



NEBRASKA

STATE BULLETIN

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NEW *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* Materials!

AAUW has produced *It's My Vote* temporary tattoos to help spread the word about our voter education campaign and get people excited about voting! The tattoos are now available, along with the *It's My Vote* stickers and reminder postcards we have been using all summer. Each *It's My Vote* postcard contains a voting pledge, an issue interest section, and a place to request more information about AAUW. Branches are encouraged to hand out postcards to the public during any event including tabling, registration drives, and forums. Voters should complete postcards as soon as possible, and in a couple months when the elections are right around the corner, your branch will tell us how many stamps you need and we'll send you the postage so you can mail them their previously completed postcard as a reminder to vote! Your branch should also be keeping a list of the people who fill out the postcards so you can use that list for potential member recruitment and share it with AAUW National for Two-Minute Activist alerts.

If you have any questions about the postcards, or if your branch is interested in receiving postcards, stickers, or tattoos to distribute to the public, please email

VoterEd@aauw.org. (Reprinted from *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* Campaign Update, Vol.1, No.5, September 6, 2012)

Kimberly Fountain, AAUW State Grassroots Advocacy Manager and Zel Fairlie

Campaign Organizer for Nebraska's "It's My Vote - I Will Be Heard," present information at the June

16th event held at the College of St. Mary.

Kimberly administers AAUW's "It's My Vote" campaign where she works to develop education and election action materials in conjunction with publicly coordinating on and offline field tactics, strategies, trainings and GOTV efforts. She additionally oversees the monitoring and tracking of state based legislation on AAUW public policy priorities and coordinates grassroots advocacy. Kimberly brings eight years of organizing experience and seventeen years of non-profit experience to AAUW, with previous positions at United to End Genocide, 1Sky, TrueMajority/USAction, Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. for MoveOn.org Political Action, and AID Atlanta.



Message from Marilyn Bombac

AAUW-NE State President

September is a beautiful month; long summer days begin to shorten, temperatures begin to cool down a little, and our AAUW Nebraska Sisters enthusiastically are marching together with plans and actions for our new year.

Our AAUW-Nebraska Convention in April served as a springboard for continuing with our leadership focus. We are leveraging the resources provided by AAUW through our Public Policy Impact Grant – not only the \$1,000; but also our Grassroots Organizer, Zel Fairlie, who is enthusiastically partnering with many organizations in “Getting Out The Vote”. As another benefit of our grant, AAUW sent Kimberly Fountain (AAUW State Grassroots Advocacy Manager) to Nebraska where she conducted Voter Education training (“*It’s My Vote—I Will Be Heard*”) for us on June 16th at the College of Saint Mary. Many of our branches across the state are encouraging people to register and to vote. These are critical times and it’s important that we actively participate in the political process.



We realize again and again the value of collaboration with like-minded leaders and the excitement that occurs when we synergistically connect with each other. In June, I traveled with Linda Bors, Susan Goos and LeEtta Sprackling to Oklahoma City to participate in the 2012 AAUW Five-State Conference “*AAUW Stepping Up to the Future*”. The speakers were dynamic and the networking/sharing was invaluable. In July, through our participation with the Nebraska Coalition for Constitutional Values, we helped host Lilly Ledbetter at the DC Centre in Omaha, with the theme “*How Federal Courts Impact Our Lives: One Woman’s Battle for Justice*”. Postcards from that event are being delivered to Senator Nelson and Senator Johanns.

Aligning with trusted partners unites our voices and gives us added strength in reaching our goals. I attended an outstanding lecture by Dr. Margaret Wheatley at Bellevue University a few weeks ago where she spoke about “*Living With Interconnectedness: The elements of systems thinking and how we experience them*” – a dynamic and thought-provoking discussion! In the next few weeks, we will be participating with Nebraska Women in Higher Education, Vision 2020, Women’s Fund, and AAUW Branches and Interest Groups. These truly are exciting times!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH Our AAUW-Nebraska Fall Workshop will be held at the College of St. Mary in Omaha. We are continuing with our Women in Leadership theme, and our focus will be “*Making Synergistic Connections*”. I hope to see you there!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has” – Margaret Mead

***A Message from the AAUW
President
Carolyn Garfein***



In the last presidential election, at least six million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2010, even more people stayed home – especially the young people of the millennial generation, who had made such waves just two years before. In 2012, AAUW has become a partner of the National Voter Registration Day program to do our part to make sure no one is left out this election year – especially those young women who have yet to make voting a habit....

On September 25, 2012, volunteers, celebrities, public officials, and organizations from all over the country will "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day. AAUW is taking this great idea one step further, and declaring this National Voter Registration Week for our *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* campaign. This time of coordinated grassroots, social media, and public relations efforts will help increase awareness of voter registration opportunities and the process to get on the rolls. We'll also take the opportunity to educate voters about the various voter ID rules at play in their states, to ensure that both newly registered and longtime voters don't face obstacles on Election Day.

