

THE BRANCH CONNECTOR

MAY 2007

PLEASE NOTE! This monthly electronic newsletter is being sent to presidents of Iowa AAUW branches for whom an electronic address has been provided. Since new officers are elected frequently in May, and since not all officer lists have been forwarded to the State President, please assist in its' distribution by forwarding it to members of your branch, and especially to your new officers.

Thank you so much! Janet Heinicke, State President, Iowa AAUW

HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

The April 20 and 21st Annual conference of the Iowa AAUW was distinguished by several very special features.

- Over seventy persons attended the Saturday sessions, an increase of about one third from the previous year. Equally encouraging was the attendance at the Friday Leadership Workshop of a group of forty eight branch leaders. Nothing short of “glamorous” would describe the variety of costume and regalia that people wore to identify their branches in this 125th anniversary year!!!!
- Diane Patton, Rockwell City Branch, was chosen as President Elect during the business meeting.
- Lida Sigg, Educational Foundation Director, announced that the Bolton Sackett Research & Projects Endowment Fund has received sufficient funding from the branches of Iowa to enable it to be completed this year.
- Branches received recognition for their contributions to Legal Advocacy Funding this year.
- Norma Coret introduced fifty year members.
- The newly organized branch at Loess Hills was introduced.
- The news that Iowa AAUW has received a \$10,000 community action grant for the Marshalltown community project, Latinas al Exito, was announced.
- Iowa candidates for Association office, Florine Swanson and Myrna Sandvik were introduced.
- A variety of substantial ideas were provided in four workshops and several speeches. Many ideas provided substantial direction for the future.

LOOKING FORWARD! Are you planning next year's programs, projects and activities now?

(Don't forget! Your roster of officers for next year is sent BOTH to the Association as well as to me, at jantheinicke@earthlink.net. I would appreciate receiving this information in the near future so rosters for state officers and directors can be sent on to them. Doing so will facilitate their communication with you!) Association forms can be emailed to records@aauw.org or faxed to 202-861-8068.)

Three good action projects are available for the lively branches of Iowa. *Here they are!*

1. Your branch could sponsor or co sponsor a community GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY WORKSHOP. Doing so would help the participants become more skillful and knowledgeable at advocating those issues about which there is strong community concern. AAUW Iowa received a grant this year which permits you tap into this resource without cost, bringing to your branch a facilitator to conduct the workshop and the necessary tools to enlarge and enrich understanding. Contact Sarah Hanuske at hanuske@yahoo.com.
OR.....
2. Your branch could apply to be selected as one of three participating branches chosen to replicate the Latinas al Exito project in Marshalltown. For further information contact Jan Mitchell or Pam Swarts at jan.mitchell@dybb.com or pjswarts@mchsi.com.
OR....
3. Your branch could contact Alice Dahle in Cedar Rapids for the latest scoop about how to access the “One Shared World” program available to you without cost via AAUW resources on the web. Alice’ email address is adahle@fastermac.net. This program makes real and pertinent information about women in other countries of the world.
OR...
4. Your branch could schedule one or more programs or activities focused on the recently released research report “Behind the Pay Gap”. (I will send to all presidents in Iowa a recent mail piece from Association President Ruth Sweetser which contains many good ideas.) Here are just a few:
 - Use a power point presentation available to you via Association materials at foundation@aauw.org. (No PowerPoint? Download the presentation and use it as handouts at your meeting!)
 - Host a radio call in show on pay equity
 - Put together a panel discussion or ask expert presenters to discuss the state efforts for equal pay. Refer to Legal Advocacy Fund’s Resource Library Page on Pay Equity

DON’T FORGET! THE NEXT GENERATION OF AAUW LEADERS IS GRADUATING IN YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE NOW!

Here are some ideas which might make that connection with them stronger!

1. The “Give a Grad a gift” encourages branch members to give a few outstanding senior women a gift membership, thus introducing them to AAUW. Last week I visited an Iowa where such gifts were given by four branch members to four outstanding women from the local college. Doing so recognized their achievements and at the same time created a positive image of the AAUW, The branch offered to connect them with a branch wherever they moved.
2. The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders is approaching. It will be held in DC June 7-9. The cost is \$350 per student. Could you contact your local college Dean of Student Affairs and encourage him or her to identify such a women leader. Scholarships are available for the women. Contact should be to Laura Stepp, Development Director. Email is steppl@aauw.org.

3. If your college is sending women, invite that woman to visit you and your branch next year.
4. Sometime , over the summer, try to meet with the College or University Liaison Person (contact DR. Laura Browne laurabrowne@ia.valley.edu for their names) and or the College or University President or Dean and describe the AAUW's interest in the education of women and girls in their institution. Invite their partnership!

PHOENIX CONVENTION AROUND THE CORNER!

Has anyone from your branch decided to attend the Association convention next month in Phoenix? I met a group of ten people at our annual meeting who indicated that they planned to attend this important biennial meeting. Diane Patton and I will be staying at the convention hotel. I hope to see you there; we are planning an "Iowa get together" early in the convention.