

President's Message

Joanne Walen, Co-President

My goodness, I'm seeing Christmas decorations up already! How the days are rushing by! Before you get locked into the holiday shopping mode, I'd like to remind you of what is happening next year with your dues in AAUW by sharing a portion of the last message from our outgoing CEO Patricia Fae Ho:



What price do you put on societal change? I'm very proud of what AAUW members have accomplished. I also thank you, AAUW's members, for your continued passion and commitment to our mission.

Your AAUW Board of Directors [just passed] a dues increase of \$10, the first increase in nine years [to take effect July 1, 2018], to ensure that AAUW remains strong and able to meet the needs of women and girls today into the future. In light of that, let's ask ourselves, "What does my membership really do?" AAUW membership keeps the AAUW community strong locally and rallies new supporters nationally. Your membership feeds the AAUW watchdog that protects against legislative encroachments on our hard-won rights...

Your membership fuels the research that asks and answers hard societal questions and brings

about change. And it amplifies your voice because we are so much louder together.

AAUW exists because of you. AAUW is strong because of you. AAUW creates societal change because of you. That's what your membership is worth to society. What is it worth to you?

Personally, as your State Co-President, I look forward to working side-by-side with you as we continue to change the climate for women and girls in schools, the workplace, and the legislature. And here's a thought for those of you looking to save some money, even with the increase: if you have more than 16 years to go before reaching your 50-year Honorary Life Membership, consider purchasing a Life Membership before the dues go up. Right now, the price is \$980. For example, I've been an AAUW member for 5 years, so I have 45 years left to Honorary status. That's $45 \times \$59 = \2655 in dues. If I buy a Life Membership before July 1, I save \$1675 over those years.

Even if you don't vote in Arizona, we need your voice. Arizona is one of only two states holding up passage of [the ERA] amendment.

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And speaking of saving, save the date of Tuesday, February 20, 2018. This is AAUW-AZ Legislative Day at the State Capitol where we will urge the re-introduction of the bill to pass the ERA in Arizona. Even if you don't vote in Arizona, we need your voice. Arizona is one of only two states holding up passage of this amendment. If it passes here, we will be ever so much closer to ensuring equal rights for all (not just women).

I truly should have begun this article with a heartfelt shout out to Deb Dillon and her Prescott crew for the wonderful Fall Forum on November 4. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a round-up of that event, but I want to add my thanks for a job well done.

Have an attitude of gratitude—Happy Holidays.

Save the Dates!	
Dec 9, 2017	City of Tempe <i>Work Smart</i> workshop
Jan 19, 2018	State Board Meeting, Scottsdale
Feb 15, 2018	Submissions due for Spring Edition of Sun
Feb 20, 2018	Legislative Day! Show up for the ERA!
Feb 28, 2018	NCCWSL Registration deadline
Mar 1, 2018	Spring Edition of Sun and Community Action Deadline
Mar 10, 2018	Scottsdale Branch: ABC's of Advocacy
Apr 7, 2018	State Spring Conference, Tucson
May 31-Jun 2, 2018	NCCWSL Conference
Jun 22-24, 2018	AAUW Regional Conference, Sal Lake City

Advocating for AAUW Issues is Advocating for the USA

by Viva Ashcroft

YOU have a great story.



Do you realize what a great story you have when you are advocating on AAUW issues?

I have been a member of the National

Association of Realtors (“NAR”) for over 30 years. NAR claims 1.2 million members and is a formidable lobby organization. Their PAC is funded by voluntary donations (which I personally eschew since I would rather my political action be centered with AAUW). NAR tends to advocate for causes that support the INCOME of members. NAR is self-serving. This is very different from AAUW which advocates for what supports the well-being of our country.

I can tell you that I get a notable response when I talk to our legislators about the idea that I am supporting AAUW advocacy work because it supports the well-being of the country and not because it may help my income.

Even for our educator-members, we should note that your income very likely will not be affected by weak public education versus strong private. Shoot...it is possible, maybe even likely, that educators find that the private school pay to teachers is more lucrative than public school pay to teachers. We, at AAUW, advocate for good public education and Title IX because it is good for the country, not good for our personal pocketbooks. Please remind your legislators of this fact because I can assure that those who advocate in their own interests are pretty darn good at outshouting us.

You are working to better the USA, and we need to remind everyone who will listen about that.

