



April 2020

American Association of University Women

empowering women since 1881
Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Affiliate

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

President's Comments

Hello everyone!

What strange times we are living through! I hope everyone is staying safe and well and managing social isolation as well as possible.

Our branch has postponed all in-person events for the rest of this year, including the book club and the Work Smart/Start Smart event that was originally scheduled for late April. Our board meetings will continue to take place via conference call, and the state convention and our annual branch meeting will also take place remotely.

We are disappointed not to be able to host these events right now but keeping our membership and the community healthy are our number one priority, and we can look forward to hosting these events in the coming months.

I'd also like to note that, while our organization is stepping back from in-person meetings and activities right now, the need to advocate for women has certainly not gone away. Among other issues, household labor (especially including childcare) is likely to disproportionately fall to women, and pregnant women face a number of unique challenges associated with seeking care and giving birth. Let's keep these issues in mind and continue to seek opportunities to advocate for women.

I hope everyone stays healthy, and I look forward to seeing all of you again soon!



Amanda Savitt

President-elect

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F-M AAUW Book Club 2020

During this uncertain time, we are going to cancel the April and May book club meetings. The tentative plan is to carry over the two remaining books, *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro and *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, to the fall for discussion.

If conditions permit, we’ll meet this summer to choose books for the rest of the 2020-2021 schedule. You’ll be notified via email.

Keep reading; it’s the perfect self-isolation activity!

ND Election Flexibility Provided

The March 26 North Dakota executive order was developed in collaboration with Secretary of State Al Jaeger and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem with input from North Dakota county auditors. The order ensures every eligible North Dakota voter can cast a ballot in June, while protecting the health and safety of voters and poll workers.

The order waives the requirement that counties must provide at least one physical polling location on primary election day. This will give counties the flexibility and local control to conduct the June 9 primary election by mail ballot only – if the county chooses to do so. Currently, 33 counties offer mail ballot voting in addition to the physical polling locations required by law. The state’s 20 other counties also are eligible to conduct mail ballot voting.

Program Overview and Dates to Remember

FM AAUW 2020

Location and Time Details on our website calendar or Facebook events

April	9	White women’s Equal Pay Day
	25	Action: Salary Negotiation Training – Postponed – date to be announced
	27	Book Club: <i>The Library Book</i> , Susan Orlean – Postponed – date TBD
	30	Board Meeting Conference Call
May	1-2	ND AAUW Annual Convention – Theme: 100 years of Women’s Suffrage – Time and method of communication TBD
	18	Book Club: book selection for next year – Postponed – date TBD
June	4	Moms Equal Pay Day
August	13	Black women’s Equal Pay Day
October	1	Native women’s Equal Pay Day
	29	Latinas’ Equal Pay Day

Purple = Board (open to all)

Green = Book club

Blue = speaker (learn & plan)

Red = Action

FM AAUW Fundraiser

This year, the chapter had a work session, back in the days when we could get together, and pussy hats were created as a fund raiser. The plan was to sell the hats at the FM Women's March. This finally happened when the Women's March was held March 7. See story on the next page.



On a cold Saturday in January, members and friends of FM AAUW gathered at Thunder Coffee to create pussy hats as a fund raiser.



Happy customers at the FM Women's March helped the chapter raise \$250 which will go to national AAUW for scholarships.



Demonstrators in Fargo-Moorhead Women's March aim to 'make this world a better place'

Credit: Fargo Forum Written By: [April Baumgarten](#) | Mar 7th 2020 - 4pm.

FARGO — When a crowd at the [Fargo-Moorhead Women's March](#) was asked Saturday, March 7, what they were going to do to fight for human rights, they shouted in one voice, “Rise up!”

The chant was repeated during a rally at the North Dakota State University Memorial Union before dozens of demonstrators marched around campus with signs for the fourth year in a row.

“We’ve made our voices heard. People know what we want, and now we have to make it happen,” said Lydia Tackett, an organizer for the event.

Originally set for Jan. 18 to coincide with similar demonstrations that took place that weekend around the country, [the F-M Women's March was postponed due to a blizzard](#). With temperatures in the high 30s on International Women's Day Saturday, participants walked 1 ½ miles.

