

NEBRASKA STATE BULLETIN

Volume 71, No. 2 - Fall 2015



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Dear Kathie,

Welcome to the new format of the AAUW-Nebraska State Bulletin!

Find out how AAUW is making a difference in Nebraska and what you can do to help.

Sincerely,

Susan Goos
President
American Association of University Women - Nebraska

AAUW-NEBRASKA FALL WORKSHOP - October 17, 2015

Fall Workshop - Achieving Equity in Nebraska
Sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Nebraska

Join us Saturday, October 17, 2015 at:
Hillcrest Country Club

9401 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

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

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Women in Leadership "Achieving Equity in Nebraska" Program

Diversity and Inclusion in Government - Kimberley Taylor-Riley, J.D., Director of Equity and Diversity, City of Lincoln, Nebraska

Diversity and Inclusion in Education - Charlotte Russell, Assistant to the Chancellor for Equity, Access and Diversity, UNO

For any program questions, please contact Lina Cashin at Lina.Cashin@gmail.com, [321-576-2526](tel:321-576-2526)

Registrations must be received no later than Tuesday, October 13th

\$30 regular, \$10 college students - includes program, morning refreshments and lunch

Register: On-line at aauw-ne.aauw.net via PayPal (PayPal account not needed), or send registration form with check. For registration questions, contact De Tonack, [402-489-8097](tel:402-489-8097), dtonack@neb.rr.com

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 jamorss@cox.net or [402-293-1211](tel:402-293-1211).

AAUW-NE FALL 2015 Workshop Registration

This form is for those who wish to register by mail.

Name: _____

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Branch (if member):

Organization/Business or College (if student):

Address:

E-mail: _____ Phone:

Registration fees: Regular - \$30, Students - \$10. Please send a check, payable to AAUW-NE, to: De Tonack, 2315 Dodge Street, Lincoln, NE 68521-1253, [402-489-8097](tel:402-489-8097) or dtonack@neb.rr.com

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susan Goos, President, AAUW-NE

Why AAUW?

AAUW National will be releasing new research on March 26 titled "Solving the Equation: The Variable for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing". About 80% of STEM jobs are in the Engineering and Computing fields; this research is important. Be sure to look on the website for it. AAUW Funds raised over \$4 million in 2014. WOW! Equal Pay Day for 2015 is on April 14; this is the day that women catch up to men in pay. AAUW is working for women and girls in all of these fields: advocacy, education, research and philanthropy, we can be proud of our membership in this organization.

AAUW is also active in Nebraska. Two universities (the University of Nebraska Omaha and Creighton University) are doing \$tart \$mart programs, which help women learn to advocate for themselves and learn to negotiate their salaries. The College of St Mary is partnering with our Omaha AAUW branch to put on a Tech Savvy program for young women, showcasing STEM careers. Creighton University is presenting an "Elect Her" program to teach skills to college women so that they are ready to run for elected office. University of Nebraska Medical Center has a student who received money from AAUW Funds. We are making a difference in our state.

You are invited to our AAUW Nebraska Convention where we will be showcasing many of the things AAUW is doing in Nebraska and at the national level. Convention is in Omaha this year on the UNO campus; the date is April 11. Please come and bring friends.

All of the projects listed above were made possible by your contributions to AAUW Funds. These contributions are tax deductible; I urge you to increase your giving to AAUW Funds. I also urge you to vote in the National Elections later this spring. You have a voice in who leads our organization.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Nebraska Convention in April.

PUBLIC POLICY ARTICLE

By Liz Rea, Public Policy Chair, AAUW-NE

We had 33 bills designated as AAUW-NE legislative priorities during the 2015 Unicameral session. Periodic "Bill Watch Updates" have kept you informed about the progress of each of these priority bills. Please check the "AAUW-NE Final Bill Watch Update 9-8-15" on the state web site, www.aauw-ne.aauw.net for a complete description of the current status of each priority. The first session of the 104th Legislature adjourned sine die May 29, 2015, the 89th day of the scheduled 90-day session.

As you review the 2015 Final Bill Watch Update, please note significant developments on five priority bills. In the category of "Public Education", you will notice that Senator Tanya

Cook's LB509, a bill we supported, was amended into LB525 that changed provisions relating to public education. Note also Governor Pete Ricketts signed LB525 into law two days before LB509 was amended into it. I suspect the governor signed LB525 with the understanding that he was agreeable to AM1347 to make LB509 part of LB525 when he signed it into law. Please notice the same thing happened on an education bill we monitored, LB589.

