

AAUW Cedar Falls
2019-2020 Annual Reports

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

Co-President Annual Report- Arlene Prather-O’Kane & Kay Thrall
2019-20 Annual Report

We have enjoyed being Co-Presidents this past year of 2019-2020. Wow, what a year it has been with so many unexpected changes that our AAUW Branch Cedar Falls/Waterloo and for the world encountered! At the beginning of the year, our theme was centered around the Suffragist Movement with several speakers and programs centering around women, since the Suffragist Movement is celebrating 100 years in August 2020. Planning for many activities such as our annual garage sale, working with the 19th Amendment Centennial Committee, planning for the sculpture fundraiser Wine and Chocolate event, electing our Named Gift Honor member, and looking forward to several more meetings at the Women’s Club all came to an abrupt halt mid-March due to Coronavirus. Due to the total change of environment for all, meetings, events, newsletters, and all the various other activities planned by the committees were cancelled. We have enjoyed serving as your Co-Presidents for the year 2019-2020, including most of 2018-2019, and we feel that with the “new normal” going forward, we have competent officers who will lead us for the new year 2020-2021.

Co-Presidents Elect – Amy Hoyer and Karen Agee
2019-20 Annual Report

After reviewing the 2014-2019 strategic plan and seeking ideas from the membership, we submitted to the board two draft versions of a 2020-2024 strategic plan in January. The first implements the national AAUW strategic plan for our branch. The second updates the branch’s 2014-2019 management-style plan with updates for diversity and equity. The board preferred the second version. In June we prepared a third draft of the 2020-2024 strategic plan to incorporate actions toward AAUW’s Five-Star Recognition Program. This draft will be on the agenda at the next board meeting.

Co-Vice Presidents for Programs “Leadership and Education”- JoAnn DeVries & Sandy Lawry
2019-20 Annual Report

There were 7 meetings planned for the 2019 and 2020 year as below:

Sept. 30 Steve Corbin, Professor Emeritus of Marketing, U.N.I. spoke on “History of Woman’s Suffrage”

Oct. 28 Kristen Corey, Program Planner Office for State of Iowa spoke on “Iowa Suffrage Movement”

Nov. 25 Mary Dove and Cedar River Readers gave “Wonder Women Presentation”

Jan. 18 Thomas Eachus, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Service Line, BH Grundy Mental Health Center was to speak on “Mental Health 101” but this meeting was postponed due to the weather.

Feb. 22 Catherine Palczewski, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Studies, U.N.I. spoke on “Black Women Issues of Race and Black Suffrage Movement”

Mar. 28 Joy Fopman, Director of Wings of Refuge was to speak on “Trafficking in Iowa and Wings of Refuge” but this was cancelled due to Covid 19.

Apr. 27 was scheduled for the annual meeting for recognitions, elections of officers, and awards but was postponed due to Covid 19.

May 15 and 16 was scheduled to be annual garage sale but was postponed due to Covid 19.

All the meetings were held at the Cedar Falls Women’s Club except Feb. 22 which was held at the YWCA in Waterloo.

The Monday night meetings begin with a social time at 5:00. The Saturday brunches begin at 10 a.m. Meals were ordered from the Women's Club in July 2019 from menus provided except for the Feb. brunch which was served by a private catering service. The cost of meals was \$14 + Iowa Sales Tax of 7%. A contract was signed by the chapter president in July. Reservations are required by the Woman's Club by Wednesday night before the Monday meeting. For the Saturday brunches, reservations are due two Fridays before the Saturday of the brunch.

The Women's Club provides a computer, screen, and microphone for the speakers as well as servers for the meals.

A tip to the servers has been discussed and a tip was paid to the catering service in February.

Thomas Eachus has agreed to speak in the fall either September or October. Joy Fopman has not definitely committed to speaking in the fall as yet.

