



FARIBAULT AAUW BRANCH NEWSLETTER ~ September '10

**~~~Equity for women & girls
through advocacy, education and research~~~**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



READY OR NOT - HERE WE GO!

Our program committee (Kathy Larson and Pat Fuchs) has planned another year of super programs. Pauline Schreiber (Public Policy) has arranged for AAUW sponsored voter education forums to be held at city hall in October. And other committees are busy planning highway clean-up, Funds fund raisers (EF/LAF are now called Funds), scholarships, Project Star, book club, the book sale, membership, etc. So, it looks like another good year is about to begin. (We will be asking members to help with the forums, so look for a sign-up sheet at our September meeting.)

SOMETHING NEW:

One member/one vote passed at the national convention. The intention is to give each member an opportunity to have in-put and a vote on all issues that come before the national convention.

You will hear more about this at our September meeting.

AAUW WILL BE AFFECTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT CUT-BACKS

With the reduction in hours Buckham Memorial Library will be open, we will be holding meetings in other locations. More about that later.

I look forward to seeing you at our September meeting.

Karen S. Kittlesen, President

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SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Dinner at The Depot – 5:00 PM

Meeting at First English Lutheran Fireside Room – 6:15 PM

Presentation by Jason Engbrecht – 7:00 PM

Jason Engbrecht will talk about efforts at St. Olaf College to encourage girls to pursue degrees in physics and engineering. He will share data related to the participation of women in these fields and what can be done to increase it. Specifically he'll focus on the sharp drop off in the number of girls taking coursework in physics that happens in the transition from high school to college. With support from AAUW and Xcel Energy,

St. Olaf has started a summer camp for high school girls to give them a fun and challenging experience in engineering in order to address this drop off. During a week long residential experience, girls work as a team to



complete a complicated but fun project. They are mentored by young women currently working on degrees in physics and engineering. Jason will share the results from the first year of this camp at St. Olaf and talk about future plans.

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Secretary's Report

FARIBAULT AAUW BRANCH MEETING MINUTES - MAY 17, 2010

The May annual picnic meeting was held at the home of Betty Harmsen. New membership and renewals were completed prior to the meeting, with a small gift given as an incentive.

The meeting was called to order by co-president, Karen Kittlesen. President Beverlee DeCoux was not able to attend. Karen read the slate of nominees for the offices that need to be filled for the coming year. Gloria Carter moved that nominations cease. Diane Hagen moved that we accept the slate by unanimous ballot. Lori Kaderlik seconded the motion. The motions carried unanimously. (See attachment for the slate of officers.)

See board meeting minutes for reports of the recent state convention. Diane Hagen shared information regarding the generosity of Faribault Dairy giving us a 50% reduction on the purchase of their cheeses which we resell at the state convention.

Beverlee DeCoux's President's Report was read to the group by co-president, Karen Kittlesen. There were many comments on the quality, thoroughness, and conciseness of the report. Gifts from Beverlee to the officers who served on her board were distributed.

As a result of our paid memberships, three people are eligible for free national dues, as reported by treasurer, Karen Rasmussen. A drawing was held with the winners being Kathy Larson, Shirley Norgaard, and Emily Nesvold.

Karen Rasmussen also shared that we earned \$200 on our silent auction baskets at the state convention. Our book sale grossed \$4,522.72 and netted \$4,362.72. We donated many good books to groups in need. Five to ten boxes of books will be sent to troops overseas. We will pay half of the \$11.00/box shipping fee, up to a maximum of \$55.00; the American Legion will pay the other half. Please give names of potential recipients to Karen Kittlesen. Donations to defray costs are welcome.

Members of the recent Tri-Branch Luncheon gave a summary of the event, which was very well attended and received. See Newsletter for details.

Pauline Schreiber relayed information from Rene' Perrance regarding the need to retain media specialists within the school system, and suggested that we write a letter to the editor in support of the issue while acknowledging the budgetary constraints. Betty Harmsen stated that such a recommendation would be more effective if sent from a group rather than from an individual. Betty is willing to write the letter. Pauline Schreiber moved that we support the issue in the form of a letter to the editor of the Faribault Daily News. Dorothy Joy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pat Rice suggested that the articles submitted to the newspaper for Women's History Month in March be on women inventors.

Betty Harmsen gave an update on this spring's AAUW scholarships. Nancy Reuvers was awarded the SCCC \$750 scholarship. The Faribault High School sportswoman of the year is to be selected from a field of eight tomorrow afternoon.

Liz Hartman reported that highway cleanup is scheduled for 9 a.m., Saturday, May 22nd. Jim Crowl and men from a local group home are willing to assist us. Membership help is needed!

Karen Kittlesen shared information about the 5th annual St. Paul AAUW English Tea, to be held

August 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost will be \$30 if paid in advance, or \$35 at the door.

Gloria Carter shared write-ups submitted by Karen Larson regarding our branches' Named Honorees. This year we have two outstanding honorees: Ellie Steffens and Barb Dubbels. Congratulations!

