



IOWA INITIATIVE

**Volume 84
Spring 2009**

The American Association of University Women advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Breaking through Barriers—AAUW Iowa Conference April 17-18, in Waverly

“Let's Start the Conversation” Friday Evening with Christie Vilsack at Wartburg College



Christie Vilsack

The public is being invited to join us Friday evening, April 17 for a conversation with Former First Lady Christie Vilsack, Executive Director of The Iowa Initiative to Reduce Unintended Pregnancies. The Initiative is a privately-funded program whose goal is to serve as a model to prevent unintended pregnancies nationwide. This program aims to reduce the high rate of unintended pregnancies among Iowa women ages 18-30 through networking, research and public outreach. She is traveling the state to open dialog and make this a mainstream, main street conversation. And, by collaborating with established providers around the state, the Iowa Initiative will increase access to family planning services and information.

The Iowa Initiative Research Program, conducted in conjunction with the University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa and the University of Alabama-Birmingham, includes five studies designed to increase knowledge, persuade adult women to seek and access contraception if they wish to delay or prevent pregnancy, and improve contraceptive behaviors.

Christie has also been actively involved in strengthening communities in Iowa and nationally by advocating for family literacy, public libraries, and computer and technology literacy. Through a partnership with the National Center for Family Literacy and the Verizon Foundation, Christie helped create the Tech Savvy Awards to identify programs across the country that bring parents and children together to learn to use technology effectively and safely and to help parents advocate for 21st Century skills in schools. In addition to her commitment to literacy, Christie has long supported healthy adolescents and promoting community programs that build confidence in young women.

Breaking through Barriers: AAUW's Promise



Ronni Nivala

Our history is filled with moments when AAUW stood before a barrier and said “No” We met those barriers with voices in the community and voices in the halls of power. We have seen barriers fall, but our business is unfinished.

Our history is also filled with moments when AAUW looked inward and said, “We must become the AAUW we need to be.” What the times needed, we made happen. We took a stand to admit women of color when that was not necessarily popular. We addressed key issues of the day. When it was time to address educational funding for women, the Educational Foundation was formed. LAF was born to spotlight harassment in academia then redesigned to give it more power. Now, we must streamline and focus our energy to respond to changing demographics and

realities. We must harness the power of AAUW and become the AAUW we need to be.

At the spring conference, Association Board Member Ronni Nivala will lead us through AAUW's role in breaking through barriers, the bylaws changes, Membership Pilot Program (MPP) and how we see ourselves from communities to Capitol Hill. It's an exciting time in AAUW.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Registrations due April 7 for AAUW Iowa State Conference.
- AAUW Iowa State Conference at Wartburg College, Waverly, April 17-18, 2009
- AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance Grand and Suites Hotel in St. Louis June 26-28, 2009. For more information and registration visit the convention website: www.aauw.org/convention

AAUW Iowa Spring Conference April 17 and 18, in Waverly

Breaking Through Barriers hosted at Wartburg College	
Friday, April 17 2:30 Registration—Waverly, Cedar Falls, Waterloo Branches hosts 3:00 Welcome and Opening of Conference “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” Presenter, Rhonda Christiansen 4:00 “Matching Philanthropic Goals with Financial Planning” - Presenters, Mary Ann Burk and Carolynn Sween 6:00 Dinner and Outstanding Faculty Awards 7:30 “Let’s Start the Conversation” - Presenter, Christie Vilsack She speaks about the Iowa Initiative. The presentation is open to the public. 8:30 Social with the Prez—Calhoun County Branch hosts 9:30 Walk About Wartburg benefits EF/LAF/LTI Giving Circle Saturday, April 18 7:00 Walk About Wartburg benefits EF/LAF/LTI Giving Circle 8:00 Registration and Silent Auction Set-up 8:30 Welcome by Diane Patton, AAUW Iowa President “The Accidental Feminist” - Presenter, Sharon Lake, 2008-2009 AAUW Fellow 9:30 Break 9:45 Breakout Sessions 1. “Advocacy” - Presenter, Rachel Scott 2. “Latina Al Exito” - Presenters, Jan Mitchell & Pam Swarts 3. “International Affairs Panel” - Facilitator, Jane Edwards 4. “Membership Marketing” - Presenters, Renne Jedlicka & Mary Elizabeth Sievert: Facilitator, Joan Thompson	Saturday, April 18 continued 11:00 Lunch “International Communication” -Presenter, Kathryn Koob 50 year Membership Awards—Joan Thompson 12:30 “Association ByLaws Changes” - Presenter, Ronni Nivala 1:30 Breakout Sessions 1. “Association ByLaws Discussion” - Facilitator, Ronni Nivala 2. “The Women of Afghanistan in the Post-Taliban Era” - Presenter, Rosemarie Skaine 3. “The Next Generation: Women Leading Girls” STEM project) - Presenter, Kathy Nестеby 4. Learn What AAUW Technology Can Do For Your Branch” - Presenter, Laura Browne 2:30 Break and chance to make final bid on Silent Auction items 2:45 Business Meeting 4:00 Closing of Conference Child Care will be available if there is enough interest expressed. Directions: Wartburg College is located at the intersection of Hwy 3 (Bremer Ave) and Wartburg Blvd (between 7th St NW & 12 St NW) in Waverly. Traveling from the north or the south on Hwy 27/218, merge with Business Hwy 218, then turn onto Hwy 3. Registration and meetings in Saemann Student Center. Visitor parking available east of Whitehouse Business Center/ Saemann Student Center, accessed from Wartburg Blvd/7th St NW. Additional parking accessed from 1st Ave NW. Campus map: www.wartburg.edu/tour/map

