

President's Message

Jane Adrian

This winter edition of the SUN is full of gifts. Thank you to each and all of the contributors, consultants, and editors. Clearly AAUW of Arizona is going



places, exploring new visions, and looking over the horizon.

Kaleidoscope: Arizona Women and Ever Changing Patterns, the 2014 Fall Forum, was about those journeys and exploring choices. Kerry

Blum took participants on a journey to explore *Building an Inclusive Culture*, leading members through exercises to explore and test AAUW-Arizona's commitment to inclusion. Forum participants shared truths and ideas for the AAUW commitment to "ensure there are no barriers to full participation among a diverse membership."

Nieves Miljure, co-president Tucson Branch, highlighted this commitment and promise when she shared the following advice from Dr. Walter Soboleff, an Elder from her native Tlingt tribe: "Now that we have obtained all this information, we have strength, with more knowledge. 'Ha Latseen!' (Strength of Mind, Body, Spirit.) 'Ha Dikeex. Wooch Gayeelshaat' (We hold each other up)."

Many Branches have shared highlights in this edition of the SUN, and that may leave you wanting more information. Click on this link, AAUW-Arizona, to explore our new look on the web. Through this portal you will find more branch news. Take a look at the article about the history of the site and the transition to where we are today. Thank you Sara DeRouchey.

AAUW depends on leaders at all levels to advance advocacy for women and girls. Sara Wolters, Election Chair, is calling for nominations for 2015-2017 co-president, recording secretary, and membership vice president. I am

looking forward to receiving those nominations. Thank you Sara for setting up the electronic voting process so that Arizona members can participate in state board governance.

Note that in addition to these elected board positions, appointments to the following committees remain vacant: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM);

International Relations; Communications-Social Media-Publicity; and Diversity-Inclusion.

Kathryn Braeman, AAUW Board of Directors and liaison to Arizona, has accepted our invitation to attend the Spring Gathering, April 18, 2015. Kat is a retired judge and lawyer, personal coach, and author.

Enthusiasm is building for a significant Arizona presence at the AAUW Convention in San Diego – June 18-21, 2015. As of this publication, four of the fourteen branches have identified member

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President's Message *Continued*

scholarship recipients to attend. More than 35 AAUW of Arizona members have signaled their intention to join the delegation. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Through the efforts of branches and dedicated members, AAUW of Arizona is positioned and ready for change. We are where we are today because of the journey we have chosen to take in the past. And tomorrow is the promise of the choices we make today.



Holding each other up – Happy Holidays to each and all.

Legislative Day Fast Approaching

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Time: 9AM to 2PM

Lunch: Bring your own Brown Bag



Legislative Day is just around the corner and our planning has begun. Since what happens on Legislative Day is dependent on what is happening at the Legislature that day, our plans need to stay as fluid as possible. The Branch Public Policy Chairs from throughout our state held a conference call to discuss the day's plans.

For those interested in attending Committee Meetings, they are generally held as early as 8 AM and can continue through to 11AM. We plan to have speakers between 9AM and 11AM so appointments

with representatives should be made between 11AM and 1PM if possible. This is also the time you will have to eat your lunch. To save time, we are asking you bring your own lunch this year. The cafeteria is open, but remember it serves the entire complex. At 1PM we will attend the opening of the legislative session for the day. You may attend either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Several ideas were offered in regard to what subjects might be covered by our speakers: human trafficking, the bill Representative Steele is sponsoring regarding vacating convictions, educational funding, lobbyists and their roll in the legislative process, and even several subjects that could be covered in a panel with a question/answer session afterwards. You will hear more about the program as it is designed.

Your Public Policy Chairs received some information about how to contact your legislators and will be giving you some sample letters that you can send. In addition, you can now register for ALIS from your home computer. If you need help registering, your public policy chair will help you.



Editors' Policy on Use of Addresses and Phone Numbers

We respect the privacy and safety of our members, and for that reason we do not publish the personal addresses, phone numbers, or emails of any of our members. Our newsletter is publicly available on the Internet. We can, however, publish email addresses that go directly to an organization's account. For example, an email address of janedoe@aauwprescott.com is acceptable. We can also refer readers to the local branch's website where further information can be found on a subject.

VOTE - ELECTION - VOTE

By Sara Wolters

The election of AAUW State officers will occur in March and April 2015. Three positions are open: Co-President, Recording Secretary, and Membership VP.

If you would like to be considered for one of these important positions in the Arizona State organization, contact State President, Jane Adrian, Scottsdale branch, or your branch president.

The state has followed the national lead and instituted the one-member-one-vote policy. We need a major get-out-the-vote campaign; in 2014 only 15% of the members responded to the vote. We are hoping to double that return in 2015. To that end, reminders will appear at the state level, the branch level, and with interest group leaders reminding members of the vote.

