



AAUW - Nebraska State Bulletin Spring 2018

Letter from National Board Chair

February 8, 2018

Dear AAUW member,

I'm so pleased to share with you wishes for a successful and stimulating state convention!

I'd like you to imagine a day when women's contributions to society are valued the same as men's. Women will have access to the education and training they need to be a productive part of the workforce and support their families so they too can grow and thrive. Women will be able to study and work in safe and supportive environments. They will be paid fairly based upon their performance and their leadership skills will be recognized.

It's a new day at AAUW. We're all tired of the same rhetoric and the same glacial movement on the issues we've researched and the solutions for which we've advocated. We are newly committed to making **real change happen now**. To do so we need to hone our efforts, because only a razor-sharp focus will bring about the results women need and AAUW demands. We will all need to ask ourselves repeatedly, "How is what I'm doing *right now* advancing our mission?"

With new leadership has come sharpened vision and the perspicacity to chart a course around known obstacles, moving straight toward that better future. Visionaries inside and outside the AAUW community are deeply involved in creating a strategic plan with aggressive goals that clearly define what success looks like, and we'll need the entire AAUW community pulling together to meet those aspirational—but achievable and measurable—results.

Nearly every week brings an additional campus requesting an AAUW Start Smart salary negotiation workshop. Every month another city or state wants to train their working women through AAUW Work Smart. Our fellows and alumnae continue to step into leadership positions across the globe, and our NCCWSL alumnae are poised to do the same one day. We are creating change makers to join the fight and advance our mission.

"Business as usual" must become a thing of the past. The day we described, when we reach true equity, is not just about social justice; it is an economic imperative. It's time for a new world order—one we'll make happen together.

As you carry out the programs, workshops, awards, and recognitions at your convention and as you listen to the talented speakers you've invited, please reflect on this letter. Allow yourselves to dream, to be aspirational, knowing that together we can make these dreams reality—not just someday, but now!

Yours in AAUW,

Julia T. Brown, Esq.
AAUW Board Chair

Presidents' Corner

By Marilyn Bombac and Denise Britigan



We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your AAUW-Nebraska Co-Presidents for the past two years. It is amazing to look back and realize that AAUW has been in Nebraska since 1899. Back then we were known as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA). Mrs. H. H. Wilson, Dean of Women at University of Nebraska, attended the 19th Annual Convention of the ACA in Chicago, where she learned that the University of Nebraska was the 22nd institution on the ACA approved list.

