



Carletta Knox-Seymour  
 AAUW Iowa President 2020-2022

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**From the President**

Greetings,

It is September, and that means our days of summer are ending. Though we are sure to have some good days left in October, we begin to leave our fun, somewhat carefree days of summer, and embrace the approaching days of fall which bring about harvest time. Apples, yellow squash, zucchini, kale, tomatoes, and corn are just a few of the wonderful items a farmer brings to market. As with any harvest, it is about reaping what you have sown. If the farmer brings in a bumper crop, then the reward will be abundant. If the crops did not produce as well as the farmer would have liked, then the harvest will be rather bleak.

Our branches are beginning anew this fall. Yet, we must look at whatever we have been sowing in the past. This will give us an indication of how much we may reap. Thus, the proverb, “you reap what you sow,” applies to our branches as well. As with anything, you get out of it what you put into it. The AAUW organization has obviously lasted many years, so we have only to look at the sacrifices, money, time and effort it has taken over time to get where we are today. However, this organization cannot afford to sit on its laurels from the past and simply imagine a better organization or branch if we are not willing to continue to put in the hard work that is necessary in order to reap an abundant harvest from the work and time we invest in each of our branches. I know we take pride in our branches, and the members in them.

I understand that every branch has already done their planning for this new fiscal year. So, things are already set

in place. In continuing with the harvest analogy, let us take extra care to stay mindful of what we sow into this year. What seeds will we plant in our branches and communities that will yield a bumper crop? Who will we have the greatest effect on? What will our investment look like at the end? We should always be looking at ways that we can measure our successes. What did we do last year, or years before that can be topped this year? Are we going to go beyond our immediate reaches and strike out into new territories to exceed our mission goals? Have we been creative enough in our planning to recruit women of the millennial generation?

As we look ahead to our annual conference in the spring, our motto is “Striving, Thriving, Moving Forward.” This motto befits AAUW Iowa for several reasons. Our organization, like many others, survived the pandemic. And some branches were able to grow during this time. What we learned about ourselves, and our branches, is that we continued to move forward through it all. We toughened up. We became more tech savvy. We taught the members of our branches new ways of conducting our meetings. We became more resourceful, and we met and interacted with more people across Iowa and the country than ever before.

Let us allow our newfound strengths and creativity to embolden us for the work that is before us this year so that we produce a harvest that will exceed our measurable expectations in order to have a bumper crop.

Carletta Knox-Seymour

# Announcing AAUW Iowa Spring Conference 2022

Save the dates!

Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2022

The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale, located at 8600 Northpark Drive, Johnston, Iowa 50131. The hotel is easily accessed from I35/80 at the 86<sup>th</sup> Street exit.

Wait to make your room reservation. A special link will be provided for you to access reduced rates for our reserved block of rooms. We would like your input about the



AAUW Iowa - State Conference - April 8 & 9, 2022

conference. Please use this link to give us your opinions by September 17: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Zz0YCDk-hEaa3sY-MTzbCY2tbgH-K85lhI4Y1t4sJ3FUNTRFREpBN01ONjkzT1M3RVNZOTRDQTZOV i4u>

Much more information about conference speakers, breakout sessions, and a registration form will be provided in upcoming editions of the Iowa Initiative. We are excited as we move forward toward a conference that is informative, inspiring, and fun!

The logo above was designed by Lois Enger, and will be used in future communications about the conference. Thanks, Lois!



## Membership/Colleges & Universities – The Year Ahead

Kim Folkers, AAUW Iowa Membership Vice President, and Elaine Kresse, College/University Relations Director

There's a headline on an AAUW webpage that's attention-getting: "Membership Matters." As we talk with people about AAUW that's a message we need to emphasize. It matters that we commit to belonging to an organization that is intersectional, intergenerational, and inclusive and that focuses its energy on "equity for all."

Fortunately, for most of us, joining AAUW is an affordable commitment and one with an impressive "return on investment." Membership provides us with opportunities to gather in person and/or virtually with others who are committed to equity, in order to learn, educate, and advocate. It gives us access to women and girls.

