



Carletta Knox-Seymour
 AAUW Iowa President 2020-2022

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From the President

Greetings,

I would like to take a few minutes of your time and talk about collaboration. I presume that every branch collaborates with some other organization in your community. I would like you to ask yourselves how those collaborations are going? Are you meeting with the same organizations that you’ve been meeting with for the last five years or so, or have you ventured out to seek new people to be in connection with? As our organization is evolving, I would imagine that others are as well. And as there are many women’s groups popping up all the time, perhaps there could be opportunities to collaborate on many issues that would help women and girls in larger ways. As an example, AAUW is the forerunner for helping women achieve much success in areas like Work Smart. We should be the ones taking charge to introduce women in the workforce to our best practices for salary negotiating and much more. AAUW Kansas took that initiative in

2018 and until in-person workshops had to stop due to the 2020 pandemic, they made inroads in their endeavor educate women about how to advocate for themselves in the workplace by launching city-wide partnerships in Kansas City and Wichita. Here is their story.

A Collaborative Initiative

KANSAS CITY

In 2018, AAUW, the Women’s Foundation, and Kansas City’s Mayor Sly James launched the first phase of a two-state initiative to empower one million women to successfully negotiate salary and benefits and



AAUW CEO Kim Churches, Kansas City Mayor "Sly" James and Women's Foundation CEO Wendy Doyle

close the gender pay gap in both Kansas and Missouri.

WICHITA

In September 2019 AAUW expanded efforts in Kansas to include Wichita, launching a city-wide partnership with the Junior League of Wichita. AAUW and the Junior League will be hosting 24 Work Smart salary negotiation workshops across the city to empower women to advocate for themselves in the workplace.

In 2017, median annual earnings for men in Kansas were \$49,267 compared to \$37,931 for women — an earnings ratio of 77 percent, or 42nd out of all states and the District of Columbia, according to the most recent census data. In Missouri, median annual earnings for men were \$47,436 compared to \$37,339 for women — an earnings ratio of 79 percent, or 34th out of all states and the District of Columbia. And for many women, the pay gap is wider. This initiative will build momentum to close these gaps.

Continued on page 4

Save the Date:

AAUW Iowa Spring Conference in Johnston April 8-9

Our spring conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8600 Northpark Drive in Johnston. The hotel is near I-35/I-80. Plan to spend some time in the Des Moines metro area while you are here.

Our program committee is planning an interesting and rewarding conference. There is still time to give your opinion about things you would enjoy. The survey has been moved to a different link. Find it here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Zz0YCDk-hEaa3sY-MTzbCY2tbgH-K85Ih4Y1t4sJ3FUNTRFREpBN01ONjkzT1M3RVNZOTRDQTZOVi4u>



Conference Preview: Doris Kelley

Hard Won— Not Done: Pursuing the Equal Rights Amendment

During the next few issues, we plan to give you profiles of the people who will be presenters at our spring conference. Our first speaker is Doris Kelley, from Cedar Falls. Doris will talk about the need for a push to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

Doris Kelley is well-known in the Cedar Valley. Her personal and professional contributions have been extended to a wide array of not-for-profit organizations, businesses, industries and municipalities not only in the Cedar Valley but throughout the United States. She has lived in the Waterloo - Cedar Falls area for nearly 45 years, serving on numerous civic and community executive boards, advisory boards and committees.

Kelley has an extensive professional background in community economic development for both Cedar Falls and Waterloo. The scope of her experience encompasses leadership in downtown revitalization, corporate development, media relations, marketing research, communications utility development and public relations.

Kelley served as an elected legislator in the Iowa House of Representatives (2007-2011), representing 30,000 constituents who lived in Cedar Falls, Hudson and Waterloo. From 2011-2014, she served as Executive Director, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Iowa Board of Parole.

