



Faribault Branch Communiqué



~ September 2016 ~

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



AAUW Presidents' Message ~ September 2016

September is a month of welcoming! Kids are welcomed back to school. Fall is welcomed back with cooler weather and changing leaves. The football season is welcomed back by its loyal fans. We want to welcome you back to AAUW meetings and events! We hope this upcoming year will be filled with opportunities to learn, volunteer, have fun, and renew friendships, as well as, make new friends.

As in the past, the board and committees have been meeting throughout the summer to plan the programs and activities for this year. The scheduled activities and meetings are listed in this newsletter, but I want to highlight two new changes that each one of you will welcome.

The social events committee, chaired by Kirsten Grunnet, will provide activities for members to gather at specific places around town during each month. Information about the events will be listed in our newsletter, in our program along with updated emails. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of these opportunities to socialize.

Reaching out to members who are ill or have lost a love one is important to us. Christy Dore has agreed to be our Sunshine person. If you are aware of anyone who needs a word of comfort, please inform Christy.

This is your organization! If you have any ideas, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact us. A plan to offer you an opportunity to give us information called "We Want to Hear

from You” is in the works. There will be more information at our September meeting, but here is a link to complete the [form](#).

In our AAUW *Lead On* email, Michelle Obama was quoted, ***“As women, we must stand up for ourselves.., we must stand up for each other.., we must stand up for justice for all.”*** Isn’t that what AAUW is all about?

Membership News

- Congratulations to Maren Grunnet for being named to the president’s list at South Central College for the spring semester
- A member, Karen Parker, passed away on June 14, 2016. Her obituary states “I had a beautiful life”. She will be missed.
- Our condolences to Kathy Larson whose husband, David, passed away on June 23, 2016. We remember all the ways he helped us with AAUW activities.
- Our condolences to Rene’ Perrance whose mother, Helen, passed away on July 24, 2016. Helen had been a member of the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC).



Calendar

Monday, September 26 at 6:15 pm

- AAUW September business meeting
- Program at 7:00 pm
- South Central College

Saturday, October 1 from 2-4

- Wine and Cheese tasting
- Faribault Cheese Cave

Thursday, October 6, from 7-8:30 pm

- Candidates Forum-State Representatives and Senate
- Faribault City Hall

Thursday, October 13 from 7-9 pm

- Candidates Forum-Mayor, City Council
- Faribault City Hall

Thursday, October 20 from 7-8:30 pm

- Candidates Forum-School Board

- Faribault City Hall
- Membership business meeting at 6 pm

Sunday, October 30 from 8 am-12:30pm

- Halloween Breakfast fundraiser
- American Legion

Submitted by Cyndy Harrison and Pat Fuchs



Secretary's Report

AAUW Faribault Branch Meeting Minutes - May 23, 2016

The May meeting of the AAUW Faribault Branch and annual picnic was held at the home of Diane Hagen on Monday, May 23, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. After the delicious potluck dinner, Pres. Karen Rasmussen called the branch meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., thanking our hostess Diane Hagen for welcoming us into her home.

Secretary's Report: Because we had no branch meeting in April, the March minutes were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As reported in the May newsletter, we have \$129.60 in checking and \$10,975.16 in savings. The book sale grossed \$5,288.40 and netted approximately \$4,630.00 (not all bills have been turned in so this is an estimate.) Last year we grossed \$5,411 and netted \$4,646. We have given \$4,500 in scholarships and had \$1,000 in convention expenses. Julie also reminded members to pay their 2016-2017 dues tonight to be eligible for the drawing of 5 lucky members who will receive free national dues because we gained at least 10 new members.

Correspondence:

- We received a thank you from Crystal Ross, one of our SCC AAUW Named Scholarship recipients, who was unable to attend our meeting tonight.
- Flyer for the Sertoma Dog Walk: this will be held on May 28th at Riverbend Nature Center with proceeds going to Safe Sanctuary.

Announcement: President Rasmussen recognized Ruth Hildebrandt as one of the Faribault Daily News *Unsung Heroes* for 2016.

Committee Reports:

- **Membership:**
 - Kathy Larson and Karen Kittlesen reminded members to pay their dues to be eligible for the drawing for the 5 free national dues and that student affiliates are only \$17.00 a year.
 - Three members were awarded 50 year member certificates: Carol Quail, Betty Harmsen and Julie Olson. They will not have to pay dues "ever again" and join May Bottke and Joan Koonman from our branch in achieving this milestone.
 - South Central College is currently not an AAUW College University Partner, but if they become a partner, it would be eligible to appoint two representatives who would be exempt from national dues.

