As President of the Fargo-Moorhead Branch of AAUW, I am proud to provide the F-M AAUW Branch Annual Report for 2015-16. We have experienced an increase in membership that includes several younger members who have become an integral part of our branch events and activities.

The FM AAUW Branch book club has been turning pages for close to 50 years! Two books enjoyed this year were, The Girls of Atomic City, by Denise Kiernan and The Children Act, by Ian McEwan. Anyone interested in sharing reading lists contact Jan Jackson at janfgo@msn.com.

The BrainSTEM activity this year included the participation of several F-M AAUW Branch volunteers. The event was in collaboration with ND State University. The middle schools loved it and are excited to have future BrainSTEM events. Although women fill approximately half of the workforce, they represent less than 25% of STEM occupations. The numbers are even less in engineering. This event was created to show both girls and boys that there are women in these fields to look up to and that STEM careers can be fun!

The F-M AAUW Branch Used Book Sale was again successful this year with a total profit of $2,610.02. 4,000 books were collected. The books we did not sell were donated locally to ARC, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Myrt Armstrong Center, Gladys Ray Shelter, Prairie ST. John's Hospital, YWCA Shelter, and Second Time Around Thrift Store.

Two program highlights are (1) Amy Jacobson, Public Affairs Director of MN, SD and ND Planned Parenthood, presented the legislative and court actions that followed the passing of laws by the ND state legislature to close down the Red River Women’s Clinic in Fargo; and (2) a presentation by Mayor Del Rae Williams related to running for office, being elected and serving the city of Moorhead, MN as the first woman mayor.

We were able to secure Pay Equity Day signed Proclamations, April 12, 2016, from Mayor Tim Mahoney, City of Fargo, Mayor Rich Mattern, City of West Fargo and Mayor Del Rae Williams,
City of Moorhead. We also learned about pay equity through a great presentation on “Know Your Worth” by the CEO/President of the Make a Wish Foundation North Dakota.

We are looking forward to next year’s F-M AAUW activities and doing even more to increase membership including an emphasis on College Affiliate Membership!

The following news release was submitted but never printed in the Forum. I just want the Branch members to be aware of the content of the Editorial.

April 13, 2016

The Fargo Moorhead Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) commends Senator Heidi Heitkamp for her support of the Family Medical Insurance Leave Act.

As the U.S. workforce continues to evolve, our workplace laws need an update to reflect the reality of today’s workers.

AAUW supports federal policies that complement the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to further ensure earned paid leave, paid parental leave, and paid sick days. Employees should not have to choose between their paycheck and taking care of their family.

AAUW also supports providing caregiver credits, which would offer Social Security credits to women and men who step away from paid work to provide family care. These reforms would help alleviate the shortfall and improve women’s economic security.

Susan Rae Helgeland
F-M Branch President

Delegates Susan Helgeland and Pat Schutt at the AAUW ND State Convention.
May 9th, 2016 Agenda

WELCOME- President, Susan Helgeland –
  • AAUW State Annual Meeting Report
  • Present ND AAUW 2-16 Woman of Distinction Award to Maureen Kelly Jonason
  • F-M Annual Branch Report

APPROVAL OF AGENDA- Additions, deletions, changes

APPROVAL OF APRIL BRANCH MINUTES- Secretary, Sara Lindberg

TREASURER’S REPORT- Finance Officer, Lisa Rorvig

CONTINUING BUSINESS- Approve By-Law changes and accept nominating committee report: Nominating Committee Chair, Maureen Kelly Jonason.

NEW BUSINESS- Participation in Title IX issue with ND State AAUW – Susan

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE- Chair Sandy Sidler

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE- Chair Jocie Iszler

PARLIAMENTARIAN/BYLAWS UPDATE- Chair Maureen Kelly Jonason

USED BOOK SALE CHAIR UPDATE- Chair Liz Cambron

ANNOUNCEMENTS-

ADJOURN
AAUW-FM Branch April 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Present: 23 members, 1 program speaker

President Susan Helgeland called the meeting to order and reported that the mayors of Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo signed the Equal Pay Day Proclamations. Our Branch is planning to co-sponsor a workshop on pay negotiation in the fall, with Alexa Ducioame receiving training as a facilitator. The workshop will focus on three points: “Feed the Pipeline,” encouraging girls in STEM courses and women in positions of authority; “Pay Negotiations,” training for salary discussions and gathering data; and “Workplace Flexibility,” dealing with parental leave, schedule control etc.