Kelley has received seven distinguished honors, including the Governor's Volunteer Award, Cedar Valley Women of the Year Award, Associated General Contractors of Iowa Public Service Award, Iowa Association of Municipal



Doris Kelley

Utilities Public Service Award, Associated Builders and Contractors Free Enterprise Champion, Iowa Bankers

Association Legislator of the Year and the 2019 Carrie Chapman Catt Award. She has served on the board of directors of nine different Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa and U.S.A. not-for-profit organizations.

Since formally retiring from public service in 2014, Kelley has chaired Iowa's 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee, and Iowa's Equal Right Amendment Committee. She serves on the League of Women Voters of Iowa's Board of Directors as well as the League of Women Voters U.S.A. Financial Audit Committee.

Kelley is proud to be the founder and chair of the University of Northern Iowa Women in Politics Bipartisan Scholarship Fund, which she started in 2011 and with public support awards – annually – \$15,000 of scholarships to female Political Science and Public Administration majors at UNI.

Doris was married to the late Ralph Kelley (2005), a longtime employee of John Deere who retired in 2001 as Director of Safety. Together they have one child, Eric Kelley, Ph.D., who is Full Professor, University of West Virginia's School of Medicine for the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. Since 2010, she has been married to Dr. Steve Corbin, Emeritus Professor of Marketing, University of Northern Iowa. Together, they have three children, three daughters-in-law and three grandchildren.

AAUW Grant Recipients in Iowa

There were two recipients of AAUW grants in Iowa during 2020-21, and two more during 2021-22. We caught up with one from each year.

Juliana Quarterman was an awardee during 2020-21. Juliana is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa in health and medical science, specializing in pharmaceuticals. Her answers to our questions appear below.

How did you hear about the AAUW grant?

I heard about the program through the University of Iowa. They have several funding sources listed on the graduate college website and the AAUW fellowship seemed like a great fit for me.



Juliana Quarterman

How did you decide on the University of Iowa?

I chose the University of Iowa because I was extremely interested in the research being performed in Dr. Aliasger Salem's lab. I knew that I would learn many things as a member of his lab and as a result of that decision I am that much more of a well rounded scientist.

Please tell our members a little about your research.

The overall goal of any bone implant is to adhere strongly and quickly to the surrounding bone tissue so there is minimal implant movement. However, in 20% of primary hip and knee replacement surgeries there is a need for revision surgeries within the first 25 years. The most common cause being implant loosening, which ultimately leads to destruction of the bone tissue. The goal of my project was to formulate a drug eluting degradable polymer coating which could be deposited onto the surface of titanium bone implants to provide a local and sustained release delivery system which would improve bone implant fixation. Over the course of this project, I was able to formulate a coating solution that incorporated the drug and polymer in a like solvent and successfully dip coated titanium screws. The coating deposition was confirmed using in vitro imaging system (IVIS) and the amount of drug deposited was determined using ion exchange high performance liquid chromatography (IE-HPLC) and fluorescence spectroscopy. We then tested these drug coated implants in a rat model and compared the new bone growth to animals implanted with either uncoated or polymer only (no drug) coated titanium screws. Using micro-computed tomography (micro-CT) and histology, we found that the animals which received the drug coated screws displayed significantly higher new bone growth adjacent to the implant site compared to the

control animals. These results are very promising, and we plan to perform future work using a more precise coating method in order to achieve a thin film coating deposition onto the implants.

What difference did the AAUW grant make for you?

The AAUW grant allowed me to be able to focus solely on performing my experiments and writing my thesis without needing to worry about funding. It was a relief having this funding in place and I was able to be much more productive since I did not need to split my time being a teaching assistant. I am truly grateful to have been chosen for this prestigious award.

Is there anything else you would like AAUW members to know?

My only comment would be that I wish there were more networking/socializing events offered through the program. It would have been nice to have a place to go to meet other recipients and possible mentors even virtually. Something like this would have helped with morale especially during the early pandemic months.

