



State Bulletin – March 2017

AAUW-NE 2017 Spring Conference

Please join us at our Spring Conference

Saturday, April 8, 2017, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Hillcrest Country Club, 9401 O Street, Lincoln, NE

Theme: "Women Helping Women"

Keynote speaker: Kelly Sartorius,
author of *Deans of Women of the Feminist Movement*

For more information, see our [flyer and hardcopy registration form](#).

Register [online](#) here.

Please invite other interested individuals.

For more information about AAUW - Nebraska,
please visit our website, <http://aauw-ne.aauw.net>.

Letter from Patricia Fae Ho, AAUW Board Chair

February 2017

Dear AAUW member,

Warm greetings from our board and staff! We look forward to meeting you at your state convention — so much has happened since last year.

We saw the political and social impact of the first woman representing a major party in a historic presidential election. January found the country with a new administration, presenting challenges and changes in policy. Throughout the presidential campaign and postelection, AAUW has focused on nonpartisan issues of women's equity and enforcement of civil rights for all. As the 2017 AAUW National Convention approaches we are preparing our legislative agendas for strong discussion on Capitol Hill.

As a leading gender equity advocacy organization, AAUW is uniquely positioned to convene diverse communities to take action on pay equity, freedom from discrimination and violence, health care, education, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) opportunities. Through our public policy priorities, fellowships and grants, Legal Advocacy Fund, and other programs, AAUW amplifies all of our voices, with trusted research and advocacy informing our work. Our advocacy work remains a priority not only in Washington, D.C., but also in statehouses across the country, where we saw so many successes last year. And AAUW Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart are spreading exponentially, with Work Smart programs now in six cities across the United States ... and growing.

We hope you will enjoy learning at your state convention about the latest tools available to you from the national office. The resources you have access to are varied and valuable to your daily work, from our soon-to-be-released research report *Higher Ed, Higher Debt: Why Women Owe More* to new videos you can use to recruit members.

It truly is a wonderful time to be part of such a dynamic, relevant organization as AAUW. The AAUW Board of Directors and I thank you for your dedication, talent, and energy and hope that you leave your state convention feeling confident that you have the skills and fervor to be part of the rising tide of advocacy in action!

Yours in AAUW,

Patricia Fae Ho
AAUW Board Chair

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Fall Conference - October 8, 2016



Mary Ann Sturek at registration table with Pam Andersen and Jeene Hobbs



Voter registration with League of Women Voters



Dr. De Tonack facilitating a session

AAUW Fellowships and Grants with Nebraska Connections 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 2016-17. In order to have enough funds for the recipients, all AAUW-Nebraska sponsored endowment recipients were co-sponsored with other AAUW endowments. This enables an award from each endowment every year.

Hayrunnisa Goksel, a citizen of Turkey, is the recipient of an International Fellowship which was sponsored in part by the **Louise Pound International Fellowship** endowment. She is working on a Ph D in sociology with specialization in women and gender studies at Northwest University in Evanston, IL. Her work is developing an alternative social scientific approach to address the increasing number of displaced women and children around the world who see not the state but transformational communities as their primary source of political orientation.

Ishah Dominguez is the recipient of a Career Development Grant which was co-sponsored by five **Research and Projects Grant (R&PG)** endowments, including three sponsored by AAUW-Nebraska: **Anne Campbell R&GP, Esther Hamon / Leola McKie R&PG, and Stan and Mary (Browne) Tyler RP&G.** Ishah currently works as a Spanish medical interpreter at Children’s Hospital in Omaha. With this grant she is working on a B.S. in diagnostic medical sonography at Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing and will eventually transition into a new career in patient diagnostics. She joined the Omaha Branch last fall.

There aren’t any other current AAUW fellowship or grant recipients studying in Nebraska.

AAUW-NE Legislative Day - February 22, 2017

by Liz Rea, AAUW-NE Public Policy Chair

Our annual AAUW-NE Legislative Day featured conversations of our members and guests with state senators about selected 2017 legislative priorities in the Unicameral. This exercise in direct democracy is the next most powerful thing an informed, active citizen can do. It is on a par with casting a ballot on election day. In effect, it extends the power and influence your vote has during the interim between elections.

