



IOWA INITIATIVE

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March 2024

AAUW Iowa Spring Conference

April 12-13

Hilton Garden Inn

4640 North River Road NE, Cedar Rapids

AAUW Conference rate—\$119 plus tax per room

Call 319-378-7404 for reservations



Conference registration at

<https://aauw-ia.aauw.net>

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Co-President's Letter—A Celebration of the Century!

Kathie Farris and Karen Agee, AAUW Iowa Co-Presidents

In only a few weeks we will gather in Cedar Rapids for a conference to celebrate 100 years of AAUW in Iowa. We are very eager to see you again! The Planning Committee has prepared quite an event for us--too much for just one day. Please consider driving in on Friday afternoon for the dinner and documentary that evening. The hotel's rates are good, and you will be well rested for Saturday's events.

Meghan Kissell, AAUW Policy Director--who presented with spirit and savvy at the regional conference in October--will address us on Saturday morning before an impressive lineup of Iowa women: Prof. Amy Bix on women in STEM, Lettie Prell on economic justice, Dr. Emily Boevers on reproductive freedom policy, and Tara Sochet and Allison Smith on resources for reproductive rights. Big issues and hot topics! As we celebrate our centennial, we will also learn about and honor two founders of

the 50/50 by 2020 gender equity initiative to make our legislators representative of the people of Iowa.



Kathie Farris

We also have a unique opportunity to contribute to the AAUW Fund. It's going to be quite a birthday celebration. Bring cash and checkbook. Instead of bidding on baskets, this year we will give contributions to the celebration cake. All donations will be credited to you and your branch. And AAUW will use the funds for more research and advocacy for women.



Karen Agee

Each AAUW branch will receive a Family Planning Council of Iowa Reproductive Health Kit at the Spring Conference. Be sure to send a branch representative to take home your free kit!

Come to the Spring Conference

Penny Foy and Rebecca Swainey, AAUW of Iowa Program Co-Vice Presidents

April is just around the corner, which means the 2024 AAUW State Conference is nearly here! From the documentary on human trafficking Friday evening to the final comments Saturday afternoon, the events schedule is filled with knowledgeable speakers presenting thought-provoking topics!

Because we are kicking off the conference with the documentary on Friday evening, we have also decided to add a dinner to the event. The buffet from 5:00-6:00 p.m. will offer three pizza options, salad with two choices of dressing, and bread sticks. This meal was not included in the registration fee. Diners will pay for the meal (\$20) at the door. Please let Penny (livetoday@yahoo.com) know if you plan to join us for dinner by April 8, so we can give the count to the hotel. Gluten-free is available on request, using the same deadline. There will also be a space from 5:00-7:00 Friday evening for people to enjoy appetizers and socialize. A cash bar will also be available.

On Saturday, the continental breakfast will include sliced fresh fruit, assorted pastries, muffins, and bagels served with butter and cream cheese, and yogurt. Lunch will be a "wrap it up buffet," with a choice of a chicken Caesar wrap, a turkey club wrap, and a vegetable wrap. Sides will include coleslaw and potato salad. There will be cake for dessert. There will be cookies for an afternoon snack and beverages available all day - coffee, water and pop

We hope to give attendees food for thought with informative displays highlighting accomplishments of

individual branches. Displays may highlight the branch's history. They may be bragging tables showing pride in accomplishments. They may demonstrate passion for a particular issue or issues. They may be a combination of these and more. Iowa colleges and universities with a connection to AAUW are also being invited to create displays. You may want to partner with your local college for a display. However your branch chooses to present yourself, come to the conference prepared to let others know who you are!

Please let me (rebs0118@gmail.com) know if your branch will participate. Let's fill the room!

