

Cedar Falls-Waterloo AAUW branch

Co-President's Annual Report 2022-23 Linda Morgan and Pauline Harding

Board meetings were held on the 1st Monday of the month August through June with the exception of December, January, and May. The September meeting was held on the first Tuesday because of the Monday holiday. The June meeting was a review/planning retreat with light supper served and held at First Christian Church. This location has adequate parking and an accessible entrance on the east side. Current and incoming board members are asked to come as well as all the leaders of AAUW activities. Attendance at board meetings was excellent and a quorum was always present. Meeting length was held to no more than 75 minutes and usually held at the Cedar Falls Library.

Because there was no Fund Raising Chair again this year, the Board served as the fund raising arm of the branch. Donations were accepted at each monthly meeting with members donating for a "notable woman" in their lives or in history. This activity was successful. Pat Higby organized an "on-line" auction that was also successful. Our annual spring garden sale was held at Ardelle Brown's yard and garage and was very successful again with proceeds of \$2000+. To ensure that our branch could award two scholarships of \$2000 each, we also had a pledge drive for members to donate \$100 before December 1st, 2023. We secured the pledges so that two scholarships were awarded.

Pauline Harding attended the monthly Virtual Town Hall meetings on Zoom, which were meetings of the branch presidents across the state.

Women in Motion Study/Interest Group and the Diversity Board

Positions were combined for the first time this year. WIM plans events, both social and service, to provide opportunities for interaction among members. Events included the North End Festival, Women's Center for Change clothing drive, shopping and lunch at minority businesses, happy hour, Cherie Dargan book presentation, Red Herring Theatre reading of Red Herring, Debutante Cotillion Ball and North Star Community Services production of Cyrano de Berger Shack. Jane Close, Bonnie Smith, Sharon Silva

Great Discussions/Global Awareness

We continue to meet monthly, on the [third Tuesday](#) (except summer months and December) in the conference room at the CF Public Library at 7pm until discussion ends usually about 8:40. We continue to use the Great Decisions Program developed by the Foreign Policy Association since 1918! They select eight global issues for us, publish our book and DVD. Each participant prepares by reading the topic chapter in their book, we watch the 30 minute DVD and then discuss questions provided for each topic.

Sixteen books were ordered in November and since then a new member ordered his own. Couples share. The DVD was pd for by our AAUW, which is appreciated. Cost was \$30 this year. Thank you.

Attendance varied from 11 to 17 participants this year. Five are AAUW members, others are from the community. Some have been in the group for all 14 years we have sponsored the group. A highlight this March....when our topic was “China and the United States “ and a member invited a professor from Wartburg, Karolina Achirri, who grew up in Poland and taught in China shared her experiences adding much to our discussion. Gloria Tollefson

Women in Change Report

As previously reported, the AAUW Clothing Drive for the Women’s Center for Change occurred on [October 10-14,2022](#). Members were generous in their donations and staff at the Women’s Center were appreciative of our efforts. However, at the conclusion of this event, a large amount of remaining clothing and items were donated to Trinkets and Togs in Cedar Falls. Because of this, the committee decided not to have a Spring Clothing Drive until further assessment by the committee and board on whether there should be changes in our donations efforts.

At the time of this report, both Bonnie Smith and Sherrie Dreyer are out of town. One suggestion previously made was to limit contributions to specific items, such as towels and new underwear. Further contact needs to be occur with the Director of the Women’s Center to get staff input on how AAUW can best support the Center. Specific recommendations for change can be made once committee members can meet later. Any proposed changes for our efforts to help the Women’s Center would then need to be approved by the board.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Nelson for Bonnie Smith and Sherie Dreyer

AAUW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT JUNE 2023 from Shelia Bullock and Beebs Downing

We met monthly and/or by phone conversations.

We distributed branch brochures as we contacted people and placed some at library and community trac racks.

Planned and held fall kick off for current and prospective members coordinating with Program planners and other officers on displays and refreshments. 34 people attended the event.

During the year 8 new members have joined. Contacted by phone calls to members who had not renewed.

Submitted information to newsletter chair for publication.

Invited community persons to planned AAUW meetings/programs.

Did not incur out of pocket cash expenses as brochure printing and site arrangements were covered by other committees.

Some issues this year were cautions regarding pandemic, some people were still cautious about going out in group settings but opinion is that more are interested in getting out and about now.

We had some issues with National Website to keep updated due to website changes, however Treasurer Pat Higby was able to supply information needed.

At this year end we would like to get our branch involved with Juneteenth event as a Diversity outreach in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area. At this time we have not received communication from coordinators involved to supply details for report.

AAUW Cedar Falls/Waterloo Scholarship Committee

Annual Report (2022-2023)

2022-2023 Committee Members: Marilyn Drury, Chair -Mary Dove, Nancy Henderson,Linda Morgan

The scholarship committee reviewed the **Tuition Scholarship Guidelines** in the fall of 2022 making only minor revisions in dates.