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership Report- Shelia Bullock and Beebs Downing **2019-20 Annual Report**

The Membership Committee for the year 2019-2020 sponsored three successful events. The first one was our August 26th Kickoff at the Waterloo Public Library. Forty members and four guests signed the membership notebook at our membership table. Our two new AAUW members at that time were Cathy Howland and Diane Schupbach.

September 30th there was a dinner meeting at the Cedar Falls Women's Club. The guest speaker was Steve Corbin, Professor Emeritus of Marketing at UNI. This meeting was also well-attended. Luann Alemao, a new branch member joined us. Bringing our roster list to 99. This number includes 13 Life Members and 15 members who need to renew their annual membership.

February 27th, we had a Saturday Brunch at the YWCA. Our Speaker that afternoon was Dr. Cate Palczewski. Her topic was "Black Women Issues of Race and Black Suffrage Movement." The Membership Committee had a table set up for new member registration and renewal membership.

Due to the pandemic situation that has taken place in our community and around the world, meetings have been canceled. According to the online Member Services Database, as of June 27, 2020 our branch consists of 94 members --45 of whom have yet to renew their membership for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The Membership committee will contact the 37 remaining members to encourage them to continue as AAUW members. I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe.

Vice President for Fund Raising – Linda Morgan **2019-20 Annual Report**

The Fundraising Team held a successful shoe drive with funds2Orgs in the fall. We received \$1204.40 for collecting 14 bags of shoes weighing 3,061 pounds. We were paid \$.40 per pound. Because of bad weather and the Corona Virus, we were unable to hold any other fundraisers in this membership year.

Treasurer's Report- Pat Higby **2019-20 Annual Report**

During the 2019-2020-year total expenses were \$5,586.12. Total income was \$3,096.12. Expenses were higher because we awarded more scholarships, using some of the unspent money from previous years. This included our funds at the Community Foundation, where our account was closed. Many thanks to the fundraising committee for their work on the shoe drive! Thanks also to Bridge for Education for their consistent donations. Quota Club was a fantastic sponsor for our "Gotcha Covered" program. We look forward to another garage/plant sale sometime in the future.

Public Policy–Maureen White
2019-20 Annual Report

I represented our branch at the December 2019 planning meeting for the 2020 Legislative Public Forum, which is cosponsored by about 25 community organizations. The schedule and publicity for up-coming LPFs was emailed to members. 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.

Leadership Development–Maureen White
2019-20 Annual Report

One responsibility is to maintain documents related to AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo governance. In the fall of 2019 I provided board members with several updated documents for Board Resources packet of branch governance documents (first produced in 2018), which includes 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.

I met with co-presidents elect Amy Hoyer and Karen Agee to review the monthly planner for the president.

Community Action Project Reports

Gotcha Covered. Period. - Maureen White, Linda Morgan, JoAnn DeVries, Sandy Lawry
2019-20 Annual Report

In the summer of 2019, school nurses in Cedar Falls and Waterloo were contacted to determine if there was a need for pads, tampons or underwear for girls in the middle, junior high or high schools who did not have access to these products or did not have an adequate supply. All said there definitely was a need. The purpose for providing menstrual products was to keep girls learning and in school rather than missing class time, an entire day, or extracurricular activities because of their periods.

We received a donation of \$500 for Gotcha Covered from the Waterloo Quota Club. A thank you note was sent to the organization in October.

Donations to Cedar Falls High School included 96 tampons, 80 panty liners, and 5 panties. Donations to Peet and Holmes junior high schools included 120 panty liners and 5 panties. Total spent = \$38. Some tampons and liners are still on hand.

Karen Meacham, Unity Health, and coordinator for school nursing services for the Waterloo Community School District was our contact person for that district. We provided 26 packages of pads, 9 packages of tampons and 3 packages (11 in each) of underwear. Total cost was \$210.97.

Donations to schools stopped in mid-March due to the COVID19 shutdown of schools, so total donations would have been higher in a typical school year. Because of the early end to the school year, we were not able to get data regarding the number of students who benefited from this project. We recommend continuing the project in the 2020-21 school year.