In the coming year, the two of us look forward to partnering to think strategically about how to share the value of AAUW membership more broadly and persuasively with prospective members. We are eager to

hear from branches and members across the state about how we can support your efforts to spread the word about joining AAUW to individuals and colleges. You may also have ideas about places where a new branch could be established or a previous branch rekindled.

Elaine has already reached out to interested individuals in Dubuque and Iowa City, and meetings are underway to get things moving in those critical locations. As she says, the most effective ways to grow our membership are through personal contacts, conversations, and relationships.

Don't hesitate to let us know how we can help as we all work together to build AAUW's impact across Iowa this coming year!

Kim Folkers ([kimberly.folkers@wartburg.edu](mailto:kimberly.folkers@wartburg.edu))

Elaine Kresse ([elainekresse2@gmail.com](mailto:elainekresse2@gmail.com))



# Women Leading Change

AAUW-IA eNetwork Program Plan for 2021-22

Guests are welcome.

Meeting Times are Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

## Iowa eNetwork Programs for 2021-22

The Iowa eNetwork branch invites you to sit in on one or more programs during 2021-22. Meetings are held on Wednesdays or Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are held using Zoom.

**September 16, 2021 (Thursday)** – *Facing Discrimination* led by Trevalova Augustin, Lead for the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. This meeting will be an AAUW Shape the Future Event.

**October 13, 2021 (Wednesday)** – *The Challenges of Covid for Women and Doctors* by Dr. Lisa Shepherd

**November 18, 2021 (Thursday)** – *Title IX: Presentation & Virtual Tour of Women's Equality Exhibition* arranged by Lori SchraderBacher

**December** – No Meeting

**January 20, 2022 (Thursday)** – *A Living Wage & Affordable Housing* led by Friends of the Family Organization

**February 17, 2022 (Thursday)** – Book Discussion of *Susan, Linda, Nina, & Cokie: The Extra-ordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR* led by Penny Foy

**March 16, 2022 (Wednesday)** – *Teaching in a Time of Divisive Concepts* led by Melissa Peterson, ISEA Government Relations Specialist (This meeting will be with the Des Moines AAUW Branch.)

**April 21, 2022 (Thursday)** – *Lack of Equity of School Discipline Regarding Race & Gender* led by Jan Harris-Williams

**May 19, 2022 (Thursday)** – Book Discussion of *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo* led by Jane Nettleton

To find the link to join our sessions, log into <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net>, then click AAUW Iowa Web Meetings.



## AAUW Members Stay Informed

Diane Kearns and Dev Kiedaisch, Public Policy Co-Chairs  
Several towns and cities will be having elections for school board and city offices. It is important to know where the various candidates stand on issues important to AAUW. If candidate forums are held, try to attend if possible. Remember issues of importance include: pay equity, economic security, education, equal opportunity, and advocacy. Although many issues relate to legislation on the federal, state, and local levels, it is extremely important to know where various candidates for office stand on our issues.



## Iowa Women's Hall of Fame 2021

The video honoring the 2021 inductees into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame will be aired on Saturday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m. The virtual celebration will be shown via the Department of Human Rights Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/iowadepthumanrights](http://www.facebook.com/iowadepthumanrights) and is open to the public. AAUW member Jan Mitchell, from the Iowa eNetwork branch, is one of the inductees. Jan is being recognized for her work with Latinx students, championing women's rights, and service to the community.

## Hall of Fame Correction

The previous issue included a list of AAUW members who have been inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Two names were inadvertently omitted. Jean Lloyd-Jones, a member at large, was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2003, and Maggie Tinsman, a member of the Davenport-Bettendorf branch, was inducted in 2014. Both Jean and Maggie were members of the Iowa Legislature, and were co-founders of 50-50 in 2020. We apologize for the omissions.

## AAUW Ames explores Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Christian Petersen Art Museum Iowa State University, July 6, 2021

Diane Patton, AAUW Ames President

*Perceptions of Identity – Paintings by Maquoketa, Iowa, artist Rose Frantzen* is an exhibition that aims to develop a better understanding of Rose Frantzen's body of work. Frantzen's portraits continuously explore identity.