We voted in March/April 2014 with an electronic vote. We will do the same this next time. Emails were sent to online members from the online service "ElectionBuddy" requesting votes on officers and bylaws. The same process will be used in this coming election. We will announce candidates after the first of the year. There are no bylaw changes to vote on in 2015.

Between now and election time, members should verify that their email address is correct on the national website.

The national website is the source for the member email addresses. Branch officers will be assisting with this process.

Some who missed the vote in 2014 may find it useful to put "ElectionBuddy" in their contact list so the email with the ballot will not automatically go into the spam folder.

It is important that members participate in the coming election. Reminders will appear on the websites and in newsletters. We need member participation.



Website Receives New Look

By Jane Adrian



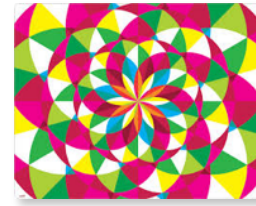
Our first-ever web page appeared in 1989, creating virtual space that added a then unimaginable dimension to the world of communication. Today our web page is valuable real estate where increasing numbers of people gather to become informed and make choices. In 2006, AAUW of Arizona realized the need to claim a place in the web world. When the individual who originated the project suddenly moved, and we could not recall the password, Karen and David Willett stepped up to redesign the original web site and launch AAUW of Arizona into the 21st century. What a leap!

Like the moveable type invented by Johannes Guttenberg (1450) which led to literacy that advanced the Renaissance and fueled the Reformation, our website leads to information-sharing at new heights. Thank you, Karen and David, for creating the first AAUW of Arizona web site and maintaining its presence for the past eight years.

Sara DeRouchey has designed a new look for us at the refreshed AAU-Arizona Website. Admire our new logo on the foreground of the magnificent landscape that is Arizona! As you journey through the site, click around and prepare to be amazed at what is happening all around the state. Enjoy the photos. Do you want to add photos from your branch? Report happenings? Invite members to your event? Then contact Sara DeRouchey at aauw@aaubarizona.org



Kaleidoscope Report



Fall Forum Gets Us Thinking and Planning

By Shirley Talley

There were 75 dedicated ladies from all over the state attending the Fall Forum on Oct. 18, 2014, at A.T. Still University in Mesa. The program was titled “Kaleidoscope – Arizona Women and Ever Changing Patterns” with Sharon Gale’s award winning art piece “Unique” greeting us as we entered the event.

Our day began with a workshop presented by Kerry Blume of Flagstaff as she helped each attendee focus on her own branch and individual members as it pertains to increased diversification, motivation and most of all commitment to our goals to provide equity in all areas of women’s lives. Kerry shared some of the trials in her work in the United Way and how she managed to change the vision and perception of the organization locally and nationwide.

Dr. Anna Campbell, Assistant Professor of Anatomy at A. T. Still gave us a brief introduction to the high-tech virtual anatomy lab and 3-D simulations in the human body. She gave historical background and illustrations about how life changing this new training can be for young medical students.

After a fine lunch provided by Jason’s Deli, Dr. Robert Kelty presented a challenging look at how ideas and attitudes about education and political ideologies have changed incrementally over our country’s history. He referenced his thesis research on the current trend of “Influencing Arizona Elections: Dark Money.” Dr. Kelty is the former Cococino County Superintendent of Schools and is a champion of children, youth and education for all. His illustrations of current TV ads, historical economic theory and statistical data encouraged us to stay focused on education, equity and civic responsibility.

Candidate for Secretary of State, Terry Goddard, gave a brief outline of his theory on the present state of the

educational systems in AZ and how it is influenced by both local and outside money and the attitudes currently held in the state legislature. He admonished us to get out the vote, study the candidates and issues, and spread the word to others about our research and conclusions. Mr. Goddard’s opponent, Michell Reagan, was unable to attend and share in this discussion.

Public policy reports and recommendations followed with Beth Jacobs, AAUW Tuscon member, as she shared the difficulties human trafficked girls have when they finally escape bondage. She is working to get a bill written that would reflect that these women are victims and should not have lifetime felony convictions on their police records. Jean Johnson reminded us about the current pay gap of 78 cents (females) for each \$1.00 earned by males in most jobs. The Equal Pay Day for 2015 is Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

This was a terrifically informative, interactive event, in which we could also openly share our concerns and plans for increasing inclusiveness in our branches.



AAUW Flagstaff Branch Quarterly Report

Gretchen Smith, Public Relations Chair

The AAUW programs for the fall were eye-catching, mind-expanding, and well-received. On July 22, at our Third Annual Public Policy meeting, Dr. Robert Kelty, the former Superintendent of Schools for Coconino County, spoke on “Fifty Shades of Gray,” or the Dark Money used to surreptitiously fund lobbying for hidden political causes. Dr. Jacqueline Vaughn gave historical background to the origin and development of non-profits as a tax free way to fund a public good, and Jill Briggs of the United Way used her organization to demonstrate the beneficial aspects of non-profits. Hence, the Fifty Shades of Gray- from pure public good to dark untraceable political money.

