



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

# IOWA *initiative*

Volume 78, Winter 2006

The American Association of University Women promotes education and equity for all women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change.

## AAUW State Conference, April 21-22, 2006 “Gateways”...Achieving Success in Education, Careers and Economic Security

The 2006 AAUW IA Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in Marshalltown on Friday evening, April 21st and Saturday April 22nd. The event has such richness and depth that you will want to bring several people from your branch and larger community to absorb it all! The program will appeal to people (not just AAUW members) who share our passion of equity, quality education and positive societal change. So, invite community leaders and friends that share your values and especially those with whom you network to actively improve your community.

For the first time in many years, our program will begin on Friday evening with a venue you won't want to miss! Our setting is the Fisher Community Center, one of the gems of Marshalltown. The 2006 “Iowa Leadership Roundtable” begins at 6:30 pm with a wine and cheese reception hosted by Marshalltown Chamber Ambassadors. Come early to visit the French Impressionist Gallery, enjoy fine music, and connect with women from across the state. Following dinner at 7:00 pm, all participants will join in a roundtable discussion led by Dr. Kathy Kremer, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Wartburg College. With years of expertise in community development, Dr. Kremer will model an asset-based planning process that leads to an effective, collaborative focus. Geared to leaders of a variety of organizations, this session will illustrate how to tap the vast research base and resources of AAUW. Participants will gain strategies for strengthening their organizational programming while benefiting their community as a whole.

A hearty breakfast on Saturday morning includes an egg casserole, muffins, fruit and beverages. The Annual business meeting is first on the agenda so that the remainder of the day will be of interest to the wider audience. We are honored to have Mary Ellen Smyth, immediate past president of the Educational Foundation, to speak on “Putting the Pieces Together” based on her experiences with successful action projects and effective partnerships.

The entire program is enriching with dynamic breakout sessions which address many facets of our mission. We want volunteers from branches to introduce presenters and summarize highlights of the sessions for other participants. There are breaks during the day to bid on Silent Auction items.

Other highlights include: Honoring 50 year members, the Distinguished Faculty of the Year Award and response, and Branch Recognition with a powerpoint presentation, 2006 Showcasing Branch Achievements. The day will culminate with the results of the Silent Auction, The Year in Review and handing off of the gavel to the incoming president, Dr. Janet Heinicke.

The conference will formally adjourn at 4:00 and the Marshalltown contingent will have a variety of enticing opportunities for those that want to indulge in some sightseeing and fun.

## Welcome to Marshalltown!

Centrally-located and pleasantly-affordable, Marshalltown is a convenient site for statewide events. But it's also so much more!! Art and culture enthusiasts rave over the original French Impressionists paintings, Christian Peterson sculptures, and long-standing pottery collection at Fisher Community Center. Shoppers adore the personable and imaginative Main Street mix including antiques, fashion, a gallery, chocolate shop, an urban-style B & B, and gourmet dining. Whether you make it a day or weekend, plan time to discover Marshalltown treasures!

## Keynote Address “Putting the Pieces Together”

Ms. Smyth emphasizes that to achieve any lasting results, many good minds are needed, and that includes not only our own members but individuals and entities from society at large. Putting the pieces together calls on the best from all of us, AAUW members and others, with goals that fit with our mission, if we are truly to make an impact on women's economic security and in ensuring education and equity for women and girls.



Mary Ellen Smyth

Mary Ellen Smyth has had a distinguished career as an educator, serving on the faculties of the University of Wyoming and the Pennsylvania State University as well as a teacher in secondary schools in Colorado, Wyoming and Illinois. She has also been a professional actress, host of a weekly television interview show, and chief administrator of a medical corporation. A thirty member active member of AAUW, Mary Ellen has just completed her second term as President of the Association AAUW Educational Foundation. Today, she is the owner of The Smyth Organization, a medical practice management services company with consulting services in communication and staff and leadership development for both health care professionals and organizations. Ms. Smyth is the keynote speaker for the Iowa Conference on April 22nd and will lead a workshop.



## Candidates for 2006-08 AAUW-IA Board of Directors

Delegates to the 2006 Iowa Annual Meeting will have the opportunity to elect the 2006-08 AAUW of Iowa President, the Membership Vice President, Program Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee Members.

