

## March 2025

Vol. 83, No. 6

Meeting at 10:00 AM on  
Saturday, March 22, 2025



## 2024-2025 MEETINGS

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM THEME:

### More Hot Topics

## Unwavering Leadership: Strength in Change, Power in Connection



**Celina Peerman**

PhD, SHRM-SCP, CSP

*March 22, 2025*

Wartburg College Student Center Ballrooms  
Gather 10:00, brunch 10:15, program 10:45

Leadership is tested in moments of uncertainty, but our ability to lead is not defined by circumstances—it's defined by our unwavering strength, our commitment to what matters, and the power of our relationships.

This session will explore how to lead with confidence, support one another, and use our collective influence to drive meaningful change, no matter the obstacles ahead.

More information about Dr. Peerman:  
<https://www.drcelinapeerman.com/speaker-notes>

To reserve a brunch meal (**only \$15 at the door**), RSVP by **Friday, March 14** to Karen Lehmann at [karen.lehmann@wartburg.edu](mailto:karen.lehmann@wartburg.edu). (As always, payment is owed to the Branch for a reservation whether or not we attend.)

Also notify Ardelle Brown by March 14 if you would like to carpool to the Waverly brunch, whether you're offering or asking for a ride.

**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:

Co-Presidents

*Maureen White &  
Nancy Hasenwinkel*

Co-Vice Presidents for Program

*Ardelle Brown & Mary Dove*

Co-Vice Presidents for Membership

*Jane Close & Bonnie Smith*

Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising

*Maria Murphy & Lori Schneider*

Past-President *Louise Conklin*

Secretary *Dianne VanGorp*

Treasurer *Mary Fogarty*

Public Policy Director

*Nancy Henderson*

Diversity Director *Susan Langan*

Leadership Development Director

*Maureen White*

Send articles for next newsletter by April 8  
to editors Ardelle Brown & Karen Agee

## AAUW's Annual Report: A Year of Impact

Discover how AAUW is advancing equity for women and girls nationwide. AAUW's latest Annual Report highlights key achievements, financials, and the impact of our programs over Fiscal Year 2024. This is part of a focus on AAUW's commitment to transparency and impact. Read it [here!](#) And then attend the webinar (scheduled for **Tuesday, March 4, at 5:00 PM**) about the annual report by registering here: <https://my.aauw.org/event-information?id=a0lQr000000qoVNIAY>



**A recording of the webinar will be made for viewing later.** Find all webinar recordings on the AAUW website (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>).

## Cedar Valley Legislative Public Forums

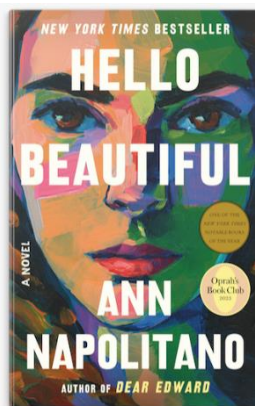
*Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director*

The 2025 Cedar Valley Legislative Public Forums continue on **Friday, March 7, at 4:30**. The topic will be **Education in Iowa**. Mark your calendar, too, for the Forum on **Friday, April 4**, when the topic will be **Healthcare in Iowa**.

Our branch is one of two dozen organizations supporting these forums. All forums are on Fridays, 4:30-6:30 PM, at Hawkeye Community College's Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, 120 Jefferson St., Waterloo. Every state representative and senator serving Black Hawk and Bremer counties is invited to hear public comments, speak, and respond to questions. We encourage all members to attend! Watch for email reminders sent to you by Ardelle Brown during the week of each forum.

## Cedar Valley Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D)

*Judy Beckman, Ardelle Brown, and Mary Dove*



On **Monday, March 10, 4:30-5:30**, CV3D will gather to discuss, *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. This will be a hybrid session, available in person (Cedar Falls Public Library conference room) and via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent by email on March 7.

*Hello Beautiful* celebrates the bonds of sisterhood and loving each other just the way we are. The book starts and ends with main character William Waters, who meets the self-assured and determined Julia Padavano. William becomes part of the clan, which includes Julia's three sisters. *Hello Beautiful's* secrets, grief, and loss will have you pondering true love, success, and happiness.

Even if you haven't read the book, join the discussion. All are welcome. And we thank Ardelle Brown, who led the February discussion on *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*. Ten people shared their thoughts about Emma Gatewood's remarkable life.

**SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, MARCH 18, AAUW IOWA LOBBY DAY AT THE CAPITOL 10:00-12:00, Room 305, and AAUW IOWA EQUAL PAY DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2:30 – 5:00 PM, First Floor, Rotunda**

Contact Nancy Henderson if you want to share a ride.

### **Dues Information**

*Shannon Wolfe, AAUW (National) Managing Director and Chief of Staff*

This winter, the AAUW Board proposed an increase in dues and invited members to comment through January 29. Annual dues are currently \$72. Soon the Board will notify members whether it has adopted the proposed five-year plan for annual \$5 dues increases:

- April 1, 2025–\$77. April 1, 2026–\$82. April 1, 2027–\$87. April 1, 2028–\$92. April 1, 2029–\$97.
- After April 1, 2025, lifetime dues would be \$1,540.
- Dues cover about 15% of AAUW’s operating budget and do not cover the cost of member support. Dues increases will cover more of the cost of member support and accommodate inflation.
- An increase in Student or College/University dues is not under consideration in 2025.

### **Literature Group Meeting**

*Joan Bunkofske*

The literature group will meet on **March 17** at 1706 Cottage Lane. The time is **1:15 PM**. Joan Ogden will lead the discussion. There will be treats. Please join us if you are interested. Call 319-290-9089 for more details.

### **Great Decisions to Discuss U.S. Relations With China**

*Gloria Tollefson, International Affairs Director*

We will meet **Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in the conference room of the Cedar Falls Public Library.

Both political parties have identified China as our #1 national threat. We will watch a 30-minute DVD on what led to deterioration of our relationship and then discuss some possible strategic options in the face of Chinese power and ambition.

**JOIN US AS WE DISCUSS TODAY’S MOST CRITICAL ISSUES!**

## Bridge for Education

*Ardelle Brown*

Bridge players will gather on **Thursday, March 20, 12:30-3:00**, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Prairie Wind Western Communities, 5413 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. Each of us donates \$2 to play, and the money goes to the scholarship fund. I will be phoning or emailing regular participants to see if you can play, and new players are always welcome. Just let me know you are interested, at [aekbrown6882@gmail.com](mailto:aekbrown6882@gmail.com)

## How to Take Action

*Nancy Henderson, Public Policy Director*

**Are you concerned about what is happening in Congress and our Iowa Legislature? Do you want to take action but want something easy to do? Here are a few ideas:**

**Easy Action #1. Became an AAUW Two-Minute Activist!** When you join AAUW's Action Network, you will receive email notifications from AAUW about bills or issues that need your attention. AAUW will provide the information and the email to send to your senator or representative in Congress.

To sign up for the Two-Minute Activist:

On your computer, go to whatever search engine you use (Google, Yahoo, etc.)

Type in "AAUW Two-Minute Activist"

Click on "Join Our Action Network"

Click on "Sign Up" and follow the directions

OR

Just log in to your AAUW membership account (or create an account if you don't have one).

Then, back on the main page of AAUW.org, look for "Take Action" at the top, hover over it and then click on "Two-Minute Activist" then Click on "Sign Up" and follow the directions.

**Easy Action #2. Get the 5Calls App on your phone and/or computer!** 5Calls is an organization that researches issues and then puts together talking points you can use to call your Congressional legislators. 5Calls will help keep track of your action, if you choose to report. It's easy to use.

To get 5Calls on your computer, just type in "5Calls" on a search engine. You will eventually need to type in your address/zip code for 5Calls to work as designed.

To get the free 5Calls app on your phone,

On your iPhone, go to the App Store and look for 5Calls.

On your Android, go to Google Play and search for 5Calls.

**Easy Action #3. Sign up to receive legislative updates from me**—a weekly list of legislation from the Iowa legislature we are monitoring. Email me at [nancyhenderson2023@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhenderson2023@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

## Wednesday 4 Women & Wine (W4WW)

*Jane Close and Bonnie Smith*



**Please Join Us!**

**Wednesday, March 26, 5:30 PM**

(third Wednesday this month)

at The Other Place (OP), 4214 University Ave, Cedar Falls  
Conversation, Drinks, Appetizers, and/or Dinn

## Fourth Friday With Friends

*Ardelle Brown and Linda Morgan*



Fourth Friday with Friends will meet at **10:00 AM on Friday, March 28**, near the coffee area at College Square HyVee in Cedar Falls. We laugh and learn. Hope to see you there!