President –Elect Nominee Sandra Keist Wilson

I joined the Des Moines Branch after moving there in 1996. Previously I had been a member and President of the Salina, KS Branch. I knew AAUW was a place to find educated active women. I currently serve on the 4 member leadership team for the branch. My first state office was LAF chair, followed by completion of a vacated term for Program VP. I then served a two year term as Program VP. Currently I am serving a two year term as Public Policy Director.

I support the mission of AAUW working for equity for women and girls. There is more work to do to achieve full equity. I have been appreciative of the organization since receiving a college scholarship from my hometown branch. Later, I applied for and received a grant from the association to help fund my Master’s degree studies to pursue a new career. That degree and new career turned out to be my salvation when my first husband was diagnosed with a cancer from which he could not survive.

The Association funds valuable research concerning women’s issues from which we can all take advantage to promote issues locally. I appreciate the public policy work the association actively pursues in Washington, D.C. The foundation assists many women to achieve their educational dreams. I applaud their work in providing leadership training for young women.

I have four grown children and Gene, my husband, brought five more talented adult children into my life. They have given us eleven grandchildren to love, enjoy, and marvel at the unique individuals they are becoming. Gene and I are proud and grateful for our diverse family as they help us understand and respect differences of faith, culture and race. I retired eighteen months ago from a career as a librarian and administrator of two college libraries which I found very rewarding.



Conference Speakers/Facilitators

Rhonda Christiansen, Buena Vista County ISU Extension Education Director, has been recognized for innovative programming for women in agriculture and new lowans. She serves on the Iowa State University Foundation Women & Philanthropy Committee.

Mary Ann Burk, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, had been a community volunteer for over 43 years. She co-founded a youth leadership program as well as the Foundation's youth philanthropy program. She was appointed to the Governor's Non-Profit Task Team to develop the Iowa Principles and Practices for Charitable Nonprofit Excellence.

Carolynn Sween, Program Director of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, has a great passion for philanthropy, and ten years experience as both board member and a staff member of a grant-making foundation. Her responsibilities include oversight of the Foundation's many grants and scholarship programs in 21 counties in north east Iowa.

Sharon Lake, winner of the 2008-09 EF Iowa American Fellowship, worked in Iowa City for 15 years before she entered the PhD program of the American Studies Department at the U of I to study the interactive political, cultural, social and legal forces that have shaped U.S. history. Her research has focused on the history of Iowa women in the second half of the twentieth century.

Rachel Scott, Division Administrator, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, provides leadership on gender balance in local governments, pay equity, and women's safety.

Jan Mitchell, AAUW Iowa Diversity/Gender Equity Co-Director and Marshalltown Branch member.

Pam Swarts, AAUW Iowa Diversity/Gender Equity Co-Director and Marshalltown Branch member.

Jane Edwards, AAUW Iowa International Affairs Director and Ames Branch member.

Renee Jedlicka, AAUW Iowa Nominations Director and Palo Alto County Branch member.

Mary Elizabeth Sievert, President of QC-Davenport-Bettendorf Branch.