Indivisible Fargo-Moorhead, the group that hosted the march, stands for progressive values and goals, Tackett said. It wants to give as many different groups as many platforms as possible so they can speak to a wide range of human rights issues, she said.

“It's about all of these different problems that we want to solve that touch on everybody's lives,” she said. “We think that we can make this world a better place as long as we stay connected and we all jump in and do something.”

Minnesota State University Moorhead students Naomi Beske and Courtney Strobel got to the event before the rally started so they could make signs for the march. Beske's said “I'm with her” and displayed arrows pointing in all directions.

Strobel, who is Latina, noted the Trump administration's efforts to restrict immigration. She said it doesn't impact her, but it affects the people she loves.

“I want there to be awareness for that, and I want there to be a change,” Strobel said. “I don't want it to be a subtle change. I want it to be quick, and I want it to be something that impacts the generations that come after us.”

Beske said people are becoming more aware of the history of human rights violations and the movement to fight for those rights.

“It's 2020,” she said. “People don't take BS anymore.”



Indivisible Fargo-Moorhead holds their sign up to start the local Women's March Saturday, March 7, which began at the North Dakota State University Memorial Union. Alyssa Goelzer / The Forum

F-M AAUW Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 27, 2020

Members present: Alexa Ducioame, Bethany Reinhardt, Evelyn Quigley, Deb Nelson, Amanda Savitt, Susan Helgeland

President Alexa Ducioame called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

The January board minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Deb sent out a financial report. The new member is a recent graduate. We made nearly \$300 for the brunch event. The only expense for February was the donation to NEW Leadership. Deb would like to buy Bonnie Bernardy a \$50 gift certificate. The motion carried. Grants for our Start Smart/Work Smart event have been received, funds will go to pay for Heather, coaches, and lunch. Details of this event have not been finalized yet. Amanda will put a vague description of the event in the president's comments, highlighting receipt of the grant.

Continuing Business

Nominating Committee: We will need a nominating committee for next year. Susan will head that committee, and we can look to Dana and Heather, and potentially Joan Justison to be potential members as well. We will need to nominate finance, membership, secretary, and social media/webmaster. For the social media/webmaster position, we discussed paying a candidate, offering credit, and changing how we advertise. We also discussed appointed positions, including potentially consolidating the pay equity chair into policy. We also discussed issuing a statement about pay equity.

Program planning

March event: We have raised \$90 for hats and anticipate having more hats to sell at the Women's March. We anticipate it will be \$50 to pay for the table, which will come out of the "hat" fund.

April event: It seems like MSUM will run the event for us. Currently, the plan is to host either Start Smart or Work Smart in the morning, and the other event in the afternoon. The lunch will be joint. This is also an opportunity to recruit new members.

MN AAUW grants: Nothing to report.

2020 State Convention: We met on Tuesday and discussed initial plans. We will meet at Zandbroz Friday night, with a 4:30 set up and 5:00 meeting. We plan to invite members from Bismarck and Grand Forks. Members will bring food for a potluck. For Saturday, we hope to reserve the Fargo library. We have committees set up for these purposes.

Used book sale update: There are no updates right now.

Reform Fargo: We agreed that coordinating with Reform Fargo may not make sense given our upcoming schedule. We could have them write an article for the newsletter.

New Business

Women's History Month ideas for Fargo Monthly: Deb suggested *Harriet* but we also discussed Ruth Buffalo and our pay equity event.

MN ERA Action Plan: Letter writing is the proposed activity for March. Sandy will be our contact. We can include information on this in the newsletter.

Membership: Alexa will finish materials for folders.

Public Policy: Sandy is beginning to get legislative notes from MN.

Bylaws: Verlaine was not present.

Pay equity: We discussed doing a press release instead of a proclamation.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned.