Jocie Iszler suggested the Branch write a letter to the Forum supporting the Family Leave Act currently sponsored by ND Senator Heidi Heitkamp. Jocie volunteered to draft a letter and Susan will submit it.

Susan will be attending the ND AAUW Convention in Devils Lake April 22-23 and encouraged others to accompany her.

Liz Cambron announced that the grant she submitted to ND AAUW for $100 to recruit college students was accepted. Liz also has personally received a National Science Foundation Fellowship which will begin in June.

Sandy Sidler explained that the ND AAUW has pledged $2000 to the national organization. Donations can be forwarded to the State President, Debbie Alber.

Susan announced the next meeting will be May 9 at the Moorhead Public Library.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Finance Officer Lisa Rorvig reported an ending balance in the treasury of $599.51.

The Branch Board approved the procurement of a post office box for the branch at $60 a year.

The Nominating Committee reports that Alexa Ducioame is nominated for President-Elect and Liz Cambron is nominated for Treasurer. The election of these officers will be held in May.

Sandy Sidler, Public Policy Chair reminded everyone to vote for state officers online.

The Venue Committee of Jocie, Alexa and Liz are compiling the results of a survey from members on the choice of a meeting space for next year. The decision will be announced at the May meeting.
The ND AAUW has an award for a Woman of Distinction. Sandy suggested Maureen Kelly Jonason be nominated for this award based on her many years of leadership and responsibilities on both the branch and state level. Jan Jackson moved this action be taken and Irene Hogan seconded it. Motion carried. Susan will submit Maureen’s nomination to the State Board.

Announcements: The May 9 meeting at the Moorhead Public Library will be a potluck. A committee of Susan, Liz and Juliann Garrett will supply plates, utensils and napkins and members will provide the food.

Book club on April 25 will discuss Helga’s Diary by Helga Weiss at the Moorhead Public Library at 7 p.m.

Liz Cambron encouraged members to volunteer for the Book Sale Task Force which will meet in April.

The meeting was adjourned.

“Know Your Worth” was the title of the program given by Billi Jo Zielinski, the President and CEO of ND Make-a-Wish Foundation. She began by thanking AAUW and the League of Women Voters for helping to shape her leadership skills. Billi Jo’s many jobs in business, non-profit organizations, political appointments and the Peace Corps have provided invaluable experience for her current position as an employer. Her mother and grandmothers have been exceptional role models, sparking her personal drive and determination.

Concerning pay equity for women, Billi Jo encouraged everyone to keep talking about the issue—and then take action. She also emphasized the value of mentorship, the research of salary data for similar jobs either in the non-profit or private sectors, and to use resources such as payscale.com, a guide for negotiating a beginning salary and later raises. Billi Jo also recommended the technique of keeping a written record every day of accomplishments and tasks, which is useful in subsequent jobs and gauging worth.

Billi Jo spoke of the need for women to balance their approach in employment and to support and empower other women. There are only 21 female CEO’s in the Fortune 500 companies and the higher positions in non-profits are mostly men. Billi Jo is committed to advancing women in her organization as an employer and in directing a Board of Directors which is 50% male and 50% female.

Besides her professional achievements Billi Jo has prevailed over difficult personal circumstances which she generously shared with us, for an inspiring account of a successful life.

Sara Lindberg, Secretary
AAUW ND Awards 2015-2016 “Women of Distinction”

AAUW ND awarded its most prestigious award, “AAUW ND Women of Distinction” to Fargo-Moorhead Branch member, Maureen Kelly Jonason. Maureen earned a BA in English Literature, NDSU 1988 and earned an MA from NDSU in 1993. She joined F-M AAUW in 1993 while attending an AAUW State Convention in Grand Forks, ND and immediately served as State Membership Chair for three years. This was before the national database and Maureen indicated that it was a challenging job.

Maureen dropped out for a few years to earn a PhD from UND in 2004. She was given a “Give a Grad A Gift” membership and rekindled her AAUW membership. Maureen has worked on the Annual F-M Used Book Sale for the last 10 years helping in all areas with a focus on promotion and marketing for the project. She served as on the summer F-M AAUW Program Committee for at least seven years and served as Branch Membership Chair for five years. She served as Branch President for two years. While Branch President she served on the state board.

