

President's Message

Joanne Walen, Co-President



It's easy to succumb to the doldrums of summer and think that everything stops, but your state organization (and many branches) are still busy planning events for next season, beginning (on the state level) with an early pre-election day Fall Forum on October 6, 2018, to be held at

Leisure World in Mesa. Gail Parsons (NW Tucson branch) and Patti Allen-LaFleur (Prescott) are the AAUW-AZ Co-Program VPs and Co-Chairs of this event—which will focus on the important issues of the November 2018 election that impact the climate for women and girls. The fall state board meeting will be held in conjunction with this event on Friday afternoon followed by a dinner open to all members.

The results of the voting on the national Bylaws amendment have just been announced. 17% of eligible members voted overall, which far surpasses the 5% quorum needed and exceeds the 11% vote at the last convention. 28% of our members in Arizona took the time to register their vote, exceeded only by Idaho at 34%. Good job, ladies.

Only one of the amendments passed: the vote for staggered terms on the Board received a 92.97% favorable vote. The proposals for non-AAUW members on the Board and for eliminating the degree requirement did not pass. Let me share with you the comments of our CEO Kim Churches on these issues:

There are many passionate voices on the issue of the educational membership

requirement, as well as on the proposal to admit a small portion of current non-AAUW members to Board director positions. Opening the membership has been a highly debated issue in AAUW for many years. While neither proposal met the two-thirds approval of members required to pass, it's important to emphasize that of the members who voted, 48.7 percent did approve proposal #2, and 44.5 percent approved proposal #3— not the two-thirds required by our bylaws, but a significant percentage to note. Meaning, our membership is grappling with different viewpoints about the future of the organization. We encourage branches and members to continue discussing these issues with fellow members and with valued community stakeholders to ensure voices and ideas are shared.

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Because our organization is a democracy, members may raise these proposals again, as well as other ideas for membership vote. With staggered terms now going into effect next year, we'll be voting every year on at least one-third of the Board appointments, allowing the organization to be timely and relevant as we address the barriers to gender equity.

Now is the time to come together in support of our mission to keep AAUW vital as an organization and increase our impact in advancing gender equity for all women and girls. Thank you again for your commitment and support.

And I can share with you from my perspective serving for the first time on the National Committee Task Force that there are splendid candidates all

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over the country who have terrific skills, especially in IT and marketing, who stepped up to serve on the various national committees. I just wish we could

clone some of them. They will be working on our interests in the Branch Resources Committee and the College/University Committee (the two I was responsible for vetting). Perhaps in the next go-round we'll see one or more candidates from Arizona step up. We need to be in the mix.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout-out to Deb Dillon, our outgoing Co-President. What a genuine pleasure it has been to work with her this year. Even with all her travel commitments and family illnesses, she always met a deadline and managed to keep me on track—no small feat. Thanks, Deb.

And welcome to Cathy Corbin-Mannino, with whom I look forward to working for the next year.

Newly Elected State Co-President Looks Forward to Tenure

by Cathy Corbin-Mannino



Empowering women since 1881— that was what called me to consider joining AAUW over 25 years ago. That is what continues to “call” me because the process is certainly not complete, and the work is definitely not finished. But we have made progress and will continue to do so in

direct relationship to our own level of dedication and support.

I am currently the President of the Sun City/Peoria branch, a small but mighty group, whose members are not content to just kick back during retirement. Instead, they continue to kick it up a notch by supporting social services in our community and engaging in life-long education and learning programs, either as teachers or participants. They were my inspiration to say, “Yes!” when asked to run as Co-President. I am looking forward to this new opportunity to serve and want to open myself and our board to creative ways of expanding our vision and increasing our circle of influence. I encourage you to submit any ideas you might have as to how we can accomplish this any time throughout the next year. Here's hoping that we can be an integral part of making this truly the [Year of Women](#).

| Save the Dates! | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aug. 15, 2018 | Submissions for Fall Newsletter Due |
| Sep. 1, 2018 | The Sun Newsletter published. |
| Oct. 5-6, 2018 | Fall Forum 2018 |
| Jan. 18, 2019 | Winter Board of Directors Meeting |

Recap of ERA Action in AZ State House

By Dianne Post, ERA Task Force

Margaret Noser has submitted information regarding the ERA in the Arizona State House that was written by Dianne Post, who has given us permission to print it here.

