

Breaking through Barriers

for 130 Years
AAUW

Gem State Bulletin

Winter Board Issue
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Co-Presidents' Message

By Bonnie Pfaff and Patricia Alpine

Co-presidents, AAUW of Idaho

Greetings and Happy New Year!

One of our areas of focus this fall has been to review our state bylaws. At Summer Board 2012 a discussion ensued regarding adopting One Member, One Vote for Idaho to replace the current delegate voting system. A bylaws committee (Pat Alpine, Bonnie Pfaff, Marilyn Arp, Lynn Brooks) was formed to determine what changes would need to be made to the Idaho AAUW Bylaws to change our voting process. Pat and Bonnie contacted Jill Birdwhistell, Chief Operating Officer AAUW, to review our bylaws and offer suggestions as to what we would need to modify. We have also received sample bylaws and information from other states that have already adopted the One Member, One Vote process. The committee is continuing to work on this project and will present a draft motion to change our bylaws for discussion at winter board. The finalized motion will be presented in the convention issue of the Gem State Bulletin and voted on at State Convention.

Our AAUW of Idaho Convention will be held June 28 - 29, 2014, in Pocatello. Please note that voting at this convention will be by delegates as in the past. The convention delegates will be voting on our 2014-2016 slate of officers, Public Policy and One-Member, One Vote. The Pocatello branch is planning activities and determining possible overnight accommodations, please stay tuned for more information on this and plan to attend.

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Save the dates! Winter Board/Lobby Day is February 15, 16, and 17. On Saturday at 2 pm, Janie Ward-Engelking, Senator from District 18, will speak to us and answer our questions regarding Idaho Core Standards and how it is affecting Idaho schools. Also, on Saturday afternoon, Leadership Training - What is your Passion? will be facilitated by Susan Lamberson.

On Sunday we will discuss hot legislative issues and AAUW's position on them. On Monday, President's Day, we will be at the Capitol to meet with our legislators; be sure to contact them and make an appointment. I have arranged for a tour of the Capitol at 10:00 am. In addition, Monday is Planned Parenthood/ACLU Human Rights Lobby Day and we have been invited to attend their lobby training and activities. Please see the Winter Board Agenda that is included in this newsletter and plan to join us!

AAUW makes a difference in many ways. Thank you for all that you do.

As we carry out the mission of AAUW, it helps to keep these words in mind:

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, who am I for? And if not now, when?"

The Talmud

Add The Words

By Bonnie Pfaff, Co-president, AAUW of Idaho

For eight years the backers of ADD THE WORDS have worked to include “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the Idaho Human Rights Act. The Act already includes verbiage to bar discrimination based on race, gender, religion, national origin and disability. Boise Branch AAUW members attended the spirited ADD THE WORDS rally on January 11. There was a huge crowd with great speakers and music; I felt proud to be there. Since new Statehouse rules do not allow sticky notes on the walls in the Capitol any

longer, we all wrote our names on ribbons and tied them to wires strung between light poles on the lawn in front of the Capitol. In spite of all the public input, it appears that this year’s bill co-sponsored by Representative Grant Burgoyne and Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb will, again, be denied a hearing. As Representative Burgoyne recently stated, “This failure to act is particularly tragic and wrong because we all know how this ends, Idaho is better than this. We are better than this, and this will become law someday.” Please contact your legislators and let them know you want them to ADD THE WORDS.

Update on Education

By Carol Stirling Membership VP, AAUW of Idaho

FUNDING— Luna’s proposal is a 1% increase for teachers’ salaries and \$16 million for teachers’ leadership bonuses vs. Otter’s proposal of no increase in teachers’ wages. They are also working on a career ladders compensation formula.

COMMON CORE- Three components:

1. The standards were adopted in 2011 and have been tested for 2 years in a few districts and now are in full force throughout the state. The anti-core group is afraid that local control will be taken away and thinks it’s a federal program, which Luna assures them it’s not. Luna said that the curriculum for the standards will be developed by each school district. Both sides agree that there needs to be standards but who determines them seems to be where the problem arises.
2. The implementation of the standards is giving a lot of school districts problems because there are not enough resources to implement and when any new program starts it always seems confusing. The core standards have a high bar compared to the existing system and I’m sure some teachers are worried.
3. Tests will be used to evaluate the growth of the students and also to evaluate teacher performance in the classroom. If the tests are the only way to evaluate teacher performance this will be a problem. Idaho has chosen the tests to be open-ended questions or essay type questions. These types of tests take longer and people worry about children’s attention span, etc. The tests will be given on computers to all students. Children as young as 7 and 8 will be required to take the tests on the computer and people worry that they do not have keyboard skills or fine motor skills.