Early in 2023, the Tuition Scholarship Application was made public. Working with representatives from each of the institutions, (Allen College, Hawkeye Community College, and the University of Northern Iowa), the Application or information about the Application was distributed. Additional information distribution included the local AAUW newsletter and website, as well as announcements in Cedar Valley regional newspapers.

Ten applications were received and two awards were approved for the 2023-24 academic year. Those awards went to:

1. Jessica Alexandra Valenzuela from Waterloo, Iowa. Jessica is attending Hawkeye Community College with plans to transfer to UNI. She has a cumulative grade point average of 4.0. She is majoring in accounting and finance planning to get a CPA and eventually own an accounting firm.
2. Nicole Pittman from Waterloo, Iowa. Nicole is attending Hawkeye Community College with a cumulative grade point average of 2.9. She is pursuing undergraduate studies in communication, journalism, and marketing hoping to eventually pursue a career in law.

During the spring of 2023, the Board approved a request by the Scholarship Committee to discontinue the **Textbooks for Refugee Women** scholarship opportunity that had been offered previous years. Few to no applications during previous years prompted the Committee's request. The funds that would have gone to textbook scholarships were routed to tuition scholarships.

2022-2023

Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D) Book Discussion Group

Cedar Falls/Waterloo AAUW

Co-Chairs: Mary Dove and Dr. Judy Beckman

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. Some discussions were offered as a hybrid of in person or Zoom. February's discussion was all on Zoom. Participants in the monthly meetings are welcomed whether or not they have read the selection.

Date	Book	Author	Discussion Leader
September 12	Wildland Sentinel: Field Notes from an Iowa Conservation Officer	Erika Billerbeck	Erika Billerbeck
October 10	Gray Bees	Andrey Kurkov	Pauline Harding
November 14	Where the Apricots Bloom	Gina Wilkinson	Kathryn Rogers
December	OFF		
January 9	The 1619 Project	Nikole Hannah-Jones	Gloria Tollefson
February 13	The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For	David McCullough	Rowena Hardinger
March 13	Fifty Words for Rain	Asha Lemmie	Mary Doe
April 10	Code Talker: The First and Only Memior by One of the Orginial Navajo Code Talkers of WWII	Chester Nez and Judith Schiess Avila	Judy Beckman
May 8	Take My Hand	Dolen Perkins-Vadez	Maureen White
June 12	The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Land	Lisa See	Ardelle Brown

Another successful year discussing books that focused on diversity was accomplished. CV3D averaged 10 people at our monthly discussions.

On September 12 CV3D welcomed author Erika Billerbeck as a guest speaker. Billerbeck shared her book; Wildland Sentinel: Field Notes From an Iowa Conservation Officer with our group. Her presentation and book gave us insight at the challenges of being a conservation officer as well as a woman in a male dominated field.

Many of our branch members and CV3D participates took advantage of the Iowa AAUW book discussion of The 1619 Project. This was a 7 week long commitment that was hosted through Zoom during

January, February, March. I also appreciated that many from our branch also lead as discussion leader for a chapter.

In June CV3D will once again choose the list of discussion titles for the 2023-2024 meetings. Leaders for these titles will be drawn from members of CV3D and local well-prepared speakers from the university or Cedar Valley. We will continue to meet the second Monday of each month from September to November and January to June from 4:30-5:30. Discussion will be held in person at the Cedar Falls Public Library or through Zoom. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-chairs of CV3D Cedar Falls/Waterloo Branch of American Association of University Women

Dr. Judy Beckman

Ms. Mary Dove

Co-Vice presidents for Program— Lori Schneider and Maria Murphy

2022-2023 programs theme - "Gender and Racial Equity: Are We Making Progress?"

Sept 26 Cary Darrah, President and CEO, Grow Cedar Valley. She spoke on gender equity in the work force.

Oct 24 Doris Kelley, League of Women Voters. She spoke on continuing work and progress of the ERA.

Nov 28 Mary Connerley PhD. She spoke on the gender data gap and the research she has done in this field.

Jan 28 Nia Wilder, Waterloo Councilwoman and entrepreneur. She introduced herself, then quickly initiated a dialogue with the "wise women" of AAUW. The Waverly branch was invited.

Feb 25 Sheritta Stokes, Curriculum director of the 1619 Freedom School. She gave us an overview of the Freedom School and how it is changing and growing. The Waverly branch was invited.

March 25 We were invited to brunch with the Waverly brunch to hear Laurie Schipper, Community Care Specialist. She spoke on her many experiences as an advocate for victims of domestic violence.

April 24 The annual banquet was held at the Cedar Falls Woman's Club.

Our meal expense at the Woman's Club this year was increased to \$17. This is the first increase we have had in several years. This did not include a gratuity. As in the past, gratuity was covered by our program budget. We were not charged a rental fee as we used their catering service. Our membership was not charged a rental fee at the YWCA, thanks to the generosity of member Ardelle Brown. Catering by Dee charged \$14 a meal. However, we continued to charge members \$17 for the 2 brunches at the YWCA. We did not exceed our budget for the year.