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The picnic potluck followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria Carter, Secretary

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Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Karen Rasmussen, Treasurer

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Faribault Branch AAUW Budget*							
2	For the Period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011							
3								
4		Based on Number of Members	51	48	45**	45	45**	
5			Actual	Actual	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
6			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	2010-11
7	Income							
8		Dues (\$5/member; Raised to \$10 '09)	257.50	204.00	450.00	450.00	381.00	400.00
9		Interest	98.41	83.61	43.96	40.00	100.21	80.00
10		Maps	228.00	265.00	136.50	150.00	220.75	150.00
11		Memorials (for Scholarships)			240.00			
12		Donations		52.00	520.00	500.00	43.00	
13		Booksale Gross '07/Net for '08-'10	4609.25	4932.00	4606.76	4,600.00	4362.72	4300.00
14		LAF Silent Auction/Scarves	266.50	240.00	238.50	250.00	181.00	120.00
15		Misc. (Cheese sold @ Convention)	111.00	82.00	170.75	165.00	212.21	100.00
16		Total Income	5570.66	5858.61	6406.47	6,155.00	5500.89	5150.00
17	Expenses							
18		Program	154.29	102.00	271.97	250.00	122.04	100.00
19		Facility	80.00	80.00	90.00	80.00	***	80.00
20		Membership Vice Presidents	80.57	36.90	29.05	75.00	93.58	95.00
21		Newsletter	84.43	66.41	***	15.00	***	20.00
22		Yearbook	60.50	64.51	55.59	65.00	77.00	80.00
23		Presidents	26.63	15.00	77.17	70.00	70.00	70.00
24		Historian			9.15	10.00	***	10.00
25		"I'm Going To College"/Adm Possible		36.00	***	40.00	45.00	50.00
26		Book(s) for Library/"Friends of Library"	50.00	120.00	72.15	50.00	***	50.00
27		Conferences/conventions	683.96	750.00	726.00	750.00	530.00	550.00

28	Insurance - Liability	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00
29	Education Foundation (\$35/member)	1785.00	1680.00	1575.00	1,575.00	1575.00	1200.00
30	LAF Silent Auction/Scarves	266.50	240.00	238.50	250.00	181.00	120.00
31	Scholarships ('09-'10 2 @ \$750 ea)	1000.00	1000.00	750.00	1,500.00	1500.00	1500.00
32	TriBranch Luncheon					17.74	
33	Project Star	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1,000.00	996.71	1000.00
34	Booksale	377.00		15.00	150.00	***	
35	Storage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
36	Misc. *(07 & 09 Earth Tenders Exp)	64.70	82.87	145.44	50.00		
37	Total Expenses	5938.58	5498.69	5280.02	6,155.00	5433.07	5150.00
38	Funds Available						
39	Checking Balance as of 7/1	328.02	131.11	72.84		87.23	
40	Savings Balance as of 7/1	2159.24	4716.07	4,900.79		5954.22	
41	Certificates of Deposit	2000.00		1,000.00			
42	Total Funds Available	4,487.26	4847.18	5,973.63		6041.45	
43							
44	Restricted Funds on Hand:						
45	Earth Tenders	128.91	128.91	0.00		0.00	
46	* as of 8/26/10 Board meeting						
47	**as of 12/01						
48	*** No bill submitted						
49							

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Funds (EF/LAF) News

One of the first things that President Obama did after taking office was to sign The Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which helped workers to better challenge wage discrimination in the workplace. Along with that act, was the Paycheck Fairness Act. Among other things, this act would give employers strong incentives to eliminate pay gaps between men and women, give women tools to help eliminate these gaps, and increase employer penalties for not eliminating the pay gap between men and women. This act was passed by the House in January 2009, but has stalled in the Senate ever since.



Last week, you and I received a letter from Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director, regarding the Paycheck Fairness Act. She stated "Now, because of partisan bickering and a legislative logjam, the original strategy to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act didn't go as planned. That means **we now have only a few weeks left** to get this important legislation attached to another Senate bill--or to pass it on its own--and make real progress in closing the pay gap." "If the Paycheck Fairness Act is not passed this year, the legislative process will begin all over again with the new Congress." As part of her letter, she enclosed petitions to be signed by us and forwarded to our Senators --Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken--encouraging them to get this bill passed.

I would like to encourage each of you to review her letter, sign the petitions to Klobuchar and Franken, and return the enclosed petitions to AAUW, where they will be forwarded to the Senators.

Karen Larson, EF/LAF Chair

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Public Policy - Important Information

Pauline Schreiber reports that she has scheduled the following public forums for candidates to address voters prior to the November elections. All events will be held at **City Hall/Council Chambers from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.**



Wednesday, October 6 – Rice County Sheriff (7:00-8:00) and City Council (8:00 -9:00)

Monday, October 11 – State Legislature (District 24/24B)

Wednesday, October 13 – School Board

All members are encouraged to attend; volunteer help is also needed.

