



# NEBRASKA

## AAUW

## STATE BULLETIN

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Spring 2012

### **Women in Leadership** *“Optimizing Our Relationships”*



The keynote speaker for the AAUW-NE 2012 convention scheduled for Saturday, April 21, at Mahoney State Park is Nebraska native, Karen Linder, who will be presenting “Leadership Lessons from the Women of Berkshire Hathaway” from her book “The Women of Berkshire Hathaway.” The book will be released on May 8<sup>th</sup>, but advance copies will be available at our convention.

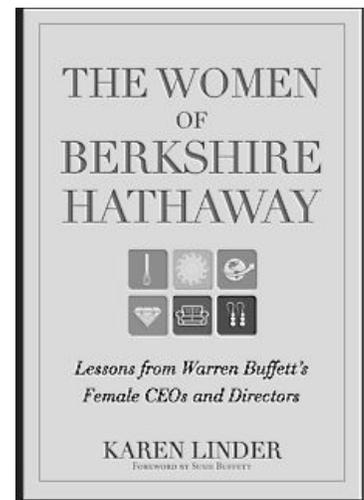
Karen Linder was raised in Lincoln and now lives in Omaha and Montecito, California. She graduated with a B.S. in biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University. She spent 29 years as a Cytotechnologist, studying cells, and has written numerous medical scientific journal articles and books.

Kathy Anthon, AAUW Director-at-Large on the National Board, will also be attending convention to share news from National AAUW. She is a technology sales specialist and former educator for the Buffalo, NY, public school system. She joined the Buffalo Public Schools after acquiring a BS in Education from Buffalo State. While working she completed an MS and Certificate of Advanced Study in Public Administration.

She and her husband have lived in the Dallas/FtWorth area for the past 16 years. After moving to Texas she joined a local branch because she was drawn to the focus of AAUW. She stayed because of being passionate about the people and mission.

Growing up in Seneca Falls, NY, she was steeped in the Women's Rights movement and well educated on the roll Seneca Falls played in equal voting rights for all. This passion and fair treatment for all is why she identifies equity pay and education for women and girls.

**Be sure to register (p. 7) for state convention - April 21<sup>st</sup> at Mahoney State Park. 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

## Nebraska Women Leading the Way

### *“Smart Women – Smart Ideas”*

by Marilyn Bombac, PhD



Through the talent, experience, enthusiasm and dedication of our AAUW leaders and our trusted partners, we are continuing to build upon our past rich heritage in Nebraska. As you know, the spark of AAUW came to Nebraska in 1899 when Mrs. H. Wilson, Dean of Women at the University of Nebraska, attended the Annual Convention of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA) in Chicago and learned that the University of Nebraska was the 22<sup>nd</sup> institution on the ACA approved list. The first meeting was held on June 5, 1900, with five women. I felt strongly that we needed to capture our AAUW-Nebraska journey through the past decades, to give us a sense of pride of our past accomplishments and to also add motivational sparks to our current initiatives. Using some of Mary Ann Sturek’s research, I gathered information and consolidated it into a booklet “Nebraska Women Leading the Way” covering our AAUW journey (1899-2011). The booklets were distributed to all attendees at last year’s state convention. It is inspiring to look through our history and honor yesterday’s leaders, and it is exciting to participate in proactive initiatives today as we create tomorrow’s history. In 2010, we created our AAUW-Nebraska Vision: “Nebraska Women Reaching Their Full Potential in Their Chosen Fields.” I encourage all members, with their special talents and creative ideas, to help in achieving our Vision.



Jean Circo as J. G. Lowe

On October 15, 2011, we met at Mahoney State Park, for our Leadership Summit, with 50 Nebraska women leaders to establish a united force to increase the number of qualified women who aspire and enter positions of leadership in the State of Nebraska. Even though AAUW is a leading voice for women and girls, we realize that by joining voices with other women and organizations we may be able to harness our proactive energies and work together in achieving common goals. Jean Circo (Omaha) set the perfect tone for our event as she presented her character portrayal of Juliet Gordon Lowe, founder of Girl Scouts. We examined research data, enjoyed delicious food, and participated in dynamic table discussions resulting in identifying five prioritized issues: Networking, Mentors/Sponsors, Personal Belief System, Workplace Policies, and “Sticky Floors-Fear.” Some working groups have been meeting to focus on these issues.

Please check our website <http://aauwne.homestead.com> under “Women’s Leadership Project” – documents from the Leadership Summit are posted there by our webmaster, Linda Bors.

