

AAUW
empowering women since 1881
Iowa Branch Connector
October 2015

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 members and branch leaders by forwarding it to them, or providing a hard copy.

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa President 2014-16

This October issue of the Connector contains information for you from our AAUW Iowa Nominations Director and our Public Policy Co-Directors.



AAUW Iowa Leadership Opportunities

Leadership is a key component for dynamic growth in AAUW. This is necessary at branch, state and national levels as AAUW endeavors to be the organization empowering women and girls. Education, economic success, health, social, and political issues are at the forefront of our objectives. Because AAUW members care, we must continue to lead.

Because AAUW Iowa is a volunteer-based organization, with no paid staff, we rely on our members to accomplish the work of the organization. Serving at the state level is highly rewarding. Working with energetic, purposeful women on the state board brings forth the best in each of us. The board is a supportive group of women who work as a team and you are needed on that team. While some positions for 2016-2018 will be filled by members continuing for a second term, there are positions awaiting nominees.

Who Do We Need?

The Nominations Committee is making an active search for ***elected officers*** for the 2016-2018 term: program co-vice president, membership vice president, secretary, and treasurer. We thank the members who have served in these offices in which they gave their time and talents so generously.

There are opportunities to serve as ***appointed members*** of the Board of Directors as well, such as web manager, administrative assistant, gender equity director, and diversity director. We are also in need of at least one additional person to be a web technician (facilitate Blackboard Collaborate meetings).

AAUW Iowa Board—The Basics

Members of the AAUW Iowa Board of Directors establish priorities for the organization through strategic planning and budgeting. Board members are expected to attend the yearly State Conference and all board meetings. There are three or four meetings per year, two of which are online via Blackboard Collaborate (an online meeting platform). Expenses for mileage and one half the double occupancy hotel rate are reimbursed for meetings. Board members write reports for board meetings, write an annual report, and contribute articles to the Connector or the Iowa Initiative newsletter.

There is a job description for each board member in the AAUW Iowa Policies. The time commitment to serve on the board varies with the particular board position. Those leaving the board are expected to provide transition materials and assistance to those assuming the board position.

AAUW Iowa business and communication is primarily done through email or Blackboard Collaborate, so it's important that board members have basic computer and email skills, and that they regularly check email. It's very helpful to have access to Microsoft Word and Excel.

How Do I Volunteer or Nominate?

If you are willing to play an active role in AAUW Iowa by serving on the state board or you wish to nominate someone, you may contact any nominations committee member. The committee members are:

Irene Dodder idodder01@cox.net

Mary Koenig marylis@frontiernet.net

Sharon Vana svana72158@aol.com

Karen DeVore chuckkarendevore@gmail.com

Lois Enger engerl@mchsi.com.

When the phone call comes from a committee member asking you to serve, please consider saying yes. You are being recommended by women who have faith in you and your abilities.

Irene Dodder, AAUW Iowa Nominations Director

Public Policy Opportunities in 2015-2016

Free Caucus Training Available through Iowa State University

The Iowa caucuses will be held on Feb. 1, 2016.

There are free classes about the Iowa caucuses available through Iowa State University, with three sessions remaining. You can sign up at: <http://www.iowacaucusesmooc.org/>. AAUW-Iowa public policy directors are also available to provide information to branches about caucuses. Contact Jane Nettleton at nedjane@mchsi.com or Anne Johnson at asjohns9424@gmail.com.

Make Suggestions for Public Policy Planning

Please go to the AAUW-Iowa website to review the public policy program at <http://aauw-ia.aauw.net/publicpolicy/public-policy-program/>.

Send any changes or suggestions you might have to either Jane Nettleton at nedjane@mchsi.com or Anne Johnson at asjohns9424@gmail.com.

2016 Lobby Day

Save the date now for AAUW-Iowa Lobby Day 2016-- **March 9, 2016**.

The Public Policy committee will be following legislative proposals and issues this year, developing recommendations for the March 9, 2016 Lobby Day. More information about issues and registration will be sent closer to the date.

Jane Nettleton and Anne Johnson, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Co-Directors