

AAUW Cedar Falls 2015-2016 Annual Report July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Reports by Officers, Directors, Standing Committee and Appointed Chairs,
Community Action Project Chairs and Study/Interest Group Facilitators

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Co-presidents - Jane Close and Bonnie Smith

Since this was the second year for the co-presidents, the main focus was to increase AAUW connections with the University of Northern Iowa, the community and our members. This was done in several ways:

Connecting with the University of Northern Iowa

- met with Provost and Maureen White to promote "Start Smart"
- attended a lunch meeting in the fall with UNI faculty and staff
- worked at the "Elect Her" workshop for UNI students
- supported funding a student to attend the National Conference for College Women Students (NCCWSL)
- applied for Give a Grad a Gift memberships for graduating students
- increased E-student memberships by subsidizing their local dues
- supported the formation of AAUW for UNI, an official AAUW organization on campus run by students
- attended lunch and program with UNI faculty and staff in May, which will continue to be a regularly scheduled annual event

Connecting with the Community

- toured the Women's Center for Change and led a very successful clothing drive. As a result of this connection, the Center was added our community action projects--Reaching Out With Books, Bundles of Joy and soon CV3D.
- publicized scholarship availability in 24 newspapers in Black Hawk and adjoining counties
- sent *AAUW Tech Trek Iowa* summer camp information for middle school girls to 13 area middle school principals
- invited Waterloo and Waverly to the January brunch meeting and will continue invitations in the future
- attended many community events related to the AAUW mission
- added House of Hope to the Bundles of Joy community action project
- added Operation Threshold Nest program with Burmese to the Bundles of Joy community action project, which provided personal contact with the mothers

Connecting with Members

- hosted Picnic on the Prairie in July
- co-hosted the Board Open House in December
- made six home visits to members who we don't see very often
- held new member orientations
- implemented Fourth Fridays With Friends through Women in Motion
- provided ample AAUW information to board members and worked closely with them
- met with Co-presidents Elect and updated the President's Monthly Planner for their use
- attended as many AAUW events as possible and met with many committees
- made a special effort to get to know all members, including new members and students

Connections were also made with AAUW Iowa, through Maureen White as president and two members who served on the board. Members were encouraged to attend the AAUW State Conference in April with

half reimbursement for registration which was paid from the convention fund. Cedar Falls was represented by twelve members, the largest group in attendance at the state conference.

We feel that we have had a very involved and productive term as presidents the last two years. We appreciate all the hard work the board and members have done to advance the empowerment of women and girls. It has been a privilege to serve AAUW Cedar Falls.

Co-presidents Elect - Joan Bunkofske and Arleen Cook

It has been a year of learning for the co-presidents elect to understand how the local organization functions and how it interacts with the state and national organizations. Much learning was done through the yearbook, bylaws, policies, job descriptions, various written guidelines, state conference and websites--local, state and national. Dinner meetings as well as meetings with committees, study/interest groups and UNI faculty and staff added even more information.

Getting to know members was one of the Co-presidents Elect's goals. Hosting new member orientations and visiting with members at various functions worked to get to know many members. Ice breakers and lottery-type seating arrangements were implemented at dinner meetings to encourage members to mingle and get to know each other.

The Strategic Plan 2014-19 review was chaired by the Co-presidents Elect. The proposed revisions were then discussed and approved by the board.

At the April dinner meeting an every member survey was introduced. The responses were tallied and so as to receive as much input as possible, every member will be contacted by October 1, 2016.

As the Co-presidents Elect move into the Co-presidency in 2016-17, two goals will be to increase interaction with UNI and HCC and to promote the Transition Scholarship. Both goals will be accomplished by making HCC students aware of the scholarship availability and by encouraging ongoing relationships with scholarship recipients as they work toward BAs at UNI.

Communications Co-directors/Past Presidents - Jane Close and Bonnie Smith

The communications committee provided for a broad range communications through the brochure, USPS mailings, newsletter, email, newspapers, website, yearbook and other forms. The goal of the committee was to increase visibility.

- Brochure: Updated and printed 100 brochures for the kickoff, membership committee, board members and others who requested them (\$18).
- USPS Mailings: Circulation of newsletter hard copies was made to eight members who didn't have email (est. \$50). Seventy-seven yearbooks were mailed to members who hadn't picked them up at the September meeting (\$113).
- Newsletter: Editors prepared seven monthly newsletters for Sep-Nov and Jan-Apr. Articles were submitted by board members and committee chairs. Editors organized the information into an easily readable document. They often had to search for missing details and also wrote some articles as requested by the board.
- Email:
 - 1) Announcements of activities consistent with the AAUW mission were emailed to the membership. There were approximately 140 all-member emails.
 - 2) *AAUW Tech Trek Iowa* summer camp information for middle school girls was emailed to 13 area middle school principals.
- Newspapers:
 - 1) Dinner program articles were submitted to the *Courier* by the Vice President for Programs.
 - 2) CV3D articles were submitted to the *Courier* and *Waverly Democrat* by the project chair.
 - 3) Promoting Global Awareness articles were sent to the *Courier* by the project chair.

