



**December 2015**

Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

## **Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Branch**

### **President's Comments**

December 2015

It has been a rich experience for me to participate in two interviews with NDSU History students related to lived experiences during the 50's 60's and 70's. The topic was the Women's Movement and part of their final exam in a Women's American History Course.

The first interview was conducted by one male and one female and the second by two female students. I hope some of you were also able to participate in the experience. Only of course for those of us who are OLD ENOUGH. Brought back many memories and the students were respectful and appreciative of both my time and the informative discussion. I also believe the four of them learned something valuable about the significance and history of the times that many of us lived through and hopefully they believe that we made a difference for reproductive choice and equal rights for women. More importantly, I believe that students will understand what some of us went through to protect women's rights and not take it for granted in the future. .

Our next branch meeting is on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the Fry'n Pan on East Broadway, Fargo. Further information is in the PROGRAM section of this month's newsletter. It is going to be a great meeting. I hope to see you there if my x-rays on the ankles show that I can use a walker and am able to be ambulatory. Thanks for all of your support and understanding during this challenging time for me.

The January Branch Meeting is a brunch on Saturday January 9th, 2016. Mark your calendar now. Details to follow. It is at the downtown Radisson Hotel and there is a wonderful program planned that you do not want to miss. Happy Holidays to all of you!!!

Susan Helgeland  
FM Branch President



### December Program

The F-M AAUW Branch Program will be held on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:15 pm at the Fry'n Pan on East Main, Fargo. We will have dinner at 5:30 pm with a Business Meeting beginning at 6:30 pm with the program at 7:15 pm.

Our Presenter is Erin Prochnow, Executive Director, YWCA Cass Clay and she will give us an overview of the programs of the YWCA organization. Donations listed in the announcements will be collected at the program.

Erin has served as Executive Director of the YWCA Cass Clay since 2008. The YWCA operates the largest Emergency Shelter serving women in children in North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota. Under her leadership, the organization has expanded programs to encompass a full array of housing services, including homeless prevention, emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing. In 2014, the YWCA Cass Clay provided 33,147 nights of shelter to women and children escaping violence and homelessness.

Erin was selected to represent eight Midwest states on the YWCA USA National Board from 2010-2012 and currently serves as the nonprofit representative on the United Way of Cass-Clay's Board of Trustees. Erin regularly speaks on women's empowerment and writes a monthly column for The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead.

Prior to joining the YWCA Cass Clay, Erin was a field representative for U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan where she was responsible for outreach to municipalities, businesses and other groups throughout eastern North Dakota. Prior to that, Erin coordinated leadership programs for the Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce.

A native of Wahpeton, North Dakota, she earned her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Social Welfare from Minnesota State University, Moorhead. Erin lives with her husband Darin Bjornson and their two children Sydney and Owen in West Fargo. She enjoys being active and spending time at the lake with family and friends.

**AAUW November 9, 2015, Branch Meeting Minutes**

Present: 23 members, 3 guests, 1 speaker

Vice President Jan Jackson called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Lisa Rorvig presented the Finance report, which will be filed for audit: Previous balance 381.06  
Income 3170.25 Expenses 373.61

Current balance 3177.70

Alexa Ducioame reported that the STEM committee did not receive the AAUW grant but will proceed with other funding for the event. Tentative plans are to invite about 250 primarily 7th graders from Ben Franklin School in Fargo and the Moorhead Public Schools on January 7, 2016, to NDSU for three hour-long sessions starting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served. Alexa passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers from the Branch to help with tasks associated with the event and for teachers of classes.

The Venue Committee of Jocie Izsler, Alexa Ducioame and Liz Cambron discussed the possible options for future Branch meetings. The food prices, room fee, media equipment, payment, parking and room setup were described for both the Green Mill and the Biltmore. Noell Reinhiller moved and Evelyn Quigley seconded that the February and March meetings be held in those two places, in the order as determined by the committee. Motion carried.

Jan Jackson announced that Liz Cambron has been appointed as the newsletter editor for 2015-2016 due to the illness of Beth Anderson.

Sandy Sidler distributed a Public Policy report from the State Board meeting in October, covering a wide variety of issues; for example, there is no longer a student voter form so out of state students cannot vote in ND without a ND driver's license. The State Treasury has funds from the disbanded Bismarck Branch, which will be available for various projects and seminars. "Shape the Future" is an event that allows a branch to earn five free memberships. "The Hunting Ground" is a film on sexual assault on college campuses. A new manual is offered by the Department of Education to Title IX Coordinators in schools. State AAUW funds are available for Branches to provide these manuals to their area schools. Noell Reinhiller suggested our Executive Board form a committee to work on this project.

Liz Cambron gave the Book Sale report. Total gross income was \$3098.25, Expenses \$473.23. Liz discussed the publicity, sorting and sales tasks and suggested procedures to be repeated and improvements for next year. One conclusion is that more participation is needed from members, as

only 35% of the total membership worked the sorting and sale shifts. Liz and her co-chair Liz Poppenhagen were applauded for a job well done.

Lisa Rorvig announced the December 14 Branch program speaker will be Erin Prochnow. Executive Director of the YWCA. Members are encouraged to bring items on the Y's Needs List, which Ms. Prochnow will deliver to the facility. Lisa also announced that the January 9th Brunch will be at the Radisson and passed a sign-up sheet for reservations, cost \$20.