## Legislative Day a Success!

By Liz Rea, AAUW-NE Public Policy Chair

A successful Legislative Day was held at the Capitol in Lincoln on February 21, 2012. Eleven AAUW-NE leaders and members were among a total of 37 AAUW-NE, LWVNE and NE BPW registered participants at the Issues Briefing that morning. At the briefing, we heard from Senator Bill Avery, LD 28, Karen Kilgarin, NSEA, and Mary Fraser Meints, NE BPW, about four bills important to all three organizations.



*Senator Bill Avery provided information about LB239 during the opening session.*

Those four bills included LB239, the voter ID bill, and LB269 which would establish the Financial Literacy Cash Fund to assist nonprofits in offering financial literacy programs to K-12 students. Talking points were also presented on LB947 to maintain state aid to public schools at the current \$880 million. This amount is likely to be reduced by \$50 million to pay for the governor's tax cut plan contained in LB970, if adopted. Information was also shared about LB1063, the Children's Health and Treatment Act. Participants then had the opportunity to visit with their senators to encourage them to oppose LB239 and support LB269, LB947 and LB1063.

A noon luncheon at the Governor's Mansion drew 47 members of League, AAUW and BPW along with their guests, Senators Tanya Cook, LD 13, and Burke Harr, LD 8. Other guests were Adam Morfeld, Nebraskans for Civic Reform, and Malinda Frevert, Bold Nebraska. A special surprise guest was Sally Ganem, Nebraska's First Lady, and the family dog, Snickers.

Featured speaker, Senator Tanya Cook, addressed the group on the topic, "Child Welfare and Behavioral Health Issues—an Update". As a member of the Health and Human Services Committee, Senator Cook has been directly involved in crafting legislation to reform Nebraska's child welfare system. Her priority bill, LB1063, would ensure that eligible children get necessary health care services and treatment under Medicaid. In the current system, health care costs are picked up by private providers under contract with the child welfare system, or they are paid for directly with state child welfare funds. In the process, children are denied critical preventative services and treatment as well as those that are medically necessary. As of this writing, LB1063 is on General File. You are encouraged to contact your state senator in support of this bill as a necessary part of fixing the state's broken child welfare system.



*AAUW members attending visit with Senator Tanya Cook: Joanne Carlson, Mary Ann Sturek, Marilyn Abariotes, Marilyn Bombac, Linda Bors, Liz Rea, Sen. Cook, Bev Traub, De Tonack, Linda Duckworth, Jeene Hobbs, Cynthia Tiedeman.*

Evaluations were collected at the end of the luncheon. Many comments reflected positive experiences and suggestions for next year's lobby day. Thanks to all of you who participated to make Legislative Day successful. I look forward to seeing you in Lincoln again in 2013.

New email address for Liz Rea is [lrea.omaha@gmail.com](mailto:lrea.omaha@gmail.com)

## Nominees for State Office

### Alice Hemingway - AAUW Funds VP

I have been a member of AAUW for about ten years and I have been the President of the Scottsbluff Branch since 2009.

At Westminster College in Salt Lake City, UT, I received a BS with majors in biology and chemistry and a minor in mathematics. At the University of New Mexico I received a MA in Teaching Science and a MS in chemistry. For over 30 years I taught community college chemistry and mathematics in Nebraska, Colorado, Washington, and Idaho, retiring in 2010.

My husband and I live east of Scottsbluff on about eight acres with our rescued dogs and cats. With retirement has come explorations in the culinary arts and genealogy using [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com).

### Mary Wakeley - Secretary

I have a BS in Elementary Ed. from UNL, a K-12 library media endorsement from Wayne St. College and a MLS from Emporia University in Kansas. I retired in 2010 after 35 years in education, four years as a classroom teacher and 31 as a Library/Media Specialist.

I joined AAUW in 1971 and was a member of the Norfolk Branch for 41 years until it was disbanded in 2010. I have served in almost every office at the local level and I have also been State Secretary (about four years ago). AAUW has always been important to me as a place where women and women's issues are taken seriously.

My husband and I have one daughter who lives in Omaha. She and her husband have two delightful sons, 4 and 8 years old. We now love to watch them participate in sports and school activities whenever we can.

### Denise Britigan - Membership VP

I am new to Omaha, Nebraska (and AAUW) since my husband Brad and I just moved here at the end of last June. We both started new positions at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Brad as Dean of the College of Medicine, and I as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion, Social & Behavioral Health in the College of Public Health. I enjoy teaching graduate students and we have some very interesting dual-degree programs offered here. This is my third career as I began with a Bachelor degree in Medical Technology (Saint Louis University), then acquired a Master's degree in Library and Information Science (University of Iowa), and then my doctorate in Health Education (focus on Community Health) from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio.

