



Making this an Excellent AAUW Year!

AAUW across Arizona will have a record year! But how is that possible? The AAUW State Board has heeded these words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." At this challenging time, the board voted that each of the 14 branches will be receiving \$500.00 per branch to be used to support traditional public education, certainly a highlight for AAUW.



Yes, COVID-19 has affected everyone! Our priority, education, in many ways has been severely affecting families and how they will function in the future. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kathy Hoffman relates the escalating concerns from parents and teachers for reopening schools. She said on-line and hybrid models will be the suggested mode of education, however on-line learning will hinder school groups such as science projects and students trying out new instruments in the music classes, both hallmarks in school systems. However, the spike in COVID-19 (currently 74,000 cases, younger than 20, 11 percent) has made Arizona rethink opening dates where teachers in some locations planned a "sick out" forcing classrooms to re-open later. Arizona already has a teacher shortage.

I discussed AAUW AZ 4 Public Education with Greg Schubert, our Continental School finance staff who is working on curriculum options for elementary grades. The need is now to begin this school year predicted tentatively to begin September 8th, based on future guidelines from the Departments of Health, Education and Governor Ducey. His suggestion was to invest in technology equipment, specifically the Lap Top Chrome Books for first graders.

When school begins, students in 1-8th grade will get their assignments each Monday, a full day of classes, with assignments due on Sunday evening. Curriculum will be recorded, allowing parents working outside the home to help with assignments.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR/ SAVE THE DATE

For our Virtual AAUW Arizona Fall Forum

*Taking Our Trailblazing Advocacy to the Next Level:
Becoming Better Champions for All Women & Girls!*



November 7, 2020
10:00 A.M to 2:30 P.M.
Zoom link and Passcode to follow
No fee required

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An organization of active and diverse Arizona women.

President's Message

An exciting year ahead and reflecting on the past year

I am excited to continue as president and look forward to the coming year as we navigate the COVID 19 and all that has changed in our in-person encounters. We continue to meet using technology that is available to us and, in some aspect, it has made it more convenient for some of our members to participate, let us keep it going.



We have several great projects on the horizon, such as AAUW AZ 4 Public Education, a new project chaired by Sharon Rezac-Andersen and Kathy Davisson working with the individual branches as the branches work with their local school districts. Look for more information in the coming months.

Michelle Higgins and her committee are getting everything set for the Fall Forum, scheduled for Saturday, November 7th, using Zoom, the program will be continuing our quest to be more inclusive and addressing some of our membership issues.

I am hoping to visit as many branches as I can either in person or by Zoom during the coming year. I would like to remind you that board meetings are open to the membership and I invite you to attend. We have them scheduled every other month the third Wednesday of the month at 4 pm.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in the coming months.Ana Nygren

Taking It to the Next Level

Dear Fellow AAUW Members,

While we continue to have blistering heat, my calendar is telling me that the fall season is nearing. This can only mean one thing: The AAUW AZ Fall Forum Cometh!

SAVE THE DATE

***Taking Our Trailblazing Advocacy to the Next Level:
Becoming Better Champions for All Women & Girls!***

November 7, 2020 - - 10:00 A.M to 2:30 P.M.
Zoom link and Passcode to follow; No fee required

Many AAUW branches across the nation are being challenged by dwindling membership, a membership that may not well-represent the diverse population within their local communities, and communicating our mission in a way that aligns with today's progressive woman and tomorrow's young leaders. As one of several women-focused organizations facing accusations of sheltering white feminist values, we must hold ourselves accountable and examine our protocols, procedures, and cultural norms, as well as our biases, if we are to grow and thrive.

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AAUW Arizona Board

President	-Ana Nygren
Program VP	-Michelle Higgins
Membership VP	-Sharon Phelps
Recording Secretary	-Cathy Corbin Mannino
Corresponding Sec.	-Sara Schmitt
Treasurer	-Gail Garrison

Appointees

By-Laws/Policies	-Alice Buck
College/University Relations	-Ann Mitchell
Community Action	-Becky Saylor
Elections	-TBA
AAUW National Funds	-Karen Ramos
Public Policy/Advocacy	-Harriet Young
Newsletter Editor	-Joye Kohl
Webmaster	-Jane Russ
Branch Special Projects	-Gail Garrison
Parliamentarian	-Alice Buck
STEM	-Michelle Higgins
Branch Presidents will be listed next month	

“Taking It to the Next Level” continued from page 2

This forum builds upon our historic strides and astounding efforts so that we can be better equipped as an organization to work alongside our fellow black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) colleagues, as we challenge racial and gender injustices. Through a panel of speakers, we will learn about terms and concepts commonly used in addressing racism, begin to recognize systemic racism in everyday life, reflect on our own accountability, and hear AAUW’s efforts towards more equitable leadership. Our afternoon will end with small-group planning sessions at the branch level.

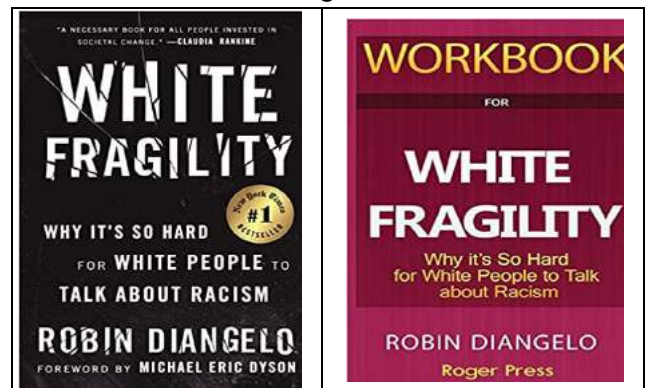
Keep your eye out for our flyer with registration and speaker information.

