



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



Anne Stansbury Johnson, AAUW Iowa 2018-20 Iowa President

IOWA INITIATIVE

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From the President

Hope you’re all closing out a great summer. I had the chance to explore northern Minnesota and North Dakota with my 10 and 12-year-old granddaughters recently. Word of advice: Don’t go to the International Peace Garden without a passport. We left with a document that said we were in noncompliance. Oh well. Another adventure. And I was really tired when I got home!

Speaking of adventures, we’re progressing with the planning for the 2020 AAUW Regional Conference. Right now it feels a little chaotic, but things are moving forward. See the details later in this copy of the *Initiative*. Be assured we’ll keep you posted on plans and needs for volunteers. It’s a huge opportunity to go to a National-quality conference closer to home and less expensively. For now, put June 18 and 19 (Thursday and Friday), 2020 in your calendars!

This will be an action-packed year with the celebration of the 19th Amendment, the Iowa caucuses and the 2020 vote. Please check your calendars to see if you can fit me in as a visitor to one of your meetings. It could be at a meeting for prospective members or just to stop in and meet you. As a board we’re really interested in finding out what we can do for you!

2020 AAUW Regional Conference Preview

Anne Johnson, AAUW Iowa President

Start planning now for the Iowa AAUW Annual Conference. It will be held at the 2020 AAUW Regional Conference on June 18 and 19, 2020 (Thursday and Friday) with a wrap-up on Saturday at breakfast for those who wish to stay. The conference will be held at the Hyatt in East Moline, Illinois.

Calls are already in to the National Office for speakers. With so many states involved the likelihood of top quality speakers is excellent.

Both Quad Cities branches will be involved in preparations and hosting – with volunteers happily accepted. Committees formed for the planning process at this time are, Budget, Planning, Marketing, and Speakers. Once we get more organized we’ll be sending out requests for more volunteers.

At this point the states who have definitely committed to sending participants are: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Indiana and Texas. Other possible attendees are Arkansas, Oklahoma, Michigan and Wisconsin.

This is a great opportunity to have a next-best-thing-to National Conference in our own back yard. Even if the same group continues in the future, it is unlikely to be so close for most of us. We’re working hard to keep it affordable and convenient for as many of you as possible. Let’s have a great Iowa turn-out!

Ideas Please!

Elaine Kresse and Janie Montang, AAUW Iowa Membership Co-Vice Presidents

As Iowa AAUW membership co-vice presidents, we are interested in your ideas of how to strengthen membership and branches in various parts of our state. We are willing to reach out and travel but we also need your help. We would like to form a membership committee of four or five members who could communicate by email and web conference to share ideas about how to strengthen AAUW Iowa. As we decide when and where to travel or are invited to areas, we would welcome having committee members who might live much closer than either of us to join us. If your heart is in AAUW and you are interested in its growth in Iowa, we would love to hear your ideas and welcome you on the membership committee. Contact: Janie (515-450-2992 or home 515-395-2992, Email: janiem@netamumail.com) and/or Elaine (563-320-3325 or home 563-391-3455, Email: elainekresse2@gmail.com).

Reaching Out to Members All Over Iowa

Elaine Kresse and Janie Montang, AAUW Iowa Membership Co-Vice Presidents

We are beginning to work on outreach in various parts of the state with no branches. We are particularly interested in meeting community members in areas with colleges that are or could be AAUW member schools. We want those community members to learn how easy it is to set up a branch, student group, or Younger Women's Task Force, and how effective such a group can be in addressing common concerns. We also will be promoting leadership in AAUW as a way to hone leadership skills as women work on equity. We would be happy to come to your area. We hope to meet with a few contacts in a coffee shop or school to share AAUW's story and work on possibilities. If you would like us to come to your area, contact us. Janie (515-450-2992 or home 515-395-2992. Email: janiem@netamumail.com) and/or Elaine (563-320-3325 or home 563-391-3455. Email: elainekresse2@gmail.com).

50-50 in 2020 Co-Founders to Receive Equity for Women Award

50-50 in 2020 was founded in 2010 by former Republican State Senator Maggie Tinsman from Davenport and former Democratic State Senator Jean Lloyd-Jones from Iowa City. At the time, Iowa had never had a woman governor, nor had Iowa sent a woman to represent us in Washington D.C. Maggie and Jean founded 50-50 in 2020 as a 10-year project to encourage women to run for office. They understood that better laws are made when women are part of the process, and seeking political office is more intimidating for women than it is for men.

The Equity for Women Award is given annually by 50-50 in 2020 to recognize women who have paved the way for those who follow them. Previous recipients of this award have included Linda K. Neuman, Katherine Jefferts Schori, Christine, H. B. Grant, Bonnie Campbell, Sr. Catherine Dunn, Judy Bradshaw, and Diane Ramsey.

