



IOWA INITIATIVE

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Swapping Ideas

Kathie Farris and Karen Agee
AAUW Iowa Co-Presidents 2022-2024

We were impressed by the presenters at our AAUW of Iowa conference on April 22—in every general session and breakout room. As we are still thinking about the powerful ideas we heard in April, we’re already looking forward to the Central States regional conference in St. Louis, on October 19-21.



We invite all Iowa branches to show off at the conference. Swap Shops will give states and branches the chance to share and shine. There will be four Swap Shop breakout sessions at the conference. At each session, attendees will have a chance to gather multiple workable ideas to take home to their branches.



All states and branches are invited to present outstanding projects, programs, and ideas at Swap Shops. Presentations may last 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 minutes. Topics can range from money to membership, from getting out the vote to getting rid of human trafficking, or any aspect of public policy or branch management.

The Swap Shop Committee in St. Louis will review all applications and select presentations to fill the numerous spots throughout the conference. You’ll find the application form on the conference website, <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/aauw-midwest-regional-conference/>. Or you can go directly to the application here: <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/files/2023/05/Application-for-Swap-Shop-Sessions-5-19-23-PDF.docx.pdf>

The application is due to the committee any time July 1 through August 1, which is when we can start to register for the conference and reserve rooms at the conference hotel. So while you are reviewing your 2022-2023 accomplishments, now is the time to think about offering a Swap Shop presentation to show what your branch is doing well.

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October 19-21, 2023

St. Louis, Missouri

Some highlights:

- Karen Kedrowski on Pay Equity
- Lisa Maatz on Organizational Structure and Strategies
- Deanna Brown on Unconscious/Implicit Bias
- AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell
- Missouri Library Association on Censure, Cancellations, and Bannings
- Rachel Gonzales on United Against Gun Violence
- Janai Harris on Period Poverty
- Meghan Kissel on Title IX, AAUW Public Policy
- Zenobia Harris on Giving Birth in America

AAUW Iowa Holds Successful Spring Conference in April

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

Our AAUW Spring Conference 2023 was a success! About 60 people—including members, presenters, and guests--attended the conference on April 21-22. A special word of appreciation goes to our Board of Directors and to our Conference Committee, which met regularly for months to plan and organize the conference from site selection to the final detail. The committee members were Karen Agee, Lois Enger, Kathie Farris, Kim Folkers, Ann Gale, Pat Higby, Diane Kerns, Dev Kiedaish, Elaine Kresse, Pat Newman, Rebecca Swainey, and Pat Wilson. Each brought valuable skills and experience to the task.

The theme chosen for this year was "Our Time is Now"—a theme demonstrative of our deep commitment to hold firm as we strive for diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as other AAUW priorities.

The conference began with a Meet and Greet on Friday evening following a meeting of the Board. Bright and early Saturday the foyer was filled with people registering for the day, branches setting up displays or bringing items for the silent auction, and everyone settling in for a day of thought-provoking presentations.

Listening, discussing, interacting left us all inspired to stand firm in the belief that OUR TIME IS NOW!



Mary Jane Cobb



Laurie Schipper



Karen Kedrowski



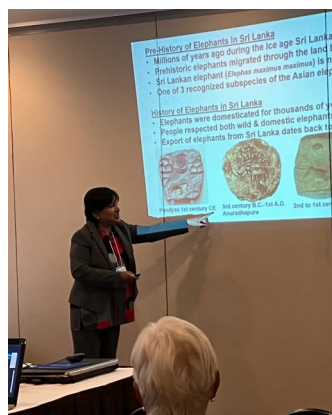
Connie Ryan



Kim Folkers and Rosemary Matthews



Ann Wright



Rasika Mudalige-Jayawickrama



Anne Kiche



Diane Kearns



Maggie Tinsman



AAUW Iowa Establishes a Statewide Human Trafficking Prevention Program through Education and Awareness to Stimulate Local Action

Mary Ann Ahrens, Project Chair

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION has been a long-time priority of AAUW at all levels in America and continues to be a critical issue globally. The United Nations continues to identify this as one of its sustainable goals. It is second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime. How many more lives must be ruined or lost as people succumb to being illegally trafficked sexually or working as slaves? Yes, it takes place today in small and large communities in Iowa. It involves young and old, females and males, and people from many diverse backgrounds.

THE TIME IS NOW! Generally, people in Iowa do not think human trafficking is an issue in their area. Many people are not even familiar with human trafficking. One needs only to listen to the news to realize it exists right here in our own backyard! Human trafficking particularly affects Iowa given our proximity to major metro areas (Minneapolis, Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis) and the intersection of two major interstate highways.

