



Carletta Knox-Seymour  
 AAUW Iowa President 2020-2022

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

President’s Letter..... 1  
 State Fair Parade ..... 2  
 Leadership Forum in Council Bluffs ..... 3  
 Advocating for Women’s Healthcare .... 3  
 Voices of the Past in Algona ..... 4  
 More Branch Activities ..... 5  
 Votes for Women Trail ..... 6-7  
 AAUW Iowa Board Retreat ..... 8  
 Cedar Falls-Waterloo Planning ..... 8  
 Leadership Training from AAUW Iowa .. 9  
 Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame ..... 9

**From the President**

Greetings

As this is a new fiscal year, it is ripe for new experiences to unfold, and new goals to obtain. This is a time to let go of as much of our recent past that we can and reach toward new and exciting times. In our personal lives and within our branches, every day brings a new adventure our way and we must embrace those moments with a spirit of exhilaration and promise. And, with newness comes change.

Change brings about an opportunity to increase, improve, and breakout of old ways of doing and step towards the fresh and new. Though we must not throw everything out, especially those mechanisms that have been working, we must look at what are the necessary things that must change. This year, I believe is a time to take inventory of our branches and see what needs to be tossed out and what can be reformed. Our nation took a big hit last year regarding various injustices and is still walking and driving around huge potholes of the old guard policies that need immediate attention. Our state of Iowa is also included in the old guard policies, and our organization has areas that need immediate attention as well.

Even though, unfortunately, the Delta variant has now popped up its ugly head, Covid-19 virus had waned enough since vaccinations to allow each branch to hold public events again, creating more visibility and membership recruitment opportunities in our communities. One way to increase our numbers is to get better at marketing.

I am excited to say that one of the many things the state board looked at during our strategic planning in June, was evaluating the duties of all officer positions. We discovered that a role dedicated to marketing has been missing. Marketing is the foundation for communicating to the public, so we felt it needed more direct focus. With this in mind, the state board has added the duties around effective marketing to the Membership VP position. We hope this action will bring about an effective change in how business gets done at the state and branch levels.

Leadership training is another area where there will be a change. I will be focused on how to better train members for advancement within their respective branches, and train simply to learn how other positions function. This leadership training, although not new to our organization, will be another way to share with outsiders how we help younger women. Belonging to an organization that provides leadership training can also help them land better jobs.

Many of our branches have elected new officers and appointed new directors; the state has done the same. New officers and directors bring about new talent and resources. Let’s gear up for an exciting year and embrace the challenges that will come our way. We need to make good and effective changes wherever necessary. Let’s be bold and courageous with a spirit of “yes we can.”

Carletta Knox-Seymour

## Be Part of the 2021 Iowa State Fair Parade!

Becky Greenwald, 19th Amendment Anniversary Commemoration Committee

**When:** Wednesday evening, August 11, 2021 Downtown Des Moines.

**Time:** Parade begins at 6:15 PM Plan to arrive at Iowa State Capitol Complex staging area by 5 PM.\* Parade officials will tell us our staging time and parade number about 1 week before parade. This is Iowa's largest parade

with more than an estimated 50,000 spectators lined up along the route.

**Parade Route:**

The parade starts at the Iowa State Capitol Complex and heads west on Grand Avenue to Pappajohn Sculpture Park. The 1.7-mile parade route is mostly flat.



\*Please note that the parade itself is 1.7 miles long, but marchers will either need to walk back to their cars or arrange for transportation from the end of the parade route.

**Parade Entry:** Hard Won. Not Done. The Iowa 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee, along with the League of Women Voters, Nexus Executive Women's Alliance and other supporting partners invite people of all ages to walk alongside a replica Suffrage



*Suffrage parade in New York City*

Wagon. The original wagon is housed at Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

**Parade Attire:** Please wear all white in tribute to the suffragists who worked 70 years for the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Comfortable walking shoes are also a must!

**Invite your friends to join us** as we call attention to the significance of the 101-year anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which gave most women the right to vote.

**Plan to join us or have questions:** Text or call Becky Greenwald at 515.868.1082 or email [beckygreenwald@gmail.com](mailto:beckygreenwald@gmail.com) with State Fair Parade in subject line. \*Becky will send an update around one week before the parade with our staging time and parade position number.

*"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex." 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution*

### Important State Fair Parade Information from Ann Gale

Becky Greenwald and Ann have been in communication about the parade, and Ann has agreed to be the point of contact for AAUW. Ten commemorative "Votes for Women" sashes have been reserved for AAUW members and their friends. The sashes are yellow and purple as pictured, and are \$10 each. If you would like a sash to wear in the parade and then keep as a memento, and have not already ordered one from Becky, contact Ann at 515-320-4404 or [ann.gale9@gmail.com](mailto:ann.gale9@gmail.com). Sashes will be provided on a first come, first served basis.



