**2017-18 Annual Report AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**–Maureen White

I was elected president at the April 24, 2017 annual member meeting, filling the vacancy created due to resignations of the president-elect and president for 2017-18.

See monthly reports and minutes for complete information for 2017-18; highlights from the year follow.

**June**

* board discussed goal setting for 2017-18, revising the Transition Scholarship Guidelines, development of guidelines for free AAUW memberships, guidelines for our Textbooks for Refugees, and the disbandment of the Waterloo branch and possible implications for the Cedar Falls branch.

**July**

* shared information with the board about the AAUW Membership Payment Program (MPP) option for dues payment.
* board approved new Free Membership Guidelines and new Textbooks for Refugee Women Guidelines.

**August**

* revised Transition Scholarship Guidelines approved by board.
* board voted to use $477.50 given in memory of member Marlys McAnich for our Textbooks for Refugees.
* board approved the appointment of a committee (treasurer and membership co-vice presidents and others) to explore the feasibility of MPP.
* board voted to recommend to the membership that our branch name be changed to AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo.
* 2017-18 menu for seven dinners/brunches was selected and the contract with the Woman’s Club signed on August 8, 2017. The cost per meal was $13 per person, which included rental and staff costs.
* Board adopted a voucher form for branch expense reimbursement

**September**

* board voted to present the recommendation to change the branch name to AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo at the September 25th member meeting, along with an amendment to our Bylaws “AAUW Cedar Falls shall amend the Bylaws to change the name of the affiliate to AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo.” This bylaws change was discussed with the AAUW Iowa Bylaws Director and approved, as required by AAUW Iowa.
* board voted to cosponsor a Vote Smart presentation with the Black Hawk-Bremer League of Women Voters in November (later cancelled to due scheduling conflicts).
* approved Say Mue as a Textbook for Refugees scholarship recipient.
* Bylaws amendment to change the name of the branch to AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo was approved at the September 25 meeting. Of the 36 members present and voting, 34 voted yes and 2 voted no; a 94% affirmative vote.
* at the September 25 meeting, members were presented with the 2017-18 budget for their information.
* new name badges were made by Gayle Wood.

**October**

* revised Bylaws and the branch name change form were mailed to AAUW for approval by the Board of Directors. The branch name will not change until approved by AAUW.
* an email account was set up for branch dinner/brunch reservations [aauw.cfw.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.cfw.rsvp@gmail.com)
* board voted to allocate up to $300 for $10/student scholarships for students attending Expanding Your Horizons, a November 13, 2017 cosponsored program at UNI–branch members assisted at the event.

**November**

* board approved Christina Maree Yar for a $500 Textbooks for Refugees scholarship.
* board discussed ideas for revisions in the AAUW Iowa Public Policy program.
* assisted with the November 14 Start Smart salary negotiation workshop at UNI.

**December**

* received notification from AAUW that the branch name change was approved by the Board of Directors.

**January**

* board approved $500 to AAUW (in honor of our 2017 Named Grant recipient).
* board voted to participate in the Membership Payment Program (MPP).
* board voted to reimburse drivers that carpool to Des Moines for the AAUW Iowa Lobby Day in February. (AAUW Iowa rate of $ .30/mile)
* board approved participation in the Fifty Years After King: Community or Chaos coalition.
* cosponsored the Legislative Public Forum (January through April)

**February**

* AAUW activated Membership Payment Program (MPP) for our branch.
* board voted to participate in the Empower Her project started by the Iowa UNA
* board voted to offer Work Smart salary negotiation workshops
* five members participated in the AAUW Iowa Lobby Day

**March**

* display featuring women in the civil rights movement at the Cedar Falls Public Library for Women’s History Month and Fifty Years After King.
* contract with Funds2Orgs was signed and the shoes for scholarships project began receiving shoes at the March dinner meeting.

