



# IOWA INITIATIVE

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



Anne Stansbury Johnson, AAUW Iowa 2018-20 Iowa President

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### From the President

In the deepest, darkest depths of winter, it’s nice to think about all the wonderful things yet to come in the new year. My New Year’s resolution was to read just women and minority authors. Seemed easy enough the first week but then all my favorites began putting out new books. Loophole! I can still listen to them on audiotape! But I’m already looking forward to having to search out new writers and new ways of thinking!

Suffrage was once a new way of thinking. In a time when women were little more than chattel they had the audacity to think they had a right to have a say in the ruling of their country. The celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment this year is a reminder that only white women received that right and that it took much longer for women (and many men) of color.

The huge number of bills still sitting on the desk of the Chair of the Senate is a reminder that despite the right to vote and Supreme Court rulings like Roe v. Wade, the political winds still deeply affect women’s rights. Bipartisan bills like the right to equal pay and the right to live without violence expired and have yet to be passed again. Without a binding force like the Equal Rights Amendment, women have the right to vote but little else without the mercy of Congress. Something to think about!

The good news is we are powerful. We can vote. We can gather and speak our common truths. A great opportunity to do that is coming up in June. Instead of a state conference this year our members voted to join with other women from other states for a regional conference.

We’re hoping for an event comparable to a national conference at a much lower cost and much closer. So far there are 13 states joining and interest is coming from as far away as Oregon!

AAUW Regional Conference Registration is now open! Conference details and hotel information are available inside this newsletter. You can register online or download a printable registration form at the AAUW Illinois website—<https://aauw-il.aauw.net>.

We’ve sent out a couple of different requests for polling information about your intentions, most recently to your branch president. Please seek that out and share your thoughts so we can use them to plan accordingly. (If you’re a president and didn’t get it, please contact me at [asjohns9424@gmail.com](mailto:asjohns9424@gmail.com).)

Have a safe and healthy winter! Enjoy the new year and think about joining me in June in the Quad Cities for a great opportunity to meet with like-minded women to discuss ways to improve the lives of women and girls!

Anne Johnson

### Save Money at the Regional Conference

Rooms can hold up to 5 people (2 queen beds and a foldout couch). Anne Johnson will compile a list of members who would like to share a room. Please contact her if you would like to be added to that list. [asjohns9424@gmail.com](mailto:asjohns9424@gmail.com), 712-852-3281 (home), 712-260-9424 (mobile)

# AAUW Regional Convention Registration is Open!

June 18-20, at Hyatt Place, East Moline, IL in the Quad Cities, overlooking the Mississippi River

Catch up with old friends and meet new friends from 13 states:  
Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota,  
Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin!

<https://aauw-il.aauw.net/state-convention/>

## Find everything you need to register on the AAUW-IL website

- Register online and pay with PayPal, or
- Print out a paper form and mail a check
- Look at the schedule & speakers
- Download the flyer with more information
- Make hotel reservations

## Registration Deadlines:

- Early bird: Postmarked by May 15, 2020
- Regular registration: Postmarked after May 15, 2020

## Here are some highlights:

- Notable plenary speakers - Lisa Maatz, Denise Lieberman, Michelle Duster, and Dr. Angie Maxwell
- Three breakout sessions
- Banquet with Kim Churches
- Town hall with Kendra Davis
- Panel Discussion with John Deere executives
- Optional dinner cruise aboard the Celebration Belle
- Pre-convention tours of John Deere factory and headquarters

## Hotel - Hyatt Place, 111 Bend Blvd, East Moline, IL

- Rooms are \$129 plus tax and include a full breakfast.
- Rooms have a pull out couch and can sleep up to 5 people.

## Room Sharing Opportunity

AAUW Iowa President Anne Johnson will make a list of members who would like a roommate for the conference. Please contact her if you would like to be added to that list. [asjohns9424@gmail.com](mailto:asjohns9424@gmail.com), 712-852-3281 (home), 712-260-9424 (mobile)



## 19th Amendment Anniversary Commemoration Kickoff

The kickoff celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment was held in the Memorial Union at Iowa State University on February 14th. It was hosted by the Iowa Department of Human Rights Office on the Status of Women and the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women in Politics. Noteworthy activities included a lunch, a carillon concert, the premier showing of the IPTV documentary, "Carrie Chapman Catt: Woman Warrior," a talk by historian Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour*, about the 72-year effort to gain voting rights for women, a Performance of "The Yellow Rose of Suffrage," by Dr. Jane Cox, and breakout sessions about the history of women in political life and women in politics today. Several AAUW members attended. Look for more activities throughout the year to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage.



AAUW members from several branches attended the kickoff.