Amanda Savitt

Secretary

F-M AAUW Branch Financial Report

February 2020

Submitted by Deborah Nelson February 25, 2020

BEGINNING BALANCE:		\$8,228.34
INCOME:		
Cash – January Brunch	\$340.00	
Minnesota Grant	\$1,500.00	
TOTAL INCOME:	\$1,840.00	
EXPENSES:		
Food Cost Sodexo MSUM	\$271.13	
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$271.13	
ENDING BALANCE:		\$9,797.21
Minus Booksale	\$1,980.00	
Minus BrainSTEM	\$4,559.00	
Available funds		\$3,258.21

F-M AAUW Affiliate Board Agenda

April 30, 2020 – 12:00-1:00 PM

Call (701) 551-1000 | Participant Code: 898-6721

AAUW Mission Statement: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Call to Order and Welcome: President Alexa Ducioame

Approval of Agenda (additions, deletions, changes)

President's Comments:

Approval of Minutes: Secretary Amanda Savitt (as printed)

Financial Report: Finance Officer Deborah Nelson (as printed)

Continuing Business:

Nominating Committee – Secretary, Finance, Membership, & Webmaster/Social Media

Annual Meeting Call

State Convention Call

Used book sale update

MN ERA Action Plan

New Business:

Membership:

Kathleen Nelson & Bethany Reinhardt

Membership Folders – Alexa

Public Policy: Sandy Sidler

Bylaws: Verlaine Gullickson

Pay Equity: Evelyn Quigley

Announcements:

Adjournment

Minnesota news

In light of the current situation, the Minnesota AAUW Board has returned to planning how they intended to hold a business meeting on April 25th. On April 20 a virtual election will be held to cast a ballot on candidates for the open board seats in Minnesota.

According to Lisa West, Minnesota AAUW president, the regional convention planned for June 18-20, 2020 is being cancelled. Members who previously registered will be getting refunds for fees and hotel accommodations.

Jan Carey, Minnesota's public policy chair has been busy in her roll even though things have slowed at the capitol. Even though the legislative day planned for April 15 has been cancelled, AAUW members should still be advocating for equal pay. She reminded us of AAUW's [2020 Gender Policy Agenda](#), by writing, "AAUW is pushing for policies that will protect women and their families, including paid leave, access to high-quality health care and stronger Social Security benefits. In the wake of the coronavirus crisis, those priorities are even more urgent. That's why we're partnering with other organizations to advocate for paid sick leave for public health emergencies. It's critical for women to be able to take care of themselves and their loved ones without worrying about a lost paycheck or retaliation from their boss."

From the AAUW Archives



Virginia Gildersleeve, born in 1877, credited her father, a New York State Supreme Court Judge who took her to work with him, with shaping her beliefs in justice, service and civic involvement.

Virginia graduated from Barnard College and later became Dean and then its President. At Barnard she was a champion of education for women and also persuaded the college to enact a maternity policy providing one term off at half pay or a year at full pay for new mothers on the faculty. She encouraged women to engage in political movements, even though the Barnard Board of Trustees thought female students marching in parades was "shocking and shameful."

Ms. Gildersleeve was an AAUW Board Member and co-founder of the International Fellowship of University Women. President Franklin Roosevelt appointed Gildersleeve as a delegate and the only woman to the San Francisco Conference in 1945 to draft the Charter for the United Nations. In 1946 General Douglas MacArthur invited her to be on the U.S. Educational Mission to Japan.

Many a Good Crusade is the title of her autobiography published in 1954, and *A Hoard for Winters* is her book of essays published in 1962. She died in 1965.

Interested in joining or have an announcement for the newsletter?

Contact us!

F-M AAUW ELECTED OFFICERS



Alexa Ducioame

President



Susan Helgeland

Immediate Past
President



Amanda Savitt

President-elect



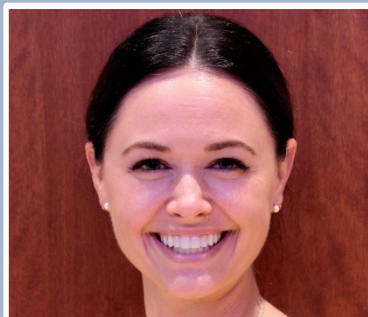
Deborah Nelson

Finance Officer



Kathleen Nelson

MN Membership



Bethany Reinhardt

ND Membership

WEB SITES

www.fargo-nd.aauw.net
www.facebook.com/FMAAUW
www.aauw.org

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