



# IOWA INITIATIVE

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## Spring Conference Update

April 21-22, 2023

### Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale

8600 Northpark Drive, Johnston, IA

Last year our spring conference location worked very well for us. When we had difficulty finding open dates at other nearby locations, we decided to make arrangements for the Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale in Johnston again this year. The AAUW conference rate is \$119 per night. Register at [AAUW-IA \(hilton.com\)](http://AAUW-IA(hilton.com)) or call 1 515-270-8890 by March 30 for the AAUW Iowa conference rate.

Plan to come to our social hour in the Garden Room at the hotel from 5:00—6:00 on Friday. Dinner afterward is on your own. Find a list of nearby restaurants on page 8 of this newsletter.

We are pleased to offer a buffet lunch during the conference this year.

You may register for the conference online at the [AAUW Iowa website](http://AAUW Iowa website), or use the registration form on page 4. If you are unable to print the form, just send your check for \$80 payable to AAUW Iowa to Pat Higby, at 718 Blue Jay Court, Tiffin, IA 52340 by April 7, 2023. The cost will be \$90 after that date.

Show others what your branch has achieved by having a brag table. Please bring a basket for the silent auction—proceeds to the AAUW Fund. Remember to bring your checkbook to pay for the winning bid!

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## Reasons You Will Want to Come

- Update on public education in Iowa by Mary Jane Cobb with ISEA
- Women’s Hall of Fame Honoree Laurie Schipper on creating beloved communities
- Karen Kedrowski on the ERA at 100 years
- Anne Kiche on bias
- Sinikka Waugh on handling difficult conversations
- Connie Ryan on guns in Iowa
- Break the Cycle on fighting human trafficking
- Ann Wright on handling difficult conversations
- Rasika Mudalige-Jayawickrama on plastic pollution
- Music by HarMENy chorus (finger crossed—this is still being arranged)
- Silent auction to benefit AAUW Fund
- Brag tables by branches
- Social hour from 5:00—6:00 on Friday
- Hotel is conveniently located near the 86th Street exit on I 35/80

# AAUW Iowa Conference Schedule - April 21-22

## Our Time Is Now

Hilton Garden Inn, 8600 Northpark Drive, Johnston, IA 50131



### Friday, April 21 Social Hour

There will be a social hour in the Garden Room at the hotel on Friday, April 21, from 5:00—6:00. Light appetizers, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. This will be a great opportunity to stop by and visit with your friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

### Saturday, April 22 Conference Schedule

- 8:00-8:30      **Registration** - Rolls, coffee
- 8:45-9:00      **Welcome and Announcements** - Karen Agee & Kathie Farris, AAUW Co-Presidents
- 9:00-9:45      **Public Education: What's Happening in Iowa**—Mary Jane Cobb  
Executive Director, Iowa State Education Association
- 9:45-10:05     **Inclusion: An Introduction** - Anne Kiche, AAUW Iowa Diversity Director
- 10:05-10:35   **Breakout sessions**
1. Are you Biased? The Prejudice You Don't Know You Have—Anne Kiche
  2. How to Handle Difficult Conversations—Sinikka Waugh  
President and Founder, Your Clear Next Step
  3. Guns in Iowa—Connie Ryan, Executive Director, Interfaith Alliance of Iowa
- 10:35-11:00   **Break**, hotel checkout (must check out by noon)
- 11:00-11:45   **A Retrospective on Milestones and Lessons Learned:**  
**Working to Create Beloved Communities**—Laurie Schipper  
Community Care Specialist, Galvanize USA
- 11:45-12:00   **Break**
- 12:00-1:00     **Lunch and Awards**
- 1:00-1:45      **Business Meeting**—Co-Presidents Karen Agee and Kathie Farris, presiding
- 2:00-2:45      **Hard Won, Not Done: The Equal Rights Amendment at 100**—Karen Kedrowski  
Director, Catt Center for Women and Politics  
Professor of Political Science, Iowa State University
- 2:45-3:15      **Breakout Sessions**
1. Human Trafficking: Never Underestimate a Grandma on a Bicycle  
Rocky Vest and Deanna Herr from Break the Cycle
  2. How to Handle Difficult Conversations - Ann Wright  
The Wright Training and Coaching Solutions
  3. The Unseen Side of Plastic Pollution - Rasika Mudalige-Jayawickrama  
Associate Professor of Natural and Applied Sciences. University of Dubuque
- 3:15-3:30      **Public Policy ACTION** - Diane Kearns & Dev Kiedaisch
- 3:30             **Auction Results**—Pay and collect your items.

