

NEBRASKA

State Bulletin



Volume 71, No. 1

Spring 2015

AAUW-Nebraska Convention - *Nebraska Women in Leadership*
Sponsored by American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Nebraska
Saturday, April 11, 2015

Learn About Exciting Initiatives of
“Sharing Leadership—Partnering for Success”
Achieving Pay Equity - Running for Office - Harnessing Technology

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Rosalyn Cotton is currently serving as Chairperson on the Nebraska Board of Parole in Lincoln and has extensive professional experience with the Department of Corrections. Ms. Cotton also serves as visiting professor for several colleges and works with at-risk youths. Rosalyn has a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Law and Sociology from Wayne State College; and, a Master of Science in Urban Studies with a special emphasis in Criminal Justice from UNO.

Partnering with College Leaders: Hear from three panelists representing some of our “Women in Leadership” local college initiatives in the economic, political, and technological areas:

- Sara White, UNO, *\$tart \$mart* (economic)
- Sarah Peraud, Creighton University, *Elect Her* (political)
- Teresa Mardesen, College of Saint Mary, *Tech Savvy* (technological)

Join Us April 11th at The Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Rooms 230-231
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)

Registrations must be received by Saturday, April 4th

\$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 registration questions, contact Linda Bors, linda.bors@cox.net, 402-571-0847

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER



Dear AAUW Members,

On behalf of the AAUW Board of Directors, I'd like to thank you for the time, talent, and energy you invest in AAUW on a daily basis. For 134 years, this organization has relied on the dedication of members like you to make sure that women and girls have the widest possible access to opportunity. That's no small task when we think of all we have faced and still encounter every day!

Spring is always an exciting time of year for AAUW members! In addition to attending state conventions and helping launch our new research report, *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing*, this spring finds us participating in the AAUW national election and packing our bags for the national convention in San Diego! There are so many things to do and ways to shape this wonderful organization.

One AAUW! That's the feeling we get when we speak with one another, and that's the message of this year's national presentation. So much goes on under so many roofs, but we really are **one** AAUW. Whether you're an individual member passionate about eradicating the wage gap or a branch of 350 members who want to introduce more girls to the wonders of a career in computer science—we are all part of that large one AAUW! We are a single organization, with many moving parts, but one mission ... to help women and girls achieve their career and educational dreams.

The national board and staff of AAUW are proud to take part in your state gatherings as we share and learn together.

We also want to remind you of the many resources available for you in your role as leaders and members. From our content-rich website, www.aauw.org, to our many member leadership skills trainings and the phenomenally energizing event that is our national convention, we all work together to make our one AAUW the cultural climate-changer it has always been.

I hope you have an outstanding meeting, and I look forward to seeing you in person in San Diego. Your passion and commitment are sure to help our one AAUW remain the leading voice on issues that affect America's women and families.

Best wishes,

Patricia Fae Ho
AAUW President

President's Message – Why AAUW?

By Susan Goos

AAUW National will be releasing new research on March 26 entitled “Solving the Equation: The Variable for Women’s Success in Engineering and Computing.” About 80% of STEM jobs are in the Engineering and Computing fields; this research is important. Be sure to look on the website for it. AAUW Funds raised over \$4 million in 2014. WOW! Equal Pay Day for 2015 is on April 14; this is the day that women catch up to men in pay. AAUW is working for women and girls in all of these fields: advocacy, education, research and philanthropy, we can be proud of our membership in this organization.

AAUW is also active in Nebraska. Two universities (the University of Nebraska Omaha and Creighton University) are doing \$start \$mart programs, which help women learn to advocate for themselves and learn to negotiate their salaries. The College of St Mary is partnering with our Omaha AAUW branch to put on a Tech Savvy program for young women, showcasing STEM careers. Creighton University is presenting an “Elect Her” program to teach skills to college women so that they are ready to run for elected office. University of Nebraska Medical Center has a student who received money from AAUW Funds. We are making a difference in our state.

