



IOWA INITIATIVE

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OUR MISSION: ADVANCING EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH
ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH.



Ann Gale, Iowa 2016-18 Iowa President

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President’s Report

Charlottesville

I am writing this after the tragic events at Charlottesville. Like some of you, I went to the “Shine the Light Against Hate” vigil in downtown Des Moines. I was encouraged by the attitude of everyone who came, and I would like to encourage all of you to look for ways to work together to create a culture of involvement, respect, connection, and inclusion. Let’s work together to make our part of the world a place that works for everyone.

19th Amendment Anniversary

The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was adopted into the constitution on August 26, 1920. The 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment is an occasion worth celebrating, and planning for that event is already underway. The League of Women voters is leading the planning for the celebration, with support from other women’s organizations. The committee is chaired by Doris Kelley. Plans will become more specific between January and June 2018. This will culminate on August 26, 2020. Look for more specifics next spring.

Affiliate Agreements and Bylaws

Each branch of AAUW needs to have a signed affiliate agreement and current bylaws uploaded into the AAUW Member Services Database. Jo Treadwell, the Bylaws Director for AAUW Iowa, made this easier for us by revising bylaws for the branches and sending them out to branches in November 2016. I am pleased to report that all of the AAUW branches in Iowa now have signed affiliate agreements and current bylaws in the Member Services Database.

(continued on p. 8)



Attendees from back left: Mary Ann Ahrens, Diane Patton, Elaine Kresse, and Carletta Knox-Seymour

From front left: Maxine Lampe, Maureen White, and Linda Armitage

Highlights from Elaine Kresse——

AAUW National Convention: How could you not be inspired?

Great speakers with honest messages. My favorite: If you're alive and breathing get up and do the work!

The main message was that the work of supporting young women is real.

We wrote our elevator speeches. This is mine: Nationally AAUW's research is sound and respected. It has changed the Climate for Women and Girls. Here in Iowa we lobby for women's issues using fact and research and in local branches we really offer a chance for members to grow their own leadership skills, network, and grow lifelong friendships.

They repeatedly urged us to reach out to students.

The emphasis in all the meetings and workshops I attended was membership.

Focus and target: Mothers, Professional women, early retirees but don't forget

College and University membership memberships and their students are the future. A positive experience with AAUW in college is the reason they join or renew a few years later wherever they have traveled when they are ready. They are our pipelines to the future.

NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

Continued...

Hi!

Here are some brief remarks about my experience as a first time AAUW national convention/conference goer.

The Iowa delegation was indeed an impressive group. I felt blessed and honored in meeting so many active, civic conscious, and aware women. The Lobby Day experience was very positive. Grassley's and Ernst' office representatives were attentive and took notes. Walking the corridors of our capitol and legislative offices was an awesome feeling.

Our national convention planners did an extraordinary job with the speakers and workshops. Having Justice Sonia Sotomayor receive the achievement award and her shaking the hand of most of her audience was inspiring. My hand got shaken!

The alumnae recognition award given to Dr. Tererai Trent came with one of the most inspiring stories as delivered by her on stage and was highlighted with the signing of her children's book called The girl who buried her dreams in a can.

Because of the suggestion from Sharon Vana (Cedar Rapids member) to apply as a volunteer at the conference, I felt that was another layer of involvement with real positive effects. Because of that, I assisted with registrations, and met there our next Board President, Julia Brown.

Through all of the messages and work we all did to make this conference a success, it could not be overlooked that we all had a purpose in belonging to this very unique and transformative group called the AAUW. It made each of us want to do a better job with getting our membership promoted and our message put out into the entire nation and world: "standing strong to protect women's equality and economic security, together. And empowering women."

Linda Armitage, Membership Director of Cedar Rapids, Iowa branch. 319-393-0675



Inside the new National Headquarters Building in Washington, DC, from left: Diane Patton, Mary Ann Ahrens, and Maxine Lampe.

MORE PHOTOS

FROM THE CONVENTION



Break time: from left, Margo Underwood, Maxine Lampe, and Florine Swanson.

The National Legacy Circle Team. Our representative, Maxine Lampe, in orange, is the representative to Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.



MORE PHOTOS

FROM THE CONVENTION



Selfie with Carletta Knox-Seymour, Elaine Kresse, and Linda Armitage

Carletta Knox-Seymour and Linda Armitage packing up to leave.





OUR BY-LAWS ARE CURRENT

NO CHANGES are anticipated for state and branch bylaws for 2017-18. All branches need to have two documents on file at AAUW: a copy of the branch bylaws and a signed copy of the affiliate agreement between the branch and AAUW. At this time, all AAUW Iowa branches have both these documents on file.

Jo Treadwell, AAUW IA Bylaws Director

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SAVE THE DATE—The 2018 Annual Conference for Iowa AAUW will be Friday and Saturday, April 20 & 21 at the beautiful Iowa Lakes Community College Campus in Fort Dodge.

Plans are underway for the AAUW Iowa Spring Conference in Fort Dodge April 20-21. We anticipate a theme of "Truth and Consequences," and plan to invite participation of branches in Iowa for activities.