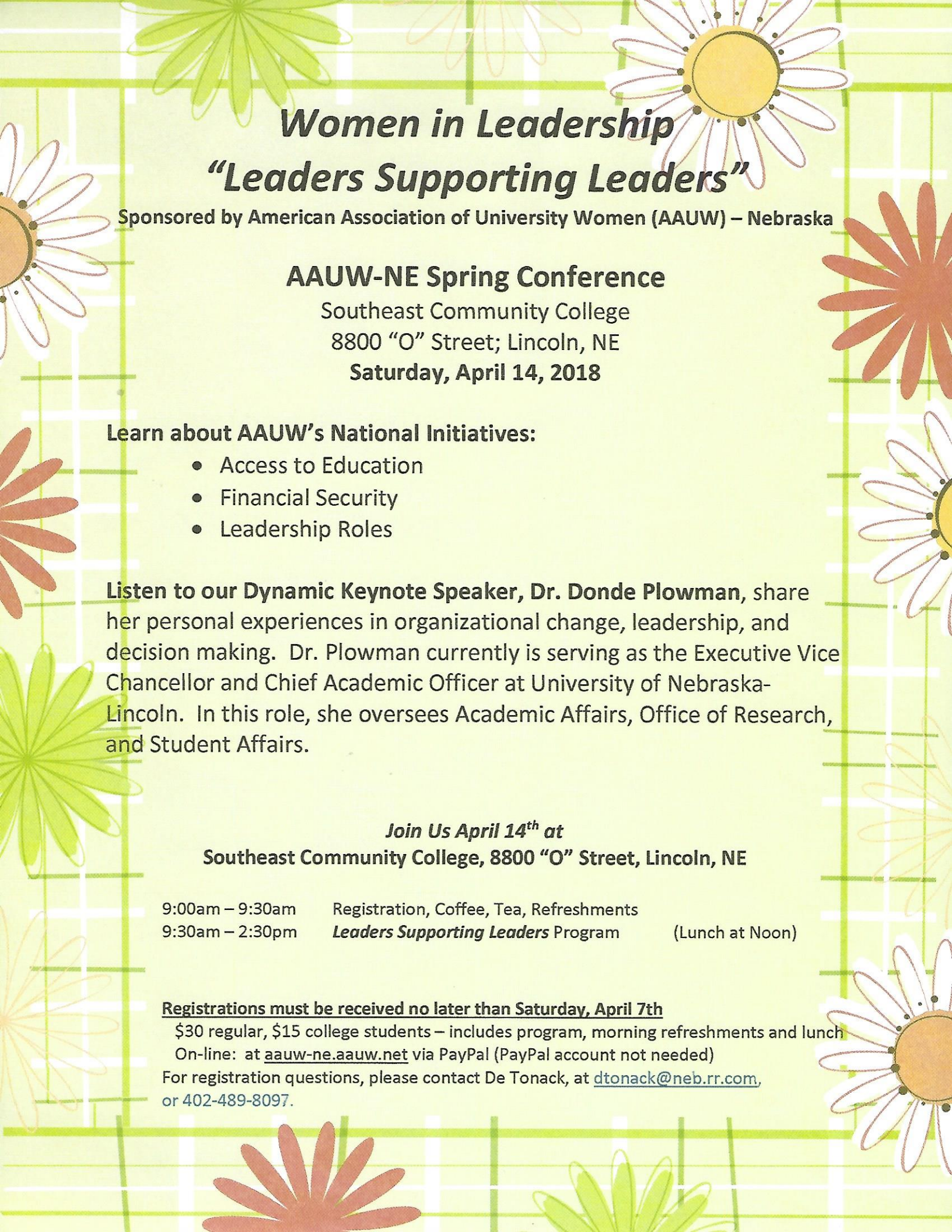
On June 5, 1900, five women, with Mrs. Wilson, held their first meeting at 3:00pm at the University Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At their second meeting, 42 women attended. Miss Mary Tremaine, Lincoln High School History Teacher, was named President. Three focus areas were identified: Education, Legislation, and Social Work. By 1901, there were 80 members.

AAUW-Nebraska has been a leading voice for women and girls in Nebraska for over 100 years because our AAUW members had the courage to continue leading through changing times. It's never easy; but, the "right" leaders always emerge to focus our energies, align with priorities, and collaborate with like-minded colleagues. During 2016-2018, we were privileged to work with outstanding AAUW-NE leaders:

Pres-Elect	Gina Ponce
Program VP	Marilyn Grady
Membership VP	Teresa Mardesen/Alex Hilliard
AAUW Funds VP	Jeene Hobbs
Secretary	Arlene Rea
Finance Officer	De Tonack
Bylaws Chair and Webmaster	Linda Bors
Public Policy	Sapphire Andersen/Liz Rea
State Bulletin	Pam Andersen

We are excited to personally welcome Gina Ponce as our new AAUW-NE President!! The baton is being passed again. We are truly leaders supporting leaders! We encourage our branch members to consider running for our state board and to continue bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to AAUW-Nebraska. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our AAUW-NE Spring Conference on Saturday, April 14th, on the campus of Southeast Community College in Lincoln. We are truly making a positive difference in the lives of women and girls in Nebraska.

"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



Women in Leadership

"Leaders Supporting Leaders"

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

AAUW-NE Spring Conference

Southeast Community College

8800 "O" Street; Lincoln, NE

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Learn about AAUW's National Initiatives:

- Access to Education
- Financial Security
- Leadership Roles

Listen to our Dynamic Keynote Speaker, Dr. Donde Plowman, share her personal experiences in organizational change, leadership, and decision making. Dr. Plowman currently is serving as the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In this role, she oversees Academic Affairs, Office of Research, and Student Affairs.

