

Connections

Events Calendar

FEBRUARY

BPW FOUNDATION MONTH
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 3, 2020

IOWA CAUCUS DAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATION
11:30 AM – 6:30 PM
ISU MEMORIAL UNION
AMES, IA
(DETAILS ON PAGE 2)

FEBRUARY 17, 2020

PRESIDENTS' DAY

FEBRUARY 24, 2020

WEBINAR 5:30 – 6:30 PM
(SEE PAGE 3)

MARCH

Women's History Month



100 Years: Continually Evolving

Welcome to 2020 — a year of historical significance for women! April 5, 2020 marks the **100th Anniversary of the Iowa Federation of Business and Professional Women** (BPW Iowa). 2020 is also the centennial year for the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

So, what does the future hold for BPW Iowa? Will we still be advancing the mission of our organization to develop and empower women through education, awareness and advocacy in the decades to come?

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

— Peter Drucker

Our past was shaped by the suffragists and other activists who brought women's issues to the forefront of our society. As the 19th Amendment Centennial Committee says it, “The gains? HARD WON. The status today? NOT DONE.”

Many of the issues that plagued us over the past century are resolved — in theory, if not in practice — by law and by consensus. Still much remains to be done including ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, renewal of the Violence Against Women Act, achieving Pay Equity for women, combating racism and sexism, fighting human trafficking, bringing about equal representation in politics and business, impacting the economic insecurity of Iowa women, etc.

We've survived a huge amount of change over the past 100 years and we've found a way to adapt. We are continually evolving. We will continue to educate, advocate, support and empower one another. We can create our future!

Cathy Hines

2019-2020 BPW Iowa President
cathyh2032@msn.com

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Iowa Caucuses
- Athena Award
- 19th Amendment Centennial Kickoff
- Iowa BPW Foundation Scholarships
- In Memoriam
- New Member
- Trailblaz-Her Award
- 50-50 in 2020
- VAWA
- Strength of Sisters

Iowa Caucuses February 3rd

Everyone in Iowa knows caucuses will be February 3rd. All eyes in the USA will be watching for the results, which are definitely more official than the Iowa State Fair “kernels of corn” poll. At 2019 fair, Trump got more kernels than any other candidate, however, the Democrats totaled more votes.

We have 3 Republicans and 11 Democrats still in the running at this time, but the number will seriously trim down after caucus night. Each candidate needs at least 15% support or will be dropped before primary ballot in June. Expected caucus leaders will be Republican: Trump and Democrats: Biden, Warren, Sanders and Buttigieg.

Caucuses will be held in public buildings instead of private homes. You must be in line by beginning time in order to be counted. Each voting precinct is assigned a caucus location; however, the caucuses are often not held at your usual polling place. Find your polling place through [The Iowa Democratic Party](#) or the [Republican Party of Iowa](#).

The origin of the word caucus is from Native Americans, possibly Algonquin, and translates to “one who advises”, although that translation and origin can be disputed.

I urge all BPW members to take an active interest in this first step of selecting our next President. Be involved! Support the candidate who shares your viewpoints! Remember what suffragettes went through 100 years ago!

Cindy Paulsen
Legislation Chair



Debbie Leistad — Athena Award

Congratulations to Atlantic BPW Member and BPW Iowa General Chair, Debbie Leistad, for being named this year’s Athena Award Winner at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner. The award is given each year to a deserving woman showing leadership skills to other women.



**Carrie Chapman Catt Center
for Women and Politics
&
Iowa Department of Human Rights'
Office on the Status of Women**

*19th Amendment Centennial
Commemoration Statewide Kickoff*
Friday, Feb. 14, 2020
Memorial Union, Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa
11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
Public screening of Iowa PBS's
biographical documentary of Carrie
Chapman Catt

12:00 PM
Iowa State University Campanile
concert featuring suffrage songs

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM
"The Woman's Hour,"
author Elaine Weiss

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM
"The Yellow Rose of Suffrage," Jane
Cox, Iowa State professor emerita

3:30 PM - 5:15 PM
Suffrage in the South: Q&A
Women's Political Participation
Iowa Stories
The 19th Amendment as Voting Rights
History

5:15 PM - 6:30 PM
Closing Reception

**The event is free and open to the
public.**

Iowa BPW Foundation



Iowa BPW Foundation Scholarship applications are now being accepted! We will award the five \$1,000 scholarships during the upcoming BPW Iowa annual conference on April 24th and 25th.

The due date to submit the application is March 15th. For scholarship documents, visit our website at <https://www.bpw-iowa.org/bpw-iowa-foundation-scholarship>

All colleges and universities in Iowa and Local Organization Presidents and Vice Presidents have been notified of this information as we actively recruit applicants.

For more information, please contact Charla Schmid, Chair of Iowa BPW Foundation Scholarship Committee at 712-370-0277 or email charla_schmid@hotmail.com.

INTRODUCING THE TRAILBLAZ-HER AWARD

A new recognition program will be launched this year. The BPW Iowa Trailblaz-Her Award will be presented to a BPW Iowa member at our Annual Conference in April.

What is a Trailblaz-Her? By definition, a trailblazer is an individual who has opened pathways for others to follow. She may be a pioneer, a torchbearer, a leader, an originator, an innovator or a catalyst for change. Trailblaz-Her is our "feminine version" of the noun trailblazer.

The purpose of the BPW Iowa Trailblaz-Her Award is to recognize a member who has distinguished herself in her community, her profession and our organization. The recipient of the award exemplifies the values for which BPW Iowa stands and demonstrates leadership in the pursuit of equity for women.

Award criteria and nomination forms coming soon! Please be thinking about someone you'd like to nominate.

