

Branching Out

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

Please Join Us for a Picnic and Annual Meeting June 8 at 11:30

Plan to join us for a picnic and annual meeting June 8. at 11:30 a.m. Our location will be the open shelter in Walker Johnson Park in Urbandale. Walker Johnson is a big park, and this shelter is most easily accessed from the Police Department parking lot at 3740 86th street, not from the main park entrance on Douglas. Park in the police department partaking lot, but not in the reserved spaces. Bring your own brown bag lunch and drink. An annual meeting will follow lunch. If you have not yet renewed your membership, this would be a good opportunity. Bring your checkbook, and you can pay dues then.

There is a sidewalk from the parking area to the shelter. Restrooms are available in the shelter, and in the Urbandale Public Library nearby. More about the shelter here: <https://www.urbandale.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/-40>

Our rain date is June 15. We will communicate with members on June 7 if it looks as if the weather could be troublesome.

Please be respectful of others' safety and bring a mask or face guard to this event.

Time to Renew Membership

It is time to renew your AAUW membership for 2021-22. For most members that \$62 national, \$10 state, and \$10 branch for a total of \$82. You may do this in one of 3 ways:

- Fill out the membership form that is part of this newsletter and send it to branch treasurer, Barb Zimany.
- Bring your checkbook to the picnic/annual meeting on June 8.
- Renew your membership online in the AAUW [membership services database](#). After you have logged on, click on **renew your membership** on the lower left part of the page.

Annual Meeting Agenda Walker Johnston Open Shelter June 8, 2021 at 11:30

Election of officers for 2021-22. Slate of candidates:

- Ann Gale, President
- Joanne Page, Membership Vice President
- Janet Pickerell, Treasurer
- Leadership Team: Sharon Gee, Barb Zimany, Le Thomas, Faith Sherman.

Report survey results

Renew membership



**It's time to
VOTE!**

Voting in the AAUW Election Is Open Until May 17

There is an AAUW election this spring, and all AAUW members are encouraged to vote. This election includes a bylaws change to remove the degree requirement, and a vote on 2021-23 Public Policy Priorities. Voting will close May 17, 2021. Voting information was emailed to members by Shannon Wolfe, AAUW. That email included a link to take you to the AAUW website, your AAUW Member ID, and your voter PIN. If you have not yet voted, you may search your emails for Shannon Wolfe. Each member has her own unique member ID and voter PIN, so it will not work to have another member forward her email to you. If you are unable to find the email, contact AAUW at connect@aauw.org or 800-326-2289.

Member Survey Results

Eleven members responded to the survey. Results are summarized below.

1. What time of day works best for meetings?

Responses varied, but the most votes went for late afternoon, about 5:30, mid-afternoon, about 3:00, and early evening, about 7:00.

2. What day of the week works best for meetings?

There was so much variety on these that the leadership team will need to look at responses and choose.

3. What programs would you enjoy in the future?

- a) Anything advancing women 's lives
- b) CASA program & FCRB - there may be a pilot FCRB starting in Polk County this summer
- c) Arts, humanities, literature, STEM
- d) Presentations on issues related to women in leadership positions, imposter syndrome, mental health/well-being; Presentations and work on pay equity, intersectionality, and racial equity/justice; Women and student debt; Implicit bias trainings and work; mentoring young women
- e) Community based organizing for policy changes that lift up marginalized in communities
- f) Book Club, Other Education Groups, "Tutorial" on AAUW for new members
- g) book reviews & discussions; people speaking on careers for women; generally how are women doing in America & how can we help improve things
- h) Anything related to including diverse voices
- i) Genetics & developmental disabilities, Technology and helpful devices/aps to remain independent, violence (bullying) // suicide prevention in schools how we can help
- j) Gender pay gap, Title IX issues, legislative update
- k) Current events problems

4. Are you willing to present a program, or do you have a suggestion of someone else who could do a program? If so, list names and topics here.

- a) And Bacon with IMPACT community action, Planned Parenthood - State of reproductive health in Iowa,
- b) Not really.
- c) Dr. A'ndrea Wilson at Grand View University may be a good person to present on issues related to racial equity and/or justice -

especially related to education. Several people from the Social Work department at Grand View might also be good to talk about some of these issues and/or mental health issues (Dr. Cathy Beck Cross, Myke Selha, and Kiimberlee Gregory)

- d) Courtney Dufford (815) 541-8957 A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy. AMOS
- e) yes -- I'm doing the next one; I'd like to have Amy Getty do one on teaching in college today; I'd like to hear every member of our group do a program about what they do/did for a career and/or hobbies or social groups they belong to
- f) Sure Dr. Sandra Hobson, Hearing Aids/Cochlear Implants Financial help via VRS? Medicare supplements, other assistive technology like Captioned phones as well as captioning on TV or Bluetooth Connectivity with your Smart Phones
- g) I could do the gender pay gap, and probably work with someone else on it. Maureen White could do a great legislative update.

5. Do you have suggestions for meeting locations?

Please list them. (Look ahead to a time when it is possible to meet in person again.)

