



January 2016

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

## Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Branch

### President's Comments

Yea! I will be at the Branch meeting this month. I am walking with the help of a cane and I am grateful for the support I have received from several of the Branch members.

Our Annual Brunch will be Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 10 am at the Downtown Radisson Hotel, Fargo. Our speaker will be the Honorable Mayor of Moorhead, MN, Del Rae Williams. The name of her presentation is Politics: Making the Decision and she tells me that it is about women running for office. I hope to see you there.

Susan Rae Helgeland  
F-M Branch President



**December 14, 2015 Branch meeting minutes**

Present 12 members, 1 guest, 1 speaker

Sara Lindberg, secretary, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Finance Officer Lisa Rorvig presented the finance and the book sale reports.

Treasury Previous Balance	\$3177.70
Expenses	2248.88
Ending Balance	928.82
Book Sale Income	\$2976.25
Expenses	488.23
Balance to be disbursed	2488.02

The Finance report was approved.

Maureen Kelly Jonason moved and Bobbe Shreve seconded that the Branch donate \$350 to the New Leadership event held in June. The motion carried.

Lisa announced an Executive Committee decision to discontinue offering honoraria to program speakers beginning in the fall of 2016. She also asked for volunteers to serve with her on a fundraising committee. Lisa collected donations to the Legal Advocacy Fund for both North Dakota and Minnesota.

Sara Lindberg reported that the Executive Committee approved the formation of a committee to identify Title IX coordinators in area schools and distribute the Title IX Manual to them. Liz Cambron and Ruth Stefonowicz will join Sara on this committee, to begin meeting in January.

A brief discussion was held on choosing a date for next year’s book sale. The Moorhead Center Mall director contacted the book sale committee to put the sale on their calendar. The decision on the date will be made by the book sale chair.

Alexa Ducioame reported on the STEM event co-sponsored by AAUW on January 7, 2016, from 9:30 to 3:00 at NDSU. All of the fund raising is complete and AAUW’s logo will be on the banners and the goody bags given to the participants. 175 students are expected; Alexa asked for volunteers to welcome the students and to fill the bags for distribution.

Alexa reminded us that in January AAUW membership dues will be half price.

Maureen Kelly Jonason reported that the bylaws committee met and reviewed the 2015 national bylaws and made any changes necessary to conform with that document. A draft of the revised branch bylaws will be ready for voting in May.

Lisa passed a reservation signup for the January 9 Brunch at the Radisson at 10 a.m. with Moorhead Mayor Del Rae Williams as the speaker.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lisa Rorvig introduced the program speaker, Erin Prochnow, Executive Director of The YWCA Cass Clay.

Erin began by thanking AAUW for its support of the YWCA and mentioned the similarities of its mission in education initiatives to AAUW's. She briefly described the YWCA's history, which began in 1906, with dormitories for women and children. Currently the emergency shelter in Fargo is the largest one in North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota, providing temporary residence for about 70 women and children escaping violence and homelessness. There are also 32 additional supportive housing units, programming for children at the shelter and a nationally accredited public childcare facility in north Fargo for 85-90 children.

Erin reported that 92% of women seek shelter due to violence or chronic homelessness, often due to mental illness or PTSD. A nurse partnered with Sanford provides services 30 hours a week. The usual length of stay in the emergency shelter is 45 days, after which a move to supportive housing can occur, with the average stay of two years. Over 90% of the supportive housing residents are independent when they leave.

The education/employment program for YWCA clients begins with efforts to increase self-confidence and aims at the ultimate goal of employment. Due to the needs of the women involved, shorter training programs have been implemented in cooperation with NDSCS Technical Skills and Training School.

Erin also discussed the efforts made to aid children in their school environments.

The YWCA is a member of the Red River Region Human Trafficking Task Force, which is helping an increasing number of victims, both adult and youth, especially in the Fargo area.

Erin's comprehensive overview of the YWCA's programs, and her energetic and compassionate concern for the women and children rescued by the organization, were appreciated by all. She collected the items Branch members donated to fill some of the needs of the shelter residents.

Sara Lindberg, secretary

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 F-M AAUW Branch Meeting Agenda**

WELCOME--President Susan Helgeland

APPROVAL OF AGENDA--Additions, deletions, changes

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER BRANCH MINUTES--Secretary Sara Lindberg

TREASURER'S REPORT--Finance Officer Lisa Rorvig

UNFINISHED BUSINESS--STEM Workshop Update -- Alexa Ducioame

NEW BUSINESS--

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE--Chair Sandy Sidler

MEMBERSHIP--Acting Chairs Alexa Ducioame and Liz Cambron

ANNOUNCEMENTS-- Next Branch Meeting February 8, 2016 at the Biltmore Inn,

located at the SW corner of I-29 and Main Avenue, Fargo

If you need a ride, please contact Maureen Kelly Jonason

Other Announcements?

ADJOURN

## Announcements

### Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

AAUW is dedicated to making sure every woman is registered and has the information she needs to cast her vote. We'll kickoff our 2016 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign with this all-member webinar on **January 13**. With so much at stake in this election, learn how your branch can register, educate, and turn out millennial women voters nationwide as part of our It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign!

All AAUW members are invited but space is limited. This call will be recorded and made available at a later date.

**Date:** January 13, 2016

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. ET

**Location:** Online

**Here is the link to register.**

<http://www.aauw.org/event/2016/01/its-my-vote-kickoff-webinar/>



- A list of biographies of mighty women
- Top 2015 women's equality moments
- 9 Inspirational quotes from outstanding women
- Saudi women vote and run for office for the first time.
- Angela Merkel is TIME's 2015 Person of the Year.
- Boston's equal pay initiatives
- 27 Countries better at gender equality than the U.S.
- TEDx video from Haben Girma, Harvard Law's first deaf-blind graduate
- NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson receives Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- The National Guard posted about SGT Theresa Vail, a Soldier, archer, hunter, skydiver, Miss America contestant, and TV show host, breaking stereotypes.
- Aziz Ansari speaks up about sexism again.
- Canada's new Prime Minister named the most diverse cabinet in history. "Because it's 2015"

### **JANUARY BOOK CLUB**

**Monday, January 25, 7pm – 9pm**

Moorhead Public Library

Book: Let Him Go, Larry Watson

Leader: Bonnie Bernardy

### **February Branch Meeting**

The February branch meeting will be at the Biltmore on Main on Monday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. More details to come!