## Two AAUW Branches at the Cedar Valley Women's March

The Black Hawk County chapter of the National Organization for Women, together with Northern Iowa Feminists, One Iowa, Americans for Democratic Action, and **AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo and Waverly branches**, organized the first Women's March in the Cedar Valley on January 25, 2020. The march in Waterloo was a call to action to support legislation that benefits women and minorities. It celebrated women and minorities and commemorated the passing of the 19th Amendment.



*Members of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch*

Participants marched for ratification of the ERA, for pay equity, and for comprehensive rights for the LGBTQ community. They marched for access to reproductive rights, to end violence against women and other marginalized groups, and to fight discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Attendees said that over 100 women participated, and great speakers talked to the group afterward.



*Members of the Waverly branch*

## Women's Athletics and Women's Voting Rights

Representatives of organizations that are members of the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee (19th ACCC) are presenting plaques to the women's basketball programs at UNI, ISU, U of Iowa, and Drake this basketball season. The UNI women's volleyball program will receive a plaque in the fall of 2020. The presentations are in recognition of the centennial, and of the coaches'

financial contributions toward 19th Amendment activities. Thank you, coaches.

There was a presentation at the University of Northern Iowa women's basketball game on February 9, and one at the University of Iowa on February 22. Representatives of AAUW Iowa, a participating organization in the 19th ACCC, were involved in the presentations.



*Maureen White (5th from left) represented AAUW at UNI.*



*Pat Higby (left) represented AAUW at the University of Iowa.*

## Davenport-Bettendorf Branch Hosts Legislative Forum

Maria Bribiesco, Davenport-Bettendorf Branch

On Saturday, February 22, the Davenport-Bettendorf AAUW hosted the Scott County Legislative forum, with planning assistance from the Iowa State Education Association and the Scott County Farm Bureau. All but two of the local state legislators were present. The moderator, Maria Bribiesco, Public Policy Chair, provided a brief description of AAUW and its mission. Further, Maria recognized the state legislators that are members of Davenport-Bettendorf branch of AAUW: State Senator Chris Cournoyer, Representatives Cindy Winkler and Phyllis Thede; special note was made that Representative Thede is also the current co-president of the Davenport-Bettendorf branch of AAUW.

The event was well attended. People who asked questions were of different ages and gender. Two high school students each respectively asked a question about raising the minimum age for cigarettes to 21 and about changing the conceal carry law to allow folks with conceal carry permits to be able to enter school's parking lots. Other questions covered tax credits for residential properties, eliminating the 5-cent deposit for cans and bottles, hearing aids for children, public education funding and other topics. Good discussion and exchanges were had between the legislators and the attendees. The timekeeper was Kay Pence. Bonnie Mueller (AAUW treasurer) and Janice Harris-Williams (AAUW co-president) were in charge of the microphones. Suzanne Hawkinson staffed the AAUW table which included voter registration material.

AAUW is proud to host these civic engagement events. We promote awareness, education and civic engagement because an informed engaged citizenry is a key ingredient to a healthy democracy.

*AAUW Davenport-Bettendorf member and event moderator Maria Bribiesco with the display board (right) and with some legislators who participated in the forum*



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## Lobby Day

On February 12, eight AAUW members gathered at the Statehouse to talk with legislators about voting restoration, reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers, human trafficking, and gender pay equity. Representatives Mary Wolfe and Phyllis Thede, who are also AAUW members, stopped in to talk about legislation and issues.

It's sometimes difficult to find legislators at a time when they are available for a few minutes, so we left information about issues for those we were unable to reach in person. Capitol Corps members will also continue to make contacts throughout the session. And of course we rely on branch and state leaders, as well as members, to contact legislators.



Mary Wolfe



Phyllis Thede



# Has Your Branch Hosted a NUDGE Party? Start Making Plans! Increase Your Branch Membership and Encourage Women to Run for Office!

Chris Louscher, AAUW Algona, and Ann Gale, AAUW Des Moines and eNetwork

Why should your branch hold a **NUDGE** party? A NUDGE party is a good way to bring new people to your branch who might not come otherwise. Having a NUDGE party has the potential to increase membership. It is an opportunity to show women in your area that your members are concerned about increasing the number of women serving on boards and commissions and running for office. The purpose of the NUDGE party is to encourage women to think about running for office, so of course the program will focus on that. While you do that, make membership materials available, and invite attendees to join AAUW, whether or not they plan on running for office.

The Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch held a **NUDGE** party at the YWCA of Black Hawk County on April 2, 2019, and about 20 people attended. They received special permission to serve wine at the event, and they served appetizers and other refreshments.

The Keokuk branch held a **NUDGE** party on April 9, 2019. It was held at Southeastern Community College, and about 30 people attended from Keokuk, Fort Madison, Burlington, and Mount Pleasant.