The nominating committee has recruited Dr. Jan Heinicke, currently serving as president-elect to move into the presidency. Dr. Heinicke has been very active in AAUW from the branch through the international level. Her knowledge, experience, administrative skills, and commitment to equity are tremendous assets to a state presidency.

Other candidates recruited to fill the 2006-08 administrative slate are:

Membership Vice President: Norma Coret, Woodbine  
 Program Vice President: Sandra Keist Wilson, Des Moines  
 Secretary: Mary Harlan, Des Moines  
 Treasurer: Leora Thomas, Des Moines  
 Nominating Committee: Mary Ann Ahrens, Waverly  
 Louise Conklin, Waterloo  
 Carol Sovern, Albia



Mary Harlan

### Meet Mary R. Harlan Secretary Candidate

Mary Harlan joined the Ames, Iowa Branch in the fall of 1965. Since then she has been a member of branches in Illinois Indiana, Missouri and now Des Moines, Iowa. She recently retired from the Public Health Department of Iowa. She is a graduate of both Drake and

Vanderbilt Universities and Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Her family includes her husband, James Herteen, three sons and six grandchildren with the seventh due to arrive any moment. She is active in Toastmasters and AAUW.

## A Message from the President...

### AAUW Blueprint to Impact Communities, Help Iowa Grow

*AAUW members are committed to helping build vibrant communities by providing quality childcare, quality public education, educational equity, and welcoming practices to assimilate newcomers. The conference this spring will show you how a few AAUW members can accomplish significant goals when they launch an action plan that gets community-wide and state-wide projects started.*



Sue Jorgensen

*The 2006 Annual Conference is different from previous years because of our inclusive invitation to community leaders, friends and parents to attend the conference and become partners in projects that improve the quality of life for Iowans. The Leaders' Roundtable on Friday evening will begin dialogue about "hot topics" ~ what our communities need and what we can do about it.*

*Partnerships can increase our effectiveness immensely! Each branch president will receive a dozen attractive, glossy brochures to market the conference more widely. The purpose is that branches will reach out to the "movers and shakers" in the community and encourage them to come to the state conference. We need for them to be included in dialogue that leads to action projects that help Iowa thrive and grow. Our goal is that business owners, educators, administrators, executives, parents and AAUW members will attend. This is possible because of a generous grant from the Marshalltown Convention and Visitor Bureau.*

*When inviting nonmembers to attend ~ Share your enthusiasm for a terrific program with outstanding presenters!*

Cordially,  
 Sue Jorgensen  
 ejorg04@juno.com

## Opportunity Knocks --- Get On Board

Webster defines opportunity as "a good position, chance or prospect for advancement". As a n AAUW Iowa member, you have an opportunity to use your skills/gain new ones to grow both personally and professionally. We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to become part of a dynamic Iowa team who pursues education and equity issues to create a brighter future for women and girls so they, too, can achieve the American Dream!

Currently the AAUW Iowa Nominating Committee and Dr. Jan Heinicke, president-elect are seeking the following 2006-08 elective and appointive Iowa board and committee positions:

- a northeast Iowa membership committee member
- two state nominating committee members (one from NW and one from SW Iowa)
- a board voter education director

- voter education committee members from each congressional district
- a college - university member from a community college

All positions are for a two-year period -- July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2008.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please don't hesitate to contact the Nominating Committee Chair to gain more information. Most of the work within the state is done by e-mail with limited travel. We would like to have the 2006-08 team in place by April 1 and for you to be a part of it. All aboard!!

Mary Ann Arhens, Chair

Dr. Jan Heinicke,  
 2006-08 Pres. Elect



## Welcome To Grand Forks, North Dakota

AAUW-ND and the Grand Forks branch invite you to the Upper Midwest Regional Conference June 9-11, 2006 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. This years theme- "A Legacy of Leadership -125 Years in the Upper Midwest" will provide educational topics, an LAF silent auction, a pre-conference workshop, time to enjoy the city and much more.

Presenters include Leslie Wolfe, President of the Center for Women's Policy Studies, Suzanne Koeplinger, Minnesota AAUW International Relations Chair, Sr. Patrice Colletti, Salvatorian National Committee Against Human Trafficking, Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and regional speakers. What a lineup!

Friday's pre-conference workshop, "Trafficking in the Midwest" is an opportunity to become more aware of this issue and how we can assist in decreasing this inhumane treatment.