- 4) Scholarship articles about availability and deadlines were emailed to 24 newspapers in Black Hawk and adjoining counties.
 - 5) Scholarship recipient articles and photos were submitted to the *Courier Celebrations*, *Independence Bulletin-Journal* and *Independence News/Buchanan County Review* (Emily Johanningmeier from Independence).
 - 6) Newspaper articles about the annual meeting and election of officers for 2016-17 were submitted to the *Courier*, *Grundy Times* (Jodi Bergmann from Dike), *Parkersburg Eclipse* (Jane Close from New Hartford).
- Website: The web manager maintained and updated the website as requested.
 - Yearbook: The editor revised the yearbook and printed, assembled and addressed 120 yearbooks (\$70).
 - Other:
 - 1) A donation of \$300 for Weavers of Burma/Burma Ties/EMBARC to fund weaving supplies also included having the AAUW logo with Cedar Falls on posters for the July 16 Burma Ties event, as well as for other EMBARC events and newsletters throughout the year.
 - 2) AAUW CF name badges continued to be available for members to wear when attending events related to the AAUW mission, vision and/or values.

Facebook will be added in 2016-17. Discussion of other forms of social media other than Facebook and email--Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Tumblr, etc---was tabled until after AAUW Iowa meets to discuss and make recommendations.

Co-vice Presidents for Program - Ardelle Brown and Carol Hedberg

The theme for the year was ***Empowering Women***. Meetings were held at the Cedar Falls Woman's Club, Third and Clay St. Social time for dinner meetings was 5:00-5:30, followed by announcements and program, with dinner at 6:15. For the second year, the January meeting was a Saturday brunch with Waterloo and Waverly members in attendance. This appears to be a viable option for cold winter months and possible weather-related cancellations. An additional lunch meeting was added with UNI faculty and staff at their request. It was held in the Business and Community Services Building on campus and scheduled during finals week when they are more easily available to meet. The AAUW Cedar Falls-UNI Faculty & Staff lunch will be scheduled again in 2016-17.

2015-16 Programs were:

- September 28, 2015 ***Women in Campus Leadership***, Rachel Gregory, Graduate student in Public Policy and Kerri Robinson, Research Development Specialist at UNI (33 dinner, 5 for program only)
- October 26, 2015 ***Weavers From Burma***, Alicia Soppe, Program Director, Ethnic Minorities from Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC) (34 dinner, 5 program only)
- November 23, 2015 ***Women in Police Science***, Jane Wagner, Instructor at Hawkeye Community College (31 dinner, 8 program only)
- January 16, 2016 Saturday Brunch 10:00 a.m. ***Young women in STEM Programs***, arranged by Marcy Seavey, personal stories told by a panel of UNI students followed by discussion (44 brunch)
- February 22, 2016 ***Riverview Center for individuals Affected by Domestic Violence***, Alicia Smiley, Iowa Program Director (30 dinner, ?program only)
- March 28, 2016 ***Bridge from Jail into the Community***, Amy Jones, Residential Supervisor, Waterloo Women's Center for Change (38 dinner, ? program only)
- April 25, 2016 ***Annual Meeting*** election of officers, recognition of Transition Scholarship recipients, Named Gift Honoree Phyllis Steele, survey discussion (36 dinner, ?program only)
- May 2, 2016 lunch at Business & Community Services Center on UNI Campus, ***Campus Equity***, Nancy Cobb, Associate Provost for Faculty and Professor, Academic Affairs (21 attended)

Speakers' meals were complimentary. Thank you notes were sent to speakers after their presentations.

Co-vice Presidents for Membership - Liz Poole and Julie Rathmell

The membership committee included Nancy Hasenwinkel, Bev Lundy, Jean Richardson, Gayle Wood, and Oreaan Yahnke.

The committee met in July 2015 to plan for the fall kickoff with the Vice President for Program as both the membership and program committees organized this event. The brochure was updated and printed to be used at the kickoff. Community action project chairs and study/interest group facilitators were asked to provide displays. Committee members provided food for the event. The kickoff was held August 24, 2015 at the Cedar Falls Community Center. Officers were introduced and the AAUW Iowa President gave a Power Point presentation about the mission of AAUW and all that membership has to offer. Those in attendance were encouraged to join, as a half-price discount for AAUW national membership was available.

Two orientation meetings were held to acquaint new members with the many opportunities available to them through AAUW. The State President and Cedar Falls Co-presidents explained the operational structure of each level of the organization.

Total membership for the year was 119, with 22 of them being new members. Introductory biographies of many of the new members appeared in newsletters throughout the year.

The Co-vice Presidents for Membership greeted members and provided name tags at monthly meetings. They also greeted guests and provided name tags, brochures and a sign-in guest book.

