



Gem State Bulletin

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Summer Board Issue

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Join us in Caldwell August 7 & 8

Pat Alpine, Co-president

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Happy summer, everyone! I hope all of you have had a great summer so far. I am so excited and honored to serve as your upcoming Co-president of AAUW for the state of Idaho. Bonnie and I will work towards making our term a rewarding and hopefully fun two years for all of us. National association is re-inventing itself with some exciting changes and Bonnie and I will communicate these changes to you.

I hope that you will be able to attend Summer Board this year. It is being held at my place of employment, the J. R. Simplot Company's Technical Center in Caldwell. Since there are no fees associated with this facility, **there are no registration fees for Summer Board!**

We will start the weekend out with a Bring Your Own Brown Bag lunch. Sylvia Chariton will moderate a panel of Idaho women legislators that will discuss the state of Idaho politics on Saturday afternoon. Those of you who are able are welcome to join us for a no-host dinner at The Bent Fork Grill in Caldwell Saturday night. On Sunday we will establish a state budget for 2010—2012 and then finish the meeting with a pizza lunch. If you need a place to stay, please do not hesitate to contact either Bonnie or me (email or phone me at 859-0325). Each of us has two extra bedrooms in our homes and would love to have you as our guests. See you in August!

*"Come to Summer Board
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More Reasons to Attend Summer Board

Bonnie Pfaff, Co-president

Hi! I also look forward to seeing you all at Summer Board. We use this time as a planning session for the AAUW Idaho board, committees, and representatives from each of the AAUW Idaho Branches (we do have fun as well!). All members are invited to attend. AAUW members are great resources for each other and this is an excellent way to meet members from all over the state. There are always lots of good ideas to take back to your branches. Come to Summer Board and have fun, get to know like-minded women, and get energized!

An Afternoon with Legislators

By Sylvia Chariton, VP Public Policy

During the afternoon Summer Board session on Saturday, August 7, we will have a panel discussion with three female Idaho legislators. The invited legislators are: Representative Anne Pasley-Stuart from Boise's North End; Representative and AAUW Pocatello Vice President of Public Policy, Elaine Smith; and Representative Elfreda Higgins, Garden City. Sylvia Chariton, AAUW-Idaho Vice President of Public Policy will moderate.

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Since there is a severe lack of females in public office, part of the discussion will include what motivated these women to run and how they planned a successful and financially manageable campaign. Also, how would they mentor and encourage other women to run?

Get-Out-the-Vote is another major undertaking. All of us understand the power of one vote and how every vote makes a difference. We will explore how these women have encouraged other women to get out and vote...were there any magic words? What was their prescription and motivation in Idaho?

Each legislator will be given time to talk about one of their key issues. For instance, Rep. Pasley-Stuart has worked closely with AAUW-Idaho on Equal Pay Day. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law, giving women the promise of equal pay for equal work. And yet today, 47 years later, women still get paid only 77 cents on average for every dollar a man makes; women of color still face an even wider pay gap, and we're still fighting for pay equity.

Another key issue for these legislators has been the Freedom of Conscience Act, passed during the last session, which allows pharmacists the right to refuse to fill prescriptions based on their own moral objections. This legislation has implications for many women, as well as all seniors, as it is drawn to include other health care professionals that may opt-out of performing services. AARP strongly opposed this bill and continues to lobby for removal of end-of-life language, which could supplant a patient's advanced directives.

We would also like to have these legislators provide some insight into the political workings of the Legislature, to help us find how best to approach some legislators who have not been friendly to our causes or may be “on the fence.”

Finally, we will open this forum to member questions. These women are the experts and our role models. Through preparation, opportunity and some share of luck, these women have made it into office and we will analyze how they got there and how we can get others there, too.