The exhibition, organized by Iowa State University Museums, asks viewers to consider what visual information cultures use to understand someone recently encountered. Can this initial perception be trusted? Similar to an optical illusion, people can logically recognize how their minds are deceived by implicit biases that all humans carry, but it is a difficult practice to name and confront those illusions or preconceived notions each carries.

*Perceptions of Identity* challenges viewers to become aware of the illusions influencing society around matters such as age, race, and ability, and to recognize the misperceptions held within oneself.

Once it is recognized that each person has unconscious understandings of the world around them, including the people they encounter daily, efforts can be made to combat those inherent biases. Organizations and systems within society can work to develop better and more empathetic understanding of others, or to create systems to navigate and educate on the dangers of bias.



From left: Jeanne Warning, Pat Newman, Jean McMaken, Jim Patton, Diane Patton. Front: Dolores Day.

The creation and study of art can help to examine and build upon current understandings of how we experience the world. Frantzen has illustrated her questioning process, painting her own questions to understand how others' identities are perceived, and through her art, she brings the viewer into a dialogue.

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### Join Us: Women's Mental Health During a Pandemic

The Des Moines Branch invites you to join us on Zoom November 9 at 7:00 p.m. for a program on women's health during a pandemic, presented by Dr. Cathy Beck-



Dr. Cathy Beck-Cross

Cross, associate professor of social work and social work program director at Grand View University.

Prior to joining Grand View in 2013, she practiced individual, family, and community social work in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, public

child welfare, and preK-12 public education. She has expertise in program development, project management, community organization, and suicide prevention/postvention. Cathy earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Iowa State, master's in social work from the University of Iowa, and doctorate in education leadership from Drake University. Her research on predictors of youth suicide has been published in *Children & Schools*, a journal of the National Association of Social Workers.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXCyREhjcjI0ZlNQMUMtZjIjCU0RQQT09>

**Reminder:** AAUW Des Moines will host a presentation on Advocating for Women's Healthcare by Gabriela Fuentes of Planned Parenthood on September 20 at 7:00. Women's rights to make healthcare decisions are at risk. Please tune in and invite a friend. To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXCyREhjcjI0ZlNQMUMtZjIjCU0RQQT09>

## AAUW Members in the Iowa State Fair Parade

Four AAUW members marched with about 22 members of the League of Women Voters in the Hard Won Not Done entry in the Iowa State Fair parade on August 11. Everyone wore white as a tribute to suffragists who often wore white in suffrage parades. This marked 101 years of women's suffrage. The federal government certified states' ratification of the 19th amendment pertaining to voting rights for women on August 26, 1920. The amendment mandates: "The right of citizens of the United

States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Early suffragists decorated a milk delivery wagon with slogans and used it to sell copies of The Women's Journal, a publication of the American Women's Suffrage Association. The wagon in the parade is a replica of the original suffrage wagon used by Lucy Stone from 1913-1920, now in the Smithsonian.



Marchers posed for a photo before the parade.



AAUW members Diane Patton, Pat Higby, Ann Gale, and Faith Sherman in front of the suffrage wagon

## Cedar Rapids Branch Activities

Members of the Cedar Rapids branch of AAUW joined with other organizations in celebrating women's right to vote at Bever Park recently.

Cedar Rapids branch members hosted a Saturday coffee and Brunch at the West End Diner. Working women have asked for weekend activities, and the Cedar Rapids branch plans to accommodate the request.



Senator Liz Mathis, AAUW member Helane Golden, Allene Pease, Cedar Rapids city council member Dale Todd, and branch president Linda Armitage with the suffrage wagon.



Clockwise from upper left: New member Anne Kirche, 50-year members Betty Debban and Carol Hills, Erica Yoder, Karen Alderson, Trudy Sunderman, and Millie Peshek (back to camera).

