



Faribault Branch Communiqué

AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.



AAUW Presidents' Message ~ September 2017

“Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered you will never grow.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

It's hard to believe it is fall and it is the beginning of a new year for Faribault's AAUW chapter, our 94th! We have deep roots in the Faribault community and many of you have deep roots with each other! Deep roots provide a strong foundation to grow and that is our theme for the 2018 AAUW State Convention, “Come Grow in Faribault.” However, I encourage all of us to embrace that theme for our chapter this year as well.

I am looking forward to hosting our AAUW sisters from across the state to our wonderful town which is the first time in the 90 plus years of having state conventions in Minnesota. Many of you have already been a part of organizing and planning for the last 18 months, but it will take all of us to make the state convention a success.

Due to the convention being in April, we have moved our annual book sale to *May 30 – June 4*. Thank you for all of you that participated in the survey. This choice was the clear choice from the members, so this will lengthen our year.

As you see, we will be growing in different ways this year from continuing to learn from the various speakers coming to our meetings over the course of the year, to hosting the state convention, to giving back and supporting the community by hosting the Halloween Breakfast and Book Sale.

However, I want us all to grow on a more personal level as well. Last year we all had such wonderful opportunities to meet outside our normal meeting to learn something new and just enjoy getting to know others during the activities

For example, do you want a -

Birthday club – members that have the same birthday, meet for dessert?

Coffee club – meet weekly for coffee or conversation?

Movie club – meet monthly to see a movie, then coffee and/or dessert afterward to discuss?

This year I am challenging you to continue to grow by thinking of one way you want to grow and bring that idea with you to our first meeting on **Monday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.**

Looking forward to a wonderful 2017-2018 year!

Cyndy Harrison

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September Program



Getting to know you. Getting to know all about you!

The AAUW meeting will be 6:30 p.m. on September 25, 2017 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The first program of the year is "Getting to Know You". A short ice breaker activity will follow the business meeting to allow members to chance to socialize and to learn more about each other. Refreshments will be served.

Halloween breakfast tickets will be available at the meeting. Members are encouraged to pick up tickets to sell.

Our Savior's Church is located on 1207 Prairie Avenue in Faribault. Please use the back door to the church and continue to the all-purpose room.

Hope to see you there.

Mary Lillquist, Susan Willcutt, and Pat Fuchs



Calendar of Events

Monday, September 25 Branch Meeting 6:30 PM Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Membership Memos

We're off to a terrific start for our 2017-18 Membership Year! To date, we have recruited

five new members: *Ardo Ibrahim, Jeanne Brown-Kruesel, Cheryl Freund, Mary Niermann and Cindy Griessert.* So glad you've joined our Branch!

If you are acquainted with any of these gals, be sure to welcome them and encourage their participation at our meetings, activities and fundraising.

AAUW has found that 23 percent of first- or second-year branch members do not renew. How do we cut down on this high turnover rate?

Retention doesn't start when it's time for a new member to renew; it must be ongoing from the day members join AAUW. First impressions play a big role in retention. Create a good first impression by making new members feel like they're a part of our Branch and giving them concrete steps to bring about change.

New Memberships are \$43.50 until Dec. 31st, 2017, (or if they haven't been a member for 2 years) which is half price of the National dues (reg. \$49) + State (\$9) + Branch (\$10). After Dec. 31, the price goes down to a quarter of the National Dues until March 15, 2018. But an even better deal is for new members to join after March 15, once again at the \$43.50 rate, so the dues are good until June 30 of the following year.

The Shape-the-Future Campaign allows us to give a free National membership (\$49) to one of our members for each two new members who join our Branch, up to five free memberships (ten new members). So let's aim for getting ten new members by Dec. 31st! We'll have a drawing next May from those members that have paid their dues for 2018-19.

Sometimes people aren't members because they have never been asked. Be brave, ask someone to join us!

Membership co-vice presidents: Kathy Larson and Karen Rasmussen

Email or call with any questions or referrals:

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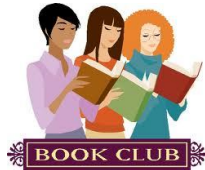
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Treasurer's Report

Back to business! To start the new fiscal year we have \$3483.92 in savings and \$254.50 in checking. We will have a discussion on last year's statements as well as budget recommendations at the September meeting. Looking forward to an exciting year.

Julie Olson, Treasurer

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

To quote Frank Zappa..."so many books, too little time". But we're giving it our best shot. The book club read *Our Souls at Night* by Ken Haruf in June, *The Book of Ages* by Jill Lepore in July, and *Vacationland* by Sarah Stonich in August.

Vacationland, written by a Minnesota author, is a series of stories centered around a fictitious northern Minnesota resort. We found that the characters are somewhat linked as each story unfolds. Some were more lovable than others with many flaws. It inspired stories among the group of resort experiences.

September's book is *While the Locust Slept* by Peter Razor. We will meet Tuesday, September 19 at Barb Dubbels'.

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Secretary's Report

AAUW Faribault Branch Meeting - May 22, 2017

The May meeting of the AAUW Faribault branch was called to order by Co-president Pat Fuchs at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cyndy Harrison.

Announcements/Introductions:

- Pat welcomed members and guests to our annual May picnic and thanked our Co-president, Cyndy Harrison for hosting this fun gathering.
- She introduced two guests who are the recipients of our two \$1,000 community scholarships: Amber Brossard and Emily Donahue. Amber is continuing her education at Concordia University, earning a degree in elementary teaching and a master's in special education. She currently is the Education Coordinator at River Bend Nature Center. Emily will be attending St. Catherine University, majoring in physical therapy.
- Betty Harmsen announced that the AAUW Sportswoman of the Year award will not be presented until later this school year.
- Pat extended our condolences to Kristen Grunnet and Maren Grunnet on the passing of their mother-in-law/grandmother.