- **Programs:** Two sign-up sheets were passed around for upcoming activities: attending Malala Yousafzai at the Target Center on July 26th and viewing *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* in Sept. at a member's home.
- **Tri-Branch Luncheon:** Our hosting of the annual Tri-branch Luncheon was a success. The venue and food were excellent. Betty Harmsen and Barb Dubbels have organized this event going back 15 years and were thanked for their efforts.
- **Scholarships:** Attending tonight's meeting were two recipients of our 2015-2016 scholarships.
 - Katherine Engel, an accounting major, received one of our AAUW Named Scholarships for SCC. She thanked us for the \$750 award.
 - Katherine (Katie) Ernste, a student at Winona State College, majoring in their RN program, thanked AAUW members for the \$1500 scholarship. She eventually plans on becoming a Nurse Practitioner specializing in children's oncology. (She was the 2015 AAUW Sportswoman of the Year.)

The other SCC student receiving our named scholarship of \$750 was Crystal Ross who is majoring in Computer Integrated Machining. The other \$1500 local scholarship winner was Lisa Meyer, majoring in Mechanical Engineering with an Industrial Engineering minor at NDSU. We had 11 applicants for the two local \$1500 scholarships and all were outstanding candidates.

- **Book Sale Report: (Financial information included in Treasurer's Report)**
 - Kids Backpack Giveaway raised \$491. (Thrivent Action Team Seed money of \$250 was used to purchase \$200 worth of bags (156). Kids or adults who purchased kids' books with total purchase of \$2 or more were given a "I Love to Read" string backpack in lime green with Faribault AAUW identified under a character of a bee reading a book with glasses. The grant was applied for by student affiliate Maren Grunnet.)
 - Thrivent money, \$50, was also used for the Kids Karnival prizes (from Oriental Trading). Leftover items will be saved for our Halloween breakfast to have a fish pond there..
 - Smaller location worked well as it meant less walking. We had extra time to organize which people appreciated.
 - Karen thanked Hannah Hanson, a Faribault High School volunteer and member of the National Honor Society who was especially helpful with moving and sorting books and volunteering above her required hours. Colleen Rolling volunteered to write her a thank you for our group.
 - Kathy Larson and Pat Rice recruited Glen Norgaard to help repair the bookcases. They sent him a thank you.
 - Books were set aside for troops, Toys for Tots, the Ronald McDonald/Fisher House and the prison. ELL teachers were able to come early and find books for their students, too. Books will be packed up for the troops on May 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion.
 - Four of our AAUW signs were taken before the end of the sale, besides one last year. Motion by Pat Rice, second by Christy Dore, to have Kathy investigate the cost of replacing these signs. The motion carried.
- **Sex Trafficking Presentation:** Six members attended the meeting in Rochester on Apr. 27th.
- **State Convention Report:**
 - Awards included:
 - 5th in per capita giving at \$59.57
 - 6th in total giving at \$3,097.50
 - 5 or more new members
 - 10% annual increase in membership
 - 25% increase in membership over 3 years

- Branch Named Honoree: Our 2016 named honoree for the Educational Foundation Endowment Fund is Kathy Larson. Pat Rice thanked Kathy for her work and recognized her service saying she lead with zeal and authenticity, and was always willing to go the extra mile. She then presented Kathy with a certificate and flowers in recognition of her. Kathy thanked the AAUW members for this honor and for their hard work, too.
- **Airport Naming Project Report:** Gloria Olson, Pat Rice, Betty Harmsen, Kathy Larson, Cyndy Harrison and Karen Rasmussen have contacted city officials, community groups and the airport board regarding naming the Faribault airport in honor of Liz Strohfus (AKA Betty Wall). The last step will be approval by the FAA. The Faribault Airport cannot be renamed but the field can be named *The Betty Wall Strohfus Field*. Gloria asked members to contact other organizations in the community to lend their support to this effort. Amy Klobuchar's has offered to help with any federal issues.
- **Highway Cleanup.** K&G Manufacturing has again volunteered to clean our stretch of Hwy. 60.
- **Sportswoman of the Year:** The committee of Betty Harmsen, Pat Umbreit and Ruth Hildebrandt met and selected this year's winner. The 2016 female athlete of the year will be announced at a school program on Wednesday.
- **NBC Learn:** Cyndy reported that Minitex is interested, but it is on a 7 year cycle and can't commit until 2019
- **Book Club:** The next meeting is June 21st to discuss *Elephant Company*.

Old Business:

- The following members were nominated for branch officers:
 - Co-President - Cyndy Harrison
 - Co-VP Membership - Karen Rasmussen
 - Co-VP Program - Colleen Rolling
 - Public Policy VP - Pauline Schreiber

Motion by Pat Fuchs that nominations cease. Second by Barb Dubbels.