You are invited to our AAUW Nebraska Convention where we will be showcasing many of the things AAUW is doing in Nebraska and at the national level. Convention is in Omaha this year on the UNO campus; the date is April 11. Please come and bring friends.

All of the projects listed above were made possible by your contributions to AAUW Funds. These contributions are tax deductible; I urge you to increase your giving to AAUW Funds. I also urge you to vote in the National Elections later this spring. You have a voice in who leads our organization. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Nebraska Convention in April.

AAUW-NE/LWVNE Legislative Day a Big Success!

By Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair, AAUW-NE and VP Action, LWVNE



Liz Rea, AAUW-Nebraska Public Policy Chair, with Senator Adam Morfeld, luncheon speaker at Governor's mansion on Legislative Day on February 25, 2015.

Forty AAUW-NE and League of Women Voters Nebraska (LWVNE) members and guests gathered in Lincoln on February 25, 2015 for Legislative Day. Members and guests received information on bills for which the two organizations and NSEA have the same position, as well as some lobbying tips from Karen Kilgarin, NSEA Director of Public Affairs & Communications. Once the briefing at the NSEA Building was completed, everyone went across the street to the Capitol Building to observe debate on the chamber floor and to visit with

senators/staff members about three or four priority bills the organizations have in common. Each participant carried a folder that contained pertinent information about the Unicameral as well as talking points for the bills focused on for the day. Members and guests traveled in teams to have conversations with senators and/or their staff members with the purpose of also delivering a folder to each senator that contained a letter describing our focus for the day and talking points for the bills that were the center of our attention.

A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all at the Governor's Mansion at Noon. Forty-eight members and guests were in attendance to hear our speaker, Senator Adam Morfeld, LD46 on the topic, "Where Are We on Voter ID?" A Q/A session followed his remarks. Although the main voter ID bill, LB111, has been bracketed for the remainder of this session, it is likely it will be reintroduced in 2016. In their visits with senators and/or staff members, participants were asked to thank senators who voted to bracket, or end debate on LB111, for the remainder of the 2015 session. For at least the last three or four years, both LWWNE and AAUW have been opponents of requiring a government-issued photo ID in order to vote. We do so because Nebraska does not have a problem with voter fraud or impersonation. As in other states that require a photo ID for voting purposes, it is likely to create a hardship for Nebraskans who are students and for low-income populations who are quite mobile, as well as for senior citizens who no longer drive and do not have drivers' licenses.

The day wrapped up with an optional tour of the Governor's Mansion. Many participants chose instead to attend the HHS Committee hearing on LB472, the Medicaid Redesign Act, after lunch. Their willingness to do so as a means to follow up on one of the bills focused on in conversations with senators earlier in the day is most appreciated.

It is interesting to note that our very first combined LWWNE and AAUW-NE Legislative Day was held in 2008. Our recent 2015 legislative day is the eighth such consecutive event in the seven years since then. As in years past, our 2015 day was well-received by participants. Comments on this year's evaluations, as in past years, have been consistently positive.

Our combined legislative day is an excellent "Democracy in Action" event that provides our members and guests a unique opportunity to make a difference in the realm of lawmaking and public policy. Seldom, if ever, do good laws and public policy result from the actions of one group acting alone. Instead they are the result of actions taken by informed, active and involved citizens working cooperatively in groups over many years to bring about positive change. Legislative Day is on a sound footing. It should continue in its current organization and execution in the years ahead.

Branch Highlights

New Legacy Member in Lincoln Chapter

Congratulations to Rosalind Morris, an AAUW life member of the Lincoln Branch, who has joined the Legacy Circle. Rosalind, along with Linda Bors, Arlene Deerson, and Susan Goos, has acted on her commitment to AAUW's mission by making this planned gift.

