

American Association of University Women



Bulletin 132 of the Cedar Rapids AAUW Branch

May 2019

“Celebrate Us!”

Spring Luncheon

Saturday, May 4, 11:30 a.m.

Granite City, 4755 First Avenue SE (Order from the menu)

The Cedar Rapids Branch of the American Association of University Women and guests are invited to attend the “Celebrate Us Luncheon”. We will take a look back at the events and accomplishments of our branch during the 2018-2019 year. We will welcome new and prospective AAUW members and the nominations committee will introduce the candidates for offices for 2019-2020 and the election will be held.

The program will feature the “Wonder Women” Readers Theater to honor women who have excelled in gaining women’s rights. 12 readers are needed. Each reader will introduce the woman she is portraying and read her speaking part. If you are interested in participating call Carole Bernard by April 26 (319 364-7038).

Reservations to Carole Bernard by Wednesday, May 1st.

Nominations Committee Report: The committee: Linda Topinka, Trudy Sundermann, Sarah Swayze, Carol Berg and Carol Hills have 2 qualified candidates for Branch President: Linda Armitage and Renee Penalver. Membership and Program officers have no nominees at the present time, so the current positions will continue until nominees are identified and elected.

Biographies for Nominees for Cedar Rapids Branch President are on pages 2 and 3.

Dues: CR Branch Dues \$11, Iowa State Dues \$10, AAUW Association Dues \$59.00 Total = \$80
Honorary Life Members Dues are \$11. First year members can join for a total of \$50.50 through the Shape the Future Member Recruitment Campaign.

Send checks by June 1 to: Treasurer Mary Lawrence, 3701 Hawk Ave SW, Cedar Rapids 52404

Biography of Linda Armitage, Candidate for President

I have been Membership Director/officer almost 4 years. At the end of the first term in 2017, I was asked to be president, but I declined because more needed to be done to recruit new members. The "Meet and Greet" and orientation sessions that I developed are a large reason that we have gained 26 new members in the last 3 years. Two terms as Membership Director have allowed me to work with the board to diversify our membership and to promote AAUW at the annual "Butterfly Brunch", at Legislative Forums, and other venues. I have worked at the state level with Elaine Kresse, State Membership Director. I am a detail person and with the help of our Treasurer and the team corrected the records which were very outdated. The saying about it "takes a village" is very true. We may be the fastest growing Branch in all of Iowa.

I believe that I am qualified for the position of AAUW President because of my experience with the organization on the local, state, and national level. I attended the 2017 National AAUW Convention in Washington D.C. and was a volunteer facilitator at the convention. I learned about the importance of lobbying for women's issues and was one of seven Iowa members who went to Capitol Hill to advocate for women's rights.

I have met with the Dean of Students at Coe College and the Assistant Dean of Students at Kirkwood to ensure the continuation of our relationship as university partners. I have met with students at both Coe and Kirkwood to encourage them to become e-members. Kirkwood had let their membership lapse. However through combined efforts Kirkwood has renewed their membership with AAUW. That is gratifying.

I graduated from Drake University with a BA in Sociology and a Social Studies Education certificate. Within 48 hours I had my first professional job at the Des Moines Public Library and shortly after earned a Master's in Library Science. I had several management positions there. I am a retired teacher, and Librarian, and school media specialist. I still do occasional substitute work for Washington High School.

I have been a member of the American Library Association and the Iowa Education Association, ALA Film committee Board member and chairperson for the Iowa Library Association Children's and Young Adult Committee. I joined AAUW 5 years ago. Other activities in the community include mentoring Immigrant and refugee families, an International Book club, and participating in the Kenwood Neighborhood Association.

I am married and we have 4 children and 4 grandchildren. My family has first priority in my life and close behind family is my dedication to AAUW. My passion for AAUW, my ability to lead, my time commitment and accessibility have been demonstrated over the last 3 1/2 years. My knowledge of women's equity issues and other important issues of AAUW at the National and state and local levels makes me capable to lead our Branch. My experience with the Association adds to my leadership skills. I believe these experiences make me a very good candidate for President for the Cedar Rapids Branch of AAUW.