**April**

* shoes for scholarships project began on April 1 (to run through the end of May)
* board voted to increase the fundraising projected receipts from $500 to $1500 and the fundraising expenditures for scholarships to $2000 for the 2018-19 budget to be provided to members at the April 23 annual meeting.
* board approved the recommendation that Bonnie Smith receive the 2018 Named Grant recognition.
* board approved the recommendation of the scholarship committee to award a Transition Scholarship to Nouran Othman for 2018-19 at UNI.
* following slate of candidates was approved. All were elected by unanimous consent at the April 23 annual meeting.
  + President - Pat Higby (2018-19)
  + President-Elect - Kay Thrall and Arlene Prather-O-Kane (2018-19)
  + VP for Program - Jo Ann DeVries and Sandy Lawry (2018-20)
  + Secretary - Nancy Hasenwinkel (2018-20)
* nine members attended the 2018 AAUW Iowa State Conference
* Equal Pay Day display installed at the Cedar Falls Public Library.

**May**

* Pramod Sarin, Bonnie Smith, Amy Hoyer and I met on May 7 with Isabela Varela, UNI Director of International Students and Scholars Office and Phil Plourde, UNI Executive Director of the Office of International Programs to discuss the future of the International Friendship Program community action project. I reported on the discussion and related issues at the May 7 board meeting. The board voted to terminate involvement with the project. An email was sent to all members on May 12 to explain the situation and to inform them of the board’s decision.
* board voted to cosponsor a program featuring Kirsten Anderson to highlight women’s rights and sexual harassment. It will likely be scheduled for the fall of 2018.
* May 23 met with president-elect Pat Higby to review the updated President’s Monthly Planner and other transition discussion.

**June**

* distributed to the board a packet of resources including the following:
* Responsibilities of Board Members 101
* Duties & Responsibilities of Elected Officers, Directors, Standing Comm. Chairs & Appointees
* Strategic Plan for 2014-19
* Policies of the AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch
* AAUW Policies on Collaborations with other Organizations
* Email Guidelines
* Newsletter Guidelines
* Free AAUW Membership Guidelines
* Named Gift Honoree Guidelines
* Textbooks for Refugee Women Guidelines
* Transition Scholarship Guidelines
* Explanation of Treasurer’s Report
* Budget for the 2018-19 Year
* National Organizational Chart
* AAUW National Dues, Fees, and Tax Deductibility
* One AAUW. One Mission. One Fund.
* The AAUW Fund: Frequently Asked Questions
* Expense Reimbursement Form
* board approved revised Named Gift Honoree Guidelines.

**RECOMMENDATIONS for 2018-19**

**Community Action Projects**

The board approved Empower Her and Work Smart. No action yet on Riverview Center.

1. The Riverview Center could use $10 gas cards, non perishable food items for clients to eat during visits or at support groups. They also collect sweat pants, shirts, underwear and sports bras, socks and men’s underwear for kits. Riverview Center is a non-profit organization that provides care for individuals affected by sexual assault. Services are confidential and free of charge.

**Programming**

1. Schedule some programs or dinner/brunch meetings in Waterloo–downtown Hawkeye campus? (probably not open until spring semester 2019), Allen College, Community Foundation of NE Iowa (3117 Greenhill Circle, CF, not far from Waterloo) requires liability insurance. Others?
2. Continue “greeters and seaters” for dinner/brunch programs to facilitate members getting to know each other.
3. Set up ride sharing, especially for members who no longer drive at night or those who live in Waterloo.
4. Schedule three brunches per year rather than two–January, February, March–Board consensus in June.
5. Schedule "Promoting Your Branch to Be Inviting to Diverse Groups in Your Community" with Carletta Knox-Seymour and Dev Kiedaisch–How we perceive and receive one another as black and white women. Plans need to be discussed and finalized. This could perhaps become a series of discussions, focused around a book or other readings. (see February 2018 minutes)

**Scholarship**

1. Continue discussion of options for the Transition Scholarships–increase the per person scholarship amount for a one-time scholarship award, extend the scholarship to two or three years, or no change.