Gender Balance in Government–Black Hawk County, Maureen White
2019-20 Annual Report

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."

**Cedar Valley United Nations Association (CVUNA)–Maureen White, Co-sponsored programs
2019-20 Annual Report**

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 two programs with the CVUNA in 2019-20: the September 23, 2019 Global Climate Change and Local Action program by Eric Giddens, Center for Energy and Environment Education at UNI and the October 21, 2019 Rights of the Child in the 21st Century program by Iowa UNA executive director and Drake faculty member Debra DeLaet. No programs were held in the spring due to COVID19 restrictions.

**Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D) Book Discussion Group – Judy Beckman & Mary Dove
2019-20 Annual Report**

This year’s co-chairs were Mary Dove and Dr. Judy Beckman. Other members acted as CV3D chairs at meetings when one or the other chair was unable to be the facilitator. CV3D meets the second Monday of months from September to November and January to June from 4:30-6:00 in the large conference meeting room at the Cedar Falls Public Library. Participants in the monthly meetings are welcomed whether or not they have read the selection.

Date	Book	Author	Discussion Leader
September 9	The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice	Anthony Ray Hinton	Melba Widmer
October 14	The Library Book	Susan Orlean	Gayle Wood
November 11	Beneath A Scarlet Sky: A Novel	Mark Sullivan	Judy Beckman
December	OFF		
January 13	Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote	Susan Zimet and Todd Hask-Lowy	Mary Dove
February 10	Daring to be A Man Among Men	Dr. Brice D. Smith	Jen & Kyle Christiason
March 10	Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower	Britteny Cooper	Maureen White
April 13	Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century	Jessica Bruder	Ardelle Brown
May 11	Educated: A Memoir	Tara Westover	Gloria Tollefson
June 8	The Mathematician’s Shiva: A Novel	Stuart Rojstaczer	Kathryn Rogers

Another successful year discussing books that focused on diversity was accomplished. Due to the closing of the Cedar Falls Public Library due to the covid-19 pandemic CV3D was not able to meet in April, May, and June.

Dr. Judy Beckman prepared the 2019-2020 business card that advertised monthly discussion selections and kept the number of cards available for advertisement and membership information. Monthly newspaper write-ups were mailed to the Waterloo Cedar Falls TIMES and the Waterloo Cedar Falls COURIER.

On February 10 CV3D welcomed Jen & Kyle Christiason as guest speakers. They shared their story of raising a transgender child and the work they do in the Cedar Valley for LGBTQ community.

In June CV3D will once again choose the list of discussion titles for the 2020-2021 meetings. Leaders for these titles will be drawn from members of CV3D and local well-prepared speakers from the university or Cedar Valley. CV3D will judge the covid-19 pandemic and make decisions in September if our discussions will be held in person at the Cedar Falls Public Library or held via Zoom. We will continue to meet the second Monday of each month from September to November and January to June from 4:30-6:00. Dr. Judy Beckman and Mary Dove will continue to chair CV3D 2020-2021.

CV3D will continue to hold our book nook at the monthly meetings where members and guest may purchase gently used books. We are grateful for all the book donations we receive and especially indebted to Mary Ellen Beckman for taking charge of this outreach.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to lead a discussion. Judy and I are diligent in acquiring a variety of talented and avid readers who lead our discussions which we feel enriches our book discussions. We are so thankful for all the support CV3D receives from our membership. We are especially grateful and indebted to Ardelle Brown who always has our backs.

Waterloo Women's Center for Change-Bonnie Smith, Sherrie Dreyer, and Jane Nelson **2019-20 Annual Report**

This is the third year that we have had the Women's Center Clothing Drive as a Community Action Project. As we envisioned last May 2019, we had a housewares and outer clothing drive from October 28- November 3, 2019. This was the first time we asked for housewares. There were over 25 individuals who contributed to the effort including AAUW members as well as friends and family of our members.