In Memoriam....

Past State President, Mary Ann Tooman, 82, passed away on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at Lutheran Living in Muscatine.

Mary Ann was an award-winning teacher working for 42 years in the Bennett Community & Muscatine Community School Districts.

She was a long time BPW member serving on local, district and state levels where she was State President 1993-1994.

Mary Ann was active in her community and a dedicated volunteer.

She is survived by her two children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.



Mark Your Calendar

Monday, Feb. 24 5:30 - 6:30 PM
BPW Iowa Webinar

Two-parts:

- Overcoming Professional Growing Pains
- Leading Others Positively

Watch your email for more info.

Welcome New Member!

Mt Pleasant
Jennifer Lehman
Lehmanj71@gmail.com

Excerpt from **50-50 in 2020** thank you letter:

On January 31, the organization officially concluded, after a decade of recruiting, mentoring, and training women to run for public office. It's been a ground-breaking effort, and we've seen much progress for Iowa women in the public sector.

Major goals have been achieved, with a woman Governor, one U.S. Senator, and two members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The number of women in the Iowa General Assembly has increased from 34 to 44 during this period (23% to 30%) – a good increase, but still short of our 50% goal.

Nevertheless, we are leaving a legacy of strong programs: AAUW-Iowa has agreed to conduct NUDGE Parties in the cities where they have chapters, and the League of Women Voters of Iowa has stepped up to run the annual "See Yourself Here" demystification seminar at the state capitol. Conversations about revamping and expanding the Blueprint for Winning Academy, Step Up, and Post-Election Sessions are ongoing.

Plans for the next decade will focus on women in higher education. Iowa's excellent colleges and universities provide the ideal environment to interest young women in potential careers in the political sector. The University of Northern Iowa has had a student chapter of 50-50 in 2020 for four years and plans for establishing similar student organizations at the two other universities are under discussion. If this step is successful, we anticipate expanding the programs to Iowa's private colleges and universities and community colleges.

Administratively, a new Advisory Council will be formed, with male and female representatives from the participating institutions, and some members of 50-50 in 2020 to assure continuity. Its name will be **50-50 in Iowa**.

It has been our privilege and our honor to lead this organization and to have your support along the way. Please accept our heartfelt thanks. We hope you will continue to support the brave women who dare to run for public office.

Very sincerely,
Jean Lloyd-Jones and Maggie Tinsman
Co-Founders

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

The Violence Against Women Act became law in 1994 but lapsed in February after it was left out of a funding bill that ended the partial government shutdown. The main purpose was to provide funds to survivors of domestic violence through legal services, provide a new safe location, help at a rape center, or even compensation as a survivor. The House passed the reauthorization bill in April 2019.

The VAWA renewal is being stalled in the Senate for seemingly partisan issues. Democrats say the NRA claims this law infringes on gun rights. (Statistics show that guns in domestic violence situations increase the chances of homicide by 500%.) The House version of the bill extends the ban on guns to include boyfriends/intimate partners, not just husbands of the victim, shared parenthood with the victim, or live in with the victim. It seems Republicans feel this proposal is too confining to gun owners and that Democrats are playing partisan politics in election year.

Republicans have the Senate majority; it is up to their leadership to bring the VAWA up for consideration. Domestic abuse survivors, whether Democrat or Republican, need their communities help with this law. Abuse does not stop at party lines.

Cindy Paulsen
Women's Issues

Strength of Sisters - The “Power of Community”



Over the next couple of months, BPW Iowa members will receive messaging from Iowa BPW Foundation on our two annual plans of work: seeking and awarding applicants for this year’s scholarships and fundraising for future scholarships.

This year, we are awarding five \$1,000 scholarships to five recipients at the Saturday luncheon during the BPW Iowa Annual Conference. Scholarship application documents are now available on our BPW Iowa website, www.bpw-iowa.org. The application due date is March 31st. We have sent the documents to the financial aid offices of colleges and universities in the state of Iowa encouraging their staff to recruit applicants. **We need your help to recruit too! Please seek out non-traditional individuals in your communities who may want to go back to or are already attending college.** This scholarship could give them the boost they need.

We are uplifting our Strength of Sisters-The “POWER” of Community fundraising campaign across the full membership. Our scholarship recipients realize the importance of education to further their careers. Our past support indicates, as members of BPW Iowa, we believe in the Gift of Education as well. **Will you pledge to support and stretch your financial means to help future potential recipients realize their dream too?**

Maybe your LO will offer you an opportunity to fundraise during February’s “Foundation Month”, and that is awesome! But here is an additional and a much-needed way to show your support: **Join your Sisters and pledge to the Strength of Sisters - The POWER” of Community campaign.** Be recognized at the Annual Conference. All donors will be honored and celebrated at the luncheon on April 25th. Pick the “Sister” below that most describes you and send your check to Iowa BPW Foundation by April 15th.

P	for Passionate Sister	\$20.00 - \$49.00
O	for Outstanding Sister	\$50.00 - \$99.00
W	for Warrior Sister	\$100.00 - \$249.00
E	for Empowered Sister	\$250.00 - \$999.00
R	for Radical Sister	\$1,000.00 and above

We know our support is making a difference to the women who receive our scholarships. Your thoughtful consideration is greatly appreciated. If you choose to support in this way, please mail your check to Iowa BPW Foundation, c/o Charla Schmid, Treasurer, 1890 215th St., Red Oak, IA 51566-6013.

For questions, please call Charla at 712-370-027 or email to charla_schmid@hotmail.com OR Janice Brown, President at 712-243-6598 or jlbrown@mchsi.com.

BPW Strong,
Janice and Charla
Your Iowa BPW Foundation Leadership Team