I'm so proud of the AAUW members and *It's My Vote* campaign volunteers, who will be working in their own communities registering tens of thousands of voters in a single day. We'll also be collecting pledges to vote from both new registrants and the already registered; we'll mail these reminders to participants just before the election to remind them of their pledge to vote. Best of all, National Voter Registration Day/Week will be an opportunity to put our political differences aside and celebrate the rights that unite us as Americans. Sounds like a job for AAUW!

(Reprinted from *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* Campaign Update, Vol.1, No.5, September 6, 2012)

AAUW - Nebraska

Motto: Smart Women -- Smart Ideas (who we are)

**Vision: Nebraska women reaching their full potential in their chosen fields.
(what we dream)**

Nebraska Operations:

- Provide supportive environments/relationships
- Value individual talents/strengths
- Focus on unity of purpose

A Collage of AAUW-NE Activities



Karen Linder speaks to the leaders from women's organizations, education, businesses, and government assembled at the AAUW-NE annual convention at Mahoney State Park on April 21, 2012.

Linda Duckworth, president of the Omaha League of Women Voters and AAUW-NE member, portrayed suffragist Susan B. Anthony at the "It's My Vote - I Will Be Heard" training session on June 16th.



Lilly Ledbetter has been a leader in the fight for fair pay since the Supreme Court ruled against her case in 2007. She continues to speak to groups in support of strong fair pay laws as the Paycheck Fairness Act failed to pass both houses of Congress this past June.

Marilyn Bombac, AAUW-Ne State President; Carol Bloch, Co-Chair of the Nebraska Coalition on Constitutional Values; Lilly Ledbetter (featured speaker); Sammie Moshenberg, Director of Washington Operations, National Council of Jewish Women visit at the "How Federal Courts Affect our Lives" luncheon sponsored by their respective organizations.

Communicating with Our Members, Really Communicating, Isn't Easy!

By Denise Britigan, Membership Vice president

Here are some suggested "Do's & Don'ts" to help new people connect with us:

- Do build in redundancy in your communications. Get the word out in multiple formats: mail, phone calls, e-mail, Facebook, twitter, Website, membership directory, calendar, etcetera.
- Don't assume one communication method fits all. Do ask visitors how they prefer to receive information about events and news.
- Don't assume a visitor knows terms and procedures that AAUW uses regularly.
- Do make it easy for newcomers to find answers to questions. Is there something available in writing to send home with them?
- Don't forget to let new people know about a change of the meeting location, time, or upcoming events. We get into a routine, but we forget that others don't know our habits!

This list allows us to put ourselves into the perspective of a newcomer for a change. Be sure to be your warm and welcoming self to others! They just may become new members and help us grow.

Blair Branch Fundraiser

By Marilyn Abariotes, event chair

The Blair Biennial Home and Garden Tour held June 3rd was a major fundraiser for the branch. The 2012 event featured seven gardens with some of the locations including a tour of the home. In addition to a water feature and unusual plants, member Sharon Jensen shared her numerous quilts displayed throughout their early 1900's home. Attendees enjoyed cookies and tea on the screened porch after a tour of the 1920's craftsman style home of member Marilyn Abariotes. Member Muriel Neve shared the garden with a gazebo that she developed after moving into an independent living complex. An 1890's remodeled farm home surrounded by a multitude of plants and two water features proved to be the highlight of the tour. The Blair Branch is always appreciative of the work the garden hosts do to help make this a successful event.

The Omaha Branch Activities

By Margaret J. Munnely, PhD
President

Board members of the Omaha Branch had a busy summer with a variety of activities. We held an Orientation Meeting for new officers, committee chairs and area representatives. Each one was given a handbook detailing her duties, describing various procedures, enclosing necessary forms and including other helpful information.

We also reviewed and revised where necessary our Directory which includes the schedule of interest groups, general meetings with programs and individual members with updated addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc.

A schedule of all programs for the coming year was presented and approved.

The Finance Committee met to develop a Budget for the coming year.

Omaha Branch members also worked with Zel Fairlie on the AAUW project of voter outreach. Zel arranged locations where she met with volunteers who helped register voters. Zel attended our September 8 general meeting to further describe this important project and to enlist volunteers for the remainder of this activity.

Our Branch looks forward to the coming year as a time to increase membership and look for ways to further the AAUW mission.

It is our pleasure to host the upcoming Nebraska State Workshop on October 13 entitled Women in Leadership: "Making Synergistic Connections".

AAUW-NE State Bulletin is published semiannually.

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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.

Marilyn Abariotes
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Blair, NE 68008

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AAUW-NEBRASKA FALL WORKSHOP

DATE: Saturday, October 13, 2012

PLACE: College of St. Mary
Mercy Hall
7000 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE

TIME: 10:00am – 3:00pm

THEME: *Women in Leadership: “Making Synergistic Connections”*

COST: \$20 (includes lunch)

RSVP: **Send your \$20 check, payable to AAUW-Nebraska, to:**
By Oct 3 Linda Bors
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