## President's Letter

Karen Agee, AAUW Iowa Co-President

Your co-presidents, Kathie Farris and I, have enjoyed collaborating with AAUW members in the state via Zoom—thanks to Lois Enger, Website Director. (The Zoom meetings she hosts are keeping us safer from COVID and saving funds that can instead be used to further our key goals this year.) In our meetings and discussions, the AAUW Iowa board chose focus issues for 2022-2023, approved a budget to accomplish goals, and initiated action toward them. The three areas we're working on this year:

- Ensuring women's rights (e.g., human trafficking, ERA, reproductive rights)
- Reducing gun violence
- Supporting public education (e.g., diverse curriculum, teacher support, LGBTQ)

Please feel free to share with us your ideas for action on these issues.

Collaborations with the branches have informed and encouraged us, too. The year's meetings with branch presidents are continuing the superb Zoom

communication initiated by former AAUW IA president Carletta Knox Seymour but now with one-hour meetings. So far these monthly Virtual Town Hall meetings with branch presidents have fostered discussion of AAUW IA's public policy program, membership concerns, and fundraising ideas. In November, we took ideas from Maggie Tinsman on supporting her statewide initiative against human trafficking.



Kathie and I are meeting bimonthly with presidents of other upper Midwest states and liaisons to the national board, sharing our concerns and issues with them. At the regional level, planning for the Midwest Regional Conference in St. Louis, October 19-21, is now beginning.

The ultimate collaboration—the annual conference of Iowa members in April—will also focus on our three critical issues. Read about conference options below and make plans to attend. Together we can take action to share our perspective with fellow Iowans across the state.



## Our Time Is Now—Invitation to the AAUW Iowa Spring Conference

Pat Newman and Rebecca Swainey, AAUW Iowa Program Co-Vice Presidents & Conference Co-Chairs

We are excited about our AAUW Spring Conference which is just a little more than two months away! **Our Time is Now!** It's time to learn from and be inspired by outstanding speakers. It's time to hear from Karen Kedrowski about what we can do to finish the job of getting the **Equal Rights Amendment Passed**. It's time to hear from Laurie Schipper who will help us focus on **building communities where all can thrive**, including survivors of domestic violence. It's time to learn about the **state of public education in Iowa** from Mary Jane Cobb. Our breakout sessions will feature topics such as Implicit Bias, How to Handle Difficult Conversations, Guns in Iowa, Human Trafficking, and Plastic Pollution. You will find the agenda for Saturday's program in this issue of *Iowa Initiative*.

You may register and pay the \$80 fee [using this link](#), or

you may print and complete the form and send it with your check to our treasurer, Pat Higby. (The rate will increase to \$90 after April 7.)

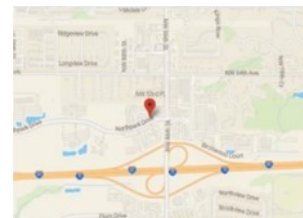
If you plan to stay overnight at Hilton Garden Inn, room reservations must be made at our special rate by March 30 at this link: [AAUW-IA \(hilton.com\)](https://www.hilton.com)

Branches: It's time to plan your Silent Auction entry. It's time to plan your Brag Table to show off your branch activities and achievements.

Check out all the conference information in this issue: the Meet and Greet Friday evening, the main conference session on Saturday, the business meeting, Silent Auction, and more. We look forward to seeing you at the conference. **Your time is now.**



# AAUW 2022 Spring Conference Registration Information April 21-22, 2023



AAUW Iowa is looking forward to hosting the 2022 spring conference at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston.

### Registration Deadline:

All registrations should be postmarked on or before April 7, 2023.

**Make checks payable to AAUW Iowa.**

**Please return the registration form with check to:**

Pat Higby  
718 Blue Jay Court  
Tiffin, IA 52340

For additional information: Pat Higby 319-266-4934. If you are unable to print this form, you may simply send your check to Pat at the address above, or [register online here](#).

### Hotel Information:

Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale – 8600 North Park Dr. Johnston, Iowa 50131

*Check which nights you have registered for. The hotel reservation defaults to 3 nights.*

Online Hotel Registration

[AAUW-IA \(hilton.com\)](https://www.hilton.com)

<https://www.hilton.com>

### Registration Form

I will be attending the social hour on Friday, 5:00-6:00 pm. (no charge)  
(Friday night dinner is on your own. See list of nearby restaurants on p. 4)

I will be attending Saturday, 8:30-4:00. (Includes continental breakfast and Lunch)  
 \$80 Member Rate (Please add \$10 if postmarked after April 7, 2023.)  
 \$80 Non-member Rate (Please add \$10 if postmarked after April 7, 2023.)  
 \$20 Student Rate (Please add \$5 if postmarked after April 7, 2023.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member: Yes No Student: Yes No  
CIRCLE WHAT APPLIES:

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: House/Apartment Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## American Association of University Women-Iowa Nomination for Faculty Excellence Award

Find fillable form as a Word document at the AAUW Iowa website at <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net/>

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

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION & POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREES: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach supportive information and three letters of recommendation for this award. A current resume may be substituted in place of items 2-8.

