



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

Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Branch

President's Comments

Happy New Year to everyone!

We are kicking off the year with a new Strategic Plan task force led by Kjersten Nelson. We will soon be asking for your feedback to help us prioritize FM AAUW's goals and objectives.

We also have two great events this month that I hope you'll attend.

On Saturday, January 13th we will have our annual brunch at the Radisson downtown. The program will be an interactive class on Crucial Conversations and Seeing Things Whole: Relationships, Identity, Purpose led by Dr. Lonnie Pederson of the University of Jamestown. More information on this program and Lonnie's bio are on the next page. The meeting will be 10:00AM to 12:00 PM with a ticket price of \$20 for Seasonal fresh fruits & berries, farm fresh scrambled eggs, Applewood smoked bacon, breakfast potatoes and assorted muffins & breakfast breads, with sweet cream butter & fruit preserves. Please RSVP to farmoor.aauw@gmail.com by the end of the day Monday, January 8th and bring a friend!

Book club is on Monday, January 22nd 7:00 PM at the Moorhead Public Library. Sara Lindberg will be leading the discussion on Soldier Girls by Helen Thorpe. The book tells the story of three women who signed up for the Indiana Army National Guard before September 11th and found themselves in long deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. If you haven't already bought the book, you can snag a 10% discount if you pick it up at Zandbroz.

Alexa Ducioame
President



January program

Crucial Conversations and Seeing Things Whole: Relationships, Identity, Purpose

Crucial conversations have the potential to define us. Navigating well amid tension between your perceptions and others requires astute observation. Is it possible to be an effective leader without the ability to recognize crucial conversations? If the stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong, you are now entering the zone of a crucial conversation. The first step to navigating crucial conversations is knowing yourself. What is your preferred communication and conflict style? Where do you go in the grip? Are you “playing it safe” to avoid risks? Are you equipped with strategies that contribute to your leadership practice? Seeing things whole requires us to recognize the interaction between relationships, identity, and purpose and to know that crucial conversations require conscious choices that impact the quality of our relationships and consequently our lives. This collaborative session will explore personal styles and values, opportunities for crucial conversations, and actions that have the potential to influence positive results.



Dr. Lonnie Pederson is Director of the Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL) Program- an innovative interdisciplinary graduate program of the University of Jamestown, located at the new Graduate Center in Fargo. As a faculty member, she serves as Assistant Professor of Leadership and teaches courses in leadership, ethics, organizational theory and feminist perspectives of leadership. Dr. Pederson recently co-facilitated an International Study Abroad, Feminist Perspectives of Leadership, in the contexts of Germany and is looking forward to teaching another course this spring in the contexts of Italy. She brings over 20 years of various non-profit leadership experience into the classroom including human services, healthcare, and higher education. Professor Pederson holds an Ed.D. in leadership from the University of St. Thomas. Her current scholarship focuses on the intersection of Faith & Work. Her philosophy of leadership can best be summarized by a pioneer in the field of organizational theory, Mary Parker Follett (1924), “*Leadership is not defined by the exercise of power, but by the capacity to increase the sense of power among those led. The most essential work of the leader is to create more leaders.*”

Table of Contents

January 13th business agenda	pg. 4
December 9th meeting minutes	pg. 5-8
AAUW Membership News	pg. 9
Meet an AAUW F-M Member	pg. 10
Fundraising committee update	pg. 11
From the AAUW Archive	pg. 12
Announcements	pg. 13
Book Club Info	pg. 13
Program dates and titles	pg. 14
Contact Us	pg. 15

F-M AAUW Affiliate Business Agenda

January 13th, 2018 – 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Radisson Fargo

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:

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

Financial Report: Finance Officer Liz Cambron (as printed)

Continuing Business:

Strategic Plan

New Business:

Future meeting pricing

Student sponsorship

Membership: Kathleen Nelson

Public Policy: Sandy Sidler

Fundraising: Liz Cambron

Pay Equity: Evelyn Quigley

Announcements:

Book Club, Sara Lindberg

Adjourn.



AAUW Affiliate Meeting Minutes December 2017

Present: 15 members, guests

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

Alexa added a note from Kathleen Nelson about a grant, and the agenda was approved.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed.

