



AAUW FARGO-MOORHEAD BRANCH

MAY 2014

Farewell to Margaret Callsen

Many of us were saddened by the unexpected death of long-time AAUW member Margaret Callsen at the beginning of April. She was active in the Fargo/Moorhead Retired Home Economists and in Red River Danes. She volunteered with the "Giving + Learning" program for a number of years and served as a Court Watch for the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center. She served on the governing board of the Broadmoor Condominiums. As a weekly volunteer for the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County for the last 20 years, Margaret was a fixture in the museum. When one of her fellow volunteers, Dorothy Heieie, was unable to reach her for over a week, she went to Margaret's residence and found she had passed away. Boulger Funeral Home was unable to locate any close relatives, Margaret having been an only child. However, many of her friends and acquaintances gathered at Boulger's for a very nice memorial service. Her Concordia College classmate, the Rev. Lyle Rich, provided a brief spiritual message among a variety of songs. It turns out that Margaret had arranged to leave a legacy to Concordia College to fund a program of student-scholars working with new faculty on research projects. The people who gathered came from many different walks of life and shared stories about Margaret's quiet sense of humor, which she had shared at AAUW meetings for many years.

Upcoming Event of Interest

May 9 7pm Kelly Inn A discussion of the Common Core

May 12 Book Club: Selection for next year. One S. 2nd Park East Lounge 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend but must arrive by 7:30pm so someone is present to open the doors, which are kept locked.

Final Branch Meeting: May 19 Fargo-Moorhead AAUW Annual Meeting and Potluck, 6pm at Lucia Schroeder's Lilac Farm located at 7768 Hwy 10, Glyndon, MN. If you need a ride, please call Maureen at work 218-299-5511, Ext 6732 during the week 9am-5pm or email maureenkellyjonason@gmail.com This meeting will include election of a new president, vice-president and treasurer. This event is fun and delicious!

Meeting Minutes: Since there was no April branch meeting, there are no minutes to publish. The April 7 meeting of the Executive Committee was to discuss the state annual meeting arrangements.

Electing New Leaders

At the May 19 potluck meeting, members will vote on the following slate of nominees:

For branch president: Susan Helgeland

For vice-president: Jan Jackson

For treasurer: STILL OPEN

May 1 Treasurer's Report

March 30	Balance		444.76
April 25	Memorial for Margaret Callsen from M. DiCicco	\$20.00	464.76
April 25	Ending balance from Women in Leadership Banquet	\$34.40	499.16

Submitted by Lucia Schroeder

For the May 19 meeting directions to get to Lucia & Steve Schroeder's home [about 15 minutes from the Red River]:

Go east on Highway 10 [NP Ave. Fargo, to Center Ave. Moorhead] 7 miles from the river. We live just 1/2 mile east of the 336 overpass, so move into the LEFT Lane as soon as you can by the overpass. There is a left turn lane. You can't see our house because of all the lilac hedges and tree lined driveway. If you go over the bridge, you've gone too far.

[We are about 2 1/2 miles east of Dilworth.

If coming from South Fargo, the quickest way is I94 east. Take **exit 6** north [follow directions for Detroit Lakes]. Turn onto HWY 10 and move to the left lane ASAP.

If questions, call me at [701-566-1859](tel:701-566-1859) or 287-2122. If the lilacs are blooming, roll down your window and follow your nose! 😊 The easiest entrance to our house is on the west side.

Meeting agenda:

Evaluation and recommendations for the annual mtg.

Election of officers

Review progress of 2 year strategic plan and consider next steps

Report on the ND Annual Meeting of the Membership

The executive committee is to be commended for preparing a wonderful state annual meeting April 25 and 26. Friday night they hosted a delicious dinner at the Plains Art Museum. Lorna Williams provided the enchanting piano music during dinner. Attendees viewed a video message from Senator Heidi Heitkamp before hearing live remarks by two dynamic ND legislators Kathy Hogan of Fargo (District 21) and Jessica Haak of Jamestown. A tasty dinner was prepared by Mosaic Catering, and the setting among the art was especially appealing. Attended by 85 people, about half AAUW members, the evening was a huge success.

Saturday morning the convention continued at Howard Johnson Inn with almost 50 participants. From the national office, Anne Hedgepeth, gave a lively presentation on the public policy issues AAUW continues to work on in Washington. It is exciting to hear about the impact that AAUW is having on the lives of all Americans. Then new Fargo member Molly McLain shared her concerns about the Voter ID requirement and how it will disenfranchise many voters. After Molly, AAUW New Jersey president and national board member Sally Goodson shared a thorough review of all of AAUW programs with lively video clips.