As always, it is difficult to determine how much time was involved in planning programs for the year. It was helpful to receive several suggestions at the June retreat. Time was spent finding/thinking of a common theme that would encompass a variety of speakers. We also met with Mary at the Woman's Club to choose the menu for the fall and annual banquet meetings. We arrived at the monthly meetings to assist the speaker with set up. Following the meeting, a thank you was always written and sent to the speaker.

We had very little community publicity this year, due to changes in the local newspaper. In spite of this, attendance at the monthly meetings was up slightly. We do feel we need to address catering for our meetings at the YWCA.

2022-23 Annual Reports submitted by Maureen White for the following:

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Public Policy—Maureen White

AAUW Cedar Falls – Waterloo is a cosponsor, along with about 25 community organizations, of the Cedar Valley Legislative Public Forum. It is usually held every two weeks while the legislature is in session. The purpose is to give the public a chance to hear from, speak to or ask questions of local legislators.

Each forum was held at the at the Hawkeye College Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, 120 Jefferson, Waterloo from 4:30 - 6:30 PM. Dates and topics included:

January 20 – Education

February 17 – Budget Priorities

March 3 – Health Care

March 24 – Mental Health

April 14 – Environment

Each forum was also available for live streaming on Facebook.

Though all legislators in Black Hawk and surrounding counties are invited, only Black Hawk County Democrat Representatives and Senators participated. The schedule and publicity for up-coming LPFs were emailed to branch members ahead of each Forum and were included in newsletters.

Information about 2023 legislative issues was emailed to members, sometimes with a request to contact their legislators. Thank you to all members who took the time to email legislators or attend a Legislative Public Forum.

Leadership Development—Maureen White

The Leadership Development director is to maintain documents related to AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo governance and to provide assistance for board members. As part of that responsibility, I first produced a Board Resources packet of branch governance documents in 2018. It included 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.

Several updated documents were provided to board members in the fall of 2019. The scholarship guidelines were revised in 2020. A new and expanded Board Resources packet was distributed to the board in February, 2022. Updates will be done for 2023-24. Board members are asked to pass the materials to their successors when leaving the board.

CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS:

Cedar Valley United Nations Association (CVUNA)—Maureen White

The AAUW Public Policy Program contains the following:

“AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies. We advocate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women and subsequent declarations. We affirm active participation in the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and our commitment to ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We support international family planning programs that are consistent with AAUW policy.”

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 branches to work with local chapters of the UNA-USA toward common goals. For a number of years, our branch has cosponsored with the Cedar Valley United Nations Association (CVUNA), the local UNA-USA chapter, the Great Decisions discussion group and programs. Programs the past year included.

October 24, 2022

Title: **Model UN**

Panelists: **Brian Warby**, associate professor of Political Science at the University of Northern Iowa

Molly Scott, 3rd year UNI student and committee chair for the Iowa High School Model UN and Model UN conference attendee

Alenah Rankin, past president of the UNI Model UN Competition Team and attendee at four Model UN conferences.

7-8:00 PM Community Foundation of NE Iowa, Cedar Falls

Cosponsor – AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo

11 attendees

Dec. 10, 2022

Title: **International Human Rights Day Commemoration
“Year of Women, Year of Change”**

Speakers: **Maureen White**, CVUNA

Rebecca Johnson, Waterloo Human Rights Specialist

2:00-3:15 PM, Jubilee UMC Freedom Center, 1621 E. 4th

St., Waterloo

Cosponsors: AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo, Waterloo Commission Human Rights, and MLK New Jerusalem

23 attendees

2023

April 17, 2023

Title: **Justice After Mass Atrocities: from Rwanda to Ukraine**

Panelists: **Stephen Rapp**, Senior Fellow for Prevention of Genocide. US Holocaust Memorial Museum, former US Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice, former International Prosecutor at the UN backed Tribunals for Rwanda and Sierra Leone

Donna Maier, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Northern Iowa, Genocide and Global History; former Senior Research Associate, UN Tribunal for Rwanda

Svetlana Karplyuk, Ukrainian citizen who fled Kiev with her children; now living in Cedar Falls

7:00-8:30 PM, Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, Cedar Falls

Cosponsor – AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo 55 attendees

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS

Gotcha Covered. Period. – Maureen White and Amy Hoyer

This Community Action Project was adopted by the board and begun in fall 2019.

The purpose for this project was to keep girls learning and in school rather than missing class time, an entire day or extracurricular activities because of an inadequate supply or lack of menstrual products.

We provide products; including pads, tampons or panties, for girls in Cedar Falls and Waterloo public middle, junior high or high schools who do not have access to these products or do not have an adequate supply. In the falls of 2022, the board approved purchasing additional underwear for use in the upper elementary grades as well.

Amy Hoyer was the contact person for the Cedar Falls schools. Donations to Cedar Falls schools were not made this year.

Maureen White is the contact person for the Waterloo schools. Karen Meacham, Unity Health and coordinator for school nursing services for the Waterloo Community School District, was our contact person for the district. We provided 14 packages of underwear (163 items) at a total cost of \$224.

Nurses have not always been responsive to communications this year, but we recommend follow-up with them re: continuing the project in the 2023-24 school year as long as there is a need and interest.