

## A Year of Hard Work Flies By

by Joanne Walen



As I sat to compose this message, it suddenly struck me (slow as I am at times) that this is my last official message to you as your state co-President. By the time the Summer issue arrives, I will be out of office. So let me take a line or two to say a huge

**THANK YOU** to the

wonderful Board members I have worked with for two years who put up with my often stumbling ways of getting business done.

It has been a busy two years presiding over my own branch as well as the state (and trying to keep all the details and deadlines straight), but I'm sure I'll feel a bit lost without those nagging responsibilities.

None of what we've accomplished in the last two years would have been possible without the gifts of time and talent in the excellent state Board that we have: two Fall

Forums that were so well done by the Prescott branch and Deb Dillon and the recent one so ably put together by Gail Parsons and Patti Allen LaFleur. My branch pulled together a team that offered a terrific breakfast repast, and Gail's and Patti's choice of a lunch caterer, along with the outstanding speakers and theme, drew praise all

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around. The enthusiasm must be catching because we already have a volunteer branch to host the 2019 Fall Forum: NWValley will host at Glendale CC. They felt it was their time since they'd been out of the loop for 10 years.

And I can't fail to mention the terrific Spring Conference last April hosted by the Tucson branch with Ana and Michelle guiding the way. Now the Board is looking for another enthusiastic branch to host the 2019 Spring Conference, our next event after Legislative Day on **February 26, 2019**. The atmosphere in the legislature has changed somewhat (we hope) along with the color; perhaps the fact that we are now more purple than before may mean our push to pass the ERA won't fall on deaf ears and will be taken more seriously. Thanks to our tireless "Energizer bunny" Harriet, we will be receiving information and strategies to make our voices heard loud and strong. But it's not enough for just our voices to be heard: legislators must **see** us. The old adage "there's strength in numbers" is absolutely

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true—as the #RedforEd teachers found out. So don't come alone to Legislative Day: bring a mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, friend, co-worker, student, homeless person, anyone with you on that Tuesday to show this new legislature who we are and that we mean business.

As I finish out my year, I will conclude my visits to branches, always very exciting and stimulating for me. I've arranged to fit in visits where I'll hear speakers on the Electoral College, on arts outreach programs, on community college liaisons, and even a few fundraising luncheons. It will be a busy spring. I'm glad I drive a hybrid car.



## AAUW Announces NCCWSL 2019

**Mark your calendars!** The 2019 [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL) will be held May 29–June 1 at the University of Maryland, College Park. [Early Bird Registration and National Scholarship Applications](#) are now available!

[State scholarships for up to \\$1500 are available now. Click here for more information!](#)

The 2019 program is shaping up to be the biggest, boldest NCCWSL yet! At NCCWSL, participants will build their leadership skills across five core learning objectives:

- **Leadership development:** Develop and strengthen a voice, skill set, and mind-set for leadership
- **Professional development:** Build a professional tool kit for postgraduate life
- **Activism:** Learn how, why, and when to take action and be a change maker
- **Women's issues:** Gain a better understanding of local, national, and global issues and policies

affecting women and of AAUW's role in empowering women

- **Identity and diversity:** Own their personal identities and roles in increasing and supporting diverse voices.

### *Important dates for NCCWSL 2019*

#### **February 15, 2019:**

**EarlyBird Registration closes**  
**Scholarship applications for State and National NCCWSL attendees closes.**

- Last day to register with fully refundable registration. After this date, \$50 deposit becomes non-refundable.
- EarlyBird registrations must be paid in full by February 15, 2019, at 11:59 p.m.
- Last day to apply for our **National** scholarship
- Last day to apply for our **State** scholarship
- Accepted applicants will be registered by AAUW staff and declined applicants will be eligible to register at the early bird rate.

#### **February 16, 2019: Regular Registration Opens**

- Registration fees increase to \$585.
- Includes non-refundable \$50 deposit per registrant due at time of registration.
- EarlyBird registrants who have not paid in full are removed from registration and refunded their deposit.

#### **April 30, 2018: Registration Ends**

- Registration closes at 11:59 p.m. ET.
- Payments are due in full.
- Registrants who have not paid in full forfeit their \$50 deposit and are removed from registration.

*Note: AAUW National will not be accepting registrations, transfers, or refunds after April 30.*

## October Fall Forum Deemed Big Success

By Gail Parsons

With the impending midterm elections on the horizon, the decision was made to hold the 2018 Fall Forum in early October. The objective was to share as much information as possible about the critical issues in play in Arizona.

Our topics included: *Dark Money*, an insidious effort to undermine our democracy; *2018 Ballot Propositions* all of which were particularly complex and confusing; *Civil Discourse* which is in need of resurrection; and, the status of *ERA*. Based on the event's survey results, our distinguished speakers did an excellent job educating us on all fronts. Overall the feedback was very positive and the speakers received high marks.

The host branch, East Mesa, outdid themselves. The volunteers, led by Barb Caswell, made sure all the logistics were flawlessly executed. Be sure to take a look at the state website to view the many photos that captured the spirit of the day.

