



AAUW Iowa Branch Connector
January, 2015

A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa

The Value of Affiliation with AAUW: *By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

Welcome to this monthly electronic publication. You are invited to share this information with other members and branch leaders by forwarding it to them, or providing a hard copy.

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa President 2014-16

This edition of the Connector is written by Jane Close and Nancy Magnall, our AAUW Funds Co-directors.

AAUW Funds - Get ready to *Create Your Future*

Create Your Future, the theme for our April 10-11 AAUW Iowa state conference, comes from a quote by Betsy McDowell, a member of the AAUW Board of Directors who spoke at the 2014 conference: "The only way to protect your future is to create it." In keeping with previous years, the conference theme will also be used for the theme of the silent auction to raise money for AAUW Funds.

What do you think the future will look like for us, our children or grandchildren? How do you want it to look and how can you shape it? No doubt this is a challenging theme, but we've all faced challenges. We have a few ideas to get you thinking.

You might choose to:

- donate books or other items focused on women's rights, human rights, climate disruption or global issues.
- focus on interests members might want to pursue in their own future such as hobbies, backyard gardening, travel, reading, or learning a new style of cooking.

This is a great opportunity to highlight AAUW priorities such as STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) or gender equity. You could donate:

- Pay Day candy bars or other items for the April 14 Equal Pay Day
- items women pay more for than men - personal care items such as deodorant, soap, body wash, lotions, shaving cream, shampoo and uni-sex clothing
- STEM ideas for kids (and adults) - marble runs, computational thinking board games, root view gardens, books, action figures, construction toys, Math Dice, Legos, Magna-tiles, Snap Circuits, Robot Turtles, Goldie Blox, Roominate structures (check the web, there are some inexpensive items)
- futuristic books - *Hunger Games*, *Maze Runner*, *Brave New World*, *1984*, etc.
- futuristic DVDs - *Gravity*, *Space Odyssey*, *Planet of the Apes*, *Moonraker*, *Futureworld*, *Back to the Future*, etc.

Auction items may be either new or gently used. We encourage the recycling of nearly new items you may already own. It's best to package the items in baskets or other containers that allow all the items to be easily viewed. You may also want to include an itemized list of the contents of the basket.

Individual branches may choose which AAUW Fund will receive their auction proceeds. Last year the silent auction raised almost \$2000, which was designated for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Let's meet or exceed that total this year.

In addition to donating items for the silent auction, please consider making a contribution to AAUW Funds at any time of the year. Contributions are fully tax deductible and can be designated to any specific fund or program by writing the name or number on the check. You can also contribute online at www.aauw.org/contribute.

The most commonly designated funds and programs are:

- Legal Advocacy Fund #3999
- Educational Opportunities Fund #4336
- Eleanor Roosevelt Fund #9170
- Public Policy Fund #4337
- Leadership Programs Fund #4339
- AAUW Funds #9110 (unrestricted)

Detailed information about each fund can be found on the AAUW website www.aauw.org.

This is a perfect time to *Create Your Future* by including AAUW in your estate planning. Join the AAUW Legacy Circle and affirm your commitment to women and girls now and in the future.