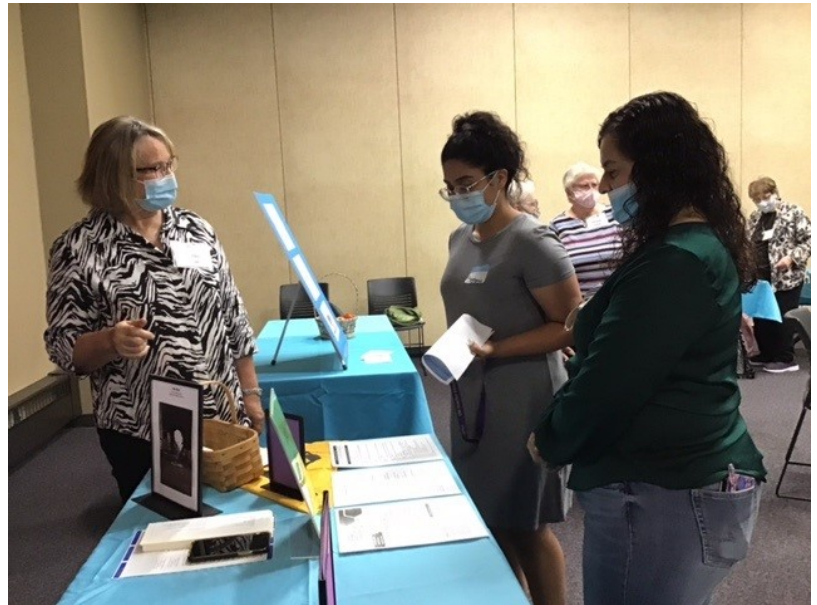
## Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch Marks 100 Years for Waterloo

Members of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch gathered at the Waterloo Public Library on August 30th for a kickoff of the 2021-22 year and to celebrate 100 years of AAUW members in Waterloo. Thirty-three members donned

their masks and braved the road construction to celebrate and recognize four scholarship recipients. The Waterloo branch was founded in 1921, and merged with the Cedar Falls branch in recent years.



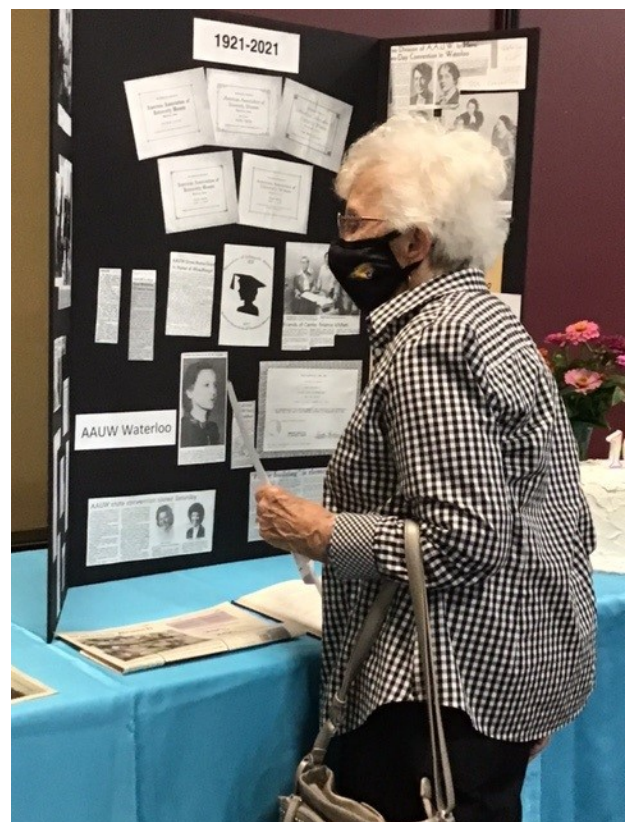
Mary Dove and Gloria Tollefson inspect the display for CV3D Cedar Valley Discuss Discover Diversity, a monthly book discussion group.



Maureen White talks with Stephanie, a scholarship recipient, about Start Smart and Work Smart, AAUW salary negotiation programs for college students and working women.



Rowena Hardinger, Pat Higby, and Ardelle Brown get ready to serve cake celebrating 100 years of AAUW in Waterloo.



Marge Polacek looks at a display about 100 years of AAUW members in Waterloo.