

AAUW plans to help schools

Thurs. Mar. 5, 1981

BY BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

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.