Secretary's Report: The March secretary's report was approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report from the May newsletter: Checking: \$492.36 and savings \$7,770.17. The book sale gross sales were \$5,581.79, our net is around \$4800.

Correspondence:

- We received a thank you from South Central Community College for donating \$1500 to fund two named scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year. Because one of the \$750 2016 scholarships was not used, we actually presented three scholarships this year:
 - Nicole Paul - pre-nursing program
 - Shelby Goodfellow - Associate's degree
 - Kaelen Kurtzweil - Associate's degree

Recognition: Shirley Norgaard was recognized as a 50 year member who is now eligible for free lifetime membership to AAUW.

Committee Reports:

- Book Sale:
 - Set up: The books were moved on Apr. 15th from the Congo to the mall. The email "all call" for volunteers had a wonderful response. Besides our members thanks to Jerry Anderson, Duff and Tom Hartman, Bob Nesvold, Dan Rasmussen and John Hagan. In addition, two last minute volunteers from the Faribault High School's National Historical Society came and helped.
 - Karen Rasmussen reported that there were two children's book bags left.
 - Dick's Sanitation recycled the discarded books for a fee of \$350.00, which members agree was well worth it.
- Membership:
 - Kathy Larson announced that our branch received two membership awards at the state convention: increase of 5 new members and a 25% increase over three years (2014-2017).
 - She then distributed posters listing our many activities in the community to some of our members and had them stand together as a group to show all that we have done this year.
 - Karen Rasmussen described how members could use the membership cards that were distributed this evening. Our individual member number is on it and we can use it to access voting on the AAUW website.
 - Drawing for reduced dues: Our membership co-chairs then held the drawing for two recipients to receive a reduction in dues to only \$19.00. The lucky winners were Liz Hartman and Gloria Carter.
- Educational Funds: Pat Rice announced our branches named honorees for the Educational Foundation Endowment Fund:
 - Mary Lillquist for her many hours volunteering at the book sale (and her work as Program Vice-president this year.)
 - Gloria Olson for leading the effort to rename the Faribault airport field after Liz Strohfus. (and for her work on the book sale flyers and organizing the book club during the winter months.)

Old Business:

- 2018 State Convention:
 - Pauline Shreiber and Cyndy Harrison have determined a need for 6 sub-committees:
 - Registration - Karen Rasmussen and Pat Fuchs are co-chairs
 - Lodging - 70 hotel rooms should be reserved and the best price negotiated.

- Welcome Center at the Rice County Historical Society with tours at the woolen mill.
- Friday night's banquet at the Inn at Shattuck
- Saturday business meeting of the state convention at SCC with continental breakfast and noon luncheon.
- Silent Auction fundraiser
- Kathy Larson showed a sample of the convention bag design. It will be a navy bag with a Fleur-de-lis with "Grow in Faribault" printed below. She suggested that our March meeting in 2018 will be a work session for members to complete the bags.
- Pauline passed around a sign-up sheet for members to volunteer for the various committees.
- Kathy Larson announced that she had sold \$48.00 in maps at the convention.
- Pat thanked Pat Rice for the nice baskets she put together for the convention.

New Business:

- Airport Renaming: Gloria Olson reported that the ceremony designating the field the Liz Wall Strohfus Field will likely be held on June 24th. She passed around a collection bag for members to contribute to cover incidental expenses.
- Request for Pictures: Pat Umbreit, historian, asked that members send her any pictures they have of our activities this year.
- Contribution to Faribault STEAM and RBNC summer programs for supplies and equipment: Pat asked for a motion to approve the donation to the programs which was contingent on the success of the book sale. Motion by Diane Hagan, second by Kathy Larson. The motion carried.
- 2017-2018 slate of officers (new officers approved by acclamation)::
 - Cyndy Harrison and Colleen Rolling -- co-presidents
 - Julie Olson - treasurer
 - Karen Rasmussen and Kathy Larson - co-vice presidents of membership
 - Mary Lillquist and Sue Willcutt- co-vice presidents of program
 - Pat Rice - vice president of AAUW funds (2nd year. of two year term)
 - Rene' Perrance - vice president of diversity (2nd year of two year term)
 - Pauline Schreiber - vice president of public policy (2nd year of two year term)
 - Secretary - Gloria Carter
- Cyndy Harrison will email a 5 question survey on the 2018 book sale. Pauline Schreiber asked if we should continue the highway cleanup and Cyndy agreed to add this to the survey.
- Pat Fuchs thanked members for their work this year and then distributed gifts to her officers for the 2016-2017 year and to the chairs of various committees and groups: historian, scholarship, bylaws, auditor, Sportswoman of the Year, Project Star, Women's History Month, book sale, yearbook, book club, Communique' and webmasters, sunshine, social events, and the Halloween breakfast.
- Cyndy Harrison presented outgoing co-president Pat Fuchs with a picture frame and the book, *The 52 Lists Project* and thanked her for her hard work, kindness and sincerity. Members then gave a round of applause to both Pat and Cyndy for their leadership this year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Ruth Hildebrandt, secretary

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The Faribault AAUW Branch Newsletter is published from September to May during our program year. The Editors are Emily Nesvold and Liz Hartman. Because of different operating systems and formats, articles other than Google Docs, should be submitted within the text of an email, not as an attachment. Items should be sent by the 10th of the month to either Emily enesvold@gmail.com or Liz ethartmanariz@gmail.com on alternating months. A reminder email will always be sent out.