



April 2015

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Susan Rae Helgeland, MS

On Monday April 13, 2015, 5:30 pm at the Fry'n Pan, Fargo the Fargo-Moorhead Branch of AAUW will hold their monthly Branch meeting. Dinner and a business meeting will take place from 5:30-6:15 pm. Our program will begin at 6:15 pm and last until 7:15 pm. We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl will be our speaker, and the topic is *The Status of Human Trafficking in ND*.

Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl is an Assistant United States Attorney in Fargo, North Dakota. For the past nine years, Jennifer has served as the North Dakota coordinator for Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a Department of Justice initiative aimed at combating the sexual exploitation of children. As the PSC coordinator, she prosecutes the technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children to include child prostitution, child pornography, sexual extortion, and other child exploitation crimes. She has also worked hard to obtain restitution for victims of child pornography offenses.

In addition to prosecuting the child exploitation cases, Ms. Puhl serves as the human trafficking coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office. Recently, she partnered with a nongovernmental organization in creating a coalition of law enforcement and service providers to address the human trafficking epidemic in North Dakota. The goal of the coalition is to rescue human trafficking victims and better investigate and prosecute their traffickers. Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office in 2002, she worked in private practice in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in 2000, she clerked for the Honorable Mary Muehlen Maring at the North Dakota Supreme Court.

Pease check out the current addition of *AAUW Outlook*, our national magazine. The Public Policy Issues and By Laws need to be studied by all members.

It's important that those who want to vote by paper ballot ask for their ballot now by email at connect@auw.org or by calling [800-326-2289](tel:800-326-2289). All paper ballots MUST be postmarked by May 26. Paper voting is already open. Online voting begins April 15.

Our Branch Potluck Annual Meeting will be held on May 11, 2015, 5:30 pm at Olivet Lutheran Church on the SE corner of 13th Avenue and University South. More details will be available later.

Also check out both Maureen Kelly Jonason's and Sandy Sidler's articles on the Nominating Committee's Report, proposed national by-law changes and public policy changes.

See you Monday night. It will be an exciting evening.



MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2015 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF FARGO-MOORHEAD BRANCH OF AAUW AT FRYIN' PAN RESTAURANT, FARGO.

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Helgeland at 5:40 p.m. A guest, Mara Brust, candidate for Fargo city commission, was introduced.

THE AGENDA was approved.

THE MINUTES of the February 9, 2015 meeting as printed in the March newsletter were Approved with the following clarification: book sale dates cover days spent accepting and sorting books through the actual sale dates.

TREASURER reported balance as of February 15 of \$742.25.

PUBLIC POLICY: Sandy Sidler reported National encouraging branches to hold an event for Equal Pay Day. Women currently earning \$.78 to men's \$1.00 per hour. Susan and Sandy will confer to get out a proclamation.

MEMBERSHIP: Maureen Kelly Jonason reports “many new members”: the latest new member is Kathy Hogan. A revised membership list will be out soon.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Alexa Ducioame, Facebook/Website coordinator will provide Newsletter editor, Beth Anderson, with some guidelines in using Facebook. Alexa reports 17 “likes” on Facebook to date.

NEWSLETTER: Editor Beth Anderson would like newsworthy items about members sent to her for inclusion in each newsletter. With at least 9 new members, Beth would like a brief bio of each new member to include in the newsletter. Please send items for the newsletter the Monday before each monthly meeting. Her email is bethanderson3@gmail.com

She notes there will be format changes in coming months.

BOOK CLUB: Please note correction for May meeting date: change from May 11 to May 18, 7 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Nominating Committee will report at the April 13 regular Branch meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Suzanne Kelley, managing editor and co-director for New Rivers Press, located at MSUM, present the program entitled New Rivers Press Makes the Most of New and Emerging Authors.

Speaker for April will be changed to Jennifer Puhl, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fargo. The subject remains the same, Human Trafficking.

We need a meeting place for our May potluck. Alexa volunteered to check out potential sites.

Reminder that invitations are open to ND AAUW annual meeting in Dickinson, ND, April 17 & 18; and MN AAUW annual meeting April 10 & 11 in Austin, MN.

Executive Board meets Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m. at Atomic Coffee on Broadway. All members welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jan Jackson,
Secretary pro tem
March 16, 2015
(17 members, 4 non-members present)

News of Our Friend Barbara Sidler

Barbara is improving...She is taking physical therapy twice a week. She attended the recent F-M Symphony concert and an open house at her old apartment building. She has gone grocery shopping (with Sandy) and out to dinner with family. The warm weather will bring more outings. She is now reading the Book Club book and hopes to attend the next AAUW meeting and the Book Club meeting. The family thanks you for all your support.