The award reception will be held Wednesday, September 18, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 at the Hilton Garden Inn Iowa City Downtown, 328 South Clinton Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Heavy hors d'ouvres and cash bar will be provided. Individual Tickets are \$50, and sponsor and host levels are available in amounts of \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250.

Both Maggie and Jean are AAUW members. We congratulate them on this recognition, and we value their service to women and girls.



50-50 in 2020 Co-Founders Jean Lloyd-Jones and Maggie Tinsman will receive the Equity for Women Award Sep 18

The Founder of an AAUW Diversity Project to be Honored

Iowa Government's Office of Latino Affairs will be inducting Jan Mitchell into the Latino Hall of Fame to honor her as founder of *Al Éxito*, which promotes the empowerment of Latinos for success through education, leadership, and community engagement. During the October 19th ceremony, Mitchell will be given the Robert D. Ray Award for Equity and Justice. Robert D. Ray was a humanitarian and civil rights activist who served as the 38th governor of Iowa for 14 years, and signed into law the Spanish-Speaking People's Commission which is now known as the Office of Latino Affairs.

In 2005, as Iowa AAUW co-chairs of Gender/Equity/Diversity, two women from Marshalltown, Iowa were expected to create a project. As a response to a 671% increase of immigrants in the Marshalltown school population from 1995-2005, Jan Mitchell, a retired educator, and Pam Swarts, a small business owner, held a planning session in November 2005 with five young adult Latinas with college degrees. The group listed barriers that keep young Latinas from envisioning college education in their futures. All agreed that without special support, few of the Latinas enrolled in the upper grades would enroll in post-high school education. Those who entered the work force would lack skills for all but low-paying jobs.

Steps were taken to organize and pilot *Latinas al Éxito (Latinas toward Success)*, for eighth grade Latinas with the goals of (1) encouraging young Latinas to consider education beyond high school



Jan Mitchell will be inducted into the Latino Hall of Fame.

and (2) empowering young adult Latinas who have college experience in leadership roles.

With the support of AAUW Community Action Grants, *Latinas al Éxito* expanded to three other communities with active AAUW Branches. By 2009, the organization gained non-profit status and continued expanding, eventually hiring a full-time executive director, serving male and female students in middle-schools and high schools, involving community service projects, and celebrating high school graduations of its active members. In 2019, *Al Éxito* has active groups in 28 schools.

Jan Mitchell has been an active AAUW member for 53 years. After moving to Des Moines, Jan helped found the AAUW Iowa eNetwork Branch which serves members across Iowa with programs using a web-conference format. Jan was one of five members of the AAUW National Membership Sub-committee that helped create the AAUW Online/Virtual Branch Guide in 2013.

The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs established the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame in 2017 with the goal of ensuring that the efforts of Latino leaders are honorably recognized and celebrated. Each year, the inductees will be recognized at a special Iowa Latino Hall of Fame ceremony during National Latino Heritage Month, September 15 — October 15. This year, the induction ceremony will be held on October 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Des Moines Art Center, 4700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony, sponsored by the Friends of the Iowa Commission and Office of Latino Affairs. The ceremony and reception are free and open to the public, and registration is not required.

Help Needed

What can you do to support AAUW even more than you do? How about making a donation to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund? Contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund allow the organization to respond quickly to emerging challenges facing women and girls. It allows our organization flexibility to address such needs. The Greatest Needs Fund supports AAUW's strategic plan: Education and Training, Economic Security, and Leadership. It helps to expand on programs such as Start Smart and Work Smart, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, ground-breaking research, and other efforts.

You can find out more information about the Greatest Needs Fund and the other AAUW Funds at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/the-aauw-fund-faq/>

Remember that contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be sent to the address below or made online at www.aauw.org/contribute

P.O. Box 98045
Washington, DC 20090-8045
800.326.2289

connect@aauw.org

www.aauw.org

Thank you for our support!

AAUW at the Palo Alto County Fair

Fairgoers learned about education in rural one-room schools just like the one on the Palo Alto County fairgrounds. Former students and teachers gave listeners a glimpse of history as they shared their experiences.

Roberta Kulow and Ruth and Marvin Duhn who attended one-room schools, described curriculum and daily school routines. Some of the memories they told were about bringing lunch to school and baking potatoes in the stove used for heating the school. A popular recess game was called kitten ball (think softball with a squishy ball). To receive their 8th grade completion certificate, students had

to take tests at the superintendent's office.

Memories from three former rural school teachers that were previously written and donated many years prior to this year's presentation were read. The teachers were Mary Noonan, Ellen Olson, and Rose Reeves. Some of the memories described beginning pay, stoking the stove before students arrived, and the trials of traveling to and from school in bad weather. Discipline was not an issue but cold weather brought traveling difficulties for both teachers and students.