.....Michelle Higgins, Vice President for Program



Branch Membership VP’s have gathered twice now during the summer to gain and share insights into how we can navigate and support existing and NEW members during this CoVid crisis. We examined and shared ideas on how we can utilize the **“Shape the Future”** Campaign that offers new members who join at an event a special 1/2 off National Membership dues for their first year when they become a member at one of our events. We learned that this can work at a Virtual meeting as well. In addition, for every two Shape the Future Members who join, your branch will earn **One FREE Membership** for up to three Free Memberships in any one year. This program is a great way to get new members to try out our branch and learn about our organization.

In addition, we have begun discussing the book **“White Fragility: Why it’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism”** by Robin Diangelo and using the **“White Fragility Workbook”**. This is helping us become more aware of the Social Injustice issues that we see happening on our TV screen and in our communities and begin to understand how we may be contributing to the issues in ways that we may not even be aware of. We will be discussing Chapters 2-5 of the White Fragility book as well as continuing to find ways to foster new growth. We are meeting by ZOOM teleconference which allows us all to participate no matter where we are sheltering in place. If you wish more information regarding this discussion, please contact me.



.....Sharon Phelps, Membership Vice President 2020-2021

Ignoring equity hurts us all!

In 1988, former AAUW president Sarah Harder gave the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates some good advice: Stop dismissing crucial topics like child care, fair pay and affordable housing as “women’s issues.” Instead, she framed them as the “kitchen-table issues” that are discussed daily in the homes of families everywhere.

More than three decades later, as our nation grapples with a pandemic, an overdue reckoning with racism, and a dismal economy, the wisdom of Harder’s words has never been more apparent. For far too long, our country has ignored the problems that matter most to millions, resulting in deep inequalities that hurt us all.

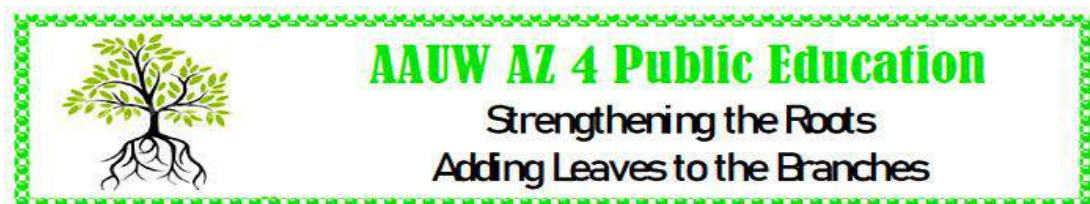
AAUW AZ 4 Public Education continued from page 1

Greg Shubert relayed a story from a math and science teacher in a district north of Phoenix. The teacher said she knows that in-class students are not getting the attention on-line students are; in fact it took her 30 minutes to get a 6th grader to stop dancing around his tech equipment at home. That was 30 minutes she had to ignore the other students in class.

It will be interesting for all of us to hear stories across Arizona as AAUW works with their local school districts. It seems imperative that we begin now to determine school needs. Greg Schubert stated that with mail delivery delayed and all states across the country vying for Chrome Books, it will be difficult getting the technology when needed in this fall.

Yes, AAUW across Arizona will have a record year when investing in education. Education enhancement will be our powerful weapon to change the state hopefully this year and beyond!

.....Sharon Rezac Andersen, Co-Chair AAUW AZ 4 Public Education



AAUW AZ 4 Public Education: Strengthening our Roots

Education is a core value for AAUW and a part of the strategic plan at the national level. Sadly, public education in Arizona ranks near the bottom, if not at the bottom, when compared with other states in terms of quality and per pupil spending, resulting in below average achievement scores overall for students in our state.

AAUW Arizona has established a fund to help branches support public education. Specifically, with the establishment of the **AAUW AZ 4 AZ Public Education** program, each branch is eligible to receive \$500.00 to be used in partnership with **Pre K-12 traditional public school district(s)** in your community with endeavors that will boost educational quality and student achievement. Below are examples of how these funds could be used. This list is not meant to be limiting, but rather to provide some ideas.

- Staff professional development
- Purchase of classroom or school wide materials
- Purchase of technology and digital materials
- Ongoing educational research related to educational policy

Branches might consider inviting members to add to the funds. In addition, we would encourage you to give thought to working in cooperation with other organizations in your area (i.e. Universities, local non-profits that support public education, parent-teacher groups) to maximize the impact of your efforts.

It is the desire of our committee to make this process as easy as possible for local branches. Once your branch has determined how the money can be best spent, we will provide a mechanism for you to share your project with others in our organization. After you've expended the money, you can return your receipts to AAUW of Arizona for reimbursement. While no application is required, periodic reports on your branch project are requested for sharing on the website and publication in our state newsletter.

We will kick off this project this fall. All projects must be completed during the 2020-2021 school year. It is our hope that we will be able to continue funding AAUW AZ 4 Public Education in years to come.

.....Kathy Davisson and Sharon Rezac Anderson, Co-Chairs AAUW AZ 4 Public Education

Public Policy

The AAUW is taking a particularly active stand this next few weeks to get citizens to register to vote and to sign up for the Permanent Early Voter List (PEVL). This PEVL campaign will facilitate voting for those who are endangered by the COVID 19 epidemic and cannot leave home. For info on how to vote by mail, go to www.arizona.vote. You may also check the website for your county recorder to access the PEVL.

In the past few years, AAUW has been involved with our local representatives via our annual Legislature Day when we go to the Capitol and visit the people we have elected. We have established five primary policy issues that we support:

- Support for funding public education
- Support for the ERA passage by the Arizona Legislature
- Support for equal pay
- Support for open access to health care for women
- End sexual harassment

We have sent these issues to our membership and candidates to emphasize what we stand for.