Mallory Tollefson is an AAUW grant recipient for 2021-22. She is a doctoral candidate at the University of Iowa in biomedical engineering specializing in computational biophysics. Her answers to our questions appear below.

How did you hear about the AAUW grant?

My thesis advisor, Professor Michael Schnieders, told me about the AAUW and recommended that I apply for the American Dissertation Fellowship.



Mallory Tollefson

How did you decide on the University of Iowa?

I started at the University of Iowa as an undergraduate student! I knew I wanted to study biomedical engineering, so I chose the University of Iowa because of its reputation for collaborative research between the hospital and biomedical engineering faculty.

Please tell our members a little about your research.

I research in computational biophysics, where I develop simulation techniques for studying proteins that are implicated in human disease. I recently finished improving a machine learning algorithm that predicts the three-dimensional shape of a protein based on the sequence of the protein alone. Hearing loss, in particular, can be

Continued on page 4

Grant recipient Mallory Tollefson will be one of the speakers at the AAUW Iowa spring conference in April. Look for more information about other speakers in future issues.

Dues for Members-at-Large

Pat Higby, AAUW Iowa Treasurer

Life Members, whether from 50 years of service or prepaid membership, are excused from paying national AAUW dues. But as branch treasurers know, their local and state dues can be paid and recognized using the national AAUW website. These dues are not required, but some Life Members continue to pay them as a way to support their local and state activities. In my branch some Life Members do not pay state and local dues, but support AAUW activities in other ways. So it is up to the individual Life Member to decide whether or not to pay the \$10 for Iowa AAUW and local branch dues.

Members-At-Large (aka MALs) are encouraged to join our e-Network branch if there is not a local branch in their area. When making their branch dues payment they will

also pay the \$10 AAUW Iowa dues. MALs who do not join a local branch may pay their \$10 Iowa AAUW dues by sending a check directly to the state treasurer. Such payments are reported to the Iowa AAUW board, but are not reported to national AAUW. Iowa AAUW dues are an important source of revenue for our equity activities and the annual conference, and they are much appreciated.

If you would like to help AAUW Iowa achieve its mission, please send your checks to:

Pat Higby
718 Blue Jay Ct.
Tiffin, IA 52340

Thank you!



President's Letter, continued from page 1

AAUW Kansas is to be commended for their collaboration with Mayor James and Women's Foundation CEO, Wendy Doyle. If Iowa branches have collaborated with other organizations or city managers or others for Work Smart initiatives, please continue your work. Currently in our nation where obstacles remain for women in the workforce and childcare needs, along with the condition of

our economy, women need Work Smart tools more than ever before. It can be done by way of programs, setting up tables at community events, becoming a speaker at women's organizations, going to immigrant locations, visiting NAACP chapters, and attending Latina events. Let us make sure that we get these tools to the women who are in the greatest of need at this time.



Grant Recipients, continued from page 3

attributed to numerous genetic mutations. For many patients with hearing loss, the underlying genetic cause of their hearing loss is unknown. I'm currently using my predicted protein structures to help clarify the impact of genetic variations that are present in patients with hearing loss.

What are your plans for the future?

After completing my dissertation, I'd like to research and teach at an academic institution.

What difference did the AAUW grant make for you?

Wow, this is a tough question to answer succinctly! The impact of the American Dissertation Fellowship has been

immense for me. With independent funding from the AAUW, I'm not required to work as a teaching assistant for a class or as a research assistant on a specific grant for income. Instead, I'm able to pursue my own research interests and have time focused solely on writing my dissertation. The impact AAUW funding has had on my personal life has been even greater. I had a daughter in June of 2021 and knowing that I had the AAUW fellowship as a source of income when I returned from medical leave enabled me to enjoy my newborn daughter without the pressure of securing my next source of research funding.

Is there anything else you would like AAUW members to know?

Go Hawks!

