

President's Message

Ana Nygren



Legislative Day was a great success, thanks to Dr. Harriet Young who organized an informative and educational event.

We have a Zoom board meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 16, at 10:00 am.

We will not have a Spring conference this April, especially in light of the Rocky Mountain Regional Forum being held this summer. Here in Arizona, we will be concentrating our efforts on the Fall Forum, scheduled for Saturday, November 7, with a board meeting Friday afternoon. More details will follow.

The board and I would like to encourage as many members as possible to attend the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference June 19 through June 21 in Fort Collins, Colorado. The board has set aside funds to assist with the cost of attending. Each branch will receive \$500.00 to be divided as the branch sees fit. Let's have a good showing. I look forward to attending with you.

*I would like to encourage as many members as possible to attend the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference June 19 through June 21 in Fort Collins, Colorado.
See the last two pages for more information about this conference!*

I want to express my appreciation to some very dedicated women who have been working diligently for the success of AAUW at the state level. Sara DeRouchev has been keeping our website up to date from the beginning and providing support to branch website coordinators. Patti Allen-LaFleur and Angie Ulrey have done a wonderful job with our newsletters for several years. They are stepping down from these positions. Thank you for your time and dedication.

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AAUW of Arizona Public Policy Report: Legislature Day Feb. 4, 2020

by Public Policy Chair Harriet Young

On Feb. 4, 2020, fifty members of AAUW of Arizona gathered in the Historic Senate Chambers of the Capitol Building in Phoenix to learn what leaders of the Arizona House, Minority Leader Charlene Fernandez, and Minority Whip Athena Salman, had to report about upcoming legislation. Before the presentation, I had read our legislative priorities for everyone. The group focused on two: full funding for education and health care access.



Rep. Fernandez and Rep. Salman promised to work to restore full funding for public education and to stop further raids on public funds for private schools. Past AAUW President Adrian asked if there were enough information about several state legislators who actually profit from siphoning public school funds into the private schools they operate and own. Rep. Salman vowed to try to stop this practice and remarked that “just because it’s legal (passed by the very same legislators) does not mean it is not corrupt.”

Both representatives promised to work to have Arizona pass the ERA and to make equality for women official policy of Arizona and the United States.

Joachin Riios, Director of the State Innovation Exchange (SIX), presented the objectives of his organization. Most interesting was his history lesson of the Arizona Legislature and its control for over 40 years by one party. His presentation emphasized that if there is a change in the majority in 2020, the new majority party will not have controlled the agenda or policy in forty years and will be on a sharp learning curve. SIX is helping prepare

legislators for that possibility of exercising leadership by offering mentors from other states who have also experienced a change in leadership after many years.

Finally, Secretary of State Katie Hobbs gave an expert’s explanation of how to insure that our November elections are fair and secure. She reviewed the steps her office has taken to obtain new technology and training to block interference from any outside source. She assured us that she has been training all our county recorders to be ready for any intrusion. She vowed that we will have secure and fair elections in 2020. I urge each branch to contact its county recorder’s office for a visit to offer to volunteer on election day. It’s our job, too, to insure honest elections.

We closed the meeting with a round table discussion led by our Public Policy Branch Chairs and were instructed by Shirley Muney about signing up for Request to Speak. She urged us to use the program to make our voices heard. Charlene Tarver announced that she is running for the Maricopa Community College Board and offered to speak to branches about the vital role of our community college system. After her spirited presentation, we reluctantly adjourned until 2021.

[Click here to see the pictures and comments in this newsletter regarding Legislative Day.](#)

**Have
you visited the
AAUW AZ Website?
[Click here](#) to get all your
state news!**

***The AAUW Arizona Nominating Committee has a slate of officers for 2020 to present:
Vice President Programs 2020-2022: Michelle Higgins
Corresponding Secretary 2020-2022: Sara Schmitt***

Sara Schmitt



The agricultural mindset in Iowa when I was growing up greatly influenced my outlook on life. I found farmers to be the most practical yet optimistic group of people. They fully understood that the weather

was completely out of their control yet were always looking forward to a successful harvest. When coupled with the opportunity to participate in the Iowa caucuses, I learned the value and importance of individual action not only in the political arena but in daily life.

