



***“Why people are emigrating from Central America”***  
**A Public Policy presentation by Sarah Benatar,**  
**Coconino County Treasurer**

June 3, 2021 at 10:00am

By Zoom

Register at <https://forms.gle/JrjQXcNFEAJ9mFRQA>  
 By June 1st at 5:00 pm

Sarah Benatar has served as Coconino County Treasurer since 2014, becoming the youngest County Treasurer in the history of Arizona. She was raised by a single mom who immigrated to the US from Guatemala. Since coming to office, she has received national recognition for innovation in government finance and treasury management, speaking nationally with organizations such as Governing and being featured in white papers and case studies regarding financial best practices.

Treasurer Benatar currently serves as President of the Arizona County Treasurer’s Association and 2nd Vice President of the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo). She also serves on the board of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, as President of the National Association of Hispanic County Officials, and President-Elect of North Country HealthCare’s Board of Directors. Treasurer Benatar is an experienced professional in the public sector, having worked for United Way of Northern Arizona, the National Park Service, NASA, and DNA People’s Legal Services. She holds the Certified Government Investment Professional designation and is a fellow of the American Council of Young Political Leaders delegation to Australia.

**AAUW Arizona moves core value of education onward and upward during COVID!**

Ten of our 14 branches took advantage of the \$500.00 provided by State AAUW to enhance educational opportunities in our local school districts. It has been overwhelming to read the reports, outcomes and creativity with each project. The pandemic could not stop us from moving onward and upward while enhancing our core value: education. Thank you to the members and all involved in these projects and for Arizona State AAUW providing this \$500.00 opportunity!

See pages 7 to 9 for branch accomplishments.

....Sharon Rezac Andersen

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# President's Message



I hope you are all staying healthy and safe and have been vaccinated if you chose to participate.

I am hopeful that this coming year will find us able to have our branch meetings in person and I plan to visit as many branches as possible.

We have adapted to our virtual meetings and have been able to have some amazing presentations using the technology available, for example the statewide presentations facilitated by Harriet Young and her committee.

We will be sending out an electronic ballot to elect our new officers for the coming year. Be on the lookout the email will be from [recordingsecretary@aauwarizona.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@aauwarizona.org). Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to our electronic vote.

Send your list of new branch officers to Sara at [recordingsecretary@aauwarizona.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@aauwarizona.org).

We have set the date for Fall Forum, it will be Saturday, November 6th. We will be meeting in person but will have the ability to live stream as well. If you would like to be part of the committee let me know.

.....Take care and stay safe,  
Ana Nygren

## Mark Your Calendar OR Clip & Post

**Wednesday, June 3 10 am** – “Why people are emigrating from Central America “, a public policy presentation by . Sarah Benatar, Coconino County Treasurer

**Wednesday, July 21, 4 pm** — State Board Meeting by Zoom. Watch for additional info.

**Wednesday, Aug. 25** – Sept. 2021 state newsletter deadline. Please email digital text and/or photos to newsletter edictor, Joye Kohl. Please do not send items in pdf format.

**Saturday, Nov. 6** – AAUW Arizona Fall Forum

### Learn to Negotiate – Work Smart/Start Smart

Get paid what you're worth and start saving for today and tomorrow by learning to negotiate for the best salary and benefits with our free training, **AAUW Work Smart**.

Register for the free, online workshop at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>

### AAUW Arizona Officers

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

**AAUW conducts groundbreaking research on issues related to gender equity in education and the workplace. Our work influences the national discussion on topics like the gender pay gap, sexual harassment, and the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields.**

# Public Policy

As Public Policy Chair, I've been excited to gather some very interesting public figures to speak to us via Zoom over the past few months. Thanks greatly to our Secretary Sara Schmitt, these have gone smoothly and attracted a great statewide audience. Sara has been recording the zooms and the recordings of prior presentations are now available. Please email [csaauwaz@gmail.com](mailto:csaauwaz@gmail.com) for the links so you can watch what you missed. Since April, we've met with Clean Elections Executive Director Tom Collins, U.S. Rep. Karan English, Professor and Chair Dr. Stephen Nuno, January Contreras, and our own consultant Jodi Liggett.

Our last zoom for the spring is Coconino County Treasurer Sarah Benatar, whose family emigrated from Guatemala. Her resume weighs ten pounds and she's delightful, so I hope you'll join us June 3.

Plans are developing for a women's rally in Prescott late summer or early fall at the Sharlot Hall Museum. President Tracy Smiles and Public Policy Chair Victoria Sweet of Prescott Branch will be meeting with Jodi Liggett, Sara Schmitt and me to start to set up time and date for an early "save the date." Prescott was the first capitol of Arizona and the museum is dedicated to one of the first women to serve in the Arizona Legislature. We were progressive back in 1912.

We look forward to inviting other women's groups to join us to honor our heritage in Prescott. Watch for the notice.