The Legacy Circle honors those donors who have expressed their commitment to the mission of AAUW through a planned gift, such as a charitable gift annuity, or through a bequest. These gifts are critical, as AAUW continues its efforts to break through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance. Gifts that have been designated for use in the areas of greatest need are the best way to provide

support where it is most needed for AAUW's charitable programs. By providing for AAUW through your estate plan, your dedication to AAUW will continue as we work to empower women and girls.

LINCOLN BRANCH by Arlene Rea, Program Vice President

The Lincoln Branch has been studying a series of issues around poverty during the months of September through April. The February program featured three women who work with immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America and Viet Nam. In Lincoln, there are over 50 immigrant groups. These groups come to Lincoln and stay because the community is welcoming and there are jobs. Many immigrants depend upon relatives, who are already in the community, for support. If they are in Lincoln illegally, they cannot receive any assistance such as food, housing, legal, or medical services. They live in constant fear of being deported, but they see Lincoln as a better alternative to living in their own country. If the immigrants have refugee status, then they qualify for the services mentioned above. All immigrant children, legal or not, receive educational benefits, through the public schools.

More immigrants would come to the United States if they would be allowed as many are not allowed to leave their own countries. In addition, an immigrant has to complete paperwork that insures that they will be a productive United States citizen and that they have the financial backing to survive in the United States. The March presentation will look at financial security, while the April session will review available housing in Lincoln.

OMAHA BRANCH by Marilyn Bombac, President

Our Omaha Branch members continue to engage in proactive activities throughout various areas of our community in an effort to empower our Nebraska women in all stages of their lives. We conducted our first AAUW Orientation after our February general meeting for prospective and current members to give an overview of AAUW—who we are and what we do. One prospective member has already joined our branch and two other attendees stated that they will join this month. We plan to conduct the AAUW Orientation at least twice a year. Our members continue to amaze me with their talents and energy. Shirley Carpenter led our Read Across America initiative on March 2nd as many of our members enthusiastically read stories to young people at Sherman Elementary School. We realize the importance of linking with our college sisters. AAUW-Omaha donated \$1,500 toward the 2nd Annual *empowHER* event at the College of Saint Mary. On March 26th, Zhenya Muzyka, founder of Zhenya's Gypsy Tea Company, will present "10 Secrets of Success at any Stage in the Game of Life". We are looking forward to enjoying wine and appetizers and also have the opportunity to sample Zhenya's Gypsy Tea. We are very excited to learn that Creighton University has been selected to host the first ElectHer training in Nebraska; a wonderful collaborative partnership with AAUW. Amanda McGill will share some of the challenges and opportunities of running for office; and, Kate Farrar, AAUW Campus Leadership Program, will help facilitate this event on March 28th. AAUW-Nebraska has donated \$200 to help defray some of the food costs, and branch members are invited to the afternoon reception on campus. We are pulling together to support our state convention which will be held at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center on the UNO campus on April 11th; and, many members are meeting regularly to plan our first Tech Savvy event that is scheduled on Saturday, June 13th, on the campus of College of Saint Mary. Yes, this is an active branch with talented, energetic, intelligent and caring members who take the time to mentor, educate, support and advocate so our vision, "***Nebraska Women Reaching Their Full Potential in Their Chosen Fields***" becomes a reality.

"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

AAUW-Nebraska Convention – Women in Leadership “Sharing Leadership and Partnering for Success”

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**The Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Rooms 230 - 231
University of Nebraska, Omaha
6001 Dodge Street, Omaha**

8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration, Coffee, Morning Refreshments
9:00 am - 4:00 pm “Partnering for Success” Program (*Lunch at Noon*)

For any program questions, please contact Lina Cashin at lina.cashin@gmail.com, 321-576-2526 or Marilyn Bombac at mbombac@aol.com, 402-292-6245

Registrations must be received no later than Saturday, April 4th

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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 jamorss@cox.net or 402-293-1211.

AAUW-NE 2015 State Convention 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 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, APRIL 4th



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