Linda Armitage, 440 42nd St NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Phone: 319 393-0675

Biography of Renee Penalver, Candidate for President

Personal • Born and raised: Bakersfield, California • Renee is adopted from family, and she is very, very close to her niece • She has two dogs, and loves to cuddle with them.

Education • B.A. in Psychology in 2011 from the California State University, Bakersfield • M.A. in Experimental Psychology in 2014 from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) • PhD in Social Cognitive Neuroscience in 2017 with an emphasis in quantitative methodology from UTEP Professional Appointments

- In 2017, she accepted a temporary Visiting Assistant Professor position at Coe College • In 2018, she was promoted to a tenure-track position (e.g. secure position) at Coe o she received a large amount of monies for research and regularly has to budget

- In 2019, she was promoted as Coe College's Community Engaged Faculty Fellow o part of Renee's job will be defining this position and to engage faculty in community work, and work to connect faculty with community organizations Community Engagement • Renee involves community engagement in many of her classes o She has worked with Aging Services of Abbe Health, an Affiliate of Unity Point o Renee and Aging Services will receive an award for their community engagement work in Des Moines on April 29th through the Iowa Campus Compact

- In 2018, she was selected as a fellow from 1 of 3 professors in Iowa to conduct community research • Renee is the co-director of Psychology Internships at Coe College o She is the liaison between these organizations, Coe, and her students • She has worked with TIES, Four Oaks, Young Parents Network, Waypoint, Aging Services of Abbe Health, Horizons, Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP), Tanager Place, Iowa Women's Foundation, Willis Dady, Foster Grandparents, Alzheimer's Association, AARP, & many others • She is a member of the Junior League of Cedar Rapids o She holds three leadership positions: Project Advocacy Chair (she oversees the advocacy for foster youth work done in Junior League), Membership Recruitment Co-Chair (she oversees recruitment activities), and the Diversity and Inclusion Ad-Hoc Committee • She has received several honors in Junior League o received the "Rising Star" award o she was selected to attend a Leadership Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas where the focus was on promoting Diversity and Inclusion in organizations o she was the only recipient of Junior League to be nominated for the Cedar Rapids Economic Alliance's Leadership for Five Seasons Program

- She joined the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in 2018 • She was placed on the board in 2019 as the Fundraising and Marketing Director. She has been working on two grant proposals to increase the treasury

- She is reinstating the Coe College AAUW branch, and will act as the faculty supervisor • She secured a table sponsorship from Coe at the AAUW 90th celebration dinner in 2018

- Through AAUW she has had the opportunity to mentor a young girl through Jane Boyd



AAUW CR Branch Presidency by Renee Penalver

By being branch president I can increase the bandwidth of what I have already been doing, which is promoting and advocating for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy.

What will I do?

1. Continue the good work that has been happening
 - a. Make diversity paramount to everything AAUW does
 - b. Continue general membership meeting
2. Create a long-term and sustainable internship agreement with Coe College and AAUW (supports AAUW's 1st initiative in the strategic plan)
 - a. Have students regularly help with marketing, fundraising, planning, and educational conferencing
3. Create new programs and events (supports AAUW's 1st & 2nd initiatives in the strategic plan)
 - a. Focus on initiatives surrounding Title IV, and lead a conference on Title IV similar to how the White Privilege symposium ran at Coe
 - b. By creating new programs and events we can continue to recruit diverse women
4. Create a more cohesive branch—do more things together! Remember that part of why women join an organization is to extend their social and professional networks. (supports AAUW's 4th initiative in the strategic plan)
 - a. Programs and socials at different times to accommodate a variety of people
 - b. Mobilize and engage all members through these meetings
 - c. More community event attendance (e.g. tabling and recruitment at Latino Fest, Juneteenth, Campus College club fairs, Iowa Women's Leadership Conference)
5. Increase our treasury through grant writing, fundraising, events, and donations (supports AAUW's 4th initiative in the strategic plan)
 - a. Will require more committee meetings in the short-term, but less work long-term
 - b. Will increase long-term financial sustainability of branch
6. Continue our programs (supports AAUW's 1st initiative in the strategic plan)
 - a. Remember the mentorship is one of the most important relationship in someone's life—continue to mentor young women and girls
7. Recruit more women! (supports AAUW's 4th initiative in the strategic plan)