1. Provide a short summary of each of the important aspects of the candidate's career as a faculty member that qualifies her for this award. Specifically note contributions related to education equity for females.
2. The candidate must also have demonstrated competence in the following areas: a) research/professional development (e.g. publications, papers presented, and professional development), b) teaching/advising (e.g. teaching excellence and out of class work with students), c) service/outreach (e.g. university, community, professional, state, national, international).
3. Faculty position held.
4. Service on department, college, and/or university committees.
5. Publications and/or other accomplishments used to measure continued expertise in one's discipline (summary of publication record and statement of significance is preferable to extensive lists of publications, etc.).
6. Professional societies (offices, committees, awards).
7. State, national, international activities or recognition.
8. Honorary societies, other recognition and awards.

NOMINATOR \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Submit the nomination packet via e-mail by March 1, 2023 to [elainekresse2@gmail.com](mailto:elainekresse2@gmail.com)

Elaine Kresse  
C/U Director  
AAUW Iowa  
563-320-3325



## AAUW Iowa Lobby Day February 8

Sixteen members of AAUW were joined by four guests and Representatives Sue Cahill, Elinor Levin, Art Staed, and Adam Zabner for Lobby Day on February 8. Highlights included information from Maggie Tinsman about the need for a safe harbor bill that would create a youth safe harbor task force, increase victim service funding, and enact an expungement process to clear the records of survivors of human trafficking and prevent further victimization. Maggie was joined by Chelsea Hoyer, a lobbyist for the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery, and by Renee Connor, a survivor of human trafficking. Mary Ann Ahrens reported to members about plans to print and distribute a brochure about human trafficking to increase awareness.

Members expressed our disappointment in the passage of HF68, the bill that would use taxpayer dollars to fund education savings accounts to provide tuition in private schools.

There was also a discussion about some upcoming bills. AAUW members who were present were generally

**opposed** to the following bills that were discussed:

- HF03 would put strict limits on the kinds of food SNAP recipients could use their benefits to buy.
- HF05 would require school boards of public and charter schools to publish information online about the modifying the social studies curriculum in advance, making it difficult for teachers to respond to current events quickly.
- SF14 would re-establish the death penalty.
- SF85 would restrict activities that relate to social-emotional learning.
- SSB1037 would remove requirements for gender balance on appointed boards and committees.
- SF2139 would adopt rules on the use of Hebrew scripture and the Bible in an elective Social Studies course.
- HSB126 would restructure and consolidate state government.

Members sought out their own representatives and senators after meeting together as a group.



*Sixteen members and 4 guests met with Representatives Staed, Zabner, Levin., and Cahill.*



*From left: Diane Kearns, Art Staed, Adam Zabner, Elinor Levin, and Edie Waldstein*

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### Silent Auction

Pat Wilson, AAUW Fund Director

The silent auction at the spring conference is our fundraiser for the AAUW Fund. This fund allows AAUW to use the donation where the need is the greatest. We are asking each branch to donate one or more baskets for the

silent auction. Each branch needs to let me know how many baskets their branch will be bringing by April 8, so that we will be ready with enough tables. Baskets need to be in the main room by 8 AM on Saturday. The winning bidder will pay by cash or check. We are not able to accept credit cards. Contact me at [patdnagel@gmail.com](mailto:patdnagel@gmail.com).



## Coalition for a More Just Iowa Sponsors Tik-Tok Contest

One Human Family, a group of citizens in the Quad Cities who are interested in furthering social justice issues, reached out to other Iowa organizations in 2022 to review concerns about Iowa becoming a place that is actively hostile toward justice and civil rights issues. Members of AAUW participated in some zoom conversations about “Iowa Is Better Than This” to determine what could be done to influence our neighbors to move to a more “Iowa Nice” direction. That effort became the Coalition for a More Just Iowa.

At a recent meeting with the coalition, it was announced that the One Human Family has received a Puffin grant. The coalition decided to use those funds to encourage young people to use their technology skills to communicate messages about political engagement to counter reactionary messages. This is an opportunity for your young friends and family members to communicate a positive message to other Iowans, and earn a \$300 prize.

From a statement from One Human Family:

Iowa state government is becoming increasingly reactionary on issues important to most Iowans – especially younger Iowans. One Human Family QCA (OHFQCA), together with the Coalition for a More Just Iowa, seeks to change that narrative by engaging more young people in the political process. To that end, OHFQCA is offering five \$300 prizes for the best and most viewed short-form videos by Iowans 26-and-under highlighting one or more of the following progressive issues:

1. **Increased Funding for Public Education**
2. **Valuing Human Lives over Gun Rights**
3. **Iowa Needs Immigrants/protecting the rights of refugees**
4. **Women’s Reproductive Rights**
5. **Support for LGBTQ Rights.**

Videos must contain the hashtag #whatsupwithiowa and may be posted on TikTok, YouTube or other social media platform. A link to the short-form video must be sent to [richdhendricks@msn.com](mailto:richdhendricks@msn.com) to register. Rules for the contest are posted at [www.onehumanfamilyqca.org](http://www.onehumanfamilyqca.org).

