

2011-2012 Annual Reports
AAUW Cedar Falls Branch
Reports by officers, Directors and standing committees

Co-Presidents Annual Report, Submitted by Linda Morgan and Ardelle Brown

Information regarding membership, program, fundraising, Community Action Projects, Study/Interest Groups, etc. can be found in the reports for those areas. The co-president's report is an overview of the work of the presidents as well as information not covered in other reports. **Board Meetings**—Board meetings were held in homes, Cedar Falls Library and University Book and Supply down stairs conference room; always beginning at 4:30 and ending by 6:00 p.m.

Transition—A board meeting was held on May 7th to evaluate the year and discuss plans for 2012-2013.

Officers for 2012-2013—Officers elected at the April 23 Annual Meeting: President-elect, Barb Feuerhak; Co-Vice President for Program, Carol Hedberg and Susan Kimball; Secretary, Dee Lynch.

Scholarship—The Board approved a motion to ask the Cedar Falls Civic Foundation to administer the funds for the Branch scholarship. The primary advantage of CFCF involvement was that members who made a \$50 or greater contribution to the Branch scholarship fund could deduct the amount from taxes.

Member Recognition—The Named Gift Honoree certificate was presented by Bonnie Smith to Mary Dove at the April 23, 2012 Annual Membership meeting. \$500 was donated to AAUW Funds in the name of Mary Dove.

AAUW Iowa – Two Branch members will be on the 2012-2013 Board. Bonnie Smith, AAUW Funds Co-Director and Maureen White Public Policy Co-Director.

International Friendship Thanksgiving Dinner—Maureen and Ardelle represented our Branch at the Friendship Dinner in November. Pramod Sarin recognized the Branch for starting the program a number of years ago.

Past President/Director of Communications—Maureen White

In July and August of 2011, revisions in the Yearbook (member directory) were prepared and provided to Phyllis Steele, Yearbook Editor. Phyllis provided Maureen with a draft copy of the 2012-13 Yearbook for a final review before printing. Printing was not done until new member information was available. Yearbooks were distributed to attendees at the September 26, 2011 dinner meeting, mailed, or delivered by volunteers.

An address book contact group with mail address as well as contact information for members was prepared. A list of names of members who do not use email was provided to the Board and chairs of Community Action Projects, Study/Interest Groups and committee chairs so that they could be mailed copies of the newsletter and could be contacted by phone if necessary.

Ardelle Brown and Maureen met with Marcy Seavey to discuss procedures for posting information on the Branch website.

The document “Guidelines for Submitting Items for Email” was written and provided via email to all Board members and chairs of Community Action Projects, Study/Interest Groups and committee chairs. The guidelines were for email to be sent to all members of the Branch.

Several changes in contact information for members were emailed to members.

Community Action Project; Promoting Global Awareness

This group has met on the third Tuesday evening of the month since January at the Cedar Falls Public Library. Topics discussed have been; Middle East Alignment (Jan. 17). Promoting Democracy (Feb. 21), Mexico (March 20), Cybersecurity (April 17) and Exit from Iraq and Afghanistan (May 15). The Foreign Policy Ass'n produces the Great Decisions program. It includes DVDs, a study book and updates provided weekly on their website. Thirteen to seventeen AAUW members and interested participants attend. We make the library reservations, submit the news to the Courier and Cedar Falls Times, send e-mail reminders to all participants and co-lead the discussion after watching the DVD.

Co-Vice Presidents for Program Gloria Tollefson and Marcia Street

“Empowering Women by volunteering in our Community” was selected for the theme of our September through April programs. Each presenter shared their services and the importance of volunteers to them. The 2011-2012 programs were introduced at our annual Fall Membership Kick-Off, August 29. We were responsible for the display tables promoting interest/study groups and community action projects. Prior to that, we met at the Womans' Clubhouse to select menus for our meetings throughout the year.

Mary Ann Burk, President and CEO, and Ali Parrish, Development and Public Relations Director of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa started the program year informing us of the Community Foundation and how it is helping nonprofit agencies that are working to better our community.