As a brand new member of AAUW, I am impressed with the local branch's diverse and talented membership, qualified luncheon speakers and passionate interest groups. My two children experienced life as I went back to school as a "non-traditional" student. As a mother of a married daughter (Master's degree -- teaching high school biology & Spanish in Iowa), and a son working as a computer animator for a university, I know that I instilled in them the importance of higher education as they grew up because they saw me live it. I am enjoying the opportunity that the AAUW affords me to learn about helping others do the same... experience & model education for their families!

#### ***IT'S MY VOTE – I WILL BE HEARD* Training**

**June 16, 2012**

**Kimberly Fountain**, AAUW State Grassroots Advocacy Manager, will teach us how to mobilize women voters and strengthen the voice of women in the 2012 elections.

**Location and details coming soon.  
Watch for email notification!**

## **Membership Matters**

### **Process for Membership**

Joanne R. Carlson, AAUW-NE Membership VP

Spring is a perfect time to recruit new members and monitor retention of members. A new member joining in the spring actually receives almost 15 months of membership since if they join now, they will be paid up until June 30, 2013.

All members of a branch are part of the Membership Committee. The process is the same for all branches. Members tell their friends about AAUW and the activities of their branch. They invite them to a meeting or give membership information (name, address, phone number and EMAIL address) to the membership chair. The membership chair calls the new prospective member or visits them to provide them with membership information. The membership chair may need to contact prospective members several times. When she finds that the prospective member shows interest, she sends her copies of branch materials and enrollment forms. She provides information regarding dues and interest inventories. She contacts the prospective member to check on her receipt of the information. The membership chair receives the prospective member's check and enrollment forms. She copies them and sends them to the branch treasurer who will send them to national. The membership chair makes sure that the new member has continued contact about all branch activities and may assign her a buddy or will sit with her at meetings.

Although branches focus on membership recruitment, they should also emphasize retention of members. April and May are ideal months to encourage current members to renew for the coming year. A renewal at this time assures that they will continue to receive AAUW information without interruption. The AAUW fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Renewing now assures that members do not forget to renew during the summer. If your current members do not send in their dues for next year, this is the time to call them and ask them about their plans to renew and/or urge them to maintain their membership. The calling task may be handled by members that have a current relationship with the non-renewing member. It will be especially important to contact new branch members and help them to know how valuable they are to the branch. This is a good time for you to reflect on your membership gains or losses of your branch and identify your membership goals for the end of this year and the following year.

### **Membership Matters!**

#### **Omaha, Inc. Branch**

Marilyn Warner, President

The Omaha Branch of AAUW has done an exceptional job of financially supporting both national interests and its own community this year. The Branch has completed the funding of the Leola Hamon/Esther Mckie Research & Project Grant through the National. The Branch is also distributing \$2400 from its investment in the UNL- Omaha Foundation. Two scholarships of equal amounts will be awarded: one to a graduate student and one to an undergraduate student. In addition, four girls from Sherman elementary school will receive scholarships to attend one of the "Aim for the Stars" summer programs that are STEM related.

#### **Scottsbluff AAUW Branch Fundraiser**

Kathy Nielsen, AAUW-NE Funds VP

On President's Day, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Scottsbluff AAUW Branch held their annual Card Party to raise money for their scholarship fund. The party was held at the Residency on Monday afternoon. The branch hosted 15 tables with a total of 66 people playing cards and other games. President Alice Hemingway provided a lovely birthday cake for dessert as it was her birthday. White elephant door prizes were given out in a random drawing. After expenses, the branch cleared \$439.00 from ticket sales and also donations to the scholarship fund. We felt this was quite a success since a heavy snowstorm in the morning prevented some people from attending. The money will be used to award scholarships to students at our June monthly meeting.

**AAUW FIVE-STATE REGIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**AAUW: Stepping Up to the Future**  
**June 8-9, 2012**

Linda Bors, AAUW-NE Finance Officer, Webmaster, and Bylaws Chair

AAUW's Southwest Region was noted for hosting very successful, well attended Regional Conferences. Although AAUW no longer has regions as a formal part of its organizational structure, the five states (AR, KS, MO, OK, TX) that comprised the region are continuing to host a regional conference. Due to Nebraska's proximity to their region, they've invited us to attend as well. I've committed to going and other AAUW-NE members are considering going.

