



FACT SHEET, Scottsdale Branch American Association of University Women (AAUW)

AAUW: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Since 1881, AAUW has been the nation's leading voice promoting this mission. AAUW has a nationwide network of more than 100,000 members, 1,300 branches and 550 college/university institution partners, and over 200,000 international members through affiliation with the International Federation of University Women. AAUW celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2006.

Scottsdale: Celebrating its 45th Year in April, 2007, Scottsdale is one of 15 AAUW branches in Arizona and has more than 170 members from Scottsdale and adjoining communities.

Key Facts:

- The first president of the Scottsdale Branch, Mrs. C. Lester (Audrey) Hogan was the honored guest at the Spring, 2007 luncheon. Celebrations continued at the Annual 2007 picnic where eleven Branch presidents were recognized and honored.
- Mrs. Grady (Kay) Gammage, the AAUW Arizona state division immediate past president and wife of the ASU's President, supported and advised the new branch during its first years.
- The AAUW Education Foundation, which provides annual grants to women to further their education, is the oldest program in the US providing awards for advanced study for women.
- In 1962, the Scottsdale branch was founded, AAUW was 80 and Arizona was 50 years old. The original Scottsdale Branch membership of 16 grew to 50 in the first year.
- One of the first projects that AAUW studied in the 1800's was "whether college injured women's health."
- Speakers to the Scottsdale AAUW in the first year included Mrs. Frank Lloyd Wright, Mrs. Grady Gammage, a Foreign Service officer, and a female college president.

Scottsdale Branch Recent Accomplishments:

- The Scottsdale and Phoenix AAUW branches and the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix (LWV) presented a program called ***Running and Winning*** for junior and senior women at the Coronado High School in Scottsdale on November 15, 2006. A grant from the Educational Foundation of AAUW provided major funding for the project. ***Running and Winning*** is a nationally

recognized program for high school junior and senior women that encourages them to see themselves as leaders, seeks to enhance their self-confidence, and provides information about public service and the electoral process.

- The Scottsdale Branch supports AAUW's two national programs with major fundraising efforts and donations. The **Education Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change. The **Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

- Other Community Action projects have included the **Adopt-A-Book** program, **Financial Literacy Seminars** for members and college students, **Explorathon** and the **Sister-to-Sister** mentoring program.

- **Adopt-A-Book** is an annual project which collects and distributes new or like-new books to children at a Title I grade school in Scottsdale. For many children, this may be the first book they have owned. Funds are also collected to donate directly to the school library to buy more books.

- The **Sister-to-Sister** program was implemented in conjunction with the Young Woman's Initiative to foster self-esteem in middle school girls. A Summit was held twice a year from 1996 to 2003 with 75-100 girls and concluded with a follow-up "Celebration" six weeks later.

- The **Explorathon** program was an annual Career Day for middle school girls. Developed by the Scottsdale branch, *the seminar series* encouraged girls to consider careers in math, science, engineering and technology. Women professionals were invited to speak and answer questions about their fields and their careers. Between 100 to 250 girls attended each year from 1995 until 2001.

- With a grant from AAUW-AZ, the Scottsdale Branch gave **Financial Literacy Seminars** about basic money management to ASU students in 2004 and 2006. In 2005, a more advanced investment seminar was offered to AAUW members and the public. The **Financial Literacy Series** received national recognition in AAUW's publication, *Outlook*.

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