Finance Chair Liz Cambron was not present. Alexa discussed the financial report in her absence. Donations included those from the movie fundraiser, and to the legal advocacy fund. The ending balance was \$990.57 (including insurance and expanding horizons). Insurance is for events. Expanding your Horizons has asked for volunteers, and we anticipate the event will take place this year.

Continuing business: Working to put together a Strategic Plan. We will be reaching out to Kjersten Nelson. Sandy recommended talking to Maureen. Roberta Shreve might have information. Susan H recommended having few goals instead of being overly ambitious. Susan L asked if we would be doing strategic planning during meetings, and there was discussion about whether we would meet as a whole group or as a smaller committee to work on the strategic plan. Hopefully Kjersten will chair that committee.

There was no new business.

Membership chair Kathleen Nelson was not present but a membership report was presented in her absence. A \$500 grant to attend Conference of Student Leaders is available for CU members, and Kathleen will provide information about this grant when meeting with CU members.

Public Policy Chair Sandy Sidler presented public policy updates. Equal Pay Day is April 10, and our chapter is seeking event opportunities. A discussion is taking place at AAUW National about trying to have a Press Conference, which Evelyn and Sandy have been considering. At the national level, it is Computer Science Education Week, which includes a cybersecurity curriculum for middle school girls, related to STEM activities. Sandy also noted the tax bill which was passed recently. AAUW's Cheer of the Week was Time Magazine Person of the Week "the Silence Breakers." The Jeer of the Week: JAMA Internal Medicine found that women in internal medicine were more likely to suffer depression than male colleagues. Resignations of national legislators amid sexual misconduct claims were noted. Arguments in the case of the Colorado baker who refused to bake a cake for a same sex wedding were heard at SCOTUS. A ruling in the case will probably not come out until the end of session. On Tuesday, 34 House Republicans sent letter to Paul Ryan urging him to protect DACA recipients before end of year. AAUW and others signed onto letter opposing Trump administration rule on moral and religious objections to contraception.

Fundraising chair Liz Cambron was absent, but a fundraising report was made in her absence. A collection of silent auction items is available from Carol, including a collection of children's books and plushes. The legal advocacy fund for which we are seeking donations challenges sex discrimination in higher education and in the work place. We are raising money for both ND and MN.

Pay Equity Chair Evelyn Quigley reported on the Pay Equity task force's recent activities. Evelyn reminded the members that our chapter is unique because of our dual state representation. Minnesota has advanced from 18th to 12th, and North Dakota advanced from 47th to 45th in terms of women's equality. At our next meeting we can bring some ideas about Equal Pay Day. Action items: our focus is to host a Start Smart curriculum for college and university women, need to show evidence of our relationships with colleges and universities. NDSU has had membership for a long time, have identified key people. Kathleen and Evelyn will meet with key university officials. Recently, they met with Susan Larson and Stephanie Alfeldt at Concordia. Susan Larson discussed a Faith, Reason and World Affairs Symposium on gender and power, conversations about masculinity, violence against women, feminism, etc., that will be taking place at Concordia, and the possibility for a presentation from AAUW. There will be workshops for faculty and others. The public is invited to the symposium. Kathleen will do membership outreach and make career center connections for the Start Smart initiative. Evelyn will also be meeting with MSUM, including Dana in the career center and Kathleen at the President's office. Evelyn will also be meeting with Karla Rose Hanson and Amy Jacobsen to demonstrate relationship with community through ND Women's Network. Hanson and Jacobsen helped with a major study at NDSU on the status of women in ND, but its results have not been disseminated, but an application for a Bremmer Grant has been made. The possibility of discussing the study's findings at the Fargo Theatre was discussed. The importance of encouraging the North Dakota Commission on Status of Women to expand their scope and publicize their findings was discussed.

Book club chair Sara Lindberg notified the group that book club for January will meet on the 22nd at the Moorhead Public Library at 7 PM to discuss the book Soldier Girl.

The meeting was adjourned.

The program: Multifaceted Approaches to Breaking Generational Cycles of Poverty
Speakers: Diane Solinger, Jeremiah Program Exec Director, Cody Schuler, FM Coalition for Homeless Persons Executive Director

The FM Coalition for Homeless Persons was founded in 1989 following a rise in homelessness in Fargo-Moorhead above national trend. FMC initially sought to address the immediate needs of homeless persons and to improve service delivery mode for homelessness. Today, there are more shelters, FMC has more partners, and the focus of the organization has shifted to reducing and eliminating homelessness through advocacy, collaboration and education.