Reminder: On November 9 at 7:00 p.m., AAUW Des Moines will host a program on women's health during a pandemic, presented by Dr. Cathy Beck-Cross, associate professor of social work and social work program director at Grand View University. Please join in and invite a friend. There has been a change in the Zoom link for this meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2904592281?pwd=WVBZZWUpkT3FVVGZTVngrMGNJN05qdz09>

Loess Hills Branch Hosts Girl Power Forum for HS Girls

Mary Ann Kuhr, Loess Hills Branch

On a beautiful Sept. 11 Saturday, the Loess Hills branch of AAUW hosted its first forum for middle and high school girls, *Girl Power on Display*, with a focus on girls of color. We gathered at The River's Edge Pavilion overlooking the Missouri River. Through this forum we hoped to offer the girls the opportunity to become inspired through the presentations of our guest speakers, those whose careers ranged from the musical and visual arts to planning and construction. Several of our speakers attended and graduated from the Council Bluffs Community School District and continued to pursue degrees in higher education. We hoped the girls (and moms, too) might feel empowered and inspired to come away with greater self-confidence and a belief and a desire to create and to build a dream.

Originally, four speakers were allotted time to speak, but one additional guest who spoke on a purely informational topic was so energized by the speakers, that she too, shared her story. With adequate time available, we enjoyed all five presenters.

One additional activity that the girls seemed to really enjoy was the five minute relaxation techniques between speakers. Of course, the door prizes were a hit, too. (This year we had enough for all to receive a prize to take home.)

But that wasn't all they took home. The girls were asked to tell us something they learned at this event, and some of their answers follow:

"Believe in me. Follow my dreams."

"Even if you've gone through a hard time, you can be successful."

"I learned it's OK to ask questions!"

"The relaxation techniques."

"To be able to fulfill my goals and follow my dreams!"

"For me, they all show great things."

"Thank you for everything. I hope I see you in the next forum."

One thing is certain, the "Mighty 7" which is our branch's nickname, have come away from this forum with some learning, too. We have learned that we still have a lot to learn! We hope to host another forum for girls and their moms, but we have learned that we will need to network and find other sources of funding and that we need to find other venues for hosting. For while this was a beautiful location, if numbers of participants increase, this location will quickly become too small. The Mighty 7 have become enriched, inspired, awe struck, and eager to pass on what we can about the joy of encouraging others. We hope to see these girls, moms, and more at the next Forum.



Left: Speakers await their turn. Maranda Adams, Blair Freedom Group; Malina Rousseau, IA West Foundation; Sofia Sandoval, Centro Latino of IA; Dr. Theresa

Barron-McKeagnay, U. of Nebraska - Omaha; Ejanae Hume, Resident Lifegate Church, Visual & Musical Arts.

Middle: Girls, moms, grandmas & guests

await the forum.

Right: AAUW member Vergarie Sanford, M.C. for the *Girl Power on Display* forum.

Tama -Toledo Branch Enjoys a Day on the Farm

Trudy Koch, Tama-Toledo Branch

The Tama-Toledo Area branch of AAUW met on September 28th at the rural home of member Berlene Wobeter, who lives outside of Toledo. Berlene's family had just celebrated

their daughter's farm-themed wedding on Labor Day weekend. Our branch was invited to enjoy the wonderful farm atmosphere. We each made individual pizzas which Berlene baked in a wood-fired oven that she made herself.

will take questions from Branch members.



Members enjoyed using Berlene's shed for their event.

We try to have our first meeting of the year to be a time to reconnect and just have fun. Also, we firmed up our meetings for the year. Our October 25th meeting will be held at the Toledo Public Library, at 6:00 p.m., with Senator Jeff Elder from State Center. He



Berlene puts a pizza in the oven.

AAUW Indianola Co-Hosts Four Candidate Forums

Kathie Farris, Indianola Branch

Although the AAUW Indianola branch has co-hosted several forums, 2021 takes the cake. With three cosponsors—the John C. Culver Public Policy Center at Simpson College, the *Indianola Independent Advocate*, and 94.3 KNIA—we sponsored four forums. The first two were held at Simpson College, the last two at Trinity United Presbyterian Church.