In an earlier article we stated that fund raising this year will be done differently than in the past. We are not asking branches to create baskets, we are not holding a silent auction. Instead, in honor of AAUW Iowa's 100th year, you will find a blank 'birthday' card in your folder. We encourage you to write a message on the card and enclose a donation to support AAUW. Then insert the card in the large 'celebration cake' located on the celebration table. Cards may be dropped off at any point throughout the event up to 3:00 pm. At the end of the day donations will be counted and the figure announced. Messages will be collected and highlighted in a future wrap-up article.

Make your hotel reservation by March 22, and register soon for the conference-- you won't want to miss it! Go to page 7 of this newsletter to find the registration form for the conference and plan to register before April 1.



Equal Pay Day at the Iowa Capitol Rotunda

March 18, Noon-3pm

We are marking Equal Pay Day in the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda on March 18 from noon to 3 pm. Come and help greet legislators and the public, hand out infor-

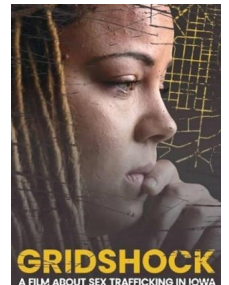


mation about the gender pay gap, and give out Payday candy bars. Let everyone know that you care about equity for women. Let Mary Ann Ahrens know you can be there.
maahrens@mchsi.com

Gridshock at the Spring Conference

Friday, 6:00-8:30

Gridshock is a riveting documentary exposing the hidden and disturbing reality behind the sex trafficking demand in Iowa. Vanessa McNeal, a filmmaker and survivor of sexual violence, sets out to explore the often overlooked reality about why the sex trafficking industry thrives. The film features survivors of sex trafficking, local and federal law enforcement, advocates, politicians, and a recovering sex addict. Stay for the discussion afterward with Melody Stone, founder of the North Iowa Coalition Against Human Trafficking.



AAUW Iowa Spring Conference
Working Together in Our Second Century

Hilton Garden Inn, 4640 N River Blvd NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

Friday, April 12

- 3:00-5:00 AAUW of Iowa Board Meeting
- 5:00-6:00 Dinner
- 5:00-7:00 Social
- 6:00-8:30 Movie—*Gridshock*—A Documentary on Human Trafficking
Melody Stone, MA, LMHC. Question and Answer Period, Additional Comments

Saturday, April 13

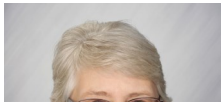
- 7:30-9:00 Continental Breakfast
- 7:30-8:30 Registration
- 8:30-9:00 WELCOME: AAUW of Iowa Co-Presidents Karen Agee, Kathie Farris
Call to Action: Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy
- 9:00-9:35 “From Marginalization to Mainstream Momentum, a History of Women in American STEM.”
Dr. Amy Bix, ISU, Professor of History
- 9:35-9:45 BREAK
- 9:45-10:10 “50-50 By 2020—A Gender Equity Initiative in Iowa,” Video by Susan Wakefield
- 10:10-10:35 Honoring Jean Lloyd-Jones and Maggie Tinsman
Recognition of Susan Wakefield
- 10:35-11:00 BREAK—Check out of hotel
- 11:00-11:45 “Bringing Economic Justice to the Justice System”
Lettie Prell, Former Research Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections, Research Staff
with the Iowa Board of Parole and Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
- 11:45-12:00 BREAK
- 12:00-12:45 LUNCH
- 12:45-1:00 AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
Distinguished Faculty Award
- 1:00-1:50 Annual Meeting of AAUW of Iowa Members
See agenda, meeting rules and reports in conference folder
- 1:50-2:00 Public Policy Announcement, Diane Kearns, Public Policy Director, AAUW of Iowa
- 2:00-2:35 “The Impact of Reproductive Freedom Policy on Women, Families, and Communities”
Dr. Emily Boevers, MD, Fellow of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- 2:35-3:10 “Resources for Reproductive Rights”
Tara Shochet, Director of Programs and Grants, Family Planning Council of Iowa
Allison Smith, Executive Director, Family Planning Council of Iowa
- 3:10-3:30 BREAK—Final Opportunity to donate to fund raiser
- 3:30-4:00 Closing Comments
Results of Fund Raiser Announced