Make your reservations at the Lakeview Inn and Suites. A block of rooms for AAUW will be available till May 15th for \$60 plus tax per night. The motel is easy to find and close to there Alerus Event Center where the Regional conference is taking place. The motel offers you continental breakfast, indoor pool, whirlpool and sauna, children under 18 free when with an adult, and more. It is located near good shopping areas, family fun, golf courses and the Alerus Event Center. Call 1-877-355-3500 or in Grand Forks 701-775-5000. Check out the website at w. Other motels in area are: Holiday Inn Express 888-890-0245, 701-772-7700 Super 8 800-916-4352, 701-775-8138 Best Value Inn 701-775-0555

Looking forward to celebrating AAUW'S 125th anniversary with the oldest living past AAUW president, Mary Grefe, from Iowa and the most recent past President, Nancy Rustad from Minnesota at Saturday's banquet.

Watch for registration forms and updates as the planning continues.

You'll love your time in North Dakota.  
See you in Grand Forks at the Alerus Event Center  
June 9-11, 2006.



## Regional Director Message

Resolutions are like a strategic plan. They can serve as the direction you hope to go in the coming year. So you're saying, where does AAUW fit in to this picture?

*Florine Swanson* My top ten resolutions for AAUW and You!

1. Attend the Upper Midwest Regional AAUW Conference in Grand Forks, ND on June 9-11. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn about programs that can impact your community, learn leadership skills that work in volunteer organizations as well as your career, hear outstanding speakers and have fun celebrating the 125th Anniversary of AAUW. Read more about the conference in the invitation from North Dakota. (Registration forms and program details will be posted on the Iowa web site.)
2. Sign up for the Iowa AAUW Annual Meeting at Marshalltown on April 21-22. Registration form included in this newsletter.
3. Say yes to one leadership role in your branch or state. It might be one day for a special project or it might be as an officer or committee member. As with anything we take on, the more we give, the more we get out of it. It's this time of year that nominating committees are seeking future leadership. If asked, know that you are needed.
4. Check out the AAUW web page regularly. Your Association is working hard at improved communications with all members. The Ed Eq Change is sent twice a month by e-mail to your state president. But you can read the information as well on the web page. This provides the very latest news at the Association level. And don't forget the Iowa webpage, too.
5. Read the latest issue of the Outlook. This professional journal which is part of your membership is filled with numerous outstanding articles. Often we are so busy when it arrives that it gets laid aside.
6. Select one of the books on the Adelante list. Winter is a great time to read when we aren't outdoors as often. I'm reading Nickel and Dimed this month.
7. Share your views on public policy with your Congressmen or your legislators. AAUW has one of the most respected group of lobbyist in Washington, DC on education and equity issues. (Our Lobby Corp is all volunteers!)
8. Become a donor to the Legal Advocacy Fund with a direct contribution or by donating an item or basket for the Silent Auction at the Iowa Annual Meeting and/or the Regional Conference.
9. Give a contribution to the One In A Million campaign at \$120 to maintain the programs of excellence of our organization.
10. Ask someone to become a member of your branch or as a MAL. Or give a gift of membership to a recent college graduate.

You might want to create your own list of AAUW resolutions for the coming year. Give it a try! Once you get started you'll be amazed at how many resolutions you can make. Make it a great year as an AAUW member!

Florine Swanson  
Upper Midwest Regional Director

## Breakout Sessions:

### **“Successful Branches Are Continuously Evolving!”**

Ms. Smyth will focus on why development is important to branches, to the state, and to our parent organization, including the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund. She will define the links between development and fundraising, suggest techniques and strategies including identifying and cultivating prospects, successful branch activities and/or searching for new ideas. She says: “Women and philanthropy is an idea whose time has come!” This will definitely be a time to share!

### **“Yes, You Can!—Improving Immigrants Lives, Improving Communities with Changing Populations”**

This session will tell about what AAUW-IA can do to encourage the removal of educational barriers for the new immigrants to Iowa and introduce a project that is being piloted in Marshalltown. The project has twin goals to encourage young Hispanic females to pursue education beyond high school and the empowerment of young adult Latinas in leadership roles. The project involves changing family perceptions to value education as a means for economic security and to adopt new thinking about potential roles for Hispanic females in the workforce. AAUW-IA would like to pursue an action grant to replicate this project in several branches across the state. Come to hear how your branch can be involved!

