



IOWA INITIATIVE

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Co-President’s Letter

Pat Higby, AAUW Iowa Co-President

Kim and I decided our letter this month should be on our final thoughts before the election. I’m hoping that many of you, like me, have already voted! For those who haven’t yet, please beware of the huge amount of disinformation in political ads and on social media. (My polite way of saying there are too many intentional lies out there!) Please check out the Iowa AAUW website for help in spotting and combating misinformation.

Another issue that keeps us on alert is Christian Nationalism. The word Christian in the title is misleading since they do not share the values of most Christians. Their goal is to make the USA a “Christian” nation. Heaven help the Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and any Christians whom they disagree with! I compare their goals to that of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Mullahs in Iran. Do we really want our pastors and priests running the country? Your vote will indicate the answer to that question.



In another section of this newsletter you will learn about the Trump Glock, a gun with his image and name on its handle. I thought selling Trump bibles was bad, but this is so much worse! Perhaps MAGA supporters will carry both? Which one will they use if he loses? I am trying to be nonpartisan, but our policy is for gun safety, not distribution. According to the BBC, Trump made \$300,000 on the sale of the bibles. We will wait until his next tax return to see the profits from these guns. We do not support profiting from the distribution of hand guns. Instead, we support politicians in favor of the safe use of guns and background checks to control their distribution.

I hope many of you had the opportunity to attend an Education Wars presentation by Jennifer Berkshire. Our policy is to promote quality public

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education for all students. In her book and discussion Jennifer helps us to understand when the “war” started and its purpose. The attacks on our AEA system are unique to Iowa, but part of a nation-wide plan. Please vote for leaders who will promote strong public schools and support, not ban, the reading of books.



The last issue I’ll share is on our control over our own bodies. That alone should be enough to determine your vote, but if it is not, please consider the side effects of “reasonable abortion restrictions.” This is the new

language being used, since the term “ban” is too controversial. In states that adopted these laws earlier than Iowa there has been a decrease in the number of practicing ob-gyns and difficulty getting care for fatal fetal anomalies or following a miscarriage. Since 10% to 20% of known pregnancies end in miscarriage this should be a real concern. Not only is the woman’s health in danger, she may also be accused of attempting an abortion and face legal consequences. Vote like your life (or the life of your daughter or grand-daughter) depends on it!

Iowa Gun Safety Coalition Releases Voter Guide For The November Election

Karen Agee, Past AAUW Co-President

AAUW of Iowa is part of the Iowa Gun Safety Coalition and has supported the work of Iowans for Gun Safety in opposing the reckless gun amendment two years ago. Our public policy priorities include “freedom from violence, including gun violence and hate crimes, in homes, schools, the workplace, and communities, and services to address the needs of victims of violence.”

Here are two alerts from the Coalition on which we can take action:

1. The 2024 Voter Guide is now available on the Iowans for Gun Safety website at this address: <https://iowansforgunsafety.org/voterguide2024/> We can paste it into our emails and social media posts. Early voting has already started in Iowa, so we should consult this Guide right away to see how candidates stand on gun safety.
2. A situation has arisen in Dubuque that needs our action. Theisen's farm and home store, headquartered in Dubuque with about a dozen outlets in Iowa, is offering a Trump-themed weapon on its website: <https://www.theisens.com/products/glock-19-gen-5-distressed-rwb-trump-edition-9mm-semiauto-pistol>

It's a 9 mm semi-automatic Glock pistol, red, white and blue, depicting Trump with a raised fist and the words "Fight for America" and "2024" on one side and "MAGA" and "Battle Worn, Battle Tested" on the other. Less than a month before the election, this seems to encourage people interested in doing violence to those who oppose Trump.

This flies in the face of Theisen's record of generous charitable giving to many nonprofit agencies in the Dubuque market and other locations where Theisen's stores operate.

We encourage all AAUW members in Iowa to sign this petition (link <https://chng.it/QrLrRxbbBX>) and share with those you know on email and social media.

Theisen's Home Farm Auto has stores in other locations in Iowa. <https://www.stores-locator.com/chainstore/215-theisens> The petition would have more impact if it represented people across their market area. If possible, please forward this message to friends you have who live in other communities where Theisen's operates.

Art Roche, representing the Dubuque Coalition for Non-Violence, wrote that their coalition has agreed on a plan to address the Trump-themed gun.

We've released an online petition to stop the sale of the Trump Edition pistol at Theisen's, at least until after inauguration. We need more signatures, and especially from other locations around the state.