On Monday evening, August 18, the AAUW co-sponsored the first Gubernatorial Debates ever held in Flagstaff. Randy Wilson, editor of the Arizona Daily Sun, moderated the successful and enlightening event. Very well-attended by the citizens of Coconino County, all of the candidates, except Doug Ducey, participated.

On Saturday, September 20, AAUW sponsored a well-attended welcoming brunch for new NAU faculty and staff. We co-sponsored the event with the NAU Commission on the Status of Women and the Associated Students of NAU/Womens' Issues.

On Wednesday, September 24, Barbara Hickman, the forceful and dynamic Superintendent of the Flagstaff Unified School District, spoke about strengthening our public schools and the importance of passing the FUSD Override in light of reduced funding from the state legislature.

On Oct. 20, AAUW co-sponsored a showing of ANITA-SPEAKING THE TRUTH to POWER, the critically acclaimed documentary film about Anita Hill’s testimony against Clarence Thomas in the controversial senatorial hearings for his confirmation to the Supreme Court.

On Oct. 29, the Branch met for lunch and a group discussion around the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace and concerns about rape on college campuses.

The Branch plans to host a Holiday Happy Hour in early December and donate to our scholarship fund in lieu of gifts to each other.



Collaboration with Other Organizations Vital to AAUW

AAUW of Arizona expands advocacy for education, equal pay for equal work, and a myriad of social issues such as access to health care, prevention of human trafficking, immigration reform, and get-out-the vote campaigns through collaborations with like minded organizations: American Business Women’s Association (ABWA); Arizona Foundation for Women (AFW)’ Bosom Buddies of Arizona; Business and Professional Women of Arizona (BPW); League of Women Voters (LWV) and Zonta.

AAUW of Arizona is a member of the Arizona Inter-Club Council that meets four times a year to share organizational vision, plans, and activities. Karen Ramos, Scottsdale Branch, has recently joined Jane Adrian in attending these meetings.

The Inter-Club Council was founded in the 1950s to “promote civic betterment through combined action for member clubs of Arizona.” AAUW Phoenix Branch was a founding member.

As you journey through the AAUW of Arizona website, you will find a link to the Inter-Club Council. Take a look to see what these sister organizations are accomplishing.

Arizona Women's Conference Will Inform, Inspire, Ignite!

The 4th annual Arizona Women's Conference will be held April 11 at Scottsdale Community College. The conference will feature Gloria Feldt, co-founder and president of Take the Lead, a women's leadership movement to prepare, develop, inspire, and propel women to take their fair and equal share of leadership positions across all sectors by 2025.

Follow the AzWC link <http://www.azwc1.org/#> or click on the AzWC link at AAUWarizona.org to review the program and to register. AWC sponsors a Woman of Vision award, coordinated by AAUW of Arizona. Nominations are open to women in Arizona. Find forms on the AzWC website or contact Jane Adrian.

Lights! Cameras! ACTION!

By Claudia Greenwood

Community Action project applications are due March 1, 2015! Don't miss this opportunity to fund an activity that supports the AAUW mission and engages your members!

The spotlight will shine on branches that submit a winning proposal. Photos of the activity will be featured in the AZ Sun.

Projects may be new or continuing. CA funds are reimbursement funds, so branch boards must be able to cover the costs associated with the activity until reimbursement is requested and awarded.

Procedures and Forms can be obtained from the AZAAUW website Community Action link or from branch Community Action chairs.

Claudia Greenwood, state CA Chair, will be happy to answer any questions about the program or the application procedure.

Announcement of the recipients will be made at the spring state event.

Off To An Encouraging Start!

By Sue Pervi

AAUW of Arizona College/University Relations Chair

A special word of gratitude to our continuing institutional partners for renewing their AAUW membership and a warm welcome to our newest partner, Paradise Valley Community College.

Today's colleges and universities are complex learning and organizational environments. They face a number of opportunities and challenges, especially when the academic year begins each fall. Students are completing class registrations at the last moment, faculty are finalizing course syllabi that incorporate the best teaching practices for the current generation of student learners, and administrators are scrambling to assess the impact of enrollment initiatives while tackling new federal regulations and program requirements.

Institutions of higher education must now navigate new and evolving expectations to succeed in the future. They recognize the need to "*Celebrate Tradition, but Respond to Change.*" They are becoming more aware of the value of developing partnerships with respected organizations such as AAUW. So, the encouraging news is that our campus communities in Arizona are actively exploring opportunities to partner with us.