MEMBERSHIP

The college/university coordinator has recently presented every community college president with a copy of Deeper in Debt along with a short elevator speech focused on AAUW research and the advocacy AAUW employs at both State and National levels. All were asked to join or renew their membership.

Nearly half of the Community colleges are now members. The state Membership VP has asked you to contact your local colleges to become partners. Three of Iowa's colleges now have active student affiliates.

The foundation is strong but not complete. It's up to you to build on that relationship. Do some research and ask yourself:

- what is the purpose of the c/u partnership
- what is the benefit to the student
- what is the benefit to the school
- how can AAUW enhance and supplement programming
- what is in it for you, your branch, and AAUW and the future

Then armed with your own elevator speech,

Reach out to the designated faculty representative as well as counselors, activity coordinators, department heads, and designated student leaders to organize a meeting or a simple coffee/Coke break. Having students participate is valuable as they can relate their need for support from AAUW resources. It's the only way they are going to start a student affiliate.

Do let us know how you did!

Janet Fife-LaFrenz

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Elaine Kresse

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(President's Report, continued from p. 1)

A New Talent Bank Is Coming

The Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women has a talent bank on their website, but they acknowledge that it is cumbersome and keeping it up to date is too labor-intensive and impractical. The Iowa Women's Leadership Project representatives have begun meeting with people from the Governor's office about creating an online talent bank that is more automatic and interactive. Catherine Huggins, Chief Advisor to Governor Kim Reynolds, has met with representatives from the Iowa Department of Human Rights, the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, representatives from the business community, the Carrie Chapman Catt Center, and women's organizations, including AAUW. Monica Stone, with the Department of Human Rights, presented a chart that captures steps in the project and a timeline with projections for work to be done on programs and promotion, technical issues, and funding. Sales Force has contracted with Iowa and other states on technical work, and they have provided a mockup created by Vertiba, one of their business partners, demonstrating possible features of the proposed talent bank. The intent would be for women to enter information about their education, experience, and skills. City and county governments would be able to access individual information to work toward gender balance on boards and commissions. Representatives of businesses would also be able to access information to further work toward balance on their boards, and to look for potential employees. The talent bank should be a useful tool for women seeking opportunities, for businesses looking for talented women, and for all levels of government seeking to fill boards and commissions. Startup costs are estimated to be from \$70,000 - \$100,000. An announcement about the project will be made at the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Celebration in West Des Moines on August 26th.

Zooming Toward You : A New Web Conference Platform

AAUW Iowa holds some of our meetings online, and this allows us to save both time and travel expense. We have just begun to use the Zoom web conferencing platform. Zoom is a change for us, and we are getting used to it, but so far we are encouraged by the ease of the new system. Zoom will allow us to have a virtual meeting with audio and video up to 100 people. Members may participate using a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone for audio and video, or they may phone in on a standard telephone for audio only. We also plan to use Zoom for share and learn seminars, and we are currently planning virtual meetings on lobbying and political action, appealing to diverse members in your community, and starting a new branch. If you have additional ideas for a share and learn seminar that you would like to see, please contact AAUW Iowa President Ann Gale at aauwiowapres@gmail.com, or web technician Penny Foy at livetoday2006@yahoo.com.

AAUW and the IRS

Each branch needs to complete the appropriate IRS form based on annual gross revenue and assets by October 15. For most branches, that would be form 990n, and this is easy to do, but very important. The branch needs to file either IRS Form 990-N (gross receipts \$50,000 or less), 990-EZ (gross receipts under \$200,000), or 990 based on gross annual receipts and total asset thresholds. The branches in the first group can submit the Group Authorization and Survey Form online, in the AAUW member services database.

NOMINATIONS

At this pivotal point in our country's history, leadership in AAUW is critical. AAUW women are a dynamic group of women who share educational, intellectual, economic and health concerns. They are problem solvers, cooperating with others to come to a solution that is in the best interest for all Americans. Leadership is critical at all levels of AAUW; from inspiring and coordinating at the branch level to state level decision making. AAUW women of conviction are vital.

The Nominations Committee is now beginning the process of recruiting women for leadership positions on the AAUW IA state board for 2018. While many of the positions will be filled by women in their second term, there will be openings for women who wish to expand their levels of service. There are two state meetings and two internet meetings which gives efficiency without a great deal of travel. If you wish to become more involved at the state level or wish to nominate someone, please contact any committee member. The committee is composed of Mary Koenig marylis@frontiernet.net, Sharon Vana svana72158@aol.com, Karen DeVore, chuckkarendevor@gmail.com, and Irene Dodder, iredodder01@gmail.com.

The nominations committee members are serving the last of their second two-year terms so the entire committee is open for election in 2018. This is a wonderful way to serve. Most of the meetings are done via phone, mail, or e-mail which meets the demands of busy women who wish to serve, but have a schedule that does not allow for statewide travel. There is an immediate opening for a committee member to serve the northwest geographical section of the state.

If you are contacted to serve on the Iowa board, please consider this as your fellow members having confidence in your ability. Please step forward. It will be a truly rewarding challenge.

Nominations Committee Director,

Irene Dodder