On October 5th, the two women running for mayor answered questions from our moderator Amy Duncan, who had gathered questions and concerns from several Indianola residents. Around 50 attended. Then, on October 7th, two candidates for the at-large position on city council debated, also before an audience of around 50.

helping students with social and emotional needs to addressing the problem of finding support staff in the schools. The forums were also available on the radio or on Facebook. An educated voter was our goal. We believe the goal was reached.



Indianola members at first of four candidate forums

At the October 11th forum, the final council candidates for the city election from Wards 2 and 4 debated before 40 voters. Questions ranged from taxes to the council's relationship with the local utility to housing options in Indianola to their individual priorities. One hundred voters attended the last forum for the ten candidates for three positions on the Indianola school board on October 21st. Questions ranged from lower class size to dealing with our Indian mascot to



School board candidates at the forum

AAUW Algona Branch Celebrates the Nineteenth Amendment at Band Day!

Jane Nettleton, Algona Branch

Finally, a year after the Algona branch had planned to have an entry in the Algona Band Day Parade to commemorate 100 years of women's suffrage in the United States, we did it! In 2020, there was no Band Day Parade in Algona due to Covid, so we put away our banners, white blouses, and red lipstick and waited for 2021.

As Band Day approached this year, we realized that there was to be an important Women's March in Des Moines on the same day, and we wanted to be a part of both events. Some members decided to march in Des Moines, but several of us also felt that it was important to have a presence at one of the biggest events of the year in our city. A committee of Karen Dannewitz, Jennifer Harrington, and Jane Nettleton procured a friend's pickup and trailer, and one of our members, Kathie Gerber, who is a farmer, agreed to drive the rig. Our committee, plus another member, Sue

Berry, made the signs, Christine Louscher provided several of the sashes and flags, and 12 of us were there on Band Day to decorate the trailer and ride or walk in the parade.

We were well-received. One of the most heartwarming comments we heard was a mother saying to her daughter, "Look at those signs! This is the most important float in the parade!"



Pictured: Jennifer Harrington, Helen Scuffham, Marilyn Deal, Jan Mullins, Jane Nettleton, Beverly Nordman, Janet Brandt, Karen Dannewitz, and Kathie Gerber. Three other walkers are not visible.

Algona Branch Hosts Candidate Forum

Jane Nettleton, Algona Branch

A candidate forum, sponsored by the Algona Branch of AAUW was held on Monday, October 5, at 7 p.m. at the Tietz Entrepreneurial Center, Iowa Lakes Community College. This year there was only one race for an at-large seat on the Algona City Council, featuring three candidates, and no contested races for the other city positions nor the Algona Community School District Board of Education. It is our branch policy to hold a candidate forum whenever there is a contested race. We also invited candidates for non-contested positions to be introduced and be available for any questions after the forum was over. Two candidates for city council seats, the mayor, and one candidate for the school board were in the audience.

The format for the evening was as follows: Introductions, opening statements by the candidates in the contested race, answering of written

questions from the audience present at the forum and those phoned in or emailed before the event for the candidates in the contested race, and their closing remarks.

The advance planning and advertising of the forum was done by Janet Brandt, Public Policy Chair, and Janie Montang, Program Vice-President. Jennifer Harrington served as the moderator for the evening, Laura Gabor as timer, Jan Mullens and Janie Montang as question sifters. Karen Dannewitz gathered questions from the audience in the room, and Trudy Kattner and Sandy Harnes-Buchanan wrote down questions phoned in. Our local radio station KLGA broadcast the event live, and the Algona Broadcasting class recorded the event for later broadcasts on our two local access cable TV channels.