AAUW National Election about to Start!

Did you receive your spring/summer issue of *Outlook* from AAUW recently? You might want to keep it close to you in the next month or so in order to vote on some very important bylaws proposals as well as national board candidates. EVERYTHING you need to know is inside this issue in a special section number E1-E20 at the end of the issue. Since AAUW went to one-member-one vote, we all have the opportunity to have our voices heard in the process of shaping AAUW going forward. Page E2 highlights the different ways you can vote, how to get a paper ballot now until May 8, and whom you can call for more information. Important: YOUR membership number and your VOTER PIN are on the back cover of this issue of *Outlook*.

Inside you will find the proposed 2015-2017 Public Policy program that guides all AAUW political stances and operates as a way for branches and states to direct their annual programming.

In addition, you will find FIVE proposed amendments to the bylaws. The proposal to “**Eliminate the Degree Requirement for Membership**” is again up for vote. The rationale of the national office is given, followed by the current bylaw, the proposed language change, and the resulting bylaw if voted in by the membership. How do YOU feel about that? Voice your opinion by voting!

F-M Branch Election Slate

The nominating committee of Susan Larson, Sara Lindberg, and Maureen Kelly Jonason is delighted to present the slate for officers elected in the ODD YEARS:

For President: Susan Helgeland

For Secretary: Sara Lindberg (with the intention of mentoring a new member into the position)

For Membership: Jocie Iszler (with the help of a committee that will meet this summer to plan)

The election will take place at the May meeting with the two-year term to begin July 1. If you cannot attend that meeting and would like to vote, you may submit your vote to Susan Larson Larson@cord.edu or Maureen Kelly Jonason maureenkellyjonason@gmail.com

The treasurer's position is elected in the EVEN YEARS. Since President Susan would like to appoint Ruth Stefonowicz to Program Chair, former treasurer Lisa Rorvig has kindly agreed to be appointed to fill out the remaining year in Ruth's term with the intention of mentoring a new member into the position at next year's election. If you are comfortable with numbers, please talk to Lisa about helping her throughout this year.

In 2016, then, Treasurer and President-Elect will be elected. It is very helpful that the person taking over as president have a year to observe and shadow the branch president before taking over the role.

Treasurer's Report

The April balance on hand was \$886.25. Expenditures, for the most part, were membership dues to national and the states. We also sent two donations for scholarships to local institutions of higher learning.



Okay... it's \$.78.

National AAUW Public Policy

Every two years by every member vote, the national Public Policy Program establishes action priorities that AAUW members focus their advocacy efforts on.

Language can sometimes shape reality, so please note these changes for 2015-2017:

- #1 Adding “women and other” is intended to give more emphasis to women.
- #2 Adding “sexual assault” names sexual assault as a form of sexual violence as a threat to an equitable climate.
- #3 Change livable wage to “living wage”; add “safe, livable” to housing; and add “including reproductive health care” to the list of what AAUW promotes.
- #4 Add a sentence about “meaningful campaign reform, open and fair elections....”
- #5 Add a sentence to affirmative action “ and cultural diversity and inclusion.”
- #6 Move this section to a different area of the program.
- #7 Delete section on the commitment to the arts and humanities as it does not fall under public policy work.
- #8 Adding “ratification of” to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- #9 Add “National priorities inform state and local action” to include state and local levels because of congressional inaction.
- #10 Move the statement on Title IX to a separate item to show its importance.
- #11 Move the statement on health care access.
- #12 Move the statement on the Equal Rights Amendment.

Please review the exact wording and changes on the AAUW website.