It is a big undertaking to plan and deliver an impactful forum. Without the time and effort invested by the volunteers, an event can fall short of expectations. Fortunately our East Mesa volunteers delivered, and without hesitation I can say that Patti Allen-LaFleur and I are ever so grateful for the support we received.

Look for information in the next few months about the 2019 Spring Conference.



## Give Your Community a Gift From AAUW-AZ this year!



- ☀️ Apply for Community
  - ☀️ Action funds to support
  - ☀️ A branch project that benefits women and girls!
- Deadline: March 15, 2019  
See the AAUW website for details!

## Have Leadership Questions? Stumped on an AAUW Problem? ASK AAUW-AZ

Open to all Branch leadership, and available 24/7 at no cost. A special **Leadership Panel** of experienced AAUW leaders from across the state will offer possible solutions. **IT'S EASY TO USE!**

Email your specific leadership questions or problems to [the AAUW state recording secretary](#). In a couple of weeks, check the [Leadership Tips Page](#) of the AAUW of Arizona website to see the replies. No names will be included. Everyone needs a new idea or some extra help once in a while. **Give [ASK AAUW-AZ](#) a try today!**

Save the Dates!	
Jan. 18, 2019	BOD Meeting: 10AM-2PM Scottsdale Com. Coll.
Feb 15, 2019	Submissions due for Spring 2019 Edition of The Sun
Feb. 26, 2019	AAUW Legislative Day: 8:30AM-2:30PM, AZ Capitol
March 1, 2019	Spring 2019 edition of The Sun published
April 5, 2019	BOD Meeting, Location TBD
April 6, 2019	Spring Conference, Location TBD



# Branch Reports



## Branch Member and Scholarship Awardee Speaks at Award Dinner

By Mary Beth Lemons

At the Maricopa County Community Colleges Foundation award dinner, Jillian Herner was given the honor of speaking about what Phoenix College has meant to her. She told about how difficult her earlier life had been and how the Community College was a symbol of better things for the future. Her talk was met with a standing ovation.

Congratulations, Jillian!

[This link](#) will take you to a very moving video of Jillian's speech. It begins at 45.34.

The Phoenix branch holds its meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Luther Life Center at the Beatitudes, 1610 W. Glendale Ave. in Phoenix. Following are the meetings and programs for the rest of the year 2018-2019:

Dec. 18: Pastor Robyn Bezanson – Women's education and equity post incarceration (and holiday giving)

Jan. 15: Constantin Querard - The national popular vote interstate compact, the Electoral College, and Arizona

Feb. 19: Mary Brounstein – Dinner with the author of *Two Among the Righteous Few*, a true story of courage in the holocaust

Mar. 19--:Robert J. McWhirter – Are you talking to me? Just who are the people in the Constitution and the 10th amendment

Apr. 16: Lyla Maroufkhani – More about *Helping Hands for Single Moms*

May 21: Anne Schneider, PhD – Education, Legislation and Social Justice

June 18: Mary Jo Pitzl – Arizona's children and Arizona's legislators

## Prescott Branch Embraces Community Projects

By Molly Divine, Branch President

This fall has been a busy time for the Prescott Branch. Since the beginning of December we have held three well-attended general meetings at Yavapai College. We have hosted our Community Action event, Reality Store, and been co-sponsors with the local League of Women Voters of a ballot issue forum before the election. Our major fall fundraising event for our Scholarship Committee, a luncheon, *Falling In Love with Books* helped us put the fun back in fundraising.

In lieu of a general meeting in December, our branch will host our annual Holiday Brunch featuring entertainment by local musicians from the Prescott Ukulele Guild, The Rockin' Ukes, who will entertain us with seasonal and holiday music. We will also award our annual Rookie of the Year and Mover & Shaker awards.

Planning is underway for work on two major Community Action programs to be held in February and March. In February we will be working with Yavapai College to stage our Sister-to-Sister event which will be expanded with advance trips to two local high schools before the main event. Also in February and March, we will, once again, be joining with Embry Riddle Aeronautics University in the Girls Rock-it Day program. This project includes two full-day events for middle and high school aged girls from our local schools in order to introduce them to a range of STEM career options.

Public Policy has a full calendar of meetings and events scheduled throughout the spring, and our 27 interest groups will be busy with a wide range of activities to inform and entertain our members.



## Green Valley Happenings

by Kathy Davisson

Our new year is off to a great start. Our program committee has put together a fabulous line up of speakers. In September, Joel Feinman, Pima County Public Defender, spoke to us about our public policy of mass incarceration. Our October program featured ACLU attorney Billy Peard who talked about a broad range of immigration issues. Both speakers were compelling and of interest to our members and the larger Green Valley community. Perhaps as a result of these offerings, our membership has increased this year when compared with this time in previous years.

We continue to look for ways to publicize AAUW, our branch, and our mission to attract new members. We recently participated in an annual community parade, complete with a float, signs, and banners. We appreciated the enthusiastic responses from the parade viewers, particularly the women in the crowd.

Finally, our fundraising committee is working hard organizing our efforts to raise money for scholarships for women who attend Pima Community College. We were thrilled to offer four substantial scholarship at the end of last year and hope to match that number of scholarships this year.

