**AAUW FARGO-MOORHEAD BRANCH**

**MARCH 2013**

**Note the new logo and tag line for AAUW above!**

**March 16:** Come join us on March 16th when we show our support for women's rights! Share this call to action with your friends. Let's be the biggest group in the parade! All you have to do is show up - we've got signs. We might possibly be ordering t-shirts if you want one (not required). Let me know or check out the Facebook event at the Trust Women March, <http://on.fb.me/WLweAX>

"Tired of all the legislation in our nation trying to take away Women's Rights? Do you feel as if your voice is being overshadowed by those who think "they know what is best for women"? Are you fed up? Well we are, too, so come join us as we march in solidarity for Women's Rights in the F/M St Patty's Day Parade!

We will meet at the parade start line (the Old Broadway parking lot on NP) at 1:30pm, March 16th, and join the parade to show the communities of the Red River Valley that we stand strong for Women and their rights.

All marchers will be asked to wear white (cold or warm) as a sign of solidarity to the movement to protect women's rights in our area.

So come out and support women. We trust them... do you?

**March Meeting: March 18thth AAUW BRANCH MEETING:**

**NOTICE—CHANGE IN MARCH MEETING LOCATION!**

**The March meeting will be held at the Family Health Care Center on 301 NP Avenue, #2 in Fargo (271-3344).**

We will begin at 5:30 with a short business meeting followed by a presentation and a tour of the facilities by Sam Kundinger and Patricia Patron. This is a great opportunity to view their new facilities and to learn about an important service in our community.

There is off-street parking to the west of their building in the Kelly and O'Keefe Law Office parking lot. If you would like to carpool from the Fry’n Pan or have questions, call Bobbe (235-6534). Dinner will be on your own following the program.

 The business meeting will include preparations for our book sale and announcements

The greeter will be Margaret Callsen and Mary Markland will present a current event item related to AAUW’s mission and theme.

**The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** will meet at 10am on Saturday, March 23rd, at Atomic Coffee in downtown Fargo. All members are welcome to attend.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS will be held at the May meeting.  We still need someone to fill the Secretary position. Laurie Wigtil has agreed to serve as President-elect and Ruth Stefonowicz has agreed to serve as Membership chair..  Thank You, Laurie and Ruth!  Also open is the ND state position of Treasurer.  Contact Maureen Kelly Jonason, ND State president, if you are interested in the Treasurer position. Please volunteer by indicating your interest to any board member.  If you are asked to serve, please agree!**

**PROGRAM CHANGES DUE TO STORM CANCELLATION: (Thank you for your patience with our inconsiderate winter weather!)**

Speaker, Ermina Altoda who was scheduled to speak in February on “New In American Life-Life in Fargo/Moorhead” has agreed to participate in our September, 2013 program. We are considering inviting other groups to be our guests at that time. More on this later!

Strategic Planning has now been moved to the April 15 meeting. After two cancellations, I Promise—we will finish this plan before the year is out!

**\*ND AAUW Annual Membership Meeting will be held in Grand Forks on April 20th.**

**\*MN AAUW Annual convention will meet in Rochester on April 26-27th**

Plan to attend! Our Branch will be hosting the ND Annual Membership meeting in 2014.

**Book Club:** The March 25 book club meeting is on *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War 1937-1948* by Madeleine Albright. The leader is Lucia Schroeder and the hostess is Beth Anderson. All book club gathering are held in the Park East Lounge at 1 S. 2nd St. in Fargo.

USED BOOK SALE Update from chair Beth Anderson:

1. We need people to serve on a general committee for the book sale. Had we met last Monday, Feb. 18, I would have had people volunteer then. As it is, I am going to call people this week and ask for volunteers. If you are willing to serve on this committee, please contact me by email, which is listed below.

2. Dates of the book sort are April 6, 7, 8, 9, l0 and 11: Saturday through Thursday.

 Email [bethanderson3@gmail.com](bethanderson3%40gmail.com) to sign up for sorting. If we need more people, we'll recruit some.

 On Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, we can sort from 1-5.

 All other days, we will sort from 4-7. If you sign up for a sort day, you can come for the whole time or only part of it, whatever suits your schedule.

3. Dates of the book sale are Friday, April 12, and Saturday, April 13.

 On Friday, all hardbound books are $2; paperbacks are $1. Special prices may be attached to certain books, c.d.'s, and the like.

 On Saturday morning, all books are half price. On Saturday afternoon, one can buy as many books as fit in a bag for $3.

 Email [bethanderson3@gmail.com](bethanderson3%40gmail.com) to sign up for working the sale.

 We will have posters ready for members to take into the community at our next meeting on March 18.

3. We need places to store books. If you have a garage or other space, please email me at the address above.

4. I will create master lists for all of these categories and mail them out to the membership in one week to 10 days from today.