Photo by Kossuth County Advance, used with permission

The Algona branch of AAUW has been providing candidate forums for almost 50 years as a service to our community.

Elaine Kresse Awarded Athena Leadership Award by Women Lead Change

Women Lead Change has recognized leaders in the Quad Cities area with the Athena award since 2006. This year the awardee is Elaine Kresse, an honorary lifetime member of the Davenport-Bettendorf branch of AAUW. The Athena award is given to a Quad Cities woman who is a success in her field, has made a lasting impact to her community through civic, nonprofit, philanthropic and/or volunteer engagement, and who is a role model for other women. Jazmin Newton-Butt, also a member of the Davenport-Bettendorf branch, was recognized as a Woman of Influence.

See an interview with Elaine here: <https://youtu.be/Rpl3Im4XsDQ>



Jazmin Newton-Butt and Elaine Kresse

Elaine Kresse was married for over 50 years to Sam Kresse who came as a package with four sons. Together they helped raise five young men.

She taught English in 7 and 8th grade in Davenport and North Scott. As a reading specialist at North Scott she taught Title I reading and math, conducted workshops, and was published in both reading and math journals on a method of teaching reading with math story problems. She began a Junior High Women's

Group. She won the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in teaching the year she retired. After retirement she conducted workshops as an adjunct consultant at the Davenport John Deere Plant.

Elaine was the first woman to attain a college degree in her family. The faculty at Marycrest stressed the importance and pride in being able to join the American Association of University Women. Elaine credits AAUW with most of her growth in leadership skills as she took offices. In 1986 she received the Marycrest Distinguished Service Award. In 1989, with AAUW friends, she became the task force leader to bring in Planned Parenthood. She continued to work with AAUW on legislative forums until 2015.

Beyond AAUW, she served as the Americanism Chair for DAR, arranging the speakers for local naturalization services. Through this she became interested in immigration problems and began a workshop on immigration at her church. Her involvement in immigration brought her to work with Quad City Interfaith on issues of restorative justice involving incarceration and mental health courts.

Her involvement with One Human Family, NAACP, and AAUW keeps her involved and informed on Equity in the community. She ran twice for the school board, and she now works now on committees on various issues of gender, race, trauma, and equity in the Davenport Schools. Recently, she and Maggie Tinsman started working with One Human Family on a project to bring Republicans and Democrats together to listen to each other. She currently serves on the AAUW Iowa State Board of Directors.

Excerpts from Elaine's acceptance speech:

Whenever I say, "I taught 7th and 8th grade," people express sympathy. I have a poem written years ago about me by a student I still remember well. It reminds me of all the fun I had for 36 years in the junior high with flaky kids with untapped potential. It's called Unorganized. "If your (you're) very stupid and your lockers messy just see the nice old lady named Mrs. Kresse." Some of those stupid, messy kids became PHD's. I couldn't imagine their futures but their potential was brimming over.

There is a line from Harry Potter. The character says, "I enjoyed the meetings. It was like having friends." To that I say, "Me, too."

Meetings are where "it" happens. "It" being conversations, creative ideas, networking and making genuine friends. For me as a very young woman it was Sister Helen at Marycrest encouraging me to join AAUW. Without that advice, I would never have developed the skills people acknowledged here today. People have their professional groups or hobbies, but they need an opportunity to talk with people from other fields or political parties.

In 1984 AAUW, the League of Women voters and the Moline PTA sent 50 letters to organizations to come to a meeting to discuss how we could support passage of the ERA. By 1986 we were hosting the Quad City Leader Luncheon.

The life long supportive very real friendships I have made have come from the many meetings I have attended and the networking that has bought such wonderful people into my life.

This year, 37 years later, AAUW is once again putting together a coalition to promote passing the ERA. I never said leadership was short-term work.

So that's my message today. Find an organization, go to the meetings. It won't be "like having friends." These people will become your friends. And when you get the Athena award they will be at the table.