In the April newsletter, members were reminded to pay their dues for 2016-17. In June, an email was sent to members that the deadline for dues was June 30 for those who had not already paid. Committee members followed up with phone calls. The treasurer provided updated lists of paid and unpaid dues.

Co-vice Presidents for Fundraising - Nancy Hasenwinkel and Sandy Lawry

The year began with a plan to hold several fundraisers for the Transition Scholarship--a silent auction in the fall, a tea bag envelope request in the winter, and a garage and plant sale in the spring. The fall silent auction was a great success, both in the \$250.50 raised and in the fun socializing during the auction. The Tea Bag event was also successful, with \$480.00 raised. The Plant and Garage Sale took place May 13-14th at the home of Sandy Lawry. Despite inclement weather for the middle of May, the sale was a success. In addition to raising \$1,465, conversations with some folks gave them an idea of what AAUW is about. There were several great volunteers to help with the sale and members' contributions were greatly appreciated. Discussion of long term opportunities for disposing of unsold merchandise, such as at Stuff Etc., will be considered in the future. For this sale, leftover items were donated to the Habitat ReStore and Catholic Charities. The total raised from these three events was \$2,195.50.

The balance in the Cedar Falls Community Foundation (CFCF) for the Transition Scholarship was \$1203.60 at the beginning of the year and \$2066.60 as of June 30, 2016. The CFCF is used for donations so that they will be tax deductible for donors. The annual fee for the CFCF to maintain the account was \$17.50. In February, the CFCF notified us that their minimum annual fee will be \$120 beginning in 2017. At the March board meeting, the fundraising committee was instructed to explore the options for switching to another foundation in order to maintain tax deductibility. At the April board meeting, a committee was established to review the national AAUW Fundraising Policy 501. This new committee should be helpful in determining where scholarship funds will be deposited, and whether use of a foundation meets the guidelines of the national AAUW.

Donations were made through several events, in addition to the Silent Auction, Tea Bag Event and Plant/Garage Sale. During the April Iowa Conference in Des Moines, the silent auction brought in \$798 from items donated by Cedar Falls members. These silent auction funds went directly to the National AAUW as well as individual member donations of \$595 made throughout the year. In addition to the donations that went directly to National AAUW, members contributed/raised money in several other ways:

Individual donations (directly to AAUW Fund)	\$ 595
State Conference Silent Auction (directly to AAUW Fund)	\$ 798
Weavers from Burma (donations at Dec open house)	\$ 506
Bridge for Education (donations to scholarship)	\$ 379
Individual donations (directly to CFCF for scholarship)	\$ 150
UNI Lunch w/faculty (leftover funds to scholarship)	\$ 132
CV3D book sales (for expenses)	\$ 44
Picnic on the Prairie in July (leftover funds to Weavers)	\$ 38
Riverview Center sexual assault kits (cash for toiletries)	\$ 25
Bundles of Joy (cash for supplies)	\$ 15
Total	\$2,682

The Co-vice presidents benefitted from Nancy Hasenwinkel's participation in the Share and Learn Webinar on Philanthropy & Fundraising in March. In an effort to help members more easily identify other members, the process of taking photos of members to create a pictorial directory was begun and will continue in 2016-17.

Public Policy/Voter Education Director - Pam Hays

The AAUW newsletter publicized the winter Legislative Forums, and members were encouraged to attend. At two or more of the forums AAUW members presented issues of concern.

At a fall meeting, AAUW board members were informed about the CARERS act, and post cards were written to Senator Grassley about this Act and mailed.

Pam Hays and Arleen Cook provided support and encouragement to Rachel Gregory and Kerri Robinson in their efforts to develop an AAUW group at UNI and to sponsor a second Elect Her program at UNI. AAUW once again provided financial support to Elect Her (\$250) and to sponsoring a UNI student to attend the National Conference for College Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington DC (\$359).

Arleen Cook wrote a letter to the editor of the *Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier* in support of Equal Pay for Women.

Pam and Al Hays made a presentation, "*The New Jim Crow and How it Relates to Women*" at the AAUW Iowa State Conference in April.

Leadership Development Director - Maureen White

One responsibility of the leadership development director was to provide orientation for new members. This was done with a short PowerPoint presentation about AAUW, AAUW Iowa, and AAUW Cedar Falls at the Fall Kick-off in August, 2015. Also, new member orientation was provided at two small group sessions planned by the Co-vice Presidents for Membership.

Another responsibility was to maintain documents related to AAUW Cedar Falls governance. Revised and updated copies of the following were emailed to 2016-17 board of directors members on June 23, 2016:

Email Guidelines
Newsletter Guidelines
Strategic Plan 2014-19
Named Gift Honoree Guidelines

The document Duties and Responsibilities of Elected Officers, Directors, Standing Committee Chairs and Appointees (job descriptions) was updated and revised in June, 2016, incorporating suggestions from those serving in those elected or appointed positions.