After studying political science at the University of Iowa, I went on to study law at the George Washington University Law School. After passing the bar, I practiced for about 10 years primarily in the field of regulatory approval of mergers. It was during this time that I discovered my interest in technology. Expanded discovery requirements coupled with the widespread adoption of email and other electronic formats required development of increasingly sophisticated methods of collecting and analyzing data.

I then studied accounting to enhance my understanding of the world from a business perspective. Once again technology played an important role in my career. I was still collecting and analyzing data just using a different format.

My interest in technology and the way it shapes the world around us continues today. I recently gave a short legislative update on the state of cyber security in the world followed by some tips on how women can protect themselves when using social media at a Northwest Valley branch meeting. Although I am a relatively new AAUW member, the value of this

organization is very apparent. I would be honored to serve as the Corresponding Secretary and use my skills to help continue the important mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

Michelle Higgins



Michelle Higgins, Associate Director, University of Arizona Office of Societal Impact.

Higgins earned a BS in Mathematics and an MS in Physics focusing on submillimeter laser systems and the modeling of 3-D radar

scattering of tactical vehicles. She is currently a doctoral student in Educational Psychology with interests in the relationship between universal mathematics signifieds, self-concept, and the development of a mathematics identity for upper elementary students. She is the director and co-founder of Imagine Your STEM Future: A STEM Mentoring Program for High School Girls providing opportunities to nurture and support burgeoning STEMistas. Through the Office of Societal Impact, Higgins works to bring together people, resources, and research to build a more diverse population of life-long STEM learners. Higgins is also active in local and national initiatives for STEM equity. She currently serves as Vice President of Membership and STEM Chair for the Arizona American Association of University Women (AAUW) and is a national advisor for Twin Cities Public Media's SciGirls Connect 2 and Latina SciGirls. During her free time, Higgins can be found on the mats training in martial arts. She is a third degree black belt in Tang Soo Do and is continuing her training in Kenpo Karate.

***The Entire AAUW Community
Mourns the Passing of Margaret
Noser***

by Toni Corrigan

Southeast Valley Branch of AAUW is sorry to share the news of the unexpected passing of Margaret Noser. Her participation and dedication to AAUW will be greatly missed.

Margaret joined AAUW in 1985 in Wisconsin where she served in multiple positions at the branch level. After moving to Arizona and retiring, she became active in the Southeast Valley branch. Margaret served as Co-president and Public Policy Chair. She developed the outstanding Southeast Valley branch website and maintained it for the last six years. She was an AAUW volunteer at the San Marcos Elementary School.

Margaret was active at the Arizona State level, serving two terms as Secretary of the State Board.

Margaret was a graduate of the University of Minnesota, with a degree in child psychology and post graduate work in special education and Montessori Education. She taught in Montessori schools in Wisconsin and was head teacher of the Montessori Lab School at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota.

She is survived by her husband Larry.

***They Are On Their Way To
NCCWSL!***

Ann Mitchell

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be held at the University of Maryland in College Park, May 27 - 30, 2020. Three students were selected to attend from Arizona and will be funded by AAUW Arizona.

Alexis Hepburn, Sydni Bond, and Haley Matthews, all students at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, will join 900 other college students to focus on the theme "Challenge yourself, Inspire others, Create an impact." We will be anxious to hear from these young women after the conference to learn what personal leadership goals were generated that they can bring back to their communities?

Special thanks to the NCCWSL Selection Team that included: Kathy Davisson, Green Valley; Barbara Neubert, Tucson; Karen Ramos, Scottsdale; and Sara Wolters, Southeast Valley Branch.

Read below about each of our awardees.

**Alexis Hepburn: NCCWSL Scholarship
Recipient**



Alexis Hepburn is a senior Aerospace Engineering undergraduate at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ. Her research is focused on developing cube satellite compliant electric propulsion systems. She has presented and discussed her research across the world from Seattle, WA to

Vienna, Austria. She has appreciated support from

the National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship, the ERAU Undergraduate Research Institute, and the NASA Arizona Space Grant Consortium. Outside of her research, she has spent her summers interning for companies such as Boeing, Honeywell Aerospace, and Raytheon Missile Systems. Due to her commitment to civic service to the STEM community, extensive research contributions, and industry experience, she has been selected as an Aviation Week 20 Twenties recipient. Alexis would like to give a special thank you to the Arizona Branch of AAUW for the opportunity to attend the NCCWSL this May where she will learn to refine her leadership and mentorship skills prior to beginning her full-time career with Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, AZ.



