

The Branch Connector

August 2007

A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa

Welcome! Once a month this electronic newsletter will come to you. You are the recipient since you have been identified as your branch president, or as the individual in the branch who will receive, on the branch's behalf, current news and/or important updates in electronic form. You are invited to share this information with your branch members by forwarding it to them, or by downloading it and providing a hard copy to each person.

PLEASE SHARE THE WORD! AAUW IOWA'S QUARTERLY BULLETIN, THE INITIATIVE IS NOW ON LINE. CLICK ON WWW.AAUWIA.ORG TO SEE YOUR SUMMER ISSUE OF THE INITIATIVE. IT'S A FIRST!

Let's Talk about Dreams! Sharing a Dream! Having a Vision!

At the summer board meeting, board members from across the state were asked "What hopes and dreams do you have of what AAUW Iowa can do and be. How do you see yourself in AAUW?" Discussion was lively and energetic. A summary in the form of abbreviated statements follows. *We see ourselves as similar women, homogenous in gender and ethnicity, rich in diverse experiences, training and background. We see ourselves frequently considered "feminists" we know we are often categorized by age as "mature", or "seasoned" individuals. When asked to think about what IAAUW of Iowa COULD BE a treasury of ideas spilled forth. Some of the most graphic language suggested that we could be a "light", or that we could form a strong "link" between branches and the state organization, or that we could be a "go to" organization, or that we could be "powerful", or relevant", or "influential" or that we could act as a "web" rather than as a "ladder" for women"*

Resulting from these discussions the board agreed by consensus that it's' task for the coming year would be to strive to make real this vision, stating its' hopes in the following language;

We will strengthen connections with branches (in order) to address relevant community issues in education, economic equity and engage in political action and increase visibility for women.

In order to make "real" the hopes and dreams embodied in this statement the members of the board took at its' summer meeting committed themselves to visiting all the branches in Iowa, listening and talking with branch members to learn what their hopes, dreams and visions might be. To implement this idea focus groups will occur between October 2007 and spring 2008.

Additional State Board actions

The board made the following decisions;

- 1) To permit the College University Committee to award two Distinguished Faculty Awards, one for Outstanding Service on Campus, and one for Outstanding Scholarship, if candidates are presented which meet criteria as established by the committee.**
- 2) To approve the recommendation of the Educational Foundation Program committee that Iowa branches work toward the completion of the Golden Anniversary Endowment this year.**
- 3) To approve participation in the IRIS program for women coming to Iowa in September from Tadzehikistan.**
- 4) To approve the appointment of a Director for Public Relations, yet to be named.**

- 5) **To encourage applications from branches, who wish to replicate in a local pilot project the Marshalltown project, Latinas al Exito. (The applications are to be available in the fall.)**
- 6) **As indicated above, to adopt a new initiative with an emphasis on listening to branches. (See summer Initiative for further information.)**

Association Convention Actions with Branch Implications

Many significant actions were taken by the delegate body in Phoenix. Their impact will have long range effect; however in the short term, effect will likely be seen by 2008 in the scheduling of the Regional Conference, in the possibility on electronic voting and in the merger of the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund. A brief summary of pertinent voting actions follow:

- 1) **Mryna Sandvik, of the Cedar Falls branch was elected as new Regional Director.**
- 2) **The proposal for a restructured organization was approved unanimously**
- 3) **The provision for a transitional board of directors for the 2007-09 biennium was approved.**
- 4) **A restructured nominating committee was approved. The committee will be appointed by the Association Board of Directors, with nominations coming from state presidents and regional directors.**
- 5) **The utilization of a mail ballot was approved.**
- 6) **Withdrawal from IFUW was approved. (An IFUW affiliate organization is being formed by individual AAUW members. Contact Florine Swanson at fswanson@wmtel.net form further information.)**
- 7) **The Public Policy program was adopted**
- 8) **By floor resolution support for the ratification of CEDAW was approved**
- 9) **By floor resolution examination of possible extension of student affiliate member status to graduate students was approved. (This resolution germinated in the Davenport branch)**

Further information about the Association issues briefly named here can be obtained at the AAUW Website. Please note a new address in use until September 17, 2007. www.beta.aauw.org/ After September 17 then use www.aauw.org

A Special Request

As we increasingly move toward communications that depend on our computers it is important that information about how to contact the branches in Iowa is accurate and up to date. It would be very helpful if both snail mail and email addresses were included for all branch officers. That correct information can be sent to me, or to administrative assistant Diane Edwards. My name, address and email are listed below.

Janet Heinicke, 1302 West Boston Ave. Indianola, IA 50125,
janetheinicke@earthlink.net. Ph. 515-961-3174. Diane Edwards,
edwardsp@mchsi.com. Ph. 515-532-2065

HOT NEWS FOR MEMBER RECRUITMENT!

Available from the Michigan AAUW a new DVD called "Fresh Faces of AAUW; Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future". It's a good one. It can be ordered for ten dollars from AAUW of Michigan, Deb Ensign State Services Manager, PO Box 4128, Battle Creek MI 49016. Questions at PH. 269-580-5800 or 269-966-9665.