**AAUW Cedar Falls**

**2018-2919 Annual Reports**

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

**Co-Presidents Reports –Arlene Prather O’Kane & Kay Thrall**

Unbeknownst to both of us, our Co-President Elect office for the year turned into Co-Presidents in October of 2018. We both took up the challenge with many board members and members helping us along the way to have a great experience as your Co-Presidents. Some of our main events that we assisted with are the following:

* Saturday October 20, 2018-We sponsored “We Need to Talk: How Black Women and White Women Receive and Perceive each other”. Presenters were Carletta Knox-Seymour and Dev Kiedaisch addressing perception, bias, relationships, and interactions between white and black women and led a discussion among attendees. This was very well received.
* Both of us are on the 19th Century Centennial Planning Committee for our August 20, 2020 Celebration.
* We were involved with hosting a NUDGE party on Equal Pay Day April 2, 2019.
* Both of us attended with other AAUW members the State AAUW Convention on April 27, 2019 and Cedar Falls/Waterloo Branch had an excellent turnout.
* We supported our Co-Vice Presidents for Program through our dinner and brunch meetings throughout the year.

We look forward to being the Co-Presidents of the Cedar Falls/Waterloo AAUW Branch once again for 2019-2020!

**President Elect –None**

**Co-Vice Presidents for Programs – JoAnn DeVries, Sandy Lawry**

Co-Vice Presidents for Program 2018-2019 were JoAnn DeVries and Sandy Lawry. The theme for the year was Leadership and Education. The September, October, November, January and April meetings were held at the Cedar Falls Woman’s Club, Third and Clay in Cedar Falls. The gathering and social time was 5:00 pm with announcements and the program beginning at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:15. January, February and March meetings were a Saturday brunch with Waverly members invited. The gathering time was at 10:00 with brunch at 10:15 and the program following at 10:40. The February program was cancelled this year due to the weather. The January meeting was at the Woman’s Club and the March meeting was at Allen College in Waterloo with the brunch catered by HyVee of Waterloo. The numbers attending each meeting will be shared in the Membership end of the year report.

The newspaper and Facebook announcements of the meetings were sent to the Courier by this committee this year and also were shared on the Courier online calendar. The programs and menus were published each month in the newsletter.

The Co-Vice Presidents also helped plan and set up the Kick-Off Party at the Community Center in August with displays and food provided by members. The time was 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

Sept. 24, 2018 **Try Pie: Empowering Young Women Through Meaningful Work**

Sarah Helleso and student participant (We purchased pies from the girls and had a raffle for the pies among the members

Oct. 22, 2018 **Election News: Changes to the Law**

Karen Showalter, Black Hawk County Election Office

Nov. 26, 2018 **Legal Aid for Iowa Women**

Michelle Jungers, Managing Attorney at Iowa Legal Aid

Jan. 26, 2019 **What the Music Man Got Wrong: Uncovering Women’s Forgotten Cultural**

**Legacy (sponsored with Waverly AAUW)**

Marian Wilson Kimber, author of *The Elocutionists: Women, Music, and the Spoken Word* with her accompanist on piano

Feb. 23, 2019 **Fraud, Scams and You was cancelled due to weather**

Mar 23, 2019 **Opportunities for Allen College Students**

Dr. Jared Seliger, PhD President of Allen College in Waterloo

Apr 22, 2019 **Annual Meeting - Recognitions- Election of Officers- Awards**

May 17. 18 **Annual Plant and Garage Sale for scholarship fund**

June / July **No summer activities** planned as yet but there should be at least two events.

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

Our Branch received 3 new members this year for a total of 103 members per our treasurer. (Note that in Feb 2019, AAUW has our membership at 85.) The past year’s membership includes 12 LIFE members, 3 free members, 84 renewals, 1 friend. Our branch is still noted as having the most branch members in the state of Iowa.

Note that our branch accepts new members year round until March 15th for the current membership year. New members join at the fee of $50

Letters and emails were sent to prospective members in July and August 2018. A new brochure about 2018-19 branch events, study-interest groups and Community Action Projects was prepared for the August kick-off. The membership team of Gayle and Linda worked with other members to prepare and facilitate the August Kick-off event held at the CF Community Center. 45 members and guests attended.

Gayle and/or Linda attended monthly Board meetings, took attendance at our monthly Branch meetings, stayed in contact with treasurer, Jodi Bergman about membership activity and prepared reports as needed. Contact was made with new members who joined during the year.