Officer Candidates

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce these nominees for the 2024-25 AAUW Iowa Board:

President-Elect: Pat Higby
Co-President: Kimberly Folkers
Secretary: Mary Helen Stefaniak
Program Co-Vice President: Linda Morgan;
Nominations Committee: Anne Stansbury Johnson
and Kathie (Kat) Farris

Pat Higby worked as Energy Educator at UNI for 15 years before retiring in 2016. She recently moved to Tiffin, Iowa but continues as an active member of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo AAUW Branch. Her interests include traveling, weaving, reading, biking, and gardening. Her passion is to make the world a better place for her children and grandchildren! She is working on preserving reproductive freedom and the rights of women to control their own bodies.

A head-and-shoulders portrait of Pat Higby, a woman with short, light-colored hair, wearing glasses and a patterned scarf. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Kim Folkers retired in May 2021 from Wartburg College, where she was a tenured marketing professor for 32 years. She earned a B.A. in Finance Management at UNI and an MIM in International Management at the University of St. Thomas. In retirement she continues to serve on boards and committees in the Waverly community. She has been an AAUW member since 1989 and is currently the Membership Co-Vice President of the Waverly AAUW branch, VP of Membership for Iowa AAUW, and a Lifetime National AAUW Member. She and her husband, Bruce Ecker, live on a small acreage and have adopted numerous dogs through Retrieve a Golden of the Midwest over the years. They enjoy bicycling, golfing, kayaking, cross country skiing, reading, and getting together with family and friends.



Mary Helen Stefaniak is a charter member of the eNetwork branch and served two years as its president. She serves regularly as copy editor for the *Iowa Initiative*.

Stefaniak is the author of a collection of short fiction and three novels. Her first book of nonfiction--*The Six-Minute Memoir: Fifty-Five Short Essays on Life*--was published by the University of Iowa Press in 2022. She is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and professor emerita of creative writing at Creighton University in Omaha. She currently teaches in the Master of Fine Arts in Writing at Pacific University. Before moving to Iowa City, she taught high school English and French in Milwaukee. She has three grown children: a firefighter/paramedic, a copy editor/writing coach, and a marine biologist.



Linda Morgan is a long time member of AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo and has held several officer roles on the Board. She is a retired music educator and retired CEO of the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate, Iowa Heartland HFH. Her interests include traveling, music, women's issues and quilting. She also plays a good game of gin rummy and Settlers of Catan.



Anne Stansbury Johnson is a member of the Palo Alto branch. She is retired from admission and marketing at Iowa Lakes Community College. She keeps busy spending time with her husband, reading, knitting and the Emmetsburg Library Board. She is currently president of her branch and is a past president for Iowa. She has also served as co-chair for public policy, and on bylaws and nominations.



Des Moines Branch Invites You to a Zoom Presentation on the Bylaws Vote



Open Membership Task Force Co-chair Nancy Shoemaker will provide a presentation about the bylaws vote to open membership on April 2 at 7:00 pm using Zoom. The Des Moines branch invites members from all over Iowa to join in for this program. Members who would like to learn more ahead of the presentation are encouraged to find half-page and full-page handouts [at this site](#). To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcjI0ZlNQMUtmZjIjCU0RQQT09&omn=85221230271>

What Is Happening in the Iowa Legislature

Diane Kearns, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Director

The legislature has begun debate on several bills. I want to thank everyone that attended our Lobby Day. We do have another event coming up in March which is Equal Pay Day, March 18 at the Capitol.

With this article I am going to highlight bills of interest that did or did not survive the First Legislative Funnel. The Second Funnel will be March 15. All bills that are in Ways and Means are eligible for debate. I am only listing the bill number and a brief description. If you wish more in-depth information, check the legislative website.