Join Us April 14th at
Southeast Community College, 8800 "O" Street, Lincoln, NE

9:00am – 9:30am

Registration, Coffee, Tea, Refreshments

9:30am – 2:30pm

Leaders Supporting Leaders Program

(Lunch at Noon)

Registrations must be received no later than Saturday, April 7th

\$30 regular, \$15 college students – includes program, morning refreshments and lunch

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

For registration questions, please contact De Tonack, at dtonack@neb.rr.com, or 402-489-8097.

AAUW-NE Spring Conference 2018 Registration

(This form is for those who wish to register by mail)

Name: _____

AAUW Branch (if member): _____

Organization/Business or College (if student): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration fees: Regular - \$30; Students - \$15. Please send check, payable to AAUW-NE, to De Tonack, 2315 Dodge Street, Lincoln, NE 68521, dtack@neb.rr.com, 402-489-8097.

NOTE: 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.

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH

Public Policy Update

By Sapphire Andersen, AAUW-NE Public Policy Chair

In January, AAUW Nebraska's Board of Directors voted to approve fifteen legislative priorities for 2018. These resolutions included thirteen bills and two constitutional amendments that align with AAUW's three national public policy priorities: public education, economic self-sufficiency, and equal rights for women and girls.

For more information on our legislative priorities, go to the AAUW-NE web site and click on the "Public Policy" link to access the "2018 Legislative Priorities-adopted January 28, 2018." You will also find more information on action alerts and updates.

In February, this year's plans for Legislative Day in Lincoln were cancelled due to inclement weather. A big thank you to three members, Marilyn Bombac, De Tonack, and Liz Rea, who distributed folders to senators' offices a few days later. They engaged in conversations with legislative staff or aides on three legislative priorities that were to be the focus of Legislative Day. These priorities were LB1066 (Oppose), LB843 (Support), and LB295 (Oppose).

Two of the fifteen legislative priorities became priority bills. Senator Lou Ann Linehan made LB295 her priority bill and Senator Tyson Larson prioritized LR1CA. As such, these proposed legislative items will be up for floor debate before the session ends April 18th. AAUW-NE opposes both LB295 and LR1CA.

You are urged to contact your senator to oppose LB295 and LR1CA. Senators depend on constituents as a reliable source of information to know how a bill or resolution will affect them if enacted. By contacting your senator, you play an important direct role in policymaking that will have an effect on Nebraskans for many years to come.

Equal Pay Day will be “celebrated” on April 10, 2018. This is the symbolic day when women’s earnings “catch up” to men’s earnings from the previous year. AAUW’s research shows that in 2016, median annual earnings for men in Nebraska were \$47,352 compared to \$36,699 for women, an earnings ratio of just 78 percent. This pay gap is worse for women of color and for mothers. AAUW-NE continues to monitor proposed legislation that will be effective in reducing this sizable and unfair pay gap.

Thank you for your interest in public policy and for your efforts to improve the lives of Nebraska women, girls, and families.

Branch Activities



Sharing branch activities at AAUW-NE Fall Conference, October 21, 2017 were Pam Andersen (Blair), De Tonack (Lincoln), and Betsy McDaniel (Omaha)

Blair Branch: The Blair Branch’s theme for 2017-18 is “Celebrating Nebraska’s Sesquicentennial”. Their first program was both historic and current, “The Underground Railroad and Walk Forever Free”. It covered the slave underground railroad and the human trafficking of

today. In October members went to the Fremont Art Association to hear about current Nebraska Artists.

The branch met at the Blair Police station for a program on the Drug Task Force Corp. In February the group discussed books from the Nebraska 150 book list all by Nebraska authors. In March Marilyn Bombac provided an interesting presentation on the “Tech Savvy Program for Girls”. The branch annual banquet will feature Pioneer Food. The final meeting of the year will be a potluck supper at the Black Elk/Neihardt Park featuring a speaker on Prairie Restoration and Native Plants.

Lincoln Branch: For 2017-18 the Lincoln Branch once again helped sponsor a leadership conference at Southeast Community College - Lincoln. It was their third year to do so. The [February 17](#) event, "Leadership Skills for the World of Work", had 18 breakout sessions where women shared their experiences. The branch financially provided the lunch and some door prizes. There were about 50 attendees, mostly from community colleges in the area.

Branch meetings were scaled back this year and included presentations from each one of the three NU Foundation Scholarship Recipients from an endowment of a former branch member.