Policies were updated and revised to be presented to the board at the July 11, 2016 meeting for their approval.

An ad hoc committee revised and updated the Cedar Falls Transition Scholarship Guidelines and presented to the board at the June, 2015 meeting.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Gender Equity/Diversity - Chair Arleen Cook

The Diversity and Inclusion Tool Kit provided many suggestions and activities that were used. A letter was sent to the editor of the Courier on pay equity. Similar letters were made available to members at a meeting for them to sign and be sent to each of the senators and representatives from our district. Gender Equity met with Pam Hayes and Rachel Gregory to promote and support AAUW/UNI activities.

As part of diversity, icebreakers were created for members to interact and get acquainted with new members before each of the monthly meetings. With members of the board, additional ideas were brainstormed about other ways for new members to get acquainted. One of the ideas from the toolkit that was discussed was mentors for new members. The membership committee will be organizing a mentoring program.

So, instead of duplicating the tasks of Public Policy/Voter Education Co-directors and Co-Vice presidents for Membership, it was proposed that the chair of Gender Equity/Diversity be a committee member of both. The board approved this action at the June 6, 2016 Board of Directors meeting. This clarified the role of the gender equity/diversity position. In 2016-17 Gender Equity/Diversity, Public Policy/ Voter Education and Membership will work closely together when appropriate.

International Affairs - Chair Rowena Hardinger

Two articles were sent to members through email this year. One assessed the work of the United Nations in regard to progress on women's issues, "A World Half Full, or Empty" focusing on the accomplishments regarding issues especially important to women.

The other article announced the passage of Commission on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by one of the state legislatures. This legislation has been passed by 180 countries throughout the world, but not in the US. One state's passage is a high mark for this achievement.

University/College Relations - Carol Hedberg (HCC) and Pat Higby (UNI)

Historian - Ardelle Brown

The following materials were archived:
monthly board meeting minutes
newsletters

- newspaper articles
- photos taken at meetings and special events
- copies of important e-mail messages sent to members
- photos of scholarship recipients and Named Gift honorees

The Cedar Falls Historical Society has stored all historical documents from 1925-2011. The information and materials became the Historical Society's property once it was stored in their building. Materials may be seen there and copies may be made.

Historical materials from 2011-12 through today are stored at Ardelle Brown's home at 2117 Rownd St in Cedar Falls.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Transition Scholarship - Chair Nancy Henderson

The Cedar Falls Transition Scholarship committee for 2015-2016 included Liberata Aung, Pat Higby, Sue Lyons, Liz Poole and Nancy Henderson.

The scholarship committee had the pleasure of awarding four \$1,000 scholarships during the 2015-2016 program year. Emily Johanningmeier was selected to receive the transition scholarship in December 2015; she began her studies at UNI in spring 2016. In April 2016, three students were selected to receive the transition scholarship: Christine King and Ashley Rasmussen will attend UNI in fall 2016 and Alma Miskic will attend UNI in spring 2017.

The Transition Scholarship is awarded 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 (or spring). Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 or more on at least 30 transferable credit hours from Hawkeye. Preference is given to students majoring in a non-traditional field of study. Applicants must submit the following documents: scholarship application, personal letter, Hawkeye transcript, letter of reference from a community member, and letter of reference from Hawkeye faculty member.

Bylaws and Policies - Jane Close and Bonnie Smith

Bylaws were both realigned and amended in 2015-16. Mandated by AAUW national, bylaws were realigned to conform to an AAUW model so that all AAUW bylaws were numbered and lettered identically. No substantive changes were to be made in that process. The bylaws realignment was done by AAUW Iowa State Bylaws Director Jo Treadwell, then a copy sent for review. The Bylaws Committee compared the existing bylaws to the realigned bylaws and determined that every word in the existing bylaws had been included in the realigned ones. No vote was needed by the membership, as this was a mandated realignment. At the August 25, 2016 annual meeting ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS. Section 3. Terms of Office. a.2. of the realigned bylaws was amended by membership vote adding "...and automatically succeed to the presidency in the following year" in reference to the term of service of President Elect.

Board members were asked to review the Policies that related to their office(s). Recommended revisions were submitted to the Leadership Development Director to be revised. Several remain to be done in 2016-17.

