



# IOWA INITIATIVE

A PUBLICATION OF AAUW-IOWA  
VOLUME 103 NUMBER 7  
March 2023



## Spring Conference Update

April 21-22, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines/Urbandale

8600 Northpark Drive, Johnston, IA

We will return to the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston for our AAUW Iowa spring conference this year. The 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, but several good restaurants are nearby.

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

To register for the conference, you may [register online here](#), 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 display table. Please bring a basket for the silent auction—proceeds to the AAUW Fund, which gives AAUW the freedom to spend dollars where the need is greatest. Remember to bring your checkbook to pay for the winning bid!

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### Conference Deadlines Are Near

- March 30—Deadline to reserve a room at the Hilton Garden Inn for the AAUW rate. [AAUW-IA \(hilton.com\)](http://AAUW-IA(hilton.com)) or call 1-515-270-8890.
- April 3—if you would like to get a conference T-shirt to wear to the conference, we suggest ordering [at this link](#) by this date for guaranteed delivery without additional charges.
- April 7 —Deadline to register members or guests for \$80. Register online at the [AAUW Iowa website](http://AAUW Iowa website), or send registration form and check to Pat Higby.
- April 8—Deadline for branches to let Pat Wilson know how many baskets you will bring. Email her at [patdnagel@gmail.com](mailto:patdnagel@gmail.com).
- April 8—Deadline for branches to let Dev Kiedaisch know if you will have a brag table at the conference. [devkiedaisch@mac.com](mailto:devkiedaisch@mac.com) or 319-520-6724.

# 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 to 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  
Greg Hall, Hope for Justice, and Deanne Herr, 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

Kathie Farris, AAUW Iowa Co-President

### Springtime in Iowa

Spring has always been my favorite season of the year: crocus and snowdrops blooming, birds building nests, warming days (usually), and the NCAA basketball tournaments. Growing up a girl in Illinois meant I was not allowed to participate in sports while small town Iowa girls were, which infuriated me. This year, women's basketball teams from Iowa, Iowa State, and Drake all made it to the Big Dance along with men's teams from the same schools. This made Iowa the best in the nation for number of teams in the tournament. I can't help but think the history of girls' sports in Iowa is part of the answer. Of course, there is still work to be done in women's athletics and elsewhere, but we have come a long way!

Speaking of not being done, one of the speakers at the spring AAUW Iowa Conference, April 21-22, 2023, at the Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines is Dr. Karen Kedrowski from the Catt Center. Her speech is entitled "Hard Won, Not Done: The Equal Rights Amendment at 100." Karen and I encourage you to



gather a carload and attend this event. In fact, come Friday evening and have a weekend outing. Another speaker is Mary Jane Cobb who will speak on "Public Education: What's Happening in Iowa." Topics for breakout sessions include "Are You Biased? The Prejudice You Don't Know You Have," "How to Handle Difficult Conversations," "The Unseen Side of Plastic Pollution," and "Guns in Iowa," to name a few. Meet friends, make new friends, learn a lot, and have a great weekend.

Since you are now carpool ready, there is another great event coming in the fall. It is a trip to St. Louis for the AAUW Central States Regional Conference which involves fourteen states, including Iowa. Please put October 19-21, 2023, on your calendar, and meet us in St. Louis. More information will follow.

Use the rest of spring to let your legislators know what bills you support and those you do not. You have the information to use thanks to Diane Kearns and Dev Kiedaisch. Your action can make a difference in the lives of all Iowans. Finally, cheer on the women's basketball team from Iowa as it continues to pursue victory in the tournament.



### Table Displays Show Branch Activities

At the spring conference, your branch will have an opportunity to show us some of your activities. If your branch would like a chance to show the rest of us what you have been doing, please notify Dev Kiedaisch, so we will be sure to have adequate table space. Contact Dev at [devkiedaisch@mac.com](mailto:devkiedaisch@mac.com) or 319-520-6724.

*Left: Members of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo posed with their table display at the 2022 spring conference.*

### Start Making Plans for the AAUW Regional Conference in St. Louis October 19-21

AAUW MO is planning to coordinate an AAUW Central States Regional Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in October 2023. All of us can be a part of it. We are confident that our members are eager to attend an in-person conference, interact with other AAUW members, and share programming from across the region. AAUW MO is taking the lead in making

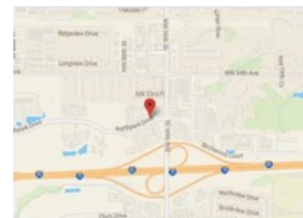
the 2023 conference a reality and building on key features from the 2020 Conference. Now we need your help to make it a success! Conference Dates: Thursday, October 19, 2023, through Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Drury Plaza Arch Hotel, 2 South 4th Street, St. Louis, MO 63102. (Approximate costs for rooms will be \$200 per night for 2 people;

registration cost is pending at this time.)