Significant developments occurred on three "Social and Economic Justice" bills we supported as well. LB89, Senator Kathy Campbell's bill, was amended into LB607 and signed by the governor. Governor Ricketts also signed LB294 that made the Human Trafficking Victims Civil Remedy Act the law of the state. Senator Jeremy Nordquist's LB623 created some excitement in the final phases of the legislative process. Governor Ricketts vetoed the bill, but senators voted to override the veto by a vote of 34-10-5 on May 28th. Thirty votes were needed for the override.

Two things to watch for this fall and once the 2016 Unicameral session begins are the following. During the coming weeks, there should be news of the results and recommendations of a study authorized by LR306. The purpose of the resolution is to study various ways by which Medicaid expansion could be implemented in Nebraska under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The Unicameral's Health and Human Services Committee is charged with carrying out the study during this interim period as well as reporting its findings and recommendations.

LB472, the Medicaid Redesign Act sponsored by Senator Kathy Campbell, that we supported during the 2015 session was bracketed. This means that debate on the bill was halted for the remainder of the session. LB472 would have implemented Medicaid expansion under the PPACA. AAUW-NE has been steadfast in its support of Senator Campbell's efforts to expand Medicaid over the past three years in spite of stiff opposition from Governors Heineman and Ricketts. Stay tuned regarding developments having to do with efforts to expand Medicaid during the 2016 session based on recommendations of the current interim study.

New this summer is AAUW-NE's membership in the Redistricting Reform Coalition organized by Common Cause Nebraska. The coalition is an informal group of like-minded organizations that works to make elections fairer and more representative of the voters who reside in each voting district. It is likely the coalition will give serious consideration to whether or not it can support LB580, Senator John Murante's bill to adopt the Redistricting Act.

LB580 would establish an independent redistricting commission similar to that used successfully in Iowa since 1981. The system takes the politics out of reconfiguring political maps after each decennial census. To date, about 21 states use some form of a commission to redraw the boundary lines on their political maps. Senator Murante, a Republican, has been working with Senator Heath Mello, a Democrat from Omaha, to adjust the proposal for debate by the full Unicameral during the 2016 session. Stay tuned for further developments concerning the progress of LB580.

Thank you for all you do to be actively involved in supporting our annual AAUW-NE legislative priorities. I remain convinced that by working together we can and do make a positive difference for Nebraska's women, girls and families.

NEBRASKA MEMBERSHIP

By Denise Britigan, AAUW-NE Membership VP and Linda Bors, Omaha Branch Finance Officer

AAUW Special Membership Programs

AAUW has the following special programs with reduced National dues to encourage membership. The reduced dues apply only to National dues; regular state and branch dues still apply for those who want to become branch members. Regular National dues are \$49 a year.

Give a Grad a Gift: Any member can give a recent college graduate of a two or four year institution an AAUW membership for one year. It is free to both the member and the individual. You can give as many as you'd like.

Graduate Students: Graduate students are eligible to join at the reduced rate of \$18.81 for the first year, thereafter dues are \$49 a year.

Student Affiliates: Undergraduate students at institutions that are not college/university partner members may join AAUW for \$17 a year.

E-Student Affiliates: Undergraduate students at institutions that are college/university partner members may join AAUW as an E-Student Affiliate for free. All membership materials they receive, including Outlook, are sent via email. Upon graduation a free one year AAUW membership is given as a graduation gift.

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

***Blair Branch* by Jeene Hobbs, Membership and Immediate Past President**

With the election of officers last spring, Pam Andersen becomes the new branch president for the next two years. She led a planning meeting in June and we decided on a loose theme of community and government.

During the coming year we will be hearing from the superintendent of schools on school financing and Blair's education focus, Senator Lydia Brasch on upcoming legislative priorities, the Director of the local Chamber of Commerce, our County Attorney on the new drug court in Washington County, and from a representative of Metro Community College on the offerings at the Blair facility.

On the lighter side we plan a holiday trip to an Omaha art museum, a book discussion, and a chuck wagon dinner in honor of Yosemite National Park's 125th anniversary.

