

## We Need You at Lobby Day

Mark your calendars. Our Lobby Day 2023 will be Wednesday, February 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Iowa State Capitol, Room 305.



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## Hello 2023!

Kathie Farris, AAUW Iowa Co-President

For me, this past year gave several good memories. In 2022, we finally made small steps forward on decreasing the world’s dependence on fossil fuels such as Iowa’s use of wind energy and the federal government’s emphasis on tax credits for solar. We are one step closer to sending people to Mars. Personally, camping in Iowa was relaxing and fun. We celebrated Christmas with lots of family. And Iowa won its bowl game!



Bad highlights center on the war in Ukraine with its threat to both world peace and survival. Covid has been such an interrupter of people’s lives that it has to join the list. Women’s issues also share the negative limelight, especially after the overturning of Roe vs. Wade. Public education is under attack in Iowa.

The arrival of 2023 means that we have the opportunity to work on problems we see around us. The first thing is to decide what is important. Truthfully we cannot do everything that is needed so we will have to pick and choose. While I may choose to work on funding for public schools, you may put your energy in on the vigorous enforcement of Title IX. Your friend might choose the right

to a safe abortion while others look at protection of the elderly through strict enforcement of nursing home regulations.

Learn what AAUW priorities are by reading the AAUW Iowa Public Policy Program 2022-2024, the AAUW Public Policy Priorities, and AAUW’s excellent research articles on its site. An example is *The Impact of Covid-19 on Women and the Workforce* for anyone interested in women at work.

After you have accumulated your facts, you need to decide whom to tell it to. One easy way is to sign up for the AAUW Two-Minute Activist. A second way is to contact your own legislators by phone or email. See their phone numbers below:

- Chuck Grassley ..... 202-224-3744
- Joni Ernst..... 202-224-4254
- Ashley Hinson..... 202-225-2911
- Mariannette Miller-Meeks . 202-225-6576
- Randy Feenstra ..... 202-225-4426
- Zach Nunn (Des Moines)..... 515-400-8180

Messages can also be left at their offices throughout the state. State senators and representatives are also available by phone or email. There are newspaper letters to write and speeches to give to interested groups. If each of us does just one of these things, we can help change things for the better. Good luck! Let’s have an active 2023.

## Iowa Safe Harbor Law

The Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery  
Maggie Tinsman – Legislative Advocacy Chair

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, obtaining, or maintaining of a person by means of force, fraud, or coercion for purposes of servitude, debt bondage, slavery, or participation in the sex or labor trade. For Iowa children under age 18, force or coercion does not need to be shown for the minor to be considered a victim of sex trafficking. The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT) was Iowa's first and remains the only statewide volunteer organization devoted exclusively to ending trafficking in all forms. NAHT's goal is to coordinate Iowa's solution to end sex and labor trafficking through coalition building; raising awareness, prevention, and education; advocating for victim services and justice reform; and the passage of effective public policy.

Worldwide, an estimated 25 million people are currently victims of human trafficking. Human traffickers prey on adults and children of all ages, backgrounds, and nationalities, exploiting them for their own profit. In 2020, Iowa law enforcement identified 245 trafficking victims, 49 traffickers, and 16 trafficking businesses; and in 2021, 642 sex trafficking victims were served by Iowa's Victim Services Program. The number of identified human trafficking victims is on the rise in Iowa, so NAHT is working hard to adopt a Safe Harbor Law.

Thirty-one States have already passed Safe Harbor Laws, including many states around us such as Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, and North Dakota. We think that it's time that Iowa passes such legislation. But we need your HELP!

First, just what is the Safe Harbor Law? It is a law that prevents minors (any child under 18) from being prosecuted for prostitution and other crimes committed while under a trafficker's control and directs juvenile sex trafficking victims to non-punitive specialized services.