The job now is to hold our candidates accountable and to elect those who support our issues. For this reason, I've been urging all our public policy chairs around the state to encourage members to volunteer to register people to vote, to visit your county recorders offices and volunteer as poll watchers, to help candidates make contact with voters via zoom and webinars. We've don't six Zoom candidate meet and greets in Flagstaff, to the delight of candidates who need all the help they can get, given they cannot go door to door.

Please consider putting emphasis on election participation so that we all vote and every vote counts.

.....Harriet Young, Chair Public Policy (AAUW Arizona and Flagstaff)

Meet Our Awesome AAUW Women Running For Office!

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary ratification of the 19th Amendment, the landmark legislation that enfranchised the greatest number of voters in American history, we also need to celebrate our members who are stepping forward as candidates for elected office. Do check out the information about each candidate on pages 17-18. The article listing our awesome members is purposefully at the end of the newsletter in order to continue building this file. If we have missed someone, I apologize and request that you contact your branch president to share the info with me so that we can update our listing. We will also be posting the information on our website, on Facebook and we encourage branches to post the information about their members running for office.

.....Joye Kohl, newsletter editor

Democracy is not a spectator sport!



Two AAUW branches donate food and funds to feed 2,000 families!

Inspired by a community need and the pandemic-period drive-bys for graduation/ birthday parties, the NWV and Sun City/Peoria branches joined forces with a 4th of July event to address economic insecurity needs in the NW Valley.

Concerned by estimates that more than 1 million Arizonans and one of every five children face chronic food insecurity on a daily basis, the July 4th morning fundraiser was viewed as a way to reach into the community with help. The result: over \$800 in cash contributions and 1,000 pounds of food donations were dropped off and delivered to the food bank.

Member volunteers enjoyed seeing fellow members, families and neighbors drive by wearing masks to drop off their donations. Jessie Rameriz, West Valley Community Food Bank President, told Chair Suzanne James and Co-chair Becky Sayler the AAUW donations would feed 2,000 families. Ramirez says "In my decades in food banking, I have never seen anything more disturbing. People are crying and are so afraid of the future. We have to find ways to help each other. We are all in this together, and together is the only way to address this historic crisis. We are in need of more donations, especially food, personal hygiene items, and cleaning and sanitation supplies."

"Among mothers in households with children under 12, the share experiencing general food insecurity jumped to more than 40%, according to the Brookings Institution (poll taken in late April 2020 – an increase of roughly 25 percentage points from 2018 and about double the share of households that reported the same in 2008." It is difficult for woman and girls to pursue employment or scholarships when they are hungry.

Coordinators James and Sayler hope to make this an annual event building on the summer success. In addition to food bank needs, branch members donated items for a fall Scholarship Silent Auction. An inspiring mission-driven activity, James invites other AAUW branches to join in support of their local Food Banks and Scholarship needs.



Have you signed up for the AAUW Action Network to receive alerts? Do you use the 2 Minute Activist program. Go to www.aauw.org

AAUW Members Celebrates the Right to Vote!

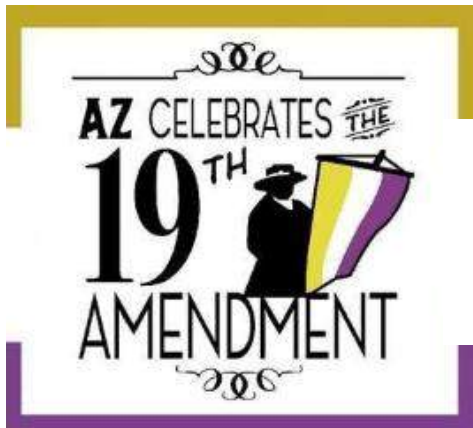


A Shoebox Parade!

The Flagstaff Branch “decorated shoebox float” entry in the Coconino Community College virtual 4th of July parade!

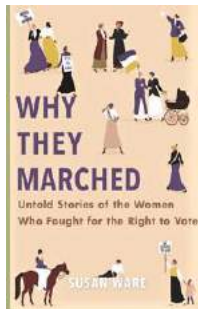
Check out their branch report on page 11 to learn more about this innovative event and a link to watch the entire “decorated shoebox” parade.

Many individual members took part in the online celebration of the 19th Amendment Centennial on August 23rd.



VOTES FOR WOMEN

AAUW-NWV Brown Baggers Virtual Book Review Lunch



The NWV branch launched virtual book review lunches via Zoom in August with the first brown bag luncheon focused on “celebrating the 19th Amendment Ratification Centennial. The book: **Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote** by Susan Ware and reviewed by branch member, Beryl Flathman-Braaten.

A second virtual book review luncheon, scheduled in September, will feature the book, **America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines** by Gail Collins and reviewed by member Deborah Hansen.

Dates to Remember!

Monday, October 5, 2020 --- deadline to register for the General Election

Tuesday, Oct. 20--- Deadline for Photos, Stories and Branch Reports for AAUW AZ Newsletter “The Sun”-- Send digital files to Joye Kohl, editor, by October 20, 2020- 5 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 21st - 4 pm --- State Zoom Board Meeting

Friday, Oct. 23 pm – 5 pm--- Deadline for Registered Voters to Join PEVL or Request a Ballot-by-Mail

Tuesday, Oct. 27 – Recommended deadline to mail back your ballot.

Tuesday, Nov. 3 – General Election - Be sure to VOTE if you have not already done so via the Permanent Early Ballot List or Ballot by Mail.