The ERA floor action in the State House occurred on April 10, Equal Pay Day.

Rep. Powers-Hannley moved during her "point of personal privilege" to waive the rules and vote on the ERA on the floor. (Dianne Post wrote extensively about the ERA in the April 13 Action Alert, and the amendment was posted on the ERA Task Force Arizona facebook.)

The amendment was covered in the [newspapers](#) at that time. It was not "televised" per se, but all floor actions in the House are on archived video. You can go to the House website yourself and [look for archived video for April 10](#) to see the floor action. Because the amendment failed to pass—the House adjourned again as they did last year—the ERA Task Force posted a Wall of Shame for all those legislators who did not support it. And then on 18 April, we delivered a *Notice of Termination of Occupancy* to those same legislators, informing them that because they refused to represent 51% of the population on an item that 91% of the people want, they are being evicted from their taxpayer-owned offices. We **have** to defeat them in November - ***Remember in November.***

There is no chance AZ will pass the ERA this year.

The [Illinois Senate and House passed the ERA in May](#). Now we are one state away. If we turn Arizona Blue, we'll have it passed by the end of January 2019! That is our next goal.



AAUW Fall Forum Set for Early October

By Patricia Allen-LaFleur, Programs Co-VP

The 2018 Fall Forum will be held at Leisure World in Mesa, Arizona on Friday evening and on Saturday, October 5-6, 2018. The annual event will feature a dinner program on Friday evening and a Saturday event, which will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Saturday's conference includes a continental breakfast and lunch. The theme this year is *From Caring to Commitment* and will focus on information regarding elections in November. Topics will include upcoming propositions and ballot initiatives, state candidate profiles, and special updates on the ERA and the Saving Our Arizona Schools movements.

More details including group hotel rates will be available in August.

Please see the flyer for the Fall Forum on the last page in this newsletter.



AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Conference

By Gail Parsons, Co-VP-Programs, Northwest Tucson Branch President

AAUW Utah hosted an impactful regional conference on June 22-24, 2018. The three-day program included comprehensive updates from Julia Brown, Chair, AAUW Board of Directors, and Kim Churches, AAUW CEO. Arizona was well represented with seven in attendance from four branches. The gathering was informational and inspirational; it also created a sense of immediacy as to how AAUW needs to evolve to ensure its viability in the long term.

A wide range of topics were received by an enthusiastic and engaged audience. Several of the segments ran over the allotted time because of

heightened participation. The conference chair was nimble about rearranging the schedule. The complete program was delivered as promised.

State reports included:

- Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment – A panel discussion led by a District Attorney, Certified Sexual Assault Counselor/Victim Advocate, Juvenile Defender Attorney, and a UCASA Prevention Program Manager. (Utah)
- The Power of Empowerment (Wyoming)
- How is AAUW Growing and Changing (Colorado)
- Efforts to Pass ERA (Arizona)
- Effects of Statewide Project “Tech Trek Camp” in Public & Corporate Awareness (New Mexico)
- Successful Scholarship Fund Raising (Utah)

Susan Landino, LAF Plaintiff, gave a riveting personal account of the retaliation she experienced at Yale University following her notification to university leadership that sexual assault statistic tallying was non-compliant under Title IX and the Clery Act. With the help of AAUW LAF, she is the first non-sports related university administrator to file a Jackson v Birmingham Title IX retaliation complaint. In addition to the settlement of her complaint, Yale was fined for falsifying sexual assault crime statistics by the Department of Education.

Kim Churches was Saturday's keynote speaker. She spoke about the newly approved Strategic Plan that provides a new statement of AAUW's Mission, Vision, and Values. This will be shared nationwide shortly. Kim explained her restructuring of the National Leadership team (From 15 VPs to 5 direct reports; staff reduction from 109 to 89) and the institutionalization of organizational focus, relevance, and financial solvency.

