

THE BRANCH CONNECTOR
February 2008
American Association of University Women
Iowa

A monthly tool for Branch Leaders to stay connected to other Iowa branches, their state officers and leaders and their national officers and staff. *(A tool to stay with others in your community who want to stay connected.)*

From your state president, Dr. Janet Heinicke, 1302 West Boston Ave., Indianola IA .50125.
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Spring WILL come! We WILL plant tulips and daffodils; and eventually green WILL replace white, brown and grey in the Iowa landscape! Whatta winter it has been!

As I prepare to send this February issue of the Connector to you it occurs to me that I should perhaps call this the "Toolbox issue"! Most of the news in this issue could be as "tools", as a tool to help strengthen your branch programming, or as a tool to help increase your membership. Some are tools to assist you and leaders in your branch in the good work you are already doing. Like gardeners, (who about this time in the year begin to order bulbs, or plant seeds to grow in indoor light,) so we in AAUW can start our spring AAUW "planting" for a beautiful spring and summer by using some of these "seedlings of ideas"

PROGRAM POINTERS

International Womens' Day is coming up soon. It is March 8. Will you be acknowledging it in your branch?

There are program ideas which may be useful to you to be found at the AAUW International Corner, on the AAUW web site, www.AAUW.org, or from the website for the International Womens' Year. There are also program ideas to be had from other organizations. In keeping with Iowa's strong international tradition, Iowa hosts a number of international organizations, most of which are more than willing to share their expertise with others also interested in international issues. These include Iowa Sister States, contact Kim Heideman (515-242-1915 or Kim.Heideman@iowalifechanging.com); Iowa Council for International Understanding (515-282-8269); the Partners of the Americas, contact Jeff Wilson (515-964-6370) and the United Nations Association, (contact our own Alice Dahle for further information, adahle@fastermac.net.) Many of these organizations have both programs and /or speakers available to address issues with which you might be concerned. Comparing and contrasting the experiences of immigrant women from a century ago with the experience of immigrant women today might be a useful "take" on the topic. Perhaps grandmothers' and their journals and accounts of their first experiences in the United States are available from some members of your community. And, of course, there are many novelists who have dealt with the topic of transition from one culture to another. From Willa Cather to Amy Tan to more recent books like "A Thousand Splendid Suns" describe in memorable terms such experiences of moving from one time and place to another.

Alice Dahle, our IA International Relations Director, reminds us about the effort this year, at the time of International Womens' Year, to rally support for the International Violence Against Women Act (I-VaWA) identified in the Senate as S 2279. It is a US effort to combat violence against women on a global scale. Legislation proposed in the Senate authorizes more than \$1 billion over a five year period to support international programs that prevent violence. Specific targets include the following: increasing legal and judicial protection related to violence against women and girls; enhancing the capacity of the health sector to address violence against women and girls; changing social norms to end violence against women and girls; increasing womens' access to education and economic opportunity; addressing violence against women and girls that results from armed conflict and natural disasters; providing training for security forces on the prevention and response to

violence against women and girls. If you need more information contact Alice . Her email address is adahle@fastermac.net

AAUW PROGRAMS CAN EARN ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR MEMBERS!

Arrangements have just been completed with Simpson College for participants at the AAUW annual Conference to obtain a Certificate of Completion enabling them to acquire one unit of academic credit.

This is a first-time-ever-bit of news! (At least in Iowa AAUW!) For the first time in Iowa participants at the AAUW Annual Conference April 11 and 12, 2008 can earn a unit of academic credit through their participation in the complete conference. If the participant attends all conference sessions (a total of ten clock hours) they could be awarded a certificate of completion from the Division of Adult and Continuing Education at Simpson College. Interested participants should indicate their intention in advance by checking the appropriate box marked "Academic Credit/orientation" on the Registration form. Many professional areas, as AAUW members know, value continuing education for their members and encourage members to regularly seek such educational opportunities. The general procedure is for a board of evaluation for that profession to examine the Certificate of Completion" and determine the amount of credit to be awarded. Attendance at this conference would generally equate to one unit of academic credit. There will be no additional charge from Simpson College for the process of preparing and providing such Certificates of Completion to conference goers. There will be a brief orientation session Friday mid day, April eleventh. The first session which will "count" toward full participation begins at 2 p.m. Friday. **USE THIS OPPORTUNITY AS A MARKETING TOOL IN YOUR TOWN!**

You may wish to extend this news and information about the conference and the associated opportunity for credit to your community by inviting prospective members and students in local or nearby colleges. One does NOT need to be a member to attend the conference! Again this year the next issue of the *Initiative* will contain a brochure about the conference which you can pull out and give to someone else, or which you could reproduce for others.

