

NEBRASKA

State Bulletin



Volume 70, No. 2

Fall 2014

President's Message

By Susan Goos

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Nebraska State President. Summer has been flying by so fast; it's hard to believe that fall is nearly here. AAUW on the state and national level has continued to be active for all of us.

Past President Marilyn Bombac and I attended the Mid-West Regional AAUW conference which held at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. We were able to meet and work with exciting women from all over the Mid-West. The conference highlighted "AAUW, Advocacy and You". The Keynote speaker was AAUW's VP of Government Relations, Lisa Maatz. She explained the excellent job AAUW does for us on Capitol Hill; our Lobby Corp is well respected, but they rely on all of us to do our part by communicating with our Senators and Representatives. We can do this through AAUW's Action Alerts, writing e-mails, phone calls and building relationships with the people in our local district Legislative Offices. I encourage any of you to attend these regional and national meetings. I always leave with enthusiasm and energy.

This summer we hosted a meeting in Omaha with past and present State and Branch Presidents, Program Vice Presidents and College/University Representatives. It was great to discuss planning for our organization; we have an amazing effect on the organizations and communities to which we belong. We will be planning to leverage that effect. Sharing Leadership will be our theme for the next 2 years in Nebraska AAUW. There are so many ways to implement this leadership policy. Sharing across the generations is critical to our continued growth; Marilyn spoke on that topic at the Regional Conference. Young members bring energy, idealism and new ideas, working women bring knowledge and mentoring skills, older women bring experience, time and ideas. Sharing also means continuing to grow our collaboration with other organizations that share our ideals. We encourage creative ways to share leadership positions within our branches. Sharing jobs is commonly practice in our Branches.

National priorities include strengthening member engagement, proactive opportunities for leadership development, collaborating with the state and branches, enhancing the influence of AAUW and increasing AAUW's visibility and impact. These are goals we can work with on the state and branch levels.

Our vision in AAUW Nebraska is "Nebraska Women Reaching Their Full Potential In Their Chosen Fields". We are "Smart Women – Smart Ideas".

AAUW-Nebraska Fall Workshop
“Nebraska Women in Leadership – Sharing Leadership”
 Sponsored by American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Nebraska
 Saturday, October 4, 2014

Learn About Exciting Initiatives of “Sharing Leadership”

At the National Level
At the State Level
At the Local Level

VISION 2020: A national coalition of organizations and individuals united in the commitment to achieve women’s economic and social equality.

- Dr. Marilyn Bombac and Dr. Denise Britigan, Vision 2020 Nebraska Delegates

Coalition for a Strong Nebraska: Organizations across the State of Nebraska are doing incredible work to create opportunity for all and to make our communities more vibrant and inclusive.

- Rebecca Gould, Executive Director, Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

Metropolitan Community College: A comprehensive, full-service public community college supported by the taxpayers of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Its purpose is to provide high quality educational programs and services, primarily in career preparation and general education, to people of all ages and educational backgrounds.

Join Us October 4th at
The Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Rooms 201/205/209
UNO, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration, Coffee, Morning Refreshments	
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Women in Leadership “Sharing Leadership” Program	<i>(Lunch at Noon)</i>

Registrations must be received by Saturday, September 27th

\$20 regular, \$10 college students – includes program, morning refreshments and lunch

Register: On-line at aauw-ne.aauw.net via PayPal (PayPal account not needed), or

Send registration form with check (include your box lunch selection)

For questions, contact Linda Bors, linda.bors@cox.net, 402-571-0847

Call to Action on Two Fronts

By Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair, AAUW-NE

In less than 80 days, Nebraskans and voters across the country will go to the polls to cast their ballots at the midterm elections on November 4th. On the national level, the gender pay gap has long been an issue of highest priority for AAUW members. At the state level, AAUW-NE prioritized support for LB943, a bill sponsored by Senator Jeremy Nordquist (LD7), to increase Nebraska's hourly minimum wage from the current \$7.25 to \$9.00 by 2016.. Unfortunately, the bill died in the Unicameral earlier this year.

At both levels, working women and their families suffer from the inequities of the gender pay gap and inadequate wages in general. Now is the time to let your Congressman/U.S. senators know that you support the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA), S.84 and H.R. 377, to close the wage gap between men and women. Currently, both bills are stalled in Congress. Now is also the time to support Nebraskans for Better Wages with its goal of successfully increasing Nebraska's minimum wage by voting for Initiative 425 on November 4th.

The most recent findings of a U.S. Census Bureau report, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012*, reveals the following facts about wage discrimination:

- The median earnings for U.S. women working full-time, year-round were just 77% of U.S. men's median earnings—a gap of 23%.
- The wage gap persists across all racial and ethnic groups, and it is found in every one of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Median annual earnings for men in Nebraska were \$42,878 compared to women's median annual earnings of \$33,218—an earnings ratio of 77%, just as it is nationally.
- On the national level, recent research indicates that 40% of households with children include a mother who is either the sole or primary breadwinner for her family. Pay equity is not only a matter of fairness—it is the key to making ends meet for families.
- Wage discrimination limits women's choices in their ability to buy homes or pay for a college education. It also limits their total lifetime earnings that results in a reduction in their retirement savings and benefits.