DID NOT SURVIVE FIRST FUNNEL:

- HF2082: Relating to gender identity and disability under the Iowa Civil Rights Act.
- HF2018: Requiring department of H and HS to reimburse county for temporary holding of, or confinement of a sexually violent predator who commits a public offense while subject to an order of civil commitment.
- SSB3085: Death penalty.
- HF2140: Summer EBT program for children (Failed to enroll by the deadline).
- HF2073: Schools districts, charter schools and innovative zone schools to employ chaplains to provide services to students.
- HF2158: Relating to voter registration activities in the schools.
- SF2027: Relating to human growth and development curriculum provided by school districts, including enrollment of students in grade 7-12 in human growth and development courses and information provided to parents.
- HF2171: Relating to child sexual abuse and child sexual assault awareness and prevention.
- HSB587: Requiring teachers and students to sing the national anthem.
- HSB633: Requiring primary elections for nomination for city, school district, and merged area elections.
- SSB3166: Relating to city libraries, including library directors and library projects. (Refers to putting libraries under city government)
- HF2130: Relating to criminal background checks for sale or transfer of firearms.
- HF2159: Relating to report requirements for lost or stolen firearms.
- SF2085: Relating to background checks for acquiring pistols or revolvers.
- HF2475: Relating to victim restitution and the rights of human trafficking victims.

- SF2135: Relating to right to contraception.
- SJR2001: Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to the right to reproductive care.
- HF2293: Act increasing the minimum wage.
- There were several others of interest which did not survive the First Funnel and are included on the legislative monitor which I send out about once a week.

SURVIVED THE FIRST FUNNEL:

- SF2386/HF2612/HSB713: This relates to the AEA's. There have been changes from the Governor's original bill. *(Debated 2/29/24, passed the House 53 Yeas, 41 Nays, 6 absent or not voting. Representative Steckman brought forth an amendment which failed.)*
- HF2617: Related to pregnancy and fetal development into the human growth and development and health curriculum provided by school districts, accredited nonpublic, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to students 1-12 grades. *(Debated 2/28/24, passed the House 58 Yeas, 35 Nays, 7 absent or not voting. Several amendments were brought forward by the minority party, which failed.)*
- HF2562: Providing access to feminine hygiene products in public schools. *(Referred to Appropriations)*
- HF2613: Establishing school funding state percent of growth (3%). *(An amendment was brought forward to allow 6%, was defeated. Bill passed the House 60 Yeas, 36 Nays)*
- HF2083: Authorizing county attorney to be issued a professional permit to carry weapons. *(Renumbered HF2570.)*
- HF2586: Relates to allowing school employees to carry weapons. *(Fiscal note. Debated 2/28/24, passed the House 61 Yeas, 34 Nays. Several amendments were brought forward by the minority party, failed.)*
- HF2558: Related to higher education, including diversity, equity and inclusion policies tuition and administrator hiring at state universities. *(Fiscal note. Debated 2/29/24, passed the House 56 Yeas, 39 Nays, 5 absent or not voting.)*
- HF2460: Related to human trafficking including parole and work release and victim counselors and guardian ad litem appointments for prosecuting witnesses with mental health disabilities. *(Amendment filed. Fiscal note. Placed on calendar)*
- HF2575: Relating to nonconsensual causing of death or serious injury to an unborn person. *(Placed on calendar.)*

Continued on next page

We've Come a Long Way, Ladies!

Jackie Brittingham, Indianola Branch President

The Indianola Branch would like to invite you to join them at a very special event at Simpson College to celebrate Women's History Month. "We've Come a Long Way, Ladies!" is a musical celebration of the recent centennial of American women's right to vote. This program educates and entertains while recognizing the struggles and sacrifices of the Women's Suffrage Movement's most important figures and motivating all of us towards more positive and inclusive civic engagement today. The performance is free and open to the public, with a reception to follow the performance.



We've Come a Long Way, Ladies!