Why is the law necessary? Sex traffickers often target runaways and homeless youth as well as children (mainly females) who have been abused or neglected. Human traffickers prey on their victims by promising a life of hope and greater opportunity while delivering only enslavement. Instead of delivering people to better lives, traffickers profit from the labor and toll of their victims. Safe Harbor Laws ensure that trafficked children are treated as victims, not criminals, and are provided access to medical care, safe housing, remedial education, and counseling services.



What is the impact of Safe Harbor Laws? When child trafficking victims are convicted of prostitution, they are often transferred from the control of their trafficker to the control of the criminal justice system. Safe Harbor Laws protect child victims of sex trafficking from unjust criminalization. Further, because Safe Harbor Laws redirect minors from juvenile delinquency proceedings to child protection proceedings, they give sexually exploited children access to specialized services. Safe Harbor Laws also promote the use of safe houses rather than juvenile detention of child survivors of sex trafficking.

Moreover, Safe Harbor Legislation usually includes a statement of intent for how sexually exploited youth should be treated under the law. Common goals identified in Safe Harbor Legislation include:

- Trafficked children be treated as victims and not prosecuted as prostitutes; AND
- States provide a protective response to prevent further victimization.

As mentioned, children and youth are commonly compelled to commit juvenile and criminal offenses during their victimization. In addition to harms caused by criminalization, related criminal records present detrimental challenges and barriers to the restoration and healing process for survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sex exploitation. Juvenile records may result in school expulsion, denial of professional licenses, and denial of access to public benefits. Criminal records hinder a survivor's ability to obtain employment, secure safe housing, take out loans, and seek educational opportunities. Indeed, such consequences may hinder a survivor's ability to rebuild their life.

Last spring (2022), NAHT worked with legislative leaders to bring forward House File 2464 (Safe Harbor Law) in the 2022 legislative session. The bill passed the House 95-1. When it went to the Senate, it passed out of the Judiciary Committee but was held up in the Senate due to some concerns from the Department of Public Safety and various Senators who were former law enforcement officers. Many law enforcement officers believe this law is not needed, and they are protecting trafficked youth by arresting them.

Over the legislative interim, NAHT organized a multidisciplinary workgroup to discuss the barriers to the

*Continued on page 3*

## Safe Harbor Law, continued from page 2

implementation of a Safe Harbor Law. This workgroup brought together representatives from the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Iowa Police Chiefs Association, the Iowa Attorney General's Office, the County Attorney's Association, Juvenile Courts, and various other stakeholders.

Three workgroup meetings were facilitated by Chief Ricardo Martinez, the Chief of Police and Public Safety Director of Nevada, Iowa. The goal of our meetings was to break down the barriers between the silos of those departments, agencies, and service organizations to realize how we can best support the underserved, traumatized youths while building consensus among stakeholders about what a 2023 Safe Harbor bill should look like.

During these discussions, it became clear that while there are services for trafficked youth in Iowa, there is not a

coordinated system in place. NAHT is now recommending a new piece of legislation to establish a human trafficking task force. This task force would be charged with putting together a coordinated system for trafficked youth to ensure consistent housing and services across the state.

So... what can you do to help??

Reach out to your newly elected (or reelected) representatives and implore them to support a human trafficking Safe Harbor Law in Iowa. Briefly explain to them why you believe this legislation is necessary to YOU as their constituent. The more Iowans they hear from about an issue, the more willing they will be to engage and support it!

Please identify your House and Senate members by entering your address into the Iowa Legislative website and give them a call or an email! <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

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## January, Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Mary Ann Ahrens, AAUW Iowa Board Member

AAUW's public policy priorities include Human Trafficking Prevention. AAUW Iowa currently has as one of its three priorities Human Trafficking Prevention. The United Nations Sustainable Development goals include human trafficking prevention which we can and are addressing in this country. Several years ago, legislation was passed to pursue human trafficking prevention in Iowa, establish an office and provide necessary funding. The Office to Combat Human Trafficking is within the Department of Public Safety.