## With Only Eight Members, West Valley Warriors On

by Pat Zajicek

At the meeting in September the branch voted unanimously to continue even though we are down to 8 members. We still feel we need the association of like-minded women and want to continue being a presence for AAUW in the West Valley.

We will continue the Perryville Prison project by collecting and donating craft materials, games, and books for the detainees.

## East Mesa Ramps It Up for Education and STEM

By Joanne Walen

In January, East Mesa will hear about the exciting STEM program in Mesa elementary schools, specifically the SIM (Space Integration Module). Funded by Boeing, their program brings 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms on a field trip to a site where they run a Mission Control, the Orion space capsule, and the International Space Station. Each student has an assigned role and anywhere from 4-6 tasks to complete. As each task is completed the Director “rewards” the crew with oxygen credits. The goal is not to run out of oxygen—because if that happens in space, you die. Students have practiced these tasks in the classroom, but once on site, they are totally on their own; it is collaborative, self-directed learning. While Boeing funds the program, there are still areas of need that our branch is looking to fill. Filling those needs may turn into a special project for us, our first.

On February 9, 2019, we have our annual Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon. This year our guest is the Arizona author/speaker Jan Cleere from Oro Valley who will entertain us with stories of women who helped found and build Arizona. In 30 years our branch has raised \$194,000 in scholarship funds for 170 scholars, including one national Fellowship.



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 here: [www.aauwarizona.org](http://www.aauwarizona.org).



## **Southeast Valley Branch Active in Community**

Joyce Ellenbecker, Co-president

We welcome back all of our snow-birds for the winter season.

During the summer months some of our activities continued in a more limited form, such as the two book clubs which met as one.

This October was a busy time. Great Decisions started up again, and other programs returned to their winter schedules through April. In October the communities of Sun Lakes held open houses to inform residents about what activities are available in the area. AAUW participated at all three. We were able to meet a number of people, three of whom became new members. Others showed interest, and we hope they decide to join.

Our program for the October meeting was a speaker from AZCEND, a non-profit that serves the Chandler and Gilbert areas. They provide a number of programs for families, children, and seniors, including meals, early childhood education, emergency help with finances, homelessness, and domestic violence.

The program for November had Ann Marie McArthur from About Care speaking about *Empowering Independent Living*. About Care is a non-profit organization that delivers compassionate support services using insured, trained volunteers with special concern for elderly and physically challenged residents of Chandler, Gilbert, and Queen Creek. About Care's free support services include transportation, shopping and errands, respite care, case management, friendly visits, reassurance phone calls, and minor home repairs.

Our December 8 Holiday Luncheon benefitted AAUW Funds. Guest Speaker was Michelle Traveler, representing NCCWS, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders which is designed to develop the leadership skills of

women students in undergraduate or graduate programs.

We are looking forward to being together once again.



## **Northwest Valley Active and Growing**

by Joyce Keane, AAUW NWV Publicity Chair

The Northwest Valley branch (NWV) is nearing 200 members, with 33 new members joining since March, 2018. AAUW NWV President, Rosemary Dougherty, welcomes and encourages all members to get involved and meet so many other wonderful ladies.

The NWV branch held its monthly meeting on Thursday, October 18, in the Del Webb Foundation Room in Sun City West. Over half of the NWV members were present. Several of the new members came to the podium to give a brief introduction about their background and interests.

The Oct. 18 education presentation focused on how Arizona Public Service (APS) uses drones to improve efficiency and safety and was given by Brandon Pfeiffer, APS Chief Unarmed Aerial Services Pilot. Mr. Pfeiffer explained how drones are used by APS for various purposes, including storm damage assessment, vegetation management, pole inspection, and coal and nuclear plant inspections. Drones equipped with special camera apparatus are now being used by APS in some capacity to replace more costly ground vehicles and helicopters.

The next monthly meeting in November had Eric Anderson from the Maricopa Association of Governments presenting a program on *Autonomous or Self-Driving Cars*. The annual Holiday Breakfast was December 13.

Book review luncheons are being revitalized in our branch with a luncheon on Thursday, November 29. These luncheons were a long-time popular branch

activity until a few years ago. The speaker will be Sun City West resident, Margaret Sprink, discussing *Her Favorite Authors and Books from A to Z*.

AAUW NWV Branch spoke up for Science Education. A resolution, written and recommended by our branch Public Policy committee chaired by Sharon Astle, was presented and approved, and incorporated into a letter sent to the AZ State Board of Education regarding changes to proposed science standards for students in Arizona.

Several NWV members attended the AAUW Fall Forum in Mesa on Oct. 6. NWV President-elect, Sharon Phelps, presented a recap of the forum at the NWV monthly board meeting and general meeting.

The annual Women's Scholarship fundraiser by NWV *Stride into Style* is well underway and now accepting reservations for the popular luncheon and fashion show to be held on January 28, 2019. Door prizes, theme baskets, raffles, and a silent auction will also be available.



NWV branch members at the Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> Fall Forum:  
Nancy Wilson, seated. Standing L-R: Sharon Phelps, Becky Saylor, Joye Kohl, Ann Mitchell.