Our plan, once we achieve a viable number of signatures, is to respectfully request a face-to-face meeting with a couple of the Theisen senior managers to respectfully express:

- *How much we appreciate Theisen's local philanthropy*
- *That we were surprised to see a weapon like this for sale at their stores (out of character for Theisen's)*

Then request that they stop selling the weapon at least until the new US president is in office.

Sanctions, as yet not finalized, will follow if we are not satisfied with the response. We do NOT share the names or email addresses of those who sign the petition.



Know Where to Vote

Use the polling place locator tool at the Iowa Secretary of State's website here:
<https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/pollingplace/search.aspx>

Reporter Laura Belin in Algona

Janie Montag, Algona Branch

A nice-sized crowd turned out to the Algona Public Library Thursday evening September 12 to hear Laura Belin speak about Access to Information and Iowa Politics. The event was jointly sponsored by the Algona Branch of AAUW and the Algona Public Library.

Laura writes about Iowa political campaigns and elections, state government, social and environmental issues in *Bleeding Heartland*, an independent website. Having struggled to get information from the government and access to the capital floor, Laura was one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit (*Belin vs. Reynolds*). The Iowa Supreme Court ruled unanimously in her favor.

Des Moines *Cityview's* "Civic Skinny" called Belin "probably the hardest working, and perhaps the best, political reporter in the state and one of the best investigative reporters in the state." It is easy to see why as she shared numerous stories about her years covering Iowa politics.

Laura continues to write in *Bleeding Heartland* and report for KHOI Community Radio in Ames (89.1) with facts and accurate information. She urged her audience to fact-check the information they get on TV, social media, and from other sources. Why? Because, as she says, "Facts matter!"



Gala at African American History Museum of Iowa

The African American History Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids held their History Makers Gala on October 3rd, and several members of the Cedar Rapids branch of AAUW were there for the event. The event honors several citizens of Iowa as leaders and history-makers. Those honored included Dr. Wilfred Johnson (Waterloo), Jo Lavera and Phillip E. Jones (Iowa City), Emma Squires (Cedar Rapids), James L. Tillman, Sr. (Sioux City), and Mary L. Wells (Des Moines). The museum had just had its grand opening after a major remodeling. The History Makers Gala is their major fundraising event for the year. Members who attended said that it was great event.



AAUW members Deborah Reed, Linda Armitage, Lillie Moore, Linda Topinka, and Gwen Randall.

Important Election Information

Diane Kearns, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Director

Election day is fast approaching so I thought it would be good to share some information regarding absentee voting.

The first day to request an absentee ballot request form for the general election was August 27.

October 16 is the first day ballots may be mailed to voters that submitted a completed request and the first day to vote absentee in person in the Auditor's Office.

The request form must be received in the County Auditor's office by 5:00 p.m. fifteen days before the election. If the request is received after that deadline it is so late that it is unlikely the absentee ballot can be returned by mail in time to be considered for counting.

An individual may designate someone to return the ballot under the following circumstances:

- The designee is an immediate family member.
- The designee is a member of the household.
- The individual is disabled and has designated someone to return the ballot.



MONDAY: October 21 – Voter pre-registration deadline.

MONDAY: October 21 – Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail.

MONDAY: November 4 – Last day to vote an in-person absentee ballot.

TUESDAY: NOVEMBER 5 – GENERAL ELECTION

This is the most important election of our lifetime as far as I am concerned. Our mothers, daughters and granddaughter's future depends on it. Talk to your friends and make sure they have a plan to vote. Give a ride to the polls if needed. There are a couple of issues on the ballot of importance, one is the Iowa Supreme Court Judge retention of David May. He is the only Justice of the four who voted for the extreme abortion ban to go into effect. The May court took away the rights of women and families based on no actual evidence. The other issues have to do with Iowa Constitutional Amendments. The first deals with requirements to vote in all elections and the second has to do with the duties of the Lt. Governor if the Governor should become incapacitated. Stay informed and **VOTE!!**

Gridshock Documentary: How Iowans Can Impact This Fastest Growing Crime

The Davenport-Bettendorf and Des Moines branches of AAUW will both host showings of the documentary, *Gridshock* in November. Both events are open to the public.

The first event will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Scott Community College Welcome Center, Student Life Center, Room 2300, located at 500 Belmont Road, Bettendorf, IA. It is sponsored by Eastern Iowa Community College and the Davenport-Bettendorf branch of AAUW. Attendees are encouraged to park in Lot D on the main campus.