The book club will discuss *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan at the Moorhead Public Library on November 23 at 7 p.m.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Ruth Stefonowicz introduced the program speaker, Amy Jacobson, Public Affairs Director of Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Ms. Jacobson was instrumental in the statewide campaign to defeat the Constitutional Amendment on personhood in 2012.

The Planned Parenthood tri-state regional headquarters is in St. Paul, with 20 clinics in Minnesota, one in South Dakota and none in North Dakota. The purposes of Planned Parenthood are to assure clinical care, provide family planning aid and offer sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment.

The goals of the public affairs program conducted by Planned Parenthood in North Dakota are education and advocacy. A priority is to ensure access to safe legal abortions. Another important goal is to increase the number of sexual assault professionals to do forensic exams, collect evidence, testify in court, detect and treat STI and offer emergency contraception. A third is to support Title X, family planning, available locally at Cass County Health Services.

Ms. Jacobson briefly discussed the recent controversy concerning Planned Parenthood's sale of fetal tissue for research. She also explained that Planned Parenthood does not receive any funding from the Federal government; payments are only from individual Medicaid submissions for clinical treatment.

The appearance of Cecile Richards, CEO of Planned Parenthood, on December 3 at Ecce in Fargo from 5:30 to 7:30 was announced.

Sara Lindberg, Secretary

**FM-AAUW BRANCH MEETING AGENDA**

DECEMBER 14, 2015

**Introductions:** President Susan Helgeland – (During Dinner) – What is your wish or Hope for the Holiday Season?

**Approval of Agenda** – Deletions/Additions – (During Business Meeting):

**Approval of November Branch Meeting Minutes-** Secretary Sara Lindberg:

**Finance Officer Report** – Treasurer Lisa Rorvig – Branch and Used Book Sale Finance Report

**Old Business** – January Branch Meeting – Lisa Rorvig:

**New Business** – Title IX Committee and fundraiser committee – Sara Lindberg

**Committee Reports:**

Membership - Chair, Jocie Iszler – January Recruitment – (Alexa D. and Liz C).

Public Policy – Chair, Sandy Sidler

Newsletter Editor-Liz Cambron

Social Media Chair – Alexa Ducioame

Program Chair – Ruth Stefonowicz

**Announcements** – January Board Meeting January 2, 2016. As always, all F-M AAUW

Members are welcome to the Board meeting at the Atomic Coffee, Fargo at 10 am.

**Adjourn.**

**Announcements**

Erin Prochnow, Executive Director of the YWCA of Cass Clay, will be the featured speaker at our December 14, 2015 meeting. You are invited to bring items to donate to the YWCA and Ms. Prochnow will deliver them to the YWCA.

Listed below is a list of current needs at the YWCA. There are not suggestions for holiday gifts on this list because the YWCA will have already completed their Unique Boutique, which provides gifts for the residents and their children. Thus, Ms. Prochnow asked that we donate items from their Needs List.

If you have any questions about this list or what to give, please contact Lisa Rorvig at 218-329-9502.

<p><b><u>MOST URGENT NEEDS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Women's Winter Coats</li> <li>* Children Size 4,5,6 diapers, size 4T&amp;5T pull-ups</li> <li>* Teen boy fall clothing sizes small-XL</li> <li>* Canned Fruits and veggies</li> <li>* Boxed side dishes (EX. Hamburger Helper)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Transitional Housing/Household:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dressers</li> <li>* Cleaning product (no pine sol)</li> <li>* Kitchen Garbage Cans</li> <li>* VCRs, DVD players and audio/video cables</li> <li>* Mattress pads, full size mattress pads</li> <li>* New Bowls, can openers, pizza pans &amp; cutters, knife sets, cutting board, wall clock, pitcher</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Childcare/Study Buddies:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* New/Gentle used baby monitors</li> <li>* Enfamil infant formula</li> <li>* Double &amp; single strollers</li> <li>* Boys and girls PJ's sizes 6/7 &amp; 8/10</li> <li>* Boys clothing sizes 6/7,8/10,10/12</li> <li>* Boys size 5T underwear</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Hygiene:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Nail clippers</li> <li>* New/Un-opened shampoo and conditioner</li> <li>* New/unused women's face wash</li> <li>* Women's New Underwear Size 7/8</li> <li>* New/Un-opened shaving cream</li> <li>* New women's casual socks</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Cleaning/Maintenance Items:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Hand soap</li> <li>* Clorox 7 bleach</li> <li>* Laundry Baskets</li> <li>* Dish scrubbers/cleaning solutions</li> <li>* Toilet Bowl cleaner</li> <li>* Dish soap</li> <li>* Light bulbs</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Other:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dixie cups</li> <li>* Small fans</li> <li>* Gas, phone, &amp; grocery gift cards</li> <li>* Magic erasers</li> <li>* AAA Batters</li> </ul>



## JANUARY BRUNCH

When: Saturday, January 9, 2016 – 10:00 AM

Where: Radisson Hotel – 201 North Fifth Street, Fargo, ND

Cost: \$20 per person

RSVP: Required

Speaker: The Honorable Del Rae Williams, Mayor of Moorhead, MN

You are invited to attend our January Bruch on January 9. As noted above, the cost is \$20 per person. Money can be collected at December branch meeting.

Reservations are **mandatory**, so if you would like to attend, please contact Lisa Rorvig at 218-329-9502 or [lkrorvig@yahoo.com](mailto:lkrorvig@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot. **Be advised that if you RSVP but do not attend the brunch, you will be billed for \$20.**