At our October dinner meeting, Sue Doody, President of Friends of the Library and Sheryl McGovern, Director of the Cedar Falls Public Library, gave us an update on all the new services available and where they need more volunteers. In November, Joni Hanson, Director of Hospitality House in Waterloo gave us insights into the life and needs of the homeless in the Cedar Valley.

Barbara Prather, Executive Director of the NE Iowa Food Bank shared facts and figures of food needs in our metro area in January. At our February meeting, Rose Fowler, Vice President of Operations at Satori Hospital, presented a list of how volunteers are used at the hospital. Katie Zimmerly, Director of Volunteers Services and Jennifer Siech, Community Outreach of the Cedar Valley Hospice presented the services that are available for the terminally ill and their families and how they depend on volunteers. Larry Cardamon shared how some 300 visually impaired people tune in everyday using a special radio to listen to volunteers from the IRIS program read the Courier.

After each presentation, we heard from our own members who volunteer for each of these non-profits and how doing their “job” has made their lives more meaningful. It was easy to see how these AAUW members are empowered through their volunteer work. Our interactive programs gave those who attended not only an insight on how important volunteers are in meeting the needs of the Cedar Valley but also whom other members might contact if they are interested in volunteering.

The attendance at our dinner meetings ranged from 36 to 47 members with an average of 40members.

Co-Vice Presidents of Program

AAUW Membership

The members of the Membership Committee of the Cedar Falls Branch of AAUW for the year 2011-2012 were: Gayle Wood (VicePresident), Dee Lynch, Joan Kurt, Anne Schuessler, Marcia Street, Orea Yahnke, and Mimi Zischke. All members of the existing membership committee agreed to continue to serve on membership during the new fiscal year, providing the new chair with a smooth transition. Throughout the entire year this membership chair also received invaluable support from current CF branch officers, especially our branch treasurer, Mary Fogarty.

The August 29th Fall Kick-Off and new member recruitment was a success again this year with over forty current AAUW members attending and eight new members joining our branch that night. Women who joined our branch at the Kick-Off are: Maribelle Betterton, Christine Carpenter, Jamie Castle, Kass Harper, Amanda Lynch, Twyla Moschel, Verla Paulson, and Elaine Pfalzgraf (rejoining at this time). Those new members who wished to participate were periodically featured in our branch's monthly newsletter with a brief introductory article.

As the fiscal year comes to a close on June 30, 2012, the Cedar Falls branch of AAUW has sixty members of our branch who have paid their annual dues. Approximately forty active members have not yet paid their dues at this time, and five members have decided not to renew their membership.

Gayle Wood, Vice-President for Membership

Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising, Bonnie Smith and Jean Kelly

Our fundraising money this year has been raised for our Scholarship Funds, Community Action Programming and AAUW Funds.

October 2011 we held a Premier Designs Jewelry Fundraising collecting \$100.00

January 2012 we held a White Elephant Surprise Bags collecting \$296.00

May 2012 we held a Garage and Plant Sale collecting \$967.06

Bridge contributions for the year \$400.00

Cookbooks and totes for the year \$19.00

Total for our 2011 – 2012 Branch efforts = \$1782.06

Other contributions

Haiti Shoebox Project raised \$200.00

April 2012 CF Branch contributed to Silent Auction at State Convention to AAUW Fund was \$289.00

Total Fundraising for 2011 – 2012 was \$2271.06

Members of the fundraising committee were Bonnie Smith, Jean Kelly, Jane Close and Joan Kurt

CV3D Report

CV3D began the season with THE CARBON DIARIES 2015, in which climate changes force carbon ration cards a necessity. From there the group discussed THE IMMORTAL LLIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS. Henrietta dies in 1951, but her cells continue to be used for research without permission and without payment for their use. In November the group met Alice who on her twelfth birthday meets a bi-racial boy. They befriend a dying artist and try to make his death easier. They grapple with adult decision making, hatred, and prejudice, ROPE WALK. Next, Kath Magliota's career as a cardiac surgeon in a male world becomes clear. On February 13, March 12, and May 14, the CV3D discussed three Middle East titles; CITY OF VEILS: A Novel; THE BOOKSELLER OF KABUL; and, finally, Ayaan Hirsi Ali's INFIDEL.