The second event will be held on Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 pm in the Speed Lyceum in the Henning Student Center at Grand View University. It is sponsored by the Women's Empowerment Club at Grand View University and by the Des Moines branch of AAUW.

These events are designed for adults and youth ages 16 and up (parental discretion advised) and aims to raise awareness about human trafficking, the fastest-growing crime here in Iowa and worldwide. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a Q&A session following the screening.

Key Highlights:

- **Identify Human Trafficking:** Learn to recognize the signs and understand the realities surrounding this crime.
- **Understanding the Crisis:** Discover why human trafficking is considered the fastest-growing crime globally.
- **Myths and Facts:** Separate fact from fiction with evidence-based information.
- **Safety Education:** Gain insights on protecting yourself and others from sextortion and other trafficking forms.
- **Community Strengthening:** Explore ways to create safer, more informed communities.

Both events will be presented by Melody Stone, MA, LMHC, an expert in mental health and human trafficking awareness. The screening is sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the North Central Iowa Coalition Against Human Trafficking, highlighting a collaborative effort to combat this critical issue.

Together, we can make a difference. Join us in educating ourselves and our community about the realities of human trafficking and how we can take action.

Human Trafficking Task Force News

by Mary Ann Ahrens, HT Task Force Chair

Advocates of human trafficking in Iowa are busy continuing to strategize to aggressively address this issue. AAUW Iowa Board approved establishment of a human trafficking task force for two more years. We currently are recruiting AAUW members in Iowa interested in this issue to consider joining our task force. Current members are Mary Ann Ahrens, eNetwork and Waverly Branches; Maxine Lampe, eNetwork Branch; and Marielle Sweborg, co-president of the Bettendorf-Davenport QC Branch. The Task Force will review the work of the past two years, brainstorm, and

discuss new ideas for realistically addressing this issue within AAUW Iowa.

Our Iowa human trafficking organization in Ames, **Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)** and their Board have set their *2025 Legislative Agenda* that will be shared in the next issue of *Iowa Initiative* to be pursued in the 2025 Iowa Legislature by all stakeholders. In the meantime, their fundraising committee will launch a \$1 million Human Trafficking Survivor Services Fund.

Message from Marielle Sweborg, AAUW Iowa HT Advocate and Executive Assistant to Maggie Tinsman

Dear AAUW Iowa Members,

Former Senator Maggie Tinsman invites you to join a vital movement led by The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT)—Iowa's pioneering, volunteer-driven organization exclusively committed to dismantling human trafficking in all its insidious forms. NAHT boldly asserts that human trafficking is a modern-day slavery, ensnaring vulnerable individuals and forcing them into lives of servitude for the financial gain of exploiters. For minors under age 18, no force fraud or coercion is necessary to prove human trafficking in court.

We are advocating for a \$1 million allocation to establish a *Human Trafficking Survivor Services Fund*. Iowa is home to eight organizations devoted to providing tailored residential programs that address the unique needs of survivors of human trafficking. A list of the institutions and map highlighting these crucial facilities accompanies this message, revealing the lifelines available to those seeking to heal and rebuild.

Contact your local Iowa Senator and Representative and demand that together, we illuminate the path toward a

safer, more compassionate Iowa by creating a \$1 million allocation to establish a *Human Trafficking Survivor Services Fund*.

Let's unite our voices and actions to ensure that every child can rise above the shadows of trafficking and thrive in a community that embraces them. Join us in making this vision a reality!

Finally, for just a \$20 donation, you can wear a t-shirt that not only raises awareness, but also directly contributes to vital programs and resources for survivors. For T-shirts please call or e-mail: Marielle Sweborg, 309-644-0282 or ellesweborg@gmail.com. Checks can be made out to NAHT and mailed to Marielle Sweborg, Maggie Tinsman's Assistant, 3541 East Kimberly Rd., Davenport, IA 52807. Iowa Rotary Clubs are contributing the t-shirts. Every shirt helps us continue our mission to combat this injustice and empower those affected. Wear your support proudly and spread the word—together, we can make a difference!



Residential Programs for Survivors of Human Trafficking in Iowa



1. Breaking Traffick, Davenport, comprehensive services
2. Dorothy's House, Des Moines, crisis and long-term housing
3. Garden Gate Ranch, near Des Moines, faith-based, for adult women with children under 5
4. Wings of Refuge, Ames, faith based, for adult women
5. Freedom House Ministries, Pella, for minors
6. YSS, Ames and other locations, crisis and transitional housing for youth
7. Lily Mae's House, Sioux City, for adult women
8. Friends of the Family, Waverly, emergency shelter and rapid rehousing
9. Chains Interrupted, Cedar Rapids, closed.