Title IX and Other AAUW Updates

By Deb Dillon, CoPresident



In a recent email to our Branch Presidents, I have highlighted Title IX issues and calendar items of interest. I would like to bring attention to a timely Title IX issue, one that addresses sexual harassment and assault.

Recently, I received an email from Congressman Tom O'Halloran's (AZ 1st District)

office. Rep. O'Halloran is a member of the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence. The task force has requested any recommendations AAUW might have, particularly in relation to the rescinding of the [2011 Dear Colleague Letter](#) on Sexual Violence and the [2014 Questions and Answers](#) on Title IX and Sexual Violence. They also were interested in hearing about anything our state or branches are doing related to this topic. Please let me know if you have anything to share.

In other news, below are calendar items of interest to all our members. They are noted in the Save-the-Date box in this newsletter in as well.

1. State Public Policy Chair Harriet Young has announced that **this year's Legislative Day will be held Feb. 20** and will focus on extending the deadline for and passage of the ERA. Encourage your members to plan to attend this event.
2. Other upcoming events for your calendar
 - **Jan 19:** State Board Meeting, Scottsdale
 - **Mar 10:** Scottsdale Branch General Meeting on the ABCs of Advocacy. All branches invited to attend.
 - **Apr 7:** AZ State Spring Conference, Tucson
 - **Jun 22-24:** AAUW Regional Conference, Salt Lake City
3. We still have some funds available from the Lily Ledbetter event. If your branch is interested in requesting Lily Ledbetter funds for Start Smart/

Work Smart, you should apply through Special Projects. **If you are interested in observing the Work Smart program**, you are welcome to **attend this City of Tempe's upcoming workshop**. Contact Jean Johnson (jjteach403@cox.net) for more information.

Dates are as follows:

- **Dec. 9:** 9:00-11:30 a.m.

4. **We still need people to fill the following board positions.** Please encourage members of your branch to volunteer (or give us their names and we'll do the recruiting)!
 - Parliamentarian
 - Public Policy web page coordinator
 - Elections
 - Bylaws
 - Special Projects
5. AAUW is offering a webinar on Nov. 14 on "Diversity and Inclusion Task Force," where you can learn to create a more welcoming community for all. Check out the AAUW.org website for more information.
6. Our own Jane Adrian, Past AAUW AZ President, is a member of the AAUW Branch Program Resource Committee. She is a great source if you have questions about anything at the national level.

Please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, comments.

**Become
a Two-Minute
Activist!**

Receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your members of Congress right in your inbox. [Join the AAUW Action Network today!](#)

AAUW Announces New NCCWSL Deadline

Submitted by Patricia Allen-LaFleur

Mark your calendars: The 2018 [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL) will be held May 31–June 2 at the University of Maryland, College Park. [Registration is now open!](#)

At NCCWSL, attendees will

- Develop and strengthen their leadership and professional aptitude through voice, skill set, and mind-set
- Know how, why, and when to take action
- Gain a better understanding of issues and policies affecting women and of AAUW's role in empowering women
- Own their personal identities and learn new ways to increase and support diverse voices

The NCCWSL team has decided a deadline of February 28 is more reasonable for our students who are busy with finals around the holidays and will be returning to school from break in mid-January. **The national scholarship application will now close on February 28, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Apply for Community Action Funds!

Deadline: March 1, 2018

*Click on this link to contact
Claudia Greenwood for more
information!*

[AZ-AAUW Community Action](#)

AAUW National Award Grants and Fellowships to Arizonans

Submitted by Deb Dillon

AAUW has awarded four grants and fellowships this year to women and organizations in Arizona. Congratulations to these women! ***Click on the links for profiles of their projects.***

Name: [Marijel Melo](#)

Award Year: 2017-18

Award: American Fellowship

Institution: University of Arizona

Location: Tucson, Arizona

Discipline: Social sciences

Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Gender, Maker Culture, and innovation

Name: [Angelina Brandwein](#)

Award Year: 2017-18

Award: Career Development Grant

Institution: Arizona State University

Location: Tempe, Arizona

Discipline: Health and medical sciences

Degree and Specialization: M.S., Health Innovation & Management - Higher Education

Name: [Carmen Mestizo-Castillo](#)

Award Year: 2017-18

Award: International Fellowship

Institution: University of Arizona

Citizenship: Colombia

Location: Tucson, Arizona

Discipline: Law

Degree and Specialization: S.J.D., Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy

Recipient: [YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix](#)

Project Director: Natasha Lopez Rodriguez

Award Year: 2017-18

Award: Community Action Grant

Location: Phoenix, Arizona

Term: One-year

Fall Forum Stimulating and Successful

By Deb Dillon

More than 70 AAUW members, speakers, and guests attended the 2017 Fall Forum in Prescott on Nov. 4. The speakers shared information and challenged attendees in a variety of health-related areas.