## Scholarship News

*Marilyn Drury, Scholarship Committee Chair*

We are in the midst of collecting applications for our scholarship. Several have been submitted already. Please remind those you know or those who may be eligible to apply by May 1.

As a reminder, here are the criteria: Applicants must have a minimum postsecondary cumulative GPA of 2.5 or more and must plan to attend the University of Northern Iowa, Hawkeye Community College, or Allen College during the next academic year. Applicants must enroll in at least 9 credit hours each semester in pursuit of an undergraduate degree.

Applicants will be considered without regard to race, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, age, socioeconomic status, or disability. Priority may be given to applicants who show greatest financial need, who reside in Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Fayette, Grundy, or Tama County who are majoring in a non-traditional field of study.

## Save These Important Dates! Please Mark Your Calendars Today!

**Saturday, April 26:** AAUW Iowa 2025 State Conference, Diamond Event Center, Cedar Falls

**Monday, April 28:** Annual branch awards banquet and election of officers, Diamond Event Center, Cedar Falls

**Friday-Saturday, May 16-17:** Garden sale at Ardelle's for the Branch scholarship fund



## 2025 AAUW Iowa Spring Conference Registration

AAUW Iowa and our AAUW Cedar Falls-Waterloo Branch look forward to hosting the 2025 Spring Conference on Saturday, April 26, at the Diamond Event Center, 5307 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls. Our conference theme: We Are Stronger Together!

Register for the conference by April 9 at

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/Personal2471/2025AAUWlowa>

and submit payment online (card, PayPal, Venmo).

or

print and complete this form and mail it with a **check payable to AAUW IA** to

Deverie Kiedaisch  
1025 Grand Ave.  
Keokuk, Iowa 52632

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

(Payment received by April 9) Members \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Students and guests \_\_\_\_\_ \$25

Late registration (Received April 10-24) Members \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 Students and guests \_\_\_\_\_ \$35

### Stronger Together

*Maureen White, Co-President*

**Stronger Together.** That’s the name of an AAUW Iowa initiative to collaborate with other like-minded organizations on issues. In addition to working with other organizations, we are stronger when we use our voices to communicate with our elected officials who are supposed to be working for us.

If you haven’t already acted, see the email sent to members on March 3, asking you to take action by **contacting House Education Committee members in support of HF 543**, a bill that requires period products in half the public school bathrooms and includes a provision for an appropriation (July 1, 2025, thru June 30, 2028) for the districts to receive reimbursement from the Department of Education for the actual cost of the products.

Also, please be sure to **read and take action** when you receive notification about legislation from our Public Policy Director Nancy Henderson—even if you think it won’t matter. Our voices need to be heard.

## Public School Strong

*Kim Folkers, AAUW Iowa Co-President*

One of the Iowa organizations with which AAUW Iowa is collaborating this year in Stronger Together is Iowa CCI—Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement. Tim Glaza of Iowa CCI spoke with the AAUW branch presidents on March 3 and shared information about Public School Strong. See <https://www.iowacci.org/pss>.

Are you concerned about the attacks on public education? Do you want honest, equitable, and fully funded public schools? If so, join Public School Strong! Parents, educators, students, and community members around Iowa are organizing to strengthen our public schools so that all children can thrive.

We ask AAUW members across Iowa to take action:

- **Sign the statewide petition for fully funding public education, at <https://iowacci.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/petition/sign?reset=1&sid=105>**
- **Register to attend the Zoom orientation on **March 25 at 6:00 PM** and encourage others to do the same.** In this orientation, participants learn the basic values and principles of the Public School Strong campaign, then sign up and commit to promote, protect, and strengthen public education. You will be invited to attend local school board meetings in your community.
- **If you know school board members in your area who would like to learn more about CCI's efforts, email Tim Glaza at [timg@iowacci.org](mailto:timg@iowacci.org).**

## 2025 Slate Approved by Board of Directors

*Louise Conklin, Pauline Harding, Karen Agee, Nominations Committee*

The Board has approved this nomination slate for election at the April awards banquet:

President Elect – Sharon Walker (2025-2026)

Co-VP for Membership – Deanna Brandsberg and Amy Hoyer (2025-2027)

Co-VP for Fundraising – Maria Murphy and Lori Schneider (2025-2027)

Treasurer – Mary Fogarty (2025-2027)

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the April 28 meeting. The committee thanks the nominees for renewing or taking on a leadership role in the branch.