

American Association of University Women



Bulletin 131 of the Cedar Rapids AAUW Branch

April 2019

AAUW Statewide Conference

DMACC-Newton Campus

Women, Past and Present, Impacting the Future

Saturday April 27, 2019

The AAUWIA Initiative publication lists the programs and registration information.

**Plan to carpool to Newton for the one day conference.
Contact any of the branch officers to request a ride.**

**For the Silent Auction: Help us create a basket full of enticing things
for the theme of "Riding the Wave" to celebrate
the amazing women elected to office this past year.**

Nominating Committee: The nominations committee will be recruiting for the offices of President, Membership and Program. The committee: Sharon Vana, Linda Topinka, Trudy Sundermann, Sarah Swayze and Carol Hills welcome your suggestions.

Cedar Rapids Branch Leadership Team, (pictures on aauwcr.org website)
Elected Officers: President: Carletta Knox-Seymour, Finance: Mary Lawrence,
Membership: Linda Armitage, Program: Carole Bernard, Secretary: Sarah Swayze
Appointed Officers: Bulletin Editor: Sue Jorgensen, Public Policy: Linda Topinka,
Website Manager: Jennifer McNabb, AAUW Funds: Carol Hills, Charitable Funds: Sue
Pearson, Fundraising/Marketing: Renee Penalver

Tour of the History Center

On March 2nd 19 members and guests enjoyed a fascinating, guided tour of the History Center with the talented Historian, Mark Hunter. His stories created an aura that connected us to the families that lived, and prospered, and some of whom died in the mansion. He reported that the History Center is free of debt and financially solvent for the future.

Public Policy : Legislative Forum (Co Sponsored by Our Branch)

The forum on March 16 was attended by 140 people. The lively discussion included: vouchers, restoring felon voting rights, voter suppression, appointment of judges, and mental health services for children. An engaged citizenry (to use Rob Hogg's words) is essential for a healthy Democracy. Carol Hills, Barb Goings, Linda Armitage and Linda Topinka showed up! The AAUW complimentary breakfast table was hosted by Barb Goings and Linda Armitage. Donations covered the cost of the food and beverages. For Donations: Thanks to Jean Helfer, Sue Pearson, Carolyn Schmidt, Carletta Knox-Seymour, Jennifer McNabb, Lillie Moore, Sarah Swayze, Linda Topinka, Linda Armitage, Sue Jorgensen and Carol Hills.

Report from Membership Director, Linda Armitage

Linda reminds us of the impact of Senator Birch Bayh from Indiana who recently died at age 91. Senator Bayh was the author of Title IX which assured women's participation in sports and colleges. He is quoted as saying: "In a country that prides itself on equality, we could not continue to deny 53 percent of the American people equal rights." It's passage in 1972 banned discrimination in admissions and athletics. It had even a broader impact in classrooms and labs. Donna Shalala said, "Title IX was a game changer. Without it, you wouldn't see as many women studying law and medicine — or serving as university presidents." Thank you Birch Bayh.

Book Group: Monday, April 22nd at 6:30pm at Paneras. We will discuss The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin.

Coe College Connection: On Wednesday, March 20th Carletta Knox-Seymour gave a presentation at Coe for Women's History Month. Coe College and AAUW have a partnership that goes back to 1927 when AAUW was founded. Carletta told about AAUW's part in the journey for women's equity and how to negotiate for a higher salary, finishing with a mock interview with Carletta and a Coe college junior.

At the event, Linda Armitage and Ariel Thompson, a junior, were signing up students for free e-memberships. Ariel is scouting for officers to get the student branch of AAUW up and running. New e-members received a gift of green rimmed sunglasses.

It was a successful evening in Two Ways!

General Membership Meeting, March 9, 2019, 9:30-11:30 A.M. at Meth-Wick

In Attendance: Sarah Swayze (Secretary), Carletta Knox-Seymour (Branch Pres.), Sue Jorgensen (Communication), Sue Pearson (Charitable Funds Director), Carol Hills (Annual Funds), Carole Bernard Freeman (Program Officer), Linda Armitage (Membership Director), Jennifer McNabb (Website Director) Lillie Moore, Deborah Reed (New Member), Karen Alderman, Jean Helfer, Gisela Steffe, Suah Borsay, Erica Yoder, Carolyn Schmidt (Our Host), Trudy Sunderman, Betty Debban (Music), Barb Goings, Dorothy Johnson, Carol Hills, Julie Mitchell (Prospective Member)
Absences: Mary Lawrence, Renee Penalver and Linda Topinka (All excused)

Board members were introduced and identified as appointed or elected.

Meeting called to order: Carletta Knox-Seymour

President's Report: Carletta (also on the committee for fundraising/marketing with Jennifer M. and Renee P.)

Finance Report: Balance of \$4,146.49 in Farmer State Bank, Funds from Holiday Brunch is \$465.00 (income from the registration fee) with expense paid to Carole Bernard of \$38.14. We are still awaiting results because other expenses need to be paid out of the \$465.00. \$29.50 has been paid to National and \$10.00 was paid to the state.