**Other**

1. Continue to search for someone to manage our branch Facebook account.
2. Continue to request that AAUW update our branch logo to reflect the new name.

**President-elect**–no report

**Co-Vice Presidents for Program**–Judy Beckman and Ardelle Brown.

The theme for the year was Diversity and Advocacy. 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. January & February meetings were a Saturday brunch with Waverly members invited–gather 10:00, brunch at 10:15 with the program at about 10:40. This appears to be a viable option for cold winter months and possible weather-related cancellations.

Planned with Membership Vice-Presidents how we would set up the Community Center for the Kick-Off on the last Tuesday of August with displays and food from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

September 25, 2017 (31 dinners and 4 others) Supporting Refugees form Burma: Members Karen Agee, Jane Close and Alicia Soppe

October 23, 2017 (25 dinners 11 others) Expanding Inclusion on Campus: Rhonda McRina, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Hawkeye Community College

November 27, 2017 (23 dinners 6 others) Pay Equity and Start Smart: Dr. Brenda Busynski, Enrollment Management and Marcy Seavey, STEM coordinator both at UNI

January 27, 2018 Brunch at 10:00 (43 brunch 1 other) Dealing with Racist and other Unwanted Comments: Dr. Victoria Defancisco

February 24, 2018 (32 brunch) Human Rights: Lisa Speicher Muoz, Associate Professor of Sociology at Hawkeye Community College

March 26, 2018 (21 dinner and 6 others) Mental Health and Mental Illness: Leslie Cohn

April 23, 2018 (31 dinner 6 others) Annual Meeting–Recognitions-Election of Officers, Awards

April 30, 2018 (14 lunch) Lunch with UNI faculty/staff and AAUW Cedar Falls members: Dr. Gretta Berghammer speaking about “To Touch the Moon,” experimental theatre happening this summer.

May is garage and plant sale

June and July At least two summer activities not planned as yet.

**Co-Vice Presidents for Membership**–Linda Morgan and Gayle Wood

Our Branch received 17 new members this year – 6 of them from Waterloo branch – for a total of 107 members. That is one less than last year but our Branch is still by far the largest AAUW branch in the state. We welcomed a 50 year member from Parkersburg into our Branch, Anna Mae Schnucker.

Two major decisions will effect membership this year and into the future: 1) incorporating Waterloo into our geographic area with the name change indicating that action and 2) instituting MPP (membership payment program) for credit card-online membership payments. Members can still pay by check to our treasurer if they choose but it has been a year of change.

Letters and emails were sent to prospective members in July and August, a new brochure about 2017-18 prepared and we worked with other members to prepare and present the August Kick-off event held at the CF Community Center. Gayle and/or Linda attended Board meetings, monthly meetings of our Branch, stayed in contact with treasurer Jodi Bergman about membership activity and prepared reports as needed. A well- attended orientation for new members was held at the January 27 Saturday brunch meeting held at the Woman’s Club.

**Vice President for Fundraising**–Myrna Sandvik

The first goal was to set up a committee to help with planning and to help with the actual work involved in multiple fundraising projects. We developed a fundraising plan, which was presented to the board. The committee suggested four major fundraising projects, and Maureen assigned months to us to help us co-ordinate with community action groups who also raise money for their projects. Because the shoe drive was a project that had not been done before, it was discussed at more than one board meeting. The Fundraising Committee consisted of five members: Pauline Harding, Patricia Higby, Amy Hoyer, Sandy Lawry, and Chair, Myrna Sandvik. It was very convenient to have a committee, because there was enough work involved in the projects we did this year that it was very helpful to have a designated group who were willing to help when they could. Every committee member took an active part in at least one project and some members were involved with all the projects. It worked out very well. No one was over-burdened.

We planned and carried out four specific fundraisers this year. All were successful and brought in about the expected amount of money to fund the scholarships we give out each year.

