

Branching Out

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

January Program: Reaching Out to Diverse Groups

The Des Moines Branch of AAUW will host a program on “Reaching Out to Diverse Groups” at our meeting on **January 19 at 7:00** using zoom. The program will be presented by AAUW Iowa president Carletta Knox-Seymour, gender equity director Jane Goldsmith, and public policy co-director Dev Kiedaisch. Please mark the date on your calendar, and consider asking a friend to join in, to give our presenters a good audience. Use this link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcjI0ZlNQMUMtZjIjCU0RQQT09>



Carletta Knox-Seymour



Jane Goldsmith



Dev Kiedaisch

Getting Things Off Our Chests: February Meeting in Person to Write Postcards



The Des Moines branch of AAUW will meet on **Wednesday, February 16 at 5:30** at Smokey Row, 1530 SW Vintage Pkwy, Ankeny, IA.. We will order from the menu, and our program will include writing postcards to senators, representatives, etc. We will provide addresses, postcards, and a few printed labels. We want to protect everyone’s safety, so we ask that everyone get COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters before coming. Bring a mask and be prepared to wear it when you aren’t eating or drinking.

Teaching in a Time of Divisive Concepts—Melissa Peterson, ISEA

AAUW Des Moines Co-hosts with eNetwork Branch

Melissa Peterson, ISEA Government Relations Specialist, will present a program on teaching in a time of divisive concepts using Zoom on **Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.** This event will be co-hosted by the Iowa eNetwork branch. This would be a good opportunity to invite a friend to join in. This is will be held during the time the legislature is in session, and there is a possibility that Melissa may be unable to do that presentation. In that event, someone from ISEA’s legal services will step in for us. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjcjI0ZlNQMUMtZjIjCU0RQQT09>



Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 19 at 7:00. Reaching Out to Diverse Groups by Carletta Knox-Seymour, Jane Goldsmith, and Dev Kiedaisch. Zoom

February 16, Smokey Row, Ankeny. Writing Postcards to Legislators

March 16 at 7:00. Teaching in a Time of Diverse Concepts, Melissa Peterson, ISEA. Zoom

April 8-9. AAUW Iowa Spring Conference, Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston

May 21 at 10:00 a.m., Smokey Row, Ankeny. Legislative Wrap-Up with Connie Ryan.

June 15 at 11:30. Annual Meeting, Open Shelter behind Urbandale

AAUW Iowa Spring Conference in Johnston

This year the spring conference for AAUW Iowa will be held in person at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston on **April 8-9**. Members will attend from all over Iowa, and the Des Moines branch is the closest branch to the conference location. Going to the state conference will never be more convenient than it will be this time. Please mark your calendars for this date. Volunteers



will be needed to staff the registration table, make sure that people get their name tag and folder, etc. Please consider volunteering. During the next two issues of the statewide newsletter, we will promote the conference, as well as make some suggestions about local attractions. If you have suggestions to include or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Ann Gale at 515-320-4404 or ann.gale9@gmail.com.

Legislative Wrap-Up with Connie Ryan

Connie Ryan, Director of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, will present a legislative wrap-up following a brunch on **Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.** at Smokey Row, 1530 SW Vintage Pkwy, Ankeny, IA. This would be another good opportunity to invite a friend to join us. We want to hold in-person events as safely as possible. Again, we ask that you get a COVID-19 vaccine before coming. Please bring a mask with you, and be prepared to wear it when you are not eating or drinking.



Connie Ryan

Picnic Lunch and Annual Meeting June 15

We plan to meet in the shelterhouse behind the Urbandale Public Library and Police Station for our annual meeting on **Wednesday, June 15 at 11:30 a.m.** Park in the library or police station parking lot. The shelter is easily accessible from the parking area.



Bring a sack lunch. After lunch, we will hold the election of officers, and make plans for the 2022-23 year.

Current officers are:

Ann Gale, President; Joanne Page, membership vice president, Janet Pickerell, treasurer. Leadership includes officers plus Sharon Gee, Faith Sherman, and Leora Thomas. If you are interested in serving as an officer or on the leadership team, plus get it touch with one of the people listed.