

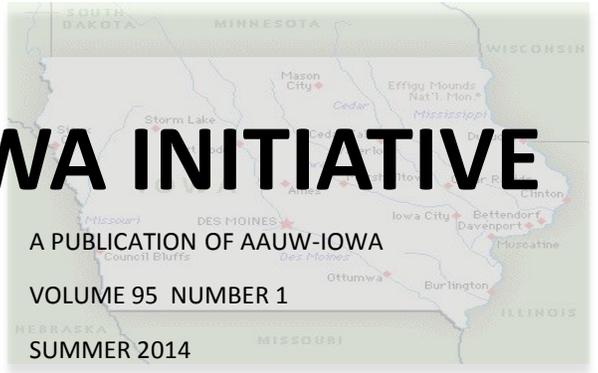


# IOWA INITIATIVE

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OUR MISSION ; ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH.

## ENGAGING WITH LEADERS AND MEMBERS

This year AAUW Iowa board members will contact branch presidents as a continuation of the Board-Branch Connection project.

In addition, we will schedule online discussions or information sharing sessions using Blackboard Collaborate. This online service is used twice a year for AAUW Iowa board meetings, thereby saving travel and hotel costs. The eNetwork uses it for their meetings and it is also used for committee or small group meetings.

Our first information session was on Wednesday, August 6th with Diane Patton, former AAUW Iowa President and member of the AAUW Fundraising Committee. She reviewed the revised fundraising and scholarship guidelines. It is extremely important that all branches are aware of information in these guidelines, so we are posting a number of fundraising documents on the AAUW Iowa website.

*Submitted by Maureen White, AAUW Iowa President*

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The photos in this issue are from a summer luncheon at the CEEE (Center for Energy & Environmental Education) in Cedar Falls. This lunch and program was co-sponsored by the Cedar Falls and Waverly chapters of AAUW, as well as the Society of Women Engineers.

After a great lunch, we heard a presentation from Marcy Seavey, UNI S.T.E.M. Coordinator. The group then chatted with the engineers in the group to see what inspired them to enter that profession.

## INITIATIVE Editor

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INITIATIVE, a tri-annual newsletter, is a publication of the AAUW-IA Board. The distribution cost is included in state dues. Articles and/or questions should be addressed to the editor.



## Bylaws Report for Summer AAUW Iowa Initiative

In April 2014, every AAUW branch in Iowa, received an email from me with your branch bylaws and a checklist of additional IRS requirements for all AAUW-affiliated branches so branches could send a copy of their branch bylaws to AAUW by the May 15, 2014 deadline.

Before sending each branch their bylaws, I used the electronic bylaws copy on file to make the mandated changes in each branch's bylaws. These **mandated** changes are made without the need for a vote of the membership because the changes are required by the national AAUW organization as approved at the June 2013 convention.

If you are a new president and/or hold the bylaws position in your branch and do not have your branch's revised bylaws and the checklist, contact me via email and I will re-send the necessary documents for your branch.

Revised branch bylaws were due to AAUW by May 15, 2014 – so if this has not been done, branches should do so as soon as possible.

*Submitted by Jo Treadwell, AAUW ByLaws Director*    [jotom.tdll@gmail.com](mailto:jotom.tdll@gmail.com)



# Membership News

## Did you know?

**Who can join?** Membership is open to anyone holding an associate's (or equivalent, e.g. RN) bachelor's, or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

**What type of membership is available?** National membership—Become a national member and connect through our website, plus enjoy special members-only online publications. Branch members—Do you want to make a direct impact in your community? Consider joining a local or virtual branch of AAUW, or start one in your area. Includes national membership. Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) - Designed by and for women in their 20s and 30s, YWTF offers young women an opportunity to take action on issues that matter most to them. Student affiliation—If your college is already a partner member, you can be a student affiliate for free! If not, bring AAUW to your campus by starting an AAUW student organization!

If you need membership brochures, or to borrow the tri-fold display for various events, please contact me at [agetty@grandview.edu](mailto:agetty@grandview.edu).

*Submitted by Amy Getty, incoming Iowa Membership Vice-President*

## 2014 Fifty-year Branch Members Honored :

Each year, Iowa's fifty-year members are honored at our annual state conference for their longstanding commitment to our mission, distinguished service and leadership. The following women were recognized at our April 11, 2014 Awards Banquet:

Rhoda Barnhart—Tipton

Lorraine Bomkamp—Cedar Rapids

Ardelle Brown—Cedar Falls

Elaine Bruns—Cedar Falls

Iola Cadwallader—Oskaloosa

Julia Moen—Pella

Phyllis Steele—Cedar Falls

AAUW has a proud 132 year history because of women like them who have been articulate, persistent, and knowledgeable advocates for women and girls. Congratulations from your Iowa sisters/brothers! Please call, email or send a congratulatory note to the member(s) in your branch that were honored this year.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS, CONTINUED....

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*Submitted by Mary Ann Ahrens, outgoing Iowa membership vice-president*

### **2013-14 AAUW Iowa Branch Membership Awards:**

Thank you branch members/leaders for your continuing efforts to gain visibility and recruit new members through your outreach projects, advocacy, and networking. The important work you do within your communities/on campuses continues to pave the way toward equity for women and girls so they, too, can achieve the American Dream!

At the 2014 AAUW IOWA April Annual Meeting Awards Banquet the following membership awards were presented to branches:

**Most Members Required:** Davenport-Bettendorf—10 members

**Largest Branch Net Increase:** Storm Lake—26.32%

### **Branch Net Member Increase:**

- Algona—10%
- Cedar Falls—2.2%
- Cedar Rapids—4.17%
- Charles City—10%
- Clarion—4.35%
- Decorah—4.76%
- Des Moines—9.8%
- Indianola—15.79%
- Keokuk—4%
- Palo Alto—12.5%
- Storm Lake—26.32%
- Washington—8.7%



**“Do not hide your light under a bushel!”** Keep up the good work so we can continue to make a difference in our communities and state! Can’t imagine what our world would have been like without the many accomplishments by AAUW members over the past 132 years! Stand tall and be proud of your accomplishments!