Named Gift - Co-chairs Joan Bunkofske and Arleen Cook

There were two Named Gift Honorees in 2015-16, Nancy Henderson in 2015 and Phyllis Steele in 2016. Nancy was recognized for her various leadership roles and for being instrumental in creating the Cedar Falls Transition Scholarship. Phyllis was honored for the depth and breadth of her service over more than 50 years and as she continues to be a contributing member. This an important award, one in which the Named Gift Committee relies on members to nominate deserving members.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS

Artisans From Burma (formerly Weavers of Burma) - Co-chairs Karen Agee and Alicia Soppe

For a second year, the Artisans From Burma helped achieve AAUW's mission to advocate for and empower women by supporting weavers of the local Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (EMBARC-Waterloo). AAUW Cedar Falls provided the means for Karen and Karenni refugee women to develop their leadership, English language, and enterprise skills:

- The backstrap handweavers made excellent use of AAUW's gift of \$300 in 2014-2015 to purchase fiber for more skilled weaving projects. The weavers were able to produce a number of beautiful items from the fine cotton threads ordered from Lunatic Fringe Yarns at \$30 per pound.
- AAUW Cedar Falls co-sponsored a Burma Ties fundraiser in July 2015 that allowed the weavers showcase their art and earn money for more supplies.
- Although the weavers usually warp and weave their projects at home, they now have a workshop in downtown Waterloo (220 E. 4th St.) where they can teach their traditional techniques to others.
- AAUW-CF members at the Holiday Open House on Dec. 13 generously provided \$544 in free will donations--\$506 at the December Holiday Open House and \$38 left over from last summer's Picnic on the Prairie. Those funds were used to purchase more cotton yarns the weavers use so creatively, as well as looms and other supplies.
- At the open house, members also purchased items hand woven by the refugee weavers; money from those sales was shared by the weavers who made the products and the knitters of EMBARC's Community Fabric Project.
- To promote the work of the Artisans From Burma project in Iowa, the co-chairs purchased a scarf woven by Kyawt Mu to donate to the AAUW state conference auction.
- The weavers hope to sell their creations at the Waterloo farmers' markets in summer 2016.

If the weavers develop local and statewide markets and approach financial independence, then this community action project will have accomplished its goals.

Reaching Out with Books - Co-chairs Anne Cook and Kathy Krieg

Gently used and new books are donated to the women's unit of the Black Hawk County Jail, Women's Center for Change, and House of Hope as part of AAUW's mission to advance education of women. The latter two facilities help women as they transition from difficult situations (abusive domestic life or jail) to a more stable living arrangement, often while caring for children.

Guidelines for the types of books that can be accepted are: no pornography, no strong violence. Fiction, nonfiction and poetry are fine. Audio books on tape or CD are not allowed. Magazine mailing labels with personal information need to be removed. Each book is stamped with the message: Donated by Cedar Falls AAUW Advocating for Women and Girls.

Books were collected in September, November, February and April, although members often brought

donations to other meetings and these were also collected. Numbers remained similar to last year. A total of 696 books and magazines were collected and delivered in 2015-2016: 175 magazines and 35 books to the women's unit of the Black Hawk County Jail, 40 books to the House of Hope, 214 magazines and 132 books to the Women's Center for Change.

In April, the women's unit of the Black Hawk County Jail didn't need donations because they had so many from other organizations. We will check with them before donating next year.

Promoting Global Awareness - Chair Gloria Tollefson

This community action project is a discussion group that meets to discuss problems faced around the world. The group met on the third Tues, Sep-Nov and Jan-May, at the Cedar Falls Library conference room from 7-8:30pm. The library allowed room reservations for the 2015-16 year as well as for 2016-17.

The Great Decisions Program, published by the Foreign Policy Ass'n since 1918, has been used since this project began in 2008. The classroom package which includes 31 briefing books and a DVD is ordered before Christmas and arrives at the start of the new year. All the briefing books (\$22) were then purchased by members of the afternoon and evening groups. The Foreign Policy Ass'n has a great website with updated information, additional articles and speakers on the topic and an opinion poll also. The goal of the project is for each person who attends to leave with a better understanding of critical issues facing America today. Discussion topics were:

- Syria's Refugee Crisis
- Human Trafficking
- Brazil in Metamorphosis
- Middle East Alliances
- Islamic State
- The Kurds
- International Migration
- The Koreas

Attendance ranged from 13-21 with 15 being the usual. New people who are interested in a specific month's topic came with information that added a lot to the discussion. They usually came after reading the article printed in the Courier several days preceding the discussion. Regular attendees were reminded with an email. About five are AAUW members and the rest are interested people from the community-- about half men and half women. Marcia Street continued to assist with the programs. I do hope to get more of the members to lead the discussions.

International Friendship Program - Co-Chairs Bonnie Smith and Pramod Sarin

2015-16 was a very successful year for the International Friendship Program (IFP). The committee met several times and worked diligently throughout the year to recruit new families and match students with new and existing families. The committee conducted orientation sessions in the fall and spring semesters for the families and students. The sessions familiarized both students and families with what to expect from the program and each other, as well as provided some do's and don'ts for the program. Some families took more than one student as there were more student participants than families. There were 58 host families, eight were AAUW members. In addition to the new families, many local families have been participating for five to ten years, some for more than ten years, and a few for more than twenty years. Some families have continued relationships with students for several years after they leave Cedar Falls. Students were a mix of semester and full time undergraduate and graduate students. There were 98 students. Students in the program were from Malaysia, Bangladesh, Kenya, India, South Korea, Spain, China, Nepal, Brazil, Ethiopia, Zambia, Cameroon, Pakistan, Ghana, Congo, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Malawi, France, Myanmar, Oman, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Denmark, Thailand, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Ecuador.

The annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner was a success with over 200 people attending.

The Waterloo Courier featured the IFP in a front page article titled "UNI a World of Friendship" on 4/1/2016. The article was published in the Inclusion magazine as well.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of IFP. AAUW will be celebrating the anniversary with a program at the September 26, 2016 dinner meeting.

Gender Equity in Government - Co-Chairs Maureen White (Black Hawk Co) and Jane Close (Butler Co)

This project works with elected officials to attain gender balance on appointed city and county boards and commissions and encourages individuals to serve (based on Code of Iowa, Chapter 162, 69,16A).

Black Hawk County

The Blackhawk County Gender Balance Coalition continued to make monthly contact with participating cities in Black Hawk County and the BHC Board of Supervisors to solicit the names of boards and commissions with vacancies in the up-coming three months as well as the number of men and/or women needed in order to achieve gender balance. The information is then sent to the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier for publication on the last Sunday of the month.

Butler County

Butler County is a rural county with ten towns and no major metropolitan cities. Some progress was made toward gender balance in county government in 2015-16. Total female appointments increased to 28% women, up from 18% the previous year. Sixty-four percent of county boards/commissions were still not gender balanced, but that percentage was down from the previous 70%. All boards and commissions included women; previously 40% had NO women. More progress needs to be made, especially on the Compensation Commission in Eminent Domain where there are no women in the categories of farmers or owners of city and town property. Eminent domain is a current "hot button" issue, particularly in rural areas.

In city governments--Allison, Aplington, Aredale, Bristow, Clarksville, Dumont, Greene, New Hartford, Parkersburg and Shell Rock--improvements in appointments have been barely negligible.

Another round of contact with the Board of Supervisors and City Council members is being planned, in addition to letters to the editor. Rural women need to understand why women should be active participants in government and need to be convinced that they are qualified to serve and have insight and experience to contribute. Then they need to be encouraged to step forward and serve. Progress will continue.

Cedar Valley Discover and Discuss Diversity (CV3D) - Co-Chairs Judy Beckman and Mary Dove

Ten books were selected for discussions from September 2015 through June 2016.

- *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor
- *Battle for Justice in Palestine* by Ali Abunimah
- *Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power* by Jimmy Carter
- *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* by Heide W Durrow
- *Bend, Not Break: A life in Two Worlds* by Ping Fu and Mei Mei Fox
- *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, an Elder and the Light from an Ancient Sky* by Kent Nerburn
- *Hand to Mouth: Living in a Book Strap America* by Linda Tirado
- *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man who Left Newark for the Ivy League* by Jeff Hobbs

- *Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution* by Johnathan Eig
- *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan

Books were selected by members who volunteered to participate in the process. Members were welcome to join the book selection group and if possible "sell" their titles. All contributions were appreciated from these very active readers. Titles were chosen in June in order to be ready to host the Sneak Peek event in July. Held on the last Monday evening in July at the Cedar Falls library, members presented three minute introductions of each of book. The meeting drew AAUW members and other Cedar Valley residents; there were 39 people in attendance. Brochures and wallet cards listing book titles and discussion dates were available at the Sneak Peek, as well as at the August Kickoff.

Discussions were on third Tuesdays at the Cedar Falls library from 4:30 to 6:00. The ending time was flexible in order to accommodate members with other commitments. CV3D worked to find a diverse membership by publicizing monthly meetings in The Courier, Waverly Democrat and AAUW newsletter. People who may not have read the book were also welcome. In order to secure the room (dates and times) and support from the Cedar Falls Public Library, we met with Library Director Sheryl McGovern . This has already been done for the 2016-2017 year.

Monthly discussions brought in from seven to twenty-five discussants. Small attendance usually occurred when regular attendees were snowbirds wintering out of state, members traveling for family visits or when nights occur much earlier and some members were unable to drive at night. The meeting during which there were seven participants produced a lively and interesting discussion that included the ties between the two titles--*Hand to Mouth: Living in a Book Strap America* and *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man who Left Newark for the Ivy League*. There were a few participants who attended three or four times specifically to participate in titles that peaked their interests. We were lucky enough to have two new members join AAUW after attending CV3D.

Another special feature of CV3D was the yearly author visit. In March it was Kent Nerburn, author of the latest in a three part series *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, an Elder and the Light From an Ancient Sky*. There were 55 in attendance, both AAUW members and a rich drawing of Cedar Valley residents.

Used books were sold at AAUW monthly dinner meetings, 50 cents for paperbacks and \$1 for hardbacks totaling \$44. Unsold books were recycled to the AAUW Reaching Out with Books Community Action Project and to the spring garage sale.