- a. Continue diversifying recruitment strategies, because better recruitment means less retention
- b. Recruit at local colleges and universities
- i. Create on-campus branches at local colleges and universities
 - c. Recruit at events where diversity is paramount to the event (e.g. Latino Fest, Juneteenth)

- 8. Provide opportunities for educational trainings, conferences, and workshops for our members (supports AAUW's 1st, 3rd, & 4th initiatives in the strategic plan)
 - a. Cultural competency trainings (with local cultural competency trainer, Kim Fitten)
 - b. Leadership trainings (e.g. Iowa Women's Leadership conference)
 - c. In-organization mentoring (senior and junior members paired)

- 9. Continue to market our name and brand (supports AAUW's 4th initiative in the strategic plan)
 - a. Partner with likeminded organizations for events to promote our name
 - i. Iowa women's foundation
 - ii. Junior League
 - iii. Catherine McAuley
 - b. Stronger Community Presence
 - .Attend more events (e.g. establish an AAUW community representative at local community events)

Renee's community involvement at a glance:

- a. Employment at Coe College
- b. Faculty liaison for AAUW at Coe College
- c. Psychology Co-Director of Internships
- d. Coe College promotion to Community Engaged Faculty
- e. Community Partnership Award with Aging Services
- i. Civic and Community Engagement in classes
 - f. Mentoring young women through research
- g. AAUW CR Marketing and Fundraising Director
- h. Planned Latina Youth Conference in college
- i. Junior League "Rising Star" Award
- j. Honored for National Women's History month at Coe College for advancing women and specifically women of color
- k. Iowa Community Engagement Research Fellow
- l. Regular community talks and workshops on Cognition
- m. Faculty co-advisor of Latinx

Reports Cont.

Membership, Linda Amitage welcomes new members...Deborah Reed, Julie Mitchell, and Carol Hedberg.

Cast Your Vote! You are encouraged to get on line and vote on the National Association [Policy Amendments](#) and the [Election of Board Members](#).

FYI: The Association offers an on-line course called "Work Smart" which is about job and salary negotiations. I want to suggest that we set a goal for how many women in Cedar Rapids register to take the on-line course. It would benefit women in CR and also promote our branch.

Check your records: All of you who have email and internet connection should get on the AAUW. Org website and look up your membership information to make sure that it is up to date. Call or contact me if you have questions. 319-393-0675

Leadership Opportunities: You may apply to be on a national committee or task force

Cedar Rapids Branch Leadership Team 2018-2019

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

CR Board Minutes, April 1, 2019, 5:30-7:30 Cedar Rapids, Public Library

Attendance: Linda Topinka, Linda Armitage, Julie Mitchell, Deborah Reed, Carletta Knox-Seymour, Sarah Swayze, Jennifer McNabb, Renee Penalver, Lillie Moore and Sue Jorgenson. Absent: Mary Lawrence and Carole Bernard

March Minutes were read by Sarah Swayze and approved

President's Report: Carletta AAUW's connection to Coe College goes back to 1927 . Sue Jorgensen found a historical document that listed the date of our connection. Carletta's presentation on salary negotiation at Coe College was a success.

April 2nd is the AAUW Iowa Marks Equal Pay at the Rotunda. The date symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work in order to earn what men made in the previous years, if they are white.

Her Magazine Luncheon Series: Women in Business is April 18, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm @ Hotel Kirkwood. The price is \$35. This is sponsored by the Gazette. Her Magazine comes out every fall and spring.

AAUW Spring Conference registration is on April 27th. The price is \$50.00. It is \$15.00 to bring a guest. Payment must be post mark by April 15th or it is an additional \$10.00. The theme is women past, present and future. The conference will likely include a continental breakfast, breakout sessions, national speakers and a silent auction. The suggestion for the basket is Riding the Waves to honor the awesome women who has run for office this past year. The silent auction raises about \$1500.00 for the association (National). Last year's proceeds went to the Legal Advocacy Fund. This year's proceeds will go to the AAUW Education and Training Fund for scholarships and grants for women. The conference has not been held in Cedar Rapids since 2000.

