes are due April 2. If you would rather, you can go to aauw.org, click on Members Only, look on the right side for Member Survey, click on it and fill it in. For the sake of the future of AAUW, please follow through!

**What Does 77 Mean to You?**

By Maureen Kelly Jonason, AAUW ND President

Perhaps it’s your favorite temperature. Maybe it’s your age. But for working American women today, it means lower pay for women doing the same work as men. While we’ve certainly come a long way – baby – we still have a ways to go. During WWII when American women entered the workforce in larger numbers than before, women routinely earned 50% of what men earned doing exactly the same work – whether in factories driving fork lifts or at the War Department typing translated code. It’s not that no one objected to it; it was more that no one knew how to do anything about it. Agents of change for women have taken their cues repeatedly from the leadership working for change for people of color. Nothing much happens until there is legislation in place to force the issue.

And nothing has greater power over legislators’ decisions than contact with their constituents. AAUW makes the process as easy as it can be in this techno-dominated world. Some of you may be more comfortable calling on the phone. Great! Our national leaders normally have local numbers you can call.

I went online and found the following:

ND Senator John Hoeven: 701-239-5389 (Fargo number)

ND Senator Heidi Heitkamp’s DC number: 202-224-2043

ND Rep. Kevin Cramer’s cell phone: 701-220-6368, DC number: 202-225-2611

MN Senator Amy Klobachar 218-287-2219 Moorhead office

MN Al Franken has no local office, so his DC number is 202-224-3244

MN Rep. Collin Peterson’s closest office is in DL. His DC number is 202-225-2165

But an even easier way to contact your legislators in Congress, and always free, is the AAUW 2-Minute Activist!

All you have to do is go online to <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home>

This site will give you a link to sign up on this free notification-and-response system. Read through the instructions (too often I skip this part and get confused), sign in, and send!

Whenever you receive a notice, you can click on it and write directly to your Congress rep. via email. AAUW provides the language for you and all you have to do is type in your name if it says what you want to say. However, the neat thing is that you can also add your own words OR delete the prescribed message and send only your own words. It is quick – only takes 2 minutes – and free. What a great way to get in touch and make sure your voice is heard. Take a look!

As I write this, we are heading into the deep freeze on Jan. 19. I decided to take some time to explore the AAUW website when I am not under pressure. I recommend that you do the same. No harm can come from looking around. Just be sure to use the Back Arrow to move backwards instead of Xing out. Every time I forgot and Xed out, I had to go back on to Google and click on to the website home page. There is SO much information on all that AAUW is up to nationwide and particularly in Washington. If you want to feel inspired by the organization you support, just do it!

**Feb. Book Club Gathering** is Feb. 25, 7:30 at Park East Lounge (One S. 2nd Str. Fargo).

Book: Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other by Sherry Turkle Leader: Gini Duval Refreshments: Sara Lindberg

**SAVE THE DATE**

Don’t forget that the ND AAUW State Membership Meeting is April 21, close by in Grand Forks. AAUW Membership Director Staffer Christy Jones will be holding a morning workshop and giving an inspiring keynote address at lunch. The theme is Fire Up, AAUW! You are sure to come away inspired by all that AAUW is doing state-wide and nationally.

The MN State Convention is April 26-27 in Rochester. The focus of discussion will be *Grace and Grit*, Lilly Ledbetter’s memoir. It will surely be worth the trip!

We also need to be alert to our states’ legislation activities: in ND the personhood measure is coming back. The ND Women’s Network has been great about keeping us updated on legislation affecting ND women. See [www.ndwn.org](http://www.ndwn.org) for more.

OUTLOOK Update

AAUW’s national magazine is going green. You can opt for receiving your copy of OUTLOOK electronically by going to [www.aauw.org/learn/publications/outlook](http://www.aauw.org/learn/publications/outlook) and signing up.

One-Member-One-Vote

Your vote counts. Voting for the AAUW national board, for bylaws changes, for resolutions, etc., will once again be done electronically for all who can. Online voting opens April 15 and closes June 10. Mark your calendars! YOU NEED TO KNOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER! You may also request to have a paper ballot mailed to you between April 1 and May 2. To have your vote counted, you must postmark your ballot by May 17. For more details about the upcoming election, visit the AAUW website OR email connect@aauw.or OR call toll free 1-800-326-2289. Do it today so you can have your say!

Executive Board Minutes

Saturday, February 2, 2013

Members Present: Roberta Shreve, Joan Justesen, Mary Markland, Laurie Wigtil

Absent: Lucia Schroeder

March Meeting: The meeting will be held at the newly remodeled Community Health Center. The time to be determined. Mary will contact them and will report at the branch meeting.

Bobbe proposed that Fargo do the state conference next year. We need to begin preparations for organizing the event. Joan will speak to Maureen about the space and catering. We will be organizing committees for marketing, speakers, and event theme.

I t may be good for members to attend this year’s conference in Grand Forks to see what they have done and to understand what planning needs to be started.

Strategic plan: Bobbe received Lucia’s input on the strategic plan. Each board member offered ideas for each of the actions. We will work with the membership at the February meeting to add to Lucia’s and the board’s content for the plan.

Bylaws: There may need to become changes to the bylaws with regard to officer terms prior to the upcoming election of officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Wigtil