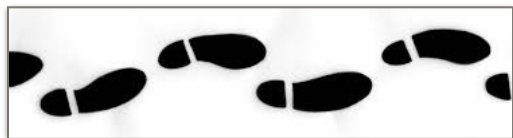
As our new College/University (C/U) Relations Chair, I am focusing on learning how we can best make meaningful contributions to higher education in Arizona in collaboration with our diverse group of current and potential AAUW institutional partners. My approach is to "*Inquire. Listen. Connect.*" In conversations with our branch leadership, I am discovering the rich talent and deep commitment of AAUW members all across the state. We are positioned to deepen and broaden our institutional relationships.

In response to the growing needs of our institutional partners, we are updating our website to include direct links to the national website and related resources. We will feature application information for state scholarship opportunities and offer "branch kudos" where initiatives with college partners can be highlighted.

I invite our branch leadership and C/U representatives to provide materials for posting on our website. I am also exploring the establishment of a C/U Relations Advisory Committee and welcome feedback and volunteers.

Shaping the Footprints We Leave

Joye Kohl, AZ AAUW Public Policy-Education



Public policies shape the footprints we leave as a society. The establishment of schools and the commitment to educating the masses during our nation's early history has been instrumental in creating the type of nation we have experienced over time.

The public school system, as the cornerstone of this country's social and economic well-being, has been one of the bright and shining lights of our democracy and a means by which we seek equality and opportunity for all people. Public education policy sets the platform upon which the system operates, and one of the tenets has been the operational transparency in the use of resources to benefit all students.

All public policies have consequences — some are intended while others are unanticipated and may result in either positive and/or negative consequences. At all levels of decision making, whether local, state, or national, public policies are important to what happens to and for people in the jurisdiction.

Investment in education is critical to the future of our state and the nation. But, Arizona's funding of education has been dismal, ranking 47th by state on the per pupil spending report card. During the period, 2008-2014, the Arizona legislature cut school funds by 17.2%, amounting to a cut of \$629 per student. While the legislature did increase funding during the past legislative session, it amounted to only an increase of .2 percent or \$5 per student according to analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

State funding cuts severely impact local school districts, leading not only to job losses but also difficulty in recruiting and retaining high quality teachers. Although smaller class sizes are important in improving student performance, especially in the early grades and for lower income students, with such funding cuts, districts often have little option other than to lay-off teachers, increase class sizes, and reduce services such as all-day kindergarten, fine arts programs, and remediation efforts. Advances in student achievement are undermined by funding inadequacies.

As concerned citizens, we must work to improve school funding and to alter and correct the public education narrative. If you would like to join the movement please contact me at joyeazaauw@yahoo.com.

Tucson Branch Offers New Book for Sale

Hello there my pet committee

Come, clean up the city

Garbage cans need our inspection;

Fight expectoration!

Sarsaparilla to Spaceships A Century of Activism — Tucson Branch American Association of University Women 1909-2009 is the history of a branch that grew from a small group of noteworthy ladies of the Old Pueblo to a sizable branch of AAUW. The Collegiate Club, established by a small group of women college graduates in 1909, included Clara Fish Roberts, the first person to register at the University of Arizona in September 1891 and the first woman to be elected to the Tucson School Board in 1917. The second member was Clara Ferrin Bloom, in whose parlor the organizational meeting took place. (The historic Ferrin residence is now a part of the downtown Tucson Art Museum Historic Block.) The playful quote at the beginning of this article indicates the high spirits of the group: they engaged in campaigns to end swarms of flies, trash-littered streets, unpasteurized milk, and to prevent men from expectorating on sidewalks. They also registered women to vote following the declaration of Arizona statehood and women suffrage on February 14, 1912.

By 1924, the Collegiate Club gave fourteen scholarships, each worth \$50 to \$100. (Not a small amount then-university courses were \$2.50 a semester.) In following years, the branch continued to support women entering the University. Particular interest in the academic welfare of Native Americans leading to scholarships to the Indian (sic) Training School and the University evolved into the Louise Hoppy Native American Scholarship for a local Native American high school senior to enter the University of Arizona. The branch also later completed three named endowments and offered scholarships to promising Pima Community College students transitioning back into education to fulfill their personal and career goals.

We invite you to enjoy reading about our civic endeavors, some of which were endorsing state supported kindergartens, improving the State's correctional system for youth, introducing GED classes for women inmates in the State Women's Prison, and establishing court appointed advocacy for adjudicated youth. (We are not without rollicking adventures along the way!)

Obtain a copy of this outstanding book for \$24. Send checks made out to Patricia Gilbert and mailed to Baleka Baker, 7667 E. Lee Street, Tucson, Arizona 85715.