CV3D has been, once again, an active group that speaks to the Mission, Vision, and Diversity Statement of AAUW. We seek to reach out effectively to University faculty, staff and students by inviting members of both groups to lead and/or participate in CV3D discussions. We are also planning as a pilot project a discussion group at the Waterloo Women's Center for Change in 2016-17.

Bundles of Joy - Co-Chairs Jane Close and Diane Davison

Twenty newborn babies were provided with infant supplies in 2015-16, 12 girls and 8 boys, bringing to 42 the total number served to date. In addition to the Allen Birthing Center, distribution was made through Operation Threshold's Nest Program with Burmese which allowed us to have direct contact with expectant mothers. Although this project continued to focus on immigrants from Burma, two facilities were added for distribution, the Waterloo Women's Center for Change and House of Hope.

Fifteen members contributed to the project-- sleepers, onesies, socks, hats, bibs, blankets, disposable diapers, baby wipes, nail clippers, spoons, tactile toys, thick-page books and materials for the items we made. Donations included \$15 in cash which was used to purchase fleece fabric; added to \$39 from the treasury, cash purchases totaled \$54. Two work sessions and some take-home sewers provided the

items we made--sleep sacks, changing pads, burp cloths and washcloths. There remains a good supply of most baby items for 2016-17.

We have co-chaired this project for two years and are looking to be replaced by interested members in 2016-17.

CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Cedar Valley United Nations Association - Maureen White

The AAUW Public Policy Program contains the statement "We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies". AAUW holds special consultative status with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations, which means it has influential privileges at the U. N. that other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) do not have. AAUW's representatives attend briefings, organize events, and form coalitions to take action on women's issues such as girls' empowerment, human trafficking, and STEM. AAUW has a U.N. representative, two youth representatives, a former youth ambassador serving in an advisory capacity, and a girl advocate from the Working Group on Girls.

The UNA-USA is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to building understanding of and support for the ideals and work of the United Nations among the American people; its members think globally and act locally.

AAUW encourages us to work with local chapters of the UNA-USA toward common goals. AAUW Cedar Falls cosponsored these programs with the Cedar Valley United Nations Association in 2015-16:

1. Women's Rights: A Global Issue--September 21, 2015, about 20 attendees
2. Human Rights Day--December 10, 2015, 36 attendees
3. The Paris Climate Summit: What Happened and What it Means for Iowa--February 15, 2016, 37 attendees

Expanding Your Horizons - Pat Higby and Ginger L'Heureux

One hundred fifty (150) girls gathered on the University Northern Iowa campus in October 2015 for a one day Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference. EYH is an AAUW program aimed to inspire girls to recognize their potential and pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The day included hands-on STEM activities and interaction with female STEM role models.

Planning for the event was a collaboration between the local Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and AAUW Cedar Falls. SWE led the event, with AAUW members in a supporting role. We contributed \$100 for student scholarships.

Elect Her-Campus Women Win - Rachel Gregory and Kerri Robinson

Thirty-five University of Northern Iowa students gathered on campus in January 2016 for a one-day Elect Her-Campus Women Win workshop. Elect Her is a collaboration between AAUW and Running Start; the only program in the country that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and future political office. Engaging women in politics and electing them to office earlier in life are key to strengthening and increasing women's representation in government. Fifty-six percent of women in the current U.S. Congress started their leadership careers in student government.

Campus administrators, students, and AAUW members collaborated to plan the event. Attendees were addressed by inspiring speakers--US Senator Joni Ernst and State representatives Timi-Brown Powers and Abby Finkenauer. Research on women in government was discussed and participants practiced

hands-on campaign skills. The workshop was funded by UNI's Political Science Department, Northern Iowa Student Government/Diversity Matters Fund and the AAUW Cedar Falls (\$250).

STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS

Bridge for Education - Facilitator Dargy Baxter

Nineteen members continued their support for education by playing bridge and contributing a total of \$379 to the AAUW Cedar Falls Transition Scholarship. At each meeting members contributed two dollars. Bridge groups met year 'round on fourth Tuesdays and third Wednesdays at Willowood.

International Studies - Facilitator Kay Thrall

The International Studies Group met eight months of the year (Sept.-Nov. & Jan. – May) on the third Mondays of the month at 1:15 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, 9th and Main, Cedar Falls. Twelve members participated with approximately ten members each time. The Great Decisions program briefing book and DVD segments, along with information on a great supporting website by the Foreign Policy Association, were used for discussions. Various topics related to American foreign policies, the same as those noted in the Promoting Global Awareness project report. There were eight chapters in each book and members of the group took turns leading the discussions. All AAUW members were invited to join the group.

Literature - Facilitator Melba Widmer

The Literature Group met in the summer of 2015 for lunch and book discussions. In June we met at Ferrari's Restorante and in July at Cafe Due' with each member sharing a good "summer read." By the positive response of the members that attended, it was decided to do it again in the summer of 2016.

