

Branching Out

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

End Violence Against Women

AAUW Iowa is working with the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and DMACC to co-sponsor "End Violence Against Women." The event will be on March 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the DMACC Building 5 Student Center, 1240C-1240H, on the Ankeny campus. Featured speakers will be Jerald Monahan, Yavapai College Police Chief, Prescott, AZ; Steffani Simbric, Law Enforcement Instructor, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy; and Kimberly Gleason, Journey of Truth.

Jerald Monahan was recommended to us by members of the Scottsdale, AZ, branch of AAUW. Chief Monahan described the program as follows: "It will be an enlightening conversation about the current state of events with the Me Too, No More and Start by Believing Campaign and how these movements are impacting the culture of our nation when a survivor of sexual assault discloses. The impact of these movements and campaigns on the criminal justice system will also be a part of this conversation using examples of the recent cases involving Bill Cosby, Dr. Larry Nassar, and just recently the Florida case involving Robert Kraft and human sex trafficking."

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, and this event is a lead-in to further activities on campus. It is open to the public, and should be of interest to professionals, community members, students, and survivors. Please encourage your friends to come.

Equal Pay Day at Capitol

Members of the Des Moines branch of AAUW are asked to help greet members of the public to mark Equal Pay Day on April 2, 2019 from 2:00 – 4:00 in the rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol. Equal Pay Day is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman has to work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. A table has been reserved for us, and we plan to have the AAUW Iowa display board, handouts about the gender pay gap, membership brochures, stickers, and sign-up sheets for the AAUW Action Network. We will also have snack sized Payday candy bars to hand out to the public with messages taped to the back about the gender pay gap, Start Smart, and general information about AAUW.

AAUW Iowa Spring Conference

This year's AAUW Iowa Spring Conference is Saturday, April 27 at DMACC in Newton. It will be one day only, starting with a welcome at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00.

Sessions include presentations on getting women elected, from 50-50 in 2020, public policy issues from Maureen White, leadership education, presentations from student recipients of AAUW fellowships and grant recipients, 'What the Music Man Got Wrong,' and presentations from student leaders at 3 colleges.

Registration for members is \$50 if postmarked by April 15. That fee includes a light breakfast, beverages, and a buffet lunch. Members may bring a guest for just \$15 – essentially what it would cost to cover the breakfast and lunch. It is 35 miles from downtown Des Moines to the DMACC campus in Newton. At that distance and those prices, we hope that many of you will be able to go and bring a friend or relative along as a guest. Watch your mail for the AAUW Iowa spring newsletter for registration.

AAUW DM to Tour the Art Center

Members of the Des Moines branch are invited to meet for a tour of the Des Moines Art Center at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, followed by lunch at Tangerine at the Art Center.

Tech Trek 2019

Our branch has 12 applicants for Tech Trek 2019 to be held at Buena Vista University July 7-13. Tech Trek is an exciting and engaging one-week summer camp for 7th grade girls featuring hands-on activities in science, technology, and math. Girls who attended before spoke very highly of the experience, and they described it as "the best camp ever."

This year's applicants are from Harding, North Polk, and Waukee. AAUW and Buena Vista University will cover all costs except for \$50, which they ask for families or local branches to cover. The 12 applicants and their parents were interviewed by Joanne Page and Ann Gale using Zoom web conferencing for all but one family. All parents said that they would be able to cover the \$50, but it appears to be more of a challenge for some families than others. Last year 4 students attended from this area, and our branch covered the \$50 fee for all 4 students. We will have information about which students have been accepted in April.

The leadership team discussed the possibility of covering \$25 for each of the girls who are accepted, and discussed asking members to contribute \$20 each toward that fee. A decision will need to be made after we know about the number of students who have been accepted this year.