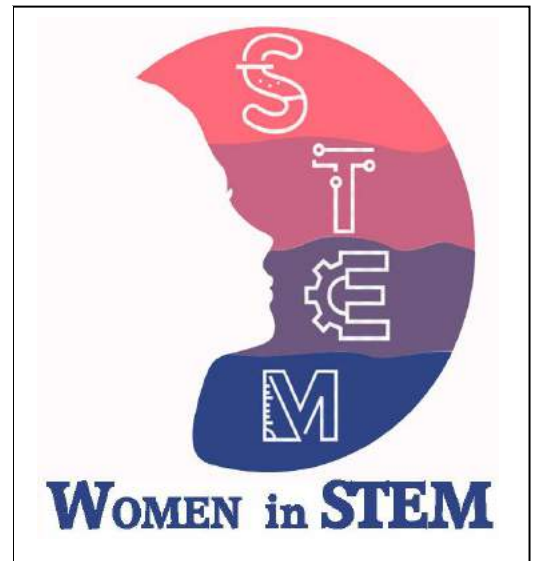
Saturday, Nov. 7 --- AAUW Arizona Fall Forum (watch for details)

“If She Can See It, She Can Be It”

Engaging girls through STEM role models.

If your branch is considering STEM outreach, you might want to consider introducing girls to women STEM professionals. Research has shown that *“If She Can See It, She Can Be It”* is a great strategy to boost girls’ interest in STEM professions.

If this is something you want to try, There are two important things to consider. First, while curbing the CoVID-19 pandemic is still a concern, you may want to offer virtual experiences. Second, diverse role models make the most impact for diverse populations of girls. In AZ, seeking out Hispanic women role models is key.



Today is your lucky day! Below are two resources that can fill both of these needs! Both come highly recommended by national organizations that promote STEM for girls.

1. SciGirls Connect role model videos

<http://www.scigirlsconnect.org/resources/arqueologa-ambiental-environmental-archaeologist-isabel-rivera-collazo/>

The videos are easy to share with others and feature both English and Spanish-speaking role models.

STEM Fields include: Earth & Science, Engineering & Design, Health, Life & Environment, Physical Science, and Technology

They also feature fun bilingual, hands-on, minds-on activities that use easy to find materials.

This is a great resource if you are working with teachers, schools, or afterschool programs

2. TECHNOLOchicas

<https://technolochicas.org/>

This is a database of Hispanic women professionals in STEM who have signed up to be role models and mentors for other women and girls.

Checkout TECHNOLOchicas Amassadors

<https://technolochicas.org/web/embajadoras/24>

It is easy to use the search feature to find women in Arizona

Offering classroom Zoom sessions in math and science K-12 classes might be a great part of a partnership program.

Need more ideas? I’m here to help!

.....Michelle Higgins, STEM Chair



With relatively so few women in some math and science careers, girls have fewer role models to inspire their interest in these fields.



College Connections: Supporting the Education of Women and Girls

Hats off to Arizona AAUW Branches!

Nearly 200,000 Scholarship Dollars Given!

It should come as no surprise that the AAUW Branches in Arizona provide outstanding scholarship support for college and university students.



Eleven of the fourteen branches in the state provided information about their efforts to raise money for scholarships. It appears that most scholarships are given to students attending full time, 34 in all. Part time students received 11 awards, for a total of 45 scholarships state-wide. Students at community colleges received twice as many scholarships as students attending 4-year institutions. The total amount in scholarships that AAUW branches provided for the 2019-2020 school year was **\$199,400!**

Chyna Rendon, a NCCWSL participant 2019 and recipient of an AAUW scholarship says, *"This scholarship means the world to me because as easy as scholarships are to find, they are not as easy to receive. I'm just very grateful that I have this scholarship to cover part of my tuition. Without it I'm not sure I would be going to school this semester. So, thank you everyone at AAUW. You really are making dreams come true."*

Many Arizona branches host a well-attended annual luncheon as their primary scholarship fundraiser. Contributions from AAUW members and the community are always welcome. Some branches have utilized college, university or community foundations as their approach.

The Green Valley Branch uses Luna fest to raise scholarship dollars. Read the article below by Susan Kirk and Phyllis Debertin to get all the details.

Ann Mitchell, AAUW Arizona College Relations Chair



Lunafest – A Natural Fit for Green Valley

"Celebrating and inspiring women through the art of film and community fundraising" -- the mission of Lunafest, was a natural fit for the Green Valley branch and the AAUW mission.

Six years ago, the branch discovered Lunafest, a national traveling film festival that features short films by and about women. It represented a way for the branch to focus on fundraising to provide scholarships for women attending the local community college.

As a result of the very successful and sold out February 2020 Lunafest, the GV branch was able to award scholarships to five deserving young women currently attending Pima Community College this year. Two of the women are pursuing nursing degrees, one is majoring in environmental science, another in psychology, and one is in a pre-engineering program, hoping to use engineering to create solutions to medical problems. Feedback from these women addressed not only what the scholarship means to them in being able to

....continued on page 10

“Lunafest” continued from page 7

to complete their degree and how that affects their future, but also how they hope to use their education to benefit others. Branch members are grateful to have had a part in their educational development.

Lunafest was established in 2000 by LUNA© (makers of the first nutrition bar) for women to simultaneously promote women filmmakers and to raise awareness of women’s issues. The films range from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics relating to women’s health, motherhood, body image, relationships, cultural diversity, breaking down barriers and more. The films are selected by an outside board of advisors comprised of notables in the film industry. Additional information can be accessed about Lunafest from their website: www.lunafest.org.

The Saturday afternoon Lunafest film screening, held at the Community Performance and Arts Center, began in the lobby with a reception including delicious refreshments and a fabulous raffle. The reception was catered by local restaurants and the raffle items were donated by AAUW members, area artisans, and businesses.

Following the reception, attendees were invited to the theater for the screening of the films. Just before the screening starts, scholarship winners from the prior year were introduced and giving a chance to talk about their college experience and how the scholarship has aided them.

Plans are in place to introduce the new scholarship winners to Lunafest 2021 attendees on February 20.

Susan Kirk, Fundraising Chair
Phyllis Debertin, Co-President

Green Valley Branch Scholarship Recipients:



Ariana Garcia



Gabriella Morales



Halianna Pillar



Harley Plasencio



Ana Soto Velazquez

ATTEND NCCWSL -- May 26-29, 2021, University of Maryland

Each year, AAUW invites hundreds of college women for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. (NCCWSL). Past attendees claim, *"I really loved being surrounded by so many strong and powerful women. Together we really can change the world"*.