There is an initiative to gain Corporations' financial support of new program and technical platforms. The effort is to demonstrate the value that AAUW can offer to corporations and for them to realize their return on investment.

With the challenge of growing and retaining membership, Kim addressed the need to rethink how we attract and retain younger members. The average age of the AAUW membership is 72. Although the traditional branch structure works for many of the existing members, this is not appealing to younger generations. Did anyone know that there is not a branch in NYC, NY? How could a city of professionals not have AAUW representation? Focus groups will be conducted over the next several months across the US to determine the value proposition needed to engage people. As Kim stated, “we need to go where they are” and not expect them to come to us.

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Rather than approach the 2020 National Conference as business as usual, there will be a paradigm shift to periodic events available for all to participate via simulcasts, eliminating travel and its associated expenses. In September 2020 there is a plan to

offer lobbying training in DC that would include the opportunity to lobby on Capitol Hill over a day and a half.

Overall, this regional meeting was an exciting event worth the time and effort.

Ms. Churches saluted Rocky Mountain regional effort, citing the benefit of common geographical, societal and political challenges. She supports the reemergence of regional conferences.

See the next page for pictures from the Regional Conference.



Arizona Branch member Gail Parsons presented our ERA efforts in Arizona



New Mexico Branch members Cheri Burch and Helena White discussed their successful Tech Trek Camp.

**AAUW Rocky Mountain
Regional Conference
June 22 – 24, 2018
Salt Lake City, Utah**

***Women Unlimited
and Undaunted***



President Kim Churches discusses the revised Mission for AAUW at the Saturday evening dinner.



Arizona was well represented at the Regional Conference.

l-r—Cathy Corbin-Mannino, Karen Ramos, Tillie Fortner, Barbara Morris, Joyce Ellenbecker, and Gail Parsons.



Branch Reports



Phoenix Branch Ending Year with a Bang

By Mary Beth Lemons



First, we want to say that the Spring Conference in Tucson was a great success. We really enjoyed the event and felt we came home with some good information and ideas. Thanks to everyone who was involved in making this a lovely and informative two days.

In May, Dr. Linda Thor, who was elected to the Maricopa Community College Governing Board in November 2016, described her past year on the board, what she saw as the state of our community colleges, and prospects for the future.

In June, the political and legislative reporter for the Arizona Republic, Mary Jo Pitzl, continued our end-of-year tradition with an Arizona Legislative Review for the final meeting, the 7th year for this event.

So proud of our members

The Maricopa County Community Colleges Foundation awarded Carolyn Warner as its *2018 Hero of Education* award dinner. During the event, one of our scholarship awardees, Jillian Herner, was given the honor of speaking about what Phoenix College had meant to her. She explained how difficult her earlier life had been and how the community college system was a symbol of better things for the future. Her talk was met with a standing ovation! Congratulations, Jillian!



Southeast Valley Branch Year-in-Review

By Tillie Fortner

Our Branch was represented at Legislative Day, February 20, 2018, at the State Capital. Representatives Pam Powers-Hannley, Michelle Ugenti-Riva, and Athena Salmon addressed the Group of AAUW members on support for the ERA. Six members attended the Day.

We met in March for our annual business meeting of the year. Our speaker, Sandy Bahr from the Sierra Club, spoke on *Making a Difference for Arizona's Environment*. After the speaker, the slate of nominated Executive officers was announced by Marjorie Wright, our chair for the Nominating Committee; our Appointed Board members were announced by Tillie Fortner.

