

NEBRASKA STATE BULLETIN

Volume 72, No. 1 - Spring 2016



[WEBSITE](#) [ABOUT](#) [JOIN](#) [BRANCHES](#) [EVENTS](#) [PUBLIC POLICY](#)



Dear Linda,

AAUW Nebraska is hosting a Spring Conference focusing on "Women in Leadership: Voices Shaping Our Future". It will be held at the College of St Mary in Mercy Hall on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. All members are invited to attend and to bring a friend. This conference is open to the public.

Topics that will be covered are issues that affect all the women of Nebraska. "Economic Parity" will cover 'Start Smart' and Entrepreneurship. Ways to help women earn equal pay, because women still average \$0.78 for every dollar earned by men. "Engaged Citizenry" will cover 'Elect Her' and Public Health. Areas women can make a difference in their communities. "Relevant Education" will cover 'Tech Savvy' and issues from Metro Community College. These are all issues where AAUW is making a difference in Nebraska. We will discuss the next ways to make our voices heard.

We will also have a National AAUW Leader, Janet Banger, Finance Vice Chair, visiting and talking about what else AAUW is doing for Women. We will have a short Board of Directors meeting after the Conference concludes at 3:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend. We will be getting together for Supper at a nice restaurant. I hope you can all join us there.

I have always enjoyed attending State, Regional and National AAUW events. You really do meet "Smart Women with Smart Ideas". You go home filled with energy and ideas for your

own communities. Come and join us, meet old friends and make new friends. It is worth spending a day to find ways to make "Nebraska Women Reach Their Full Potential In Their Chosen Fields".

The strength of AAUW is grounded in our members, our coalition members and our Nebraska friends; find out about the latest AAUW research coming out of our Washington office. Pass on the information we have about meeting Title IX guidelines, reducing the Pay Gap in Nebraska, growing our coalitions and working on all levels to grow our leadership skills.

Susan Goos,

President
American Association of University Women - Nebraska

AAUW-NEBRASKA SPRING CONFERENCE - April 9, 2016

Spring Conference - Voices Shaping Our Future

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

Join us Saturday, April 9, 2016 at:
College of Saint Mary
Mercy Hall
7000 Mercy Road, Omaha, NE

8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration, Coffee, Tea, Refreshments

9:00 am - 3:30 pm *Voices Shaping Our Future* Program (Lunch at Noon)

Click here to view the complete [AAUW-NE Spring Conference Information](#)

AAUW-NE SPRING 2016 Conference 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:

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, April 2nd

\$30 Regular, \$15 Students - includes program, morning refreshments and lunch

On-line at aauw-ne.aauw.net via PayPal (PayPal account not needed)

For registration questions, contact De Tonack, dtonack@neb.rr.com

**LETTER FROM PATRICIA HO, CHAIR
AAUW BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dear AAUW Members,

It's spring, and that can only mean one thing - state convention season at AAUW! It's also a time when we gather to recharge, reexamine, and sometimes even reinvent who we are. These are big questions: Who exactly are we as members and leaders of not only AAUW but also our local communities and the larger community of women nationally and globally? What role does AAUW play in these communities?

Last year we spoke about the concept of One AAUW - the idea that there are so many of us, so many groups all tackling the issues women face in so many ways, and yet we are still One AAUW. This year we'll look at the impact our One AAUW is having as we change the chilly climate for women and girls on campuses and in boardrooms, statehouses, courthouses, workplaces, and communities across the country. The work we do has made a difference and will continue to make a difference to every woman and girl working to achieve her career and educational dreams.

So, just what are we doing to make that critical difference? Leading the way as always is our research, with the release this spring of *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*. In addition to the new report, our campus leadership programs *Elect Her* and *Start Smart* and our *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* voter registration campaign all aim to challenge the current climate in which more men than women are in leadership positions. We're showing the nation how to unclog Capitol Hill paycheck fairness gridlock with our *AAUW Work Smart* in Boston program, and we're showing girls the way through *Tech Trek* and *Tech Savvy!* And all this wonderful work is being fueled by our highly successful *Charting the Course* campaign.