Haley Matthews Grateful for NCCWSL Scholarship



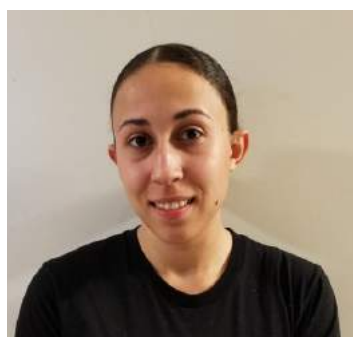
Haley Matthews is a freshman Mechanical Engineering undergraduate at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ. Haley is incredibly grateful to have been selected by the AAUW to attend a moving event like the NCCWSL. Haley would like to thank the AAUW profoundly for the

opportunity to learn from so many accomplished women; she knows this experience will guide her as Haley continues her journey at Embry-Riddle. In her first year, Haley contributed her athletic ability as one of the players on the University NAIA Women's Soccer Team, making it into the second

round of the National Tournament. Haley and her teammates are heavily involved in service, such as playing with youth soccer teams and volunteering locally in the Prescott community. Haley also works as a Notetaker for Disability Support Services to assist fellow peers in two of her courses this spring semester. In her time away from her studies and soccer, Haley continues to further her knowledge and ability of SCUBA diving for future career aspirations. She plans to use her energy focused degree in Mechanical Engineering paired with her passion of SCUBA to innovate and develop underwater machinery and vessels to be more beneficial for the environment. Haley is eager to absorb all she can from the NCCWSL conference and achieve her dream of making a difference in this world.



Sydni Bond Anticipates Leadership and Guidance Skills from NCCWSL



Sydni Bond is a junior in the Space Physics program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott campus. She is pursuing a minor in Air Traffic Management at

Embry-Riddle while currently dual enrolled at Arizona State University to complete a degree in Religion, Culture, and Public Life. She transferred into Embry-Riddle in 2018 from Colgate University where her leadership experience commenced. Through clubs, athletics, and activism, she has taken on leadership roles that aide her in current endeavors today. At Embry-Riddle, she is involved in student advocacy, writing for the school

newspaper, working for a Forbes 100 company, and is in the midst of a campaign for an executive position within the Student Government Association. Sydni is thankful for being selected by the Arizona Branch of the AAUW to attend the NCCWSL this May. She anticipates learning how to improve upon her leadership and guidance skills from the information gathered at the conference. She plans on taking all of these skills gained through the conference and her experiences to her senior year at Embry-Riddle, current employment, and future post-undergraduate opportunities to enact positive change and grow as a person.



They Came Before Us

Submitted by Ann Mitchell

As we welcome 2020, we begin our celebration of the Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, women's right to vote. What part did AAUW play in the Suffrage Movement?

The Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA), the predecessor of AAUW, was founded in 1881 to enhance women's educational opportunities. Early in the 20th century many members did not want the ACA to address the issue of suffrage. They supported it in principal but felt it was outside the scope of their organization. They feared they would lose members as in the 1910's the pool of women with college degrees was small.

In 1914 Mary Woolley, president of Mount Holyoke College and an ACA member, wrote a request that branches study the status and working of suffrage. In 1915 the ACA met in San Francisco. The suffrage resolution passed by a vote of 247-19.

Despite the association's struggle to fully support women's suffrage, it is important to be aware that many ACA members were suffragists. They lobbied, demonstrated, prepared and passed out pamphlets, wrote editorials, and gave speeches. Some even went to jail. They came before us. Mary Woolley would become president of AAUW from 1927 to 1933.

Source: "AAUW's Long Road to Women's Suffrage" and "Jail, Picketing, and Resolutions: AAUW and Suffrage", by Suzanne Gould, August, 2013, aauw.org.



A suffragist being arrested in 1917.

Sun Newsletter Editors Step Down

The Sun Newsletter editors Angie Ulrey and Patti Allen-LaFleur will step down as The Sun newsletter editors after this issue of the Spring 2020 Sun.

Angie and Patti have enjoyed their tenure as co-editors and have appreciated the many members who have supported them with interesting, entertaining, and informative submissions over the years.