CAN WE MAKE IT ONE-A-BRANCH? It's ONLY 26 TO GO!!!!

AAUW in Iowa, according to the latest membership figures provided by the Association, has 874 paid members. This figure does not include members at large or student affiliate members. What does this mean to you?

IT MEANS THAT IF EVERY BRANCH IN IOWA GOT JUST ONE NEW MEMBER IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS... (Those new members would be eligible to become members until the end of March at half price Association dues)...**WE WOULD HAVE 900+ AAUW MEMBERS IN IOWA!**

We haven't seen a number like that (900) for several years. Just as a small encouragement I will present at the Annual Conference a rose for every new member who joins between February 15 and before April first to their branch!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTSTANDING WOMEN LEADERS ON CAMPUS AVAILABLE AT TWO LEVELS THROUGH AAUW

Are you interested in encouraging young college women to become effective leaders for tomorrow?

Again this year AAUW and the NASPA are partnering to present the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at Georgetown University in Washington DC June 5 to 7. The cost of the Conference is \$350, which includes housing and meals. There are 30 dynamic workshops, high profile women leaders as speakers, networking opportunities and community service learning projects. There are three ways that individuals, branches and states can help these women.

1. Pay the registration fee and (perhaps) help with transportation to attend the conference.
2. Make a direct contribution to the Conference of College Student Leaders (AAUW-LTI conference)
3. Make a contribution to the Conference Scholarship Fund.

If your branch already has money allocated for local college scholarships perhaps you could consider using some of those funds to send a woman to this conference. If you have further questions, you may contact Laura McCulty Stepp at 202-728-3303, Association Development office.

Are you interested in encouraging and recognizing outstanding and effective women in higher education?

Dr. Laura Browne, Director for College University Relations for AAUW Iowa, is interested in this issue. Like many who have or are working in higher education, Dr. Browne is aware of how often effective leadership by women for women is overlooked. She is heading the committee which is charged with identifying an outstanding faculty member from an Iowa college or university for our annual award. In addition Dr. Browne is making a valiant effort to enlarge her contact list of institutions of higher education so that no institutions are overlooked. Last week I forwarded an email request from her asking that you contact colleges and universities near your own community. She asks that you identify the person who is the chief academic officer of that nearby college and forward the name to her. Her email address is Laura.Browne@iavalley.edu. Please address her request or ask a member of your branch to assist you in doing so. This effort may bring you into closer and more viable contact with the nearest college. **Dr. Browne would like your response by MARCH FIRST.**

Many THANKS! Focus groups keep going in spite of winter storms!

Appreciation should be expressed to branches and to state board members who have really had to struggle through a very difficult January and February. With a little luck from the weatherman, the following branches will be hosting focus groups in February and March : Ames, Iowa City, Tama Toledo, Loess Hills, Clinton, Indianola, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Atlantic, Siouxland, Oskaloosa and Tipton. THINK GREEN ! DRY ROADS and NO SNOW!

STAYING IN TOUCH WAS NEVER EASIER!

We have several new electronic tools to assist us. Neysa Picklum, AAUW IA webmaster, reminds us that our server for the Iowa website has changed.

Our OLD web address www.aauwia.org closed February second.

Our NEW web address www.aauwiowa.org is up and running.

If your branch has a web site be sure you link it to the state website. Advantageous both ways!

AAUW has recently launched a new blog, called AAUW Dialog. You can share your thoughts and stay up to date by visiting the blog regularly at <http://blog-aauw.org>. OR you can subscribe to the AAUW blog RSS feed. If you have never blogged, you may be surprised and pleased at this new "voice "which allows you to speak your mind!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- MARCH 1, Names of academic officers to Dr. Laura Browne, Laura.Browne@iavalley.edu
- MARCH 11. Discounted rate for room reservation for conference due at Super 8 Motel, Indianola.
- MARCH 28, discounted rate for room reservation for conference due at Apple Tree Inn, Indianola
- APRIL 1, Conference registration due to Diane Edwards, edwardsdc@mchsi.com
- APRIL 11 AND 12, Annual Conference Simpson College, Bring a new member!

REMEMBER!

Spring WILL come! We WILL plant tulips and daffodils; and green WILL eventually replace white, brown and grey in the Iowa landscape!

THINK GREEN! THINK SPRING!

THINK AAUW ANNUAL CONFERENCE!