Carletta also spoke on the opportunity to work in collaboration with Susie Green and the College for Kids Enrichment Program. Susie stated the program is lacking the participation of students of color. She is interested in having AAUW local branch push the effort to get girls of color involved for next year. The branch is in favor of the collaboration opportunities with Grant Wood AEA and Coe College. Monies will be raised through fundraising, donations and grants. The intentions of the monies raised will be clearly stated. We are not doing scholarships, we are doing sponsorships.

Carletta wanted to know if everyone was receiving the bulletin.. Jennifer will be putting all bulletins on the website and has offered to help any member learn to use Google docs. Sue Jorgensen delivers copies to members who do not use technology.

State AAUW nomination: Carletta Knox-Seymour is nominated to be president-elect for state. She has accepted.

Finance Report: Mary Lawrence. (excused absence) (Carletta Knox-Seymour and Sharon Vana are also on this Treasury committee.) Report given by Carletta.

Public Policy Report: Linda Topinka (excused absence) (Report read by Jennifer McNabb)

National: New Jersey is the second state to recently pass a law that will implement the history of LGBTQ in their school curriculum. The first state was California in 2011.

Congress allowed the Violence Against Women Act to lapse. Legislation attempted to submit it in the immigration negotiations, but it was reported that the monies were allocated to the government subcontractors or contractors. It was reported that monies for the Violence Against Women Act will be allocated later in a congressional session.

State: Governor Reynolds says she will not oppose a district ruling decision regarding the fetal heartbeat law being unconstitutional. Linda's report also states, [There is a total of 90 million new dollars in the K-12 funding bill. Part of that is a 2.06 percent increase to base per-student funding.]

Local: The Cedar Rapids' School District is proposing that McKinley and Taylor become magnet schools. The Workforce Development received 1 million dollars for an additional incentive for additional state expansion grant money from the U.S. Department of Labor. Organizations that qualify for the monies are the following: High school apprenticeship community programs, health care factors and health care related leadership programs. Linda is in the process of finding out if young women and men of color can access these apprenticeships through their respected schools, as well as unemployment or underemployment. She has reached out to representative Deed and the Workforce Center but has not heard back from them.

Membership Report: Linda Armitage (Lillie M. is also on the committee)

Linda introduced the newer members, they are Lillie Moore, Jean Helfer, Carole Bernard, Suah Borsay and Erica Yoder. Recent members are Deborah Reed (joined on March 9th and Julie Mitchell, pending).

Linda acknowledged branch members who have passed throughout the year, Marilyn Bowman, Carolyn Cleveland, Shirley Pike, based on a suggestion from Linda Topinka. She thanked Carletta for all the work she has been doing. She also thanked Sue Jorgensen for all her effort in getting new members involved with the branch.

She shared that Kirkwood Comm. College has let their partnership with AAUW lapse and she is working on getting a connection going again. Many community colleges had to drop their membership as partners with AAUW because of the \$175.00 charge. They were making many cuts because of funding. She has reached out to Kirkwood with Brenda Steinke, a Kirkwood staff member, who will help with connecting Linda with their new Dean of college because now she must go through the human resource office. Various AAUW members are willing to donate money to help Kirkwood to continue their work with the local branch. Coe is the other college or university partnering with the local branch. Linda has not approached Mount Mercy University and is not sure if this is the move to make because there are some areas of our organization that they may not be supportive of.

Linda suggested that Barb Goings help get a multicultural program at Kirkwood. This has happened in the past.

Sue P. questioned the use of the word 'partner' in Linda's report. However, Linda had a pamphlet on hand titled, 'AAUW: College/University Partner Membership'. *This conversation is connected to the bylaws that state that as an affiliate of the AAUW, we cannot partner with any organization. (But Coe is an AAUW Institutional member and Kirkwood has been prior to this year)*

Program Officer: Carole Bernard (Trudy Sundermann and Barb Goings are also on this committee)

Carole thanked the members who showed their support of the March program at the New Cedar Rapids History Museum. She also thanked Trudy Sundermann for getting Mark Hunter to give a tour of the facility.

Members were reminded of the upcoming AAUW State Conference on April 27th at the Newton Campus of Des Moines Area Community College.

The program committee is looking for a place to hold the End of the Year Luncheon on May 4th, 2019. Election of Officers will be held at the luncheon. Suggestions are welcome.

Carole Bernard stated the bill for the Holiday Brunch has been going to Barb Goings and wanted to know had this been taken care of. Carletta stated that she, along with Mary L., have paid it. Carletta reported that there were expenses paid to Sodexo Catering (\$372.00) and dues received from D. Caldwell of \$50.50. If we deduct \$372.68 from the \$465.00 received from registration, we have a balance of \$92.32. This is our profit

Website Report: Jennifer McNabb shared that she was a board member for the AAUW Branch in Storm Lake before moving to Cedar Rapids. She stated that the bulletins will be on the site, the book club has been updated, links have been added for the Amazon postings and additional add-ons are being made. Sue Jorgensen provides pictures.. The website address is cedarrapidsarea-ia.aauw.net. Jennifer also shared information on Google docs and encourages all members to look at the various links listing upcoming events, public policies, etc. She welcomes any suggestions.