The newsletter will go on, in an updated and different iteration.

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.



Branch Reports



Flagstaff Prepares for Active Spring

by Sue Peters

After a busy holiday season, the Flagstaff Branch pushed forward with plans to celebrate 2020 as the Centennial of Women's Right to Vote. Our first event on January 14th was a ceremony at Flagstaff City Hall where mayor Coral Evans issued a proclamation declaring the Centennial year. We had about fifty people attend in the City Council Chamber including AAUW and League of Women Voters members, other city council members, and candidates for state and local offices.

We are partnering with the League of Women Voters and other groups to plan monthly events throughout the year, including a visit to Prescott's statue of the pioneer woman (The Not-So-Gentle Tamer). We'll be showing the film *Iron Jawed Angels* which chronicles the leaders and tactics of the suffragettes and the resistance they met as the 19th amendment finally moved toward passage. We also plan to develop presentations to students emphasizing the roles of different branches of government, how laws are developed, passed, implemented, etc. These and many more activities are being developed. Please share your ideas so that Branches can coordinate state and local events/programs.

**Become
a Two-Minute
Activist!**

**Receive urgent e-mail notices
to contact your**

Flagstaff Spearheads Mayoral Proclamation

Harriet H. Young, Ph.D., Public Policy

Flagstaff Branch gathered up its allies, the League of Women Voters and the NAU Committee on the Status of Women, to request that Mayor Coral Evans issue a proclamation recognizing the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Here is a photo of Branch President Sue Peters and other group leadership at the ceremony. Over fifty people attended.

The Public Policy chairs in our branches are all making similar requests as the year progresses. We should expect to see more photos of our mayors issuing proclamations. Women gained the vote in Arizona in 1912 shortly after the state was accepted into the Union.



From left to right, Jamie Whalen, candidate for Flagstaff Mayor, Council staffer, Patrice Horstman, candidate for County Supervisor, Jennifer Lefere, President, Flagstaff League of Women Voters, Coral Evans, Mayor of Flagstaff, Frances Reimer, NAU's Commission on the Status of Women, Sue Peters, President, Flagstaff Branch of AAUW, Council member Regina Salas, and Harriet Young, AAUW Public Policy Chair.

East Mesa Offers Invitation to Its Author's Lunch for Scholarships

Sandra Lackore

East Mesa Branch is looking forward to its Saturday, March 28, 2020, Scholarship Lunch and is also hoping to have visitors and other branch members from nearby locales attend this fundraising event. The \$40.00 entry includes lunch and one of the author's Books.

Location: Leisure World, 908 S. Power Road, Mesa AZ. The large Leisure World facility is located south of Highway 60 at Power Road and Southern Ave. It is suggested that entry be made at the Southern Avenue gate. The lecture and lunch will be held in Recreation Center 2, which will be on your right after going through the Southern Avenue gate entrance.

Speaker: William Kent Krueger, winner of the Edgar Award for his novel *Ordinary Grace* and author of the *Cork O'Conner Mystery Series*.

Doors open at 10:30am for browsing at the jewelry table. Baskets and other treasures will be available. Our scholars will be present for a meet and greet.

Tickets may be purchased from Diana Kilby. Please refer to the [East Mesa Branch contact page](#) and request ticket details. (*AAUW Sun does not publish emails, phone numbers or other personal information*)

Prescott Branch Grateful for Endowment Funding

Becky Gunn, President

The primary goal set by our Board this year was to complete the funding of our endowment scholarships by contributing \$20,000. It is with gratitude and appreciation that we announce that we have exceeded our goal by \$10,000. The generosity and commitment of our members have been phenomenal.

In February we held a successful fund-raising event – A Taste of Mardi Gras. We had three bands, a parade, a king and queen, lots of Cajun and Creole food, and a very good time!


We continue to offer Reality Store events at Prescott High School and the Launch Pad (a teen center). We will be working with Embry Riddle University on “Rock-It-Days,” which are STEM focused events for pre-college aged young women. We will be co-hosting a state legislative candidate forum focused on education at the end of March. We have also endorsed several events presented by Yavapai College. We are busy, we are having fun, and we are getting much accomplished. AAUW rocks.



