

**AAUW North Dakota  
Conference Call Minutes  
January 6, 2014**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Maureen Kelly Jonason. Deb Alber agreed to take minutes. Roll Call: Present were Maureen Kelly Jonason – State President; Linda Steve, Dickinson Branch and State Finance Office; Lavetta Syverson – State AAUW Funds and Grand Forks Branch; Cathy Wolfe, Devils Lake Branch, Jessica Haak, Jamestown Branch; Joan Justesen – Fargo Branch; Sandra Sidler – Public Policy; Debbie Alber – State President-Elect; and Amanda Cotylo – State Organizer.

**Minutes:** The October minutes were sent out prior to the meeting. Linda Steve motioned to approve the minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Joan Justesen. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Linda Steve reviewed the treasurer's report. There was some question about the amount of dues paid and the number of members we actually have and Linda felt it was due to the fact that most of the dues were paid in the previous fiscal year and before July 31. She is going to check on this. We currently have 166 paid state members. Maureen stated the treasurer's report be filed as presented. Linda Steve did request that an audit of the books be conducted since there was a change of treasurer. It was agreed that the Dickinson Branch would conduct an audit of the books by the annual meeting and report back to the board.

Discussion was held on if we should continue to support the Tri-College new Leadership program. It was decided to continue to support this event since it was budgeted for this year and then readdress for next year's budget.

Maureen also reported that instructions were sent out on how branches can get set-up to pay dues directly to national. She reinforced that Branch Presidents must complete the procedure before it will be available to all members.

**Review of 2012-2014 Strategic Plan Goals:** The goals were not sent out so this was tabled until our April meeting.

**AAUW Membership Update:** In Naomi's absence Maureen reported that we have several branches that have added new members and that she knows that the Fargo Branch is in the process of applying for a LAF grant as part of their campus outreach. She also called on the branches to report what they have been doing concerning university partnerships. Grand Forks reported that they have signed up UND; Devils Lake reported that the college is a member but they have no branch reps yet. Jamestown reported that they are in the process of trying to get

Jamestown College and Valley City State signed on. Dickinson and Fargo branches already have Dickinson State and NDSU signed on. Both Maureen and Amanda reported that this will continue to be a big focus for outreach in North Dakota.

**Public Policy Update:** Sandy reported that they have a public policy conference call each month and that last month's call was mostly about the Missouri Equal rights legislation. She also said that Lilly Ledbetter will be in Washington to promote the anniversary of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

**AAUW Funds Update:** Lavetta reported that she has served eight years as funds chair and that it has been a position of great interest to her. It was mentioned that she should write up a description of what she does so that it can be a guide for anyone who succeeds her. She said that the website is a source of lots of information and that she tries to raise awareness to the branches.

**By-Laws – Review and Vote on Draft:** Maureen reported that Connie Hildebrand and Muriel Peterson went through and made many changes and suggestions to the board for revision of the by-laws and standing rules. The board started to go through the by-laws. All turned to Article VI – Officers where the first changes were noted. Joan Justesen motioned to eliminate the Vice President of Program position from all language in our by-laws and incorporate all of their duties to the position of president elect. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Lavetta Syvertson. Motion passed. Lots of discussion was held on adding a new position for a University Partner Coordinator/Position. This was tabled until the annual meeting.

In Article VI Section 2 c. Joan Justesen motioned to change the wording vice presidents to President elect and Vice President. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Cathy Wolfe. Motion passed.

In Article VI Section 3 b. Deb Alber motioned to remove the wording “No Officer shall hold more than one office at a time” essentially removing the limit on the number of offices an individual can hold. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Linda Steve. Motion passed.

The quorum was then lost and the rest of the By-Laws and Standing Rule changes were tabled for a future phone conference which was agreed to be held on Saturday, January 18 at 10:00 am CST.

**Annual Meeting-Fargo:** Joan Justesen reported that the event is scheduled for April 25 and 26 in Fargo. Details will be sent to all branches soon but that a block of rooms have been reserved at the Howard Johnson.. On Friday the Fargo branch will host a branch fund-raiser dinner featuring Senator Heidi Heitkamp as guest speaker at 6:00 p.m. at the Plains Art Museum. Saturday Sally Goodson will be the main presenter. Maureen reminded all branches that the

\$30 annual meeting fee should be sent to: Joan Justesen, 134 35 Ave NE, Fargo, ND 58102 as soon as possible.

**Deadline for Dues Increase:** Maureen had sent out a sample letter of the proposed dues increase that will be sent out to members no later than Feb. 24. A suggestion was made that the letter should be more about operating at a budget deficit rather than so much on mileage.

**Nominating Committee:** Maureen reminded that the nominating committee made up of Chair Deb Greenwood, Dickinson Branch, Jill Schlenker, Jamestown Branch and Sharon Etemad, Devils Lake Branch will need to find members to fill the positions of President and Secretary by Feb. 24 so ballots can be mailed.

**Website:** Deb Alber reported she could still use more news from branches.

**State Organizer:** Amanda Cotylo gave a brief report of what she has been doing since becoming state organizer and that she would like to hear from all branches as to their program schedule so she can try to make a branch visit. She is going to be in North Dakota for a meeting on Voter ID in Fargo on March 26 and would like to see as many branches as she can around that time frame. Program schedules can be mailed to her at 329 East Front Street, Apr. C7, Missoula, MT 59802.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Alber  
Acting Secretary