



# NEBRASKA

STATE BULLETIN

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Fall 2011

## AAUW-Nebraska Fall Event *“Nebraska Women Leading the Way!”*

By Marilyn Bombac, PhD  
AAUW-NE President

**MARK THE DATE: Saturday, October 15, 2011**

As we begin our new AAUW-Nebraska year, I am excited about the proactive initiatives in our state. In August 2010, we created our AAUW-Nebraska Motto: “Smart Women—Smart Ideas” and also created our AAUW-Nebraska Vision: “Nebraska Women Reaching Their Full Potential in Their Chosen Field” – beautifully aligned with AAUW. We continue to build on our ideas.

This year we want to expand our State Fall Workshop to include other organizations who could partner with us in helping us reach our Vision. According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Nebraska ranks third in the United States for percentage of women in the work force, but ranks 49<sup>th</sup> for women in professional and managerial positions. The Women’s Fund study shows the number of women holding leadership positions in Omaha has changed very little in the last decade. ***We would like to mark October 15<sup>th</sup> as the day we begin to establish a united force to increase the number of qualified women who aspire and enter positions of leadership in the State of Nebraska.***

Our state will not only align with AAUW, but will also align with VISION 2020, a national ten-year initiative developed by the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. One of their five goals is “Increase the number of women in senior leadership positions in American life to reflect the workforce talent pool and demographics”. Even though VISION 2020 focuses on eight different topic areas, AAUW-Nebraska will focus on three: Business, Education, and Government. In addition to our AAUW-Nebraska members, we are inviting women leaders from business, education, and government organizations in Nebraska to join together on October 15<sup>th</sup> to begin this critical work. (registration information on back page)

I love working with you--our AAUW-Nebraska leaders--whether on state projects, branch initiatives, national goals, or over a cup of coffee in friendly conversation. It's truly an honor to serve as your state president.

## **AAUW-Nebraska Receives \$1,000 Public Policy Impact Grant**

Marilyn Bombac, President

AAUW-Nebraska is one of fifteen states to receive a \$1,000 AAUW Public Policy Impact Grant from AAUW for fiscal year 2011-2012. The AAUW notification letter stated... “Despite the tough competition, your state is among the fifteen that exhibited the highest potential for the strongest public policy impact”.

Our state Public Policy Chair, Liz Rea, and our state Treasurer, Linda Bors, will be working closely with me and other AAUW leaders to develop a plan of action. Some of the AAUW objectives are:

- Educating the public about issues at stake for women and girls in the 2012 election
- Registering women to vote
- Organize a public policy committee to help implement state activities

AAUW will provide:

- Written how-to materials
- Monthly training conference calls
- Extensive staff support

This is an exciting opportunity for our AAUW-Nebraska Members (“Smart Women—Smart Ideas”) to lead the way in this important initiative.



### **AAUW-Nebraska Leaders**

Judy Morss, State Program VP (Omaha, Inc.); Margaret Munnely, Omaha, Inc. President-elect; Joanne Carlson, State Membership VP (Omaha, Inc.); Linda Bors, State Finance (Omaha, Inc.); Marilyn Bombac, State President (Omaha, Inc.).

## AAUW National Convention 2011

Linda Bors, Finance VP

AAUW-NE members Marilyn Bombac, Linda Bors, Susan Goos, and Margaret Munnely, all from the Omaha Branch, were among the 800 attendees at the AAUW National Convention in Washington, DC June 16-19. Highlights of the convention included hearing five women in Congress speak, lobbying our own Senators and Representative on Capitol Hill, a panel of powerful women in the Obama Administration, hearing Wal-Mart vs. Dukes plaintiff Edith Arana, and one of the plaintiffs' attorneys discuss this historic workplace discrimination lawsuit, and a panel of women educators discussing last year's widely heralded AAUW research report on why there are so few women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics career fields. Saturday night's banquet celebrated philanthropy, activism, and passion, and recognized branch and state contributions to AAUW's mission during the past two years. Pay equity advocate and AAUW member Lilly Ledbetter was present throughout the convention, spoke to attendees, and was presented a plaque commemorating the Lilly Ledbetter Public Policy Impact Grand Fund. At the "Taking AAUW Home" closing session, Gloria Feldt, a leading activist and author on women's lives, rights, and leadership addressed how women can redefine power, lead more effectively, and reach parity with men at work and in their personal lives.

The 2013 AAUW National Convention will be in New Orleans June 9-12. Save the date and plan to attend. It's sure to be another informative and motivational convention.