We had a successful garage sale in late spring so that our coffers are back to where they should be. Much thanks to Marilyn Abariotes for her time, energy, and garage.

Also our thanks go out to the officers who served for the prior two years. While many are still serving, some even in new roles, we do appreciate their time and talents.

Lincoln Branch by Kathie L. Court, President

The Lincoln Branch owes special thanks to Arlene Rea and Marilyn Grady, along with their committee members, for the wonderful AAUW-Lincoln programs they have developed. Our 2015-2016 AAUW-Lincoln programs focus on three initiatives:

- Good Health for Women and Children
- Getting Out of Poverty with Education, Training, and Leadership
- So That Women May Acquire a Voice

For the Good Health for Women and Children sessions, we encourage you to read Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities. Lincoln City Libraries has 3 copies available. AAUW-Lincoln has one copy to lend. Also, volunteers from AAUW-Lincoln will have the opportunity to conduct surveys for the Clinic with a Heart.

Our first meeting is Monday, September 21, 2015, 6:30 - 8:00 pm [Insert location when it is confirmed] "Good Health for Women and Children" Marcia White of Community Health Endowment of Lincoln will discuss The State of Health for Lincoln Women and Children

AAUW- Nebraska collaborates with the League of Women Voters to lobby on behalf of legislation such as the Medicaid Redesign Act, or LB 472. This year, AAUW-Lincoln continues to focus on poverty. With this in mind, De Tonack, past president and current member of AAUW-Lincoln, attended a field coalition meeting hosted by Appleseed on September 1, 2015.

Representatives from other organizations such as AARP, the American Cancer Society, and Omaha Together One Community were in attendance. The mission of this coalition entitled "Insure the Good Life" is to promote LB 472, which was tabled last year, or a similar bill in this coming legislative year.

Along with the numerous stories of people who by earning too little are left without affordable insurance, the Center for Rural Affairs offers convincing research that a program like Medicaid expansion is cost effective. Crabtree (2015) asserts that Medicaid expansion in Nebraska would bring about \$69.3 million in General Fund savings for the 5-year period and that programs already funded through the state's General Fund would no longer be needed. He also suggests that the model for the benefit-cost analysis shows the benefits and receipts from Medicaid expansion in Nebraska will far outpace General Fund costs.

If you have suggestions or questions in this effort and/or would like to be involved, please contact De Tonack, at dtonack@neb.rr.com

Reference

Crabtree, J. (2015). The bottom line: Medicaid expansion a fiscal winner for Nebraska, Center for Rural Affairs. Retrieved on September 2, 2015 from <http://www.cfra.org/medicaidexpansion-fiscal-winner-Nebraska>

Omaha Branch by Marilyn Bombac, President

Our Branch hosted our first AAUW-Omaha Tech Savvy pilot program on June 13th on the campus of The College of Saint Mary for 35 middle school girls and their parents. The Omaha Branch was one of eight new sites selected by AAUW to receive a \$6000 grant in 2015 to host a Tech Savvy pilot program for middle school girls. Twenty-eight AAUW volunteers (from Omaha and Lincoln Branches) participated before, during and after our event resulting in a win-win experience for our girls, parents, presenters, and our members. Also, in June, four of our branch members attended the AAUW-National Convention in San Diego where we attended workshops, participated in round table discussions, explored new ideas, and came home reenergized and excited about AAUW and what we can accomplish together. We are looking forward to hearing Julie Kalkowski, Executive Director for the Financial Hope Collaborative at Creighton University, speak at our September 19th general meeting on identifying economic barriers and workable solutions for low and moderate income households. On October 2nd, we will have an AAUW display table at The Durham Museum Teachers' Night where 900-1,000 teachers participate in this event. Many of our branch members will be traveling to Lincoln on October 17th to attend our AAUW-Nebraska Fall Workshop "Women in Leadership - Achieving Equity in Nebraska". Looks like we are off to another great start this year!

AAUW-Omaha Leader on National Governance Committee

Linda Bors was re-appointed to serve on the AAUW Governance Committee for the term July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017. This committee works with bylaws, policies, working rules, position descriptions, and annually reviews committee and task force needs. To be on a National standing committee, one must apply much like a job applicant, and receive a 2/3 vote from the National Board.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

We hope you enjoyed the new easier to read format of our Newsletter. 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