Those who participated in legislative day took advantage of the opportunity legislative day affords to have a direct effect on the making of sound laws and public policy. There is no better source about the effects a proposed law or public policy is likely to have than we the citizens. Legislators depend upon us for factual information and for stories of personal experiences to know how legislation will affect constituents, if enacted. The same is true for law and public policy that is already a matter of record.

AAUW-NE Legislative Updates along with a copy of our AAUW-NE 2017 Legislative Priorities are on the state website, aauw-ne.aauw.net, and were sent to your email address. Please take time to become familiar with our seventeen priorities. When an “Action Alert” is sent out from time to time during the legislative process, don’t hesitate to contact your senator to encourage them to support the AAUW Nebraska position on the item. By speaking with the same voice and by working together, we can make a positive difference in the lives of Nebraska’s women, girls, and families.



Legislative Day participants

AAUW Bylaws Revisions by Linda Bors, AAUW-NE Bylaws Chair

Due to advice from AAUW's legal counsel, AAUW's bylaws were revised to ensure compliance with Washington DC law and Internal Revenue Code, and to modify inconsistent and confusing provisions. This also necessitated changes to state and branch bylaws. Linda Bors, as AAUW-NE Bylaws Chair, made the mandatory changes to AAUW-NE bylaws as well as those of the branches.

Blair Branch Report

The Blair Branch started off with a bang! Marilyn Bombac and Denise Britigan presented a program on organizational leadership. Our International Meeting featured Ruth Jensen on her experiences and food from Morocco. In November we had an inspiring speaker about the Teammates mentoring program.

We choose a fun book for our book discussion, *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal. Danielle Ludwig, Blair Curriculum Coordinator, gave an informative talk about how schools determine what is taught in our public schools. The Durham Museum is our outing for 2017; we will be viewing *Through the Perilous Fight: "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Civil War*. The Blair Branch will be touring the new Blair public library, featuring new technology! Our final program for the season will be a potluck and a garden presentation.



AAUW-NE Co-Presidents Marilyn Bombac and Denise Britigan presenting at Blair Branch

Lincoln Branch Report

On February 18, 2017, the Lincoln Branch sponsored a Leadership Conference at Southeast Community College – Lincoln. This was our second year to sponsor the conference. This year's conference was titled "Leadership Skills for the World of Work". There were 21 concurrent breakout sessions where women shared their experiences. Our branch had an information booth and raffled off five candy-filled AAUW-NE coffee mugs. Our members and/or branch donated money and time that will go toward the purchase of 100 lunches, raffle items, and giveaways.

Upcoming programs will be *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in Schools* and *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success*.

Omaha Branch Hosts Tech Savvy on April 29, 2017

The Omaha Branch is absolutely thrilled to be one of only 20 sites across the country to receive a grant to help host another AAUW Tech Savvy Program. Our third Tech Savvy Conference will be held on Saturday, April 29, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm on the College of Saint Mary campus in Omaha. Tech Savvy is designed to create an awareness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educational and career opportunities; and, to encourage middle school girls to see themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer scientists.

Last June 45 girls and 14 parents attended and designed roller coasters, stabilized bones, explored DNA, programmed robotics, and experienced many other workshops and seminars. There were 14 different workshops, 15 professional presenters, and 28 AAUW volunteers. Feedback from the girls and their parents was excellent! This year plans are to host 100 middle school girls and their parents.

AAUW-NE International Fellowship Recipient

AAUW-NE International Fellowship recipient and Omaha Branch member, Swati Surkar, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on **November 30, 2016** to complete her doctorate degree in Physical Therapy with the Munroe Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The title of her dissertation was "Action Planning and Execution Deficits in Children with Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy."

Dr. Surkar joined the Washington University School of Medicine as a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Neurology and Neurorehabilitation under the mentorship of Dr. Catherine Lang in January. Congratulations, Swati!



Dr. Swati Surkar