AAUW opens Early Bird Registration and National Scholarship Applications on November 2, 2020. A college student can save \$100 by registering at the Early Bird price of \$485. National Scholarships can help pay for the entire registration fee. More information about NCCWSL can be found by searching for "Attend NCCWSL - AAUW" on the internet.

In addition AAUW Arizona is ready to offer two scholarships for Arizona college or university students to attend NCCWSL 2021. Watch for the application and instructions on the AAUW-AZ website.

Ann Mitchell, Chair, College Relations



Spotlight on College Members



Coconino Community College, the home of the Comets, was opened in 1991. Nestled in the ponderosa pine forest of northern Arizona, the college offers local, affordable and quality education to help students find their path to a new or better career or to a university degree.

The college serves the students of the Coconino County from three campus locations, each with a different focus. Two locations are in Flagstaff while the third is in Page, Arizona.

Coconino Community College has made the difficult decision to limit in-person contact for the fall semester beginning August 24th. They will offer Remote Delivery courses. Students will have a choice of Videoconferencing, online and/or the Hybrid approach. Each method of delivery will include regular and meaningful interaction with the faculty.

This past year the AAUW Flagstaff Branch awarded Andrea Blake, a Coconino Community College student an \$1800 scholarship.

Assisting with this article were: Dr. Kimberley Batty-Herbert, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Larry Hendricks, Senior Manager Public Relations & Marketing. Thank you to both of them!

.....Ann Mitchell, Chair, College Relations



Since the spring newsletter things around here have been very quiet! We're all isolating, masking and zooming, but not much else. The main highlight, thanks to an innovative idea by our friends at Coconino Community College was a virtual 4th of July parade! Groups from all over town decorated shoebox floats which were filmed and then broadcast via YouTube. Some of the floats were incredibly inventive.

See our float photo on page 7. We put it all together in less than a week! To watch the parade go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkwFQq_RrZg

Several of us got together and created our float to commemorate the Centennial of Woman's Suffrage. Many thanks to our main artist-in-residence, Lisa Martinez for the basic design, paint job and creation of the diverse women depicted on the float. Those of us who are more creatively-challenged did printing and gluing. I think the result turned out pretty well considering.



A great idea and great fun when we can't have a real parade!

.....Sue Peters



As with many other AAUW Branches, Green Valley is not having a typical start to our year. We had an emergency board meeting on July 13 and decided to hold our meetings virtually at least until December and likely for the year. We will be using Zoom as our format. Of course, this poses the concern of whether or not our members who are not internet savvy can connect. However, several of our members have stepped up and will help other members, either by hands on or by written directions.

We are anxious to include as many members as possible as we have such exciting programs for the year: celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of getting the vote, discussing with our District Legislators regarding current State issues, learning about Civil Discourse, and updating ourselves about what's happening at the border, to name a few. While our membership is down from last year, we are hoping to engage people who have not yet renewed, as our programs are our primary drawing card according to new members who joined last year.

One other event for us is Lunafest, which is our primary fundraiser for the year. These funds go to provide scholarships to women attending Pima Community College. We were successful enough this past year that we could award five scholarships. The person in charge of this event, Susan Kirk, is exploring ways we could hold the event virtually if needed, as it is scheduled for February 20, 2021. This will be another challenge for us.

Many of our interest groups, including Exploring Women's Culture, Fiction Book Group, and Needles and More have continued to meet via Zoom over the summer and it has meant so much to us to be able to "see" each other and maintain that contact. And some of the other interest groups plan to meet on Zoom in the fall. An added benefit of having these meetings on Zoom is that our

members who don't live here full time and are not planning on returning soon are still able to participate. We have amazed ourselves at how adept (or not!) we have become. And it has cemented our commitment to each other and our goals. As one member put it, we are a good example of life-long learning.

We hope you are keeping healthy, happy and engaged in our mission. And we look forward to hearing how other Branches are dealing with the current circumstances.

.....Phyllis Debertin
Green Valley Co-President



East Mesa's Board establishes a new initiative to raise awareness of Diversity/Inclusiveness as outlined below:

Diversity and Inclusiveness Initiative:

This initiative will reflect the values of AAUW by promoting diversity and inclusiveness through education, discussion, and programs that highlight cultural, racial, and ethnic differences. By doing so, we will commit financial resources to programs, activities, and collaborations that encourage personal awareness so our members will better appreciate and value the diversity of various cultures and races and proactively look for inequities in the treatment of these differences.

Elements of Diversity and Inclusiveness

1. Establish a sense of belonging for everyone. This initiative may be about going outside our comfort zone and outside our community.

2. Branch members will drive inclusiveness. This initiative should not be perceived as a top down task, but one that supports the continued growth and success of our branch.

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East Mesa Report continued ----

3. Inclusion is ongoing to maximize connection Members' continual sensitivity to diversity and inclusion will drive a diverse and cohesive branch.

4. Focus on helping individuals thrive as the initiative moves forward, this should be our goal.

.....Sandra Lackore



June 2020 East Mesa Zoom Board Meeting

Wow what a world!

Welcome to the age of ZOOM. Who could have possibly imagined how a virus could change our lives. Well, some did actually imagine the virus but the profound changes have played out in a way catching many of us off-guard.

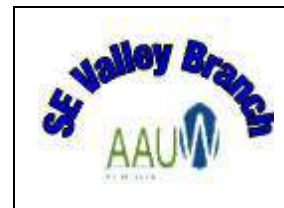
Our branch program director surveyed our members and found that a whopping 80% of the respondents were Zoom-experienced. Hooray for adaptability, hooray for alternatives and hooray for us keeping up with the times.