Stephan Bayens, DPS Commissioner says, "Human trafficking uniquely affects Iowa given our proximity to major metropolitan areas (like Kansas City and Chicago) and the intersection of two major interstate systems. Our goal is to provide the knowledge and tools to quickly identify and respond to human trafficking so together we can prevent this from happening in our state—because even one victim is one too many."

The 2022 Iowa Report to Combat Human Trafficking indicates that it takes a commitment from everyone working together with a plan in place. To increase our knowledge and better understand this issue the following are a few stakeholders:

- Government officials who address child welfare and labor issues.
- Community-based groups that raise public awareness and assist in raising funds for community

programming.

- Medical and legal professionals who encounter victims and traffickers and have opportunities to ensure that a fair and just response can occur.
- Religious, educational groups, and charitable organizations at work with their constituents to reshape community values and expectations, and provide assistance in prevention, deterrence, and broad-based community efforts to combat human trafficking.

Any successful effort to combat criminal activity requires the engagement of many groups. As we continue to familiarize ourselves with this issue, there is another piece of legislation that must be addressed to pass "safe harbor law" to protect the victims. Please read the article by Maggie Tinsman about what Safe Harbor Law is and how we can help advocate for its passage.

### You Are Invited!

The eNetwork Branch Invites You  
to join in our January Program on Zoom  
Dorothy's House—A Place for Survivors of Human  
Trafficking, Exploitation, and Prostitution  
Speaker—Kelly Markey, Director of Dorothy's House  
January 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81972569136?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81972569136?pwd=ZHFPSzdlQ1NzRnVlRlRVFV2hNcE9Xdz09)  
[pwd=ZHFPSzdlQ1NzRnVlRlRVFV2hNcE9Xdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81972569136?pwd=ZHFPSzdlQ1NzRnVlRlRVFV2hNcE9Xdz09)

## Public Policy

Diane Kearns, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Co-Director

Happy Holidays to everyone. The 90<sup>th</sup> Iowa General Assembly convenes January 9, 2023. There are several

new legislators and committee chairs for the session. Once the legislators are sworn in, their contact information will be available on the legislative



website. Committees of interest: Education, Education Reform (this is a new committee formed by Speaker Grassley), Labor, Judiciary and Human Resources.

### HOUSE:

- Education: S. Wheeler, Chair; C. Johnson, Vice-Chair; S. Steckman, Ranking Member.
- Education Reform: P. Grassley, Chair; M. Windschitl, Vice-Chair; Other members: J. Konfrst; S. Cahill; J. Wills.
- Labor: D. Deyoe, Chair; T. Moore, Vice-Chair; J. Cooling, Ranking Member.
- Judiciary: S. Holt, Chair; B. Gustoff, Vice-Chair; R. Wilburn, Ranking Member.
- Human Resources: A. Meyer, Chair; D. Wood, Vice-Chair; B. Wessell-Kroeschell, Ranking Member.

### SENATE:

- Education: K. Rosenbloom, Chair; J. Taylor, Vice-Chair; H. Quirnbach, Ranking Member.
- Health and Human Services: J. Edler, Chair; M. Costello, Vice-Chair; T. Garriott, Ranking Member.
- Judiciary: B. Zaun, Chair; J. Garrett, Vice-Chair; N. Boulton, Ranking Member.
- Workforce (Labor): A. Dickey, Chair; C. McClintock, Vice-Chair; M. Donahue, Ranking Member.

- President of the Senate is A. Sinclair; Minority Leader: Z. Wahls; Speaker of the House: P. Grassley; Minority Leader: J. Konfrst.

### LEGISLATION:

- HF2464-Expungement of criminal records of victims of human trafficking was placed under unfinished business last session. Hopefully this will be brought back.
- HF2257-Reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers failed the second funnel.
- SF2369-Student First Scholarship (Voucher Bill) passed the Senate but didn't pass the House. Speaker Grassley has indicated in a recent Iowa Public Radio statement (12-16-22) he is pretty confident private school scholarships can pass in 2023. He has created a new Education Reform Committee and is the Chair. He said his committee will handle voucher style scholarships. We need to monitor the activity from this committee and contact our representatives.