Branch meetings were held on Mondays at the Cedar Falls Woman’s Club in September, October, November and April with an attendance of 25-36 members and guests. Saturday brunch meetings were held in January at the CF Woman’s Club with 50 attending (Waverly branch attended also) and in March with 33 attending at Allen College in Waterloo. The February meeting was canceled due to bad weather.

Gayle and Linda will meet with the new membership team in June and July for transition into the new 2019-20 season of our CF-Waterloo AAUW Branch.

**Communications Director – Maureen White**

**Appointed Positions**

**Public Policy–Maureen White**

I represented our branch at the December 10 planning meeting for the 2019 Legislative Public Forum, which is cosponsored by about 25 community organizations. The schedule and publicity for up-coming LPFs was emailed to members and articles related to public policy were submitted for the branch newsletter. Information about legislative issues was emailed to members, sometimes with a request to contact their legislators. Information about voting in the March special election to fill a state Senate vacancy was emailed to members and was in the newsletter. Members were reminded in April and at the annual meeting to vote online regarding proposed revisions in AAUW Public Policy Priorities.

**Leadership Development–Maureen White**

One responsibility is to maintain documents related to AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo governance. In summer 2018 I provided board members with a Board Resources packet of branch governance documents, including Policies, Duties and Responsibilities, Job Descriptions, 2014-19 Strategic Plan, AAUW Policy 600 Collaboration with Other Organizations, branch guidelines for email, newsletter, free AAUW memberships, named gift honoree, textbooks for women refugees, transition scholarship; explanation of Treasurer’s Report, branch budget, AAUW organization structure chart, AAUW dues chart, AAUW funds info, and branch expense voucher.

In early summer of 2018 I met with in-coming president Pat Higby to review the monthly planner for the president. After presidents-elect Kay Thrall and Arlene Prather O’Kane took over as president in December after Pat’s resignation, I assisted them as needed through the remainder of 2018-19.

**Community Action Projects**

**Gender Balance in Government–Maureen White, Black Hawk County**

The Black Hawk County Gender Balance Coalition continued to publicize up-coming openings on boards and commissions in the Waterloo Courier (last Sunday of the month) in order to promote compliance with state law which states, "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.”

**Special Project**

AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo was a participant in the yearlong (2018) MLK 50 project. One of our contributions to the projects was to sponsor a community discussion, “We Need to Talk: How Black Women and White women Receive and Perceive Each Other” in October 2018. Speakers were AAUW members, Carletta Knox-Seymour of Cedar Rapids and Dev Kiedaisch of Keokuk. A follow-up discussion was held in December.

**Co-Sponsored programs**

**Cedar Valley United Nations Association (CVUNA)–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.

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. Our branch co-sponsored three programs with the CVUNA in 2018-19. Topics included: Sustainability and Indigenous People; Everything You Wanted to Know About Immigration Law: Real Facts; and Importance of U. S. Engagement at the United Nations, the UNA-USA Advocacy Priorities, and Making the UN Relevant.

**Vice President for Fund Raising – Myrna Sandvik**

This year we did not do a shoe drive, so there were fewer projects. It was still helpful to have a committee because all the projects have short time frames in which to be completed. If there is a committee on-board, planning to help, it is much easier to get everything accomplished.

We started the year with the same committee as last year—Pauline Harding, Pat Higby, Amy Hoyer, and Sandy Lawry. Everyone was willing to help, but nearly everyone had newly accepted a board position or chairmanship, and was too busy with those responsibilities to help with the activities that took place during the meetings—setting up silent auctions, distributing handouts, counting money, etc. So, we added Betsy Brant and Norma Edsill to the committee to help during those busy times. They did an excellent job. All the committee members helped when they could, and everyone on the committee worked very hard during the Annual Garage and Plant Sale. Many other AAUW members contributed significant help during the garage sale, as well.

Our first fundraiser for this year was the Artists’ Auction, which was held at the October dinner meeting. We invited any member with artistic talent to contribute some of their work to be auctioned for the local scholarship funds. We had excellent participation from our generous artists, and interested members, and earned $343.00. This was very gratifying to both the artists involved and the fundraising committee.

In November and January we encouraged members to contribute directly to national and/or local scholarship funds. This was not exactly an event, but I counted it as an activity, because it was necessary to get information to the group and encourage action. I wrote newsletter articles, email reminders, and short announcements at both dinner meetings to answer any questions members might have about “tax-deductible contributions” and “non-tax-deductible contributions.” It worked because several people gave rather generously to both local and national funds.