Joan Thompson, AAUW Iowa VP Membership and Ottumwa Area Branch member.

Kathryn Koob, Wartburg College professor in oral communication. Her teaching experience includes public and private secondary schools. She spent more than 27 years in the diplomatic service of the United States, working primarily in the area of cultural and educational exchange. She is a member of AAUW and serves on the Iowa State Board of United Nations Association.

Ronnie Nivala, member of the Association Board of Directors. Ronnie is a member of AAUW in Milwaukee WI.

Rosemarie Keller Skaine, earned her M.A. in Sociology and has authored or coauthored national and international journal articles. She received The Gustavus Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America for her outstanding work on intolerance. Her book: **Power and Gender: Issues in Sexual Dominance and Harassment**, Mc Farland & Co. , Publishers, 1996.

Kathy Nesteby, Coordinator, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, will address several areas where women need to exert their influence to insure the success of the next generation of young women. Women need to strive for their own personal best to set the tone for those that follow.

Laura Browne, AAUW Iowa College/University Director, Webmaster and Marshalltown Branch member.

Breaking through Barriers— Housing Information

\$25 Bed and Breakfast with AAUW members. Fundraiser for AAUW Philanthropy.

Contact: Ardelle Brown 319-266-6882.
dabrown@cfu.net

Hotel Rooms have been blocked for AAUW convention attendees at discounted rates at two nearby hotels. Mention "AAUW Annual meeting" and call by the indicated dates to get a discounted rate

Super 8 Motel

301 13th Ave. S.W., Waverly

Directions: from Highway 3, turn south on 4th St SW (Business 218) Double/Queen: \$65.88 + \$7.92 tax. Free continental breakfast plus. 48 hour cancellation policy.

Call 319-352-0888 by April 1. Discounted rate: ask for Group Code AAUW

Comfort Inn

409 29th Ave S.W. , Waverly

Directions: from Highway 3, turn south on 4th St. SW (Business 218). Double/Single: \$99.95+ \$12.00 tax. Free hot continental breakfast. 24 hour cancellation policy

Call 319-352-0399 by March 15. Discounted rate: ask for American Association

AAUW in the 21st Century

By Ruth Z. Sweetser, President, AAUW Association and Barbara L. O'Conner, President, AAUW Educational Foundation

Will 2009 be the year of AAUW's transformation? If so, each of us needs to be reminded that policies and procedures by themselves don't change an organization. Rather it is YOU, the members, who have the opportunity to move AAUW from a 20th to a 21st-century organization. Since transformation depends on the human factor, how does this happen?

First, we have to work together and think together as an entire community to ensure that we keep our AAUW Value Promise at all times. When planning branch activities or even personal activities, ask, "How does this project or program or activity help keep AAUW's Value Promise?" In other words how am I helping to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls? Diligence in keeping AAUW's promise will make an enormous difference both in getting results for our mission and in branding our organization.

Whenever you read with your granddaughter, play in a bridge tournament that benefits the AAUW Educational Foundation, host a guest speaker on pay equity at a branch meeting, or write your member of Congress through our Two-Minute Activist portal, you're taking a step to break through barriers. Just asking your self that question brings an new awareness to and appreciation of our work that is vital to making it succeed - and will help you focus as your branch plans its mission-based programming. When you take that planning up a notch-asking how can my branch join with as many other branches and members as possible to apply our collective influence to a breakthrough members, our results, if documentable, will prove to be powerful and persuasive.

Second, plan to attend the 2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers, June 26-28, in St. Louis. There you'll have the chance to experience the new AAUW firsthand, to see with your own eyes what the future holds for our organization. You'll make AAUW history by participating in the bylaws votes, and of course, you'll reconnect with old friends and make valuable and enjoyable new connections. But, please, come to the convention well versed in the proposed bylaws and rationales; the briefings provide extensive information on these new approaches.

Third, adopt innovative tools and future-oriented thinking about what will make AAUW viable, attractive, and competitive. Yes, organizations compete for the attention and participation of current and potential members. If we are unable or unwilling to see the big picture of AAUW and its needs in 2009 and beyond, we risk the future of the entire organization. So to finalize the corporate restructuring from three separate entities to one tax-exempt umbrella organization 501(C)3 with a very small 501(c)4 subsidiary, the Action Fund), we will need to adopt bylaws that support the respective legalities and functions. We also need new ways of operating that recognize updated ways to lead, technology that facilitates administrative work so volunteers can devote themselves to breaking through barriers, 21st-century ways of engaging with each other, and other practices.