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



AAUW Iowa is looking forward to hosting the 2023 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Breakout Session Speakers

**Greg Hall** is an investigator with Hope for Justice, a non-profit organization that investigates Human Trafficking and provides training to police. Greg has a BS from Upper Iowa University. He has experience in law enforcement and has worked as a criminal investigator for municipal, county, and state agencies. Hall worked as the Violence against Women (VAWA) investigator and lead sex crimes investigator for the University of Iowa's Department of Public Safety. He was also instrumental in the creation of



the department's Crime Scene Unit, where Hall served as its lead and continues to assist the department on major crime scenes. Hall worked as a member of several taskforces including one specifically targeting large human trafficking rings. He joined Hope for Justice after retiring from law enforcement.

**Deanne Herr** is a grandmother of four and ultracyclist who has ridden Break the Cycle 200 four times and raised more than \$12,000 to fight human trafficking. Along with her Velorosa Cycling teammates, she helped launch the Break the Cycle challenge event which welcomes cyclists of all riding abilities to use their bicycles and their voices to prevent exploitation, rescue victims, restore lives, and reform society. <https://give.classy.org/DeanneHerr2023>



**Anne Kiche** is the AAUW Iowa Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Kiche obtained an M.A. in Third World Development Support, and a Ph. D. in Educational Policy and Leadership Studies from the University of Iowa. Dr. Kiche teaches courses at U of Iowa in US immigrant and refugee health, pandemics and mental health, and mental health in diverse societies. Anne is originally from Kenya.



**Rasika Mudalige-Jayawickrama** is a tenured full professor of plant biology at the Department of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Dubuque. She teaches plant biology, genetics, and molecular biology classes and she is a mentor for many research



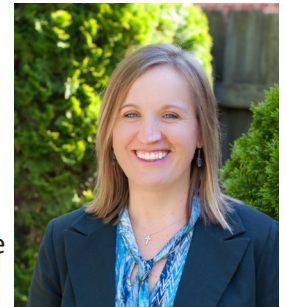
students, especially recipients of Women in Science research grants. She has a B.S. from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; an M.S. from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; and a Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

**Connie Ryan** is the executive director of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, an organization that engages people from diverse beliefs and perspectives to work for the common good. In 2010, Connie was instrumental in establishing the coalition Justice Not Politics (JNP) to protect Iowa's courts from



politicization and attacks by special interest groups. Connie remains as president of JNP, which is the state's leading coalition on judicial independence, and she has served on many non-profit boards. Connie holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Iowa and a B.A. from Drake University.

**Sinikka Waugh**, President and founder of Your Clear Next Step is a recognized leader in understanding people and in adapting to meet the demands of the situation at hand. As a popular presenter and trainer, her energetic and engaging style drives home the art and science of making business better for individuals, teams, and organizations. Her background in languages and literature, her natural inclination as a relentlessly positive "people-ist", her career in project management and business analysis, and her organizational leadership experience have prepared her to easily connect with people to lead and coach them.



**Ann Wright** is an International Coaching Federation Associate Certified Coach, and specializes in Leadership and Team Coaching. She is an educator, author, and Inspirational speaker, who works with individuals and teams on creating the future they want. She supports people in developing their interpersonal skills so they can achieve their goals in life. Throughout Ann's more than 25 years of leadership and management experience she has discovered and believes people are an organization's most valuable asset. She partners with businesses by investing in their team members and creating a culture where everyone works together and embraces the talent within each organization.



## AAUW Iowa Officer Elections at Spring Conference

AAUW Iowa will hold elections for offices for 2023-24 at the business meeting at the spring conference on April 22. All AAUW members are eligible to vote. The slate of officer candidates is as follows: President-Elect, Pat Higby; Treasurer, Dev Kiedaisch; Program Co-Vice President, Penny Foy. Rebecca Swainey will continue her 2022-24 term as Program Co-Vice President, so she will serve together with Penny during Penny's first year. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

**President-Elect, Pat Higby.** Pat lives in Tiffin, and is a member of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch of AAUW. She has served as the past president and the treasurer of that branch, and the Program Vice President, and the Treasurer of AAUW Iowa. Pat has a BA in Physics Teaching, an MA in Physical Science, and MA in Home Economics from UNI, as well as ABD in Textiles and Clothing from ISU. Pat has taught at the high school and college level, and owns her own business marketing and designing machine knitting patterns.



