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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.

Ann Gale, AAUW Iowa President 2016-18

Membership Vice President Elaine Kresse and College University Relations Director Janet Fife-LaFrenz wrote the following article.

We have worked together to ignite college and university partnerships, student affiliate groups, AAUW-IA eNetwork, and branch growth. We've urged forming a Younger Women's Task Force <https://ww2.aauw.org> or a Virtual Branch <http://www.aauw.org/files/2013/06/> that could connect AAUW members to work throughout the state sharing public policy needs or events.

In our roles, we've become aware of the mileage between our small towns and urban areas and that only 6 of our 15 community colleges are partners. What do we do to remain the "grassroots organization" we claim to be? What do we do to build face-to-face support for projects such as lobby day in Des Moines? What do we do to attract busy professional women and mothers? How and why do we reach out to college students to make sure they know how to connect with AAUW after graduation? It occurs that by emphasizing students we may be neglecting faculty.

We believe the best way to get excited about AAUW is to search the website then ask yourself why you are an AAUW member <http://www.aauw.org/resource/elevator-pitch>. Asking why made us realize AAUW has offered the opportunity to meet a variety of educated women outside our own professional and religious sphere. As we unite to grow as friends we strengthen one thing in common -- AAUW's mission and vision for women.

It makes us very aware that professional women today need more than ever before the outlet of wide ranging ideas from supportive women who enjoy each other's outlook on public policy, politics, child raising and literature. AAUW offers them a chance to get to know and form life-long connections with women they might otherwise never know.

What has AAUW meant to you? To us it was a chance to know strong independent women and form bonds beyond any superficial differences.

This brings us back to the importance of the college/university connection. *With support from the faculty/mentors at the college level, students will be able to recognize that one of the privileges of graduation is the opportunity to join AAUW, the embodiment of our purpose for going to school – to be whatever we wanted and support our sisters on the ladder to success. Students are our future, but maybe faculty recruitment is our present.*

This is what AAUW means to us. What does it mean to you?