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Membership Committee Request

The membership committee is urging everyone to invite potential members to our first meeting. We have lost a few members, so we hope to recruit some new ones.

Dorothy Joy and Carol Quail, Membership Co-chairs

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Action Item!

Rene' Perrance calls to our attention: The Faribault School District levy is coming up for renewal and will appear on the November ballot.

The Friends of Faribault Education committee seeks advocates to explain the need for this levy. Many people believe that a yes vote on the levy will increase their taxes. This is not true. The levy request will authorize the school to continue to collect the current levy rate that has been effect. Help is needed to write a letter to the editor, display a levy or help distribute flyers, assist with a phone bank and suggest ideas to promote this cause. Cheryl Freund is a committee coordinator. Please contact her to express your support. Her number is: 334-8655.

Officers and Committee Chairs for 2010 – 2011

Co-Presidents: Karen Kittlesen and Liz Hartman

Program Vice Presidents: Kathy Larson and Pat Fuchs

Membership Vice Presidents: Dorothy Joy and Carol Quail

Treasurer: Karen Rasmussen; Kathy Kasten, Assistant

Secretary: Gloria Carter

Past President: Beverlee DeCoux

Funds Vice President: Karen Larson

Diversity Vice President: Rene' Perrance

Newsletter Editors: Gloria Olson and Barb Dubbels

Historian: Pat Umbreit

Educational Equity/Women's Issues: Kathy Kasten

Public Policy Vice President: Pauline Schreiber

Environmental Issues: Liz Hartman and Pauline Schreiber

Education/Scholarships: Betty Harmsen

Sportswoman Award: Betty Harmsen and Shelly Rockman

By-laws: Kathy Kasten

Auditor: Julie Olson

Nominations: Current Officers

Book Sale: Rene' Perrance, Pat Rice, Pat Fuchs, Dorothy Joy, Linda VanLear, Jane Hale, Barb Dubbels and Pauline Schreiber

Project Star: Barb Dubbels

College Visit: Rene' Perrance and Barb Dubbels

Yearbook: Pat Umbreit

Book Club: Renee Lowery and Barb Dubbels

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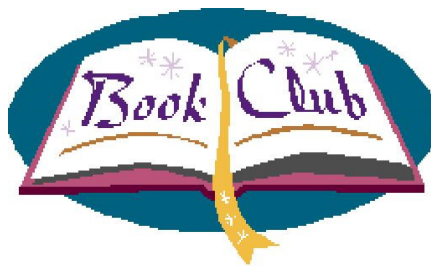
Book Club Update

June 15: *The Color of Water* by James McBride. A summary: "Writer and musician McBride recounts a telling conversation with his mother: 'Am I Black or White?' 'You're a human being. Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody!'"

July 20: Sigurd Olson's *Runes of the North*. A summary: "Olson explores his feelings about the haunting appeal of the wilderness. He recounts how the tales and legends of the northern vastness of Canada and Alaska have influenced him. *Runes of the North* is a mystical and reflective guide to the northern wilderness written with a oneness and communion with nature that is unique to Sigurd Olson. It is a work filled with beauty, wisdom, and renewal." To prove that we are often more than "just" a book club -- we enjoyed the tastes of the north woods with some yummy chicken/wild rice soup from Randy's Meats (prepared by Barb), a wonderful wild rice/cranberry salad prepared by Gloria O., and a delicious blueberry cobbler prepared by Ruth H. Great food and even better company!

August 17: In honor of the 50th anniversary of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, we read that

historic novel. Member Ellen B, who has taught the novel to middle schoolers for many years had much to add to our lively discussion and shared her tattered, marked-up, rubber-banded together, and well-loved copy!



The AAUW Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m.** at Barb Dubbels' house. **All are welcome!** We will discuss Timothy Egan's *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*. Egan tells an extraordinary tale in this visceral account of how America's great, grassy plains turned to dust, and how the ferocious plains winds stirred up an endless series of "black blizzards" that were like a biblical plague. But the plague was man-made, as Egan shows: the plains weren't suited to farming, and plowing up the grass to

plant wheat, along with a confluence of economic disaster-the Depression-and natural disaster-eight years of drought-resulted in an ecological and human catastrophe that Egan details with stunning specificity. He grounds his tale in portraits of the people who settled the plains: hardy Americans and immigrants desperate for a piece of land to call their own and lured by the lies of promoters who said the ground was arable. Egan's interviews with survivors produce tales of courage and suffering.

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CALENDAR

September 27: First Branch Meeting! Dinner (at members' expense) at the Depot at 5:00; Meeting at First English Lutheran Fireside Room at 6:15; Program at 7:00

October 7: Board Meeting – 6:30 PM – Home of Karen Kittlesen

October 25: Branch Meeting – Time, Place, and Program to be announced

The Faribault AAUW Branch Newsletter is published from September to May during our program year. The Editor is Gloria Olson. (Because of different operating systems and formats, articles should be submitted within the text of an email, not as an attachment. Thank you). Send items by the 10th of the month to: jonandgloria@gmail.com

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