Our first fundraiser was our “Be An Angel” request for donations. We offered a choice of an angel pin, pendant, or earrings in return for a donation of any amount to the Scholarships funds. It could be given to local funds or the national AAUW organization. The main purpose of this project was to remind people to donate to AAUW Scholarships during December and January. This timing allowed members to consider which year they wanted to make the donation, and whether it was important to them for it to be deductible. We do have the Foundation set up as a way to make local donations tax-deductible, and donations to the national association are also deductible. Some people enjoyed choosing their angel jewelry, and others did not want anything for their donation. At the meetings we collected $505.00, and $265.00 was reported after the meetings by members for a total of $760.00 toward our local scholarships. No one reported any contributions to the National Funds.

Our second fundraising project was our traditional White Elephant Sale in January. This project was designed to be a “fun” activity. It provided some nice items to bid on and enjoyable bidding competition. An interesting aspect of this silent auction was that no one knew for sure what they were bidding on, because the items were wrapped or bagged, and there was only a hint written on the item of what was inside. There were some clever guesses and some surprises. We were happy with the money we earned as well. We auctioned donated items to earn $200.00 that was designated for Textbook Scholarships.

Our third fundraising project was The Annual Spring Garage and Plant Sale. We held it at Sandy Lawry’s garage from Noon to 6:00 P. M. on Friday May 4, and from 8:00 A. M. to Noon on Saturday, May 5. We advertised in the Courier at a cost of $39.99. Many members donated salable items and several volunteers spent much time the week before the sale sorting, pricing, and displaying the items attractively for sale. There were many volunteers on hand the days of the sale to help customers, take money, park cars, and generally help maximize the profit by keeping the sale running smoothly. When the sale was over, we boxed some things to see if Stuff, etc. would consider selling them on commission for us. After they chose the items they could use, Sandy worked with the ReStore, and Goodwill to dispose of the rest of the leftover items.

This year the weather posed a particular difficulty for the garage sale. The spring was so cold and late arriving, that we could not dig our usual plants which make up a large part of our sale. We decided to make up for this deficiency by offering some of the shoes from our shoe drive for sale. We sorted them into sizes, and piled them on tables according to the size labels. We sold enough shoes to nearly make up for the lack of plants. Next year, we will set the date a little later to be sure plants are available for digging. The garage sale brought in a total of $1,634.95 on the sale and $35.53 in donations for a total of $1,670.50 on the day of the sale.

We also tried a new fundraiser this year. We did a shoe drive with Funds 2 Orgs, which is an organization that pays groups $.40 per pound for shoes the group collects for them. They send the shoes to impoverished countries to support small business owners, many of whom are women. This, in turn helps families in these countries to get the items they need. We give the money we earn in this way to support our scholarships. We also get rid of shoes we no longer want to wear, and keep the shoes out of our landfill, while using them to help someone else. Pat Higby agreed to provide her garage to gather and bag the shoes. We collected 86 bags, each containing 25 pairs of new or lightly used shoes. Our goal was 100 bags, which we did not quite make, but 86 bags will be enough to cover the transportation costs of $225.00 and still make about $600.00 for our scholarships. (Net proceeds were $552.40.)

When we made the decision to sell part of our shoes at the garage sale, we knew it might cut into our ability to reach our goal with bags of shoes, but it was still a financially good decision, because we got far more than $.40 per pound for the shoes we sold individually at the garage sale. We sold sandals for $2.00 per pair, regular shoes for $3.00 per pair, and boots for $4.00 per pair.

The framed certificate was presented at the Annual Meeting by Myrna Sandvik to Bonnie Smith, who was the Named Gift Honoree chosen by the selection committee. AAUW Cedar Falls—Waterloo donated $500.00 to the AAUW Fund in Bonnie’s name this year.

There were other amounts of money that came in during the year. Some were late donations or purchases from our projects, and some were donations that had nothing to do with our projects. I will list the ones it is possible for me to identify separately.