The board and staff of AAUW are proud to take part in your state gatherings as we share and learn together. We also want to learn more about what you are doing in your communities and remind you of the many resources available for you in your role as leaders and members. From our content-rich website to our many leadership trainings, to our phenomenally energizing national convention (save the date and join us in D.C., June 14-17, 2017!), we all work together to make our One AAUW the positive force for change that it has always been.

I hope you have an outstanding meeting and, on behalf of the AAUW Board of Directors, I thank you for the time, talent, and energy you invest in AAUW on a daily basis.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Fae Ho
Chair, AAUW Board of Directors

2016 AAUW-NE LEGISLATIVE DAY: A RE-CAP

By Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair, AAUW-NE

Sixteen AAUW-NE members and guests met at the NSEA Office Building the morning of February 25th to begin planned activities for the organization's annual legislative day. We started our day with a briefing during which we introduced our two special guests, Abrianna Franklin, a student at Papillion La Vista High School, and Kunashe Ndhlovu, a student at Millard North High School. Both young ladies are active in Women on a Mission for Change which encourages young people to become informed, active and involved citizens.

Our briefing featured Jason Hayes, NSEA Director of Public Policy and Legislative Research, who provided tips on effective lobbying as well as on testifying before legislative committees. The balance of our time focused on selected legislative priorities about which everyone was encouraged to visit with senators or their staff members. Participants were divided into teams according to legislative districts whose senators occupy offices close to each other in the Capitol.

Our goal was to visit with every one of the 49 state senators or at least one member of their office staff about three of the seven priority bills that were the day's focus. Each senator or their staff member was given a copy of the "Senator Information Booklet" outlining what each of the seven priorities would do, how its passage would affect Nebraska women, girls and families, and our position of "support" or "oppose" for each bill. Whenever possible, team members were encouraged to tell personal stories about how a bill would affect them or someone they know, i.e. family member, friend, neighbor, colleague, etc. and answer any questions the senator or staff member might have.

Once in the Capitol, we gathered in the North Balcony to observe the Unicameral in action and to be introduced to the senators on the floor of the Legislative Chamber below. Teams then fanned out to visit with senators and staff members about LB1032, the Transitional Health Insurance Program Act (T-HIP), and two other bills. Those included LB958 and LB959, companion bills that are the Governor's proposal to reduce property taxes, LB83, LB288, LB1044 and LB1036. AAUW-NE supports LB1032, LB83, and LB1036. We oppose LB958 and LB959, as well as LB288 and LB1044. Check the Unicameral web site at www.nebraskalegislature.gov for information about what each bill would do and learn about its current status.

Everyone gathered for a catered lunch at the NSEA Building at noon with Senator John McCollister, LD20, as our guest speaker. He spoke about LB1032, the bill he introduced to provide health insurance for thousands of Nebraska's working poor who can't afford it any other way. His remarks were informative and were followed with a Q/A session.

The day concluded with an optional tour of the Capitol or the Governor's Mansion for interested parties. Thank you to everyone for making the day a big success!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

AAUW-Nebraska Officers for this upcoming term are:

Co-Presidents -- Marilyn Bombac and Denise Britigan
Secretary -- Arlene Rea
Membership VP -- Teresa Mardesen
AAUW Funds VP -- Jeene Hobbs

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

Blair Branch

by Pam Andersen President

Blair AAUW is focusing on local city and state government. We hosted an open forum for Senator Lydia Barasch, covering Legislative Issues and Challenges. The meeting was open to the public.

Ms. Jordan Rishel, Executive Director of the Blair Chamber of Commerce, gave us an overview of the promotional activities to bring more businesses in Blair.

Our book discussion was on the "Merchants of Doubt" by Naomi Oreskes & Erick M. Conway.

It yielded a lively discussion.

Upcoming meetings include "Drug Court" presented by Scott Vanderschaff, County Attorney and Deb Eppenbaughn, Exec. Dir. Applied Tech Center in Blair NE.

Lincoln Branch

by Arlene Rea, Co-Vice-President - Programs and Emily Schmale, Treasurer

AAUW-Lincoln has been studying the effects of poverty for the past two years. Members learned that one way to break the cycle of poverty is education. As a result AAUW-Lincoln with Southeast Community College and University of Nebraska-Lincoln hosted a conference for SCC and Kaplan University students, on Saturday, February 27, at SCC.

