

# Branching Out

*Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research*

## Discussing New Projects January 14 at 1:00 p.m.

At our December meeting, we discussed ideas for our branch to further the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls in this area. We identified four areas for further discussion. Each of those four ideas were assigned to a member to bring back more information to further than discussion. I have also added one more after some communication with the College/University Direction for AAUW Iowa. Now our five ideas are:

- A service project for the inmates of the Women's Correctional Facility in Mitchellville. Janet Pickerell will provide more information.
- A voter registration drive, possibly connected with the 100 plus anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, giving women the right to vote. Joanne Page.
- The gender Pay Gap. Ann Gale.
- A mentoring program to benefit younger women. Jennifer Sayers
- NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders). Amy Getty

It would be possible to reach out to other organizations to work together for some of these activities. We will determine next steps at our January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. We could decide to focus efforts on one or more ideas, depending on the level of interest and energy among our members. Please plan on joining in for that meeting. The link is below. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcjI0ZlNlQmUtmZjIjCU0RQQT09>

Please try to log on a few minutes early, so that we can do any troubleshooting that is needed before getting started.

### Tax Tip

As you gather your information for taxes for 2020, remember that AAUW is a 501c3 charitable organization. The portion of your dues that goes to the national organization (\$56) is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

## We Welcome New Members

Nancy Grandquist Fields, a Des Moines native, graduated from Hover High School and Drake University with a degree in Public Administration. Upon graduation she served as Executive Director of the Des Moines Housing Council. She was also Vice-President in charge of community development for the Home Loan Bank. She then moved to Louisiana where she was a community loan specialist for the Department of Agriculture Rural Development. She was also President of the local AAUW chapter.

Nancy moved back to Des Moines in 2018 when she purchased the family home in Sherman Hill. She is married and has two sons and two granddaughters.



Meet Jennifer Sayers, owner of Bijou Grafix, and a 1989 graduate of The University of Iowa. Jennifer grew up in Perry and lived in Iowa City for eight years before moving to the Des Moines area. After earning a BA in Art with an emphasis in graphic design, she started her design company while teaching graphic arts at DMACC. Over the past 20 years Jennifer has been a board member for the Drake Neighborhood Association, NAWBO, Roosevelt Cultural District, DSM Parks & Recreation and DSM Economic Development. She has received a Governor's Award for Volunteerism and is an avid cyclist who enjoys camping and traveling. Being a furry feline fan, Jennifer also fosters bottle baby kittens for the ARL with the help of her two cats.