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS, CONTINUED....

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*Submitted by Mary Ann Ahrens, outgoing Iowa membership vice-president*

### **2014 AAUW Iowa Membership Recruitment Plan Grant Recipients :**

During the past four years, AAUW Iowa has had a strong focus on membership recruitment and retention to help build and strengthen our branches/college institutions. Many new resources were created and distributed to assist in this effort.

This is the second year our state created a budget line item to assist Iowa branches interested in submitting grant applications to help fund member recruitment plans. Applications are evaluated and selected by a review committee. Congratulations to the following branches that were selected: Clarion, Indianola, Palo Alto, and Storm Lake.

Branches implementing the plans will be sharing information and ideas with other branches to stimulate more creative thinking and action to increase membership and visibility. Look for articles in this issue from branches that completed the first year recruitment plans.



## Is Independent Private Instruction Really Instruction—Who Knows?

In January of 1882, 68 women who were members of the newly formed Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the predecessor to AAUW, drafted Articles Of Incorporation which outlined the purpose of the organization: “For practical education work, for collection and publication of statistical and other information concerning education, and in general, for the maintenance of high standards of education.”

“Maintenance of high standards of education” is still valued within AAUW 132 years later. Our AAUW Iowa Public Policy Program advocates for “Standards for home, charter, and private schools that are consistent with standards for public schools” and “Maintaining high licensure standards for educators and administrators”.

Iowa has high standards for most schools, educators and students, but not all. The majority of Iowans are probably unaware of Independent Private Instruction (IPI), a category of home schooling that was approved in 2013 as part of the Education Reform Bill HF 215; a bill that raised standards for public schools and educators.

Iowa’s previous home schooling provision which is still an option, known as “Competent Private Instruction”, allows parents to provide schooling for their own children at home.

The new category, Independent Private Instruction, allows a person to provide schooling to not only her own children but up to four other unrelated children. The person providing the instruction to her own or unrelated children does not have to hold any type of education license or have any preparation as a teacher.

According to the Iowa Department of Education Private Instruction Handbook, Independent Private Instruction (IPI) means instruction that meets the following criteria:

- Is not accredited,

- Enrolls not more than four unrelated students,

- Does not charge tuition, fees, or other remuneration for instruction,

- Provides private or religious-based instruction as its primary purpose,

- Provides enrolled students with instruction in mathematics, reading and language arts, science, and social studies,

- Provides, upon written request from the superintendent of the school district in which the independent private instruction is provided, or from the director of the department of education, a report identifying the primary instructor, location, name of the authority responsible for the independent private instruction, and the name of the students enrolled.

- Is not a nonpublic school and does not provide competent private instruction as defined in Iowa Code section 299A.1 and these rules.

- Is exempt from all state statutes and administrative rules applicable to a school, a school board, or a school district, except as otherwise provided in Iowa Code chapters 299 and 299A.

The only state education laws that apply to students receiving IPI are truancy and attendance laws. However, because parents are not required to notify school district officials when children are receiving IPI, the superintendent may not even be aware that there are children residing in the district receiving IPI and therefore it's next to impossible to monitor attendance.

District officials have no right to request information about instructional content or to set standards for content. In fact, there are no content requirements for any of the four subject areas. No assessment of progress is required.

In addition, children receiving IPI are exempt from immunization and health screening requirements, special education services are not available for them, they may not dual enroll for academics or extracurricular activities in public schools, and they may not be issued a diploma.

The AAUW Iowa Board of Directors chose IPI as a priority area this year because:

There are rigorous licensure requirements, ethical standards, and background checks for educators in both public and private schools. No one is allowed to teach in schools without being properly licensed in the assigned teaching area. Yet a person providing Independent Private Instruction for her own or unrelated children functions for all practical purposes as a teacher without meeting any of the licensure requirements for educators. ***Medical, legal and other professional practitioners in Iowa are not allowed to practice without proper training and they must be licensed by the state.***

The Independent Private Instruction category does not establish even minimal standards for content of instruction, assessment of progress, qualifications of the instructor, or for assuring the safety and welfare of the students.

There is no way to evaluate or compare the effectiveness of IPI with other education systems because of the lack of required curriculum, assessment, or reporting of data to Iowa education officials.

It is unacceptable for Iowa, long viewed as an educational leader, to allow some students to potentially receive a substandard, if any, education and for children to possibly be in situations in which abuse or neglect could occur. Those working in schools undergo background checks and licensed educators are mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect. None of those protections are in place for children under Independent Private Instruction. Under this home schooling category, the providers are unsupervised.

Iowa's goal of "world class schools" should be for every student. Independent Private Instruction falls far short of this goal and the legislature should work to correct this error.

We ask all of you to help raise public awareness about IPI and to take action. Tell your friends about IPI, write letters to the editor, talk to your legislators or legislative candidates. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue; it's about the right of every child to a quality education. If our elected officials really mean it when they say they want high standards for education, then ask them to sponsor and vote for legislation to rescind Independent Private Instruction. Ask the candidates for governor if they would sign a bill that rescinds IPI.

Note: Detailed information about Independent Private Instruction, HF 215, HF 2308, Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics, and background checks is available in a document "Independent Private Instruction" on the AAUW Iowa website.

*Submitted by Maureen White, AAUW Iowa President*