Iowa Students Attend NCCWSL

Elaine Kresse, AAUW Iowa Membership VP

Grand View, Simpson, St Ambrose, Iowa State and Wartburg Universities all had women attending the National College Conference of Women Student Leaders. Registration opens soon for 2025 NCCWSL. Information about NCCWSL 2025 and how to apply for a scholarship should be posted on the NCCWSL website before Thanksgiving. Students are advised to register early, before getting local funding, in hopes of getting a national scholarship. It can be withdrawn if other plans are made. Students can register themselves and then apply for branch or other funding. If it is too late to apply for a scholarship, the next step is early registration. If they have applied for the AAUW scholarship, they will qualify for early registration no matter the date. No money should be sent in with the scholarship application.

Of course, for the student or branch, finding the funds is the most important. Some schools share the cost with the branch. Some branches fund a single student or set an amount. The Davenport Bettendorf Branch funded \$1500 and reached out to the St. Ambrose honor society. Two women wanted to go so they shared those funds and raised the remainder themselves. For the branch, the hardest part might be finding the student if they don't have an active connection to a partner school.

As I was writing this, Linked in called my attention to Chelsea Hoye's Comment. Chelsea Hoye, a former NCCWSL attendee, was honored this week back at the U of Iowa. She posted, "Had an amazing few days in Iowa City at the University of Iowa! It was a privilege to participate in an alumni mentorship panel and guest lecture for two evening classes with the political science department."

I met Chelsea as president of the U of Iowa Student group that had raised funds to send her and others to NCCWSL. The next time I met her was on AAUW Lobby Day in Des Moines where she was



lise, Sam, Monica, and Brigid from Grand View University



Nadia Murobyi and Sarah Roberts



Greta and Ava



Mikayla and Milagros

lobbying against human trafficking. She is now a Manager of Government Relations and Public Affairs in Des Moines. She told our group that day how important NCCWSL had been to her.

Here are just a few pictures and lines from the attendees. They truly give us hope for our future!

I feel like the important part of that weekend was the chance to interact with other college students wanting to be leaders in their own professions and learning a few ideas I can incorporate not just in my profession but as an individual wishing to grow. I am a Sophomore at Grand View! - Monica Cunningham

From a thank you to the Indianola Branch: *Thank you so much for funding Nadia and I...the sessions were all very impactful...I was able to learn about overcoming workplace stereotypes...how to empower other first generation college student and the importance of financial literacy...I had such a positive experience...I can't thank you enough. Sarah Roberts, Simpson*

The conference was absolutely amazing. I was not sure what to expect going into it, but Lindsey and I had a great time. We were able to network with a few of the speakers on ideas to bring to St. Ambrose's campus that we hope to incorporate into Triota this year. It was wonderful to be surrounded by like-minded individuals, especially meeting people who share similar experiences with being on a Catholic campus. Thank you so much for the opportunity. Olivia Sobieszczyk, St. Ambrose University

I gained a real sense of belonging and what it means to be a woman. It was extremely empowering to be surrounded by so many powerful leaders. It will be an experience I take with me for the rest of my life, and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend. Greta Lampe, Mankato State University. Greta and Ava are both from Algona.

Clarion Branch Hosts Political Forum

Carolyn Bowman, Clarion Co-President

The Clarion Branch of AAUW has a long tradition of hosting political forums in October prior to the November election. This year's forum featured six candidates for Wright County Supervisor. There were more than 60 people in attendance and attendees submitted their questions for the candidates. Discussion ranged from tax relief and program cuts to the carbon pipeline to Supervisors' compensation and transparency in county government. "We were pleased that all the candidates were available and agreed to attend the forum," said Clarion Branch Co-chair

Carolyn Bowman. "The political forums give citizens an opportunity to ask questions that can help them make an informed decision on election day." The previous forum included those running for Clarion City Council and Mayor. Other past forums have focused on state legislative and senatorial races. "We try to spotlight contests of interest to our community," said Bowman. "This year is not a city election year and the county is expanding from three to five Supervisors so it seemed to be of the most interest locally."



Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Releases Resource Guide to Christian Nationalism

Connie Ryan, Interfaith Alliances of Iowa Executive Director

Christian nationalism is on the rise and the harm it is creating is significant. Harm to our neighbors, and to us. Harm to those who have been historically marginalized. Harm to our communities. Harm to our democracy.