These branches have made a good start, and we hope that other branches will follow their lead and host **NUDGE** parties during the remainder of this membership year or next year.

The success of a **NUDGE** party is not necessarily measured by the number of women who decide then and there to run for office. Evidence tells us that women who run for office need to be asked an average of 7 times before they make that decision. Coming to the party just may be that first step.

A **NUDGE** party is not affiliated with any political party, or any specific issue. We want to encourage women to run for office regardless of their political affiliation, and regardless of where they stand on issues. We think that more women in office is a good thing, even when they are at the opposite end of the spectrum from where we might be ourselves.

At the last Blueprint for Winning event hosted by 50-50 in 2020, co-founder Jean Lloyd Jones said that when the number of women on a public board reaches a critical mass of 1/3 of the members, three things happen: civility improves, profits increase, and better ideas are generated. So, women have a valuable contribution to make.

**NUDGE** parties were entry-level events to explore politics conceived by 50-50 in 2020 co-founders Maggie Tinsman (Republican) and Jean Lloyd-Jones (Democrat). 50-50 in 2020 was planned as a 10-year project. Their activities have been taken over by other organizations. The League of Women Voters will host 2-day tours of the capitol in "See Yourself Here," and AAUW will take over NUDGE parties. At most AAUW events, we expect branches to showcase issues that we care about. However, in the spirit of 50-50 in 2020, we ask that **NUDGE** parties be both nonpartisan and issue neutral.

We would love to help. Please refer to the **NUDGE** party guide that appears with this article, and feel free to get in touch with former 50-50 in 2020 co-chair Chris Louscher ([christinelouscher@hotmail.com](mailto:christinelouscher@hotmail.com), 515-295-5310) or former 50-50 in 2020 board member Ann Gale ([ann.gale9@gmail.com](mailto:ann.gale9@gmail.com), 515-320-4404).

**NUDGE** is an acronym, standing for No Use Delaying Gender Equity.



*NUDGE attendees at the Waterloo YWCA*



*Sasha Wahlpart, candidate for Cedar Falls school board, and Kay Thrall, member of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch*



*The Keokuk NUDGE event included people from surrounding communities.*

## 50-50 in 2020 N.U.D.G.E. Party

### What is a NUDGE Party, and what is its purpose?

The acronym N.U.D.G.E. stands for “No Use Delaying Gender Equity.” A NUDGE Party is an informal, bipartisan gathering of women and men of any age whose purpose it is to raise awareness of the importance of politics in their lives; to encourage one another to support female candidates, work on women’s campaigns, and nudge women to run for office.

### Where is a NUDGE Party held?

A NUDGE Party is held in a home, office, church, school, hotel, or any place the hosts deem to be a welcoming and appropriate venue.

### Who are the hosts?

Hosts may be individuals, clubs, professional groups, business colleagues, or anyone else who thinks electing more women to public office is a worthy goal.

### How do we organize a NUDGE Party?

1. Recruit bipartisan hosts. It is ideal to have an equal number of Democrat and Republican hosts, if at all possible.
2. Develop an invite list. Include names, mailing addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers.
3. Set the date, time, and place for the NUDGE Party.
4. Recruit an individual or organization to provide snacks and beverages.
5. Send invitations via email and/or regular mail approximately three weeks prior to the party. If sending invitations via email and regular mail, send the regular mail invitations three weeks prior to the party, and then send an email invitation two weeks prior to the party. The email can serve as a reminder about the regular mail invitation.
6. Make follow up phone calls to drive party turnout. This should be done just a few days before the party.
7. Plan the program. Items to include:
  - Host welcome
  - Introductions (One idea for introductions is to have each person introduce herself and tell what office she has held in the past, currently holds, or would like to hold.)
  - 50-50 in 2020 board member explains the ten year campaign (2010 – 2020) to elect women. Goals are to elect one woman governor (check!), one female U.S. Senator (check!), two female U.S. Representatives (check!), 25 female state senators, and 50 female state representatives to all serve at once by the year 2020, which is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage.
8. Hold the event. Have all attendees sign in and wear name tags.
9. Send thank you notes via email and/or regular mail.
10. Celebrate! You are doing important work to further 50-50 in 2020’s mission of “Getting Women Elected!”

## Review Branch Bylaws

Jo Treadwell, AAUW Iowa Bylaws Director

During 2019-2020, all AAUW Iowa branches are being asked to review their branch bylaws. By reviewing the bylaws, each officer/member becomes aware of how each branch is structured, the responsibilities as an officer/member, and the procedure and processes by which each branch functions.