We set up at the beginning of the week. The drive lasted 7 or 8 days. We had 5 or 6 AAUW members who helped set up the tables. All types of housewares were needed including kitchen supplies, bedding, and linens. We also asked for winter outerwear including coats, boots, hats, scarfs, and gloves. This year the staff and residents helped to straighten the clothes and even pick up at the end of the drive. This made a lot less work for our group.

Our spring clothing drive did not happen because of the Coronavirus pandemic. We may try to set up a summer drive or at least have a fall drive in 2020.

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

Promoting Global Awareness/ Great Decisions – Gloria Tollefson & Kay Thrall **2019-20 Annual Report**

These two study groups have just completed their 12th 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. Of course, our meetings (March-May) have not been held due to the pandemic. The classroom kit is ordered in November which includes a DVD and 31 briefing books with eight topics of international interest, different each month. The set of 31 books were sold within a month. I ordered two additional books which can still be purchased. Topics are always relevant such as Climate Change, Human Trafficking and China in Latin America. Interestingly, we studied several years ago the plans that were in place if/when another pandemic would occur.

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 30-minute DVD on the monthly topic. Attendance varies depending on weather and topic but usually about 8-10 (all AAUW members) attend in the afternoon and 12-19 (4 AAUW members and interested community members) in the evening. Neither group has treats/coffee but lots of discussion. Gloria Tollefson (Evening) and Kay Thrall (Afternoon) Facilitators

Reaching out with Books- Amy Hoyer
2019-20 Annual Report

The year began well. Donated reading material were delivered to the Women's Center for Change in the Fall. Winter brings a slow down to donations then, Covid 19 reared its ugly head, and brought a halt to donations and delivery. Hopefully, this will pick up again as I try to find someone to take over this program and we learn to live with Covid 19. Thank you for your contributions. They keep this program vital.

AAUW Cedar Falls/Waterloo Scholarship Committee - Marilyn Drury, Chair, Nancy Henderson, JoAnn DeVries, Linda Morgan
2019-20 Annual Report

During fall 2019, the scholarship committee met several times to discuss the Scholarship Guidelines. The committee agreed that some revisions were needed in order to encourage more applicants. Revisions to the Guidelines were made, specifically, 1) the age requirement was eliminated; 2) the amount of the award was increased from a maximum of \$1000 to \$1500; 3) institutional recipients of the award were added—the University of Northern Iowa, Allen College—in addition to Hawkeye Community College; 4) the date for application submission was changed to later in the spring.

The suggested revisions were sent to the Board and approved. The Application was then prepared by the committee aligning it with the new Guidelines. Early in 2020 the Application was made public. Working with representatives from each of the institutions, the Application or information about the Application was distributed. Additional information distribution included the local AAUW newsletter and website, as well as announcements in the Cedar Valley regional newspapers.

Five applications were received, and three awards were approved: 1) \$1500 to Sarah Miller from Waterloo; 2) \$1500 to Stephanie Leon from Waterloo; and 3) \$750 to Olivia Charley from Reinbeck. The young women will be introduced to our membership at one of our next meetings. We look forward to welcoming them to our organization.

Announcements regarding the women's acceptance of the awards were sent to their local newspapers. The local AAUW website will soon be updated with the information as well.

Textbooks for Refugees-Community Action Project- Sarah Kraft & Karen Agee, Co-Chairs
2019-20 Annual Report

Because textbook costs are a major barrier to successful college degree completion, the Cedar Falls AAUW developed and approved the Textbooks for Refugees 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.

This year the project identified two qualified candidates from the community of refugees from Burma, and the branch board awarded textbook scholarships to both women for 2019-2020. Hsae Meh of EMBARC, a former scholarship recipient, nominated Joana Maria. Joana is a student at the University of Northern Iowa intending to teach in elementary and middle school levels with a focus on math education. Joana received a total of \$500 toward textbook expenses. Sheila Houston of Waterloo Schools nominated Than Than, who had to work

at Tyson in summer and fall 2019 but planned to enroll at Hawkeye Community College in spring 2020; however, Than found it necessary to continue working in 2020 and decided to waive the scholarship.