Tips for effective communication with legislators is on the AAUW-Iowa website under Contacting Legislators.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Legislature Convenes: January 9, 2023
- AAUW Lobby Day: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- Equal Pay Day: March 15, 2023.
- AAUW Equal Pay event at Capitol Rotunda: March 20, 2023, 12:00—3:00.
- First Funnel: March 3, 2023; Second Funnel: March 31, 2023.
- Legislature Adjourns: April 28, 2023.

I will be providing updates routinely when the legislature is in session.

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## AAUW Iowa Lobby Day—February 8, 2023 From 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Iowa State Capitol Room 305

Lobby Day provides each of us an opportunity to have a direct effect on the making of sound laws and public policy. Legislators depend on us for accurate factual information on how proposed legislation will affect Iowa's women, girls and families. Our focus is on public education, economic security and gender equality.

We look forward to seeing you in Des Moines, Wednesday,

February 8 at the Capitol.

(Take Note: Room 305 has been reserved for us to meet with legislators, however, should a committee meeting be called we may have to adjust our meeting place.)

Contact Diane Kearns with questions. 319-795-0068 or [diane\\_kearns@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_kearns@hotmail.com)

## Nominate an Outstanding Faculty Member

Elaine Kresse, AAUW Iowa College/University Director

Have you nominated that fantastic teacher you know or have heard about for the AAUW IOWA distinguished faculty award?

The purpose of this award is to recognize women faculty's exemplary contributions toward creating a climate of gender equity in education in the state of Iowa. This may be accomplished through:

- Excellence in teaching, advising, scholarship and service to the college/university and community
- Continual efforts to develop new understandings and competencies in her discipline of expertise

- Outstanding leadership in service, which addresses the needs of female students

The application is on the AAUW Iowa web page here: <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net>. Applications are due by March 1, 2023. This is a good reason to contact the colleges in your area and advertise your branch. When making a nomination, please discuss how your branch might support the winner in attending the conference. Maybe they could travel with you, or your branch could supply funds for travel or hotel or the conference in Des Moines. April 21.

## Spring Conference Date Correction

Please check your calendars for the dates of the 2023 AAUW Iowa Spring Conference. The correct dates are Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22. We apologize for an error in an earlier issue of the newsletter. The conference will be held in the same location as last year, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale, at 8600 Northpark Drive, Johnston, IA.

Watch for the next issue for important information about conference registration, hotel reservations, and the conference agenda.

## Davenport-Bettendorf Branch Hosts Rock Island-Moline in December

Originally the Davenport-Bettendorf and Rock-Island Moline branches were the Illinois-Iowa Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (A.C.A.), organized in 1909. In 1921 they joined AAUW, and were called the Tri City AAUW. In March of 1938 they separated into two groups—states divided by the Mississippi. There were several reasons. One reason was handling membership with AAUW with 2 states involved. The other was the size of the group and distance involved for the members to

travel to meetings. Since then the two groups have met annually in December at what they call the Reciprocity Brunch. They alternate years for hosting. The Davenport-Bettendorf branch was the host this year.



Davenport-Bettendorf IA Reciprocity Brunch with the Rock Island-Moline, IL branch. Iowa members here. Bonnie Moeller, Janice Harris Williams, and Kristen Paisley-Rupp.



Davenport-Bettendorf member Jazmin Newton, pictured here with her daughter, says: "Mila and I had a lot of fun at the brunch. She loves to attend events with me and I often take her to banquets with me ... She really enjoyed this one and even did a little shopping and found a couple bags she liked." Isn't this good advice for all of us with daughters and granddaughter to bring to AAUW? Special meetings with food and fun are perfect for inviting a future AAUW member.

