



Iowa Branch Connector
September, 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.

Maxine Lampe, AAUW IA President 2012-2014

This month our guest editor is Jane Nettleton from the Algona branch. She is AAUW IA Nominations Director:

Good Leaders Are Important at Every Level

At this time of year, many of you are beginning the next season of AAUW. You have your branch programs in place for the 2013-14 AAUW year and may be holding a member recruitment meeting this month. It takes effective leadership to get the new year rolling and carry out all those plans. We on the AAUW Iowa Board of Directors wish you a stellar year and offer our support whenever you need it.

I have always appreciated the use of the term “branch” to describe the local organizations that represent AAUW all over the country. Our national organization is the trunk of the tree, feeding us with excellent research, program ideas, project suggestions, and support when we need it. The state organizations are like the large limbs of the tree, strengthening the local branches through officer visits; communications such as the *Connector* you are reading, the AAUW Iowa website www.aauwiowa.org, and the *Initiative*; and state meetings where so many good ideas are shared.

The branches are the face of AAUW in our communities. Without your projects such as candidate forums and other voter education efforts; STEM camps, programs, and awards; anti-bullying campaigns; Community Conversations and Letters to the Editor on issues that affect women and girls; book sales and other fund-raising events; book discussion groups and other study groups; and all the other things that you do, the big limbs and the trunk of our AAUW tree would die.

Most important, we leaves feed the branches, limbs, and trunk. We represent diverse personal, career, educational, and volunteer backgrounds. A variety of skills helps to move our branches forward and is also needed at the state level.

Members of the AAUW Iowa Nominating Committee continue to contact each branch to help identify a pool of candidates for elective/appointive offices and committees. As well, we have posted a recruitment form at www.aauwiowa.org for the use of members who would like to serve as an officer, director, or member of a committee. We are now recruiting members of the 2014-16 AAUW Iowa Board of Directors under the leadership of Maureen White, Cedar Falls, who is currently President-Elect. The new Board of Directors will begin its term of office on

July 1, 2014. We want to build on the strengths of our current board to continue to make a difference in Iowa!

The Nominating Committee is recruiting candidates for the following officer/ committee positions: Program Vice-President, Membership Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee members representing each of the four quadrants of the state (NE, SE, NW, and SW). Appointments to be made by the President-Elect include the following Directors: Public Policy, AAUW Funds, Gender Equity, College-University Relations, International Relations, Communications, Webmaster, Web Technician, By-Laws, and Diversity. Appointments also include members of committees supporting many of the Director positions.

Most of the work of the Board and committees is done by phone, Blackboard Collaborative (meeting online), or email. There are four Board meetings per year. Two are face-to-face, and the other two are online. One of the face-to-face meetings is held in conjunction with the state conference, and the other is a summer retreat. Having served on the board 25 years ago and again in the past three years, I can assure you that we at the state level have become very aware of the need to organize meetings to meet the needs of our busy leaders who have many other time commitments!

Serving on the AAUW Iowa Board is an exciting growth opportunity, a way to connect with other leaders in our state and work on issues that you care about. If you are interested in becoming a member of the AAUW Iowa team in a way that fits your interests, skills, and lifestyle or would like more information, please contact Jane Nettleton, Nominating Committee Chair, between now and October 31.

We are counting on you to keep AAUW flourishing!

Jane Nettleton, Chair
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