



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

Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Branch

President's Comments

AAUW events are slowing down as we reach the holiday season.

Thank you to Liz for organizing the Wonder Fundraiser and for those who attended. I was at a conference and unable to attend, but the movie has gotten great reviews.

There will be no book club this month, so for those of you like me who tend to forget, you have two whole months to read *Soldier Girls* by Helen Thorpe and attend at the end of January.

I hope you will attend the December 9th, 2017 FM AAUW program on *Multifaceted Approaches to Breaking Generational Cycles of Poverty* with our speakers Cody Schuler and Diane Solinger, whose bios are in the newsletter. The meeting will be 10:00AM to 12:00PM at the Biltmore on Main and brunch is \$20 (including tip). They have put together a great spread of farm fresh scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, bacon, sausage links, ham, fresh caramel rolls, assorted muffins, fresh fruit tray, coffee, tea, milk and assorted fruit juice. Please RSVP to farmoor.aauw@gmail.com by **December 8th** and bring a friend!

We will be collecting donations for the FM Coalition for Homeless Persons at the brunch. See page 2 of the newsletter for a list of items they need currently.

Happy Holidays and we will see you again in the New Year!

Alexa Ducioame
President



December program

Multifaceted Approaches to Breaking Generational Cycles of Poverty
Cody Schuler & Diane Solinger



Diane Solinger became the first executive director for the Jeremiah Program in Fargo-Moorhead in 2014. Previously, she served in numerous positions at Minnesota State University Moorhead and Mankato. At Moorhead, she was Assistant and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President of Enrollment Management. At Mankato, she served in multiple student affairs and fundraising roles. She also was Director of Residence Life at University of Denver for four years.



Cody J. Schuler is the executive director of the FM Coalition for Homeless Persons. Previously, he served as the program coordinator for the Coordinated Assessment, Referral, and Evaluation System (CARES) for North Dakota and West Central Minnesota. He is a current member of the board of directors of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People and served as that organization's Legislative Coordinator during the 2017 Legislative Assembly. Cody holds degrees from Dakota Wesleyan University and Duke University, is a trained community organizer, holds a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University, and has a passion working in issues of social justice and systems change.

Donation items needed:

Winter clothing items—particularly gloves and hats

Diapers & Wipes (diapers sizes 2-6 and pullups sizes 2t-5t)

Gift cards in any amount for gas or groceries (Walmart, Target, Cash Wise, Hornbachers, Family Fare)

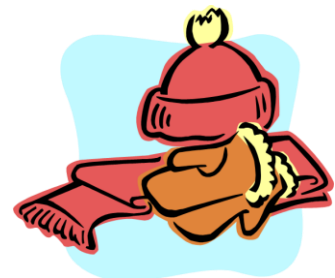


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FM AAUW AFFILIATE BUSINESS AGENDA

December 9th, 2017 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Biltmore on Main

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

Call to Order and Welcome: President Alexa Ducioame

Approval of Agenda (additions, deletions, changes)

President's Comments: Thank you to everyone who attended the Wonder Fundraiser and to Liz for organizing it.

Approval of May Minutes: Secretary Amanda Savitt (as printed)

Financial Report: Finance Officer Liz Cambron (as printed)

Continuing Business:

Strategic Plan

New Business:

Membership: Kathleen Nelson

Public Policy: Sandy Sidler

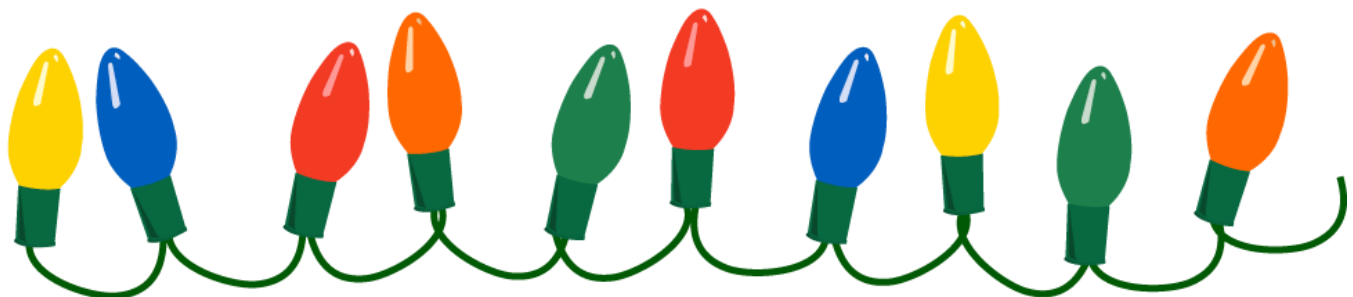
Fundraising: Liz Cambron

Pay Equity: Evelyn Quigley

Announcements:

Book Club, Sara Lindberg

Adjourn.



AAUW Affiliate Meeting Minutes November 13, 2017

Present: 14 members, guests

President Alexa Ducioame welcomed all and the mission statement was read.