Heads Up, Book Lovers

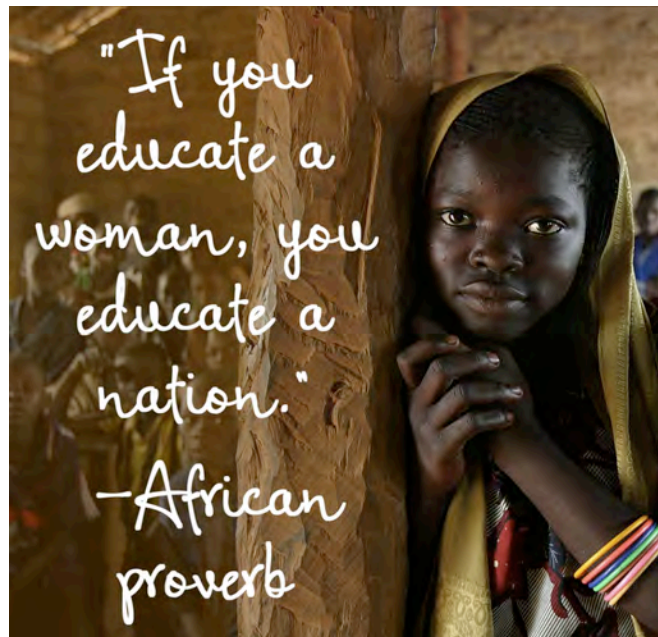
The Book Club meeting on May 18 will be in the condo community room at 420 6th Ave. S. at 7 p.m. to select titles for next year's reading.



Book Sale Task Force Update
From Liz Poppenhagen

Thank you in advance for volunteering to help with used book sale. You make all the difference in our success! Those boxes of books feel heavier with each successive year, but somehow, we make it all happen with a lot of hard work and camaraderie.

Mark your calendars for the first meeting Saturday April 25, 2015 at 10am, at Susan Helgeland's home. Her address and directions will be announced at the April meeting.



MEET OUR NEW OR RECENT MEMBERS

MARA BRUST

Mara Brust is a fourth generation Fargoan who grew up in the Longfellow neighborhood. She graduated from Fargo North High, earned a B.A. in Journalism from NDSU, and then attended law school at the University of Virginia.

Mara is one busy young woman. She is currently an attorney at Conmy Feste, Ltd., and performs with the FM Ballet. She is the Vice-President of New Generation North Dakota, a group dedicated to getting young people more involved in the political process. She is also running for Fargo City Commission (the election is April 28. You can find out more about her at www.marabrust.com.

AAUW might be a good fit, since Mara sees that she can help AAUW connect with her generation. She is also involved in state and local politics, so she will be in tune with current issues that might affect our members and require our advocacy. By belonging to this organization, she hopes to connect with strong, talented women in Fargo who are committed to helping our community.

From Mara’s point of view, the biggest issue facing girls and women today is not becoming complacent. Since we "officially" have equal rights, some may be quick to brush aside the very real institutionalized sexism that still affects us.

I asked Mara and others what they had read lately with new insights about girls and women. She shared this tidbit of good news/bad news: “I read that we are going to be able to 3D print a human heart 30 years before women get pay equality.

VERLAINE GULLICKSON



Verlaine Gullickson grew up in Center, North Dakota and graduated from high school there. She received a BS from NDSU and an MS from Minnesota State at Mankato. She is retired, but like many of AAUW members is still professionally active. She has a contract with two domestic violence prevention and intervention programs in South Dakota. She does training for the Board of Directors, and provides technical assistance for program development, policies, and procedures.

As a new member, she enthusiastically plans to participate in meetings and programs. She wants to develop relationships with like-minded women, to give back to the

community through service projects and volunteer work associated with AAUW, and is looking forward to joining the Book Club. Educational programs in general interest her.

Verlaine sees the most important issues facing girls and women today as civil rights (especially LGBT) and reproductive rights. When asked about recent reading that gave her insight about women's issues, she replied, "*Mighty Be Our Powers* by Leymah Gbowee and *Breaking In: The Rise of Sonia Sotomayor*, plus *The Politics of Justice* by Joan Biskupic."

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Equal Pay Day
by
Sandy Sidler

Sometimes we find ourselves wishing for more than 24 hours in a day or more than seven days in a week, but more time is not always better: It takes women about 15 months to earn what men earn in 12, thanks to the gender pay gap.

We "celebrate" this occasion every April on a day known as [Equal Pay Day](#), which is the symbolic day when women's earnings ([78 cents](#) to men's \$1) finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. Equal Pay Day is a powerful occasion to raise awareness and organize action around the gender pay gap in our communities.

Equal Pay Day 2015 will fall on Tuesday, April 14. The Fargo-Moorhead Branch plans to get proclamations from the mayor of Fargo and the mayor of Moorhead. The North Dakota State AAUW is planning to give the State Legislators a Pay Day Candy Bar along with written information about the gender pay gap.

You can help spread the word by going to the AAUW website and getting information and talking to your employers and friends and neighbors.