In January, we held the Annual White Elephant Silent Auction. This auction is probably more important as a social activity than it is as a money-maker. Some members look forward to the element of uncertainty and enjoy guessing what they are bidding on, as much as they do the occasional real surprise they sometimes find inside the wrappings. It also makes a modest amount of money for (usually) the textbook fund. The proceeds from this sale totaled $205.00, plus $100.00 in cash contributions.

Our final event was the Annual Garage and Plant Sale on May 17-18. In spite of uncooperative weather, the sale was an outstanding financial success. **Over the two days of the sale, we took in a total of $2,040.65.** After the sale, Sandy Lawry sold some additional left-over items totaling $80.00, and another $ 80.00 was paid to us by Stuff Etc., which was added to the garage sale amount. When advertising expenses of $80.00 were deducted, it left a profit of **$2,120.65**. I do not know of any other outstanding bills in connection with the garage sale.

**Scholarship – Karen Agee**

**The Transition Scholarship Committee** for 2018-2019 included Gloria Tollefson, Mary Fogarty, JoAnn DeVries, and Karen Agee (chair).

The scholarship committee, having received no applications for the $1,000 scholarship despite the usual posting at HCC and publicity, recommended to the board that Nouran Othman, the previous year’s recipient, receive a renewal in Fall 2019 provided she continued to meet qualifications. The board approved this request in April 2019 and was informed in June 2019 that Nouran indeed is qualified to receive this award again in Fall 2019 at UNI.

The Transition Scholarship Committee asks the board to consider revising the scholarship guidelines:

1. To permit a fall-semester application schedule if no qualified recipient is identified during the spring-semester schedule;
2. To eliminate the age requirement (current guidelines require that recipients be 23+ years old);
3. To increase the number of scholarships to two (each with an award of $1000); and
4. To expand the scholarship to students transferring to Allen College provided Allen College financial aid officials accommodate our procedures.

**CV3D – Judy Beckman – Mary Dove**

CV3D met in June 2018 and chose eight books for the 2028-2019 discussion year.  The books included the following titles:  THE DARK AT THE END OF THE STREET -Maureen White discussion leader; MAUS, Dr. Judy Beckman discussion leader;  BORN ON THIRD BASE, Pauline Harding discussion leader; A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW, Mary Dove discussion leader; THE GREAT ALONE, Anne Schussler discussion leader; AMERICA’S FIRST DAUGHTER, discussion leader Kay Thrall; EVICTED, Gloria Tollefson discussion leader (guest speakers); ODD CHILD OUT, Kathryn Rogers discussion leader; and NO ONE CARES ABOUT CRAZY PEOPLE, Ardelle Brown discussion  leader.  
Average number of attendees = 14+. September 14; October 18; November, 13; January 14; February 9; March 15; April 21; and May 13.  One meeting has not been held so that figure of attendees is not included in the average number of attendees.  
Mary Dove and I met with new Library Director and have firmed up dates and place for 2019-2020 CV3D meetings.  Books for 2019-2020 will be chosen after CV3D meeting on June 10 in Hardman Room, second floor, Cedar Falls Public Library.  All members of AAUW are welcomed to the choosing meeting.  This year’s volunteers are:  Helen Ackerman; Kay Thrall; Anne Schuessler; Pauline Harding; Maureen White; Ardelle Brown; Mary Dove; Gloria Tollefson; Myrna Sandvik; Joan Bunkofske; and, Judy Beckman.  Discussion leaders and titles of books will. be chosen as well as guest speakers.  
All books are advertised in advance of discussion in the AAUW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER The Cedar Falls Waterloo COURIER, and Waverly weekly NEWS.

**Promoting Global Awareness/ Great Decisions – Gloria Tollefson – Kay Thrall**

Annual Report—Promoting Global Awareness/ Great Decisions

We have just completed our 11th year using the Great Decisions program which is published by the Foreign Policy Association. We are co-sponsored by our AAUW and the United Nations of the Cedar Valley. We meet monthly except for December and the summer months. The classroom kit is ordered in November which includes a DVD and 31 briefing books with eight topics of international interest, different each month. Each year the cost goes up by two dollars each, but all books were sold within a month. Topics are always relevant such as Trade with China, Populism in Europe and Nuclear Power. The evening group meets in the conference room at the Cedar Falls library from 7-8:30pm the third Tuesday of the month with Gloria leading. And the afternoon group meets in the library at the First Presbyterian Church the third Monday afternoon of the month at 1:15 with members volunteering to lead. Discussion follows viewing the thirty minute DVD on the monthly topic. Attendance varies depending on weather (this winter) and topic but usually about 8-10 (all AAUW members) attend in the afternoon and 12-14 (4 AAUW members and 10 interested community members) in the evening. Neither group has treats/coffee but lots of discussion. Gloria Tollefson (Evening) and Kay Thrall (Afternoon) Facilitators