* UNI/AAUW Luncheon–$101.67
* Bridge Group Contributions to Textbook Scholarship–$226.00
* Allocation from Dues—MOB & Student (99x$5.00 & 9x$2.00)– $513.00

The above-mentioned income sources total $3,471.17. This total includes money raised from the Be An Angel Contribution Campaign, the White Elephant Silent Auction, the Garage Sale, the leftover money from the UNI/AAUW Luncheon, the Bridge group Contributions, and Amounts allocated from dues. The General Fundraising amount from the April Treasurer’s Report is $4,189.14. So, the proceeds that came in late, or were just additional donations, total $717.97.

We anticipate an estimated $600.00 from the sale of shoes from Funds 2 Orgs, for an estimated fundraising total for this year of $4,789.14.

Added note: The actual received from the shoe drive was $552.40, and the final figures should be adjusted accordingly. The next treasurer’s report will clarify this; will likely show $4741.54 total.

**Communications**–Arleen Cook

**Yearbook Editor**–Phyllis Steele

As Yearbook Editor I gathered the new info for the yearbook from program committee, membership changes from the treasurer, and President requests.  I found it good to attend summer Board meetings to catch any misc. things. I print the pages on my copier. The cover I have printed at Copyworks. I print on 8 1/2" by 14" paper. Cut in half for 7" pages. I also make address labels with name and address to make easy to deliver.  I ask that info gets to me at Sept. Board Meeting and distribute book at Sept Gen. Meeting.

Public Policy–no report

Leadership Development–see president’s report (June)

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

International Affairs–no report

College/University Relations–no report

**Historian**–Ardelle Brown

Archive:

\*each month’s minutes of the board meeting

\*each Newsletter

\*Copy of newspaper articles

\*Take pictures at meetings and special events

\*copies of important e-mail messages sent to members

Add to the files -- Picture of scholarship winners and Name gift honoree and special events.

CF Historical Center has all our History from 1925-2011. The information and materials become the Historical Center’s property when it is stored in the building. Materials may be seen there and copies may be made. History materials from 2011-2012 until now are at Ardelle Brown’s home at 2117 Rownd St., CF.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Scholarship**–Karen Agee and Gloria Tollefson

The Transition Scholarship Committee for 2017-2018 included Gloria Tollefson, Mary Fogarty, JoAnn DeVries, and Karen Agee.

The scholarship committee had the pleasure of awarding one $1,000 scholarship during the program year. Nouran Othman was selected to receive the transition scholarship in April 2018; she will attend UNI in fall 2018. Continuing their studies at UNI are the 2016-2017 recipients, Crystal Sun Mee Spencer and Isabel Villa, and three of the four 2015-2016 scholarship recipients (the fourth having graduated).

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 each semester at UNI. 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. Applicants must support their scholarship application with a personal essay, official HCC transcript, letter of reference from a community member, and letter of reference from HCC faculty member.

**Named Gift**–Phyllis Steele

Bonnie Smith was the recipient of the 2018 Named Gift recognition. $500 will be donated to AAUW in her name.

The Named Gift Guidelines were reviewed and revisions approved by the Board of Directors at the June 4 meeting.

**Nominations**–Bonnie Smith

The nominations committee included chair Bonnie Smith, Arlene Cook, and Nancy Hasenwinkel. The slate of officers for 2018 included:

* + President - Pat Higby (2018-19)
  + President-Elect - Kay Thrall and Arlene Prather-O-Kane (2018-19)
  + VP for Program - Jo Ann DeVries and Sandy Lawry (2018-20)
  + Secretary - Nancy Hasenwinkel (2018-20)

Bylaws and Policies–no report

**COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS**

**Bundles of Joy**–Jane Close and Diane Davison

he history of Bundles of Joy was included in the September program, *Supporting Refugees from Burma: 2012-2018*. Bundles of Joy has been a community action project for six years. In 2017-18, thirty (30) newborn babies were provided with infant layettes/supplies, bringing to 89 the total number served to date. Distributions were made through Operation Threshold's Nest Program for refugees from Burma and immigrants from the Democratic Republic of Congo and through the Women's Center for Change for both residents and parolees.

