

AAUW Iowa Branch Connector

May 2009

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 branch leaders and members by forwarding it to them, or providing a hard copy.

– Diane Patton, AAUW IA President

A big thank you to all who participated in the AAUW Iowa Conference held at Wartburg College in Waverly. The highlights were dynamic speakers, timely workshops and opportunity to soak up the sun while exchanging ideas with one another. Photos will be posted at www.aauwiowa.com. The program planning committee is already creating next year's program in Ames on April 23-24, 2010.

The AAUW Membership Pilot Program (MPP) system officially opened as planned May 1!

As you may recall, Iowa is participating in MPP so members and branches may opt-in for assistance with membership management, dues payment, collection, and processing.

There is NO DEADLINE for branches in MPP participating states such as Iowa to opt-in to the MPP. Branches in Iowa can opt-in to the MPP at any time. Branch officers who want to learn more about the MPP before opting-in are encouraged to hold their dues until after the AAUW National Convention, where members can attend hands-on workshops to see whether the MPP is a useful tool for their branches.

Once the verification has been completed for those branches who have opted-in and their MPP participation is activated, the branch officers from those branches may begin using the MPP to submit member dues payments. Branches have already begun using MPP to invoice their members.

Once branch MPP participation is activated, individual MPP branch members may also submit their own personal dues payment online with a personal credit card. The first individual credit card renewal processed through MPP system was for a member of the Napa County, CA branch.

For branch and individual payment options, see the MPP Briefing:
http://www.aauw.org/member_center/briefings/briefingMPP_012909.cfm

See also Membership Pilot Program Frequently Asked Questions:
http://www.aauw.org/member_center/briefings/upload/mppFAQ.pdf

Additional questions may be sent to connect@aauw.org.

Iowans Attending the St Louis AAUW Convention

In order to help delegates contact one another about sharing transportation, etc, for the AAUW Convention in St Louis, June 26-28, **I'm asking those planning to attend to notify me.** To date, I'm aware of 17 Iowans who plan to attend: **Diane Patton**, Iowa President; **Mary Ann Ahrens**, Waverly; **Sandra Keist Wilson**, Iowa President-elect; **Mary Harlan**, Des Moines; **Sharon Vana**, Cedar Rapids; **Martha Garrison**, Cedar Rapids; **Sheila Engel**, Davenport-Bettendorf; **Cathy Barta**, QCIA Davenport-Bettendorf; **Kate King**, QC IA Davenport-Bettendorf; **Diane Fry**, QC IA Davenport-Bettendorf; **Mary Elizabeth Sievert**, QC IA Davenport-Bettendorf; **Julie Murphy**, Algona; **Myrna Sandvik**, Regional Director; **Florine Swanson**, Clarion; **Jane Nettleton**, Algona; **Joan Thompson**, Ottumwa; **Lida Sigg**, Iowa City.

AAUW Iowa collaborated in successful legislative efforts

Public Policy Director Sandra Keist Wilson, Membership Committee Member Mary Ann Ahrens, and I were present for Governor Chet Culver's signing of Senate File 137, an Act providing that wage discrimination is an unfair employment practice under the Iowa Civil Rights Act and providing an enhanced remedy. This has been called a companion bill to the federal "Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act".

The Equal Pay Day proclamation signed that same day by Governor Culver recognizes the disparity in wages earned by women. To match men's earnings in 2008, women had to work an extra 4 months (til April 2009). [AAUW has released a new [state-by-state earnings comparison](#) by gender that shows that the wage gap is stubbornly in place despite the overall positive effect a college degree has on women workers.]

Legislation for gender balance on appointed subdivisions of state government also passed both houses of the Iowa Legislature and awaits the governor's signature. The time is at hand for city and county officials to broaden the network of people who participate in decision making for their communities.

In addition, there was a successful drive to ensure state funding for sexual and domestic violence services in Iowa so that no victim finds the door to safety closed. The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault and their member victim service programs provide essential, quality services to local communities including: children's services; community education programs; legal assistance in civil and criminal justice systems; crisis intervention; prevention education; transportation services or 24-hour medical advocacy; shelter services ; and individual/group counseling.

The letters you wrote and calls you made to legislators made a big impact on equity in Iowa. Thank you.

AAUW Iowa Applies for Impact Grant

[HF243](#) This act provides for gender balance on appointed local board, commissions, committees, and councils, and includes an applicability provision. It passed both houses April 15, 2009 and is now awaiting signature by the governor of Iowa.

The AAUW Iowa grant plan will focus on the realization of gender balance (related to HF243) as quickly as possible in local subdivisions. The goal of the project will be to have equal numbers of women and men serving in appointed government local subdivisions. The legislation set 2012 as the compliance year. With equal gender participation, local subdivisions will reflect a more true representation of the population when making decisions that impact their communities.

If selected, AAUW Iowa will develop a survey template and enlist the aid of AAUW branch members and other partners to gather and publish data about local subdivisions. Later, in collaboration with the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and others, a summit will be held to encourage and provide practical information for women when making their first venture at becoming active in local subdivisions.

Sandra Keist Wilson, Public Policy Director and newly elected President-elect, took the lead in writing this grant application.