The final title was LEARNING TO DIE IN MIAMI: Confessions of a Refugee Boy by Carlos Eire. The special event for the year was a second visit from author Kent Nerburn. He discussed WOLF AT TWILIGHT: An Indian Elder's Journey Through a Land of Ghosts and Shadow. This special session was financed by the Cedar Falls/Waterloo Public Libraries.

AAUW has partnered with UNI Museums and the Cedar Falls/Waterloo Public Libraries to bring these discussions to the residents of the Cedar Valley. Residents are welcomed and participants are not required to read the book before a discussion. A usual audience of twenty attend each of the discussions.

Budget cuts at UNI closing the UNI Museum and forced AAUW CV3D to move discussions to University Book & Supply's classroom. This change occurred on the May 14th discussion session of INFIDEL and will continue the rest of the year. University Book & Supply has also agreed to continue to host CV3D during the 2012-2013 season. Title selections for the upcoming season will be made on June 12 at Cup of Joe's. At this session the nine titles for this year will be chosen and a new advertisement method to cut printing costs will be implemented.

Dr. Judy Beckman and Mary Dove Co-chairs of Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity

Community Action Project; Promoting Global Awareness

This group has met on the third Tuesday evening of the month since January at the Cedar Falls Public Library. Topics discussed have been; Middle East Alignment (Jan. 17). Promoting Democracy (Feb. 21), Mexico (March 20), Cybersecurity (April 17) and Exit from Iraq and Afghanistan (May 15). The Foreign Policy Ass'n produces the Great Decisions program. It includes DVDs, a study book and updates provided weekly on their website. Thirteen to seventeen AAUW members and interested participants attend. We make the library reservations, submit the news to the Courier and Cedar Falls Times, send e-mail reminders to all participants and co-lead the discussion after watching the DVD.

Gloria Tollefson and Marcia Street

Friendship Family Program, Sarin Pramod

We have approximately 48 International students from 20 different countries in the Friendship Family Program at UNI.

There about 35 families doing a wonderful job of making the students stay in Cedar Valley a pleasant experience.

What a nice way to have good will ambassadors overseas, when these students go back to their respective countries.

If any of the members are interested in the program, please have them contact me at, sarinpramod@uni.edu

Transition Scholarship

Your scholarship committee had the pleasure of awarding our 2012 scholarship to Stephanie O'Connor. She is the recipient of the \$1,000 Transition Scholarship to the University of Northern Iowa. Stephanie graduated this spring from Hawkeye Community College. and will continue her studies in the field of Accounting.

The Transition Scholarship is awarded in the spring to a non-traditional female student currently attending Hawkeye Community College who will enroll in at least 6 credit hours at UNI in the fall. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or more on at least 30 transferable credit hours from HCC. Preference is given to students majoring in a non-traditional field of study.

Arrangements have been made this year for each of us to donate to our scholarship fund on the tax deductible track at the Cedar Falls Civic Foundation. Simply make your check out to the Civic Foundation and put AAUW Scholarship on the memo line. The address for mailing in your check is 524 Main Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. Do take advantage and make your gift to the scholarship fund soon.

Your AAUW, Cedar Falls Branch Transition Scholarship committee included Pat Higby, Sue Lyons, Nancy Henderson, Doris Mauer, Liz Poole and Judy Foch

Public Policy Joan Kurt

Objectives for the 2011-2012 year were:

Increase member knowledge and advocacy through the Washington Updates and Two Minute Activist, as well as state and local communication.

Work with the AAUW Iowa and other partner organizations to identify women who are interested in serving on appointed city or county boards, commissions or committees.

Attend local legislative forums when possible. Advise group of dates and times of forums.

Objective #1:

Prepared and presented a display for the Fall Kick-off in August 2011. Provided handouts and brochures on AAUW Public Policy.

Through email and newsletters reminded members how to access the Washington Update, Two Minute Activist and Megavote on the AAUW website.

Notified, encouraged and joined other members in the Pay Equity Day activities sponsored by Business and Professional Women on April 17th, 2012.

Forwarded pertinent information from the National AAUW on Pay Equity as well as other women's issues before the Congress. Emails provided website access to voice support for issues our organization lobbies in Congress, as well as ways to contact your Congress person and express personal views.