The agenda was approved.

Kathleen Nelson will be taking over membership duties for both states.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed.

Finance Chair Liz Cambron distributed the Treasurer's report showing a beginning balance of \$562, income of \$3849, expenses of \$2668 and an ending balance of \$1181. The majority of the income was from the book sale. Liz is collecting for the Minnesota and North Dakota legal funds.

As Book Sale Chair, Liz Cambron discussed the book sale. Liz thanked members of the task force and volunteers. 21 members volunteered for sorting, and 16 members volunteered for the sale. Left over books were donated to Savers, Eagle's Nest, Boys and Girls Ranch, Heirlooms, and others. Valley News Live and KVRR did stories on the book sale. The Book Sale Committee will need a new book sale for next year. A Clean Up Chair is being sought as well.

Alexa discussed the need for developing a strategic plan. Amanda has volunteered to be on the committee, but other volunteers are also sought. Sandy and others may have previous strategic plan materials. Sandy mentioned that the strategic plan relies on the National organization's plan.

Kathleen reported we have four new members. MSUM has decided to join as a college/university member. Nine members have not renewed, some of whom are long time members. Kathleen has contacted them but has not heard back from many of them. Five people expressed interest in membership at the book sale, and have been contacted. College students can join as e-members. Students may be discouraged by the price for meals, but sponsorship and reduced prices are possible solutions.

The Facebook page has a new feature, Meet a Member, using interviews conducted by Sara Lindberg. Sara encouraged members to respond to interview questions. Liz discussed introducing New Member Packets to give to new members when they join.

Public Policy Chair Sandy Sidler noted that there is a Facebook Live event for AAUW's member appreciation tomorrow (11/14) at 1:00 PM CT. There was an election last week. The cheer of the week was the Olympic medalist Shalane Flanagan became the first American to win the NYC marathon since 1977. The jeer of the week is the House Republican's tax bill, which would, among other things, give fetuses tax benefits. The bill refers to fetuses as "unborn children." A study by the American Institute of Physics found that female physicists are paid 18% less than their male colleagues.

Fundraiser Chair Liz Cambron discussed this month's fundraiser. If people use a link (available on the Facebook page), \$1 of every ticket to the movie Wonder goes to the affiliate.

Pay Equity Task Force chair Evelyn Quigley was not present, but Alexa presented updates on their work in her absence. Kathleen and Evelyn are meeting with college and university representatives from NDSU and Concordia about pay equity, to do member recruitment and to improve our position for grants. The task force is recruiting new members.

Book Club chair Sara Lindberg informed the meeting that the next book club book is *Lab Girl*. The book club meets Monday November 20 at 7 PM at the Moorhead Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned.

The program

Laetitia Mizero Hellerud presented about her experiences as a New American, and on her new book, *Being at Home in the World*.

Laetitia is a former refugee, and has worked with refugees for the past 25 years in the United States and elsewhere.

Laetitia was born in Burundi, and grew up in Burundi, France, Rwanda and Burkina Faso. She came to the US in the fall of 1998 in her late 20s. She was at that time raising her younger siblings and her son.

When she came to the United States, she had a bachelor's degree from the University of Burundi and had worked for Catholic Relief Services. She had received an orientation about living in the United States, but did not know exactly what to expect. She was prepared to begin working at an entry level job, but she did not expect to have to compete for an entry level job, and she had a lot of trouble finding work.

She and her sister got work at a factory and asked each other if their education had any value under their circumstances. Laetitia was emphatic that the value of education extends beyond finding a job.

Laetitia addressed questions about education and the ability to find work, racial privilege, her experience as a refugee and coming to Fargo, the current political climate with respect to immigrants and refugees.

Laetitia also discussed her book, *Being at Home in the World*.

Amanda Savitt
Secretary



AAUW Minnesota News

Each year Minnesota AAUW offers a \$500 grant for young women in high school and also for college age women (up to age 25) to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. Evaluators are looking for applicants that have participated in projects that specifically address women and girls' equity issues. Applications are due by **March 9, 2018** and must be sponsored by the FM Branch. Interested? Contact the F-M AAUW branch at farmoor.aauw@gmail.com. More information can be found at <https://aauw-mn.aauw.net/awards/nccwsl/>





Meet an AAUW F-M Member



Alexa Ducioame

Alexa Ducioame, West Fargo, is currently the FM AAUW President. She has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from UND, with an M.S. degree in progress. She has been employed at Moore Engineering for five years in the Water Resources Group, where she works on river and flood risk projects such as levees, county ditches, river restoration and helping residents get out of the floodplain.

Alexa has been an AAUW member for three and a half years and believes the pay gap is an important issue for the organization to work on. Contributing to this inequality are underrepresentation of women and minorities in politics, STEM courses, and leadership positions. Our branch is active in several programs to address these concerns and the Pay Equity Task Force is preparing a salary negotiation training for women graduates.