The session was sponsored by the Palo Alto County branch of AAUW.



Roberta Kulow, Ruth Duhn, and Marvin Duhn attended one-room schools in Iowa.

Davenport-Bettendorf Kicks Off the Year with Iron-Jawed Angels

The Davenport-Bettendorf branch held their fall kick off meeting at St. Ambrose College on August 26th, Iowa Equality Day. Katy Strzepek, St. Ambrose Director of women's and gender studies, led a discussion about the film, *Iron-Jawed Angels*. A showing of the film followed, and students who were present were given information about attending NCCWSL.

New branch president and Democratic state representative Phyllis Thede welcomed new member Republican state senator Chis Cournoyer. The branch is proud to work across party lines to advance equity for women and girls through AAUW.



From left: Maggie Tinsman, Chris Cournoyer, Katy Strzepek, Phyllis Thede.

Mark Your Calendar!

September 18, 2019. Equity for Women Award, Hilton Garden Inn, Iowa City Downtown, 5:30-7:30.

October 19. Latino Hall of Fame Award, Des Moines Art Center, 4700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 6:00 p.m.

February 12, 2020. AAUW Iowa Lobby Day at the Iowa Legislature, Iowa Capitol, Des Moines.

April 8, 2020. AAUW Iowa marks Equal Pay Day, Iowa Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines.

June 18-19, 2020, Regional AAUW Conference, Hyatt, East Moline, Illinois

AAUW-IA eNetwork to Focus on Active Engagement

Jan Mitchell, eNetwork Treasurer

The AAUW-IA eNetwork Branch will use the theme **Engaging for Good** during the 2019-2020 program year.

Scheduled programs include: Star-worthy Engagement (Sept); Human Trafficking: Ideas into Action (Oct); White Privilege (Nov); Women in Science Panel (Jan); Iowa AAUW Capitol Corps: Legislative Issues (Feb); *Why They Marched: Celebrating the 19th Amendment* (Mar); What About the Children? (Apr); Educational Engagement (May); and Summer Reading Ideas/eNetwork ReCharge (June).



The eNetwork Branch had eight charter members when it was officially recognized by AAUW in 2011. The current membership is an 87% increase from 2011, with 100% of last year's members renewing. Members live all across the state and beyond.

The branch meetings use a Zoom web-conferencing platform, during which all attending are able to see and hear one another. Presentations often include power point visuals.

eNetwork meetings are held on the third Thursday evening of the month from 7:30 -8:30. Guests are welcome and encouraged to log in by 7:15. To find the link to join eNetwork meetings, log into <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net>, then click **AAUW Iowa Web Meetings**.

Time to Review Branch Bylaws

Jo Treadwell, AAUW Iowa Bylaws Director

As new officers begin their terms, now is the time to read and review your branch bylaws. By reviewing your branch bylaws, each officer/member becomes aware of how your branch is structured, your responsibilities as an officer/member, and the procedures/processes by which your branch functions.

In 2016, AAUW mandated the first seven Articles in each branch's bylaws, which can only be changed by national AAUW. At that time, each branch's bylaws were brought in compliance with AAUW's 2016 mandates, and a copy was sent to each branch.

Take time at a Board or regular meeting to discuss your bylaws to see if revisions are needed. Have you changed the number or names of your branch officers? Have you changed the number of times you meet each year? Have you changed any financial procedures for your branch? Any of these or other revisions to your current branch need to be updated in your branch bylaws.

AAUW has not mandated any changes since 2016.

However, branches can make changes needed to bring your bylaws in line with best practices and to reflect how your branch is currently functioning in the remaining Articles in your branch bylaws. All revisions to branch bylaws, must be reviewed and approved by AAUW Bylaws Director before a membership vote is taken. This is to ensure that changes do not conflict with AAUW bylaws and procedures.

If you cannot find a copy of your branch bylaws that was sent to each branch president in November 2016, contact Bylaws Director for an electronic copy.

Jo Treadwell, AAUW Iowa Bylaws Director

Cell: 319-4870-1147 Email: jotom.tdll@gmail.com

To Request a Change in National Bylaws

Each AAUW member may propose changes to the national bylaws to the Governance Committee for consideration for the spring 2020 national vote. A copy of the current AAUW bylaws is on the national website. Please include the article and section numbers and send proposed amendments to aauwgovernance@aauw.org for consideration no later than 6:00 PM ET on Monday, September 16.

This is Your Newsletter

Ann Gale, Iowa Initiative Editor

The value of this newsletter depends on members sending us information about what you are doing. Our next deadline is October 15, and I would love to hear from members all over the state. Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of women and girls.