Clarion Branch Hosts Candidate Forum

The Clarion branch of AAUW hosted a public information forum to introduce Clarion city council and mayor candidates for the November elections to Clarion residents. It was held on October 18 at the Clarion Public Library from 7:00 – 8:30. Two mayor candidates and six city council candidates answered questions submitted by those attending the forum.

Twelve AAUW members and 52 other citizens were present. The Clarion branch has hosted several forums over the years as an outreach to inform area citizens on candidates' positions on public policy.

Members of the Clarion branch organized, advertised, and moderated the forum.



The moderator asked questions submitted by the audience.

Branch members reviewed questions from the audience.



Marjorie Spruill Delivers Talk at Closing Event for the 19th Amendment Centennial

Historian and author Marjorie Spruill presented insights from her book, *Divided We Stand*, at the closing event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, giving most women the right to vote. The event was held October 4 at the Scheman Building in Ames.

AAUW members Pat Newman and Diane Patton from the Ames branch and Ann Gale from the Des Moines and eNetwork branches all had a chance to visit with her individually. When she learned that we were members of AAUW, she said that she received a grant from AAUW, and that grant allowed her to complete her dissertation. She now has a Ph.D. because of AAUW. We were delighted to hear that she had been a grant recipient, and that it had made a difference in her life.

Photo of Marjorie Spruill by Amy Vinchattle, used by permission from the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.



Cedar Rapids Area Branch Hosts STEM Conference

Sue Jorgenson, Cedar Rapids Area Branch

The 25th year of the "Open Minds, Open Doors" STEM conference for middle school girls was held at Coe College in Cedar Rapids on October 8th. This year attendance was limited to accommodate distancing. Several of our members were on the original committee that planned the conference! Grant Wood AEA specialist, Susie Green, coordinates and AAUW volunteers support the exciting event.

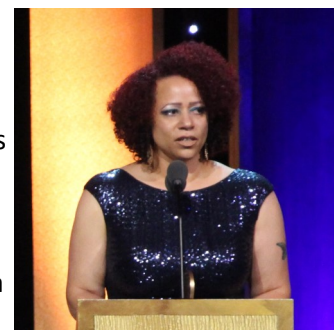


The Crew that assembled materials for each school—Sue Jorgensen, Linda Armitage, Deb Reed, Millie Peshek, Carol Hills, Jinny Adams

Nikole Hannah-Jones, Honorary AAUW Member

Waterloo native Nikole Hannah-Jones is the author of *The 1619 Project*, and is a recipient of both a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and the Pulitzer Prize. Pat Higby, treasurer of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch, suggested that the branch make her an honorary member. This idea had broad branch support, so they contacted Hannah-Jones' mother, who still lives in Waterloo, to determine whether the offer of an honorary membership would be appreciated. As a result, Nikole Hannah-Jones is now a member of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch.

This fall, Hannah-Jones launched the 1619 Freedom School, an after-school program for 4th and 5th graders that teaches Black American history with an emphasis on reading and literacy skills to students in Waterloo. Sheritta Stokes, Co-director of the 1619 Freedom School, will be one of our speakers at the AAUW Iowa Spring conference next April. Look for more information about this in a future issue.



Nikole Hannah-Jones

Waverly Branch Meets In-Person for First Time Since Start of Pandemic!

Waverly Branch's October meeting took place October 21 and featured Ms. Heidi Solheim, interim CEO and Chief Operating Officer of the Waverly Health Center. Her topic was "A Woman's Perspective on Hospital Leadership." Ms. Solheim discussed women in leadership roles and the challenges she and others have faced during the pandemic and hospital construction. The meeting was held in "hybrid" format, with close to 25 members attending either in-person or through Zoom and the use of OWL technology on Wartburg College's campus.



Heidi Solheim

Palo Alto Branch at Emmetsburg Community Showcase



The Palo Alto branch joined the first annual Emmetsburg Community Showcase this year.