In November 2019, a copy of each branch's bylaws was sent to the branch president asking the branch to review their bylaws and report to the state Bylaws Director if the present bylaws are still functional or if changes are needed. If no changes are needed to the branch bylaws – **notify the state Bylaws Director**, so that the copy of the branch bylaws can be marked as reviewed in 2019 or 2020.

In 2016, AAUW mandated the first seven Articles in each branch's bylaws, which can only be changed by national AAUW. However, branches can make changes in the remaining Articles to bring branch bylaws in line with best practices and how the local branch is currently functioning.

All revisions to branch bylaws must be reviewed and approved by the AAUW IA Bylaws Director before a membership vote is taken. If changes are needed to branch bylaws, send the proposed changes as soon as possible for review. This is to ensure that changes do not conflict with AAUW bylaws and procedures.

Remember if no changes are needed for the branch bylaws, please let the AAUW Iowa Bylaws Director know that she has the correct copy on file.

Jo Treadwell, AAUW Iowa Bylaws Director

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## Equal Pay Day at the Iowa State Capitol

AAUW Iowa is marking Equal Pay Day on April 8 in the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda. We will have handouts about the gender pay gap, membership materials, and Payday

candy bars. Come help us great legislators and the public between 9:00 and 1:00. There are 7 different Equal Pay Days, because the gender pay gap varies among different ethnic groups. All women’s Equal Pay Day is March 31.

## Bylaws News

Jo Treadwell, AAUW Iowa Bylaws Director

AAUW Iowa will hold a brief business meeting as part of the Regional AAUW meeting in the Quad-Cities in June. This meeting will allow for election of officers for the 2020-2022 biennium and a vote on two amendments to the state bylaws.

In even numbered years, the following officers are elected: President [the President-elect advances to this position], Membership Vice President, Program Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Also elected is a Nominating Committee to find future officers.

At its 2019 summer retreat the AAUW Iowa Board approved two proposed changes to the state bylaws. The membership of AAUW Iowa must vote to approve these proposed changes before the changes can be made. Following are the proposed amendments with rationale as to why the changes were proposed.

### Proposed Bylaws Change #1

In AAUW Iowa Bylaws, Under Article IX. Officers Section 3. a. Terms of Officers/Directors #1 presently reads: "No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive terms in the same office."

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

In item #1 under a. Terms of Officers/Directors, change the wording in #1 to insert the word 'elected' before the word 'office' and make the second sentence item #2 under a. Terms of Officers/Directors. Re-number item #2 to become item #3.

The revised statement would read:

1. No member shall hold more than one elected office at a time.
2. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive terms in the same office.
3. The current Item #2 Rotation of Elected Officers would be re-numbered as item #3.

**Rationale:** This clarifies that elected officers can only hold one elected office at a time. However, those who are appointed to positions on the Board may hold more than one non-elected position if needed. The elected offices for AAUW Iowa are: President, President-elect, Membership Vice President, Program Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. [NOTE: The members of the Nominating Committee are elected – however, their positions are not 'officers' as designated in the Bylaws. Therefore, members of the Nominating Committee could serve on the

Nominating Committee and also be an elected officer, with the exception of the elected President. The Nominating Director is to be appointed by the Board and as such is not usually elected by the membership, but can be included in the voting if known at the time of the election of the nominating committee.

### Proposed Bylaws Change #2

In AAUW Iowa Bylaws, Under Article IX. Officers **Section 3.** a. Terms of Officers/Directors #2 Rotation of Elected Officers presently reads: "The President, Program and Membership vice presidents, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years. The President Elect shall be elected in odd numbered years."

**Proposed Amendment:** Change the election of the Treasurer to odd numbered years along with the President -Elect.

The revised wording would read:

The President, Program co-vice president, Membership vice-president, and Secretary shall be elected in even numbered years. The President-Elect and Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years.

**Rationale:** This proposal changes when the treasurer is elected. The treasurer is an integral part of budget planning. A new treasurer coming onto a Board in the middle of a biennium would have the advantage of seeing how items were budgeted and financial records kept before having to work with the president to develop a budget at the beginning of a new biennium. Also whenever a new treasurer is elected, it often requires a change of banking facilities, signature changes, notification concerning investments and other accounting details. Having these items completed before a new biennium would make the budgeting process more accurate and help with the payment of expenses without possible delay.

A proposed budget is to be developed by the incoming president and the treasurer to be presented for action at the AAUW IA Board summer meeting. When working with the new president to develop a budget for the next biennium, the treasurer would have the background and records to show the state of AAUW Iowa's financial situation. The treasurer would also know how spending was planned, and how priorities and activities were set. If the treasurer was a position from the previous biennium, preparing a budget proposal would be easier as one of these two officers would be experienced in the budget process, rather than both new to the job.

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