### **“Advocating For The Arts Through Story Telling”**

For this presentation, Ms. Korte, a master storyteller, will use accent, costume, paper cutting, paper folding, rhyme, music and props. Her stories teach and entertain, but also depict societies, near and far and how they think of their world as well as ours. Audience participation is encouraged!

### **“Health Disparities in Iowa: The Impact on Women”**

This workshop will focus on women’s health issues in Iowa; the connection between global and local women’s health concerns; immigrant and refugee health issues and current projects addressing the needs. Ms. Miller brings a wealth of insight because of her roots in Iowa and extensive travel and mission trips abroad.

### **“Women and Work in Iowa’s Economy”**

Participants in this workshop session will review and discuss key economic policy trends in Iowa and nationally and their impact on women, including access to education, wage equity in the workplace, unpaid labor of women and social security as it affects womens’ economic security.

### **Challenges To Quality In Iowa’s Education Pre-School, K-12**

Mr. Hoover will address the status of education in Iowa and issues including early childhood education, achievement issues, Title IX, local control vs. state control and the effect of vouchers on public education. He works with the state legislature to keep them apprised of needs and issues facing educators.

## Schedule At A Glance Achieving Success in Education, Careers and Economic Security

### *Friday, April 21, 2006 Program*

#### **Fisher Community Center**

**709 Center St., Marshalltown, Iowa**

5:30-6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

6:30-7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception

Tour of the French Impressionist Art Gallery

7:00 p.m. Dinner and Leaders’ Roundtable Dialogue

### *Saturday, April 22, 2006 Program*

#### **Continuing Education Conference Center**

**3702 S. Center St., Marshalltown**

**Iowa Valley Community College**

(1/8 mile south of intersection of Highways 30 & 14)

8:30-9 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Overview of the Day

9:10 a.m. Business Meeting

10:15 a.m. Break and Bidding on Silent Auction

10:30 a.m. Keynote: “Putting the Pieces Together”

Mary Ellen Smyth

11:00 a.m. Morning Breakout Sessions

12:00 Lunch

Honoring 50 Year Members

Distinguished Faculty Award and Response

1:00 p.m. Break and Silent Auction

1:15 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Sessions

2:15 p.m. Break and Final Auction Bids

2:30 p.m. Member Responses

3:15 p.m. “Showcasing Branch Achievements”

A Powerpoint Presentation

3:30 p.m. Passing of the Gavel

Sue Jorgensen, “Year in Review”

Janet Heinicke, “A Look at the Future”

4:00 p.m. Closing

After 4:00 p.m.: Enjoy a social time of seeing some of the sights in Marshalltown, including the largest treehouse in Iowa. Other options include galleries, gift shops, and dinner.

# AAUW: A Key Player in Community Conversations about Quality Child Care

by Jeanne Warning

In fall 2005, over 300 Iowans in 12 community forums deliberated the public issue of improving the quality of child care. The forums were jointly sponsored by Iowa State University Extension, the Iowa Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the American Association of University Women. Three policy approaches for helping communities enhance the quality of child care were discussed: increasing government regulation; enhancing parent education; and facilitating parental care. Forums were held in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Davenport, Dubuque and in eight rural communities which included: Algona, Burlington, Decorah, Eldora, Keokuk, Keosauqua, Ottumwa, and Tipton. Participants reflected a broad range of the population, including parents, grandparents, child care providers and professionals, school personnel, community and civic leaders, and legislators. However, child care advocates were in the majority.

## *Common Themes*

Several common themes surfaced in the forums:

- the necessity of adequate funding to ensure quality care, including the need for subsidies to assist low-income families.
- the need to educate parents and the public about what to look for in quality care.
- the need for increased training for child care providers.
- the need for increased regulation that is consistent, enforceable and yet flexible to allow families choices to meet their needs.
- a need for societal change in our values regarding the importance of children and the care they deserve.

You can find the summary report of the findings from the 12 forums at the following website: [https://www.extension.iastate.edu/childcare/quality/conversation/short\\_report.pdf](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/childcare/quality/conversation/short_report.pdf)

## *Value of Forums*

One third of the forum participants who responded to the post evaluation questionnaire following each forum reported they were thinking differently about the quality child care issue after participating in the community conversation, and 60% indicated they discussed aspects of the issue that they had not discussed before. Certainly just having the conversation was of benefit to individuals. Research about National Issues Forums – NIF-style forums indicates that individuals, while they may not change their minds, do feel they better understand the complexity of the issue and are open to listening to others' perspectives. Participants' comments on the questionnaire reflect this. In order for change however, individuals need to act!