While planning Zoom meetings, we are grateful that one of our members has been taking on-line (Zoom, of course) classes on how to use Zoom. There are loads of classes and the tips and tricks are endless.

A board member who is a physician advised that our demographics suggest meetings in the fall (which starts very soon) must not be in person and in enclosed rooms, plus our speakers were refusing to appear in person PLUS we have very few typical venues that are even open for meetings, including our favorite, Scottsdale Community College. All this adds up to either act like a football team and postpone our season or...ZOOM! Our board will be conducting Zoom general and board meetings.

We are purchasing a branch subscription and learning how to make Zoom available to the special interest groups as well as how to enhance general meetings with fancy backgrounds, surveys, whiteboards and breakout groups. We will offer Zoom coaching for members who need assistance.

So proud of AAUW! And we must continue to focus on the mission and the enthusiasm for the mission--so Zoom it is!!



After presentation and discussion of "virtual" community action opportunities the Board voted to partner with the Arizona Cactus Pine Council of the Girl Scouts of America. The Cactus Pine Council includes all Girl Scout Troops in the metro Phoenix area.

Our SE Valley Branch will be participating in the virtual badge opportunities for Cadettes (6th-8th grade) and separately Seniors/Ambassadors (9th - 12th grade) throughout Arizona with the initial virtual events earning participants badges related to civics called Democracy. When the girls earn these badges they will have learned new things about local, state, and federal government - how each branch works, how they work together, and how each makes a difference in society.

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SE Valley Report continued ---

This strategic partnership will also allow our SE Valley Branch to determine where the participants live in the metro area and potentially open up opportunities to partner with our sister AAUW Branches in those locations.

Partnership with the Girl Scout organization will also broaden AAUW exposure to include Scout Leaders and other women involved with the Girl Scouts throughout the state of Arizona with the goal of having these like-minded and motivated women join AAUW.

This great partnership allows our SE Valley Branch to connect to the AAUW Arizona Strategy....Outside Partnerships, Branches working together, and promoting New Members....while supporting our mission of empowering girls and women through education.

..... Mary Humecke

AAUW branch response to the Coronavirus & Membership Concerns

How many times have we all heard the word “challenging” in the last six months? At this point I think “daunting” is more fitting. Here in Northwest Tucson we are facing issues that are prevalent across AAUW; membership retention and recruitment efforts have been severely impacted by the pandemic. And yet we have many opportunities to be thankful. Technology provides us the tools to communicate face-to-face and sustain camaraderie. The League of Women Voters’ Speakers Bureau offers us electoral education along with newsworthy topics via virtual meetings as a bolster to our monthly programs. Financial solvency allows us to continue with annual scholarships without the task of fundraising at least for the immediate future.

AAUW National continues to bring us thought provoking topics through their webinars and legislative alerts. In spite of this daunting time in our lives, we are able to continue to support the AAUW mission.

Women's Suffrage Centennial

We will be joining the Zoom celebration hosted by the League of Women Voters on Sunday, August 23. Keynote Speakers include Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Martha Burk, Co-founder of the Center for Advancement of Public Policy, Money Editor for Ms. Magazine and syndicated Newspaper columnist. There will be music, art and other speakers such as local candidates.

**Tucson AAUW Becomes Teacher's Pet**

Board members and volunteers have been busy this summer setting planning for the coming year. We have three primary goals:

- Build a thriving AAUW Tucson branch
- Positively impact our local community
- Become a membership organization of choice for current long-term members and new members from across the generational, racial, and socio-economic spectrum.

The book Relevance by Harrison Coerver and Mary Byers gave us direction to achieve our goals. It highlighted that there are new marketplace realities impacting organizations like AAUW:

- a. **Time** – people have limited time and only give it to:
 - i. Projects that are meaningful
 - ii. Ideas that help them perform in their work
 - iii. Initiatives that are interesting
 - iv. Causes they care about
 - v. Activities that are fun
- b. **Value Expectations** are more important than ever– They want something for their dues.
- c. **Generational Differences** exist – for the first time in history, there are 5 living generations in America,

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Tucson Branch report continued-----**d. Technological use** is fundamental

With these in mind, we proceeded to explore which category of members we could significantly assist and demonstrate value for belonging to AAUW Tucson. We selected K – 12 educators.

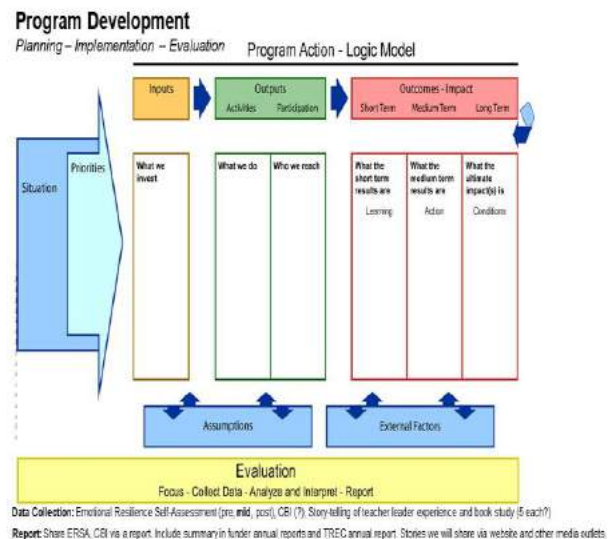
In September, despite Covid-19, we will begin providing new or modified programming such as:

- Take our Saturday luncheons online and tailor them for the reality of being an educator in these trying times. We will include new topics such as stress relief. We will return to in-person gatherings when safety permits and, of course, continue traditional programming like information about the November ballot measures.
- Launch a committee to explore how we can best support TREC (Tucson Regional Education Coalition) in the use of the Book Onward by Elena Aguilar to increase teacher resilience
- Create an online, fun team building game modeled on a successful TV program such as Jeopardy or Family Feud in which schools will vie for prizes
- Offer a low-cost grant writing course so teachers can obtain needed financial resources

Special appreciation for Debbie Stewart who assisted me in facilitating the strategy sessions.