Maureen served as F-M AAUW Branch Newsletter Editor for three years. She served as ND AAUW State President 2012-14. She has chaired the Branch Nominating Committee for the last three years and is currently serving as the Branch By Laws Chair and Parliamentarian.

Maureen has attended National and State AAUW Conventions. Maureen said that she has learned a lot about different ways to lead from watching all the diverse AAUW leaders over the years and she did the best she could with the available resources. She is passionate about AAUW and is a dedicated member of the organization. She has served as a strong mentor for other officers as well.

As Director of the Clay County Historical Society, Maureen is an established community leader as well as a leader in the AAUW organization. She sees community service as an opportunity to learn and grow as a leader. She said that she encourages others to step up to the plate and take the risk of not being the perfect leader, facing some criticism while doing your best and stretching yourself beyond your own perceived limitations.

Congratulations Maureen!
Family Leave, Paid Sick Days and Work-Life Balance

As the U.S. workforce continues to evolve, our workplace laws need an update to reflect the reality of today’s workers. AAUW supports federal policies that complement the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to further ensure earned paid leave, paid parental leave, and paid sick days. Employees should not have to choose between their paycheck and taking care of their family. AAUW also supports providing caregiver credits, which would offer Social Security credits to women and men who step away from paid work to provide family care. These reforms would help alleviate the shortfall and improve women’s economic security.

Support Paid Family and Medical Leave

"I believe we can do better as a society, and I do think that we are not delivering on our promise" to families in this country.

- Dia, AAUW member in Tennessee

Dia comes at these issues not only as a policy expert and AAUW state public policy chair, but also as a working mom who has personally struggled with one of the challenges facing working families across the country: how to balance a career with the needs of your children. Dia is lucky. When her daughter was born seven years ago, she was working for a small employer who understood the importance of providing paid maternity leave to her workforce of only three employees. Those six weeks of paid leave "made a huge difference," Dia says. But only 13 percent of American workers have access to paid family leave through their employers – meaning that most people have to confront the impossible choice of whether to leave their jobs or care for their families. That's why we need the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (FAMILY Act), which would create a national family leave insurance program funded by employee and employer contributions. Urge your members of Congress to co-sponsor the FAMILY Act! The FAMILY Act would provide eligible employees with up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for situations such as their own serious illness, the serious illness of a child, parent or spouse (including a domestic partner), and the birth or adoption of a child. The program created by the FAMILY Act would be funded by employee and employer contributions that would amount to less than $1.50 per week for the average worker, or two cents for every $10 of an employee's salary. The FAMILY Act would strengthen the economic security of working people, their families, and businesses – and when individuals, families, and businesses are secure, our economy as a whole benefits. That's why Dia's boss felt compelled to offer her employees paid family leave. "I think the way she would see it was that it was her obligation to do so to retain me as an employee, and it also represented her values as an individual and as an organization," Dia recalls. Dia is right – we can do better for our nation's working families, and it's time for Congress to step up to the plate. Urge your members of Congress to co-sponsor the FAMILY Act today!

Go to the Two-Minute Activist on AAUW.org and send a message....
Announcements

2016 Used Book Sale Taskforce
The first used book sale meeting will be **June 4th**. If you are interested in being on the taskforce or co-chairing, contact Liz Cambron (773)818-5863 liz.cambron@ndsu.edu

May Branch Meeting
This month’s meeting will be at the Moorhead Public Library. **It will be our annual potluck!** Plates, napkins, and utensils will be provided, so just bring a dish!

May Book Club
When: May 23, 7pm – 9pm
Where: Moorhead Public Library
Description: Book selection for next year

### Update
- Reminder that Feminist First Friday is May 6th at the Gastropub
- FM Branch member Maureen Kelly Jonason was awarded the “AAUW ND Woman of Distinction” at the state meeting
- A new video demonstrating a self breast exam
- Cokie Roberts’ response to putting women on currency.
- ND AAUW delivers Title IX resources to schools
- New York voters celebrated their right to vote in the Primary by placing their “I Voted” stickers on Susan B. Anthony’s gravestone
- NSF grants prestigious fellowship to our branch member, Liz Cambron.
- Meet the woman investor pushing Amazon, Google, and more to close the gender pay gap.

Happy Mother’s Day