AAUW National Proposed Bylaws Amendments

By Linda Bors, AAUW-NE Bylaws Chair

The AAUW National Board of Directors has three proposals out for member comment and will put them out for the membership to vote on in the spring. The board strongly supports all three proposals and believes they will help keep AAUW vital as an organization and enable increasing AAUW's impact in advancing equity for women and girls by ensuring optimal mission execution at the National level. These proposals include:

- 1) creating three-year staggered board terms, electing one-third of the board annually, which also increases the term of office from two to three years. Currently all 15 members serve the same two-year term. This would assure board continuity, preservation of institutional memory, leadership development, and board innovation while being current with best practices. Along with this, the Nominating Committee's term of office would also change to best facilitate staggered board terms.
- 2) opening board service to non-members – this would allow for up to five of the 15 board members to be non-members. This would bring the AAUW board governance structure more in line with nationally accepted nonprofit best practices and the needs of the organization.
- 3) eliminating the degree requirement for membership – this has come before the membership a number of times. The board feels strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now perceived by many as counter to the mission and limits ability to build the capacity needed to increase AAUW's impact.

Additional details are on the AAUW website (aauw.org).

Voting will be open Apr 25 - Jun 9, 2018 at 9 pm ET.

The board recognizes that AAUW has not traditionally put proposals out for vote outside the biennial National Election. These proposed changes were under consideration for several years by both the Governance Committee and board. The board wants to move forward without further delay to position the organization for growth.

AAUW-Nebraska Off-Site “Leaders Supporting Leaders”

By Marilyn Bombac, AAUW-NE Co-President



On Sunday, January 14, 2018, many of our AAUW-Nebraska leaders met in Nebraska City to personally meet other AAUW stakeholders, share ideas, have fun, learn up-to-date AAUW information and to prioritize our coordinated initiatives. This is the first time AAUW-NE hosted an off-site that included both state and branch officers and also AAUW College/University Member Representatives within Nebraska. As we know, an Off-Site refers to a location different from one where people usually work; and, offers attendees the opportunity to meet other leaders, be creative, brainstorm ideas, and focus on possible goals. The Brunch Buffet was delicious, the lodge was warm and cozy; and, our AAUW-NE leaders were knowledgeable, energetic and approachable. After introductions, we reviewed AAUW’s history in Nebraska, 1899-2013, *“The Courage to Lead Through Changing Times”*; and, then watched AAUW’s current presentation of *“Where’s AAUW Going?”* AAUW has identified three major macro issues:

- Access to Education
- Economic Security
- Leadership

Attendees broke into three groups to focus on each of the three major issues, conducted an informal SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis on each issue; and, then identified Possible Action Steps for AAUW-NE. These are exciting times and there are many opportunities for us to work together to make a positive difference in the lives of women and girls in Nebraska.

Are You a STEM Girl?

HANDS-ON TECH SAVVY CONFERENCE

Tech Savvy is designed to create awareness of educational and career opportunities in STEM for girls. Envision how you can impact the world through Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Parent/adult sessions include *Five Tips For Parents: Supporting Your Daughter's Love for STEM*, *Social Media Safety 101*, *All Gas and No Breaks: The Adolescent Brain, Research*, *Parent's Guide to the 'T' in STEM*, and *Financing College*.

Who: Girls grade 6-9. Parents and guardians also encouraged to attend Tech Savvy adult sessions on how to guide and support your daughter.

What: Hands-on STEM sessions include:

Aquaponics	Clothes that Light Up
Breaking Bones	College Savvy
Build a Chair Engineering	DNA: Blueprint for Life
Roller Coaster Engineering	Forensics Science Black Box
Twists, Turns and Surprises with Math	Robotics Style

Where: College of St. Mary
7000 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE 68106

When: Saturday, April 21, 2018, 8:00-4:00
Registration opens March 5

Cost: \$10 for each student and each adult for workshop.
T-shirt, and food.

Register: <https://aauw-ne.aauw.net/tech-savvy/>
(limit to first 100)



Registration opens March 5: <https://aauw-ne.aauw.net/tech-savvy/>
Questions? Contact Marilyn Bombac at 402.216.8149 or mbombac@aol.com.