Highlights of the conference include: Executive Director Linda Hallman, keynoter; National Vice-President Patricia Ho, presenter; Dr. Catherine Hill, AAUW Research Director, presenter; Film Showing: Miss Representation; ten breakout sessions on AAUW issues and current equity topics including grant writing, using AAUW electronic resources; the status of women, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, and AAUW public policy initiatives. Session speakers include current national committee members, community leaders, experts on equity issues, and political leaders. Additional highlights are fundraising sales possibilities for states and branches; introduction of AAUW's new research report; opportunities to visit exciting venues in Oklahoma City; and networking with AAUW members across the mid-west.

It's a fantastic program for a regional event. The registration is only \$40 (\$20 for students) with a \$20 luncheon, and hotel rates are reasonable. The registration deadline is June 3, 2012. More information is available on the State website, <http://aauwne.homestead.com/>, on the Events webpage. Oklahoma City is only 475 miles from Omaha. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. I will arrange car pooling as needed for AAUW-NE and post additional information on our website as it becomes available. Please contact me at [linda.bors@cox.net](mailto:linda.bors@cox.net) no later than May 15, 2012, if you would like to car pool.

**2012 AAUW FIVE-STATE CONFERENCE**

**June 8-9, 2012**

**Embassy Suites, 1815 S Meridian**

**Oklahoma City, OK 405-682-6000**

**Registration Form**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:	Branch President	Branch Member
	Current State President	Student Affiliate
	State AAUW Board	National Member
	Former State President	College/University Rep
	Other _____	First AAUW Conference

\_\_\_\_\_ Conference Registration\* \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Registration 20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Gala Luncheon 20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(Rosemary chicken, salad, vegetable, starch, beverage, rolls, dessert)

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation for a Student Conference Registration \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

(\*This includes Reception Friday evening, all conference materials, breaks, Turkish Coffee event, and other miscellaneous conference expenses. Separate registrations are required for the cruise and the Run/Walk/Sleep In)

If you have special needs, please list below.

Make checks payable to: AAUW Five-State Regional Conference - Deadline: June 3, 2012

Mail to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Berquist, Manchester MO 63011

Information: Contact [sbreeze@mindspring.com](mailto:sbreeze@mindspring.com)

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 405-682-6000.

# AAUW Nebraska State Convention

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park  
Peter Kiewit Lodge, Nebraska Room  
Ashland, Nebraska

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

## Women in Leadership *“Optimizing Our Relationships”*

- Hear Karen Linder discuss her new book “The Women of Berkshire Hathaway”
- Purpose of this book is to inspire and energize women interested in
  - Pursuing business careers
  - Becoming an entrepreneur
  - Serving in leadership roles
- “The Women of Berkshire Hathaway” published by John Wiley & Sons (New York), will be released on May 8, but advance copies will be available at our AAUW-Nebraska Convention, April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Participate in dynamic discussions

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Convention Business Meeting  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Karen Linder “*Leadership Lessons from Women of Berkshire Hathaway*”  
Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Dynamic discussions/action planning

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**REGISTRATION: \$20.00 (includes lunch and refreshments)**

Send **\$20 check, payable to AAUW - NE,**

to Linda Bors, 9542 Ruggles Street, Omaha, NE 68134-3831, 402-571-0847

[linda.bors@cox.net](mailto:linda.bors@cox.net) by **Saturday, April 7, 2012.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch (if member) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_



**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  
2222 Jackson St.  
Blair, NE 68008

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Permit #55

## What is VISION 2020?

**VISION 2020** is a national project of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine focused on advancing gender equality by energizing the dialogue about women and leadership. Their first public event took place in October 2010, when a congress of national delegates, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, met at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to launch an action agenda to move America toward equality by 2020, the centennial celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. More than 1,000 registered to nominate or become VISION 2020 National Delegates, but in the end it came down to 102 extraordinary women (two from each state and District of Columbia) who will serve as chief advocates for women's leadership and equality in their home states. Dr. Marilyn Bombac has been selected to serve as our VISION 2020 Nebraska Delegate.

In 2010, VISION 2020 began to develop and launch its decade-long action agenda to move America toward equality by inspiring and engaging new generations of women and men to finish the work of the suffragists, who pursued women's right to vote as fundamental to social and economic justice. The centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution will be celebrated in 2020. VISION 2020's National Goals:

- Achieve pay equity, so that equal pay for equal work will be the norm in America
- Increase the number of women in senior leadership positions in American life to reflect the workforce talent pool and demographics
- Educate employers about the value of policies and practices that enable men and women to share fairly their family responsibilities
- Educate new generations of girls and boys to respect their differences and to act on the belief that America is at its best when leadership is shared and opportunities are open to all
- Mobilize women in America to vote, with particular emphasis on a record-setting turnout in 2020, the centennial of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Please check the website <http://www.drexel.edu/vision2020> to follow our progress and join the Campaign for Equality.