This grant-writing course will be ready in September thanks to a volunteer team who worked this summer analyzing best practices in grant writing. The volunteers are graduates of or current students at Santa Clara Univ. (where I taught for more than a decade). My thanks to Leila Ismaeili, Katrina Marrero, Jessica Streifer, and Pauline Ugalde. We could not have made the progress we did without Dr. Jennifer Kinser-Traut Director of the University of Arizona's TREC organization. Another product of the education team will be a grant request to the Community Foundation of South Arizona for critical funding of the TREC Teacher Leaders

program. A sample logic model is pictured here. This way of displaying information provides the foundation for arguing for financing and showing how you are going to measure progress. If you are interested in seeing the one completed for TREC, send an email to AAUWTucsonPresident@gmail.com.



..... Linda Alepin



AAUW NW Valley Branch Digitizing in our 40th Year

In April of 1980, Claire Mitchell, Eileen Howard and Loraine Meusey founded the Sun City West AAUW Branch renamed AAUW NW Valley Branch. Claire Mitchell became our first president. (see photo next page)

To celebrate our 40th year, NW Valley Branch is going digital! Under the leadership of 2020-21 Program Co-Chair Sara Schmitt, we will initiate ZOOM training for General Meetings among our 180 renewed members. The plan is to combine virtual with live (when health protocols allow) as our process.

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NW Valley report continued---

Additionally, Suzanne James, 2020-21 President-Elect will chair a project to digitize all of our 20-plus scrapbooks over the next 2 years. Tasks to accomplish are: locate and centralize all scrapbooks; select the digital scan methodology; and make our web-site capable of hosting the information. Meanwhile, we will enjoy selected newspaper clips from the past and submitted photos of our members as they were in 1980!

.....Sharon Astle



"40 year old" AAUW photo cutline: The new Sun City West branch of American Association of University Women has installed officers. On hand for the ceremony from L-R are Ruth Merryman, AAUW Second Vice President; Iris Dewhirst, Arizona State division president from Tucson; Claire Mitchell, SCW branch president; Elda Roberts, Sun City branch president; and Irma Halfter, SCW first vice president. (News-Sun Photo)

What Do NWV Members Value?

What is important to our members? That curiosity grabbed hold of incoming NWV branch president Sharon Astle. She said, "let's find out!"

A plan was set in motion in May. Following the survey design, distribution, collection and tabulation of responses from 119 NWV members, many observations are evident from the findings including a few below. Responses were also analyzed by years of membership: 36.4% (1-3 years), 28.0% (4-6 years) and 35.4% 7 or more years.

1. The mission of the organization in seeking equity for women and girls and providing support is of paramount importance to the membership. Equally important was meeting other women. Fundraising activities and special interest groups were either significant or very significant since they give many opportunities for member involvement.

2. Fully 20 percent of the respondents viewed the branch, state and national electronic communications as not significant indicating a need to address the why, what and value of state and national organization to the mission. Although not rated high, it should be noted that communications is an essential function of any organization.

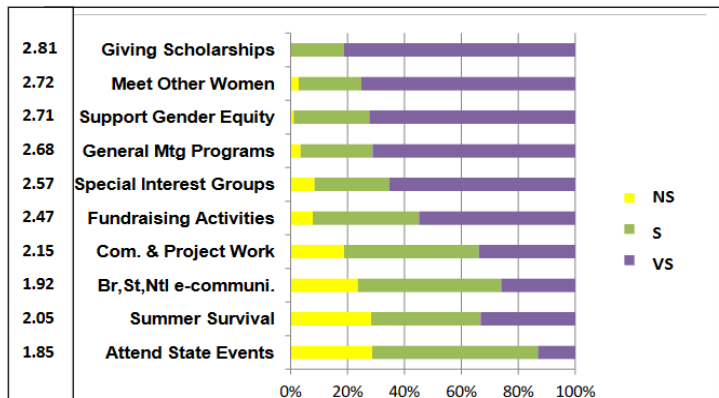
3. More than 75 percent of branch member respondents rated the significance of state AAUW events as either significant or very significant. The branch hosted the Fall 2019 State Forum providing the opportunity for many members to be directly involved and to attend and participate due to being close to home.

Although not reported in this article, the data was also disaggregated and explored by membership categories. A unanimity of value placed on providing educational scholarships and advancing equity for women and girls was evident across membership years. More variation was found by membership tenure for other items.

In addition to the items shown in the graph above, members were also queried as to their preference and use of seven different branch, state and national communication option.

A copy of the entire report with graphs, tables and recommendations is available from Joye Kohl.

Graph 1. Composite Numerical Value and Ranking of the Significance of AAUW Mission and Activities by AAUW-NWV Branch Member Responses.



Column 1 = Composite value assigned to each item. A score of "3" was the high value possible.

Legend: NS = not significant; S = significant; VS = very significant

Keep Your Eyes on our AAUW Arizona Women Running for Office



Judy Stahl – LD1 AZ House Candidate

A Prescott resident since 1992, Judy is a business owner, educator, mother, and engaged citizen. She owns the Prescott Center for Massage Therapy and is a national massage therapists' educator. She is a former Chair of the Arizona State Board of Massage Therapy and former National President of the American Massage Therapy Association. Judy led the campaign for Arizona state licensure of the massage therapy profession. Her top legislative goals are affordable health care, a strong economy invested in green energy and technology, and fully-funded public education. She has a Master's in Counseling Psychology from Prescott College and is a member of the Prescott branch.