The Literature group set up one of the many displays at the August 24, 2015 Kick-Off. There were five members who signed-up to join the group of twelve already participating and two of them continued to come on a regular basis.

The 14 members of the Literature Group met on the second Monday of the month, September through May, at 1:15 in the homes of members. Hosting was voluntary and not part of the criteria for belonging. Light refreshments and friendly conversation preceded a member's choice of book to share. Each month a member reviewed a book she thought the others would be interested in reading. Even though the others may or may not have read the book, it never seemed to deter a spirited discussion. The books presented were:

- "God Help the Child" by Toni Morrison
- "Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah
- "Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee
- "My Name is Mary Sutter" by Robin Oliveire
- "The Life We Bury" by Allen Eskens
- "The Aviator's Wife" by Melanie Benjamin
- "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson
- "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford

The average attendance of the nine meetings from September through May was 11 with 13 being the highest in attendance and eight being the least.

The group met for lunch in June at Cafe Due' for sharing of good "summer reads" by all members. A July lunch is planned, also at Cafe Due's, for discussion of "fun mysteries."

We will again be participating in the Fall Kick-Off for 2016-17 and be inviting all members to join us in this group.

Women in Motion (WIM) - Co-Facilitators Jane Close and Linda Morgan

Women in Motion (WIM) provided opportunities for social interaction among members through service projects, activities and events related to the AAUW mission, vision, and/or values. Some degree of physical activity was usually included in each event, hence "in Motion" in the name of the group. Twenty-four one-time events were planned with varied dates, times and locations. All members were encouraged to participate in whichever activities fit their time, talents and interests, with from four to ten people at each event. All activities were either free or of minimal cost. A total of twenty-nine members and several guests attended anywhere from one to several events throughout the year.

There were two service projects chaired by WIM--the Women's Center for Change clothing drive and the Riverview Center sexual assault kits. These projects required more ongoing planning than our usual one-time events. Thirty members donated items for the clothing drive and seventeen donated to the sexual assault kits, including \$25 in cash which was used to purchase toiletries for the kits. Nine complete sexual assault kits were delivered to the Riverview Center.

Activities were planned by whoever showed up at four Happy Hour meetings at Old Chicago. Members either brought ideas or provided input in discussion and planning. Twenty-four events were held in 2015-16:

- Aug 4 Walk, Run or Bike at Prairie Lakes
- Sep 11 Walk, Run or Bike at Big Woods Lake
- Oct 1 Iowa Criminal Justice Summit 2015
- Oct 15 Happy Hour at Old Chicago
- Oct 21 Civility: A Barrier to Race Discussions? Presentation
- Nov 16 Hawkeye Community College Tour
- Dec 21 Home visits to AAUW members
- Dec 19 World's Window Gift Wrapping
- Jan 14 Happy Hour at Old Chicago
- Jan 17 Game Time Just for Fun!
- Jan 18 Waterloo Women's Center for Change Tour
- Feb 11 *Red Tails* Movie at the Hearst Center during Black History Month
- Feb 22-28 Clothing Drive for Waterloo Women's Center for Change
- Feb 26 Fourth Fridays with Friends
- Mar 3 Happy Hour at Old Chicago
- Mar 22 Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication for Phe Tu Lun, Mayry Shay and family
- Mar 28 Riverview Center sexual assault victim kit items collected for 8 kits
- Apr 1 Solar car and wind turbine kits assembled for elementary school STEM projects
- Apr 22 Fourth Fridays with Friends
- Apr 25 Riverview Center sexual assault victim kit items collected and nine kits assembled
- May 24 Happy Hour at Old Chicago
- May 27 Fourth Fridays with Friends
- Jun 20 Historical Walking Tour of Cedar Falls

- Jun 24 Fourth Fridays with Friends

The following six events were scheduled at the May 24 Happy Hour for next year (2016-17):

- Jul 22 RiverLoop Rhythms Brazilian 2wins at the RiverLoop Amphitheatre
- Jul 22 Fourth Fridays with Friends
- Aug 16 Walk, Run or Bike at Big Woods Lake Nature Trail
- Aug 26 Fourth Fridays with Friends
- Sep 1 Happy Hour at Old Chicago
- Sep tba Waterloo Women's Center for Change clothing drive

Women in Motion is a good testing ground for establishing future community action projects or study/interest groups with a one-time event. In addition to the clothing drive, the Women's Center for Change (WCC) tour resulted in expanding our Reaching Out with Books and Bundles of Joy community action projects to facility residents. The Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D) Community Action Project will also soon hold its first book discussion with them. Fourth Fridays with Friends was planned at the request of some of our members. It was a casual mid-morning social meeting of members who discussed anything of interest to them. Five meetings were scheduled by WIM. First Fridays will consider form a separate study/interest group for 2016-17, as WIM focuses only on one-time events.

This has been a great year for Women in Motion, providing ways for members to become better acquainted each other through service to the community, as well as through fun and stimulating activities and events.