There remains a good supply of most baby items. All items were donated--sleepers, onesies, socks, hats, bibs, blankets, disposable diapers, baby wipes, stuffed toys, tactile toys, thick-page books and materials for the items we made. Several members made sleep sacks, changing pads and burp cloths.

We received a very generous donation of books for children of all ages. In 2018-19 we expect to focus the project on the importance of reading to infants and children, while continuing to provide newborn layettes/supplies.

**Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D**)–Dr. Judy Beckman and Mary Dove

September 11, 2017–The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

October 9, 2017–The Scalpel and the Silver Bear: The First Navajo Woman Surgeon Combines Western Medicine and Traditional Healing by Lori Alvord and Elizabeth Cohen Van Pelt

November 13, 2017– Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women by Susan Burton and Cari Lynn

January 8, 2018–Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance

February 12, 2018– The Spark: A Mother’s Story of Nurturing, Genius, and Autism by Kristine Barnett

March 12, 2018– Lady Cop Makes Trouble (A Kopp Sisters Novel) by Amy Stewart

April 9, 2018–Same Family, Different Colors: Confronting Colorism in American’s Diverse Families by Lori L. Tharps

May 14, 2018– The Orphan Master’s Son by Adam Johnson

June 11, 2018– Gabi, a Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero

**Gender Balance in Government–Jane Close (Butler County) and Maureen White (Black Hawk County)**

Butler County–Progress has been made toward gender balancing appointments to Butler County boards and commissions for 2018. Unlike 2017 when there was no increase in female appointments from the previous year, 2018 has seen an increase of two.

Five of the eight boards and commissions remain gender balanced as in 2017--Planning & Zoning, Health, Conservation and Compensation. In 2017 although there were women on every board and commission, women did not have the majority on even one, but for 2018 the Planning and Zoning Commission has a majority of women (3W/2M). The remaining four boards and commissions are not gender balanced--Adjustment (1W/4M), Civil Service (1W/2M/1V), Compensation in Eminent Domain (4W/22M/2V) and Veterans Affairs (2W/4M).

The Compensation Commission in Eminent Domain (CCED) greatly skews the data for percent of female representation; without it women represent 39% of appointments or an increase of 6% over 2017. The CCED is comprised of seven(7) realtors, five(5) farmers, seven(7) bankers or auctioneers and nine(9) owners of city and town property. There are no expiration dates to these terms, therefore, there is almost no opportunity for new members to be appointed. The current appointments to CCED are holdovers from a previous era in which women were more defined as homemakers or if employed, were more likely to have jobs rather than careers (with the exception of teachers and nurses). Women were seldom active even in city government and that lack of involvement is also reflected in county government. As for the CCED, women and were usually not realtors or bankers and did not define themselves as famers or property owners, although we may find that this perception has changed over time.

Letters to the editor(s) in the fall encouraging women to apply for appointments proved somewhat helpful in recruitment. Members of the Board of Supervisors begin reviewing applications and recommending appointments in November and December, with appointments approved at the first Board meeting in January. Supervisors are committed to gender balance when possible and have added "State law requires political subdivisions to make a good faith effort to balance most appointive boards, commissions, committees and councils according to gender by January 1, 2012.". The solution to gender balance relies mostly on convincing women to apply and directing them to how the appointment process works

Black Hawk County–we continued to publicize up-coming openings on boards and commissions in the Waterloo Courier (last Sunday of the month)

**International Friendship Program**–Pramod Sarin and Bonnie Smith

This has been an important year in the history of the International Friendship Program.  After a mid-year meeting with the directors of International students at UNI, we were informed that AAUW will no longer be involved with the management of the program.  Because of liability issues and new guidelines from the University, there is a need for background checks of all the families involved as well as the private information such as names, addresses, and phone numbers kept only in the ISO office. New families must apply through the International Students Office at UNI.  In the past we have had access to this information when matching students to families.