Venay Uecke, a certified midwife with the Navajo Indian Health Service (INS), shared a generally discouraging look at the state of health care on the reservation, where tribal members must go if they are to receive subsidized care. Attendees asked a multitude of questions after Ms. Uecke's remarks, looking for possible ways in which AAUW could assist this population. One of the most discussed was support for nursing education for women who are currently working for the INS.

Discussing campus safety and support for women who experience sexual harassment and assault, Chief Jerald Monahan of the Yavapai College Police Department, shared a passionate call for improvement in this area. Chief Monahan has recently taken a new position with the End Violence Against Women International Organization which runs the *Start by Believing* campaign. He is available to speak to individual branches across the state. This dovetails with AAUW Arizona's focus on Title IX this year.

Civil discourse was the topic of Raquel Goodrich's talk. Ms. Goodrich, the deputy director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, not only discussed the need for civil discourse but also shared specific ideas for appropriately engaging persons with

whom we may disagree. In a note from the Institute's *Revive Civility* campaign, she suggested starting Thanksgiving celebration discussion with the question, "What are you most thankful for about living in America?" She emphasized the need for discussion rather than confrontation. Ms. Goodrich is also available to speak and run training for individual branches.

Two of this year's NCCWSL participants provided a positive highlight for the day, sharing some of their experiences and takeaways from that event. Uzma Tahir, Northern Arizona University, and Sara Campbell, Scottsdale Community College, left the attendees with the belief that our society would have excellent women leaders in the future.

A huge thank you goes to the Fall Forum Committee and to the host Prescott Branch. Attendees left the Forum energized, informed, and well fed!

Anyone looking for contact information on the speakers or with questions/suggestions for the AAUW Arizona board should contact Deb Dillon.





Branch Reports



Phoenix Chapter Announces Helping Hands Meeting December 19

Submitted by Mary Beth Lemons



Chris Coffman, founder and CEO of *HELPING HANDS FOR WORKING MOMS* will discuss the organization's mission and function at this month's meeting on December 19, 2017.

Helping Hands for Single Moms is a community-based nonprofit that assists impoverished single mom families while the moms are pursuing a college education and financial independence.

When a single mom first enrolls in college, her family situation often becomes worse before it gets better. In addition to midterms, finals and term papers, the single mom must attempt to live on inadequate financial resources while maintaining a household, managing transportation challenges, and nurturing her children. She is juggling school, family and work while facing loneliness, isolation, and low self-esteem. Together, these are significant challenges that often converge and can lead to dropping out of school. In order to facilitate success, Helping Hands for Single Moms provides a supportive program.

Helping Hands is a nonprofit, 501c3 organization; donations are deductible to the extent of the law. We invite *you* to be a part of the Helping Hands mission. When you donate your time, talent or funds, you assist women and children who live near (or below) poverty level. All contributions will help meet pressing needs and encourage the single mom families who are sacrificing so much right now. With your help, she will stay in school, earn her college degree and discover career opportunities that offer a sustainable income.

We need your RSVP as promptly as possible and no later than Friday, Dec. 15. The number can be changed as late as Monday, Dec. 18. If you must cancel, please call or **YOU WILL BE CHARGED THE \$15**. The branch must pay for the number reserved. New reservations may also be added on Monday. Please be considerate and RSVP to: MaryBeth Lemons 602-510-1544 or mblemons1@gmail.com

Meetings are held at the Luther Life Center at the Beatitudes, 1616 W Glendale Ave. Phoenix, AZ. Please enter the Beatitudes at the gate by the flag pole. **Visitors are welcome, please RSVP** by Friday, Dec. 15. *Menu: Caesar Salad, Prime Rib w/ Au Jus, Scalloped Potato, Roasted Asparagus and Lemon Cream Cake. A vegetarian option is available.*



Have you visited the State website? Don't miss this great platform for your state news! The link can now be seen at the top of every AZ Sun page or click on the link below.

www.aauwarizona.org

Green Valley Changes Public Policy Approach

by Polly Daly, Public Policy Chair



Public Policy has changed its approach this year. In the past, we had monthly meetings with speakers who talked about public policy issues at the state and local level. At the end of last year, our group met and evaluated how effective this approach has been. We decided that we needed to provide information to the membership about public policy issues and action steps they could take to make their voices heard.