The "**Leadership Skills for the World of Work**" conference opened with "**Dream Big**" by Dennis Headrick, the Academic Vice President for Southeast Community College campuses. Nearly 50 students and 25 other participants heard Dr. Headrick address the big picture of work as he went from a small town Nebraska farm boy to Vice President of SCC. Students were encouraged to take advantage of many kinds of learning experiences to acquire skills for future work.

Representatives from Cedars Home, Clinic with a Heart, Food Bank, Lincoln Literacy, People's City Mission, Women's Foundation, Get Out the Vote, and AAUW-Lincoln encouraged students to volunteer to learn new skills, to network and to have a voice. Our sponsors, Doane College, HyVee, Kaplan University and Thrivent Financial/Action Project, were represented with booths as well.

In addition, students chose from 21 concurrent sessions on topics such as: Overcoming fear of public speaking, benefits of volunteering, emotional intelligence, personal stories of leadership, investing in one's self, social media imprint, young managers and leading a team, meeting expectations, mentoring, self-leadership, and interviewing skills.

Thanks to AAUW leaders, donors, presenters and attendees for a wonderful conference on Saturday. All did a marvelous job putting together this educational event. Marilyn, Arlene, Kathie and De especially are due special thanks for the many hours they put in preparing for this event.

AAUW-Lincoln members who generously contributed \$555, 4 Kindle Fires, a TV, Lazlo and Qdoba gift cards and microwave popcorn were: Kathie Court, Mildred Gardner, Marilyn Grady, Burnita DenHartog, Barb Gaither, Barbara Griffiths, Barb LaCost, Rosalind Morris, Susan Pozehl, Arlene Rea, Shirley Ritter, Emily Schmale, Karen Stelling, Liz Tarr, and De Tonack.

The AAUW displays and power point presentation were first rate, very attractive, professional and eye-catching. The participants seemed very interested.

We received \$555 in member donations, \$200 in vendor fees, and \$250 seed money from Thrivent.com/Action programs so we will need to take very little from our treasury.

Omaha Branch by Marilyn Bombac, President

Our Omaha Branch continues to engage the talents and expertise of our members and to align with AAUW priorities. In December, we hosted our annual Red Candle Tea to honor our new members and enjoy holiday entertainment and refreshments. We started the New Year by participating in a Leadership Summit in January where our branch officers joined together in "**Looking in the Mirror-Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**" where we identified and shared some of our talents and expertise. We invited other Nebraska leaders to join us for lunch and to participate in "**Looking out the Window and Opening Doors**" for possible partnerships and collaborative initiatives. We explored ways in which we could leverage our talents/expertise to make a positive difference in the lives of women and girls in Nebraska. We examined three specific attributes: Economic Parity, Engaged Citizenry, and Relevant Education; and brainstormed ideas to consider.

In February, Liz Rea coordinated our State Legislative Day and many of our members carpoled to Lincoln where we lobbied our Senators and observed our Legislature in Action. Marie Kubat led our fundraising efforts as we actively participated in Younkers Fall and Spring Community Days and Village Inn Pie cards. Shirley Carpenter led our Read Across America 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 3rd Annual empowHER event at the College of Saint Mary.

On March 15th, Esther Mejia, founder and principal of E Creative, will present **"Feeding Your Soul Through Entrepreneurship."** We are looking forward to enjoying wine and appetizers and to hear Esther's story about using design to serve her community and contribute to the greater good. We are excited to learn about AAUW's newest research report that is scheduled to be released, "Barriers and Bias-the Status of Women in Leadership"; and, many of our members have registered to watch the live stream on March 30th.

Our members are pulling together to support our State Conference at the College of Saint Mary on April 9th; and, many members are meeting regularly to plan our Second AAUW-Omaha Tech Savvy event that is scheduled on Saturday, June 4th. Our Omaha Branch continues to be a dynamic and inclusive organization because of our many talented and compassionate members.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

We hope you enjoyed the new easier to read format of our State Bulletin. Continue to expand AAUW's visibility and invite new members to come to our meetings. We can make a difference in the lives of Nebraska's women and girls.

Sincerely,

Susan Goos
President
American Association of University Women - Nebraska

American Association of University Women - Nebraska
| smgoos@hughes.net |