Informed members of municipal electoral candidates forum, time and date.

Objective #2:

Participated throughout the year in the Gender Balance Coalition chaired by Maureen White.

Attended presentations by Chris Latimer at UNI who is conducting a study on the impact of the work of attaining gender balance in Iowa.

Objective # 3:

Attended local legislative forums on both education and women's issues.

Advised the group of dates and times of the forums through email and monthly newsletters.

Gender Equity—Maureen White (Black Hawk County) and Jane Close (Butler County)

The Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition completed its community education component with a presentation to the Iowa Falls Business and Professional Woman and by sharing materials and PowerPoint presentation with AAUW members in the Wright County, Charles City and Tama-Toledo areas who were interested in doing similar activities.

The Coalition has continued monthly notifications in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier regarding openings on city and county appointed boards and commissions. We have requested current (as of June 1) listings of members of boards and commissions in order to evaluate progress toward gender balance in Black Hawk County.

A Gender Balance Team has been formed in Butler County led by Jane Close. Members are from Allison, Aplington, Clarksville, Parkersburg and New Hartford.

The group collected data from the ten city governments as well as from the county government. Letters to mayors, council members and supervisors included detail of the gender balance/imbalance within their jurisdictions. Suggestions to improve gender balance and to be in compliance with the three month good faith effort included 1) publishing upcoming vacancies three times beginning three months in advance of appointment and including information about duties, qualifications, meeting dates and times, anticipated time commitment and application/appointment policies, process and timelines in newspapers and on the city website as well as posting them in writing at appropriate locations, 2) developing and making available a written application process and one general application form to use for all boards and commissions and 3) listing current members, their date of appointment, length of term and noting whether males or females are needed for gender balance.

The team will continue to be in contact with mayors, council members and supervisors and will monitor outcomes.

Women in Motion 2011 – 2012 Report Submitted by Darline Balm-Demmel and Mary Lyman

The group participated in a variety of volunteer, educational, and cultural activities.

In general, each month offered an opportunity for member participation. At the opening AAUW fall gathering, a poster and hand-outs encouraged members to investigate and sign-up for information and communication about Women in Motion. The list included nearly 30 names along with e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Darline then sent a Women in Motion member e-mail, and Maureen White followed with an e-mail to the entire AAUW membership regarding upcoming activities. Phone calls were made to those in the Women in Motion group who had no e-mail addresses.

Below is a list and brief description of the year's activities:

September – a tour of the Cedar Valley Arboretum Fall Festival – 3 members and 1 guest

October 18 - Ghouls' Night Out included visits and treats for members with health concerns and those unable to attend meetings followed by dinner at Panera – 4 members

October 25 – Beyond Belief, a video and presentation by Susan Retik who helped create the Afghanistan Widows Project, A Constructive Response to 9/11. Dinner at Beck's on College Hill and conversation regarding possible future activities was followed by the program at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. 6 members

November 13 – Civic Center in Des Moines performance of Wicked. 4 members and 2 guests
Also in November, Doris Mauer donated clothing to the Orphan Train Project. Mary and Pat

Lyman took the donation to Ida Grove.

December 14 – Package wrapping for the Be a Santa to a Senior project at Home Instead in Waterloo. 4 members

April 17 – Equal Pay Day gathering in Waterloo

May 1 – May Basket Day with treats to those unable to attend meetings as well as others suggested including Jane Close's mother. 2 members

May 10 – Lunch provided for Women's Build – coordinated by Ardelle Brown

May 17 – AAUW annual garage sale – larger participation in this activity due to donations, marking, working, and moving items. Doris Mauer made a large donation which was transported by Women in Motion

Both Darline and Mary were “snowbirds,” so others stepped forward such as working at the Food Bank.

Suggestions for the future...

Back to School – help with school supplies, assist in classroom preparation

Iowa's Bravest – writing letters to soldiers who have a connection to members

September Healing Field dinner and a movie

Comments...The Women in Motion idea is to involve members in worthwhile activities to benefit others and learn new things while building community within the group. Rather than designating a Women in Motion as an AAUW subgroup, it might be advantageous to include the entire membership through e-mails and maybe add increased participation.