

AAUW IOWA CONNECTOR

January 2012

An Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa

You are invited to share this information with other branch leaders and members by forwarding it to them or providing hard copy.

Sandra Keist Wilson, President AAUW IA

After the holidays and family time, I have a hard time getting back on schedule. It seems like a vacation should follow in a warm place during January. However, nothing stops and I have some good news to report to you all.

Mary Ann and Kim have had a big success with the College/University membership campaign. We now have 17 higher education institution members. The campaign program was so well done, with complete timeline, scripts, brochures, contacts and more that AAUW plans to publish it as a new Program in a Box. Congratulations to Mary Ann and Kim and to all the members that called on college/university administrators. It is a tremendous success for AAUW IA. We cannot rest on our laurels long. Now, we need to be sure to follow up and engage our new institutional members in activities that AAUW offers. And, during this anniversary year we can continue to add more C/U members at the reduced membership rate.

More good news, The Iowa Initiative: helping prevent unintended pregnancies in women 18-30 staff has looked over the data from surveys following the six pilot community conversations held this past fall. They are very pleased with the results and would like to start planning a second round of community conversations for next fall. We made a list of possible sites but if you see a need in your community let me know. The list can be expanded.

Lilly Ledbetter's book, Grace and Grit, will be in bookstores beginning in February. I expect many of us will be anxious to hear more of her story.

Speaking of books, Lois Enger, our talented Webmaster has a book discussion blog up on our state website ready to go. Let's write some posts about books that we have recently read and recommend to others. Those of us checking in can add comments

or ask questions about the book. Once the activity starts, we can pick a title to read and schedule an on-line discussion, similar to what I have seen on Barnes & Noble.

This reminds me of our eNetwork Branch that meets once a month using elluminatelive.com. Those of us who have attended are adjusting to the venue. I still goof once in awhile and forget to turn my mike off. Everyone is patient especially Jan. If you want to attend meetings from the comfort of your home or winter-get-away, give it a try. The next meeting will be February 9 at 7:30 pm. The program is Anita Hill 20 years later: Sex, Power, & Speaking Truth. Contact Jan Mitchell for directions to get into the program. Jan's e-mail is jan.mitchell@nexgenisp.com

I hope you all have April 20 and 21 on your Calendars. Why? It is our 2012 Conference and Annual Meeting, The Many Faces of Diversity. This year it is in the Capitol City, Des Moines at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites DSM Northwest, 4800 Merle Hay Road, just south of the Merle Hay Exit on I 35/80. Supreme Court Justice Cady will give the Key Note on the intersection of politics and justice. The full program is set and will be published in February on the web.

Did you receive the DVD, Women at Risk, Ten Historical Laws Threatened, and was it undamaged? I know one was crushed in the mail. If there was damage, let me know because more copies can be made. The board hopes that the DVD will stimulate discussion in your programming this election year. Tip: I found that I could play the DVD on my computer but not on the VCR/DVD player.

National is putting on an all nation, Get Out the Vote Campaign, directed at women. This is a year to focus on our right to vote, a gift to us from our grandmothers who fought with persistence and won. If women will exercise their right we can force change for good.

News from our State Partners

Why Marriage Matters is the title of a new public education campaign by One Iowa, one of our state partners. This multi-faceted initiative includes: a new website www.whymarriagemattersiowa.org that features stories of

gay and lesbian Iowans, their families and allies, and gives Iowans the tools they need to have a conversation about marriage within their communities.

50-50 by 2020 is holding an event this weekend in Des Moines at the West Des Moines Marriot, Blueprint for Winning Academy. I attended the kick off dinner. Fifteen women running for state legislative positions were introduced. I was impressed with their demeanor and enthusiasm for public service. Also Christie Vilsack attended; the lone woman running for national office.

Latinas/Latinos el Exito board is busy applying for grants, setting policies, and attending to necessary legalities in order to put this valuable program for middle school latina/latino students on firm ground. I am impressed with the dedication of the board members and so proud that AAUW IA has members on this board so that AAUW IA can maintain strong ties to this organization.

NATIONAL

I want to remind you to check in with National on a regular basis. I noted these new sites recently.

Connect2AAUW

General AAUW questions? Please contact connect@aauw.org or call 800/326-2289 between 10 am and 5 pm EST, Monday through Friday.

Sign Up Your Friends and Family for Action Network!

Visit AAUW's Take Action page of our website, where AAUW members and nonmembers alike can sign up for Action Network. It is an excellent way to introduce potential members to AAUW's advocacy. You can also print out flyers online. Use flyers to sign up friends, family and coworkers to AAUW Action Network.

I hope your New Year has started off very well! I wish you good health and special times in 2012. Sandra