

Diane Edwards, Gender Equity Director Board Report 1-25-2011

The AAUW Iowa Gender Equity committee consisting of Diane Edwards, Gender Equity Director, Maureen White, Cedar Falls Branch; Maryann Kuhr, Loess Hills Branch and Ann Stansbary, Palo Alto Branch met over lunch at the October 30 fall board meeting in Des Moines. We discussed our assignment of making a recommendation to the AAUW Iowa winter board meeting as to whether AAUW Iowa should join the One Iowa Coalition. The main points of the discussion are listed.

1. Lisa Matz, AAUW Public Policy staff person, indicated to Sandra Kiest Wilson that participation in the One Iowa Coalition is consistent with the AAUW Mission statement.

2. The committee discussed civil rights, legal issues, custody issues and income tax filing in relation to marriage versus civil unions. It was felt that constitutional protection under the law should be assured for everyone. It is now the law in Iowa.

3. The prejudice facing the gay/lesbian/bisexual community is much like that seen against the black community in the 60's.

4. Bullying at school because a student is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian or bisexual or because a student's parent (s) is gay/lesbian interferes with the student's right to an education in a nonhostile environment.

5. Joining the coalition may affect branch membership because women who are strongly against gay/lesbian marriage, may drop or decline membership in AAUW. The committee voted to recommend that Iowa AAUW join the One Iowa Coalition.

November 5, 2010 representatives from the Clarion AAUW Branch, representatives from the Iowa Initiative, Wright Co Public Health, Dr Amanda Tew and a tri-county CAPP (adolescent pregnancy prevention) coordinator and I (Iowa AAUW Gender Equity Director) met at the Clarion public library to discuss pregnancy prevention in Wright County. If the Clarion Branch votes to move ahead with the project, another meeting will be planned next February /March/April.

As part of the Board Branch Outreach Program, I made contact with the Algona Branch and will visit them on May 12 for a dinner meeting to discuss either Latinas el Exito or the Iowa Initiative pregnancy prevention project. I also told them that I will be doing a brief branch fitness assessment.