

Branching Out

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

100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment Kickoff

The 100th Anniversary of the ratification 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote is in 2020 and AAUW Iowa has been working with other organizations in commemorating this important time in history. A lot of information is available at their website at <https://19th-amendment-centennial.org/>.

There will be a kickoff for the 19th Amendment commemoration at the Memorial Union on the Iowa State University campus in Ames on February 14 from 11:30 – 6:30. Here is the schedule for that event:

- 11:30-12:45 IPTV Screening of Carrie Chapman Catt biographical documentary in the Sun Room, Memorial Union. Light lunch available for members of the public attending the screening.
- 12:00 Campanile concert featuring suffrage songs. Outdoor, central campus
- 1:00 – 2:15 Keynote address, Elaine Wess, author of The Women's Hour, Great Hall
- 2:15 – 2:30 Break
- 2:30 – 3:15 Performance of The Yellow Rose of Suffrage by Dr. Jane Cox
- 3:15 – 3:30 Break
- 3:30 – 4:15 Concurrent Sessions
 - Suffrage in the South, Q & A with Elaine Weiss
 - Women's Political Participation, 1920-2020
 - Readings from women's suffrage documents/speeches

- Iowa Stories (African American, League of Women Voters, Latinas)
- The 19th Amendment as voting Rights History
- 3:15 – 4:30 Break
- 4:30 – 5:15 Concurrent Sessions
 - Women's Political Participation, 1920-2020
 - Readings from women's suffrage documents/speeches
 - Iowa Stories (African American, League of Women Voters, Latinas)
 - The 19th Amendment as voting Rights History
- 5:15 – 6:30 Closing Reception, Great Hall

Ann Gale is interested in coordinating a carpool trip from the Des Moines area to Ames for all or part of the activities. If there is a sufficient interest, we might be able to arrange for one car to leave early and one to stay for the whole day. If not, we could take one car and agree on a time to leave. Please get in touch with Ann at 515-320-4404 or ann.gale9@gmail.com about your preferences for the day.



More 19th Amendment Anniversary Information

There will be celebrations of the 19th amendment at parades, museums, libraries, and fairs in 2020. Information about these and other events is available at <https://19th-amendment-centennial.org/>. Some noteworthy information follows:

- Dr. Karen Kedrowski, Director of the Catt Center for Women in Politics, will discuss women's suffrage history on January 23rd at the ISU Alumni Center in Ames.
- 19th Amendment merchandise is available from the website above.
- Mayors will do proclamations about the 19th Amendment.
- A 19th Amendment curriculum is available to be downloaded for use with grades 9-12.
- A new musical called The Suffragist by Professor Nancy Hill Cobb will be performed June 5, 6, and 7 at the UNI campus.
- 19th Amendment Anniversary Commemoration calendar is available free of charge at Veridian locations. Ann Gale has 7 of them and will give them away on a first come first served basis.

2020 AAUW Regional Conference

AAUW Iowa is working with groups several other states to host a regional AAUW conference at the Hyatt House East Moline in Illinois June 18-19. Speakers will include Kim Churches, Kendra Davis, Lisa Maatz, and Denise Lieberman. More information is available at <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/state-convention/>



This is a great opportunity to go to a conference that is the next best thing to a national conference with nationally known speakers. Please mark your calendars.

Officers needed for AAUW Iowa

Serving as an elected officer or an appointed board member for AAUW Iowa is a good way to meet other people who share your interests from other areas. The following positions are needed: Secretary, Program Co-Vice President, Membership Co-Vice President, Public Policy Director, Diversity Director, Social Media Director, Nominating Committee Director, Nominations SW. If you would like more information, please get in touch with Kathie Farris at katfarris5@gmail.com or 515-961-7647.

Nominating Committee Needed

Two volunteers are needed for a nominating committee for officers for 2019-20. Please contact Ann Gale at 515-320-4404 if you are willing to serve on this committee.

Teaching English – How Things Have Changed

Faith Sherman has arranged for a program featuring a current and a retired English teacher for a discussion about changes in language arts education. The tentative date is April 4 at 1:00, with a place to be determined.

Holiday Tea Hosted by Sharon Gee

Branch members met at Sharon Gee's home for a holiday tea December 14. Our thanks go to Sharon for hosting.

Celebrating Women + Postcards

We are planning to watch a Sabrina Ahmed program on "Celebrating Women" in February, and we also plan to write postcards to legislators during that meeting. The program was previously aired as a "This Week in Iowa" segment on Channel 5. Watch for specifics about a date and location.



Lobby Day February 12, 2020

AAUW Iowa Lobby Day is February 12, 2020. This is a time when AAUW members throughout Iowa meet at the capitol, discuss issues that important to us, and then meet with our legislators about those issues. Mark your calendars.



Botanical Center in February



We are working on plans to visit the Des Moines Botanical Garden in February 2020, followed by lunch at the Trellis Café. Watch for news on a date and time.

Tech Trek Girls October 7 at Grand View University

Five girls who attended Tech Trek from Des Moines Harding and Waukee Schools met with their parents, AAUW members and guests for pizza at Grand View University on October 7. The campers said that they liked meeting other girls who like science, and they enjoyed making DNA necklaces, identifying insects in prairie and wetland environments, creating apps, learning about hacking, and playing games like capture the flag. The girls said that it was very worthwhile, and that they would love to do it again.



Welcome New Member Rose Lee

New member Rose Lee from Grimes has joined our branch. Welcome Rose!

Reiman Gardens in May

Watch for news about a trip to Reiman Gardens in Ames in May 2020. We plan to meet in Des Moines and carpool.



Bylaws Review

Bylaws are being reviewed to determine whether changes are needed. Contact Ann Gale with questions or to assist. 515-320-4404.

In Memoriam

Karen Merrill, former AAUW member, died October 8, 2019. Her obituary states that she and her husband were the first clergy couple in Iowa.