The PFA (S.84/H.R. 377) would expand the scope of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to provide incentives for employers to follow the law, strengthen penalties for violations, enhance federal efforts, and prohibit retaliation against workers asking about wage practices.

During this month's congressional recess, contact your representatives to say this:

The gender pay gap still stands at an average of 77 cents on the dollar, and the numbers are worse for mothers, the disabled, and women of color. For the third time in four years, Congress has failed to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA), most recently in April 2014.

Question: What is your position on the Paycheck Fairness Act, and what do you intend to do when you return to Washington in September to close the wage gap?

In Nebraska, Initiative 425 to increase the minimum wage will be on the November 4th ballot. We know that our middle class is shrinking. The median household income has declined by 5% over the past decade.

Increasing numbers of Nebraska families are struggling to get by from paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet. The following facts are also relevant:

- At Nebraska's current hourly minimum wage of \$7.25, a worker working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, earns \$15,080. This amount is below the federal poverty level for families of two or more. Simply put, the current minimum wage keeps Nebraska's families in poverty.
- In 2012, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 32,000 hourly workers in Nebraska earned at or below the minimum wage.
- In 2012, Nebraska had the second highest percentage of hourly workers earning at or below minimum wage in comparison to that in surrounding states.
- Across the country, adults in increasing numbers are spending their careers in low-wage jobs while struggling to support their families. In actual fact, 88% of America's low-wage workers are over the age of 20.
- Today the federal minimum wage would be \$10.56 per hour had it kept pace with inflation over the past 40 years. The last time the federal hourly minimum wage was increased to the current \$7.25 was in 2009. Nebraska's current minimum wage mirrors that of the federal government.

Raising Nebraska's minimum wage would benefit employees and their families, employers and our state's economy in the following ways:

- *Benefit to Employees and Their Families:* Increasing the minimum wage by just 10% would reduce poverty by 2.4% as a critical part of rebuilding Nebraska's shrinking middle class.
- *Benefit to Employers:* An increase in the minimum wage reduces employee turnover and increases employee productivity.
- *Benefit to our State's Economy:* For every \$1.00 in wage increase for a worker making minimum wage, the result is an estimated \$2,800 in new consumer spending by the employee's household over the next year.

Your call to action on this issue is to educate your family members, friends and neighbors about the importance of voting for Initiative 425 on Election Day November 4th. Polls show that about 60% of Nebraskans support an increase in the minimum wage. By voting for it, workers will be voting to give themselves a pay raise instead of waiting for their bosses to give them one. It is very important we get every single eligible voter to the polls, and your help in doing this is also greatly appreciated.

Be politically active this fall by supporting and working for candidates who support an increase in the minimum wage. Expect that there will be a robust campaign against this ballot initiative that will be well-funded. Realize that we do not have to believe the opposition's false claims or become resigned to having "deep pockets" determine the outcome of our election. **Know that it is only we the voters who will determine the outcome of our election.** Our vote is our voice. By voting for Initiative 425 in large numbers, we can forge ahead to a brighter future that will insure greater economic security for Nebraska's families.

Current AAUW National Interface with AAUW-Nebraska

by Linda Bors

The following AAUW programs show some of the ways AAUW National and AAUW-Nebraska are impacting and influencing each other during fiscal year 2014-15.

AAUW-Nebraska Sponsored Endowments:

Louise Pound International Fellowship, recipient is:

- Swati Surkar of India, PhD in Pediatric Neuro - Rehabilitation at UNMC
 - o Researching early identification of movement dysfunctions in children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy using brain-imaging technology

Anne Campbell Research and Projects Grants, used for a Career Development Grant, recipient is:

- Stephanie Brown, MS in Speech/Language Pathology at Florida State University, Tallahassee
 - o Plans to work at a rehabilitation center or speech clinic to gain experience with a variety of communication disorders

Esther Hamon/Leola McKie Research and Projects Grants, used for a Career Development Grant, recipient is:

- Natalie Cooper, MS in Forestry at University of Florida, Gainesville
 - o Studying tropical conservation/development and Latin America, plans to continue working with tropical forests in Latin American communities to sustainably manage their natural resources

Stan and Mary (Tyler) Browne Research and Projects Grants, used for a Career Development Grant, recipient is:

- Sheryl Muirhead McCrea, MBA at Florida International University, Miami
 - o Specializing in healthcare, aspires to make an impact in that ever-changing industry

No other fellowship or grant recipients are studying in Nebraska

AAUW-NE Leader in National Leadership Position:

