

NEBRASKA

State Bulletin



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President's Message

By Susan Goos

Now that the 2014 election is over; we continue to have work to do. AAUW supported increasing the minimum wage; Nebraska was one of 5 states that passed this measure. Liz Rea has outlined ways we can stay involved in the legislative process. Please take note of her suggestions in this newsletter. I urge you to attend 2014 Legislative Day in Lincoln on February 25th. It is a good way to encourage our senators to support our priorities, we learn a great deal about the legislative process and it's fun. Please put this date on your calendar.

The AAUW National Convention will be held in San Diego June 19 – 22, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina. For more information visit convention.aauw.org. If you register early, you will get the best-value rates. These national conventions are worth attending; the women you will meet will energize you to come home and implement exciting ideas. I hope several women from Nebraska will attend.

Announcing LWVNE/AAUW-NE Legislative Day, February 25, 2015

By Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair, AAUW-NE

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska (LWVNE) and the American Association of University Women of Nebraska (AAUW-NE) are again sponsoring a combined lobby day with state senators in Lincoln on **Wednesday, February 25, 2015**. **Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in this "democracy in action" event.**

The day will start with a briefing in the Board Room of the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) Office Building at 605 South 14th Street directly across the street west of the Capitol Building. The briefing will focus on three bills or resolutions that have priority status for both LWVNE and AAUW-NE. Participants will then have the opportunity to visit with state senators about these three pieces of legislation and why they are important to the members of both organizations. The day will conclude with a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion at Noon. Invite your senator to be your guest.

Now that the 2014 Mid-Term Election is over, it is an ideal time to write a note to your state senator to say that you are an active LWVNE and/or AAUW-NE member. Tell them you will be in touch with them periodically

during the upcoming Unicameral session to encourage them to support the LWVNE/AAUW-NE position on a particular piece of legislation. Your message should be sent by U.S. Mail. Notes of this nature command more attention from the recipient than does an e-mail message or a phone call. This is true for a brand new senator you've never contacted before or one you've lobbied for many years and with whom you have an ongoing relationship.

It's very important to establish and keep the lines of communication open with your senator whether they are a new lawmaker, have one year of experience, or you've known them as a member of the Unicameral for several years. Regular contact will help you get to know them and their stands on issues, and they will become familiar with you as well. When Legislative Day rolls around and you have a chance to visit with him or her, you will not be a stranger to them nor will they be unfamiliar to you. You can see a list of District Senators by using this link: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php

Send your note to the State Capitol mailing address:

Senator's Name
District Number State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Members of LWVNE/AAUW-NE have a lot of credibility with senators. They depend upon us to share our knowledge, insights and experiences with them regarding a legislative issue which will help them make an informed decision in the best interests of Nebraskans. Your active involvement in the legislative process is appreciated, and I look forward to seeing you on February 25th.

Nebraska Membership

By Denise Britigan, AAUW-NE Membership VP

Last month, I had the pleasure of joining 25 other State Membership VP's across the country on a conference call to exchange ideas for membership in AAUW. I learned that some branches meet in people's homes, some only meet quarterly, and some meet only once per year face-to-face because they are a virtual branch (totally online only)! I also learned that some branches include male members, and some branches are a "hybrid" of both face-to-face and virtual meetings via Facebook. The important thing that I learned is that members keep active in their membership by finding and doing what works best for them! I am glad to learn that I am a part of a *flexible* organization.

Have you been wishing that a loved one (family member or friend) would join AAUW for its many benefits, but they don't live near you? Send them this link or print this and send it to them! Maybe you have even considered buying a membership as a gift for them? Let us guide you and make it happen. Give a gift that keeps on giving! <http://www.aauw.org/membership/how-to-join/>

How to Join

Joining AAUW is easy, and where you take that membership is up to you. You can engage in your community branch on the front lines or you can join a virtual AAUW community online; whatever your level of involvement, your membership supports and furthers AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls.

Just the facts:**Who can join?**

Membership is open to anyone holding an associate's (or equivalent, e.g. RN), bachelor's, or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

What type of membership is available?

National membership: Become a national member and connect through our website, plus enjoy special members-only online publications.

Branch members: Do you want to make a direct impact in your community? Consider joining a local or virtual branch of AAUW, or start one in your area. Includes national membership.

Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF): Designed by and for women in their 20s and 30s, YWTF offers young women an opportunity to take action on issues that matter most to them.