Idaho AAUW has endorsed the Common Core Standards.

Links to Common Core: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/> , www.idahocorestandards.org

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS— There are 20 Education task force recommendations that came out last fall. Otter and Luna support them but say it will take some years to implement them due to the cost factor.

Links to Taskforce recommendations:

http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/board_initiatives/Education_Improvement_Taskforce/TaskForceforimprovingEducation_Final_09-06-13.pdf

Plug-in During the Legislative Session: Bookmark our Website Advocacy Page

By Kathy Haley, Webmaster <http://aauw-id.aauw.net/advocacy>

Once again, the Idaho Legislature is in session. As webmaster of our AAUW Idaho website, I urge you to visit our state Advocacy page often for current information on issues of importance to you, so you may act quickly and affect change during the session. In addition to bills AAUW is following, you will find useful links and contact information for your representatives and media outlets, where you may submit a letter to the editor of your local paper in minutes.

Please get involved: stay informed and speak out as we follow education reform, women's health issues, Medicaid expansion and other hot topics. Special events and activities are posted on this page as well. And please be sure to send any information you find relevant to me at haleykathy@gmail.com .

Winter Board Meeting Agenda

February 15, 16 & 17, 2014

199 East 52nd Avenue, Garden City, Idaho

(From Chinden Blvd, turn north on East 52nd Ave, go one block; it is on the right)

Saturday February 15

12:00 Noon

- Call to Order
- Volunteers to read Board Minutes
- Announcements
- Finance Officer Report
- Reports of Officers/Chairs
- Webmaster/Website
- Facebook

1:45 p.m.

- Break

2:00 p.m.

- Guest Speaker: Janie Ward-Engelking, Senator District 18 Speaks on Idaho Core Standards

3:00 p.m.

- Break

3:15 p.m.

- Leadership Training: What is Your Passion? By Susan Lamberson

5:00 p.m.

- Recess until Sunday

5:30 p.m.

- Dinner at Joe's Crab Shack
2288 N. Garden St.. Boise

Sunday February 16

9:00 a.m.

- Branch Reports
- State Convention
- Nominating Committee
- Gem State Bulletin - March, 2014 Convention Edition
- Current Projects Update: Elect Her, Start Smart, STEM
- College/University Partnership Relationships
- Idaho AAUW One Member One Vote - Idaho Bylaws Committee
- Unfinished Business

10:15 a.m.

- Break

10:30 a.m.

- Discussion of Legislative Issues

12:00 noon

- Adjourn

Monday February 17

Lobby Day at the State Capitol Building

8 a.m.

- Idaho Human Rights Lobby Day - Planned Parenthood/ACLU

10 a.m.

- AAUW Tour at the State Capitol Meet in Basement

Winter Board Registration – Due February 5, 2014

AAUW of Idaho Winter Board 2014: February 15 - 17, 2014

199 East 52nd Avenue, Garden City, Idaho

(from Chinden Blvd. turn north on East 52nd Ave., go one block; it is on the right)

- Saturday, February 15, 2014 (noon - 5 p.m.)
- Sunday, February 16, 2014 (9 a.m. - noon)
Includes Issue Updates and Lobby Training
- Monday February 17, 8 a.m. Lobby Day

I am attending Winter Board - Name: _____ Branch _____

I plan to attend dinner at Joe's Crab Shack Saturday following the meeting
(each pays for own dinner and drinks) Yes No

I plan to attend Planned Parenthood/ACLU lobby day at 8 a.m.
Monday, February 17, at the Statehouse Yes No

I plan to attend the AAUW lobby day tour of the Capitol at 10 a.m.
Monday, February 17; meet in the basement of the Capitol Yes No

No Registration fee but please register by February 5 to Bonnie McKay Pfaff
bonnie.m.pfaff@wellsfargo.com or Pat Alpine patriciaalpine@gmail.com

Plan to Attend AAUW State Convention June 28 - 29, 2014 in Pocatello

The Pocatello branch has made arrangements to host the AAUW of Idaho State Convention on the beautiful campus of Idaho State University. As an AAUW partner institution, ISU is rolling out the red carpet, with meeting rooms and bargain-priced housing, not to mention nice meals and breaks on site. Mark your calendar today and plan to attend!



Idaho
Gem State Bulletin

Advancing equity for
women and girls
through advocacy,
education, philanthropy
and research

aauwidaho.org



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