DID YOU KNOW? This project was introduced at the AAUW Iowa Conference, along with the distribution of hundreds of educational brochures (see photo) in Spanish and English. Our first goal is to provide a basic understanding and create awareness of human trafficking along with simple actions individuals/organizations can take to build interest and stimulate involvement in prevention within our communities. A second goal is to encourage continued local advocacy for human trafficking issues and stronger legislation to reduce it.

WE NEED YOU! As you read this, think of others in your family or community who would be interested in this program and/or those who would benefit

from having the information in our brochure for their use. **Please contact them and give them one or more brochures or provide them with the contact information at the right.** We have a supply of brochures that we would like to distribute in as many places as possible in Iowa. This is a simple way to share information about human trafficking and take simple actions to demonstrate that Iowa will not tolerate these illegal attempts to destroy lives by engaging in sex and slave trafficking.

OUR AAUW MEMBERS ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION.



MAKE A LIST of people and places in your community that would benefit from this basic education and awareness. Contact them. Our brochure lists some possibilities: houses of worship, apartment buildings, community organizations, non-profits and for-profit groups, colleges, schools, youth groups, sports groups, family, friends, neighbors, work colleagues...and the list goes on. What about county fairs, community celebrations, sporting events, concerts, carnivals, RAGBRAI? Summer and fall are a great time to network and share the word.

TO REQUEST BROCHURES and/or an-

swer questions, PLEASE CONTACT: Mary Ann Ahrens, Chair, 501 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines, IA 50265 - (cell) 319-240-5904 maahrens@mchsi.com (email) or Maxine Lampe, Vice-Chair, 943 Leona Circle, Storm Lake, IA 50588 (cell) 712-732-1058 lampe.maxine@gmail.com (email).

ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO, Iowa passed laws to address human trafficking prevention. The State established and funds an Office to Combat Human Trafficking (OCHT) within the Dept. of Public Safety along with a training coordinator who continues to develop and implement training, programming, and strategies. During the 2023 legislative session, the following laws were passed to address aspects of human trafficking:

- **HF630** to increase the sentence for human trafficking from Class D felony to a Class B felony, with a maximum of 25 years in prison. If the victim is under the age of 18, it would be punishable by a life sentence.
- **SF 562** to establish a Child Human Trafficking Interim Study Committee. It will investigate, research, identify and recommend strategies to address many important human trafficking issues.
- **Trafficking-related legislation: HF 176** relating to continuous sexual abuse of a child, making applicable penalties; **SF84** relating to the sexual exploitation of a minor and making corresponding penalties.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING is a particularly critical issue and a great branch outreach opportunity to create change and benefit the people of Iowa.

**Together we can and must do this!
GO AAUW MEMBERS!
142 YEARS STRONG!**

Algona Branch Holds Annual STEM Event

Janie Montang, Algona

The Algona branch held their annual STEM event on April 4. The event annually honors eighth grade girls from Algona and Bishop Garrigan Schools who have excelled in math and science. These girls, recommended by their school's math and science teachers, receive certificates for their outstanding work in science, technology, engineering, and/or math (STEM).

The program featured four area women, all working in STEM careers. This year's panel included: Mia Bronk, pharmacist; Michelle Gray-Garner, neo-natal nurse; Betsy Becker, agricultural science instructor and FFA sponsor; and Mia Hegarty-Roach, clinical psychologist. Panel members talked about the specific classes and degrees needed for their careers. Each of them conveyed the passion and enthusiasm they feel for their chosen field. They also expressed both positives and negatives connected to their jobs and why or how they came to be in their selected fields.



Speakers were pharmacist Mia Bronk; Neo-natal nurse Michelle Gray-Garner; Agricultural Science Teacher Betsy Becker; and PhD clinical psychologist Mia Hegarty-Roach.

Public Policy Faced a Challenging Year

Diane Kearns, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Co-Director

This has been a very busy year for Public Policy. The legislature convened January 9, 2023, and the first order of business was the Governor's School Voucher bill which was passed at the outset. Speaker Grassley established an Education Reform Committee, and the bill was moved through the legislature at lightning speed. We held our Lobby Day, February 8. Four Representatives attended. They listened to our concerns and gave an update on legislation that was passing through, in particular, the School Voucher Bill. Our list of public policy priority legislation has been monitored on a weekly basis. Several bills of importance never progressed through the First and Second Funnels. The legislature adjourned, May 4, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

The AAUW Iowa Spring Conference was held in Johnston, and one of the items for Public Policy was an Action item. I created a poster with the Public Policy Priorities listed and asked the members present to sign to show support for these initiatives. One member suggested sending a copy of the signed poster to the Governor, Speaker Grassley and Senator Sinclair, listing our priorities and expressing our disappointment with the legislation that has been passed, which included education bills attacking teachers and LGBTQ rights. It was also suggested to send a copy of the signed poster to Minority Leader in the House, Representative Konfrst and Minority Leader in the Senate, Senator Wahls, thanking them for their support during the session relating to our priority issues. The servers in the Capitol would not

allow me to attach the picture of the poster to the emails. However, I listed the Public Policy Priorities in the emails.

The Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution came to a vote in the Senate this past week. I sent out an email encouraging members to contact Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst encouraging them to vote yes. I received a reply from Senator Ernst which did not indicate whether she would support it. Unfortunately, the Amendment was blocked again, 51 to 47 votes in favor. Senate Democrats and supporters were nine votes short. It has only taken 100 years! Ratification of the ERA would finally provide a constitutional remedy against sex discrimination. President Biden has previously voiced his support for the amendment. Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst both voted against it! Just a couple of bills that were on our list: HF570 (Pregnant assault victims) was signed by the Governor on April 27; SF496 (School transparency curriculum) passed both houses and is awaiting the Governor's signature; HF613 (Public Assistance program integrity—SNAP) is awaiting the governor's signature as is HF647 (Child labor regulations). SF543/HF654 (Guns in parking lots) did not progress. There are a few other bills which have passed through and are awaiting action by the Governor.

On a more personal note, it is with sadness that I write that my co-director Dev Kiedaisch's husband, Ed, passed away this past week. I am sure everyone that knows Dev, expresses sympathy to the family. Ed has been known to attend some of the state meetings with Dev in the past.

Cedar Falls-Waterloo Annual Meeting in April

AAUW Iowa Outstanding Faculty Award winner Sarah Diesburg was the featured speaker at the Cedar Falls-Waterloo branch's annual meeting in April. Outgoing board members Karen Agee, Pat Higby, Linda Morgan, Pauline Harding, and Beebs Downing were recognized for their service. Pauline Harding became the branch's newest 50-year honorary life member of AAUW. Rowena Hardinger was the Named Gift Honoree, and was recognized for her outstanding contributions to AAUW throughout her life.



Right: Outgoing board members Karen Agee, Pat Higby, Linda Morgan, Pauline Harding, and Beebs Downing.

Lower left: Marcy Seavey and Sarah Diesburg

Lower middle: 50-Year Honorary Life Member Pauline Harding

Lower right: Maureen White and Named Gift Honoree Rowena Hardinger



Mark Your Calendars for the 2024 AAUW Iowa Spring Conference

April 12-13, 2024
Hilton Garden Inn
4640 N. River Blvd. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411



Watch *The 1619 Project* Original Hulu Series

ABC and Onyx Collective have announced that the docuseries, *The 1619 Project*, will make its broadcast debut Wednesday, May 31 from 7:00—10:00 pm CDT, on ABC. The one-night-only airing will feature both the premier episode, "Democracy," and the finale episode, "Justice."



Palo Alto County Branch Highlights Women of STEM in Emmetsburg Schools

Jane Hoyman, Palo Alto County Branch

To celebrate Women’s History Month, several members of the Palo Alto County Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) visited area schools in March to highlight famous women with careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

On March 8, AAUW members Jane Hoyman, Nancy Cozine, Mary Lou Morrison, and Angie Beem spoke with 5th grade students in Ms. Madison Schoening and Mrs. Kayla Geelan’s classes at the Emmetsburg Middle School and with Mr. Roger Francis’s 5th through 8th grade students at the Emmetsburg Catholic School.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce these famous women in STEM to the students. It helped them to see the important connection between following their own interests and dreams when choosing a career later in life. Gender barriers are being broken down and the sky’s the limit now as far as career choices for both boys and girls,” noted Jane Hoyman, of the Palo Alto County AAUW Branch.

Lois Enger, AAUW member and professor, created the presentation of slides and video clips highlighting women in: (1) Science - Dame Jane Goodall, Ph.D., Dian Fossey, Ph.D., Rachel Carson; (2) Technology - Sister Mary Kenneth Keller, Ph.D., Carla

Meninsky, Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, Ph.D.; (3) Engineering - Anna Patterson, Ph.D., Sally Ride, Ph.D., Peggy Whitson Ph.D.; and (4) Math – Dr./Madame Maria Curie, Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., and Nancy Cox, Ph.D.

“It was fun to see the kids’ eyes light up when we informed them that Dr. Nancy Cox had been born in Emmetsburg and grown up in Ayrshire,” said AAUW member Nancy Cozine. “We asked the kids to look around at their fellow classmates and recognize that they may be in the same room as the next famous scientist, video game designer, astronaut, or physicist – or that person could be YOU!”



Mrs. Geelan’s 5th grade class at Emmetsburg Middle School, with AAUW members Jane Hoyman, Nancy Cozine, Mary Ann Morrison, and Angie Beem. Mrs. Geelan is on the right.



Emmetsburg Catholic School 5th–8th Grade Classes with Mary Lou Morrison and Jane Hoyman