Branch Reports



East Mesa Dedicated to AAUW Mission

Rhysa Davis, East Mesa Branch President



The East Mesa Branch is now focusing on future 2015 activities. Our Program Vice President Helen Sheriff has, in true AAUW style, presented mission-based programs for our general meetings all year. Our membership will hear Dr. Sally Downey, East Valley Institute of Technology President, focus on "Education for the 21st Century" in January 2015.

Also beginning in January, the entire branch will be making plans for our Sixth Annual Author's Luncheon to be held Saturday, April 4, 2015, at Leisure World. Development Officer Judy Shahanian will finalize plans with The Poison Pen Bookstore for the appearance of author Rhys Bowen. Ms. Bowen is a member of AAUW, and we will be providing ticket information to all other AZ-AAUW branches for those who may want to hear this remarkable international mystery writer in person.

Our BOD has worked extremely hard to up-date our entire branch files following the 2013 National Convention. We also purchased the Liability Insurance Program offered to us by National for the first time. We are moving forward every single day



thanks to our wonderful members and leadership team.

Northwest Valley Branch

by Claire Drozd, Mission-based President

Our first "Non-Event" of the 2014-2015 year was a huge success. What, you might ask, is a "Non-Event?" Seemingly, it got its name from the minimal amount

of time, effort, and planning required. Essentially it is an informal gathering at a member's home with attendees bringing either food or drink to share. Sometimes there is a brief, fun program as was the case on November 7 when Andy Friendenberg, Director of the Cinema Society, talked about the society, independent filmmaking, and showed two short films. Other times, like our upcoming "Non-Event" on December 5, members and guests gather for card or board games. In March there will be a High Tea. At each of these get-togethers, donations to our scholarship fund are encouraged but not required.

On November 7, over \$1,000.00 was raised, paying for one of the scholarships we will award this year.

Earlier this year, we lost two very active, longtime members, Mary Kay Chester, and Phyllis Burnett. Our tradition is to honor our deceased members with a book placed in our local library. The inside cover of the book notes: In Memory of... donated by the Northwest Valley Branch of AAUW.

Our branch is grateful to the State Board for approving a grant in the amount of \$750.00 to fund our new branch project, "A Taste of Success: Sundown Style." The project works with high school women enrolled in the Sundown Mountain Alternative Education Program, part of the Dysart Unified School District. Each month the students hear from a speaker on such topics as self esteem, non-traditional careers for women, and moving forward with education. Following the presentation, branch members lead a discussion on that month's topic. We are hoping to have a positive impact on the choices these girls make after high school graduation.

Our major fundraiser of the year, "Fashion for the Fun of It" is Monday, January 26, 2015, at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West. The event will feature the Calle Rose shopping bazaar and include raffle and silent auction tables with gifts, gift baskets, and gift cards. Lunch follows the morning festivities. All proceeds go to our local scholarship fund. For more information and to join us for a fun-filled day, go to the [Northwest Valley Branch Website](#).

Prescott's Sister-to-Sister Program Celebrates 10th !

Claudia Greenwood



Keynote "Grad" Harriet Young

Ten years ago members of the Prescott branch decided to search for a way to bring the national Sister-to-Sister program to town. They found

willing partners in the Yavapai College Educational Talent Search (ETS) team and set to work to create an opportunity for first-generation college bound students to meet with college graduates. AAUW members were delighted to have lunch with the girls, to talk about the difference college had made in their lives, and to help bring in to focus a future filled with opportunities for each of the teens.

What started small, about fifteen teens from one school and 15 AAUW members at the Antelope Golf Club, has grown to include young women from five local high schools, student panelists from each of the three colleges in the area, welcome and keynote speakers, round-table discussions, and plenty of time for sharing dreams to be formed and realities to be addressed and overcome. Yavapai College now is the site of every event.

This program, supported in part by an Arizona Community Action Grant, has already made a difference in the lives of the nearly 500 girls we have hosted. More of these students complete high school successfully and attend post-secondary programs than ever before in the tri-city area.

After the November 13 event, students remarked: "I liked being able to talk to a person who really tries to understand and connect." "I enjoyed how everyone was really friendly and inviting. I got to learn a lot about the paths everyone took to be where they are today.", "I liked that we got to talk with actual university graduates!" "It's a pretty amazing program!"

Phoenix Branch Adds to Its Own Education

By Gretchen Peniska

The Phoenix branch can look back on a very enlightening and enjoyable fall schedule of activities. September saw us receiving valuable insight into the ballot measures that we would encounter in the election from our member Eric Ehst of the Arizona Advocacy Network. We moved on the next month to learn about the state programs for Early Childhood Education. In November we learned a great deal about the workings of a political campaign from David Garcia. Our December meeting will be devoted to learning about the plight of homeless women veterans and will give us an opportunity to share our bounties with them as we all donate needed items.

The coming months will see us concentrating on issues such as common core, education for indigenous people, a medical respite for the homeless, and our very popular session on the legislative session by Mary Jo Pritzl.