**Treasurer, Dev Kiedaisch.** Dev is a 50+-year member of AAUW Keokuk Branch and is also a current member of the eNetwork. She has held many positions in her local branch

and is a past AAUW Iowa Program co-chair, Gender Equity chair and Public Policy co-chair. Dev is a retired middle and high school math teacher. She has been involved with the Keokuk Association for Rights and Equality, a group that promotes racial justice, appreciates diversity, and fosters equality and fair treatment, since its founding in 2015. She was a member of the committee for the Community Study Group for the 1619 Project in Keokuk in 2022.



**Program Co-Vice President, Penny Foy.** Penny is a member of the Cedar Rapids Area and eNetwork branches of AAUW. She has a BA in Accounting from Augustana and an MBA from St. Ambrose University. She works as a senior accountant for ImOn Communications in Cedar Rapids. Penny was the treasurer for the Cedar Rapids branch and she is the web technician for the eNetwork branch. She enjoys reading, traveling, exercising, and spending time with her two grandchildren.




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## Algona Branch Hosts Program about Health Care Decisions

On a busy and blustery Thursday, February 9, a good crowd gathered at the Algona Public Library to hear about options for women in making health care decisions. The panel of Dr. Christian Grindberg of the Kossuth Regional Health Center Clinic, Darla McEnroe of Catholic Charities Mental Health Services, and Dr. Jolene Krieps of Everything Acupuncture told the audience about their services and the need for advocacy to improve women's health care in Iowa. Karen Dannewitz spoke about the use of Narcan to save a friend, family member or stranger suffering an opioid overdose.

The public forum was sponsored by the Algona branch of AAUW and the Algona Public Library.



*From left to right: Jane Nettleton, AAUW moderator; Dr. Jolene Krieps, Everything Zen Acupuncture; Dr. Christian Grindberg OD, KRHC Clinic; Darla McEnroe, Mental Health Therapist; Karen Dannewitz, Psych Nurse Clinical Specialist*

## Public Policy News

Diane Kearns and Dev Kiedaisch, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Co-Directors

We wish to thank all those that attended our Lobby Day, February 8. We had some very good information sharing and appreciated the legislators that took time out of their busy schedules to meet with us. On March 3, the legislature went through the first funnel. I want to thank Maureen White for providing a monitor of legislation which I send out about once a week. Legislation is moving rather quickly now as we approach the second funnel which will be March 31. As a review, those bills that did not survive the first funnel can be resurrected, so to speak. The second funnel is the final date for Senate bills, joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees, and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees. The legislature is set to adjourn April 28, which is the 110<sup>th</sup> calendar day of the session. I am not going to list all the bills which are still viable here but wanted to make note of a few which are viable and those which did not survive the funnel but may be reintroduced.

HF510. Iowa Human Life Protection Act which provides for civil actions and civil penalties. Referred to Judiciary February 23. It does not show up on the list of eligible bills that I received, but I am certain it will be brought back.

HF356 (formerly HF470). Conduct of elections, provisions related to absentee ballots, recounts, and contested gubernatorial elections. Referred to State Government-February 23. Still on the list of eligible bills.

SF524 (formerly SS1194). Relating to statute of limitations involving certain sexual offenses against a minor. Referred to Judiciary February 28. It does not show up on the list of eligible bills I have, but it may be brought back.

HF623 (formerly HSB214). Prohibited procedures regarding gender transition procedures relative to minors. Referred to Judiciary February 28. On list of eligible bills.

HF622 (formerly HSB208). Permitting public schools to designate and allow the use of restrooms and changing facilities only by persons of the same biological sex. Referred to Judiciary February 27. Still on eligible list.

HF450. Domestic abuse including provisions relating to implementation of a domestic abuse lethality screening assessment-Referred to Public Safety February 24. Not on list.

HF443. Relating to the provision of period products. Referred to State Government February 25. Not on list.

HF441. Sexual abuse evidence kits. Referred to Public Safety February 24. Not on list.

HF613 (formerly HF3). SNAP funds. Referred to Appropriations March 9. On eligible list.

SF357 (formerly SF14). Death penalty. Referred to Judiciary February 21. On eligible list.

SF136 (formerly SSB1037). Gender balance on boards. Referred to State Government January 25. On eligible list.

HF662 (formerly HSB 126). Restructure of state government-Referred to State Government March 13. On eligible list.