An account has been setup in Google Drive for the purpose of sharing/storing information and each member will receive a link to the website. Jennifer will be sending out emails to all individual with some specific questions on your content areas, what is it that you would like to see on the site and additional information she may need from you.

Newsletter Editor Officer: Sue Jorgensen

Sue Jorgensen has served in her position for 10 years. She acknowledged the role that various members have played in the years. She needs people to help her with calling and texting our senior members.

The legislative forum, a yearly event, will be on Saturday, March 16th. We will be cosponsors with the League of Women Voters. Approximately 150 people will attend. HyVee caters the beverages and AAUW provides napkins and pastries or home baked goods.

At Lobby Day it was reported that Iowa stands 37th in the national for equity pay for women. AAUW's research, *The Simple Truth*, talks about where Iowa stands. Carletta shared information from *Breaking the Paycheck Fairness Act*, that acknowledges the role AAUW has played in bringing recognition to equity in pay for women. It is now a top priority for Congress and in currently on the house floor for passage.

AAUW Funds: Carol Hills: Our donation was \$1205.00 to national. The matching funds makes it \$2410.00.

Charitable Funds Appointed Chair: Sue Pearson:

Sue Pearson stated that AAUW local will keep our 501c3 status. We are still willing to be a part of Open Minds, Open Doors (OMOD), but we need to understand what kind of financial help we would be able to give. The branch needs to decide if it wants to continue the Thank You Lunch Celebration or do, we want to do a 'token' thank you that will go to every presenter. Whatever is decided, the branch needs to know that the \$1213.00 in the charitable fund account, must go toward the donors' intentions, which is Open Minds, Open Doors.

Also, the branch does not have the money to sponsor children from the College for Kids Enrichment currently. The price of sponsorship is \$250.00 per kid. Suggestions were made to do a pilot program next year where we may want to fund the sponsorship of two students.

Karen Alderman moved that corporations will donate to Open Minds, Open Doors because of our 501c3 status. She suggested that we request help from them to help us with the sponsorship and to ask for this help on an annual basis. She moved that the branch take this action. Carletta added for clarification that AAUW's part is simply the 'luncheon.' Karen stated she is fine with this and made a motion that we continue to support OMOD and be a collaborator and apply for grant money and donations to support AAUW's part in Open Minds, Open Doors. Betty Debban second this motion. All are in favor. Motion carries.

Betty Debban added that people like Sue Pearson are appointed and the members can call these people with ideas. So, at the board meetings, if a recommendation is made, then you give it to the general population for a vote. Otherwise, the branch talks about this stuff and there never is a conclusion because there is never anything specific to vote on. Carletta replied to this by stating, "There were so many speculations with respect to so many people wanting OMOD to stay on and then there was some that didn't. Because of this Carletta felt that she needed to hear from the general membership.

Trudy Sunderman asked, "When dues are paid, is it possible for members to add donations for Open Minds, Open Doors? A suggestion was made to just write a separate check to the Charitable Fund so members can get a receipt because donations are tax deductible.

Sue Pearson suggested the person writing the grants (Renee P.) may want to solicit donations that will cover both Open Minds, Open Doors and College for Kids.

Sue P. announced that there is an opening for her position as Charitable Funds Director after she resigns this year. She adds that the bylaws state that there needs to be two officers over the Charitable Funds. Information was shared on how Sue came into the position of Finance Officer around 2006 after Marilyn Bowman. Sue had submitted a grant for the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation which was approved after the 2008 conference. The branch has been using the grant money since 2008 and has not brought any new monies in. The question was asked as to how much money it takes to have the OMOD. Sue states that from Susie's projected budget, it is just over \$9420.00. \$8800.00 comes in from student registrations and chaperone registration. OMOD has become pretty much self-supporting. All the branch pays for is the luncheon and the expo boxed lunches, which was about \$1100.00 last year. The branch also paid for the \$5.00 gift certificates for the 16 Coe students. There is now \$1213.00 left in the account.

Fundraising/Marketing Renee P. report was read by Jennifer McNabb.

Renee has created a Twitter account for the branch to connect with other branches which already have an account. Most branches use Twitter accounts for marketing, fundraising and other events. She has also been in contact with Steven Shelby, director of Multicultural at Coe College to discuss a collaboration between AAUW and them for Women's Month. Steven invited us to present on negotiation for women.. This is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th from 6-7 P.M. in Coe's Intercultural Center. For fundraising, Renee is reviewing the binder given to her by Sue Pearson. She has also had discussion with Carletta about the Charitable Fund. She has also reviewed the grant submission process for the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Submitted by Sarah Swayze on 3/19/2019