All of our focus groups are thriving as members enjoy books, travel talks, bridge, informal coffee and conversation and Great Decisions. And once again we will be sponsoring an elegant brunch in the spring to raise funds for our scholarship fund for young women at Phoenix Community College.

Our branch continues to grow, and we are pleased when we have visitors to our monthly programs that seek to enrich our lives.

Editors' Note

As we have numerous branches reporting, please contain branch reports to 500 words or less so we can accommodate everyone's submission. Also, in an attempt to protect member safety and privacy, we do not publish member phone numbers or email addresses since The Sun becomes part of the AAUW website, seen by anyone surfing the web.

-Angie Ulrey and Patricia Allen-LaFleur

Safford Branch “Small But Mighty”

Monika Ragland

The Safford branch of AAUW is small but mighty. We get together monthly from September through May. Mostly we enjoy each other's company, but we do also have our missions upon which we focus. Every year we get together between Thanksgiving and Christmas to have a feast. Instead of White Elephant or other gift giving, we decided to collect donations for the AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt fund. We also collect donations for local charities like the Safe House, Boys and Girls Club, and local food bank. In the spring we raise money for a book scholarship of \$450 for a student who has finished at the local Jr. College and is going on to a four year college.

At our May meeting, the recipient attends with a guest at our annual BBQ. At this time we also brainstorm our program ideas. We have had truly unique and enlightening programs. We recently had a presentation from a local lady who has worked for USAID in Africa. We also have had a Native American lady who has been to Central America on an archeology dig. She is next coming to tell us all about her efforts to return native food elements to the Apache population in efforts to better their health. As you can see, we do our best to keep our members informed and stimulated.

For the past two years we have also been a sponsor of the Small Business Woman of the Year Award competition. The Small Business Development Center at Eastern Arizona College started the award two years ago. This year 18 nominees applied. Safford branch of AAUW has been a proud sponsor of this award both years. Not only did we offer financial support, but we had someone on the selection committee both years. It is truly an interesting and illuminating experience. For the size of our club, we feel we are truly contributing to our community.

Sun City/Peoria Reports In

by Cathy Corbin-Mannino

The Sun City/Peoria Branch of AAUW has been enjoying an amazing line-up of guest speakers which will continue throughout the year. In September, we heard from Diane Snyder, a Princeton lecturer and author, who shared her exciting experiences as a CIA officer. In October, we were delighted by Dr. Heidi Osselaer, author and professor at ASU, who spoke from her book *Winning Their Place: Arizona Women in Politics*.

November brought us Jesse Ramirez, the volunteer director and founding president of the West Valley Food Bank who shared his agency's successful story of growth from three volunteers to over 760, feeding 264,000 families. AAUW members generously donated food items, and many attended their silent-auction to help raise additional funds. In the same charitable vein, the Board appropriated \$300 to *Helping Hands*, an organization we have supported for several years that exists to assist the families of low income single moms while mom pursues a college degree to gain financial independence. We start the New Year with Will Gonzales from the Phoenix Prosecutor's office who will speak to us about prostitution, rehabilitation, and prison prevention.

Other upcoming events include a visit with Maestro Cal Stewart Kellogg from the West Valley Symphony, a guest speaker from the Audubon Society, and Patrick McDermott, APS Community Affairs Manager who will tell us about the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant. We continue to grow, celebrating five new members at our New Member Tea in November, encouraging participation in our Bridge Club, our monthly book club, and community field trips. Though most of our members are retired, we continue to be active and responsive to the needs of our community through financial support, volunteerism and education.

Scottsdale Hosts Successful Running and Winning

By Janet Larkin, past president Scottsdale Branch



Former State Superintendent of Schools Carolyn Warner joined fifteen other elected officials to speak with girls from Coronado High School at the Scottsdale Branch Running and Winning event.

Running and Winning, a non-partisan workshop for high school junior and senior women, was developed in 2000 by the League of Women Voters of Camden County, New Jersey. The program focuses on empowering women to have their voices heard.

This workshop was first held at Coronado High School in 2006 and 2007. Building on that success, the Scottsdale Branch pursued Coronado again for its September 16, 2014, event, partnering with the Phoenix League of Women Voters who engaged sixteen elected officials for participation. Esther Groves from our own Scottsdale Branch was our facilitator trainer, a job she did back in 2006-2007 as well.

The program provides high school women the opportunity to sit down in small groups of six with a facilitator to interview women elected officials and learn about what motivated the officials to serve in public office, what is involved in their elected position, as well as their individual experience as a candidate. The students gain knowledge of what it takes to become involved in student government leadership, to help with political campaigns, to serve on county and city commissions, and to run for political office. The ninety-four seniors each met with

three different officials, facilitated by 30 branch and League volunteers and five volunteers from Scottsdale Community College.