.....Harriet Young, Public Policy Chair

## It's Not Over Until It's Over, and... IT'S NOT OVER! Legislative Wrap Up / Update for 2021

**YOU GET A VETO! YOU GET A VETO! YOU GET A VETO...** No, it's not Oprah. That's our Governor who just (Friday May 28) vetoed 22 bills. Ducey stated, "Once the budget passes, I'm willing to consider some of these other issues. But until then, I will not be signing any additional bills. Let's focus on our jobs, get to work and pass the budget."

**HOW DID WE GET HERE?** Joe Biden won. Kamala Harris became the first female US Vice President. Mark Kelly won. Yet, expected gains for progressive candidates did not materialize down-ticket. Republicans won a 16-14 majority in the Senate and a 31-29 majority in the House. Republicans are fully exploiting this to enact their agenda.

**SAY IT AIN'T SO!** Republicans across the nation cannot seem to accept the 2020 election results. Here in Arizona, despite holding on to their legislative majority, Republicans seem bent on overturning the results of the election. Hence the sham "audit" being conducted by the Senate.

**MAJORITY RULE.** The last time Democrats controlled a chamber was 1992, with unfortunate impacts. Squabbles over Democratic caucus leadership began even before the 2020 election was over, leading to a division in the House and an overall weakened minority, unable to act with unity and decisiveness.

Continued on page 4

Legislative Wrap-Up continued from page 3

**ARE WE THERE YET? BUDGET WOES.** The single Constitutional duty the Legislature has is to pass a budget. Yet, the session has passed the 100 day mark with no budget deal. Currently, both Chambers are in recess until June 10, so there is seemingly no hurry to wrap up.

**SO, WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN DOING?** In Education, we've seen a major effort to undo the #InvestInED tax increase. SB 1532 would have fined teachers \$5000 for not teaching "both sides" of controversial issues. It appears dead for now. In good news, Community Colleges can now grant 4 year degrees, thanks to SB1453. Voting Rights and Elections have been a major focus. Passed are bills which periodically purge the Permanent Early Voting List, reduce the cure period for questioned signatures, require ballot measures to disclose that a ¾ vote is required to change, enact onerous requirements for recall petitions, and reduce Clean Elections funding. Reproductive Rights are in peril. Signed into law is a ban on abortions for fetal abnormalities that also confers "personhood" on the unborn at any stage from fertilized egg to fetus. The majority also can't seem to quench their thirst for picking on vulnerable populations. New sex ed restrictions hurt LGBTQ kids.

**WHAT ABOUT THAT FLAT TAX THING?** At the center of the proposed \$12.4 billion budget is a massive tax cut that would enact a flat 2.5% tax rate. A cap provision will thwart the intent of the voter-passed prop 208 funding education. The flat tax could cost as much as \$1.9 billion by 2024 . The proposal relies partly on a one-time surplus to make permanent tax cuts, creating a giant fiscal cliff that a future legislature would be challenged to deal with.

**AREN'T WE DONE? NO.** The majority cannot agree on a budget. Many are concerned that cities will be without adequate funds to pay for essential services. Senator Michelle Ugenti-Rita wants less spending overall Senator Paul Boyer wants more. Senate President Fann says members are further apart now than they ever were.

### **CAN WE ALL GET ALONG?**

To end the stalemate, majority members will have to compromise – and the Governor and Leadership will likely cave to a lot of demands. We aren't done yet. We will continue to fight back on attacks to education and to urge policymakers to invest in common-sense programs that help working families. More to come!

.....Jodi Liggitt

### **In regard to the resolution on the following page addressing public school board disruptions ....**

AAUW of Arizona considers public education for all Arizonans to be a requisite for everyone. The education must be inclusive of our diversity of backgrounds and history. A key element of education is a science foundation that respects the information derived from the scientific method. We further respect a difference of opinion separately from scientific evidence. To quote a famous wit, "you have a right to your own opinion, but not your own facts."

Storming a school board meeting because you have your own opinion has no place in an educational discussion.

.....Harriet

For more information about the school board disruptions, click the following link to the news article:

"Protesting Masks and Racism Education, the 'Patriots' Take on Arizona's School Boards" by Jerod MacDonald-Evoy

<https://www.azmirror.com/2021/05/27/prottesting-masks-and-racism-education-the-patriots-take-on-arizonas-school-boards>



Whereas school district board meetings throughout Arizona are being beset by disruptive agitators,

Whereas around the state, groups and individuals who are neither district residents nor parents of district students are converging on school board meetings to cause havoc and divert open and honest communication of school issues,

Whereas, social media has been used by said disruptive groups and individuals to urge attendance and disturbances at local school board meetings,

Whereas, school personnel and governing boards, as well as other elected officials and their families, are being threatened and are needing security protection,

Whereas the disruption of school board meetings hijacks productive discussion of issues independent of the facts,

Whereas, the disruption of school board meetings undermines our democratic processes and the open, honest, peaceful, equitable and civil dialogue of issues by district personnel, students, parents and residents,

Whereas, the education of Arizona youth is a non-partisan state obligation spelled out in the Arizona Constitution, and

Whereas, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Arizona supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity,

Therefore, be it resolved the members of the AAUW Arizona do issue a call for action and

- 1) Condemn the disruption of school board meetings by agitators,
- 2) Call for the Investigation and exposure of the groups and individuals responsible for creating school district board meeting disruption
- 3) Urge accountability by all citizens in protecting productive and civil discussion and participation by district personnel, students, parents and residents
- 4) Seek immediate attention to Arizona's Constitutional requirement to support and provide the necessary and equitable funding of the public schools which educate the vast majority of Arizona youth throughout the state.
- 5) Underscore the necessity of open public school board meetings for all schools (both district and charter) for honest and civil discussion of issues impacting our state's youth.