## AAUW Iowa Equal Pay Day at the Capitol, Monday, March 20

Mary Ann Ahrens, AAUW Iowa Board Member

On Monday, March 20, 2023, AAUW Iowa will observe Equal Pay Day in the Rotunda from Noon to 3:00 p.m. which is the first day of spring! PLEASE JOIN US and spring into action as we visit with legislators, staff, and visitors! The last few years AAUW has provided information to legislators and distributed invitations to join us in the Rotunda to create a greater awareness of the importance of the wage disparities and be physically visible as an organization committed to equity for over 140 years. YOU are part of the total image of AAUW Iowa. We need you! Your community needs you!

In the past the observance of Equal Pay Day changed each year. This year nationally it is March 15. To acquire the necessary space at the Capitol, we had to book next year's date before the national date was available. Thus, the date difference this year. Any day is fine to create awareness and act! Recently they set the date in advance for the next four years to March 15 each year through 2027. A glimpse of equal pay history:

- 1883 First Western Union workers strike to demand equal pay for equal work.
- 1911 Female teachers in New York finally earn the same pay as male teachers.
- 1963 Equal Pay Act is signed into law by President Kennedy.
- 1994 Equal Rights Act is signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.
- 1996 First Equal Pay Day observed.
- 2009 The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law by President Obama. It was his first bill to sign.

Currently women earn less than men: \$ .83 to \$1.00. The earnings gap is \$500 billion a year. This is **not** just a women's issue, it is a family issue that reflects the resources available. This is particularly noticeable when women retire. Women would have an additional \$1.6 million in retirement income if they invested all the money lost to the gender wage gap. Women also receive smaller annual social security payments.

In the late 1900s women were becoming a significant addition to the workforce in many arenas and the effects of this disparity became very visible in lives of women and families. Although policies and laws are being established to improve women's treatment, we are not there yet. Our current political environment is troublesome. Let's NOT take women's rights for granted. We must continue the fight. We are not done!

Have you thought about what your branch will plan within your community? Brainstorm with members and other groups to set plans in place. Prepare a Proclamation and have the mayor sign it or the chair of the board of supervisors. Make sure the media is present. Be visible individually and collectively! If you are planning a fundraiser to sell food, etc., charge 100% of the selling price to men and 83% to women. There are fairs and community events each year where you can fundraise and have fun doing it. Include an information table. Read about Equal Pay history. Present a program to your branch or a public program. Do your high school or college student females recognize the disparities they face? Get them involved. Engage in activities with others and Spring into Action!



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### Waverly Branch at the Festival of Trees



The Waverly AAUW Branch participated in the Wartburg College Festival of Trees in December with a suffragette-inspired display.

## Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch Supports Minority-Owned Businesses

Sharon Silva, Cedar Falls-Waterloo Diversity Director

To specifically support local minority owned businesses, Jane Close and Bonnie Smith of our branch's Women in Motion collaborated with Sharon Silva, the branch Diversity Director to create a December 6 outing to shop and eat at local businesses that many of our members might not be familiar with.

Our original itinerary was Spark Lot specialty boutique, El Patron Mexican restaurant and Soul Book Nook, all within easy walking distance.



Unfortunately, the bookstore was not open, so we seven stopped in at Tri City, a longtime fixture in downtown Waterloo catering to traditional Black men's fashion. They welcomed us and graciously answered our questions about the merchandise, history of the store, and recent spin-off of a Women / Girls store.

At Spark Lot, owner Nia Wilder gave us a tour of the specialty merchandise in her new downtown store front, as well as the back room showcasing her photography studio. Serious Christmas shopping happened(!) Member Amy Hoyer joined us for authentic comida at El Patron where the owner Miguel Palomares visited our table, not only sharing with us the ten-year history of the restaurant, but his personal migration story from Mexico as a teenager first to California, and later to Iowa where he met his wife.

Several of us also visited the woman-owned business Ivy Trellis. Our branch members had a great time shopping, eating and learning about the people and business enterprises, and our four hosts also seemed to enjoy our in-depth interest in them. We definitely recommend another such outing!