March 27, 2024, 6:30 pm

Lekberg Hall in the Amy Robertson Music Center

Historical songs take the audience on a journey back in time into the lives of these brave American patriots. Historical images, onstage costume transformations, an engaging spoken narrative, and audience participation make this a multi-sensory performance experience unlike any other. "We've Come a Long Way, Ladies!" has been presented at colleges, universities, arts, music, and civics organizations throughout the country. This program is

presented by *Of Thee I Sing: American Heritage Through Song*, a patriotic performance platform dedicated to bringing American heritage to life through music (<https://www.oftheeising.com/>). Of Thee I Sing has developed a unique model of historical, educational storytelling within the classical vocal genre—programming that audiences won't find anywhere else. This is not a typical recital! Audrey Johnson, a '01 graduate of Simpson, is the performer. She is a classically trained singer who has carefully curated works that help reveal the struggle of the Women's Suffrage Movement.

Program Highlights:

- Frederick Douglass's vital role and contribution to Women's Suffrage at the official beginning of the Movement.
- The role of ladies' fashions within the Movement and the strategies—and scandals—that ensued!
- The strategies employed by suffragist songwriters who used the power of music to sway the hearts of the American public
- A historic song 'from the jailhouse' which kept suffragists' spirits strong while wrongfully imprisoned—complete with singing and historical 'hair-comb accompaniment' by the entire audience!

**The program is free and open to all, however, please be advised that the program includes historical content which may not be appropriate for very young viewers.*

Legislature, continued from previous page

- HF2584: Ordering or dispensing of self-administered hormonal contraceptives by a registered pharmacist. *(Several amendments filed. Placed on calendar)*
- HF2583: Relating to pregnancy women and infants under the Medicaid program. *(Fiscal note. Placed on calendar.)*
- SF2136: Sexual exploitation of a minor. *(Renumbered SF2243.)*
- HF2540: Repealing gender balance requirements for appointive bodies. *(Bill passed the house. To the Governor's desk 2-26-24).*
- SF2374: Relating to retention and recertification elections for public employee collective bargaining units. *(Placed on calendar).*
- At this point in time there have not been many new bills introduced. I check this daily on the legislative website, www.legis.iowa.gov. There are several ways bills can be accessed on that site. Also, on any particular bill being debated, a person can check the vote by individual legislator. This is of assistance when attending local forums and asking questions of the legislators.

Four Stars for eNetwork

The **AAUW eNetwork (IA) Branch** has achieved **four stars** in the FY23 AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. The branch reached that milestone based on participation in the FY23 Branch Impact Survey. Responses to the survey have contributed significantly to AAUW's ongoing efforts to measure and celebrate the impactful work carried out by our branches across the country. The branch is recognized for contributions in Advancement, Communications and External Relations, Programs, and Public Policy and Research. Congratulations to the eNetwork branch!



Registration Form 2024

AAUW Iowa Spring Conference

AAUW Iowa is looking forward to hosting the 2024 Spring Conference April 12 & 13, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Registration Deadline:

All registrations should be postmarked on or before April 1, 2024.

For Additional Information: Rebecca Swainey, 515-577-5188

Hotel Information:

Hilton Garden Inn Cedar Rapids—4640 N. River Blvd, NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52411. 1-319-378-7404

Submit Payment with the PayPal Link, or return the registration form below with a check.

Make check payable to AAUW Iowa, and send to:

Deverie Kiedaisch
1025 Grand Ave.
Keokuk, Iowa 52632

First name _____ Last name _____

Branch _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Registration

_____ Member rate before 4/1/2024— \$80.00

_____ Member rate after 4/1/2024 — \$90.00

_____ Non-member rate before 4/1/2024— \$80.00

_____ Non-member rate after 4/1/2024— \$90.00

_____ Student rate before 4/1/2024— \$25.00

_____ Student rate after 4/1/2024— \$30.00

To register online, go to <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net> where you will find a registration form and the opportunity to pay with PayPal.