

 AAUW Iowa Branch Connector

June 2010

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 branch leaders and members by forwarding it to them, or providing a hard copy. – Diane Patton, AAUW IA President 2008-2010

Mary Ann Ahrens/Iowa Giving Circle Goal Met!

We have met the \$25,000 goal established two years ago at our annual meeting to honor former AAUW Iowa President Mary Ann Ahrens. The funds underwrite Campus Action Projects nationally. Mary Ann is grateful for the opportunity AAUW Iowa has provided for young women to lead equity projects on their campus. This year, the focus was on STEM projects. Congratulations on completing this significant goal. Mary Ann and I encourage you to promote these grant opportunities on a campus near you or at your alma mater. You may read more about the projects at <http://www.aauw.org/connect/cap/breakingbarriersSTEM.cfm>

Important Dates for Your Calendar:

July 1, 2010: Membership Renewal Dues. Members may make payment through their branch treasurer or on-line by credit card at www.aauw.org. Your treasurer has information to walk you through it.

AAUW (national) dues are \$49, all but three dollars are tax deductible; Iowa dues are \$10.

Send Iowa dues to Iowa Treasurer, 2010-2012:

**Sharon Vana
1620 Bilgarie Ct NE
Cedar Rapids IA 52402
319-366-5220
svana72158@aol.com**

July 1, 2010: Branch leadership contact information is due to AAUW and to AAUW Iowa President 2010-2012 Sandra Keist Wilson. Whether you are continuing with the same leaders or have new leadership in your branch, it is important to notify both AAUW and AAUW Iowa so communication is not interrupted. Please remember that at least two contacts must be identified: 1) President/Administrator and 2) Finance/Treasurer. Other officers should also be identified. Presidents are asked to use the www.aauw.org on-line form to submit the contact information, save a copy for yourself and send a copy via email to Sandra.

AAUW IA President 2010-2012

**Sandra Keist Wilson
2923 Rutland Ave
Des Moines IA 50311
H: 515-277-1275; Cell: 515-314-5776**

Share your passion:

Call someone you know or someone you may have just met and tell them about AAUW; tell them about the parts of the organization that make you so passionate. Tell them about the mission, the research, the advocacy, the philanthropy and why you are a member. THEN — ask them to become a part of this organization that means so much to you. Invite them to join, either as a branch member or as a Member-at-Large. EVEN BETTER — give the gift of membership. What better way to show your passion about AAUW than to share membership in the organization with someone you care about?

“Give a grad a gift” of AAUW membership: AAUW members can give a recent college graduate – a friend, daughter, son, granddaughter, niece, nephew – **a free one-year AAUW membership** within 2 years of graduation. At no cost to you or to them! Expand their networking opportunities; expose them to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls; keep them current on the events and people who affect their life; increase their buying power with access to discounts at Princeton Review, Barnes & Nobles, health and life insurance and other members-only benefits. [Complete the online membership application now!](#)

June 20, 2010 Father’s Day: Giving Men the Gift of Pay Equity: Read the blog by Adam Zimmerman about why every man has a stake in AAUW’s efforts to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. <http://blog-aauw.org/2010/06/14/giving-men-the-gift-of-pay-equity/>

Program planning:

See Lilly Ledbetter by streaming on your computer: If you missed seeing Lilly Ledbetter at the state conference or on Iowa Public Television World Channel, watch her on your computer by going to www.aauiowa.org and click on the Ledbetter link. It will take you directly to Intelligent Talk Television #183 Lilly Ledbetter: Equal Pay Crusader. You could use her presentation as a topic for a branch meeting.

Gender Balance on Local Boards and Commissions: This is a great opportunity for your branch to have a great impact on the community/county where you live. You can help structure conversation with county supervisors or city government about the board/commission appointment process, duties of board members, where and how to recruit women in particular. Your branch could actively identify and recruit women to serve. Perhaps you or other branch members would like to serve. Remember to utilize these ICSW (Iowa Commission on the Status of Women) publications at www.women.iowa.gov. Follow these links:

[A Five Step Guide to City and County Boards and Commissions And How to Get Appointed](#)

[Recruiting Gender Balanced Boards and Commissions: A Guide for Cities and Counties](#)

In addition, state boards and commissions must be gender balanced. For state appointments look at <http://openup.iowa.gov/>

Thank you for your work in AAUW:

I’ve enjoyed serving as your AAUW Iowa President. I appreciate the interest, creativity, and passion the board members bring to their work. I value the work each of you do in your community and encourage you to be bold in sharing the mission of AAUW with others.

It is exciting to hear how some are recruiting women to serve on appointive boards and commissions. Some are providing STEM workshops for girls. Some are creating webpage or webinar navigation experiences. Some work for women’s rights and economic wellbeing internationally while others focus within the USA. Some are actively recruiting new members, being attentive to existing members and in the case of Storm Lake, establishing a new branch. To be vital, most understand we need to be doers and not just information absorbers.

AAUW provides so many options for us to improve the lives of women and girls and enrich our own. I encourage you to be generous in using your talent for AAUW and to mentor others. Join me in working with AAUW Iowa President Sandra Keist Wilson as she continues to build our collaborative efforts. – *Diane Patton, AAUW Iowa President 2008-2010*