

AAUW Iowa Branch Connector

November 2012

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.

Maxine Lampe, AAUW IA President 2012-2014

Membership Matters! As I talk with people in various branches across the state there seems to be a common concern about increasing membership. This month you will have several opportunities to think about membership

On November 2, Our College/University Partners will be coming together for an event following the Way Up Conference in Coralville. We will be discussing what AAUW has to offer the College or University they are a part of. More importantly, I hope each branch that has a CU partner in it's area will invite that representative(s) to their meetings and begin a conversation as to how they can partner to talk about relevant issues for students on their campus and AAUW. Student involvement in your branch could revitalize your branch and give everyone a new perspective on what is important to young women, who are our future.

November 30 is the deadline for you to submit an application for the new Membership Recruitment Plan Grant program. Our state board voted to approve the grant applications so you could see your dollars at work. We, at the state level, want to support your local branch efforts. I hope you are taking advantage of this opportunity.

I would like to share an e-mail I received from the President of AAUW Penn. In it she states:

"I wanted to let you all know that I have submitted a proposal to amend Article IV to permit the governing bodies or boards of branches to waive education requirements. While I am submitting it as an individual, I did discuss this with my state board, and the majority supported it as a means to strengthen branches and find a reasonable middle ground between those who support open membership and those who do not want to dilute the prestige and accomplishments earned by education. It would permit each branch to decide whether or not it wants to waive the education requirement, and if so, whether it wants to do it case by case or for all. Many join AAUW to support the mission, and stay due to branch friends. Yet an oft-cited deterrent to membership drives is that members are uncertain whether friends "qualify" for membership. Some branches permit ineligible women to join interest groups, or have other forms of local or associate membership. There would be no reason to have such workarounds if this amendment passes. Many believe that education is a fast-track way to gain wisdom in a field. Experience can also provide that wisdom for some, and a branch could decide to welcome such an experienced person to membership. Branches can have diverse policies and still support the AAUW mission and value promise.

I do not see this change as likely to have any significant impact on any other AAUW national policy or position. Other bylaws changes have permitted more operational flexibility for branches, this amendment is also seen as a benefit to branches. I thought I would alert you to this proposal given its controversial nature. Margaret McGrath AAUW-PA President.”

This has been and obviously still is a hotly debated idea in a number of states and branches. I am sure it will come up for a vote this year at the National Convention. Please think about how you feel, and share your thoughts within your branch and with me. I look forward to your comments.

Just a few more days until the election! Please exercise your right to vote and encourage your friends to vote as well. Make your voice heard!

Maxine Lampe
AAUW Iowa President
lampe.maxine@gmail.com