Because of the lack of money and attendance, there will be no 2020 National AAUW Convention.. There is a regional convention on the table by the Illinois Branch. Linda Armitage suggested that she will get in contact with Julie Brown and Kim Churches to discuss a daylong conference.

The League of Women Voters would like to connect with the branch to discuss ways to commemorate the 19th Amendment. Marine White, the state Public Policy Chair has been given the over all and AAUW Cedar Rapids feeds into it. Carletta shared that Black women were a large part of the right to vote.

According to Ann Gale, She will sending information to branch members. The Branch president will no longer be responsible for sending out information. The names of those members who Ann Gale could not get will be corrected by Sue Jorgensen and Linda Armitage.

In terms of the fund raiser at Coe College, Megan Ruffle has assured Carletta that Coe College would still like to sponsor the CR branch for a fundraiser in the future. It can't happen now. We now know where we stand on the Charitable Fund. It has been decided that our branch will go forward with Open Minds, Open Doors this year with the luncheon and volunteering. The branch has agreed to move forward with collaborating with GWAEA and Coe College with the College for Kids summer program starting in 2020. Coe College is very interested in continuing their work with the CR branch of AAUW.

Karen Alderson sent information to Carletta on getting scholarships from Henry Davidson's Youth Center. Carletta attempted to connect with Molly Duffy to get more information on this matter. A message was left for Molly to call Carletta.

Discussion was held on where the branch wants to hold the Celebrate Us celebration. Various places were suggested. Renee Penalver suggested Coe College. Kirkwood and Meth-Wick was also offered. No final decision was made. The celebration will be held on May 4th. Installation of new officers will take place at the celebration.

Finance Report: Mary Lawrence (No Report)

program Report: Carole Bernard (No Report) Readers' Theater needs readers. The program is called Wonder Woman. About 10 women are needed. A gathering for rehearsal is recommended.

Fundraising/Marketing Director: Renee Penalver Renee has been researching some grants. According to Renee the best fits currently are, The Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation and the Iowa Women Leadership Foundation. AAUW's mission aligns with that of the Iowa Women Leadership Foundation. Renee feels that we need to develop our program further to meet the requirements for the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation. It is possible that we will not make the deadline date for the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation because we need to have a discussion on what we need the money for and what programs are we looking to add. We already have a strong relationship with the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation because of Open Minds, Open Doors.

AAUW Cedar Rapids did not have anyone in mind for the National Conference for Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Registration closes on April 30th. An early bird special was offered where \$165.00 were removed off the total cost. The early bird special and scholarships have ended.

Linda A. feels that we should mentor kids and track them. She also feels like the branch needs to settle down and focus on the mentoring of kids. Linda suggests a strategic plan is needed where the branch follows the child that is being mentored for two years. Carletta agrees in part with Linda, but states that we need to have a lot of moving parts, not just one. Carletta states, "We have to have more than one thing that we are doing."

Newsletter Editor's Officer: Sue Jorgensen Email report states that Sue will be sending receipts to Mary Lawrence regarding HyVee Catering Bill and a request for Reimbursement. The bill is as followed:HyVee catering \$119.70 (bill will be sent to M. Lawrence) minus \$102.70 (Total cash donations) =\$17.00 Payable to Sue Jorgenson is \$17.00 plus \$30.00 (enclosed checks) total \$47.00. Sue requests reimbursement of all 3 checks totaling \$30.00 for her to deposit since she paid for HyVee catering with her credit card. This was approved.

Membership: Linda Armitage

Kirkwood renewal of Kirkwood Institutional AAUW membership has gone through thanks to Brenda Steinke. Linda needs a W-9 form filled out for Kirkwood. Carletta offered to help with this. AAUW Cedar Rapids currently has 55 members.

Public Policy: Linda Topinka (No Report)

Website Officer/Manager/Marketing: Jennifer McNabb Jennifer is still making updates on the webpage. Sue Jorgenson gave her some pictures. Jennifer will also update the bylaws on the site by removing the 2016 bylaws and adding the 2018 bylaws.

New Business: Sarah Swayze Sarah proposes that all branch members get together to crochet/knit winter scarves to give away to students next winter. Anyone not interested in crocheting/knitting can donate yarn to make a scarf. The board approved this project.

Submitted by Sarah Swayze, Secretary