

Diane Edwards: Gender Equity Director Report - Oct 30 board meeting

Community Conversations

On August 16, 2010, Iowa AAUW board members Sandra KiestWilson, Diane Edwards and Kathy Farris; branch member, Jane Nettleton, and at-large member, Courtney Kain, met with The Iowa Initiative staff. Kristy Vilsack started the conversation by mentioning that 47% of pregnancies among Iowa women, ages 18-30, are unintended. Iowa ranks 48th in the nation in providing access to contraceptive services for women. By providing access to contraceptive services, the state can reduce the number of abortions and improve the lives of these women who are then more likely to finish high school or college, begin careers or marry, and enjoy healthier lives. Goals that were discussed by the group include: 1. Dispel the fears about contraception, 2. Educate the public - get out the facts, 3. Make people comfortable talking about contraception, 4. Develop a "Tool Kit" that can be utilized by the AAUW branches"

The Iowa Initiative-AAUW Partnership: Creating "Community Conversations" About Unintended Pregnancies and Family Planning meet by telephone conference call on 9-13. It was decided that we will use the "crawl, walk, run" approach for the project. The Iowa Initiative staff will be taking primary responsibility for compiling materials for the toolkit to be used by the community organizers and creating a documentary video that will be shown at the beginning of each Community Conversation. The AAUW members of the committee will determine the initial branches or colleges that we will reach out to this fall. A member of the Iowa Initiative staff and possibly an AAUW board member will attend the initial meeting. All remaining branches will be introduced to the project at our Iowa AAUW April Conference where we hope to get many more branches involved.

50-50 in 2020

AAUW Iowa is partnering with two former Iowa state legislators, Jean Lloyd-Jones (Dem) & Maggie Tinsman (Rep) to work on a **bi-partisan** project to educate women on the political process and mentor women who are interested in running for public office. Myself, Sandra Kiest Wilson and Linda Greenlee each contacted two branch presidents to see if their branches would be willing to find two women to be the "advance team" for the kick-off press conference on or around September 22 and a showing of the film "Iron Jawed Angels". The communities that were contacted were Cedar Falls/Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport/Bettendorf, Ames, Sioux City, Ames, and Des Moines.