Motion by Kathy Kasten that we cast a unanimous ballot for this slate of officers,
Barb Dubbels seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:

- 2015-2016 Cameo Booklet. Our president distributed the cameo booklet to all members who had paid their dues. 50 booklets were printed and will be available for all current members. She then played a trivia game to see how well we know our branch.
- Gifts of appreciation: Pres. Rasmussen presented one-of-a-kind mugs to the 2015-2016 branch officers. Each had highlights listed of this year's activities, achievements and programs. Co-president Pat Fuchs presented our outgoing co-president, Karen Rasmussen, with a pottery bowl by Bryan Becker and thanked her for her two years of service to our branch.
- Our scholarship winner, Katie Ernste, drew the names of the 5 lucky members who will receive free national dues for 2016-2017. They were: Susie Olson, Judy Graham, Kathy Larson, Kathy Kasten and Dorothy Joy. They rewrote checks to cover the \$19 state and local dues.
- President Rasmussen then passed the official Dollars for Scholars bucket on to Pat Fuchs and wished her luck in the upcoming year as our next president.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Hildebrandt, secretary



September Meeting

When: September 26, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

Where: South Central College Event Center

What: Safe Harbor: Sexual Exploitation in South East Minnesota

Girls should be having fun and not becoming victims of sex trafficking! If you don't think it can happen here, think again. Alex Peterson will shed light on the dark topic and share how Minnesota is becoming a leader in combatting this horrific problem. He is a Violence Prevention Specialist, Volunteer Coordinator, and Sexual Assault Interagency Council Coordinator with Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted County Victim Services. Alex's current work, part of the Minnesota Safe Harbor Supportive Services, focuses on preventing sexual exploitation and trafficking, developing response protocols for working with sexually exploited youth, and providing training and education to professionals and community members.



Treasurer's Report:

Please see the attachment submitted by Julie Olson.



Membership Committee

We're off to a terrific start for our 2016-17 membership year! To date, we have recruited five new members: **Sharon Abbott, Anne Wieber, Kris Raaen, Kathryn Speulda and Carmen Tripp**. If you are acquainted with any of these gals, be sure to welcome them and encourage their participation at our meetings, activities and fundraising. **New Memberships are \$43.50 until Dec. 31st, 2016**, (or if they haven't been a member for 2 years) which is half price of the National dues (reg. \$49 so 24.50) + State (\$9) + Branch (\$10). After Dec. 31, the price goes down to a quarter of the National Dues until March 15, 2017. 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 \$68 dues for 2017-18.

New this year: A Recruiter Pin

Criteria - Any member who recruits five or more new members (defined as individuals who have never been previously affiliated with AAUW) is eligible to receive a pin. Members are limited to receiving one pin per fiscal year. Eligibility will be tracked by self-reporting across all AAUW membership applications. **Kathy Larson and May Bottke are off to a great start with 3 and 2 members, respectively.**

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:

kathyhilgerslarson@gmail.com 507-332-2525

kadras1217@gmail.com 507-331-0126



Social Activities

Come join other AAUW ladies for the social side of our group! This year we are planning fun activities once a month to just enjoy the company of each other plus feel free to invite others to join us (Who knows, they might have so much fun that they will join too!).

Please mark your calendars now for the following dates:

- **Saturday, October 1st * 2-4 pm** * Wine & Cheese Tasting Party at the Cheese Cave * 318 Central Ave N #6, Faribault, MN 55021 * <http://www.cheesecave.net/page.htm?PG=EVENTS> * Cost: \$20/person which includes learning about wine & cheese pairings while tasting them and at the end enjoy a favorite wine, beer, or other beverage while talking and shopping!
- **Sunday, November 6th * 2-4 pm** * Cake Decorating & Drinks at Bluebird Cakery * 318 Central Ave N #101, Faribault MN, MN 55021 * <http://bluebirdcakerymn.com/> * Cost: \$30/person which includes a 2 layer 8" cake that you decorate after learning the finer art of cake decorating for all levels and abilities, plus learn about all the different kinds of drinks offered by Bluebird

and enjoy your own new favorite drink! If you feel the cake is too big, please feel free to share with the rest of your family, invite friends over to share, or even take it to a potluck. Please join us for another good time! Gluten-free cakes will also be available for an extra \$8.