“I think there are a lot of young Iowans out there who are passionate about these issues and who are extremely creative,” says

OHFQCA Co-Chair, Rev. Rich Hendricks. “We would love for the contest to go viral and draw more attention to these important issues. Of course, everyone is welcome to make a video and use our hashtag – the more the merrier! The prizes, however, are only available to Iowa students/residents aged 26 and under.”

Co-Chair Rabbi Henry Karp says, “We can’t wait to see the amazing videos that young Iowans come up with.” The contest is made possible in part by a grant from The Puffin Foundation. Readers are invited to be creative and to share news of the contest with their peers.

A OHFQCA-created video promoting the contest is planned to be released soon.

For more information contact Rich Hendricks at 563.940.9630. One Human Family QCA, 2930 W Locust St, Davenport, Iowa 52804



We seek to change the course of Iowa public policy by engaging 25 and unders on progressive issues and reaching out broadly through social media. Please create and post a short form video(s) covering one or more of the following topics: 1. **Increased Funding for Public Education** 2. **Valuing Human Lives over Gun Rights** 3. **Iowa Needs Immigrants/protecting the rights of refugees** 4. **Women’s Reproductive Rights** 5. **Support for LGBTQ Community.** Contest 2/1-3/1 2023. Details at:

[www.onehumanfamilyqca.org](http://www.onehumanfamilyqca.org)



## AAUW Iowa Marks Equal Pay Day March 20

Meet us at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda at noon on March 20th. We will have flyers about the gender pay gap, membership materials, and Pay Day candy bars to show legislators and the public that AAUW cares about women's financial security.



Representative Sue Cahill stopped to talk with AAUW members Jan Mitchell, Ann Gale, and Mary Ann Ahrens at the 2022 Equal Pay Day event.

## Proclamation in Keokuk

Keokuk Mayor Kathie Mahoney, seated, signed a proclamation declaring January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Behind Mahoney is Diane Kearns representing AAUW, and Alka and Kiran Khanolkar representing Rotary.



## Useful Resource for Bills of Interest in Iowa

Lori SchraderBachar, a joint member of the eNetwork and Des Moines branches, has created a useful resource to keep track of the status of several bills of Interest. This is a big job, and we owe her our thanks.

[That google spreadsheet may be found here.](#) Lori updates the status from time to time, so we can see recent status.

You can subscribe to free resources about bills, administrative rules, and other items at

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/subscribe>.

If you don't have an account set up, you can do that here by clicking on the New User button at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/portal/subscriptions>.

## Conference-Goers: Restaurants Near the Hotel

After the social hour, dinner is on your own. Here are some ideas, all under 7 miles from the hotel:

- Texas Roadhouse, 8744 Northpark Dr, Johnston, IA 50131. 0.1 mile
- De Rice, 8430 Birchwood Ct, Johnston, IA 50131, 0.3 mile
- Cozy Café, 8385 Birchwood Ct, Johnston, IA 50131, 0.3 mile
- Ruby Tuesday, 4900 86th St, Urbandale, IA 50322, 0.6 miles
- Jethro's BBQ & Pork Chop Grill, 5950 NW 86th St, Johnston, IA 50131, 1.2 miles
- Urban Grill, 3651 86th St, Urbandale, IA 50322, 2.1 miles
- Cool Basil, 1250 86th St, Clive, IA 50325, 3.9 miles.
- Applebee's, 3900 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, IA 50310. 4.0 miles
- Irina's Restaurant and Bar, 2301 Rocklyn Dr, Urbandale, IA 50322, 4.3 miles
- Trostel's Greenbriar, 5810 Merle Hay Rd, Johnston, IA 50131, 4.7 miles
- Machine Shed, 11151 Hickman Rd, Urbandale, IA 50322, 5.1 miles
- Christopher's, 2816 Beaver Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310, 5.9 miles
- Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano, 5990 University Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 6.4 miles

## Officer Election at Conference

AAUW Iowa will hold elections for offices for the 2023-2024 at the business meeting on April 22 at the spring conference. All AAUW members are eligible to vote. The slate of officer candidates is as follows: President Elect: Pat Higby; Treasurer: Dev Kiedaisch; Co-Program Vice President: Penny Foy. Rebecca Swainey will continue her 2021-23 term as Co-Program Vice President, so they will serve together during Penny's first year. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.