This is a dramatic change from the last 50 plus years of AAUW’s involvement with the program since 1965.  We were quite shocked that this happened and that we will no longer be in cooperation and management of the program with UNI. The IFP will no longer be one of our Community Action Projects.

This year, 2017-2018, we have had successful experiences with our families and students.  We had 52 different families in the program and 77 students matched with them.  Four of those families were AAUW members.

The majority were undergrad students this year with a few graduate students, also.  The countries they represented were: China, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Malaysia, Kenya, England, France, Nepal, Indonesia, Kosovo, Argentina, Ghana, Vietnam, Myanmar, Spain, Australia, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Ecuador and Bangladesh.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner was again a big success with over 125 people attending.  It was held at Trinity Bible Church in Cedar Falls the first Sunday in November. A potluck dinner was provided to accompany the turkey and basics from Hy-Vee. For entertainment this year we had a scavenger hunt name game.  It was a huge success and got people out of their seats meeting and talking to others.

We have enjoyed many years of involvement with the International Friendship Program and will miss it very much. It has been an excellent way for students to connect with the community and to further the mission of AAUW.  Hopefully, several of our members will continue to be involved through UNI in the future.

**Promoting Global Awareness**–Gloria Tollefson

Twelve to eighteen AAUW members and other interested persons meet Sept-May (except Dec.) in the Cedar Falls Public Library conference room to discuss issues of global interest. The Great Decisions program (briefing books and a DVD with a different topic each month) is purchased from the Foreign Policy Association. Interested members purchase their own briefing book. This program also has a very helpful website which updates each topic throughout the year. Topics range from “Media and Foreign Policy” and “China’s geopolitics.” A 30 minute DVD on the topic is shown with discussion following. Discussion questions are provided but often hardly needed! We all agree that we are more aware and understand what is going on in our world by being involved in this program. We are co-sponsored by the Cedar Valley United Nations Association. Gloria Tollefson, (AAUW) leader with Marcia Street (Community person) assisting.

**Reaching Out With Books**–Amy Hoyer

Books and magazines were collected this year and distributed to the following agencies:

December 2017, Operation Threshold

March 2018, House of Hope

May 2018, Waterloo Women's Center for Change

**Textbooks for Refugees**–Karen Agee and Alicia Soppe

Because textbook costs are a major barrier to successful college degree completion, the Cedar Falls AAUW developed and approved the Textbooks for Refugees book scholarship in July 2016. Up to three outstanding women from “new” refugee communities in the Cedar Valley would receive up to $500 per calendar year for textbook expenses. Students would be chosen from the clients of three local agencies. The first award was given in Fall 2016 to Hsae Meh, now a sophomore Social Work major at UNI.

This year the branch board awarded two $500 textbook scholarships. In 2017-2018, Rosy Say Mue and Christina Maree Yar were full-time, first-year students at Hawkeye Community College. Maree Yar was nominated by Mallory Petsche of EMBARC, and Say Mue was nominated by Sheila Houston, ELL teacher and counselor at Waterloo West High School. Both plan to study nursing.

**Waterloo Women’s Center**–Bonnie Smith

This is the first year that AAUW has had the Waterloo Women’s Center as a Community Action Project.  Before this year it was an activity for Women in Motion.  We are now cooperating with the Center on an ongoing basis, mainly planning clothing drives in the spring and fall seasons but also providing with other needs of the Center.

We had a very successful clothing drive in October 2017. There were 9 AAUW members that helped to set up and take down the clothing that was donated.  We saved the leftover spring type clothing to use at the next clothing drive. Many members as well as a few friends of members donated bags of clothes, shoes, purses and other accessories. The director expressed sincere appreciation to us for doing this.  Also, several of the residents helped us set up and seemed very excited about the event.

Since the Center received a large truck of items from a local consignment center, we did not do an April clothing drive this year as planned.  We have one planned in June 2018 instead.

This has been a successful first year and we hope to continue this Community Action Project for several more years.