Student affiliation: If your college is already a partner member, you can be a student affiliate for free! If not, bring AAUW to your campus by starting an AAUW student organization!

Tax Deductibility: Because AAUW is a 501(c)(3) charitable membership organization, most of your national dues are tax deductible on your personal federal income tax return.

Stay tuned for some new information on membership dues payment options from our Financial Officer in the near future!

Branch Highlights

LINCOLN BRANCH by De Tonack, President

The Lincoln Branch has had initial success with its program's emphasis on poverty in Lincoln. Ten to fifteen additional guests have attended each presentation and more are always welcome. Organized by vice presidents in charge of programming, Arlene Rea and Marilyn Grady, three meetings have been held. The latest was a visit to Matt Talbot Kitchen to focus on the need for food in our community. October's program presented an overview of poverty in Lincoln and was held at the Center for People in Need. Beatty Brasch presented several points of information and handouts on the various economic and emotional struggles. Jill McCaslin-Timmons presented a PowerPoint exploring the struggles of one particular woman meeting the challenges of poverty.

OMAHA BRANCH by Marilyn Bombac, President

Our Omaha Branch members are enthusiastically engaging in many focused and productive initiatives. We are looking forward to formally welcoming our newest members at our traditional Red Candle Tea on December 7th at the College of Saint Mary. We are thrilled to learn that our Branch is one of eight sites across the country selected to receive a \$6,000 grant to implement an AAUW National Tech Savvy Pilot Program in our community. Tech Savvy is a one-day event for girls in grades 6-9 and their adult family members. The purpose of the event is to encourage girls in 6-9th grades to participate in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education and careers. Our event will be held on the campus of the College of Saint Mary during 2015. Amy Bones and I are serving as co-chairs for this project. More details will be forthcoming.

In addition to diligently working on AAUW missions, our members have the opportunity to choose from our 16 different interest groups within four broad categories:

- Book Discussion Interest Groups
- Cultural Interest Groups
- Personal Engagement Interest Groups
- Global Focus Interest Groups

We are so happy to learn about some of the activities of our AAUW College/University Partners. University of Nebraska at Omaha and Creighton University have three-year contracts to host unlimited AAUW \$tart \$mart workshops on their campuses. Our Branch is sponsoring a speaker at the College of Saint Mary on March 26th. Creighton University has recently been selected to host an AAUW ElectHer training on Saturday, March 28th, 2015.

This is a wonderful time to be a member of AAUW!

“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 Tech Savvy training in DC, November 8-9, 2014. Eight new pilot sites for 2015.



Corrine Egan (Pennsylvania)
 Jeanne Tondryk (Wisconsin)
 Rachel Ramsay (Utah)
 Joan Enderle (North Dakota)
 Karen Sands (Ohio)
 Sheila Cohen (New York)
 Gloria Brasuel (Hawaii)
 Marilyn Bombac (Nebraska)

Photographic Highlights from the AAUW-Nebraska Fall Workshop



Linda Bors, Florine Swanson (AAUW National), and Susan Goos, Members of the Legacy Circle



Adrianna Franklin, Allison Taylor (Creighton), Karen Falconer Al-Hindi (UNO and Clara Mardesen)

GET POLITICALLY INVOLVED IN 2015!!!

By Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair, AAUW-NE

Plan now to participate in the:

LWVNE/AAUW-NE Legislative Day in Lincoln to visit with state senators about our AAUW-NE 2015 legislative priorities. Mark this date on your calendar and plan now to attend on **Wednesday, February 25, 2015**. The next *Ivy Informer* will feature an article with more information about the day. Please watch for it.

Write a note introducing yourself to your state senator to say you are an active AAUW-NE member who will get in touch with them from time to time during the Unicameral session to encourage them to support our 2015 legislative priorities. Send your note by U.S. Mail to the State Capitol mailing address:

Senator's Name
District Number State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Now that the election is over, it's important to build a relationship with your state senator or continue one that you've had with him or her for several years. Doing so helps them to become familiar with you as an AAUW-NE representative, and you get to know them and their views on the issues that are a priority for us. You can see a list of District Senators by using this link:

http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php

Become a Two-Minute Activist by going online to votered@aauw.org and signing up for email updates regarding AAUW legislative priorities at the national level. Timely contacts with your members of Congress are critical in enacting legislation important to achieving our legislative goals.