The work FMC does includes: education and trainings; advocacy; research; successful outcomes for tenants and landlords; landlord risk mitigation fund; homeless memorial day; taxi ride program; gap grants for direct service; CARES (Coordinated Assessment Referral and Evaluation System) to help extend money across border; and a Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund.

FMC is engaged in both charity and justice, but believes homelessness will be solved through justice rather than through charity. It is crucial to end homelessness because of the difficulties associated with experiencing homelessness. Challenges with not having an address include: identification, work benefits, housing, education; access regular medical care and prescriptions; tell people where you live; eat and drink, bathe, have a pet; physically, mentally challenged, socially awkward; use drugs and alcohol to access; park care or camper on street, sleep in yard; own more stuff than you can carry; and have a civic identity. The only solution to homelessness is housing

The costs of homelessness (~\$3000/month) are higher than costs of supportive housing (~\$600/month). In addition to a fundamental right to have a home, ending homelessness is a smart way to do the right thing. Solutions to ending homelessness are known, but resources are needed.

We know that factors contributing to homelessness include rising housing costs and transformations in the national housing market, lack of relative expansion in the government safety net and inability of social service programs to keep pace with increasing demand and pervasiveness of socio-political norms and attitudes that create stigmatization. Well-intentioned policies can contain significant cultural and economic bias. Criminalization and racial bias also contribute to homelessness.

It is important to address certain key issues relating to homelessness: skills (chaotic environments and low socioeconomic stats provide few opportunities to develop basic life skills), resources (minimum wage jobs do not provide room to respond to financial emergencies or even provide for basic needs), and support systems (implementing social supports that promote physical and mental wellbeing and capacity). It is also important to identify and manage co-occurring factors, including low/no income, chronic health conditions, mental illness, substance abuse disorders, limited or no social support network, ACE (adverse childhood experience), and discharge from institution.

Some common approaches to reducing homelessness include a Housing First philosophy, the harm reduction model, trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, and person-centered approaches.

The Jeremiah Program is a nonprofit that serves single mothers with young children 5 and under to break generational cycle of poverty and educate both mother and child to get them off public assistance in the long-term. Its mission is to transform families from poverty to prosperity by mobilizing a broad-based coalition of community members who embrace the mission.

The Jeremiah Program is 20 years old, and began in FM when community members in 2009 reached out to Jeremiah Program nationally to bring program here. In the last 7-8 years, the organization has been working to establish a chapter in the FM area.

Nationally, more than 18 million children in US live in poverty with single mothers. These children have little access to quality early childhood education, and start school behind their peers and find it nearly impossible to catch up. The Jeremiah Program takes a two-generation strategy. Their success is based on holistic approach: affordable, safe housing; supportive community; career-track college education; quality early childhood education; and empowerment life skills, all of which result in family prosperity.

The facilities Jeremiah Program maintains include a child development center in building, and a family services manager who meets with and coaches women regularly. The families that participate in the program are living below poverty level, are dependent on public assistance, and the average age of mothers is 24, and average age of children is 3. Public support comes from the state of North Dakota and national housing trust fund. The program has also received private donations.

The Fargo-Moorhead Jeremiah Program facility will get its certificate of occupancy within next week, and families will start moving in on January 3. The building is fully furnished; residents pay no more than 30% of income for rent; it is located near educational institutions, employment opportunities, public transportation; and it is a secure, supportive environment. Women selected for the program are stable and want a better life for themselves and their child or children. The building has support services and children's center co-located with apartments. Women must take empowerment class to learn to believe they are worthy of services just as they are. The building also will have family library, community kitchen and room.

In the program, women are offered life skills classes (such as personal financial management and others).

The ribbon cutting for the new facility will be on February 7, 2018, the day before Giving Hearts Day.

Amanda Savitt
Secretary

F-M AAUW MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As 2018 begins it is time to renew our efforts to grow our membership. We are currently at 40 members. 8 Moorhead affiliate members and 32 Fargo members. Over the last year we have lost 7 long standing members a few who joined as early as 1975 and a few that have joined our organization more recently. Stay connected to your organization by attending our monthly meetings and encouraging others to come as well. If you have noted that friends who came to meetings regularly are no longer showing up, a phone call might renew their interest in rejoining.

