**Teresa Bomhoff**

Teresa is the Chairperson of the Iowa Mental Health Planning Council and Past President and present Board member of MindSpring Mental Health Alliance (formerly NAMI of Greater Des Moines). Additional volunteer positions include:

* AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) mental health workgroup
* Des Moines Metro League of Women Voters Board President
* Community Planning team for Crisis Intervention Training for the Des Moines Police Department, Polk County Supervisors and the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy
* Veterans Advisory Council member
* Fifth Judicial District Board of Directors
* Grandview Services Advisory Board Member
* Iowa Rural Health Association Advisory Member
* and others

Teresa has family members living with severe mental illness. She is a trained educator in mental health programs and publishes the MindSpring Mental Health Alliance monthly newsletter. She is also a certified trainer for Mental Health First Aid. Teresa has been a mental health advocate for 20 years.

Her education is a Bachelor’s degree with honors in Secondary teaching in English and History. Teresa retired in 2011 after almost 39 years of service with USDA Rural Development.

**Dr. Amy DeGroot-Hammer**

Dr. Amy DeGroot-Hammer came to the League after many years of attending LWV Legislative Forums in Woodbury County in Sioux City.  Amy has devoted her career to advocating for others as a strong voice for social justice issues and public education. She has worked with educational stakeholders over the course of nearly three decades as a K–12 school counselor and classroom teacher. Elected to serve as a National Education Association (NEA) Director representing Iowa, Dr. DeGroot-Hammer lobbied in Washington D.C. and worked with members of Congress to support the needs of public education students. As President of the Iowa School Counselor Association (ISCA), she successfully worked with a bipartisan group of elected legislators to bring positive changes to Iowa Code to protect students.

Amy is employed with the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) as a UniServ Director working where she works with 38 school districts in NW Iowa.  Amy also serves as a Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) trainer and an adjunct professor of school counseling at Buena Vista University.  Dr. DeGroot-Hammer holds a doctorate in PK–12 school administration and educational leadership and a master’s degree in PK–12 professional school counseling from the University of South Dakota. Her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and political science was awarded by Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

In addition to her daily "work" - Amy enjoys spending time with her family and following the many activities of her two amazing teenagers.  She works hard to raise them to be independent, intelligent, open, affirming, and kind humans - who she nurtures with the hopes that they will grow up to use their voices to make positive change in the world.  They are the two biggest blessings in her life.

**Holly Oppelt**

Holly Oppelt is the newly-elected president of the League of Women Voters of Muscatine County. She was born and raised in Muscatine, graduated from the University of Iowa, and returned to Muscatine. Holly was employed at Central State Bank (name recently changed to CBI Bank and Trust) for 29 years, retiring as Vice President and Trust Officer in 2013.

Holly is actively involved in her community. In the past she has served as President of the Community YMCA/YWCA during our $9 million capital building campaign. She also served 12 years on the Board of Trustees for her local hospital – UnityHealthcare - Trinity Muscatine. Holly is now finishing her second four year term on the Board of Directors of Gilda’s Club Quad Cities, and her third year as President of her local P.E.O. chapter.

Holly’s biggest accomplishment was working her way through the offices of Business and Professional Women of Iowa (BPW/IA) serving as State President in 1996. She also served on the Board of Directors of BPW/USA and the BPW/USA Finance Committee, chairing in 2003. During these years she and other leaders went to in Washington, D.C. each February to lobby for Women’s Rights on the Hill. She loved it!

**Mary Stewart**

Mary Steward is a retired educator. She was a community college administrator for 33 years, retiring as the Dean of Academic Services at Indian Hills Community College.

Since retirement Mary has committed herself to community activism, using community in the broadest sense.  She serves on a number of local and statewide boards and commissions, most recently as a member of the Iowa ACLU board and Emerge Iowa.

Mary has been a member of the Ottumwa League of Women Voters since 2015. She is currently serving her second term as president of Ottumwa LWV. Mary believes that the mission of LWV has never been more important than it is in these challenging times, and she is confident that LWV is prepared and equipped to meet that challenge.

**Melissa Gesing**

Melissa Gesing is the owner of Red Goose Solutions, L.L.C., a consulting firm specializing in event planning, fundraising, and online marketing.

Melissa graduated from Fredericksburg High School in 1997 and first became active in politics while attending Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. In addition to working for Elizabeth Dole for President and organizing central Iowa for the historic Iowa Straw Poll in Ames during the summer of 1999, Melissa served as Chair of the Simpson College Republicans.

Following her graduation from Simpson College in 2001, Melissa has worked on various campaigns ranging from U.S. House to Governor; for the Republican Party of Iowa; for Victory Enterprises, a political consulting and marketing firm based in Davenport, Iowa; and Campaign Headquarters, a conservative call center in Brooklyn, Iowa. When not working in politics full time, Melissa managed Target Optical stores in Davenport and Urbandale, Iowa.

Melissa has volunteered for the American Red Cross of the Quad Cities Area; Quad Cities Chamber; Junior League of the Quad Cities; Poweshiek County Economic Development Visioning Board; Relay for Life of Poweshiek County; and OneSight, a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating the global vision care crisis. Melissa also volunteered her time in various roles for the Iowa Federation of Republican Women, Scott County Republican Women, and Scott County Republicans. She served as a faculty member in residence for Iowa N.E.W. Leadership at the University of Iowa in May 2016. Most recently, Melissa served as a volunteer receptionist at InnerVisions HealthCare, Parish Relations Committee Chair on the Basilica of St. John parish council, and Financial Vice President of the Junior League of Des Moines.

Melissa served on the Board of Directors of 50-50 in 2020 – a 501c3 non-profit, non-partisan, issue neutral organization dedicated to achieving political equity for women in Iowa – from November 2016 through September 2018. She became 50-50 in 2020’s Executive Director in October 2018 and continued in that role through the organization’s conclusion in January 2020.

Melissa founded Red Goose Solutions L.L.C. in September 2018. In addition to 50-50 in 2020, the consulting firm’s clients have included the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee, AARP, Business and Professional Women of Iowa, League of Women Voters of Iowa, United Way Quad Cities, and Women’s Choice Center.

Melissa recently relocated from Des Moines to Davenport, Iowa, with her two rescue dogs: puggle Percy and corgi/chihuahua Gemma. In her spare time, Melissa enjoys taking road trips, participating in multiple book clubs, spending time with her nephew and five nieces, and fundraising and advocating for Parkinson’s disease research.