At our April meeting, our speaker was Jeff Tannier who spoke on *Water Management in Arizona*. After the speaker, Toni Corrigan conducted the installation of our Executive Board of Officers:

- Tillie Fortner— Co-President
- Joyce Ellenbecker— Co-President
- Margaret Noser— Secretary
- Cynthia Cantor— Vice-President, Finance
- Kathy Burns— Co-Vice-President, Programs
- Susan Decker— Co-Vice-President, Programs
- Gail Jones— Co-Vice-President, Membership
- Judi Edmonds— Co-Vice-President, Membership

Our Board Appreciation Brunch, held in April at the beautiful home of Carmen Otero, was well attended. Certificates and gifts were presented to officers and Chairs leaving their positions. Incoming Co-Presidents, Tillie Fortner and Joyce Ellenbecker, presented out-going Co-President Toni Corrigan with a beautiful gift.

Summer a Beehive of Activity in Prescott

Molly Divine, President Prescott Branch



Warm greetings, literally. As I'm writing this in the long, hot, and dry summer, our newly elected board members are working in the background, preparing for programs and events for 2018-2019. Planning is underway for another year of interesting and informative general meeting programs.

In June, we held our Summer Social, an annual event where we invite prospective members to learn more about the AAUW and the Prescott branch. We had a terrific evening. We packed the house, scrounging for extra silverware and squeezing in a few extra seats. We had 25 guests, several who signed up to become new members at the event, and several others who promised to join on-line. I was especially pleased to hear that at least four of our guests came because they read about it in our local newspaper, the Daily Courier. The work the Public Relations group is doing is clearly broadening our presence in the community.

Planning is also in progress for our first Community Action event, the Reality Store, at Yavapai College, Thursday, September 13, the week following our first meeting of the program year.

Our Scholarship committee is also meeting this summer, busy planning the Author's Luncheon scheduled for Friday, October 26 at Yavapai College. This is one of our major fundraising events in support of our two local scholarships at Yavapai College. It is open to the public with friends and community encouraged to attend.

Many of our 27 interest groups continue to meet throughout the summer, so although we are on a break with our general meetings, which will resume on Saturday, September 8, we continue to be a beehive of activity.



Mesa Musings

Joanne Walen, President

AAUW East Mesa Branch finished the year with its traditional salad and dessert installation luncheon on April 4. All interest groups except Summer Book Group and Lunch Bunch cease until the fall, when we gear up again with our 2018-19 theme *From Caring to Commitment*. We are looking forward to programs on civil discourse, education, personal safety, immigration, and STEM, as well as our annual Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon on February 9, 2019.

We were pleased this spring to make a down payment of \$80,000 for a second national Fellowship sponsored by East Mesa branch. This one is in honor of our Founder and first President Violet Larney who remained an active member until the time of her death in February 2016 at the age of 95. Due to Violet's generous bequest to our branch, we will be able to complete this Fellowship in three years, as well as establish additional local STEM scholarships for women and girls.



Sun City/Peoria Installs New Officers

By Cathy Corbin, President

The Sun City/Peoria Branch of AAUW installed its new officers at the May 10 branch meeting. Officers are: President—Cathy Corbin-Mannino, Vice President/Programs—Arlene Schindler, Vice President/Membership—Ella Broderick, Treasurer—Mary Ellen Fosket, Recording Secretary—Debra Hjortland, Corresponding Secretary—Correne Hall, and AAUW Funds—Carol Beckett. Theresa Weber from the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** shared words of inspiration with us and gave a balloon to each board member as a reminder to expand our vision and outreach upwards.

During the ceremony, we also took the opportunity to recognize branch members who have assumed the responsibility of agency liaison. Their purpose will be to keep our connection with the service groups we support open and dynamic and provide our membership with up-to-date information regarding their impact on our community at large.



AAUW-ARIZONA FALL FORUM

SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, October 5 – Saturday, October 6, 2018

“From Caring to Commitment”

Make your voice count!

Topics will include ERA,
Upcoming Propositions & Ballot Initiatives,
State Candidate Profiles,
Saving our Arizona Schools.

Location: Leisure World, Mesa, Arizona

Welcome Dinner: Friday Evening, October 5

At a local Restaurant featuring recent NCCWSL attendees.

Registration: 8:30AM, Saturday, October 6

With Continental Breakfast

Program: Begins at 9:00AM and Ends 2:00PM.

Lunch will be included.