Bridge for Education—Claudia Kaestner and Ardelle Brown
2019-20 Annual Report

Eighteen members continued their support for education by playing bridge and contributing a total of \$292 to the AAUW Cedar Falls Transition Scholarship. At each meeting members contributed two dollars. This Bridge group meets year 'round on third Wednesdays and fourth Tuesdays at Willow Wood dining room. We cancelled in January because of snow and only met once in December. Because of the virus we played only 14 times. 12 times with 3 tables and 2 times with 2 tables with a total of \$292. The virus made us quit at the end of April.

Fourth Fridays with Friends - Ardelle Brown
2019-20 Annual Report

We met at College Hill HyVee at 10:30 in the coffee area From July to November and then January and February of 2020. We had 10 members in February. We had from 2, 4 or 8 members the other months. Good conversation with new members and longtime members. The virus caused us to quit at the end of February this year.

Literature-Joan Bunkofske
2019-20 Annual Report

The group meets in one of the homes of the members from Sept. to Oct. One member reviews a book that she thinks we would be interested in reading. Topics vary widely. The book may be fiction or nonfiction. We meet in June and July for lunch and to discuss our summer reading. There are 14 members at this time. We always welcome new members. This has been an unusual year since our usual meetings have had to be canceled. We plan to meet in Sept. observing all guidelines in place at that time. Joan Bunkofske

AAUW 19-20 - Women in Motion Annual Report - Jane Close and Bonnie Smith
2019-20 Annual Report

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 values. Events were held with varied dates, times, and locations. All branch members were encouraged to participate in whichever activities fit their time, talent, and interests. 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. 2019-20 events included:

- Happy Hour (two times)
- North End Parade, Arts & Music Festival
- Poverty Inc documentary
- Constitution Day "Separate and Equal" presentation
- LeChristopher's Southern Cuisine Dinner (two times)
- Women for Change winter clothing & household goods setup
- NOW Cedar Valley Women's March
- 14th Amendment "Hard Done Not Won" beer tasting at SingleSpeed Brewery
- Outdoor Happy Hour

Participation was low for all events except for the Happy Hours. Plans will be made accordingly for the 1920-21 year.

Named Gift Committee - Myrna Sandvik, Chair, Ardelle Brown, and Mary Dove, who are all past recipients of the award.

2019-20 Annual Report

As required, we placed an item in the February Newsletter explaining the purpose of the reward, the criteria to be considered in making the reward, and the procedure for nominating a member to receive the reward. We presented the same information at the February Brunch, and sent out a reminder email one week before the February 28 deadline for submission of written nominations.

We met and selected the award recipient from the nominations submitted by the members. Sandy Lawry was selected to be the Named Gift Honoree. She was nominated by several members, and has made outstanding, helpful contributions to AAUW.

Our selection recommendation was reported to the co-presidents, Arlene Prather-O’Kane, prior to the board meeting in March. They were to notify Pat Higby, the treasurer, who was to send a check to the National Association informing them that Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch of AAUW was honoring a member by donating \$500.00 in her honor. They also were to notify Linda Morgan, Fundraising Chair, who was to obtain and present a framed certificate to the honoree. The appropriate publicity was to be sent to the branch newsletter and the local newspaper immediately after the presentation at the annual meeting.

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, there was no Annual Meeting—merely an election of new officers. I hope the award will eventually be presented early in the new AAUW year, and the proper publicity, and gratitude for Sandy’s achievements and generous contributions to the welfare of our group, can be celebrated.

Historian’s report 2019-2020-Ardelle Brown

2019-20 Annual Report

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.

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

E-mails sent to members - Ardelle Brown

2019-20 Annual Report

Sent 104 messages to members as of June 26. This included 6 newsletters and other reminders of the dinner meetings. Other messages of activities that members may wish to attend. We sent no newsletter in April and had no garage sale either so had less messages because of the virus.