I want to be very clear. Christian nationalism is not Christianity. It is not a faith or religion. It is an ideology, and its sole purpose is to gain power using many strategies, including violence.

Interfaith Alliance of Iowa is committed to both the education and advocacy necessary to positively impact all our issues and move forward our mission. Dismantling Christian nationalism is a key part of that work.

There is much information about Christian nationalism available through various sources — documentaries, videos, books, articles, and more. We compiled a resource guide about Christian nationalism to help you navigate that information and learn what it is, the history that brought us to this point, and its impact.

[CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM: A THREAT TO OUR DEMOCRACY A Resource Guide](#)

We are appreciative of the many faith leaders who participate in our Faithful Voices for Racial Justice project that helped gather the information and provide insight for the resource guide.

Please share the CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM: A THREAT TO OUR DEMOCRACY resource guide — [which is also available on our website](#) — with those in your faith community,

community groups, networks, friends, and family. Our sole purpose in creating and distributing the guide is to

educate folks in Iowa and beyond about Christian nationalism and the threat it is to our democracy and its people. And to encourage everyone to Take Action.



As always, we are grateful for you and your commitment to being part of this work. And for all you do to make our state better for all Iowans.

Indianola Branch Tours the Fort Des Moines Museum

Jackie Brittingham, Indianola Branch

On Saturday October 5th, members of the Indianola AAUW Branch visited the Fort Des Moines Museum (<https://www.fortdesmoinesmuseum.com/>). We had a unique opportunity to learn about the WAAC/WACs and what their time at Fort Des Moines was like in the 1940s. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established to work with the Army, "for the purpose of making available to the national defense the knowledge, skill, and special training of the women of the nation." Our group had the opportunity to view special pieces from the archives, like a

handbook on daily life at the fort, and a photo album that captured personal photos of the women who served. We also viewed the extensive exhibits celebrating Black soldiers who served in the US Military throughout history, and the officers who trained at Fort Des Moines. We would encourage anyone with an interest in military history to visit the museum. It is open for visitors on Saturdays from 10-4:00 at 75 East Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA. For more information, call (515) 400-3678, or email: info@fortdesmoines.museum.



Indianola AAUW members Jackie Brittingham, Barb Van Sickle, Ruth Kelleher, LouAnn Corrigan, and Paula Schultz celebrating the history of WAACs at Fort Des Moines Museum.



Indianola AAUW Members LouAnn Corrigan, Andrew Brittingham (Museum Docent), Paula Schultz, Barb Van Sickle, and Ruth Kelleher enjoying the historic buildings at the Fort Des Moines Museum.

Helping Each Other Vote

Karen Agee, 2024 Election GOTV Coordinator

As we can see from the website, <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net/>, AAUW of Iowa supports voting in the 2024 election! The branches, too, are enthusiastic about getting out the vote.

AAUW members in Iowa have good reason to support each other's opportunity to vote in this election. In the past few years, the Iowa Legislature has cut early voting days in half, from 40 to 20. Setting up satellite voting sites during the early voting period now requires hundreds of signatures on petitions, and a satellite site may be open only for a day. Locations for locked ballot deposit boxes are restricted. And county election officials can no longer make absentee ballot voting easier by sending ballot request forms out to all voters. This means longer lines, fewer polling places, and close attention to ballot mailing deadlines.

Let's ensure that every AAUW member can vote. Is a member of your branch experiencing health problems? Please check to see if she or he needs help voting early or on November 5. Provide information to ensure that members not yet registered to vote can show proof of residence when they vote early or on Nov. 5.

Are you yourself in need of election information or assistance? Please reach out to leaders of your branch to find transportation or other support. Because we share some important public policy priorities, let's make sure we all get to vote. Each of our ballots is important!

NEED A RIDE TO THE POLLS?



Loess Hills Branch Hosts Candidate Forum

Jane Goldsmith, Loess Hills Branch

AAUW Loess Hills Branch members held a successful 2024 Southwest Iowa Candidate Forum October 17 from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Council Bluffs Police Department community room. We invited all twelve Democratic and Republican candidates in House Districts 15, 16,19, 20 and Senate Districts 8 and 10. All six Democratic candidates responded to the invitation ; five attended and one was unavailable. Two Republican candidates responded and one attended. A member made several efforts to contact those who did not respond but to no avail.