5. We are again in the Moorhead Center Mall at a location still to be announced.

6. In addition to books, think about donating c.d.'s, sheet music, and posters.

7. Our numbers are small to do such a big sale as this, so we need everyone to help in some way.

 Thanks in advance,

 Beth Anderson

 2013 Book Sale Chair

**From the National AAUW OFFICE – IMPORTANT!**

I wanted to let you know that you’ll be receiving your *Outlook* magazine differently than usual for the Spring/Summer 2013 issue.  Instead of being sent in a first-class envelope, *Outlook* will arrive via nonprofit mail because of the election information that will be printed on your address label. **Every member’s voter PIN and member ID will be printed on the back cover of their issue of *Outlook*.** There was unfortunately no easy way to duplicate this labeling with an envelope. So to avoid causing confusion for you **(the directions inside the magazine instruct you to find your PIN on the back cover**) and to make it easier for you to help fellow members find their voting information, we decided the best thing to do would be to mail your magazines along with our other members’ via nonprofit mail.

**Report on the Coalition-Building Meeting Feb. 23**

By Maureen Kelly Jonason

“I never thought it would come to this,” expressed one young woman. Elder feminists were aghast at what they see as a slide backwards. One physician present recalled treating women with botched abortions prior to *Roe v. Wade*. “Enough is enough,” said another.

Leaders in various social justice groups as well as concerned citizens packed into the Fargo Radisson Loft on Sat. Feb. 23, 2013 to learn more about ND legislation threatening choice that is currently under debate. Funded by a grant from the National Institute of Reproductive Health (NIRH), the event was sponsored by the ND WIN (Women in Need) Fund and hosted by Tammi Kromenaker of the Red River Women’s Clinic.

The agenda included a brief introduction of the leaders of a number of partners committed to fighting the anti-choice legislation. Present were members of the WIN Fund Board, Amy Jacobson of Planned Parenthood, Karla Hanson of ND Coalition for Privacy in Healthcare, and Zach Packineau of the ACLU.

Tammi gave an update about litigation on HB 1297. The trial in Cass County Court will begin April 16. The bill says, “When an **abortion-inducing drug** or chemical is used for the purpose of inducing an abortion, the drug or chemical must be administered by or in the same room and in the physical presence of the physician who prescribed, dispensed, or otherwise provided the drug or chemical to the patient.” The bill passed and now the Clinic is challenging it in court.

After everyone gave an introduction as well as why they were present, Tom Fiebiger walked the group through a brief explanation of how a bill becomes law in ND. Of particular interest was explanation of “a hog house bill,” whereby a legislator may replace all of the language completely and make it into another bill entirely. Although everything is out in the open, there are a few ways to cause real trouble.

Then all of the bills designed to undermine a woman’s right to choose were explained briefly:

SCR 4009 and SB 2303 are bills defining personhood as beginning at conception which would not only outlaw abortion but make some forms of contraception and some fertilization methods illegal as well as other consequences. SB 2305 requires doctors performing abortions to have hospital-admitting privileges within 30 miles of the procedure; at first, this bill sounds like a reasonable safeguard until you look into it further. HB 1456 is the heartbeat bill, outlawing abortion once a heartbeat is detected. HB 1305 bans abortion in cases of gender selection or abnormality. SB 2368 bans abortions after 20 weeks because of the notion of fetal pain when fetuses do not feel pain until the third trimester. The Red River Clinic does not perform abortions past 16 weeks.

Tammi’s call to action is that each of us contact our own district legislators EVERY DAY to let them know our wishes regarding these bills. Just ten contacts are enough to get a legislator’s attention – imagine a daily onslaught. See <https://www.legis.nd.gov> to locate your legislator and connect to her or his email. Short and concise letters to the editor are badly needed. The use of social media is also important to keep the message going through the session which ends May 1.

Tammi and Amy also promoted the March 11 WE Rise Women’s Lobby Day at the Capital. There is no charge and no limit to the number who can participate, but they ask that you register at <http://standupnd.blogspot.com/>

An important part of the discussion to remember is that granting legal rights to embryos will also impact couples needing fertilization assistance; “safeguarding all human life” can impact your end-of-life decisions and living will preferences. Defining life at conception imposes one specific religious belief on all. And the threat on medical professionals could discourage doctors from practicing in ND. We could all be impacted in ways never imagined or intended.

Finally, Tammi let the group know that the Clinic is run entirely on patient fees. In order to carry out the fights in court that are sure to follow if the bills pass, legal defense funding must be raised. If you wish to support this effort, send donations to the Red River Clinic with legal defense in the memo line.

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.

ND Annual Meeting Registration

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.

MN Annual Meeting Registration

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!