HF430 (formerly HF10). Referred to Education Committee. Relates to education, including requirements related to mandatory reporters, a process for investigating complaints against licensed practitioners, and the responsibilities of department of education, school districts, charter schools, accredited nonpublic schools and the board of educational examiners. This bill was originally introduced in January (HF10). The original bill seemed to be okay. On March 8, the House passed the bill, but sometime between committee approval and House passage, sections were added, stating that the Board would have five members who are parents or guardians of a student, five members who are licensed practitioners (including one administrator and one special education teacher), and one member from the board of directors of a school district. The changes would mean only three out of an eleven member board could be elementary or secondary level regular classroom teachers. There is no requirement that the parents have any expertise or experience in the educational profession.

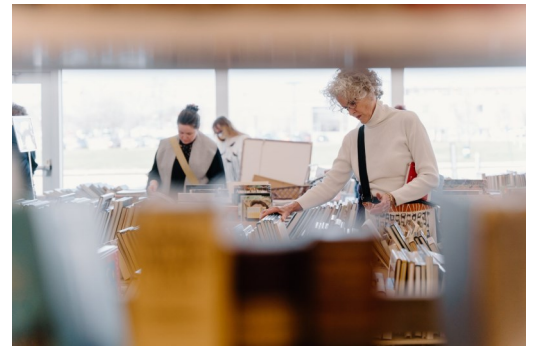
SF546 (formerly SF480). Relating to public notices. Referred to Ways and Means Committee March 9. The bill lifts requirements for agencies to publish notices of public meetings, public hearings, elections and a variety of other information. It is possible this would lead to less informed public. It would create a portal to access this type of information. Concern that many older adults don't know how to use the internet, so they would be cut off from public notices.

We know the disappointment everyone is feeling with regard to the horrendous legislation that has been passed in recent weeks with regard to the LGBTQ community. Whenever you have the opportunity to attend a legislative forum in your areas, try to attend and hold legislators accountable for their votes. After all, they work for their constituents, not the Governor.

The Public Policy Directors look forward to seeing as many as can attend the Spring Conference next month. The Public Policy Directors are planning a special activity during the meeting.

## Visit the Planned Parenthood Book Sale

The Planned Parenthood Spring Book Sale is April 20-24, in the 4-J Building, 3000 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA. Members attending the AAUW Iowa spring conference may want to make a visit to the book sale during your trip to the Des Moines area. Admission is \$20 on Thursday, April 20 (the first day), but admission is free after that. On Sunday, books are 50% off, and on Monday, they are 75% off. More information is available at the [Planned Parenthood Book Sale site](#).



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## Des Moines Branch Discussion of *The 1619 Project*

Joanne Page, Des Moines Branch Membership VP

The Des Moines Branch winter intensive study of historian Nikole Hannah-Jones' path-breaking work, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, recently concluded. Held over 9 weeks on Tuesday evenings, the discussion group drew AAUW members from six different branches. With 32 registered to participate, weekly attendance averaged between 18 and 20. We used Zoom, facilitated by state webmaster Lois Enger. We truly could not have done this without her expert help.

Race and the role it has played in American history is at the forefront of politics in America now. The tragic deaths of George Floyd and many others that have been captured on video have led to a long-overdue reexamination of many deeply held beliefs and biases. We found that *The 1619 Project* provided wholly fresh interpretations of events from U.S. history, many previously overlooked. What resulted was a robust, lively discussion each night as we addressed topics as diverse as Democracy, Health Care, Music, and Progress.

AAUW's emphasis on women, girls, and education provided the perfect framework for this project. All who

participated felt they learned much from the readings and the expressed opinions and life experiences of the others. We agreed that this format could be adapted easily for use on other topics by members or branches around the state.

The recordings of each discussion have been placed on the state AAUW website, <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net>. Look under the Activities tab. Please feel free to view the videos. Even if you did not participate in the group, we are sure you will find much of interest, and it will probably spur you to read this excellent book yourself.



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## Order Your Conference T-Shirt

The T-shirt with the conference logo designed by Lois Enger is available from Rush Order Tees [using this link](#). Short and long-sleeved shirts are available in a variety of colors. We recommend white, ice gray, or natural to look good with the logo. The shirt is 100% cotton.

If you would like to be able to wear the shirt at the spring conference, we recommend ordering by April 3 to ensure that it will be delivered to your home on time without additional speedy delivery fees.