We shared topics for questions in the candidate invitation: Voting Rights; Childcare Workforce Shortage; Affordable Housing; Education; Paid Leave; Reproductive Rights; Equal Pay for Equal Work; Rural Economy; and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. Six members each wrote a topic introduction and question and also read it at the forum with just the question displayed on screens throughout the room.

Each candidate had up to 2 minutes to answer. One member served as a timer with 15 second and stop paddles. Our president, Jan Creasman, gave instructions at the beginning that a member would take the microphone at the end of 2 minutes. All candidates were compliant and even passed the microphone on their own.

There were ten minutes at the end for two audience questions which they had written ahead of time and submitted for a Loess Hills member to read. In case there were numerous audience

questions, we required a form with questioner's name, email and which candidate their question was directed to so we could distribute forms to the appropriate candidates.

For publicity, Loess Hills posted our flyer on Facebook and also a video of Jan telling about the forum, and distributed fliers. We sent sixteen press releases to two daily and four weekly newspapers, four television stations and six radio stations. KMA radio in Shenandoah did an interview with Jan for a public service announcement. Iowa Public Radio in Sioux City sent a reporter and aired a report the next day. KETV in Omaha sent a cameraman whose clip was included in the 10:00 news. The *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* printed our press release October 6 and included our forum in an election article, and they printed an article with good coverage afterward.

Forty were present at the forum. Loess Hills will post a video of the forum on our website: loess-aauw.org.



Membership and the College/University Connection

Elaine Kresse, AAUW Iowa state Membership VP

In many ways AAUW's success helped diminish our ability to recruit members and leaders to our branches.

Women's groups began forming in the 1850's as affluent stay at home women had time to organize. In 1881 a message was very clear educate women. The original organizers were few and degreed. In my family I was the first to obtain a degree. My women professors made a point of telling us with pride that we would be able to join AAUW. My friend Jo Treadwell told me that her invitation to join was in her diploma at UNI.

With that brief generalizing, here's another. Having achieved our goal—educating women—there are very few educated women now staying home looking for “something meaningful to do while our children are at school.” To live the comfortable, educated lifestyle we expect, it often takes two incomes now.

It's time to stop blaming our decline on Covid and revitalize, but how. It's time to go back to our roots, our colleges. We must promote ourselves to the colleges where we have lost touch. These are the young people who can be the future. They must learn about us and care about AAUW for its mission and vision and for the support and friendship that we have all felt.

We must promote ourselves to our busy professional active women that AAUW is worth their time. Leadership in AAUW is a great way to hone and practice those skills. Diverse membership offers contacts and friendships outside their professional field. I've been told that is missing for many. In many ways, it is the same thing women were looking for many years ago when they felt isolated at home. Now they feel isolated in their office.

Connecting with your local college, reminding them what AAUW does and what it offers may be our best tool. It certainly is one that was used many years ago and has waned.

Promoting AAUW to schools: Think inside and outside of the box.

Women's Economic Empowerment Webinars

Whether you're a student stepping into the professional world, currently in the workforce, or a higher ed staff or faculty member (who can share the webinars), our salary

negotiation and financial literacy sessions are curated to offer valuable insights and tools for every career stage.

[Find them here.](#)

School benefits: College/University dues have gone up to \$250. What do I get for it?

The school gets two faculty National memberships. Why not offer a branch membership to that representative? That adds up to close to \$200 right there.

Every student at an AAUW member school can go online and register as a student member. Someone in your branch could offer to help organize a student branch. It can happen and perhaps turn a student into an AAUW leader and life member.

Each year AAUW awards over \$6 million in fellowships and grants to over 360 women pursuing graduate-level studies and community projects. [applications for fellowships and grants are now open](#) Don't forget about our legal advocacy fund.



A branch and a student group or college could work together on a community project another source of funding.

There is also FREE access to salary negotiation, financial literacy and voter education on line. Also there are many discounts and perks available at aauw.org/discounts-and-perks This is a good spot for your branch to be aware of too.

In addition many branches offer scholarships and a few branches have sponsored students attending NCCWSL. Please see the article in this newsletter on NCCWSL. These attendees are the future leaders of AAUW.

One final note of futures—stay in touch with those you have funded by your scholarships. One of our dedicated branch members joined us because she had received a scholarship from the Milwaukee branch. Look for AAUW National award winners and reach out to them. No matter where they go, or how they get to Iowa, they know the benefit personally of AAUW and might just join your branch.

Know, too, that if you are trying to connect with a college in your area, I will be happy to assist you.