- **Sunday, December 11th * 2-4 pm** * Wrapped in Glory: Stories of World War Warriors and the Women Weaving Woolens to Keep Them Warm at the Paradise *321 Central Ave N, Faribault, MN 55021 * <http://www.paradisecenterforthearts.org/calendar/>. * We will meet for dinner after the play at El Rancho across the street from the Paradise to discuss the play! * Cost: \$16/person which includes a ticket to a matinee showing of the play and dinner is on your own as we continue our fun times!
- **Saturday, January 7th * 2-4 pm** * Paint Party at the Upper East Side * 213 Central Ave N, Faribault, MN 55021 * <http://galleryonthego.com/portfolio-items/dandy-fireflies/> * Cost: \$26/person which includes painting a picture that Suzanne has assured me is the best fit for all abilities and levels in our group. Bring a favorite leftover Christmas treat to share!
- **Saturday, February 11th * 10 am-noon** * Artist Handmade Leaf Necklace Party at Glass Garden Beads *318 Central Ave N #105, Faribault, MN 55021 * <http://glassgardenbeads.com/> * Cost: \$20/person which includes making a necklace that Suz has designed for our group! It will be a more elegant necklace that will be appropriate to wear to the Ruth's House Gala later that evening. The necklace will be made from Artist Handcrafted Leaves and much easier than last year's owl necklace.
- **Watch for more activities to be scheduled in March, April, & May!**

Please register with Kirsten Grunnet 507-339-1309 or at kgrunnet1@gmail.com at least one week prior to the activity except for 3 weeks' notice needed for the play in December. Payment will be made the day of the activity to the business except in the case of the play. Prepayment will need to be made 3

Kirsten Grunnet, Social Activities Director



Book Club

The book club met on March 15 at the Market Grille to discuss / *Am Malala* , written by Malala Yousafzai and British journalist Christina Lamb. Everyone appreciated Malala's Book Club News

The AAUW continued to meet over the summer and still has a "summer read" planned for September!

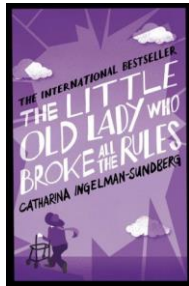
In **June** we read *Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in WWII* by Vicki Croke. James Howard Williams, with his uncanny rapport with elephants, became the charismatic war hero known as Elephant Bill. Four weeks on the NPR Nonfiction Bestseller List.

We thought we were lightening up in **July** with *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss -- not so. Described as "one of the most loved novels of the decade" by Amazon, it's the story of a long-lost book whose

complicated reappearance mysteriously connects an old man searching for his son and a girl seeking a cure for her widowed mother's loneliness.

River of Doubt by Candice Millard was our **August** selection. Amazon calls it "an incredible adventure narrative and a penetrating biographical portrait, *The River of Doubt* is the true story of Theodore Roosevelt's harrowing exploration of one of the most dangerous rivers on earth.

Despite some serious non-fiction this summer, the AAUW Book Group is a fun-loving bunch with diverse tastes and opinions! All members are welcome at any time; come and check us out!



In **September** we've attempted to lighten up again, perhaps too much for some readers, with *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg. Google Books calls it an incredibly quirky, humorous and warm-hearted story about growing old disgracefully - and breaking all the rules along the way!

Looking ahead: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon is our **October** book. Winner of several awards, this novel is written from the perspective of a highly gifted and autistic teen-age boy and received many 4 -and-5-star reviews.

September's meeting is at **Hy-Vee Market Grille** on **Tuesday, September** at **5:45** for those who wish to order dinner -or- **6:30** for book discussion.

Gloria Olson

Airport Renaming Project Update

Progress continues to be slow (often the case with government involvement, right?) but very positive.

In late spring/early summer, our committee (Cyndy Harrison, Kathy Larson, Betty Harmsen, Karen Rasmussen, Pat Rice and Gloria Olson) met several times. We drafted a proposal to rename our local airport field in honor of WWII pilot and women's rights activist, Liz Strohfus. We presented our proposal to the Airport Board and Public works Director, Travis Krenske. We also shared our ideas with several community groups, including the American Legion, and received their endorsement. Liz's survivors, Art Roberts and family, are also supportive.

The proposal was pre-approved by a joint meeting of the City Council where it met with some discussion of the name choice.

Liz is best known in Minnesota as Liz Strohfus but she was Betty Wall in the WASPs and her military career. An American Legion plaque in her honor uses Elizabeth Wall Strohfus.

Pat and Gloria met with Travis Krenske in July to further refine the proposal. The name "Elizabeth Wall Strohfus" was chosen to be consistent with the local American Legion. The family supports this; their only request is that her maiden name, Wall, be included.

The proposal now must be approved by the full City Council and will go from there to the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration).

A recent email from Travis Krense expressed concern that the name may be too long for the current sign; he is looking into that further...

With the project taking a longer time, more AAUW members will have a chance to share ideas for a celebration/ceremony when it all becomes official! Stay tuned!

Gloria Olson

Reminder: Branch Meeting, September 26, South Central College Event Center, 7:15 pm. Board meeting, 5:30 pm. Membership business meeting, 6:15 pm.