The Board has been cultivating connections with local universities as one way to increase our numbers. We are planning to be present at some of the events on campus this spring to make connection with faculty, staff and students. Volunteers will be needed so think about saying yes.

Kathleen Nelson
Membership





Meet an AAUW F-M Member



Yvonne Condell

Yvonne Condell of Moorhead earned a BS degree from Florida A & M, and MA and PhD degrees in Biology from the University of Connecticut. She was a college professor for 40 years before retiring from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

As an AAUW member for 54 years, Yvonne has seen many changes in the organization. She considers the most important focus to be educating young women for leadership roles in careers and volunteers for community service. She has seen a significant decline in young women's involvement in community service and/or joining organizations not associated with work or careers. Yvonne would like to see AAUW meetings on campuses or public libraries to which she would bring young women.

Yvonne's major pastime is collecting and studying Inuit art. The best book she's read this year is *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu.

In the realm of wish fulfillment, Yvonne states,

If she were Queen of the World, the first thing she would do: Guarantee a living wage for all workers.

If she could invite any three people, living or dead, to a dinner party, they would be:

Margaret Mean (with whom she spent three days in 1978), Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Duke Ellington.

Joan Justesen

Joan Justesen of Fargo earned BSN and MBA degrees. She worked for 23 years as a clinical nurse and nurse manager in Obstetrics, Neonatal Intensive Care and the Children's Hospital. Subsequently she worked 20 years in Health Care Administration and after retirement worked at MSUM as the VP for Marketing and the Foundation.

Her interests are lake activities, the symphony, opera, reading, walking, biking and of course, her grandchildren! She tries to be involved in different community activities and to donate her time and resources.

Joan was an AAUW member for five years, including as President of the FM branch, and she recently rejoined us. She intends to continue to support the branch in its efforts. She believes the most important focus for AAUW should be to work with girls and young women to strengthen their self-confidence to achieve their goals. Examples of worthy projects are STEM classes, the campaign for equal pay, and confronting sexual harassment and bullying.

Joan's desires if she were Queen of the World would be to destroy racism, sexism, harassment and prejudices of all kinds and to work to end drug trafficking and drug abuse. Her advice to young women: "Take advantage of women mentors and never fear taking a risk when a new opportunity comes along."

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 at the end of January, if you are interested in coming, please email me to give you the location and time.

This month we will have AAUW items from the National store that were generously donated by Sara Lindberg for sale, and handmade AAUW bookmarks!

Perfect for another year of empowering women!



From the AAUW Archives

Happy 96th Birthday, FM AAUW, organized **January 27, 1922!**

The 1940's AAUW meetings had an international focus, with programs on Russia, China, Palestine, the Near East, the Iron Curtain, Japan, the Marshall Plan, Europe's Dispossessed and the United Nations.

Projects undertaken by the membership in the '40's included endorsing legislation for proper labeling of canned goods; urging the Fargo Board of Education to re-establish kindergarten; and efforts to have women appointed to the North Dakota State Board of Education.

In 1949 Fargo AAUW membership reached 100!

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

Announcements

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

facebook® *Update*

- NEW Meet a Member photo album
 - We'll be adding photos along with Sara's write-ups that are featured in the newsletters
- The top 3 films of 2017 were all female-led
- American Girl's newest character is Luciana, a young girl who dreams of being an astronaut
- Emotional labor vs the division of labor
- Merriam-Webster's 2017 word of the year: Feminism
- KVRR covered our December brunch
- TIME's 2017 Person of the Year: The Silence Breakers



AAUW Annual Art Contest Accepting Submissions Jan 4 – Feb 4

Spring Rain on Tulips – Mary Craft, Jamestown, ND
One of six 2017 winners

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

JANUARY BRUNCH

1/13/18 Raddison Hotel downtown
Crucial Conversations for Effective Leadership
Lonnie Pederson

FEBRUARY MEETING

2/12/18 Biltmore on Main
Falling in Love with Math and Science: Women in STEM
Dr. Jane Schuh & Betty Gronneberg

MARCH MEETING

3/12/18 Biltmore on Main
Title IX, assault, harassment and discrimination
Jennifer Cook, ACLU & Title IX representative from MSUM

APRIL MEETING

Biltmore on Main
Equal Pay Day
Hosted by AAUW Pay Equity Committee

MAY MEETING

5/14/18 Biltmore on Main
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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