- a) Northside Library unless they charge
- b) Library public meeting rooms
- c) Parks when nice. Library or other academic setting. I can always get rooms at GV if after 5 p.m. No senior centers!
- d) I'm biased to Grand View because it's convenient for me :) I think Smoky Row is nice too. Maybe a room at the central library so the location is central
- e) Community Room New Beginnings Church Urbandale, Iowa
- f) Restaurants with small meeting rooms, park shelters, community centers
- g) Parks are good; rooms at Grand View or Drake; restaurants once we can use them again
- h) I would just like to comment that I haven't yet paid my dues. This year has been incredibly hard to meet in general for me due to family constraints. I didn't choose a time because unsure if I would be able to make it.
- i) Christopher's in Beaverdale, Biaggi's on University, Marriott Hotel
- j) Coffee shops, restaurants with a meeting room, public libraries
- k) Library

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Please Renew Your AAUW Membership For the 2021-22 Membership Year

AAUW dues go from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. If you have not yet renewed your dues for 2021-22, this is your chance.

Regular AAUW dues are \$82. Of that amount, \$62 goes to National, \$10 goes to AAUW Iowa, and \$10 goes to the local branch.

Please use the form below and send it with your check to Barb Zimany using the enclosed envelope. Please make the check payable to AAUW.

Email addresses change frequently. Please confirm your email address to ensure you will continue to receive communications.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

New or Renewal? _____

If New: College/University _____

Year Graduated _____

Major _____

Date of birth _____

Send a check for Full Dues (National, State, and Des Moines branch). If you are already a national member (dues already paid or gifted through graduation), you can join the Iowa and Des Moines branches for just \$20.

AAUW is a 501c3 charitable organization, and \$59 of your dues are tax deductible. \$3 of your national dues go to AAUW Action, a 501c4 social welfare organization, and that portion is not tax deductible. AAUW Iowa and AAUW Des Moines are also 501c4 social welfare organizations, so those portions are also not tax deductible.

Mail checks made out to AAUW to:

Barb Zimany
10022 Valdez Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322

Another way to pay your dues is to bring your checkbook to the picnic and annual meeting on June 8.

Online payment through credit card is also an option. Go to the [member services database](#). Click on **Renew My Membership** on the lower left part of the page.

Survey results continued from p. 2

6. Project with Jordahl Academy

7 people were willing to a) help with a field trip to the art center, botanical gardens, science center or concert, b) contribute to a food or clothing drive, and c) contribute to a gift card. 4 people were willing to help pay for a student's tuition.

7. Would you like to participate in a march with a suffragist wagon at the Iowa State Fair this summer, possibly in connection with LWV?

4 yes, 3 maybe, 3 no, 1 probable scheduling conflict.

In Memoriam: Marilyn Herselius Farr

Marilyn Farr passed away in Des Moines on January 17, 2021 at age 95. Marilyn had a varied career that included being a financial systems manager for the comptroller's office with the State of Iowa, and principal budget analyst for the Legislative Services Bureau. She then formed a firm that designed and installed computer systems for county government ts and care facilities in Iowa and other states. Marilyn was a long time member of AAUW.



Rise of the Radical Right

On April 13, Joanne Page presented a program, "Rise of the Radical Right," based on the book, *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*, by Kathleen Belew. The program was well received, and is linked on the AAUW Iowa website. Members and guests who were not able to attend on the 13th may play it at your convenience.

Several programs from other branches are linked on the AAUW Iowa website as well, such as programs on human trafficking, the Guardian Angel Program, gender pay equity, Start Smart, Immigration and Paths to Citizenship, and AAUW Legacy Circle. Find all of them here: <https://aauw-ia.aauw.net/>

Branch Meeting on April 13

The Des Moines branch met using Zoom following Joanne's program. The annual meeting June 8 was discussed. The consensus was for members to bring our own lunches and beverages. Faith Sherman and Sharon Gee will make a recommendation about a park and shelterhouse. June 15 was chosen as an alternate date in case of bad weather June 8. Diversity Director was added to the responsibilities of the membership vice president.

Interested in the book group for 2021-22? Stay around after the picnic/meeting on June 8 and help us choose books for 2021-22.

AAUW-Iowa State Virtual Gathering

Saturday May 8, 2021, 9:00-11:30 AM

Plans are now set for this year's state meeting, which will be held via Zoom. Here is the schedule and a few details about our speakers.

- 9:00 AM Welcome by Iowa AAUW President Carletta Knox Seymour
- 9:05 AM Jessica Crawford, Self Help International (SHI) – "Empowering Women & Girls through Education & Small Business: Self-Help International Programs in Ghana & Nicaragua"
A 10-minute breakout-discussion time will follow her presentation.
- 9:45 AM Dr. Barb Ramos, Simpson College, Professor of Teacher Education – "COVID's Impact on PK-16 Education"
- 10:15 AM AAUW Iowa Business Meeting
Drawing for a 25 x 34 inches rag rug made from denim jeans and easy to care for: machine washable, line dry, courtesy of Pay Higby. (Recipient must be "present.")
- 11:00 AM Congresswoman Cindy Axne, IA-03 – "Making Both Halves Whole: Ensuring Full Recovery through Investments in Working Women and Moms"

Online registration is free for both members and non-members of AAUW. Complete the form available at

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/Engerlmchsicom1/AAUWIowaStateConferenceRegistrationForm>.

A Zoom link will be sent to you after you register.

More information about the virtual gathering is available in the AAUW Iowa Newsletter and the previous AAUW Des Moines newsletter.