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## AAUW Iowa State Convention—April 21-22, 2023, Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale Spring Conference Preview—Public Education: What's Happening in Iowa

Kathie Farris, AAUW Iowa Co-President

One of AAUW's action priorities is "to support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls." Who could be better to address this issue at our 2023 state conference than Mary Jane Cobb, executive director of the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) and member of the eNetwork branch.

Mary Jane's education path shows her interest in making government work for everyone. Her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science was earned at Campbell University in North Carolina. Her Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on education and human resources came from Auburn in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mary Jane's career has encompassed multiple chances to address both education and political issues which often



merge. In her first job, she advocated for patients and their families as director of patient and community relations for a rural hospital. At Douglas MacArthur State Technical College in Alabama, she helped students find appropriate work-study placements and taught job-search skills. Later she worked as a Uni-Serv director in both rural and urban schools with the Alabama Education Association. She next worked for the National Education Association (NEA) in government relations.

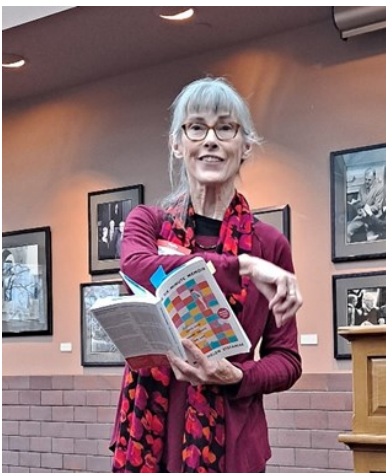
Finally, she became executive director of ISEA. On her watch, she has dealt with the Covid crisis, which involved both student and staff health issues, closed schools, distance learning, and teachers confronted by lots of stressors. She also was a key player in the development of the Iowa Teacher Leadership and Compensation Program. In addition, she has worked to develop strong female leadership in Iowa. Mary Jane Cobb is the perfect person to address the important topic of public education in Iowa.

## Cedar Rapids Area Branch Enjoys Brunch with Guests

Linda Armitage, AAUW Cedar Rapids Area President

The Cedar Rapids branch held their holiday brunch on Saturday, Dec. 10th, 2022, at the Coe College Alumni Center. All had a great time and we had as our guest speaker and presenter Mary Helen Stafaniak, a member of eNetwork branch. She has written many books and spoke with us about her latest publication, *The Six Minute Memoir*. We had over 24 members attend and some guests. Some of the pictured are: Mary Helen, Linda Armitage, Sue Jorgensen, Barb Goings, Penny Foy, Carol Hedberg, Deborah Reed, Gwen Randall, Linda Topinka, Junko, Deanna Howard, Maria Dean, Jeaneal Weeks, Karen Alderson and Trudy Sundermann.

The Cedar Rapids branch would like to invite all members to our program on February 4th, Saturday, at Cedar Rapids Public Library, in honor of Black History Month. We will tour the exhibit, "Suspended: Systemic Oppression in Our Schools," about the history of racism in Iowa schools. The exhibit is on loan from the African American Museum. We will start at 9:45 with a coffee available in the lobby, and move to our meeting room area, greet and then tour the exhibit with discussion after. Lunch will also be available at the Parlor City Pub and Grill from 11:30-12:30. Let us know if you can come. Linda Armitage, 319 213 7636 (text) or [lindaarmitage@mchsi.com](mailto:lindaarmitage@mchsi.com).



Mary Helen Stefaniak



Members and guests enjoyed a holiday brunch with guests.

## Cedar Falls-Waterloo Holds a Successful Online Auction

Pat Higby, Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch

The 2022 Arts and Crafts Online auction concluded on November 13. The total sales were \$968. The charge from Bidding Owl was \$48.40. We were very happy with the results. Since all of the proceeds were used for our scholarship program, no sales tax was necessary. It was so nice to shop from the comfort of our homes when the cold Iowa winds were blowing outside. And as a donor, Pat Higby says she was glad to have a little extra space in her linen closet! Contact Pat with any questions at [patricia.a.higby@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.a.higby@gmail.com).



January 2023



Iowa Initiative