We have decided to focus on Title IX in December, Equal Rights Amendment in January, and Operation Haboob in February. Our process will be to spend several minutes at the monthly membership meeting to discuss the issue and then follow up with an article in the monthly newsletter that stresses actions that members might take. Members of our group will also write letters to the editor.

Pamela Powers Hannley introduced the Equal Rights Amendment bill in the Senate during the last Arizona legislative session. She plans to do it again this year. Our local Senator and two Representatives have pledged to support it. We challenge AAUW AZ and each AZ Branch to support these efforts. Let's make Arizona one of the two states needed to support the Equal Rights Amendment and finally get it passed!



Southern Arizona AAUW Affiliates Co-Sponsor Women's Equality Day Event

By Janice Rosenberg



On August 26 at the Tucson YWCA, a planning group of 18 very diverse women representing 12 organizations presented "Courageous Conversations" to commemorate the 19th Amendment of 1920 granting select women the right to vote. It didn't give all women the right to vote. Native Americans weren't given citizenship and the right to vote until 1924, Asian Americans in 1952, and African American Women were unable to freely vote until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Former AZ legislator Victoria Steele moderated the program which included four separate panel discussions: "Equal Rights Amendment & Intersectional Feminism"; "Immigration"; "Women's Health and Safety"; and "Gender & Labor". The panelists represented a wide range of interests, knowledge, and expertise, all of which inspired the audience and broadened our perspectives on the issues discussed. Entertainment breaks included a poet, a comic, and a Mariachi group.

The cumulative effect of the day was a "call to action", especially pertaining to the "Equal Rights Amendment" which AAUW in Arizona will hopefully make a priority. Only two more states are needed to ratify and Arizona is one of them. We need to urge our State Legislators to bring it to the floor and vote, "Aye"!

The planning committee is already thinking ahead to next year and a larger venue. I hope more AAUW members will attend this very worthwhile event.

Northwest Valley Branch Starts Another Active Season

by Fran Smith Menzel

September's Meeting was a packed room focused on Winnie Fritz, COO/Sr. VP Clinical Operations and Services for the Health Care Corporation of America, who updated the group on her activities in the Middle East. Winnie travels to Jordan frequently for her work with Syrian Refugee Camps, as well as working with international hospitals and health systems to improve health care in the Middle East. She was Dean of Nursing in Jordan, once held a position in King Hussein's Administration, and was Assistant Surgeon General of Jordan.

October's Meeting featured our own Bonnie Boyce-Wilson, a long term advocate of civil discourse and former AAUW-NWV President, who addressed how to have a voice in public policy. Bonnie also explained how to use AAUW's 2-Minute Activist which enables participants to receive email notices when their advocacy is needed most.

November's Meeting hosts a *Special Interest Group Fair*, featuring our 18 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Volunteer Opportunities for current members. SIGs are small social groups that meet regularly in the homes of members or elsewhere to share their interest in books, cards, foreign films, hiking, culture, travel adventures, wine and other varied topics.

December's Meeting is a *Holiday Luncheon* with seasonal music and no program. This allows members to socialize with one another in a festive setting while providing opportunities for involvement, friendship, and fun. **Saturday,**

December 2nd is our first *Holiday House Tour* fund-raiser for members and their guests, featured in the last *AAUW Sun*.

January's Meeting deals with a timely issue - *Fake News and Ethics in Journalism* – understanding the electronic world we live in-Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat. Douglas Anderson, Senior Research Professor at ASU and former Director of Cronkite

School of Journalism will speak about what fake news means and how it is affecting our daily lives and daily news. He will answer the question about how we tell the fake from the factual in today's turbulent times?

January 29th our major fundraiser, *Fashion with Pizzazz*, benefits our local education scholarship program and will be held at Briarwood Country Club. This sell-out fashion show and boutique has it all—theme baskets, door prizes, raffles, silent auction and shopping. The Calle Rose Boutique includes clothing in all sizes and styles, jewelry, handbags, and other accessories. The clothing is modeled by current members. Advanced reservations are required and available for \$35.