Save the Date Box

Save the Dates

March 28, 2020	East Mesa Scholarship Lunch
April 16, 2020	ZOOM Virtual Spring Board Meeting
June 19-21, 2020	Rocky Mountain Regional Conference in Fort Collins, CO



Have you visited local branch websites around the state?

Don't miss an opportunity to be inspired by other branches in AZ! Use the links below to check them out, or click [AZ State Branches](#) to find information about each one.

Dr. Barry Posner Special Guest and Tucson Branch Luncheon

On February 8, Tucson branch held a very successful luncheon event. About 100 people – young professionals, students, members, and other guests – heard an engaging and informative talk by Dr.



Barry Posner. Comments overheard as people left were “entertaining, engaging, and providing many keys for inspiring and leading teams”. He emphasized that when you empower those who follow to achieve their personal best, you can transform businesses, corporations, non-profits, campuses, and organizations anywhere in the world.

Dr. Barry Posner has been named as one of the nation’s top management and leadership educators by the International Management Council, recognized as one of the Top 50 leadership coaches in America, ranked among the Most Influential HR thinkers in the world by HR magazine, and listed among the Top 75 Leadership and Management Experts in the world by Inc. magazine. His book, Leadership Challenge® has been called one of the 100 best business books in the world.

Co-sponsors included:

- League of Women Voters
- Mister Car Wash
- Pima Community College
- University of Arizona Eller College of Management – Tomorrow’s Leaders Ready for Diversity
- University of Arizona College of Education
- University of Arizona Athletic Department
- Women’s Business Center at the YWCA of S. Arizona

See the Instagram campaign [here](#).

Thank you, Barry, for making this a worthwhile event for so many leaders!

Scottsdale Branch Welcomes Mission-Focused Speakers

Karen Ramos

The last two Scottsdale Branch meetings of the year will be provocative for anyone interested in AAUW’s mission and Core Initiatives.

The March 21 meeting of the Scottsdale Branch will focus on one of the core elements of the AAUW 2020 Initiatives – Title IX. Mark Mader, the Chief Title IX Investigator for Scottsdale Community College, will address what’s being done there to improve access for women and girls in the key areas of STEM, Athletics, Campus Sexual Assault, and Access to Higher Education. The meeting will be held in the Turquoise Room on the SCC campus, and all are welcome.

The April 18th meeting topic will be “Incarcerated Women – Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation”. This important presentation will be given by Dr Jesenia Pizzaro, PhD, Associate Professor at the ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Dr. Pizzaro’s research focuses on the importance of understanding the proximal event and situational factors that result in violence (i.e., the who, where, when, and why). Her research also examines the effect the homicide situational context has on the social reaction of practitioners and other social actors.

While her research focus centers on violence, she also studies the politics of punishment and the criminology of micro places. Her corrections work has focused on the administration and use of administrative segregation units throughout the country’s state correctional systems.

Throughout her career, Dr. Pizarro has worked with various police departments all over the country in joints efforts to curb violence. Her work has appeared in the American Journal of Public Health, Justice Quarterly, Criminal Justice and Behavior, and Homicide Studies. This meeting will be held in the Peridot Room on the SCC Campus (next to the Turquoise Room), and all are welcome.

Scottsdale Branch meetings begin with networking at 9:30am and the speaker at 10:15. Speakers have one hour including Q & A, then a brief business meeting is held. Please mark your calendars for both presentations.



Phoenix Branch Plans for Good Programs

Gretchen Reniska

The Phoenix branch has been enjoying educational speakers at our monthly meetings. In December we learned of the advocacy for grandparents who are fostering grandchildren and who are not treated the same as non-relative foster parents. Civics Without Voting Executive Director Kristin Roberts gave a very informative lesson on how we can interact with our elected officials to make our opinions known. In February we are looking forward to hearing from former Police Chief Jerald Monahan as he discusses violence against women.

Our morning book club is reading *Becoming* by Michelle Obama for February after discussing *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys in January.

Great Decisions is preparing to start this year's discussions in February. The Foreign Policy Group has chosen eight topics, and the group discussions will be held the second and fourth Wednesdays.

We continue to have meaningful contact with the young women whom we have chosen for scholarships and are very pleased with the progress they have shown in their pursuit of an education.