Bring \$10 to the staging area, and Ann will give you your pre-ordered sash. If you already made arrangements for a sash with Becky, then you do not need to make additional arrangements with Ann.

Please do let Ann know that you are planning to march so that she can relay to you entry number information from Becky before the event.



## Loess Hills Hosts Leadership Forum for Middle and High School Girls

Mary Ann Kuhr, AAUW Loess Hills President

The Loess Hills Branch is planning a leadership forum for middle and high school girls. The forum, *Girl Power on Display*, will include four women speakers of color who pursued their dreams and became successful leaders, each in her own unique way.

Planning for the forum resulted from reading and discussing *Pushout: the Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris, and after listening to a guest speaker who spoke about her school experience as a student of color.

*Girl Power on Display* will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, from 10 AM to Noon, at the River's Edge Pavilion, 4250 River's Edge Parkway, Council Bluffs, IA.

**GIRL POWER ON DISPLAY!**  
A Forum to Empower Middle School and High School Girls

So save the date  
Saturday Sept. 11, 10 AM-Noon  
River's Edge Pavilion  
4250 River's Edge Parkway, Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Watch for More on the forum in the new school year!

Sharing their stories:  
Learn how our featured speakers pursued their dreams and worked to become the leaders that they are today!

Ejanae Hume  
Young Loved and Worthy Podcast  
Resident Lifegate Church

Dr. Theresa Barron-McKeagney  
Professor/Associate Dean  
University of Nebraska Omaha

Maranda Adams  
Co-Owner Blair Freedom Group  
Construction and Real Estate

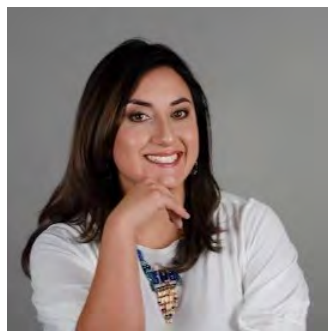
Sofia Sandoval  
Family Support/Adult Education Coordinator  
Centro Latino of Iowa

Sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Loess Hills Branch  
contact: [aauwloesshills@gmail.com](mailto:aauwloesshills@gmail.com)

### Advocating for Women's Healthcare Join AAUW Des Moines for a Presentation by Gaby Fuentes, Planned Parenthood of Iowa

The Des Moines branch of AAUW invites members and friends to tune in for a program on advocating for women's health care on Monday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. using Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Gabriela Fuentes, from Planned Parenthood of Iowa. Mark your calendars now. A Zoom link will be sent out later.

Gabriela was born in La Paz, Bolivia, but she is also a citizen of Chile and the United States. She has a Bachelor's degree in Social Communication Studies and a Diploma in Higher Education from the Bolivian Catholic University. She graduated from Ohio University with a Master's in Communication and



Gabriela Fuentes

Development and a Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is currently the Senior Advocacy Strategist in Iowa.

Gabriela reported that Iowa breaks a dubious record every year during Legislative session. In 2021, more than 15 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced, and more than 10 bills threatened reproductive rights. Rights advocates are concerned about these attacks on rights.

Gabriela works to create strategies implement projects to develop opportunities and build leadership. She works on strategies to change the social, political, and economic inequalities that affect people's ability to access reproductive health care services.

### Calling Dubuque Members

Do you live in or around Dubuque? Elaine Kresse is helping a few AAUW members get together for coffee or wine to discuss the possibility of forming a new Dubuque branch. This might be a virtual or an in person branch. If you have any interest or know anyone in the vicinity of Dubuque who might want to get together to discuss this please contact Elaine at [elainekresse2@gmail.com](mailto:elainekresse2@gmail.com) or her cell phone. She does want to hear from you. Feel free to contact Elaine if you are not from Dubuque but would like to discuss forming a branch in your area.



## AAUW-Algona Branch Voices Women of the Past

Jane Nettleton, AAUW Algona

For nine years, the Algona Branch and the Kossuth County Genealogical Society have been co-producing “Voices from the Past”, an evening in Riverview, the oldest cemetery in Algona, during which they feature stories about pioneers and other interesting people who are buried there. Of course, AAUW tends to emphasize the contributions of women to our community!