Nebraska delegation at  
National Convention:  
Susan Goos, Marilyn Bombac  
Linda Bors, & Margaret Munnely



### Announcing Legislative Day, February 21, 2012

Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair

AAUW-NE, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska (LWVNE), and the Nebraska Federation of Business and Professional Women (NE BPW) are again sponsoring a combined lobby day with state senators on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

The day will start with a briefing in Room 1023 at the State Capitol on priority legislation of importance to the organizations followed by a chance to visit with state senators about proposed legislation upon which we have the same position. The day will conclude with a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion at noon. Invite your senator to be your guest. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this important event!

## Lincoln Branch Presents Program to Lincoln PEO

De Tonack, Lincoln Branch President

Lincoln Branch members, Julie McLean and De Tonack, presented some of the key concepts from Lois Rankel's work, [Nice Girls Don't Get the Corner Office](#), to one of the Lincoln PEO groups in July. Concepts from this book and an accompanying DVD were used two years ago by Marilyn Bombac as a springboard to discuss women and leadership at Nebraska's fall conference. The Lincoln Branch had sent letters to area women's organizations, hoping to provide opportunities to discuss "unconscious mistakes women make that sabotage their careers" and got their first opportunity to do so this summer.

## Thoughts on Membership

Joanne Carlson, Membership Chair

AAUW has a nationwide community of more than 100,000 members and we can proudly say that we represent this membership in Nebraska. We are SMART WOMEN WITH SMART IDEAS. As members, we connect with other women leaders in our communities all around our state and expand nationally, even internationally. We help women think about issues that matter and empower them to use their voices. We strongly believe in ongoing, lifelong learning and educating women to fulfill their potentials. It is important that we keep the fires of our local branches burning and that means we must promote new memberships for each of our branches. We need to think and rekindle new branches around the state. Let's make Membership a goal for 2011-2012.

## AAUW Funds Update

Linda Bors, Finance & EF Chair

AAUW-NE established two Research and Project Grants (R&PGs) which still need to be completed. The Esther Hamon/Leola McKie R&PG currently has \$33,744 and needs \$35,000 by November 2013 for completion. Hamon and McKie were both very active in AAUW at the state and branch levels in the 1970s. Hamon was from the Lincoln Branch; McKie was from the Omaha Branch.

The Stanley Tyler R&PG currently has \$25,373 and needs \$35,000 by May 2014 for completion. The AAUW-NE Executive Committee recently approved renaming this fund to the Stan and Mary (Browne) Tyler R&PG to increase its fund raising potential for completion. The National Board must approve this name change; this is expected to happen at the Board's October 2011 meeting. Mary was AAUW-NE President in 1974-75. In May 1977 while living in Clarinda, IA, her husband, Stan, died of a sudden heart attack. Stan was always very supportive of Mary's AAUW involvement. Mary has been a member of AAUW branches in Nebraska, Iowa, and California. She currently lives in New Mexico, belongs to both the West Mesa and Albuquerque branches, and serves as the AAUW Funds Chair for AAUW-NM.

Your continued support of these AAUW-NE R&PGs would greatly be appreciated.



## AAUW-NE State Convention College of St. Mary Saturday, April 9, 2011

The theme of the convention was “The Courage to Lead” highlighted in this photo with Linda Bors, Linda Tozier, AAUW Director at Large from Pittsburgh, PA, and Marilyn Bombac.



State President Marilyn Bombac welcomes attendees at the luncheon.



Panelists Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM, President of College of St. Mary, Dr. Natalia Peart, Chief Executive Officer, Women’s Center for Advancement, and Mayor Rita Sanders, City of Bellevue talked about their experiences serving in leadership positions. They shared their motivations to seek the position, obstacles to overcome, and highlights of being leaders in their respective fields. They exemplified the theme “**The Courage to Lead.**”



**AAUW**

**Vision:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

**Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

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***AAUW-NE Fall Workshop***  
***“Nebraska Women Leading the Way!”***

**DATE:** Saturday, October 15, 2011

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (AAUW members)  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Other Business, Education,  
Government Leaders)

**PLACE:** Eugene T. Mahoney State Park Lodge  
28500 W. Park Highway  
Ashland, NE 68003  
(402) 944-2523  
(There is an entry fee to park)

**LUNCH:** Pay-As-You-Go Buffet \$9.49

***RSVP to Judy Morss (402) 293-1211 or [jamorss@cox.net](mailto:jamorss@cox.net) by October 5th.***