Following lunch, the girls worked on a pro/con presentation of the Dream Act. After discussing the issue, they prepared a poster and a speech to share with the other groups. After completing the day and reviewing the evaluations, our team declared victory. Of course, we know we can improve with changes and additions, but we are grateful for the success after a lot of time and work.

The Coronado girls attending this program spoke of how they were moved by the elected officials' personal stories about taking a risk towards a goal, how the program changed previously held ideas, how the event broke them out of their comfort zone, and, most importantly, how one person taking a stand can influence the outcome of an issue. Isn't this exactly what AAUW is all about?



Current & Former Elected Officials participated in 2014 Running & Winning. Back Row: Coronado H.S. student body president; Coronado H.S. Government teacher Courtney Kemp; Carolyn Warner, Onnie Shekerjian, Laura Pastor, Kate Brophy McGee, Lela Alson, Linda Milhaven, Julie Bacon, Mary Manross, Bonnie Sneed, Barbara Perleberg, Principal Alyssa Tarkington, Front Row: Sam Campana, Heather Carter, Mary Hamway, Katie Hobbs, Pam Kirby, Virginia Korte. Not pictured are Nancy Barto and Karen Beckvar.

Southeast Valley Branch

By Paulette Schutes



Reflecting on our activities this past fall, I'm proud of what was accomplished by members of our Southeast Valley Branch. The highlights of these activities include:

Fall Forum participation where several members of our branch arranged for decorations, food & beverage, and acted as hostesses. Special thanks goes to Sharon Gale for providing and displaying her art and decorative items.

College/University activity at Central Arizona College is headed this year by member Jan Bobbett who, assisted by member Margaret Noser, has been busy building relationships and actively pursuing Central Arizona College student affiliates. On November 5, 2014, a gathering of staff and students was held at which former State President Claudette Haney presented information on AAUW in her always dynamic style. Sue Pervi attended. CAC President Doris Helmich stated that she is hopeful CAC will become a branch as well as a student organization.

Community Action member Sandy Shepoiser continues to coordinate the San Marcos Elementary School AAUW reading volunteers and Art Masterpiece, the Galveston Elementary School Art Masterpiece for grades 3rd thru 6th, and the Jr. Achievement and Chandler Library volunteer opportunities are also under her purview.

Looking forward to winter/spring 2015 activities, I find myself excited about the opportunities being offered by National, State and our local branch. Several of our members are applying for **National Convention Grants**. I anticipate there may be six or more attendees. **Legislative Day** is fast approaching, and as we have no public policy chair this year, our members are participating in the activities coordinated

by Sharon Hettick, State Public Policy Chair. In a planning session this summer, our Southeast Valley Branch chose to focus on Pay Equity. A suggestion was made to seek a proclamation from our mayor in support of Pay Equity Day, April 14, 2015. We have it! Mayor Jay Tibshraeny signed the proclamation and is fully supporting Pay Equity. **Local Scholarship** is chaired by Carollynn Hanson. This year's local scholarship of \$1,500 has been named the Charlotte Hansen Scholarship of 2015 in honor of Charlotte, a lifelong member of AAUW.



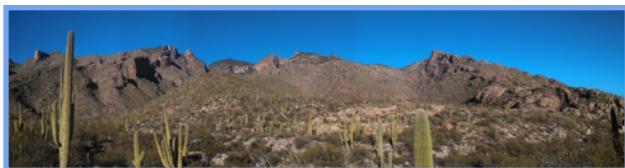
Save-the-Dates

2015

January 13	AAUW of Arizona Board of Director's Meeting
February 25	Legislative Day
March 1	SUN Spring Edition Deadline for submission of articles
April 11	Arizona Women's Conference Scottsdale Community College
April 14	Pay Equity Day
April 17	AAUW of Arizona Board of Directors' Meeting
April 18	AAUW of Arizona Spring Meeting
May 1	SUN Summer Edition Deadline for submission of articles
June 16-18	AAUW National Convention in San Diego

Running and Winning in Tucson Celebrates Its Twelfth Year!

By Cheryl Whited, AAUW-Tucson



On September 11, AAUW-Tucson participated in the *Running and Winning* program held at Flowing Wells High School for 46 high school girls, the twelfth time that the League of Women Voters in Tucson has organized the program with the assistance of AAUW-Tucson, AAUW-Casas Adobes, the Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission, and graduate students from the University of Arizona's School of Government and Public Policy. Also helping were AAUW members Cheryl Whited, Nancy Woodling, Shirley Muney, Kathy Van Reusen, Marilyn Smoler and Arlene Sikkink. The program's mission is to encourage the participants to consider running for office and to discover leadership capabilities in themselves by exposing them to women elected officials and women currently running for office.

