

AAUW plans to help schools

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BY BEN J. PLASTINO

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The American Association of University Women will push for upgrading of public education in Idaho despite tight funding, Kay Snyder, legislative action chairman of the Idaho Falls AAUW chapter, said Wednesday.

She said AAUW members have been contacting their area legislators to help in the AAUW achieve such goals.

The AAUW usually holds a "Legislative Day" during the Legislature session but is not conducting one this year. Instead AAUW members are speaking individually to their legislators.

"We support programs which provide equal opportunity for the best possible education for every individual in Idaho, all with adequate funding," she said.

Among the goals supported by the AAUW are post-secondary education which includes colleges, universities and vocational training; public education, including equalization of state funding and organization of school districts; and increased state funding of public education at all levels, because of decreased local funding due to implementation of the 1 percent.

Other programs include vocational education and career education and exploration in the public schools; mandatory state support of kindergartens; special education, including programs for the gifted and talented and the handicapped; adult continuing education opportunities at all levels; and multi-media centers with qualified media specialists.

Mrs. Snyder added "we support programs which protect the rights, freedom and dignity of the individual and society and provide equal opportunities in education, finance, employment, housing and health care."

Among the programs listed is support promoting equal treatment under the law, including revision or repeal of all Idaho laws which

discriminate against the individual on the basis of sex, age, race, religion or national origin; and also support continuation and funding of the Women's Commission until full equality under the law is attained.

Other programs backed include constitutional amendments which are instruments for protecting and expanding individual rights; and opposing any constitutional convention to eliminate or diminish existing civil liberties.

Along this line, she said, the AAUW to improve the social and economic status of the elderly; promote responsible sex education programs in the schools; require licensing of preschool and day care facilities; provide programs for the displaced homemaker; promote programs which provide further assistance and shelters for victims of domestic violence; promoted the rights of the child for a happy childhood; and provide for equal services in all areas for Idaho women prisoners, as are provided for male prisoners.

The AAUW also supports comprehensive and coordinated planning for conservation of energy and natural resources.

The AAUW, said Mrs. Snyder, gives its support to programs which preserve human aesthetic and cultural values, encouraging advance of the arts and humanities to urge sufficient funding for expansion of the programs to reach all persons of the state.

On the national level, AAUW backs all programs for the rights of the individual, orderly community development promotional of cultural policies, adequate public education funding, and human rights as a foreign policy.

AAUW resolutions back the ERA, educational equity for women through Title IX, women conference, voting rights for District of Columbia, rights of the child, constitutional amending process, AAUW internship, using the term of "chairman" and "chair" interchangeably, review of nuclear power policies, and backing policies for adequate world production of food.

Majority leader sees no budget reopening

Undated

BY BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

BOISE — Senate Majority Leader James Risch, R-Boise, said Tuesday he sees little possibility the Joint Finance Appropriation Committee will reopen budgets to approve increased appropriations.

He noted the JFAC adjourned a week ago and would need to reconvene to take such action, adding "it could be an entire enacting process."

Risch said he felt, however, the JFAC had done a good job in its budget approving actions.

Risch said the JFAC was instructed to fund the various agencies under the \$422.5 million revenue projection.

"It was a difficult job when they (stage agencies) want more than there is available money," said Risch. "I think they did well and worked hard and long to have a budget that will pass."

Risch said there is some concern over whether the \$195 million is enough for public education but sees little chance for increased appropriation this late in the session.

Risch said it is possible to adjourn Saturday, but conceded it likely will not take place until a week later.

"I think we have been getting along well," said Risch. "Most of our work has been to keeping the state house in order. We are doing just what needs to be done."

Risch said the Senate has been vastly different this year with the majority working well with the minority.

He pointed out there has been only one party line vote, that on the Northwest Power Bill to make its Idaho appointments bipartisan. It has passed both House, but faces a certain gubernatorial veto.

"We have a good understanding in the Senate on legislation and the issues are argued primarily on their merits without much partisan flavor," said Risch.