## Indianola Branch Update

Jackie Brittingham, Indianola Branch President

The Indianola Branch celebrated Women's History Month on March 7 with a potluck dinner followed by a viewing of a video by The League of Women Voters of Iowa: "Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)": <https://hardwonnotdone.com/#video-title>

The video chronicled successes and setbacks as women fought the good fight to have The Equal Rights Amendment ratified. This work is still not complete. Following the movie, branch members led a lively discussion and shared their personal struggles and protests for women's rights. A highlight was branch member Jovanka Westbrook sharing her collection of buttons, stickers, t shirts, hats, photos, and memories from her decades-long support for Equal Rights. The conversation led to brainstorming on the work that still needs to be done and has us excited about attending

the keynote featuring Karen Kedrowski: "Hard Won, Not Done: the ERA at 100 Years" at the Spring Conference on April 22.



Indianola Branch member Jovanka Westbrook shared her collection of buttons, stickers, t shirts, hats, photos, and memories from her decades-long support for Equal Rights. Jovanka is proud of her efforts to make progress toward equal rights for her daughter and all those to follow.

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## Cedar Rapids Area Branch Celebrates International Women's Day

Cedar Rapids leadership and membership hosted a luncheon at Groundswell Café to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell read a proclamation about International Women's Day. Nonprofits who assist people new to the Cedar Rapids area were recognized, including United We March Forward, Groundswell Café, Catherine McCauley Center, United Way of ECI, and the Civil Rights Commission of Cedar Rapids. All had a good time. We thank Sue Jorgensen for her tireless work with us and the Women's Equality Coalition. These shirts were available for sale as designed by Vildana Tinjic, a war refugee from Sarajevo.



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## Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch Hears about Progress in Racial Equity



Left: Sheritta Stokes and Lori Schneider, Program VP. Right: Sharon Silva, DEI Director, with Sheritta

Photos are from the February 25 brunch, featuring a presentation on "Progress in Racial Equity?" by Sheritta Stokes, 1619 Freedom School Director. Twenty-eight women attended the brunch meeting at the Waterloo YMCA.

## Iowa Human Trafficking Outreach Project Unveiled

Mary Ann Ahrens, Chair  
Maxine Lampe, Vice-Chair

After months of planning, the Iowa eNetwork Online Branch is launching a statewide Human Trafficking Prevention Project that is not only one of the issue priorities of the State Board but has been a long-time priority within our national organization and is one of the United Nation's Sustainable Goals. After sharing our proposal with the State Board, requesting funds from the state project fund, approving funds from the eNetwork treasury, and presenting the final brochure proof, we gained board approval.

Only a few years ago, the Iowa legislature passed laws to address this issue. They established and fund an Iowa Office to Combat Human Trafficking within the Department of Public Safety. Generally, people in Iowa do not think human trafficking is an issue in their area. Many people are not even familiar with human trafficking. It exists in both our small and large communities. Just recently human trafficking incidents have been a focus in the news. Human trafficking uniquely affects Iowa given our proximity to major metropolitan areas (St. Louis, Omaha, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Chicago) and the intersection of two major interstate highways.

Since our branch has members from different parts of Iowa and one member from North Carolina, we were looking for a project that was realistic, affordable, issue driven, a priority, and would include our Iowa branches/members. It will provide some great visibility and credibility to our organization and be a good member recruitment opportunity.

AAUW has always been about education. To address the human trafficking issue, our project outreach goal is to provide a basic understanding of the issue through education, to increase awareness of what is happening around them, and to stimulate interest and actions that address the needs in their areas.

We developed a trifold educational brochure in English and Spanish to distribute to family, friends, co-workers, non-profits, businesses, clinics,

colleges, schools, houses of worship, youth groups, community groups, diverse populations, etc. The brochure includes the following sections: what human trafficking is, how you can recognize it, likely victim signs, how the victim is being trafficked, what is being done, and how you can help. We've included the **hand signal** signs of someone being trafficked that needs help, a photo of someone who was trafficked, and a short summary of her experience. In addition, we have all the hotlines listed, website resources for your perusal, and contact information.

Maxine Lampe, our eNetwork Branch President and project vice-chair, sent an email invitation, brochure proof, and background information to each branch president. The intent of this information is to share it with branch members to determine interest/involvement and request brochures for distribution in whatever way they choose...perhaps where it does the most good and people are interested. Brochures will be available at our spring conference on April 21-22 in the Des Moines area. If someone cannot be there to pick up the brochures, then our eNetwork branch members will deliver the brochures. Our plans include extending an invitation to our members -at-large and college-university institutions to participate. *This is a particularly critical issue and a great outreach opportunity to create change and benefit the people of Iowa. Together we can do this!*

For information, questions, and requests for speaking, contact Mary Ann Ahrens [maahrens@mchsi.com](mailto:maahrens@mchsi.com)

319-240-5904 or Maxine Lampe  
[lampe.maxine@gmail.com](mailto:lampe.maxine@gmail.com) 712-299-1858.