During lunch AAUW ND president Maureen Kelly Jonason shared the results of the election: Debbie Alber of Jamestown will be the new state president and our own Bobbe Shreve will be the state secretary. All of the changes to the bylaws were accepted and the increase in state dues was passed. Lunch speaker and student affiliate Sarah Klindworth shared her experience at the National Conf. for College Women Student Leaders (abbreviated as NCCWSL and pronounced nick-whistle) in College Park, Maryland, last year. After lunch, North Dakota Women's Network director Renee Stromme shared the research on women's leadership in the state and the opposition to the proposed amendment to the ND Constitution referred to as the personhood bill, Measure 1. Molly McLain is also working actively to raise awareness of and funds for the fight against this measure which will not only ban all abortion in every case but could have the unintended consequences of criminalizing in vitro fertilization and possibly causing investigations of miscarriages as well as removing the right to make one's end-of-life decisions. Even some anti-choice proponents have rejected Measure 1 because of the unintended consequences.

At 2:30 the educational component completed, the annual meeting began. Much of the meeting was used to discuss future plans for AAUW in ND. President Maureen recommended

branches consider making AAUW the focus on at least some meetings in the coming year in order for everyone to stay abreast of current issues. President-elect Debbie Alber also asked for feedback on her idea to hold a summer board retreat and for discussion of trying for another Impact Grant from national to work on Pay Equity and Human Trafficking as well as Get Out The Vote work. The meeting concluded at 4pm. Overall, the weekend was a big success. Congratulations to President Joan Justesen, President-elect Laurie Wigtil, Secretary Bobbe Shreve, Treasurer Lucia Schroeder, Membership Chair Ruth Stefonowitz, Molly McLain and Dena Wyum for their year of planning and hard work.

Summer Activities

Booked for Lunch will once again take place at Atomic Coffee, 222 N. Broadway in Fargo. Plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. on June 10, 2014. We'll reserve their separate meeting room and order (sandwiches, soup, wraps etc.) from the coffee bar. July 15 and August 12 are the additional dates. Bring a book you'd like to swap or recommend or just come for lunch and conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Traditionally, a summer steering committee made up of anyone who is interested in helping to select next year's monthly programs. Those dates are to be determined by the incoming officers after the election.

Looking Ahead: The Annual Used Book Sale

Book sale Chair Pat Schutt is looking for a co-chair to learn the ropes of leading the branch in its only major fundraising endeavor, the annual used book sale which runs the first Friday and Sat. in November. The co-chair works with the Chair and then takes over the leadership position the following year and trains in a new co-chair and so the tradition continues. Last year's sale brought in nearly \$3000 which funded two scholarships for local women and helped the branch support some local programs. Please contact Pat if you would be willing to learn more about this leadership opportunity.

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Maureen Kelly Jonason has served for three years as the newsletter editor, and she would appreciate someone willing to take it on. The process is simple. Mark your calendar for a week before the newsletter comes out and ask for submissions. Put all submissions into a Word Document. Convert it to a PDF document. Email it out to all the members with email and snail mail hard copies to the two members without email. That's it! Please email Maureen if you would be willing to take this on. It is a relatively easy leadership role to take for the branch:

maureenkellyjonason@gmail.com

Announcements:

The Interim Judiciary Committee hearing on May 6th at the ND Capital in Bismarck Governor's Report on gender balance. Presently, women represent only 17% of the legislature. The goal is to have 3 or more women in every committee. Please plan to attend! Your voice is needed!

Hold the date—March 9, 2015. Linda Wurtz/We Rise will present advocacy training.

From the *Forum* March 28, 2014

ND First in Growth of Women-owned Firms

North Dakota ranks first for growth in number and economic clout of women-owned businesses in a new census-based report. The state has an estimated 20,700 women-owned firms that, combined, employ 21,300 workers and have \$3.2 million in sales.

The No. 1 ranking for combined economic clout was based on averaging rankings for growth in the number, revenues, and employment of women-owned firms from 1997 to 2014. Minnesota ranked 35th in combined economic clout.

Submitted by Bobbe Shreve



ND Legislator Jessica Haak



ND Legislator Kathy Hogan



Lorna Williams played piano during dinner.