



Iowa Branch Connector

July, 2013

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.

Mary Ann Ahrens, Diane Patton, Florine Swanson and her granddaughter Adelai, Maureen White and I attended the National AAUW convention in New Orleans and what a wonderful time we all had. We will be sharing an overview of the convention at our summer board retreat on July 11. I do hope all of our branch presidents, public policy and membership chairs will be able to attend. This will be your opportunity to gain new information about your leadership position as well as find out what is going on at the state and national level. If you have not sent in your reply as to who is coming please do so. I will be in South Africa but can reconfirm meals on my return. It will also help our presenters prepare. We have several new projects/initiatives we would like to discuss with all of you, so that will be exciting as well.

I was recently selected to be a National Delegate to Vision 2020. One of the goals which certainly aligns with AAUW IA. is Equity for all by 2020.

How do we do this? By increasing the number of women in senior leadership positions and women owned businesses; educating employers about the value of policies that enable men and women to fairly share family responsibilities; by educating young people about the value of gender equality; and by mobilizing women to vote.

Debates over whether women "can have it all" still dominate mainstream discussion and speak to the economic and social inequities that are deeply entrenched within our society. For example, how many board seats are occupied today in our nation's great corporations and organizations? How can we champion increasing women's representation on boards? This is an issue of senior leadership positions we can and should pay close attention to as a country and state- and a goal we should strive for.

I am proposing for one of my projects that we collect a list of all AAUW Iowa women in each branch who hold senior leadership positions and/or own their own business. If you could send that information to me I will then compile it in booklet form so all of us can be aware of what both has and needs to be done. We can seize the opportunity of the nation's upcoming 2020 centennial to keep our foot on the pedal. Ideally by then, there will be no chance that women's long road to equality will be blocked. Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July. Hope to see you in Des Moines on the 13th.

Yours in Equity,

Maxine Lampe. AAUW IA. President 2012-2014