Break barriers with innovative tools, methods

A number of these innovative tools have been introduced through the series of briefings that AAUW has provided since early fall 2008. These tools include PROGRAMS IN A BOX, which provide how-to's for mission-based programming; the MEMBERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM, which will allow leaders to manage their membership records online; and the BRANCH and STATE LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP CLEARINGHOUSE PILOT PROGRAM, which will help branches market their scholarships and select their recipients from a pool of prescreened applicants. Our new method of submitting a leadership position application will allow members to express general and specific areas for service, along with an inventory of skill sets they can bring to these positions. The type of work expected of the regional director is so valuable that we are revamping and strengthening that role to ensure grassroots engagement for the new AAUW.

Work begins at Spring 2009 state meetings

At the AAUW state spring meeting, board members and other leaders -champions- will present and facilitate discussion on all these transitions. Be sure to take advantage of this personalized learning opportunity, especially in preparation for the convention in St. Louis

Each of these changes marks a departure from our business as usual, yet they are all designed to address our organizational shortcomings. It is up to us to take hold of what organizational development teaches us, leave behind AAUW practices and thinking that don't work, and build on AAUW's unmatched legacy to reshape its potential for the future. We need to be smart, as well as educated!

The critical question is, How will you help AAUW move into the 21st century? As noted, the forward-looking framework and policies/procedures are being developed for your consideration and decision. How you think about AAUW, its future and its promise, will determine both how you receive proposed changes and, more important, what you do with the new AAUW once it is in place. You-both individually and collectively as the AAUW community- are the agent on which AAUW's success rests.

The new AAUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with. With a community of nearly 100,000 determined women and men, focused on a single objective-to break through barriers for women and girls-we will be unstoppable.

Meet Me in St. Louis

By Myrna Sandvik, Upper Midwest Regional Director



The excitement grows as states plan their own conventions and the Association Board moves forward on plans for the “Breaking Through Barriers” Convention in St. Louis beginning June 26 through June 28. I hope many members will plan to go to St. Louis to experience the power of the dedicated group of women all moving in the same direction. It is awesome. If you’ve never been to this special convention, this is the year to go, because it is within a reasonable driving distance for us from the Upper Midwest.

When you arrive, you will find yourself in the midst of the excitement of helping to construct the shape of the AAUW of the 21st century. That is a heady prospect.

We need a large and energetic group to help support our candidates for Association offices from this region. It is always supportive to have help with the campaign from members who care about us and share our Midwestern views.

Don’t forget that St. Louis is an interesting city with lots of exciting places to eat and things to do and see. It is a perfect backdrop for making new friends with similar interests and catching up with old friends made through the years of AAUW work. So, first timer, or old hand, the convention has much to offer.

The time will fly by, but we will come home with a newly streamlined organization which will give us a more efficient framework. A structure in which to do our important work of ensuring that every woman and girl in the nation has a fair chance to accomplish her personal and career goals. She must be free to build her own future according to her own dream.

So “meet me in St. Louis” and we’ll continue to change the world—one girl at a time.

I’m Running for Secretary of Agriculture

By Kate Farraf, Director of Leadership & Training Institute & Campaign College Coordinator

On Saturday, January 31, at *Campaign College: Iowa State Women to Win*, 21 students gained the skills to run for student office. Ranging in age from freshman to graduate student, the participants all came with few expectations, but left with a new recognition of how they could be true leaders on campus.

Diane Bystrom, director of the Catt Center for Women, opened the program with a welcome to the students and put in context the status of women in Iowa politics. While 34 women currently hold seats in the Iowa legislature – the highest in the state’s history – that number has not changed in the past three elections. Iowa’s percentage of women in state legislature ranks 23rd in the nation, and only two states – Iowa and Mississippi – have never elected a female governor, U.S. senator, or U.S. representative.

Maggie Luttrell, vice president of the Government of the Student Body and Campaign College student liaison, was on hand for the event, providing information and insight to the group about her own path to the GSB and about her goal to run for governor of Iowa.