Last year the “Voices” were silent due to Covid 19, but writers Jean Kramer of the genealogical society and Jane Nettleton of AAUW spent their isolation writing scripts featuring the effects of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Spanish flu on the Algona area. On July 8 and 11, 2021, they got to tell these stories.

Two early Algona suffragists were Lizzie B. Read and Caroline Ingham. Together they founded the second Woman Suffrage Association in Iowa in 1869, and each served as an early president of the Iowa Woman’s Suffrage Association: Read in 1873 and Ingham in 1880. Though neither one ever got to vote in a presidential election, they continued to work for votes for women until their deaths.

Another vignette featured six Algona women who met on the day they voted for the first time in 1920. They told of their reasons for voting that day and how they felt about their experience. They were led by local newspaper reporter and columnist Evelyn Cady, whose ambition, never realized, was to write a book. The Kossuth County Genealogical Society has just published a collection of her columns, *A Typewriter and a Telephone*.

The last two scripts told of a funeral director and two young people he laid to rest due to Spanish flu and of a couple who were very involved in local and state politics in the 1930s.

About 90 people usually gather for the cemetery walk, and they are divided into four groups, led by AAUW guides, to the tombstones of those featured in the scripts for the year. The guides have scripts that deal with the general theme of the year to read along the way. Eight members of the Algona Branch served as actors or guides this year. The rest of the actors were recruited from our community. The project is funded by grants from the Haggard-Twogood Trust, established by two sisters to support the fine arts in our community, and the Founders’ Day Committee. Costumes come from Masked Productions in Fort Dodge or their own closets!

AAUW Algona is very involved in public policy projects and a book sale in the fall that finances local scholarship awards and national contribution, but “Voices from the Past” gives members an opportunity to hone their research, writing, and acting skills while they highlight the contributions of women and girls in our community.



Jennifer Harrington, Jane Nettleton, and Moni Westling



Julie Buchanan, Karen Dannewitz, Julie Murphy, Chris Louscher, Susan Legore, and Janet Brandt as Algona residents of the past



Janet Brandt, Julie Murphy, and Chris Louscher



## Algona Branch Focuses Attention on Gender Pay Gap

Elyse Gabor, Kossuth County Advance

On Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, the AAUW- Algona Branch hosted an event for Equal Pay-Racial Justice Day. On that morning at the Feed Mill Coffee Company in Algona, AAUW members handed out 50-cents-off-your-drink coupons. Later that afternoon, the same event took place at Wrangling Grace Cafe in Bancroft. In total, 94 coupons were given to women in the communities.

“We’re giving women 50 cents off on their coffee to say ‘we are with you, we know this is not easy, and here are some of the ways that you can do something to make pay more equal,’” said Jane Nettleton, one of the founding members of the AAUW- Algona Branch.

The coffee acknowledged the wage gap between men and women. AAUW Algona would normally host the event on Equal Pay Day, the day women finally make as much money as men do at the same job in a year. This year that date was March 24<sup>th</sup>. The local organization decided to postpone their event to June 4<sup>th</sup>, due to COVID. Despite the earlier date for all women, it took indigenous, Black, and Latina women 21 months to make as much as men this year. That is because many of them were laid off from their jobs during Covid in 2020.

“For all women this year, it was March 24<sup>th</sup>. That is an improvement, but it still means that they worked 15 months to earn as much as a man would in a year doing the same job,” said Nettleton.



*Sandy Harms-Buchanan and Janet Brandt greeted the public by the coffee shop entrance.*

## Cedar Rapids Membership Luncheon

Linda Armitage, President, Cedar Rapids Branch of AAUW

The Cedar Rapids Branch launched its new fiscal year with a well-attended Membership Luncheon held at the local Olive Garden Italian Restaurant on June 24<sup>th</sup>. 19 of the 39 members attended. It was the first in person event to be held since March of 2020. Many of our members who were not able to connect with our group on ZOOM showed up in full and loyal support.

Many of our 50 year members were there!! Our leadership team was well represented, and many ideas were floated about programming for the 2021-2022 year.



*Carole Bernard, Deanna Howard, Linda Armitage, Trudy Sunderman, Barbara Goings, Gwen Randall (behind Barb), and Sue Jorgensen.*

## Palo Alto County Branch Learns About School District Strategic Plan

The first in-person breakfast meeting since COVID suspended these this activity was held June 24<sup>th</sup> at Kirby’s restaurant. 8 members and 1 guest attended.

The guest speaker was Darrin Hanna, Superintendent of Emmetsburg Community School District. Mr. Hanna shared the Strategic Plan for the district. He explained that the district needed to know what it wants to look like in 5 years and how it would get there. The plan was developed in coordination with the City of Emmetsburg and Emmetsburg Municipal Utilities with the assistance of the University of Northern Iowa.