There are certainly lots of possibilities for follow up action beyond these community forums. The forums are one step in a continuing conversation. For example, AAUW in one community is considering a letter writing campaign to legislators advocating for adequate and equitable funding for quality early childhood education programs.

*Taking Action will be covered in the next issue of the initiative.*

## Call for Resolutions

Please submit AAUW Iowa Public Policy Resolutions to Erica Larson and the AAUW Iowa Public Policy Committee by April 3, 2006. Resolutions can be emailed, faxed or mailed to Erica D. Larson, Public Policy Director contact information listed below:

Erica D. Larson  
1531 Plum Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240  
elarson@aea10.k12.ia.us  
office fax: 319-399-6474

## AAUW Iowa Public Policy Program 2006-2008 Board Approved Draft AAUW-Iowa Biennial Action Priorities

Biennial priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution.

### AAUW Iowa advocates:

- Adequate and equitable funding for quality early childhood education programs
- Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education at all levels, for all students
- Increased teacher pay
- Increased minimum wage
- Access to affordable, quality child care
- Defense of the Family and Medical Leave Act against legislative or regulatory efforts to weaken it.
- Support for legislation which provides full-time employees with paid sick days to be used for their own medical needs or to tend to the medical needs of a child, spouse or parent. Part-time employees would receive a pro-rata share of paid sick days
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to cover biological fathers and more family and medical needs
- Choice in determination of one's reproductive life
- Promoting the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons by ensuring a clean and healthful environment



# Seven Schools Are Members of College / University Partners Program

by Melanie Guentzel

Over 550 institutions belong to the AAUW College/University Partner Program. Seven of those schools are in Iowa: Coe College, Eastern Iowa Community College District, Morningside College, Northwestern College, Simpson College, University of Northern Iowa, and Wartburg College. Institutional membership in AAUW helps further our mission of equity for women and girls as well as offering educational and growth opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. Some of this support includes: offering an American Fellowship for women doctoral candidates, a University Scholar in Residence Award for research on gender equity, and hosting an annual National Conference for Women College Student Leaders.

We recently sent branches information about supporting a woman student to attend the leadership conference.

AAUW would like to increase institutional membership. As with all membership initiatives, personal contact is important. To that end, the College/University Liaison Team is supplying branch Presidents with a list of the colleges and contacts near their community and templates of letters to customize and send to institutions encouraging institutional membership. For more information go to: <http://www.aauw.org/join/value/colleges.cfm>.

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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Membership is open to all graduates who hold the baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

IOWA *initiative* is published three times a year. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Let us know how we can serve you better, what information or features you would like to see included?

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1111 16th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Or Call HELPLINE  
1-800-821-4364

## Registration Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: Member \_\_\_\_\_ Not a Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Check - Vegetarian Meal \_\_\_\_\_

### Friday Evening (Separate fee)

Friday Dinner \$8.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday Roundtable \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Early Bird Fee \$50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Conference After April 12th add \$5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday Dinner \$8.50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_

Send the registration form and a check to: AAUW  
% Lee Thomas, Treasurer  
4308 - 38th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50310

Marshalltown has motels with reasonable rates so that you can come Friday and check in before attending dinner and the Round Table dialogue.

A block of rooms are reserved at both the Super 8 and the Comfort Inn at a discounted price. You must make your own reservation. To get the discounted rate say that you are attending the AAUW Annual Meeting when you make your reservation. Both Inns have been renovated this past year and both are located near the intersection of Hwys. 30 & 14, close to the Conference Center and Community College. Below is the contact and price information.

**Super 8**, 3315 South Center Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158  
Phone: 641-753-3333 Fax: 641-752-4111  
2 double beds - 1 adult - \$51.88, 2 adults - \$56.88  
1 king bed - 1 adult - \$51.88, 2 adults - \$56.88

**Comfort Inn**, 2613 South Center Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158  
Phone: 641-752-6000 Fax: 641-752-8762  
comfortinn@marshalltown-lodging.com  
2 queen beds - 1 adult - \$64.95, 2 adults - \$69.95  
1 king bed - 1 adult - \$64.95, 2 adults - \$69.95

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