

AAUW Iowa Branch Connector

January 2013

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

Maxine Lampe, AAUW IA President 2012-2014

The new year is here, but it will take an extra four months for women's earnings to catch up to men's earnings from the year before. The symbolic day when women's earnings finally make up the 23 percent difference is known as Equal Pay Day.

It is never too early to start preparing for Equal Pay Day — April 9, 2013. This year will be especially important, as 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act.

What will your branch do to observe Equal Pay Day? AAUW has updated the [Pay Equity Resource Kit](#) with suggested ideas for action, facts and figures about pay equity, the latest AAUW research, and step-by-step instructions for planning activities. Here is just a sampling of what the resource kit can help you accomplish:

- **Organize reading and discussion sessions.** Lilly Ledbetter's book, [Grace and Grit](#), would make a great selection!
- **Issue a press release for Equal Pay Day.** A sample press release is included in the resource kit.
- **Hold in-district meetings with your members of Congress.** The resource kit walks you through the process of requesting a meeting, preparing for that meeting, and following up with members of Congress and their staff afterward.
- **Complete a workplace pay audit for your office, and encourage branch and state members to do the same.**
- **Organize a petition to show that there is a high level of popular support for pay equity legislation.**
- **Conduct a public information campaign.** You can raise awareness about the need for legislation to end discrimination against women in the labor market.
- **Ask your members of Congress and state legislators to sign a fair pay pledge.** The resource kit includes sample pledges.
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[Download the complete AAUW Pay Equity Resource Kit today to get started!](#)

You can also request pay equity stickers and other materials by e-mailing advocacy@aauw.org.

On Another Note: **AAUW** now has a state-of-the-art legislative tracking tool to help us take effective and timely action in our state!

CQ StateTrack allows the AAUW staff in Washington, D.C., to work with our AAUW Iowa leaders to track state legislation that affects AAUW priority issues. AAUW will use CQ StateTrack to create a profile for each state, which includes a set of keywords, committees, and legislators that will be used in automatic searches of state bills. The searches will automatically generate email alerts when state legislation containing one of our keywords is introduced, being heard in committee, or ready for a floor vote. The search can also generate web reports to give us a snapshot of what the state legislature is considering at any one time, based on our state's keywords and key issues.

I will be attending a legislative breakfast at the Capitol on January 24. If there are any issues you want me to address, I was told I would have time after the breakfast to meet with individual legislators on any number of issues. Let me know.

Please mark your calendar for either April 13 in Decorah (if you live on the Eastern side of the state) and April 27 in Denison (if you live on the Western side of the state). These are the dates for our Spring Conferences and we hope to have a large number of members in attendance. Of course you are welcome to attend both conferences as there will be different presenters and different venues. The program is shaping up to be a great one. You will be receiving more information in the upcoming days.

Happy New Year!
Maxine Lampe, AAUW Iowa President