

# AAUW AWARE

Owatonna Branch

December 2010

## Presidents' Message

You may recall that some time ago now, a poll of members was taken regarding a variety of topics. Here are the results of that survey. If anyone has any suggestions that may be prompted by the survey results, please let Maren or myself know.

### AAUW 2010 Survey Results

Would you like to see the Owatonna Branch partner with Riverland Technical College in Owatonna? If so, would you like to help? **82% of those voting were interested in the proposition, with a few needing more information first.**

Would you like to see more of branch funds going to National or staying local? **64% would like to see more branch funds staying local. 18% would like it to stay the same. 18% would like give National more money.**

What charity would you like to see the December member donation benefit? **Emma Norton, Transitional Housing (2), Trinity Nursery School (Art Center projects), Women's Crisis Center (2), The Food Shelf, Lily Sparrow House, Anything local (2)**

Would you like to see the scholarship amounts raised? **80% would like to see the amounts raised, but a couple respondents specified "not by having more fundraisers" 20% said not necessarily**

Do you have any ideas for increasing membership?

- contacting new community members that were members of a branch in another city**
- **try to get new grads**
- form a membership committee to address retention, & new member mentoring.**
- More community outreach to increase visibility & membership**
- **Sponsor a booth at a local event**
- **Contacting new teachers in town**

Is there anything Owatonna AAUW is or isn't doing?

- **Need more volunteers for positions**
- **More visibility**
- **A specific meeting date and place**

**January 25, 2011 meeting.**

**7:00 PM OHS "A" Plaza**

**"School within a School:  
Owatonna Options"**

Owatonna High School Assistant Principal, Beth Svenby and Mentor Coordinator, Val Rose will speak about "Owatonna Options". They'll explain the program and update us on its success at OHS, now that we are in the at the halfway mark in the 2110-11 school year. The meeting will be held at 7:00 PM at OHS in the newly updated "A" plaza. (Enter via tennis court doors; take immediate left, at end of hall, take stairs into Plaza A.)

Serving committee for that evening is: Marlys Olson (chairperson), Mary Overlee Olson, and Kris Robke.



**THANK YOU**

At the December meeting members contributed \$540.00 to the American Red Cross. Thanks to everyone who donated to this worthy cause.

*AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls,  
lifelong education, and positive societal change.*

**In a recent PINE , , ,**

our fine Owatonna branch was listed as one of only 4 branches in the state (out of 32) that increased membership during the year 2009-2010. Congratulations to Linda and to everyone who promotes this great organization.

## New Member

Many of you may already know our newest Owatonna AAUW member because Bonnie Crosbie taught for 33 years, mostly sixth grade. Bonnie says teaching was a very rewarding profession. Her goal after retiring from teaching was to learn to quilt. That has been and continues to be a fun challenge.

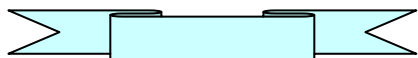
Bonnie's hometown is Waseca. After graduation, she attended Mankato State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree, and the University of Minnesota, earning a Masters Degree.

Tom and Bonnie have been married for 41 years and have two sons: J.T. is married to Robin, a Wisconsin girl, and John is married to Sarah, an Owatonna girl. Bonnie says, "Sadly, we have no grandchildren--- yet!"

Besides quilting, Bonnie loves to read, garden and enjoy the outdoors. Her family does a lot of camping with Bonnie's sisters and brothers-in-law. Her favorite book is *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand; her favorite movie is *Gone with the Wind*; Bonnie's favorite food is pizza, and she loves digging around in small antique shops.

Welcome to AAUW, Bonnie!

New members may join now through March 15 and take advantage of ½ price Association dues. Introduce a friend, neighbor or co-worker to this great organization working for all women.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Place LAF Award

Our branch received the 4th Place Award at the AAUW State Convention for our LAF contribution. That recognition was for a contribution of \$1,080.00 for 2010. LAF stands for Legal Advocacy Fund. Members who attended the State Convention in Owatonna vividly recall the story of one college professor, Claire Schuster, a professor of Nursing at Berea College, who, with AAUW's financial assistance, fought to gain tenure.

## AAUW Book Discussion Groups

*Anyone who likes to read is most welcome to join either group at any time*

### **Morning Brew Group**

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM The locations changes each month.

January 13: *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* Lao Kalia (Central Park)

February : *Freedom* Jonathan Franzen (HyVee) high demand

March : *My Antonia* (classic) Willa Cather (Custom Coffee)

April : Poetry (come to the meeting with a poet you'd like to read and discuss; we'll also share a favorite poem again) Caribou

This group actually has their books selected for each month of 2011. Each quarter's reads will appear in the newsletter.

### **Evening Group**

January 20 note time change 6:00 PM  
At the home of Carol Zetah  
Bring an appetizer or dessert.  
*The Piano Teacher*, by Janice Y.K.Lee



### **Winter's Here**

By Hannah Loecher  
Grd. 4 Prairie Creek School

Crunch crack crunch as I step  
Glittering shining snow flalling on my face  
The snow crunches with every step I take  
Snow on the ground shaped like waves  
As if there's an ocean under me.

## AAUW Public Policy

### Help Support the American DREAM!

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has placed the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (S. 3992) on the Senate calendar. This means the Senate may vote on the bill in just a few days. **Write your senators NOW and tell them that undocumented students who have known no other home than the United States deserve the opportunity to pursue the dream of a higher education!**

Under the DREAM Act, undocumented students who were brought into the U.S. before they were 16 and have lived here for at least five years could gain permanent legal status and eventually citizenship if they attend college or join the military for at least two years and display good moral character. These students, who frequently had no say in their parents' decision to enter the U.S., would also be eligible to apply for federal student loans.

The DREAM Act benefits not only these students, but the well-being of our nation as well. On average, a worker's earnings double with a college degree compared to a high school degree. Increased education and earnings lead to increased tax revenue, decreased reliance on public assistance programs, lower unemployment rates, and increased voting, volunteering, and other civic activities. **A well-educated society is a stronger society.**

AAUW is committed to making the dream of higher education a reality for all students. Without the DREAM Act, hard-working students who consider the United States their home and had no say in the decision to come here in the first place will continue to be punished, and the cycle of poverty will continue to be propagated by condemning these students to low-wage jobs.

### Take Action!

Urge your senators to support the DREAM Act. Simply click on the "Take Action" link in the upper right corner. If your senators have already signed on as a cosponsor, you will be able to send them a message of thanks.

### It ain't easy being green

-- or so the Federal Trade Commission hopes with its newly revised guidelines for labeling products as "eco-friendly."

The agency has made it much harder for businesses to legitimately slap green labels on their products, saying any claims need to be rooted in science or the agency may take action.

"In recent years, businesses have increasingly used 'green' marketing to capture consumers' attention," said FTC chairman Jon Leibowitz. "But what companies think green claims mean and what consumers really understand are sometimes two different things."

The new Green Guides advise companies that they will need "competent and reliable scientific evidence" to back up claims, along with recommendations for when to use words like "degradable" and "recyclable" in advertising and packaging. ("Degradable," for example, can only be employed if a product is capable of decomposing in a landfill within a year. To use the word "recyclable," the facilities needed to recycle it must be widely available – as opposed to only available in a few places with very good recycling programs.)

Green Guides aren't enforceable as law, but the FTC can take action if it decides a company's marketing is unfair or deceptive. Generally this takes the form of a cease and desist order, which can then become a fine if violations continue.

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