**COSPONSORED PROGRAMS AND CONTACTS**

**Cedar Valley United Nations Association (CVUNA)–**Maureen White

**Expanding Your Horizons**–Pat Higby and Ginger L’Heureux

**Legislative Public Forum**–Lauri Young

**Start Smart**–Marcy Seavey

One Start Smart workshop was held at UNI on Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

**STUDY/INTEREST GROUPS**

**Bridge for Education–**Claudia Kaestner and Ardelle Brown

Eighteen members continued their support for education by playing bridge and contributing a total of $398 to the AAUW Cedar Falls Transition Scholarship. At each meeting members contributed two dollars. This Bridge group met year 'round on third Wednesdays and fourth Tuesdays at Willowwood dinning room. We cancelled one time because of snow and only met once in December.

**Fourth Friday With Friends**–Ardelle Brown

**International Studies (Promoting Global Awareness Afternoon Group)**– Facilitator Kay Thrall

The International Studies Group met eight months of the year, (Sept.-Nov. & Jan. – May) on the third Monday of the month at 1:15 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, 9th and Main, Cedar Falls. For our discussions we used the Great Decisions program briefing book and DVD segments, along with information on a great supporting website by the Foreign Policy Association. Discussions covered various topics related to American Foreign policies and relationship. There are eight chapters in each book and the members of the group took turns leading the discussions. All AAUW members were/are invited to join the group, you would enjoy us.

**Literature**–Joan Bunkofske

**Women in Motion**–Jane Close and Linda Morgan

Women in Motion (WIM) provided opportunities for members to participate in one-time service projects, educational events and social activities 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-nine(29) events were held with varied dates, times and locations. Ten(10) events were educational, nine(9) social, seven(7) service and three(3) planning sessions. Six (6) of those events supported activities in which our own branch members participated. All branch members were encouraged to participate in whichever activities fit their time, talent and interest. All activities were either free or of minimal cost.

Activities were planned by members who attended Happy Hour Planning Sessions at Old Chicago. They either brought ideas or provided input in discussion and planning. 2017-18 events were :

* Jul 21 RiverLoop Rhythms Brazilian 2wins at the RiverLoop Amphitheater
* Aug 3 Cedar Valley Arboretum Tour
* Sep 12 Happy Hour Planning Session at Old Chicago
* Sep 29 UNI Women's Volleyball Game
* Oct 21 Cedar Valley Arboretum *Putting the Gardens to Bed*
* Oct 24-30 Women's Center for Change clothing drive
* Oct 25 Trans Parent: The Journey of Our Son Born in a Girl's Body
* Nov 11 Expanding Your Horizons
* Nov 14 Start Smart
* Nov 29 Happy Hour Planning Session at Old Chicago
* Nov 30 School Choice, Privatization and Democracy
* Dec 9 International Human Rights Day Recognition, Pam andAl Hays honored
* Dec Contacts/Home Visits with AAUW members
* Jan 9 Tue $5 Movie *Greatest Showman*
* Jan 23 Tue $5 Movie *The Post* followed by discussion
* Jan 26 Legislative Forum on Mental Health
* Feb 10 Legislative Forum on Education
* Feb 21 AAUW Lobby Day
* Mar 31 200 Years of Fake News in America
* Apr 4 Standing Up for What's Right: How I took on the Iowa Statehouse and Won
* Apr 5 Getting Ahead: Bridges Out of Poverty
* Apr 24 Tue $5 Movie *The Miracle Season*
* Apr 26 Happy Hour Planning Session at Old Chicago
* Apr 30 U.S. Naturalization Ceremony
* May 17 Lunch at Caraway Restaurant
* May 29 Tue $5 Movie *Book Club*
* Jun 10 Four Hands on Piano Recital
* Jun 14 Municipal Band and Metropolitan Chorale
* Jun 25-Jul 2 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. The Women's Center for Change Clothing Drive is now a community action project with WIM in a supporting role and 4th Fridays with Friends is now an interest group.