- Linda Bors – Governance Committee member

Current College/University Partners

Nebraska Membership

Denise Britigan, AAUW-NE Membership VP

I am pleased to share with our Nebraska AAUW members that Omaha, Nebraska is now the residence of a winner of an AAUW International Fellowship Award. Swati Surkar, MS, PT is a PhD candidate in Rehabilitation Science. She writes,

“Currently, I am pursuing PhD in Neuro-Rehabilitation at Munroe Meyer Institute with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). I have completed Bachelor (2000-2005) and Master in Physical Therapy (2005-2008) in India. I was working as a faculty in Physical Therapy at G.S. Medical College, Mumbai, India during 2008-2012. However, due to my natural inclination in research, I joined PhD at UNMC in Fall 2012 under the guidance of Dr. Regina Harbourne. My research includes motor control in children with cerebral palsy. My

PhD research work focuses on ‘Early identification and intervention for action-planning deficits in children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy.’”

I look forward to meeting Swati myself and bringing her as a guest to our area branch meetings to meet you all, too!

Branch Highlights

LINCOLN BRANCH by De Tonack, President

The Lincoln Branch is striking out on a new approach to its monthly programs this coming year. Led by vice presidents in charge of programs Arlene Rea, Marilyn Grady, and Barb Gaither we are investigating poverty in the Lincoln area. We are also opening our presentations to guests. The first gathering will be Monday September 15 at 6 p.m. Kaplan University, room 106. We have chosen “The Butterfly Effect” video for a beginning “kick-off” reminder that small things can make a big difference and hopefully, through the year and in coming years, our Lincoln Branch can find ways to give a helping hand to the poverty in our community. Other programs will include speakers addressing children in poverty, the needs for good food, good health, and good education. Housing, financial security, and a few other programs are already in place. We would be delighted for any of you to join us. Desserts and drinks will be provided.



Past State and Branch Presidents

OMAHA BRANCH by Marilyn Bombac, President

Our Omaha Branch is enthusiastically planning for our new year. In June, Susan Goos and I hosted a “Sharing Leadership” forum at The Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center at UNO for AAUW Past and Current State and Branch Presidents, current Program VPs and College/University Representatives. Many traditional and innovative ideas were shared in a spirit of cooperation and encouragement. Our Branch plans to incorporate some of the insights and actions that were identified during this forum. In August, our elected and appointed officers attended an Orientation conducted by our Branch Director, Susan Goos, to welcome and connect our branch leaders. Our committees are formed, programs are scheduled, our directory is getting ready for the printer; and, our 16 Interest Groups are anxiously looking forward to getting together again in the fall.

*“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*

Photographic Highlights from the AAUW-Nebraska Spring Workshop “Women in Leadership: Conversations on Pathways to Success”



Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Maryanne Stevens; President,
College of St. Mary



Learn to Negotiate Your Salary with
Dr. Karen Falconer Al-Hindi, UNO
and Allison Taylor, Creighton



Dr. Tanya Winegard, Creighton with
Panelist: Dr. Karletta White, University
of Iowa



Rosalyn Cotton and Vera Valtier with Panelist: Ms. Gina
Ponce, Women on a Mission for Change



Peggy Ryan Williams, AAUW National Board Representative with Dr. Dr. Maryanne Stevens; President, College of St. Mary



Denise Britigan
AAUW-NE Membership VP

Fall Workshop – Nebraska Women in Leadership - Sharing Leadership

Sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) – Nebraska

Join us Saturday, October 4, 2014 at:

The Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center
Rooms 201/205/209, UNO, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha

8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration, Coffee, Morning Refreshments
9:00 am - 4:00 pm Women in Leadership “Sharing Leadership” Program
(Lunch at Noon)

For any program questions, please contact Lina Cashin at
Lina.Cashin@gmail.com, 321-576-2526

Registrations must be received no later than Saturday, September 27th

\$20 regular, \$10 college students – includes program, morning refreshments and lunch

Register: On-line at aauw-ne.aauw.net via PayPal (PayPal account not needed), or

Send registration form with check (include your box lunch selection)
For questions, contact Linda Bors, linda.bors@cox.net, 402-571-0847



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 philanthropy, and research.

AAUW-NE Vision: Nebraska Women Reaching Their Full Potential In Their Chosen Fields

AAUW-NE may use a limited number of photos taken of this event on our website, in our newsletter, and other materials for educational and promotional purposes. If you have any concerns about this, please contact our webmaster at linda.bors@cox.net or 402-571-0847.

AAUW-NE FALL 2014 Workshop Registration

This form is for those who wish to register by mail.

Name: _____

Branch (if member): _____

Organization/Business or College (if student): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Box lunch selection: Roast Beef Ham Turkey Vegetarian

Registration fees: Regular - \$20, Students - \$10. Please send a check, payable to AAUW-NE, to:
Linda Bors, 9542 Ruggles St, Omaha, NE 68134-3831, linda.bors@cox.net, 402-571-0847.

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th