The morning began with a coffee time in order for the eleven elected women and candidate guests to visit with each other. Then the students arrived and were divided into eleven small groups. Judge Karen Adams opened the program by presenting the mission of the program and reviewing statistics of women in office, both nationally and locally. In three twenty-minute sessions, the women politicians rotated among the tables, and the students were able to question them about their backgrounds, motivations in running for office, and particulars of running a campaign. To hear the diversity of the women's experiences in running for and being elected to public office was informative and inspiring.

Next, each table of girls prepared a mock campaign for a candidate for the US Senate. One of the girls at each table served as the candidate and another served as speech writer, setting forth the candidate's position

on one of two topics, immigration or global warming. Other table members prepared a promotional flyer, slide, or poster for the candidate, and all discussed how they would publicize their candidate. Laptops and research information were furnished to assist the girls in their preparations. In the afternoon, each candidate, supported by her other table members, presented her campaign speech. The girls then voted on the best speech and presentation." The speeches were exceptional," stated Shirley Sandelands, League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson' co-chair adding, "these were the best speeches of the twelve years of the program." The young women were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the whole process and many were heard to call the program "awesome." We hope that the program has inspired them to consider possibilities in their own lives for leadership positions— not only in the political realm, but in all of their future endeavors.

AAUW Empowers Women

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.



CASE SUPPORT



EDUCATIONAL
FUNDING



STEM
EDUCATION



GLOBAL
CONNECTIONS



CAMPUS
LEADERSHIP



MEMBER
LEADERSHIP



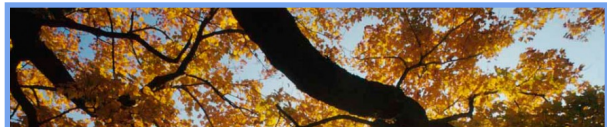
RESEARCH



PUBLIC POLICY

West Valley AAUW Supports Perryville GED Program

By Heather Rayner



Perryville women inmates are making great strides improving their lives by completing their General Educational Development (GED) while in prison. Helping them financially to pay for these tests is a local group, the West Valley branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Although a very small group, the West Valley branch feels strongly about contributing to this program.

“With a GED upon release, Arizona women inmates can change their lives dramatically,” says Heather Rayner, West Valley AAUW president. “We’ve raised several hundred dollars in the last few years to contribute to these women. We feel very strongly this is a worthwhile program that can have an incredibly powerful and positive impact on their lives.”

Six members of the West Valley Branch toured the Perryville facility recently to get a better sense the inmates’ program. They visited classrooms and had brief conversations with the inmates and teachers, a highlight of the tour. Speaking with the women made clear how much this opportunity for a GED means to their future on the ‘outside.’

“We were very impressed with the quality of the teachers and the positive attitude and work ethic exhibited by the inmates. These women want to be in this program. They are studying hard and working diligently to pass all aspects of the GED program,” says Rayner. “The only thing that is stopping them is a limited number of instructors and openings in the classes.”

In January the cost of the class increases dramatically from a current \$35 to \$150. Scholarship money from groups such as the West Valley AAUW is vitally important. Unless an inmates have support from

family members, they are unable to pay the cost of the tests.

Beth Hoye, Perryville education director, says the recidivism rate for inmates nationwide has dropped to 43% because of similar GED programs. Of those in the Perryville program, the average age of inmates is about 35 with the youngest at 18 years; however, many are in their 40s or older.

The West Valley AAUW partners with Rio Salado College in their donations as Rio Salado manages the GED program for the prison system. In addition to making financial donations, the AAUW group also collects clothing and toiletries for inmates after their release. Recently one of the branch members was able to get large quantities of knitting and crocheting supplies for the inmates. “The women have enjoyed learning new skills,” says West Valley AAUW member Shirley Talley. For more information on this program and the West Valley AAUW please contact Shirley Talley.



AAUW Arizona Branch Websites

*Visit these websites and check out our Awesome
Arizona AAUW Branches!*

Casas Adobes Tucson	Casas Adobes Tucson
East Mesa	East Mesa
Flagstaff	Flagstaff (Facebook)
Glendale	Glendale Newsletter
Green Valley	Green Valley
Northwest Valley	Northwest Valley
Phoenix	Phoenix
Prescott	Prescott
Safford	NA
Scottsdale	Scottsdale
Southeast Valley	Southeast Valley
Sun City/Peoria	NA
Tucson	Tucson
West Valley	West Valley



Get Ready For Nationals!

AAUW-Arizona is foregoing its annual State Convention in April in order to encourage members to attend the National Convention in San Diego in June 2015.

Convention registration doesn't open until October 1, but you can prepare to attend the 2015 convention right now.

And when you sign the online pledge to register, you just might go for free!

Get more information at this website [Pledge to Register...](#)