We invite any AAUW member to attend our meetings if you have an interest in the speaker for that month. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at the Beatitudes in Phoenix.



Green Valley Happenings

Sharon Rezac Andersen

Legislative Day, February 4, offered us all an opportunity to celebrate as we gathered together, heard from AAUW public policy chairs, met with our legislators, and determined issues for the future. It is encouraging to learn about all that is being accomplished as united we articulate and work on similar values across the state.

The Green Valley Branch held another successful Lunafest that featured short films by, for, and about women, benefiting our Scholarship and Philanthropy Programs. The event featured raffles including donated items from local businesses, Lunafest Baskets stuffed with collectibles from our Interest Groups, and a food buffet with sponsorship from area restaurants. Funds raised from this event help us sponsor women's scholarships while introducing the attendees to our branch and scholarship recipients.

Lunafest is a traveling film festival that celebrates, showcases, and champions women's causes offering a platform for filmmakers to share their stories. We are honored to be a recipient that offers these powerful venues with extremely touching narratives.

For the first time, we are sponsoring International Women's Day, Sunday, March 8th. It is a celebration to connect women around the world with a unifying theme of "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change." The day will feature the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and include a noon lunch, live music from the peace and women's movements, and "her-stories" by women, including our AAUW state president, Ana Nygren. The special event will be held at Dominick's Restaurant in Green Valley. A ticket for \$17 will include lunch and can be purchased by calling me at 218-255-0905 or email at rezac003@umn.edu. The day will conclude with a celebration of 100 years of white women's right to vote, but also a celebrate what led to the American Indian Women's voting

rights in 1948 and African American Women's rights in 1965. We hope many of you can join us!

We sponsored the Rally To End Violence Against Women and Girls as we stood with signs February 15th on the busiest intersection in Green Valley. An annual event, women and men attend who believe it important to participate because of personal circumstances or the belief that women and girls have the right to be free from the violence that is evident in today's local, state, and world reality.

This is my last year as AAUW Branch Co-President in Green Valley. It has been an honor to meet, establish relationships with, and then be surrounded by women who continuously work for the common good of all humankind. I am convinced as Eleanor Roosevelt stated, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Together we as AAUW dream a world that advances gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy, and education, I believe anything is possible with AAUW.

I wish all of you the best! Thank you for this empowering journey with you!



AAUW-NWV Branch Springs Forward

by Sharon Phelps

Winter was action packed beginning with our huge general fundraising Rummage Sale Event the beginning of December which raised almost \$4,000 for our branch. President-Elect Sharon Lee Astle and Mary Jo Blum met directed the whole event. Our December meeting focused on a special *Membership Appreciation Breakfast* to celebrate all the members who had worked on our fall events from hosting fall forum to helping with the rummage sale. An ugly sweater/exotic fashion theme helped this recognition event become a true celebration.

In January our Program Chair Karen Bunting invited Dr. Laura Tohoe who spoke about the WWII Navajo Code Talkers. Following that, Stephanie Rogall and Mary Jo Blum hosted our NWV Annual Scholarship Fashion and Luncheon Event entitled *20's Salute: Swing with Bling* which raised over \$6,000 for our Scholarships Program. We were honored when our AZ President Ana Nygren spoke to our 320 attendees about AAUW. We also enjoyed Dr. Teresa Leyba Ruiz, President of Glendale Community College, when she spoke on the important role community colleges play in helping educate young women and girls in our state.

In February, our General Meeting featured Arizona's Ratification of the 19th Amendment entitled *Vision, Courage, Commitment, and Perseverance*, presented by our own Women's History Special Interest Group members led by Joye Kohl, Patty Lang, and Deborah Hansen. Our Genealogy Special Interest Group hosted a *We Make History Telling Our Stories* writing exercise in order to encourage members to tell their own stories about amazing women of their own heritage. In February, we enjoyed a *Women's Suffrage Centennial Tea in the Garden* at Patty Lang's home complete with period costumes, gloves, and hats.

To date we have added another 44 new members this year with an additional prospective 15 girls who are still considering joining before the year's end. This brings the total number of members for our branch to 227.