One of the opening speakers, Emily Jensen, recently served as GSB president and conveyed to the students the benefits of being in that elected office. She and her vice president were the

first all-women executive ticket to run at Iowa State and win on campus in 50 years. She told the students that it is ok to buck the system, to make sure to mentor other women for leadership positions, to recognize and value their own leadership style, and to realize that being a leader isn’t always easy.

For the luncheon keynote, Becky Greenwald, a 2008 congressional candidate, joined the students. She was able to offer the students a true representation of what it means for a woman to run for political office. She jumped into the race against an incumbent because she believes that Iowa and Congress need to have diverse perspectives in decision-making. She had a successful and invigorating primary, winning more than 50 percent of the vote. Although she lost the race in the end, she articulated how fulfilling it was to be able to listen to Iowa citizens every day and learn while running against an incumbent. She traveled the state listening to IA citizens and had the inspiration to keep going when hearing about families’ challenges with health care.

COLLEGE, Continued PAGE 6



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**www.aauwiowa.org
Find updated information
pertaining to the
conference. Read about the
bylaw changes before the
conference. Be informed.**

Story Telling



Diane Patton
AAUW Iowa President

Story telling is an important way to share who we are, what we believe and how we interact with the world. At the AAUW Iowa Conference in Waverly, we'll hear stories about "Breaking through Barriers." On Friday, we'll first focus on our own personal story and how we can pass along what we cherish to those whom we cherish.

Next we'll consider the story of who we are collectively, how our own story relates to the stories of others. Former First Lady Christie Vilsack starts the conversation Friday evening about impacts of unintended pregnancies and efforts to create a model to reduce the high rate of those pregnancies. It's followed on Saturday by EF Iowa Fellow Sharon Lake who tells of the Iowa City female fire fighter who became the Accidental Feminist. Wartburg College Professor Kathryn Koob shares the importance of International Communication. Association board member Ronni Nivala reviews the proposed AAUW Bylaws and the reasons for restructuring the organization.

Finally, our breakout sessions will focus on connections in the broader community; having a chance to heal some of the hurts and pursue some of the hopes of "Breaking through Barriers." Come, explore connections through public policy advocacy, mentoring and launching Latinas, international relationships, membership marketing, and leading girls to careers in the sciences.

Together we can "Break through Barriers" and share great stories of AAUW accomplishments in Iowa. I invite you to be part of this time of telling, listening to and building on each others' stories.

COLLEGE- From page 5

Other speakers included Gail Ferlazzo, associate director of the Union and adviser to the GSB; Annette Hacker, director of News Service; and a panel of students speaking about how they got into their student leadership positions.

To end the day of training, I led the students in our campaign simulation. They each prepared an elevator speech to sell themselves and what they were running for. The young women delivered their pitch to me; their campaigns ranged from running for VP of the GSB to Dance Marathon co-director to GSB senator to Iowa secretary of agriculture. Next, to put their skills to the test, the participants were charged with going out and getting the votes. They had 30 minutes to get as many people as they could to come to our training location to "vote" for them. The young women were calling and texting people, grabbing students in the parking lot and out of laundry rooms. Every participant secured votes, but our Campaign College winner was Madeline Tomka who won her race for Iowa secretary of agriculture.

We are so proud of all of these women for taking the big step of saying they want to be a student leader on their campus. Now we can follow their path and support them with more networking and resources at <http://campaigncollege.ning.com/> ! AAUW Iowa and the Ames Branch assisted with the Iowa State University event.

Registration for State Conference Wartburg College April 17-18, 2009

Friday, April 17. Mark an X by those events you will be attending:

- ☐ 3:00 & 4:00 PM Afternoon Philanthropy Workshops
- ☐ 6:00 PM Dinner
- ☐ 8:30 PM Social with the Prez
- ☐ 9:30 PM Walk About Wartburg

Saturday April 18. Mark an X by those events you will be attending

- ☐ 7:00 AM Walk About Wartburg
- ☐ 9:45 AM Breakout preference (Circle one) 1 2 3 4
- ☐ Noon Lunch
- ☐ 1:30 PM Breakout preference (Circle one) 1 2 3 4

Payment: Mark with an X those that apply.

