

# AAUW Iowa Branch Connector

September 2008

A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa

*Welcome to this monthly electronic publication sent to you as the branch president or other identified branch leader who will receive, on the branch's behalf, current news and/or important updates. You are invited to share this information with other branch leaders and members by forwarding it to them, or providing a hard copy to each person.*

– Diane Patton, AAUW IA President

## **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.*

## **AAUW Iowa Board of Directors Vision:**

The Board is developing and refining strategies for membership, finance, communication and programming based on this vision statement:

**The Board will create dynamic connections with branches so that, as a team, we address education, social and economic issues as advocates for Iowa women.**

Much of our work is being influenced by the focus group discussions held with each branch this past year. I'm delighted the members of the board are all involved AAUW members like you who desire to strengthen this AAUW IA network and collaborate with others. AAUW IA Board meets Saturday, September 27 in Marshalltown.

## **Recovery from Weather Related Events**

We are pulling for those AAUW members and communities who've been impacted by weather related events this spring. We keep you in our thoughts as you clean, sort, evaluate, rebuild...as you recover.

## **Ideas to Borrow:** Contact their branch presidents to learn more

Along with their traditional book sale, **Algona Branch** sold some valuable books on **eBay**. (Another way to support the mission of the AAUW Educational Foundation while simultaneously selling items on eBay is through MissionFish, an exclusive charity solution provider for eBay Giving Works. By logging onto [www.missionfish.org](http://www.missionfish.org) you can sell merchandise through the eBay Giving Works program and donate a percentage of your profits to the AAUW Educational Foundation. This is a fun and modern way to support our mission. If you have questions please contact Jennifer Steenberg at 202.728.7618 or [steenbej@aauw.org](mailto:steenbej@aauw.org).)

The **Iowa City branch** is planning two sessions with community organizations which deal with women's issues, in order to **form a coalition** for possible future programs, projects and partnerships. They are asking organizations to come and present on their mission, their current projects and to bring to the table any ideas they may have for collaboration.

**Clarion Branch** distributes **minutes via email** in order to streamline their business meetings.

**Calhoun County Branch** hosts an October **public forum for state legislative candidates.**

**Ottumwa Branch** is doing voter registration this fall with Indian Hills Community College students and will also provide information about AAUW student affiliates.

**Program in a Box (PIAB)** is available at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) website. Topics include Woman to Woman Voter Turnout, EF 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). **It's not too late to do a Voter Turnout effort!**

### **Provide Feedback on Proposed AAUW Bylaws**

I invite you to read and respond to the proposed AAUW bylaws that will be acted on at the AAUW Convention in St Louis. They may be read under Strategic Process in the Member Center at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). You'll need your member ID number to enter the Member Center. I look forward to hearing how you think the proposals would impact your branch and members.

### **Celebrate Suffrage in Iowa!**

Help celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the only Women's Suffrage Parade held in Iowa and one of the first held in the United States. That October day in 1908 marked a turning point in the U.S. suffrage movement.

A reenactment of the 1908 Boone, Iowa, Suffrage Parade will be held **Saturday morning, October 25, 2008**. AAUW members will be among those participating in this event and other activities which begin at the Boone High School. To join in, please call 515-432-1907 or go to [www.celebratesuffrage2008.org](http://www.celebratesuffrage2008.org) to learn more. The Boone County Historical Society, who is organizing the event, has extended their registration deadline. If members of your branch plan to participate, I'd also be interested in hearing about your intentions so we can plan a meeting place.

At 2:30 pm at the Boone High School, a new play "Take Your Places, Ladies" will continue the theme of women's suffrage. Additional information is at [www.aauwiowa.org](http://www.aauwiowa.org).

### **Celebrate EF 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

Thanks to the generous contributions of AAUW members across the nation, the Educational Foundation remains one of the world's largest funding sources for graduate women. Adding to this distinguished legacy, the Foundation also became the source for AAUW's landmark research reports and more recently, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund program. Each year the Foundation provides about \$4 million in fellowships, grants, and awards for outstanding women around the globe and for community action projects. The Foundation also funds pioneering research on women, girls, and education. You may wish to make an additional \$50 "anniversary contribution" to be part of the 500 gifts of \$50 in 50 days campaign.

(For celebration and visibility activities, download Program in a Box from [aauw.org](http://aauw.org))