Alexa loves to travel and eat great food and rates *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg as the best book she's read this year, finding it inspiring and confidence-boosting and also unexpectedly comforting. Sandberg, COO of Facebook, shows that emotion isn't necessarily a weakness and in fact empathy could contribute to better management.

Her best film choices for the year are "Hidden Figures," which finally gives the black women working at NASA the credit due to them, and "Wonder Woman," which gives a female a functional warrior uniform inspired by Roman armor. And she saves the day!

Carol Hanson Sibley

Carol Hanson Sibley of Dilworth, MN, earned a BA degree in English Education at the U. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, an MA in Librarianship at the U. of Wisconsin-Madison, and an MA in English/Children's Literature from Simmons College and Eastern Michigan University. She taught high school English and worked as a school and public librarian. A highlight of her employment history was working two years as the school librarian at an international school near Lugano, Switzerland, which introduced her to teenagers from around the world. Before retirement Carol spent 32 years as Curriculum Center Librarian at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Carol's hobbies are reading and traveling and continuing to keep up with new books for children and teens and issues in the field of children's literature.

She began her AAUW membership in the Moorhead branch in 1981. She believes civil rights is the most important AAUW issue and participates in branch meetings and the annual book sale.

The best advice Carol ever received was from her father, who always regretted not going to college: "Do well in high school and get a college education." Carol's advice for young women: "Be independent; follow your dreams; find a balance between your head and your heart."

If Carol had the opportunity to invite three people, living or dead, to a dinner party, she would choose the three women who helped establish children's literature as a respected literary discipline: Charlotte Huck, Zena Sutherland and May Hill Arbuthnot.

Fundraising Committee Update

New this year is our fundraising committee! Our mission for this year is “*to raise funds for local scholarships, educational programs, and outreach*”. We are opened to ideas and would love to have more people join us! Contact Liz Cambron for more information, liz.cambron@ndsu.edu.

There will be a fundraising committee meeting after the holidays to plan fundraisers for the remainder of the year. All are welcomed to come and share their ideas. Look for a date and more information in the January newsletter!

This month we will have a silent auction of a book basket generously donated by Carol Sibley!

Perfect for a last-minute holiday gift!



*Cash or check only

From the AAUW Archives

In 1936 the Branch worked to get the NDAC (later NDSU, Fargo) on the list of AAUW credited institutions. At that time members were required to have graduated from an approved college or university, which meant the school employed an equal number of faculty members of both genders, and offered comparable pay and promotion opportunities. NDAC didn't have enough female professors to be accepted to the accredited list.

In 1942 the Branch prepared Red Cross Comfort Kits and worked on other Red Cross projects during World War II. After the war Christine Finlayson of Fargo, the North Dakota President of AAUW, was appointed to the Post-War Planning Board as Chairman of the Family Life Committee to aid returning soldiers, their wives and children.

Announcements

AAUW Book Club 2017-18

**All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Moorhead Public Library
Books will be available for purchase at a discount at Zandbroz, downtown Fargo**

January 22	Book: Soldier Girls, Helen Thorpe Leader: Sara Lindberg	March 26	Book: Hidden Figures, Margot Lee Shetterly Leader: Sandy Sidler
February 26	Book: LaRose, Louise Erdrich Leader: Verlaine Gullickson	April 29	Book: My Life on the Road, Gloria Steinem Leader: Sibyl Olson

May 21 Book Selection for next year

Meet an F-M Member

To get to know our members better, we are excited to highlight our branch members in every newsletter!

Please contact Sara Lindberg to provide your info!
orchella@msn.com

Want to get involved?

The Fargo-Moorhead branch is currently looking to fill the president-elect position and 2nd membership chair. For more information please contact any board member or email farmoor.aauw@gmail.com

F-M AAUW 2017-18 Programs & Dates to Remember

DECEMBER BRUNCH

Multifaceted Approaches to Breaking Generational Cycles of Poverty

Cody Schuler & Diane Solinger

JANUARY BRUNCH

Crucial Conversations for Effective Leadership

Lonnie Pederson

FEBRUARY

Falling in Love with Math and Science: Women in STEM

Dr. Jane Schuh & Betty Gronneberg

MARCH

Title IX, assault, harassment and discrimination

Jennifer Cook, ACLU & Title IX representative from MSUM

APRIL

Equal Pay Day

Hosted by AAUW Pay Equity Committee

MAY

Annual Potluck Meeting



The public is welcome to attend our meetings. The format is 5-6 p.m. Social Hour; 6-6:45 p.m. Dinner; 6:45-7:15 Business Meeting; 7:15-8 p.m. Program

Interested in joining or have an announcement for the newsletter? Contact us!

F-M AAUW ELECTED OFFICERS



Alexa Ducioame
President



Amanda Savitt
Secretary



Susan Helgeland
Immediate Past President



Kathleen Nelson
MN Membership Chair



Liz Cambron
Finance Officer/Newsletter
editor

WEB SITES

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