The process consisted of input gathering from the community, planning sessions, plan development, and endorsement and adoption. Mr. Hanna cautioned that the plan is dynamic in that it the framework allowed for changes as needed. He was also very proud that students created the vision statement and were included in the plan development.

Members asked questions and were encouraged to visit with Mr. Hanna whenever questions arose.

## National Votes for Women Trail Marker Dedication at Catt Museum

Mary Ann Ahrens, Waverly and eNetwork Branches

On Saturday, July 9, 2021 a reception and dedication ceremony were held at the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Museum/Interpretive Center in Charles City, Iowa as a result of the National Collaboration of Women's Historic Sites and the George Pomeroy Foundation to receive the National Votes for Women Trail Marker. "To qualify for placement on the trail, each site tells its own part of the long and challenging struggle for suffrage for all women, of all backgrounds, centered on passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, of course, but also continuing to this day. Each site contributes to a full and complex tapestry of stories throughout the United States," explained David McCartney, an archivist at the University of Iowa and son of Rhoda McCartney, founder of the NNAS (National Nineteenth Amendment Society) in 1991.

Community and area leaders/members were present including Cheryl Erb, NNAS President. Other Iowa dignitaries were present including Doris Kelly, chair of the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee. Several AAUW members, some of whom have been or are part of the boards because of their commitment to this important 30-year endeavor, were also present: Marilu Wohlers, Rhoda McCartney NNAS founder, Judy Mulcahy, Ann Gale and I. Some members of Carrie's family were also present, including Tim Lane, Carrie's great-great nephew, and Ivadelle Stevenson, Carrie's great-great niece. Emma Prichard, 13 year old daughter of Ann and Todd Prichard, introduced Tim Lane, and Ivadelle Stevenson introduced David McCartney. The Suffrage Wagon was also on display and drew attention. It will also be included in the 2021 Iowa State Fair Parade at 6:15 pm on Wednesday, August 11 in downtown Des Moines.



*Tim Lane, David McCartney, and Ivadelle Stevenson unveiled the marker.*



*David McCartney and Rhoda McCartney, founding president of the National Ninetieth Amendment Society.*

HARD WON...NOT DONE was certainly a fitting slogan for the 2020 centennial celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to our Constitution of women earning the right to vote. The next 100 years are before us as we continue to work towards "universal suffrage for women" said David McCartney. "The intent [is] to allow all women to address a universe of issues" proclaimed Tim Lane great, great nephew of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt.

We are humbled and proud of Carrie Lane Chapman Catt who grew up in Charles City on a farm.

At 13 Catt already recognized the inequities around her, particularly the lack of women's ability to vote. That became the driving force in her lifelong leadership endeavors that led to the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to our Constitution. Her work didn't stop there but continued as founder of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. and the pursuit of other international issues on war, peace, suffrage, women's history, education and political science.

*Continued on p. 7*





*Audience members listen to Ivadelle Stevenson's remarks with Carrie Chapman Catt's girlhood home in the background.*

Tim Lane noted that Catt was a woman before her time “who started out impassioned...organized, and a good speaker and constantly improved....In her 4<sup>th</sup> year of high school she taught high school. The funds from that position allowed her to attend Iowa State College. When she was informed that women were not allowed to debate in the Literary Society...she ironically turned it into a debate and soon won. The next year she was in charge....She was a force of nature and a change agent that did not alienate the bureaucracy or the men of the campus. Such tact allowed her after graduation to go from being a teacher...to a journalist and principal...and then Superintendent in Mason City for 18 months.” Catt’s vision, organizational effectiveness and speaking skills resulted in increased visibility, respect, and popularity both nationally and internationally. To quote Carrie Lane Chapman Catt:

“To the wrongs that need resistance,  
To the right that needs assistance,  
To the future in the distance,  
Give yourselves.”

*Mary Ann Painovich Ahrens is a member of the National Nineteenth Amendment Society Advisory Board. She is a Past President of AAUW Iowa, was an Upper Midwest Regional Director, a member of the National AAUW Board, and is a past member of AAUW National Legal Advocacy Fund Board.*



*Cheryl Erb, president of the National Ninetieth Amendment Society. Board members wore white as a tribute to suffragists who engaged in a 70-year struggle to win the right to vote.*



## AAUW Iowa Summer Board Retreat

The AAUW Iowa board of directors met in Cedar Rapids July 25-26. Most met in person, with three members



*New public policy co-directors Diane Kearns and Dev Kiedaisch, outgoing public policy director Maureen White, and new program vice president Pat Newman.*

joining in using Zoom. We began planning for a conference for April 2022 to be held in central Iowa, with specific dates and location to be reported soon.