Felicia French – LD6 AZ Senate Candidate

A third generation Arizonan, Felicia is a retired colonel who served in the U.S. Army and AZ National Guard as a nurse, MedEvac helicopter pilot, AZ state equal employment officer and sustainability scientist, and a volunteer with a local search and rescue, Civil Air Patrol, and Community Emergency Response Team. Her focus is on creating a more sustainable future in Arizona, jobs, economic policies to protect our children's resources, educational opportunities, health care services for everyone including soldiers and their families, and common-sense gun laws. Felicia holds a BS in Nursing, an MS in Sustainable Solutions and an MS in Systems Management. She is a member of the Flagstaff branch.

Andrea Dalessandro - LD2 AZ House Candidate

Andrea Dalessandro, has been in the AZ Legislature since 2013, first as a representative and then as a senator. A granddaughter of immigrants, she has been a high school math teacher, small business owner, and college professor. Dalessandro has focused on education and identified funding inequities as a top priority. She advocates closing tax breaks for targeting industries and stemming taxable revenue being diverted for private and religious school tuition through tax credits. She has an MBA in accounting from Rutgers University, an MA and BA in math education from Jersey City State College. Andrea is a member of the Green Valley branch.

Coral Evans - LD6 AZ House Candidate

First elected to office 2008, Coral served two terms (eight years) as a Councilmember prior to election as Mayor of Flagstaff in 2016 and re-elected Mayor in 2018. She is a third-generation Arizonan who has served as vice president of Mission Services for Goodwill Industries of Northern Arizona and Executive Director of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association of Flagstaff, Inc. Coral holds a BA in business management, a master's in Business Administration and is pursuing a Ph.D. in education with an emphasis on sustainability. Coral was recognized by the Arizona Business Magazine as one of Arizona's "Most Influential Women in Business" in 2018. She is a member of the Flagstaff branch.

Kathy Knecht – LD21 AZ House Candidate

Kathy, an independent thinker, was raised in Arizona and is a long-time public servant. As a former elementary school teacher Kathy understands the value of an educated workforce. Kathy served 12 years as a governing board member for the Peoria School Board and five years with the Arizona School Boards Association including serving as state president. Her desire to create better connections between business, nonprofit and government leaders led to her work as the executive director of Leadership West as well as her service on numerous volunteer boards. Kathy is a member of both the West Valley and NW Valley branches.

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Sarah Tyree – LD22 AZ Senate Candidate

Sarah, a former foster care youth, is an eight-year US Army veteran and social worker. She spent 14 years combating systemic oppression for underserved populations. Her focus included children with incarcerated parents, incarcerated children, in home birth to five prevention/early intervention, state-level family consulting, domestic violence, mental health and military family special needs. Sarah advocates for Veteran care and services, public education, policies keeping families together, and partnering with small, local businesses to problem solve. Sarah's goal is to create a state where everyone succeeds. She is a member of the NWV branch.

Lela Alston – LD24- AZ Senate Candidate (incumbent)

& **Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board Candidate** (incumbent)

A Phoenix native, Lela has served for 27 years in the AZ Legislature both at the House and Senate level. She is a product of AZ's public education system and is a strong advocate for public education, the needs of children and families, civil rights, the environment, economic issues, health care and the prevention of gun violence. Lela has won awards and recognition for her work in making Arizona a leader of biotechnology research. She holds a BS from the U of A, a master's from ASU and taught 34 years in the Phoenix Union High School District where she currently serves on the governing board. Lela is a national AAUW member.

Charlene Tarver – District 5 Maricopa Community College District Governing Board (MCCD) Candidate

A lifelong advocate for poor and marginalized communities, in her early years Charlene worked with homeless resident programs, legal services and advocacy roles in New York. Her pathway led through the NYS Attorney General's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, The Mayor's Office (Oakland), her own law firm, and Maricopa Community Colleges to The Women's Economic Institute, Inc. Charlene believes our students and the communities we serve deserve the very best quality education, workforce training programs, and a pathway to upward social and economic mobility. She sees a priority for re-investing in community colleges. Charlene is a member of the Phoenix branch.

Linda Thor – At Large District - Maricopa Community College District Governing Board (MCCD) Candidate (incumbent)

Linda Thor has worked in community colleges for 41 years. She served as the president of Rio Salado College for 20 years. Her priorities as a Governing Board Member are to help make the colleges more affordable, accessible and providing quality education for all. She wants to focus on training for jobs and careers so that students will have the best path to success. Her past experience includes serving as president of West Los Angeles College in Culver City, California and as director of high technology centers/services and director of communications services. She has a BA from Pepperdine Univ., a MPA from Cal State-LA and an EdD from Pepperdine. Linda is a member of the Phoenix branch.

Patrice Horstman - District 1 Coconino County Board of Supervisors

Throughout her 45 years of serving Coconino County, both as a lawyer and community activist, Patrice has worked with numerous organizations and nonprofits advocating for women's rights, public education, Native American issues, racial justice, LGBTQ equality, economic development, sustainability, and public lands. For more than 40 years, Patrice has represented public school districts in Arizona and on the Navajo and Hopi Nations. She was awarded the Arizona School Board Association's Award for outstanding service to Arizona's Public Schools. A graduate of NAU, she also received her JD from the Univ. of Arizona. Patrice is a member of the Flagstaff branch.

Bonnie Boyce-Wilson – Applicant for the Redistricting Commission

Since retiring as administrator of the CO State Child Protection agency and moving to AZ in 1999, Bonnie has remained active and involved at the local and state level. She taught at the University of Denver and ASU Graduate Schools of Social Work, continues as an ASU field instructor, and worked for 10 years as a Hospice of the Valley social worker. Bonnie chairs the NW Valley Connect Board, a nonprofit addressing transportation needs of seniors and veterans in the west valley. She has served as president of the League of Women Voters-NWMC and AAUW-NWV branch and on many community boards. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work. Bonnie ran for the LD22 State House in 2014.