If you are aware of any AAUW members in Iowa who have not received this newsletter by email, I would appreciate

your help. Please forward the newsletter to them, and ask them to give me their current email address. Some members do not use email. If you have a friend in that situation, and have the ability to print a copy for her, that would be wonderful. Contact: Ann Gale, ann.gale9@gmail.com or aauw.iowa1@gmail.com. 515-320-4404.

2019 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Inductees Include Two AAUW Members

To highlight women's heritage and recognize their contributions, the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) established the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1975. Each year the ICSW and the Governor welcome four women into the Hall of Fame, paying tribute to them and setting them forth as role models for others. The induction ceremony for 2019 was held on August 24 in Urbandale, with a reception following the ceremony. This year's honorees include:

The Honorable Ruth B. Klotz (Des Moines, Iowa): Former president of Soroptimist International, mentor, attorney, one of the longest serving judges in Iowa's history, legal scholar

Mona Kadel Martin (Davenport, Iowa): Former state representative who was instrumental in the passage of the Iowa Equal Rights Amendment; Iowa's maternity stay law; the measure requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for prescription contraceptive drugs, devices and services; and healthcare reforms impacting older Iowans

Ione Genevieve Shadduck, PhD (West Des Moines, Iowa): Long-time advocate for women in sports and physical education, professor, attorney, author, one of the professionals that advocated for the transition to 5-player girls basketball in Iowa, founding member of the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and the Iowa Women's Political Caucus, leader in the Older Women's League

Florine Mary Schulte Swanson (Galt, Iowa): Long-time Executive Director of the Iowa 4-H Foundation; active and committed member of the American Association of University Women (serving in leadership positions numerous times at the local, state and national level); served as a delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN on several occasions; advocate for gender balance in Iowa.

The Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice went to:

Mary Beth Tinker (Washington, DC; originally from Des Moines, Iowa): Life-long advocate for social justice, civil rights, freedom of speech, and the rights of youth.

Mona Kadel Martin is a member of the Davenport-Bettendorf Branch of AAUW, and Florine Swanson is a member of the Clarion Branch of AAUW.



Mona Martin was nominated by 3 members from the Davenport-Bettendorf Branch. From left: Rosanne Krubsack, Doris Mack, Mona, and Elaine Kresse.



Mona Martin and her display.



Florine Swanson receives her award.



AAUW members congratulate award recipients.

AAUW Algona Membership Night

Janie Montang, AAUW Algona President

For the 4th straight year, the Algona Branch of AAUW hosted a membership night at our local Plum Creek Winery. Our first membership event at the winery was inspired by a grant offered by AAUW Iowa for membership activities. The owner of the Winery is a Branch member, so our location decision was an easy one. It is an appropriate size for the Branch membership, plus invited guests. All Branch members are encouraged to suggest guest names and addresses. Invitations are then sent, describing the event. Contact information is included in case a guest wishes to catch a ride with a member.

In previous years, AAUW Iowa President Anne Johnson or Past President Ann Gale were present to greet our attendees and give information about AAUW at the state and national level. This year, Algona Branch members gave a brief description of Algona Branch's activities. We have also used AAUW brochures and videos to tell about the organization.

Members contribute appetizers and/or money for the evening. The money is used to purchase a glass of wine for each guest. Members purchase their own.

These evenings have been deemed a success; the Algona Branch has gained new members at each one. Additionally, it is a fun and relaxed evening for both our guests and our members. We gained three new members this year!



President Janie Montang greets members and guests.

Capitol Corps—Advocacy in Action

Maureen White, AAUW Public Policy Director

A year ago the AAUW Iowa board approved a recommendation to establish a Capitol Corps in order to reinstate the regular presence of AAUW Iowa at the legislature, to allow for more effective communication with legislators, and to provide members an opportunity for sustained public policy involvement.

In spite of the rugged winter weather, our intrepid Capitol Corps members from Ames, Des Moines, Indianola, Cedar Falls-Waterloo, and Atlantic branches contacted numerous legislators and provided them with informational materials related to pay equity and female genital mutilation legislation. In addition to in-person contacts, they also wrote letters to the editor or sent emails to legislators about a variety of issues throughout the 2019 legislative session.

We welcome new members of the Capitol Corps. If you were unable to volunteer last year, but are interested in involvement in 2019-2020, please contact Ann Gale at ann.gale9@gmail.com by October 1. We will schedule an organizational and training session before the end of 2019, as well as provide participants with resources. Ann Gale and Maureen White will again serve as coordinators.

Hard Won Not Done—19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Director

A coalition of over 25 organizations and institutions, including AAUW Iowa, is planning activities and events in recognition of the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Go to the website <https://19th-amendment-centennial.org> for updates on information about statewide activities and events in 2020 and to learn how to support the commemoration through your donation.

