

The Branch Connector

October 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 your branch you will receive on the branch's behalf, current news and/or important electronic updates in electronic form. You are invited, indeed urged to share this information with your branch members by forwarding it to them, or by downloading it and providing a hard copy to persons who may need it.

Janet Heinicke, AAUW Iowa State President, 2006-08,

A LOT OF NEWS....in short form!

There has been a lot of news coming from the Association; news which required immediate attention from your state board of directors as well as from you in your branch. I have forwarded several such news alerts to you prior to preparing this October edition of the "Connector". As a result, this newsletter will really live up to its name, "Connector", and will primarily consist of connections or links important to the work you are doing, as a leader in your branches, and in your community as well as in the state.

ASSOCIATION LINKS

AAUW has joined with CARE as a partner in its international work.

In addition, in partnership with coalition partner, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare will make available to members of branches interested, training for caucus goers. Contact Janet Witt at email address wittj@MCPSSM.org. She is the Grassroots manager for this project. The workshop is two hours long, explains the caucus process and focuses on platform planks related to Medicare, Social Security and Home and community Services. It does not endorse or discuss candidates. Witt writes that specific sites have not been selected but the following communities have been decided on for training, Sioux City, Davenport, Council Bluffs, Fort Dodge, Ames, Des Moines, Ottumwa, Waterloo, and Cedar Rapids. For further details phone number is 800-998-0181 or 202-216-8341. In the past this organization has partnered with AAUW, IA Area Agency on Aging, LWV and ARA.

The Leadership Development Team of the Association Board of Directors has just released news about Regional Conferences for the year 2008. Each state, with the consultation of Regional Directors, is urged to develop a plan to use a Leadership Training DVD to be available April 1, 2008 in whatever innovative manner is appropriate to the state. **Regional Conferences, as we have known them in the past, are most unlikely to occur.**

STATE LINKS

The state newsletter, the Initiative, appeared in its' first ever electronic form this summer. Let Joan Thompson, editor, know of your members' reaction. (joint684@mchsi.com). Deadline for next issue is October 15th. Joan would like to learn about your branch's successes.

Application forms have just gone out for branches to apply for funding to replicate the Latinas Al Exito program initiated by the Marshalltown branch. (They were mailed to branch presidents). Deadline is December 15, 2008.

A new **Public Relations Director** has been appointed to head up an area about which there is a real consensus of need, Elaine Bruns, Waterloo Branch, has accepted this appointment.

By action of the State Board of Directors, all 31 Iowa branches are invited to participate in a **"focus group"** meeting with a member of the board. Meetings may occur any time between October and March. NO COST to the branch is involved. The meetings are designed to reach 3 objectives; to make a connection between the branch and the state board of directors; to identify local issues and concerns; to discover how services from the state AAUW may be of greater service. *Please return your request for a date by October 20th. Three branches have already indicated their plans!*

BRANCH LINKS

Two students from Luther College have been involved in the **National Conference of Women Student Leaders**. Contact Dr. Mary Mohr at Luther College for further information. (Morhmary@luther.edu). If your branch would like to provide scholarship funds for outstanding women student leaders to attend the conference contact me, or the Association.

Davenport Branch indicates that they continue to have a lively interest in the formation of a **college affiliate chapter** on local campuses. Contact President Roseanne Krubsack for further information. (krubsackr@yahoo.com). If there is a college nearby, think about this idea too!

Three branches have signed up for **Grassroots Advocacy Workshops** with Public Policy Director, Sarah Hanuske. Contact Sarah at Hanuske@yahoo.com to schedule a date. You will find this one of liveliest and most valuable programs you can have this year!

Don't forget that you can work with the **One Shared World Program** through the Association. Contact International Relations Director, Alice Dahle for further information. (adahle@fastermac.com)

Finally, put this important date on the 2008 calendar; **Annual Conference**, Simpson College, **April 11 and 12**. There will be a Friday evening awards banquet this year as well as a leadership workshop Friday afternoon.