Becky Sayler and her Public Policy committee will be working with the Girl Scouts and Peoria and Dysart Unified School Districts on 19th Amendment/ ERA Activity Book projects, a particularly timely project with the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (Women's Right to Vote) and the continued efforts to ratify the ERA. The school districts are also working on a schedule for our members to read to students during Dr. Seuss week in March. We would be happy to work with other branches who might desire to initiate similar projects.

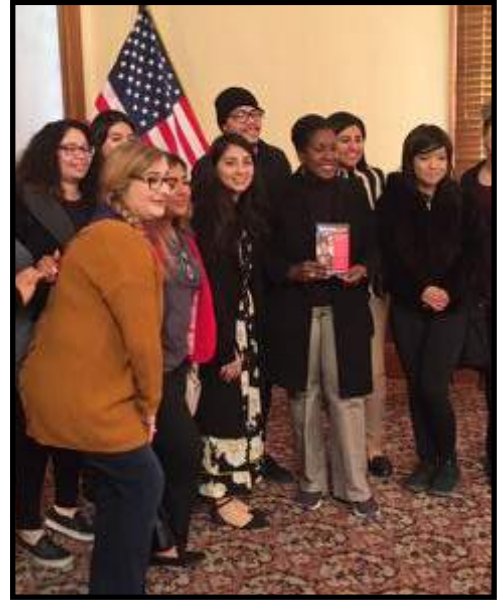
Southeast Valley Prepares for Celebrate 100

Joyce Ellenbecker

February has been a busy month preparing for the Celebrate 100: Women's Right to Vote, February 17, 2020. The speaker is Dr. Melanie Sturgeon, President of the Arizona Women's History Alliance. Pictures will follow in next AZ-Sun.

Our January program was exciting. Lori Ruff is an engineer and Robotics Coach for CUSD Community Education. Her robotics team from Fulton Elementary School Robotics Club and their parents came to the meeting. The girls demonstrated the robots they built and explained what the robots could do. The girls enthusiasm was contagious.

Kim Franklin, Principal at Casa Blanca Elementary School of the Gila River Community will be the presenter at our March meeting. Her topic will be "Native Children Education: Opportunities and Challenges." We are looking forward it.



Yuma sent a contingent of community college students to our Legislature Day as part of their assignment to attend any group Legislature Day they chose as part of their class assignments.

The group chose AAUW Leg Day to attend, and coincidentally, we chose Yuma Representative and House Minority Leader Charlene Fernandez of Yuma as one of our speakers. Serendipity.

They had a wonderful time and collected hugs from everyone when we dispersed.

Legislative Day Pictures



Don't Miss Out! Save the Date!

Go to [AAUW Colorado](#) for latest info.



Arizona-Colorado-New Mexico-Nevada-Utah-Wyoming

The year 2020 marks the **100th anniversary** of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting **women's** constitutional **right to vote**. This accomplishment provides a vivid backdrop for celebrating women leaders in action – past, present and future – at the upcoming **AAUW Regional Conference**.

Conference details will be on the Colorado state website beginning in March. Plan to join us and rally other members from your branch to come along with you. It'll be a great opportunity to meet, socialize and exchange ideas with AAUW members from throughout the West.

Make your hotel reservations today ... Fort Collins Hilton at 970-482-2626. Request the American Association of University Women conference room block and use guest code AUW. Or go to the <https://aauw-co.aauw.net/> for a link to the Hilton's online hotel reservations system. Deadline for discounted rate is May 19, 2020.



Our list of dynamic speakers and presenters has grown to include ...

Friday



Julia Brown

AAUW National Board Chair



Dr. Joyce McConnell

President, Colorado State University



Jill Tietjen

CEO of Technically Speaking and author of *Herstory – A Timeline of Women Who Changed the World*

Saturday



Linda Newell

Former Colorado State Senator
Expert on conflict resolution & leadership communication skills



Dr. Marie Berry

Asst. Professor, University of Denver
Korbel School of Int'l Studies
Specializing in women's leadership worldwide



Charlotte Waisman

Leadership Training Expert
Reenactment marking the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Sunday



Dr. Temple Grandin

World renown scientist and Colorado State University Professor

Plus:

Panel on 'Women Veterans Transitioning into Civilian Careers' moderated by Veteran and Colorado House candidate *David Ortiz*

Sculptor *Jane DeDecker* display and talk about her current project 'Every Word We Utter' celebrating the 19th Amendment Centennial