**Motion Annual Report - Jane Close and Bonnie Smith**

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. Events were held with varied dates, times and locations. 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 at Happy Hours. They either brought ideas or provided input in discussion and planning. 2018-19 events included:

* Garden Walk in New Hartford
* Happy Hour (3)
* Fiesta at RiverLoop Amphitheater
* Four Hands on Piano Recital
* Lunch at Table 19 with AAUW members who live in the Western Home Communities
* U.S. Naturalization Ceremony
* AAUW Iowa State Conference
* Shrek, North Star Community Services stage performance by disabled adults
* Serving lunch at the Salvation Army
* Working at the House of Hope fundraiser, Woodstock Hope Fest
* Donating/working at both the fall & spring Women's Center for Change clothing drives
* Donating/working at the AAUW garage sale

**Reaching out with Books – Amy Hoyer**

It was a slow year for ROWB. Bad weather led to reduced collection of reading materials. Spring was much kinder and I've been sorting and pitching. I will need to remember to make reminders that religious materials are not suitable. I will be delivering to the women’s center this week.

**Center for Change – Bonnie Smith, Sherrie Dryer, Jane Nelson**

This is the second year that we have had the Women’s Center Clothing Drive as a Community Action Project. We had clothing drives in November 2018 and in May 2019. There were over 30 individuals who contributed to the effort including AAUW members as well as many friends and family of our members.

We set up at the beginning of a week then straightened up at the end of the week. Usually the drive lasted 7 or 8 days. We had 5 or 6 AAUW members who helped set up and take down the tables. All sizes of seasonal clothing as well as shoes, purses, lingerie, and accessories were needed. This year the Probation Office of the Department of Corrections also allowed their probationers to choose clothing.

We had hoped for more house wares in the spring but not too many were brought in. We may need to set up a separate drive for just house wares. The women also need everything to set up an apartment when they leave the center. We may just do one clothing drive next year and one house ware drive.

The Center is very appreciative of our efforts and we feel this is a needed and successful Community Action Project.

**Books & More for Newborns - Jane Close**

Books & More for Newborns, formerly named Bundles of Joy, has been a community action project for six years and has served more than one hundred women and infants. Initially, the project served women from Burma with baby supplies for their newborns. Over time, distributions were made through various sites including the Allen Women's Birthing Center, Operation Threshold's Nest Programs with Burmese and Congolese, Waterloo Women's Center for Change, and in 2018 mothers and fathers were added to the project through the Department of Corrections.

In 2018, Bundles of Joy expanded to Books & More for Newborns with the donation of variety infants and children's books. The project then focused on the many long-term benefits of reading to infants and children beginning at birth, while also continuing to provide newborn baby supplies.

**Literature – Joan Bunkofske**

The literature group meets on the second Mon. of the month at member’s homes.  Coffee and a treat are enjoyed at 1:15.  
A member reviews a book she thinks we would like to read.  Many different genres are reviewed, which gives us incentive to try something different from our usual reads.  
All members are welcome.  You do not need to be a hostess or review a book if you are not comfortable doing that.  
A discussion on the presentation is usual. If a member has read a book and wants to suggest the title to the group this is welcomed.

**Fourth Fridays with Friends - Ardelle Brown**

We met at College Hill HyVee at 10:30 in the coffee area From July to October and then January until June of 2019. We had from 2, 4 or 8 members. Good conversation with new members and long time members.

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

Eighteen members continued their support for education by playing bridge and contributing a total of $352 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 Willow Wood dining room. We cancelled two times because of snow and only met once in December.

**E-mails sent to members - Ardelle Brown**

Sent 144 messages to members as of June 5th. This included 7 newsletters and other reminders of the dinner meetings. Other messages of activities that members may wish to attend.

**Historian’s report -Ardelle Brown 2018-2019**

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.

Work with the Web master, Marcy Seavey, to keep the web site up to date.