*College-University director Elaine Kresse, Bylaws director Anne Johnson, Treasurer Pat Higby, and President Carletta Knox– Seymour*

---

## Cedar Falls-Waterloo Plans an Interesting Year

Linda Morgan, Cedar Falls-Waterloo Co-President

Cedar Falls-Waterloo AAUW is busy planning our 2021-22 year as evidenced by these pics. Fourteen of us gathered on July 12<sup>th</sup> to enjoy social time together and to organize our year ahead. Co-Presidents Linda Morgan and Pauline Harding planned and facilitated the planning session. We broke into 3 discussion groups: Communications & Marketing/ Programs & monthly meetings/ Community Partnerships and Community Action Projects. A lot was accomplished in two hours while enjoying a light supper and thoroughly enjoying time together again. All of us are looking forward to our Kick-Off event on August 30<sup>th</sup>.



*Branch leaders combined planning and social time.*



*Shelia Bullock and Beeks Downing, membership chairs*



*Maria Murphy and Lori Schneider – program chairs*



## Leadership Training Opportunity

Are you looking for ways to engage members, lighten your workload, and ensure leadership succession? Then AAUW Iowa asks you to join us for 8 sessions (one each month) to learn tips and tools to develop new leaders in our "Leaders' Boot Camp 101." Everyone is welcome to learn leadership skills and we specifically ask each leader to



invite someone who has the potential to be a future leader in their area. Each of these will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held on Zoom. Mark your calendars now.

Sept. 28	Understanding the Organization—Maxine Lampe
Oct. 26	Communication Skills—Jan Mitchell
Nov. 30	The Art of Mentoring—Jan Heinicke
Jan. 11	Team Building—Carletta Knox-Seymour
Feb. 22	Building Inclusive Branches—Janice Harris-Williams
March 22	Problem-Solving—Carletta Knox-Seymour
April 26	Marketing—to be announced
May 24	Growing Your Membership—to be announced



## AAUW Member Jan Mitchell Among the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Inductees for 2021

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women recently announced the 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Inductees. They are:

- **Dr. Roxann Marie Ryan, Ph.D. (Cresco, IA):** Former Iowa Commissioner of Public Safety, Assistant Iowa Attorney General, Educator & Scholar. Dr. Ryan is noted for her vast contributions in academia, groundbreaking work in public service, and celebrated leadership among students, colleagues, and citizens across the country.
- **Cornelia Clark (Grinnell, IA):** Nature Photographer, Academic Contributor, Book Illustrator. Cornelia Clark's photographic legacy appeared in children's books, scientific journals, newspapers, science magazines and encyclopedias all throughout the nation. *Posthumous Award (1884-1936)*
- **Donna Reed (Denison, IA):** Actress, Academy Award Winner, Advocate for Peace. Donna Reed is celebrated for her successful career in entertainment, and as a trailblazer for women in television, as well as a humanitarian who advocated for social justice and world peace. *Posthumous Award (January 27, 1921-January 14, 1986)*
- **Jan Mitchell (Des Moines, IA):** Educator, 1997 Iowa Teacher of the Year, 2019 Iowa Latino Hall of Fame Robert D Ray Award for Equity and Justice recipient. Over the course of her career, Jan Mitchell has been instrumental in assisting the education and social mobilization of hundreds of Iowa's Latina students, championing women's rights, and prioritizing service-led compassion into her

work with the community.

Jan Mitchell is currently a member of the Iowa eNetwork Branch of AAUW. Before that, she was a member of the Marshalltown branch. Jan is not the only AAUW member to be recognized by inclusion in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Other AAUW members who were inductees include:

- Mary Grefe 1980 (Des Moines)
- Beverly Beth George Everett 1983 (Oskaloosa)
- Florine Mary Schulte Swanson 2019 (Clarion)
- Mona Kadel Martin 2019 (Davenport)
- Betty Jean Dillavou Durden 2020 (Des Moines)
- V. Ann Fry Jorgensen 2020 (Vinton)
- Janice Louise MacCanon Mitchell 2021 (Marshalltown/Iowa eNetwork)

Until 2020, inductees were recognized in an in-person award ceremony. In 2020, the induction into the Hall of Fame was a virtual event. That will be the case in 2021 as well. Watch for announcements from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women for more information.



Jan Mitchell