

American Association of University Women



Bulletin 127 of the Cedar Rapids AAUW Branch

November 2018

Therese Davidson

ARNP, MSN, MA
Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator
Mercy Medical Center

Presents

“An Update on Human Trafficking”

10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 3, 2018

**Hall-Perrine Cancer Center at Mercy Hospital
Conference Rooms A and B**

Therese Davidson spoke to us several years ago when human trafficking was a relatively "new" issue. Since then the subject has made numerous news articles both in our city/state and nationally. In fact, it's almost a daily occurrence. Learn how invasive human trafficking is in Cedar Rapids. Learn how to spot a victim and what to do about it. Please join us for what is sure to be a thought provoking program. This program is open to the public. No refreshments will be served.

Location of the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center at Mercy Hospital:

As you look at the front of the building from 10th St. the door to enter is on the far right at the end of the building. The Conference Rooms are immediately to your right.

Thanks to the efforts of the Program team: Carole Bernard, Barb Goings and Trudy Sundermann for arranging this and other relevant programs.

October was a “happening” month!

The Open Minds, Open Doors Conference and Thank You Luncheon were once again OUTSTANDING with 550 middle school girls attending. It takes many hands to make this a success and it was thanks to all of the members who showed up on October 5th to pack the boxes with t-shirts, folders and snacks! It was fun and Susie Green had everything organized so that it went quickly and efficiently. On October 11th more AAUW volunteers were there to

greet and register people, hand out materials, guide students, assist presenters, take roll, and more. There were 16 Coe College students guided the girls around campus. AAUW purchased Wendy gift cards to thank them for helping. The luncheon at Clark Alumni House gave AAUW an opportunity to tell presenters and volunteers about our mission. Carletta cited the research which says that there are still too few women in STEM careers and that succeeding in those careers takes persistence for both men and women. Sue Pearson thanked presenters, volunteers and their employers who support the conference by sending them to be presenters. Linda Armitage invited those present to join AAUW and Della Caldwell who was one of the presenters joined! Maria Dean was everywhere behind the scenes to make sure the equipment worked and Susie Green made sure that every student was present and accounted for. Whew! It takes a village!

Vote! Exercise that Right! Why? Why does it matter? On October 13th we heard from four women who dare to run for public office at the panel discussion, "Women in Politics".

Women haven't always had the right to vote! We are not second class citizens! We have the right to be here, to run for office and to "call the shots"! Those are the words of Jean Lloyd Jones, facilitator, co-creator of 50/50 in 2020 and former Iowa Senator. Senator Jones emphasized that women and men legislators together make the right combination! Your vote matters! Monica Vernon spoke about building leadership skills starting in kindergarten. When preparing for public service, build a resume! Volunteering and other roles such as becoming president of the PTA and board positions give you access to people which is key to fundraising and getting your name out there. Empower others! The reward is knowing that your efforts helped make a change. Be ready to pick yourself up after disappointments. Kirsten Running Marquart spoke about having the right balance of skills: relationships, the ability to maneuver and even sarcasm have given her the edge. Teresa Daubitz, first time candidate for the Iowa House of Representatives, is a social worker who promises to be a compassionate, moderate Republican. She is very aware of needs in the areas of mental health and services for persons with special needs, the elderly and disabled. Robin Kash video-taped the presentation and Sue Jorgensen purchased a CD for those who were unable to attend.

Book Group will meet at Gisela Steffe's home: 1225 13 St #302 on Nov 26.

CR Branch Board Meeting (summary)

October 1, 2018

Attended by Carletta Knox Seymour, Mary Lawrence, Sarah Swayze, Linda Topinka, Carole Bernard, Linda Armitage, Sue Jorgensen

The decision was to redo the directory because there were too many errors in the first printing. (The directories are now available).

Carletta: Nationally AAUW is 130,000 strong with branches engaged in projects that break down barriers for women and girls. In Cedar Rapids that includes: 1. Introducing girls to nontraditional careers in science, technology, engineering and math 2. Mentoring girls at the Jane Boyd Center 3. Providing relevant Programs that inform and educate our members and the public about the importance of women in politics and getting out to vote, other issues such as human trafficking. These are examples of ways that we make a difference!

Carletta has described a plan for raising funds to provide more opportunities for leadership such as sending college age women to the national conference (this is just one example) and ways to promote pay equity for women and girls. Board members present are unable to support an all-out fundraising campaign at this time, so it is put on hold for now with more thought and planning on the topic of fundraising and projects to close the pay gap. Report submitted by Sue Jorgensen