

October 2022

Vol. 81, No. 2

**Meeting at 5:00 PM on
Monday, October 24, 2022**



2022-2023 MEETINGS
THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:
**Gender and Racial Equity:
Are We Making Progress?**



Doris Kelley

League of Women Voters of Iowa

**The Equal Rights Amendment:
Hard Won, Not Done!**

October 24, 2022

Cedar Falls Woman's Club, 304 Clay St., Cedar Falls

Gather 5:00, Program 5:30, Dinner 6:15

A selection of wines will be available for purchase.

Also bring cash or check for the monthly scholarship fundraiser, "Notable Women."



To reserve a dinner (now \$17.00), RSVP to
Mary Ellen Beckman at 319-269-1893 or
AAUW.CFW.RSVP@gmail.com
(specifying ham balls or vegetarian lasagne, with
root vegetables and a pumpkin bar)
by **Monday, October 17**

Mission: AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Diversity Statement: AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Board of Directors:

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Diversity Director

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Maureen White

Newsletter Editors

Karen Agee & Ardelle Brown

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

Judy Beckman and Mary Dove



On **Monday, October 10**, CV3D will gather to discuss *Grey Bees* by Andrey Kurkov. The discussion will be held in person, 4:30-6:00, at the Cedar Falls Public Library in the large meeting room.

What would make you stay in a war-torn area? Would it be to care for bees? Kurkov's protagonist, Sergei Sergeyich, is a curmudgeon who stays behind to care for his bees, the only creatures he seems to care about, in the grey zone of two armies. As it turns out, one other person, Pashka, an old schoolmate with whom Sergei had never been friendly, also remained behind. Will Sergei manage to stay out of politics and the fighting? Will his bees survive the Ukrainian/Russian war?

We hope you join us on October 10 for this timely discussion of *Grey Bees*. Even if you haven't read the book, please join us.

CV3D hosted author Erika Billerbeck on September 12. Erika shared her book, *Wildland Sentinel: Field Notes From an Iowa Conservation Officer*, with 16 participants. For further information, contact CV3D co-chair Judy Beckman (drjudy.beckman@cfu.net) or Mary Dove (elybound1982@gmail.com).

Women in Motion/Promoting Diversity

Jane Close, Bonnie Smith, and Sharon Silva

Women in Motion is planning a happy hour get-together on **Tuesday, October 11**, at Carlos O'Kelly's in Cedar Falls. It will be at 4 o'clock, and we invite everyone to come. Please RSVP to Jane or Bonnie so we can make a reservation. It will be fun to get in motion again! Phone Jane Close at 319-983-2016 or Bonnie Smith at 319-266-2526.

Literature Group

Joan Bunkofske

The literature group will meet **Monday, October 17, at 1:15 PM**. We plan to meet at the home of Joan Bunkofske every month. Members will take turns reviewing a book. Everyone is welcome to join us. Phone 319/266/8575 if you have questions.

Great Decisions

Gloria Tollefson

Great Decisions will meet on **Tuesday, October 18, at 7:00 PM** at the Cedar Falls Public Library. More news coming soon!

Bridge for Education

Ardelle Brown

We will play bridge on **Thursday, October 20, 12:30-3:00**, in the second-floor library at Prairie Wind Western Home Communities, 5313 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. No food, but bring your own drink and \$2.00 to contribute to the scholarship funds. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Presidents' Notes

Pauline Harding

September is a busy time of beginnings—getting started with our regular meetings, getting started with Study/Interest Groups, plus beginning our co-sponsored activities and Community Action Projects. There is an air of festivity when first meeting our fellow members and friends again after a summer of other activities.

We enjoyed hearing Cary Darrah, President and CEO of Grow Cedar Valley, speak at our September 26th meeting about challenges and opportunities for women. Cary is a very accomplished woman who knows well how to create relationships to accomplish good work. In October our speaker will be Doris Kelley from the League of Women Voters, who has been working with AAUW of Iowa board

members to get the 28th amendment to the US Constitution recognized by Iowa government. Equal rights for women, only 100 years late!

Ardelle Brown still has more than a dozen “Vote No” yard signs from AAUW of Iowa. Let’s get those signs into our yards and the yards of friends and neighbors. Let everyone know why it is important that we vote down the reckless gun amendment proposed by the Iowa legislature.

Our scholarship fundraiser will continue throughout the 2022-2023 year. To suggest a “notable woman” for us to honor as a part of this monthly activity, please let Linda Morgan or Pauline Harding know about her.

Scholarship Fundraising With Arts and Crafts!

Pat Higby, Jane Close, and Bonnie Smith

Our first ever Arts & Crafts online auction doesn't start until noon on **Saturday, October 22**, but you can preview the sale by going to <https://www.biddingowl.com/CedarFallsWaterlooAAUW>

Items are constantly being added, so if you have something artsy or craftsy to donate, please contact one of us (Pat, Jane, or Bonnie). Items may also be brought to the October 24 dinner meeting at the Cedar Falls Woman’s Club.

Bidding ends at **4:00 PM on Sunday, November 13**. High bidders may opt to have their items shipped (postage varies) or picked up at the November 28 meeting.

Fourth Fridays With Friends

Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan

Fourth Fridays with Friends will meet this month at the College Square HyVee at **10:00 on Friday, October 28**th, near the coffee area. This will be the last time FFWF meets in 2022, because of when Thanksgiving and Christmas dates fall.

At our September event, we learned about some excellent books to read. Who knows what we will talk about this month?? Please come and join the conversation.

Why Vote NO?

Karen Agee

Commonsense gun laws are supported by a strong majority of Iowans. According to Iowans for Responsible Gun Laws,

- 91% support banning carrying a firearm while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- 85% support prohibiting felons from possessing firearms
- 85% support requiring background checks on all gun purchases
- 83% support requiring gun safety courses before purchase of a handgun.

Sadly, instead of ensuring that Iowa's gun laws reflect Iowans' intentions, in 2021, the Iowa legislature repealed laws requiring a background check to purchase a gun and requiring a permit to carry loaded, concealed handguns.

On the November 8 ballot will be a constitutional amendment proposed by the Iowa Legislature to make ownership and use of guns a "fundamental right," making good gun laws nearly impossible to enact. Whether they own weapons or not, Iowans of both major parties and especially those in law enforcement warn against adopting this constitutional amendment.

Because our AAUW public policy advocates for "freedom from violence and fear of

violence, including gun violence and hate crimes, in homes, schools, the workplace, and communities," AAUW of Iowa and the board of this Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch advise to Vote NO on the proposed amendment.



The Iowa Firearms Coalition says vote yes. In opposition are AAUW of Iowa and 31 other organizations, many of them faith groups, because it goes far beyond the Second Amendment.

Among editorials all over Iowa in opposition, the *Des Moines Register* editorial board wrote, "There is no justification for undertaking a 'strict scrutiny' experiment here in Iowa. The case against this amendment stands even if it were not going before Iowa voters in the same year as gunmen slaughtered 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas; two young women in a church parking lot in Ames; or three campers, including a child, at Maquoketa Caves State Park. Amending the Iowa Constitution . . . isn't easy because the implications can be profound and difficult to reverse. . . . Changes to the Iowa Constitution should be careful. This idea is haphazard and harmful. **Iowans should flip over their ballots and vote no.**"