Northern Notes from AAUW Flagstaff

By Ann Griffin

This fall the Flagstaff branch has been busy getting new board members oriented and introduced to the community. On October 21 the Branch co-hosted a Welcome Tea for new faculty and staff at Northern Arizona University with the Commission of the Status of Women and ASWI. Many new women were welcomed to the community and our organization. NAU President Rita Cheng joined us and welcomed her newest staff members. Special thanks to all who participated, but especially to Carol Lorek who spoke for our organization. On November 9, the Program Committee hosted a lively book signing with author Lisa Schnebly Heidinger, the subject of her most recent literary work being a memoir of our beloved Carolyn Warner. Carolyn's stories, energy, and optimism were shared at the Gregg Cottage at the Northern Arizona Historical Society. Fabulous baked goods made by Lisa Martinez challenged our willpower, and the event was a rousing success. Thanks to our great Program committee and the ever relevant Carolyn Warner for your inspiration! If you've not heard about this book, it's available on Amazon and is entitled, *Before I Forget...* a great read!

Prescott Branch as Involved as Usual

by Lynne Murphy



Fall has been exceptionally beautiful here in Prescott and we're still enjoying much of the bright reds and yellows in the trees. But, we're well aware that snow could be just around the corner...hopefully, the distant corner.

What a busy branch we've been. In October we celebrated *Around the World in 80 Books*. Foods from around the world were served for lunch. One hundred women and one very brave man enjoyed travel-book talks by two young people from Peregrine Book Company. We heard hilarious stories from a travel agent and learned of amazing new travel websites available through the Prescott Public Library. Gift baskets, all travel related, went home with some smiling attendees. The Scholarship Committee, headed up by Anne Barton and Deb Brown, is happy that funds can be added to our two Yavapai College Scholarships. Plans for next fall's author event are already in the formative stages.

The very next Saturday, November 4, Prescott hosted the state Fall Forum. Based on the time of year, fall decorations adorned the room and guests enjoyed hot bowls of butternut squash soup with their lunch...definitely FALL! Excellent speakers, Venay Uecke, RN, spoke about *Women's Health: Forgotten Populations*; Chief Jerald Monahan from the Yavapai College Police spoke passionately about campus safety; and Raquel Goodrich, Deputy Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, spoke about reviving civility. All speakers are available to speak at other branch meetings. Contact Deb Dillon, state co-president, for further information.

Coming on December 9 is our annual Holiday Brunch held at The Club at Prescott Lakes. The Mover and Shaker Awards will be given to two hard working women in the chapter, and fifty-year members will be honored. We'll also enjoy delicious food with beautiful music presented by the Yavapai College Women's Ensemble.

Once all of the holiday parades, concerts, courthouse lighting, and lots of cookies are behind us, literally speaking, we'll move on to diets AFTER we usher in 2018.

Rather than meeting on the YC campus in January, we will travel to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to tour the newly dedicated Jim and Linda Lee Planetarium. Author Jan Clere will present *Legacies of the Past: Arizona Women Who Made History* at the February 10 meeting at Yavapai College.

If you're ever in the mood to visit us in Prescott, let us know you're coming. By then, we should be wearing our new, attractive AAUW Prescott vests! Check our website to see two of our board members modeling them!

Enjoy the holidays and the winter weather.



West Valley Checks In

by Barbara Bailey

The West Valley Branch has been enjoying a number of good programs and lively book club discussions.

Catherine Leas addressed us in October about her non-fiction book, **Religious Extremism: Unnatural State of Mind**.

Goodyear head librarian, Beth Medley, addressed us in November concerning electronic book usage. In January, our program is Barbara Bailey discussing the first book in her new series **Who Killed Love? A Stratton and Davis Mystery**.

December is a month of doing more for others and at our annual Christmas gathering we'll collect books for one of the local women's shelters.

Among our fall book discussion titles were: **Marilyn, Her Year of Happiness; The Deep End of the Ocean; and The Widow of Wall Street**.

Our Branch has also partnered with Expect More Arizona to support literacy and education. Our meetings take place at Toscana's Restaurant in Pebble Creek, on the third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. All welcome to attend.

AZ Sun Editors are Angela Ulrey and Patti Allen-LaFleur. All submissions must be sent to Angela Ulrey.