

F-M AAUW BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS for 2015-16

Susan Rae Helgeland, Branch President

April 23, 2016

As President of the Fargo-Moorhead Branch of AAUW, I am proud to provide the AAUW ND State Convention with a few highlights of 2015-16. We have experienced an increase in membership that includes several younger members who have become an integral part of our Branch events and activities.

The FM AAUW Branch book club has been turning pages for close to 50 years! Two books enjoyed this year are, *The Girls of Atomic City*, by Denise Kiernan and *The Children Act*, by Ian McEwan. Anyone interested in sharing reading lists contact Jan Jackson at janfgo@msn.com.

The BrainSTEM activity this year included the participation of several F-M AAUW Branch volunteers. The event was in collaboration with ND State University. The middle schools loved it and are excited to have future BrainSTEM events. Although women fill approximately half of the work force, they represent less than 25% of STEM occupations. The numbers are even less in engineering. This event was created to show both girls and boys that there are women in these fields to look up to and that STEM careers can be fun!

The F-M AAUW Branch Used Book Sale was again successful this year with a total profit of \$2,610.02. 4,000 books were collected. The books we did not sell were donated locally to ARC, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Myrt Armstrong Center, Gladys Ray Shelter, Prairie ST. John's Hospital, YWCA Shelter, and Second Time Around Thrift Store.

Two program highlights are (1) Amy Jacobson, Public Affairs Director of MN, SD and ND Planned Parenthood, presented the legislative and court actions that followed the passing of laws by the ND state legislature to close down the Red River Women's Clinic in Fargo; and (2) a presentation by Mayor Del Rae Williams related to running for office, being elected and serving the city of Moorhead, MN as the first woman mayor.

We were able to secure *Pay Equity Day* signed Proclamations, April 12, 2016, from Mayor Tim Mahoney, City of Fargo, Mayor Rich Mattern, City of West Fargo and Mayor Del Rae Williams, City of Moorhead. We also learned about pay equity through a great presentation on "Know Your Worth" by the CEO/President of the Make a Wish Foundation North Dakota.

We are looking forward to next year's F-M AAUW activities and doing even more to increase membership including an emphasis on College Affiliate Membership!