- ☐ Entire conference (Both Friday and Saturday) \$80 early/ \$90 late; ☐ Student \$40 early/ \$45 late
- ☐ Two-for-One Conference—Two first time attendees may attend both days for \$40 each.
Registrations must be mailed in the same envelope.
- ☐ Friday, April 17 ONLY OR
- ☐ Saturday April 18 ONLY \$50 early/ \$60 late; ☐ Student \$25 early / \$30 late

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name _____

Branch _____

State Office, if any _____

Address _____

Email _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Child care requested ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

Postmark deadline April 7, 2009

Mail registration and check payable to Iowa AAUW to:

Diane Edwards
Administrative Assistant
403 NE 11th Street
Clarion, IA 50525

email: edwardsdc@mchsi.com
515-532-2065

Breakout Sessions

9:45– 11AM

1. Advocacy-Rachel Scott – Effective communication with policy makers
2. Latinas al Exito– Jan Mitchel, Pam Swarts– Round table discussion with participants of projects.
3. International affairs— Jane Edwards. Features members who are active in international programs and want to share their experiences.
4. Membership Marketing— Renee Jedlicka, Mary E. Sievert, Joan Thompson. Creative ideas to increase membership.

1:30—2:30 PM

1. ByLaws -Ronnie Nivala. More in-depth information
2. Women of Afghanistan in the Post-Taliban Era: How Lives Have Changed and Where They Stand Today. - Rosemarie Keller Skaine.
3. The Next Generation: Women Leading Girls - Kathy Nesteby
How to encourage studies and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.
4. What AAUW Technology Can Do for Your Branch—Laura Browne

WOMEN GRADUATES - USA

BY Janet Heinicke

I am pleased to have this opportunity to describe the development of the new organization, Women Graduates—USA. Since its inception, the organization has gained more than 150 members. A great start from the initial seven women who agreed to launch the group. Within the last year the organization has secured its tax exempt status, and has been officially recognized as a National Federation belonging to the International Federation of University Women. As such it will be represented this year at the meetings convened by the United Nations Commission on the Status of

Women. Three Iowans will be part of the delegation representing the IFUW. They are Florine Swanson, president, Alice Dahle, from Cedar Rapids who is a member of the program committee and Janet Heinicke as Program Convener (chairman). WG-USA will host a reception on Thursday, March 5 at the Commission meeting and had nominated participants for several of the "parallel session" workshops which will be held during the meetings.

The first big program presentation of the group is scheduled for the 2010 IFUW meetings to be held in Mexico City. At least one session will be held on the concept of an elec-

tronically based organization and provided by WG-USA. A second workshop is being proposed on trafficking.

AAUW Iowa should be proud and happy to be involved in the launch of this organization. The idea of an organization dependent on communication via email and the internet is an idea which probably is increasingly relevant in this still new century. It is stimulating to associate with people who believe that doing so opens doors to ideas that know no international borders. Members of AAUW Iowa are invited to consider becoming participants as well. Annual membership in WG-USA as well as membership in International Federation of University Women is \$50.

www.wg-usa.org

FUNdraising for AAUW Philanthropy

☒ B&B with AAUW

Enjoy a Bed & Breakfast experience Friday night, hosted by an AAUW member in the area. Details in the housing information.

☒ Go Green Auction

Branches, be creative in bringing recycled, repurposed or consumable silent auction items.

☒ Walk About Wartburg

Make a donation to AAUW EF, LAF, or LTI and take a Walk about Wartburg.

☒ Honor Women in Your Life

Select a note card to honor women in your life....Mother, Daughter, Neighbor, Professor, Student, Friend,

Membership Pilot Project –Implementation in Iowa

In response to the Association's Voluntary Membership Pilot Project (MPP), the **AAUW Iowa Board of Directors has established the mechanism for AAUW Iowa to receive electronic dues payment from the Association if a branch chooses to adopt the MPP method of payment. Each branch still has the option to participate in the MPP.** If a branch wishes to continue collecting dues in the traditional manner and writing branch checks to the state and association for the dues, the branches may continue to do so.

Branch leaders may opt in to the MPP for their branch and continue to collect dues from some members as they have in the past, while other members of their branch may choose to pay their individual dues electronically (via credit card or bank bill payer), which may be particularly helpful for branch members who are seeking convenience. Specific details and step-by-step instructions will be distributed electronically and posted on the AAUW website by April 15, 2009 and training will be available at the 2009 national convention in St Louis.

The Iowa *Initiative* is published by Monroe County Newspaper, Inc., Albia, IA 52531-0338

AAUW Iowa *Initiative*
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