## Gender Pay Equity in a Nutshell

Globalization, digital innovation and climate change, among other factors, continue to change the world in which we work — posing both challenges as well as opportunities in realizing women’s economic potential for a better tomorrow. Check the following link to explore some facts on where women stand today in the changing world of work.

<https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/info-graphic/changingworldofwork/en/index.html>

Quiz: Women in the world of work. Think you know the facts on women and the economy? Take the short quiz at the link, to assess your knowledge about women in the world of work.

## Deeper In Debt 2021 Update

Americans now hold over \$1.7 trillion in outstanding student loan debt.<sup>1</sup> The skyrocketing cost of college has forced more students to borrow money to obtain a degree. Women take on greater debt than men to start, but when women graduate, loan payments collide with the gender pay gap. The compounding effect puts a tight squeeze on women's budgets.

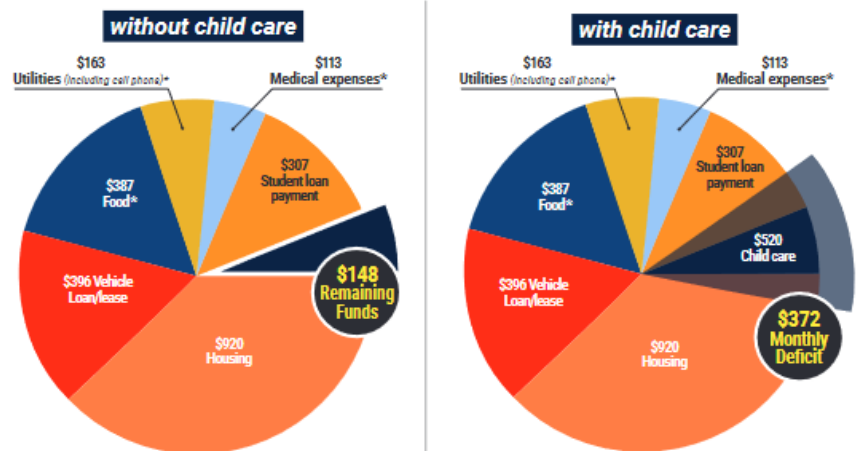
For a complete copy of the updated report, go to [https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/05/Deeper\\_In\\_Debt\\_2021.pdf](https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/05/Deeper_In_Debt_2021.pdf)

## From AAUW's Deeper in Debt updated 2021 Research Report -

Women’s anticipated salary right after graduation, \$35,338

Annual average salary = \$35,338 = \$29,203 post-tax = \$2,434 per month (using a median state tax rate)

As you can see in the sample monthly budget to the right, that leaves women with \$148 each month for other expenses, not including child care. Adding child care costs results in a monthly deficit of \$372. These figures don’t include other basic expenses, such as clothing, personal-care and household products, gas and tolls or emergency savings.



Charts represent approximate sample budget based on two data sets. Housing, vehicle loan/lease, student loan payment and childcare figures are from the National Center for Education Statistics B&B:17 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study and represent women students one year post graduation. \*Food, utilities and medical expenses are drawn from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Surveys 2016-17 and represent all people under age 25.

...from AAUW’s Deeper in Debt 2021 Updated Report, pg. 2

## Tell the Senate: It's Time to Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act in a 217-210 bipartisan vote on April 15th. As the legislation heads to the U.S. Senate, supporters need to double down on their efforts to get this critical law across the finish line.

The record unemployment and housing crisis brought on by the pandemic disproportionately affected women. The already wide gender pay gap could get wider still if our policymakers don’t take action soon. It is past time for Congress to take steps to stop it.

- Paycheck Fairness Now: Activist Toolkit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/pfa-toolkit/>
- Contact your members of Congress



Continued from page 1 -- Branch Reports:

The **Safford Branch** supported their New Teachers Project in Graham and Greenlee Counties with Tools for Teaching and The First Days of School, an initiative to support and sustain teachers in their school system. County Superintendent Donna McGaughey stated in her appreciation letter, “The teachers were extremely pleased to walk out of our first meeting with more “tools” in their toolkit of classroom management. We appreciate your warm enthusiasm toward this project.”

Paulette LeBlanc sent the picture of these three teachers who represented Solomon Elementary, Stafford Unified Schools and Morenci Unified. Both Counties! What a success story, thanks to Paulette! Safford, was the first completed project.



**Green Valley Branch** members met with Continental School superintendent Roxana Rico and staff, to determine the need to boost educational quality and student achievement. It was determined Chrome Books were desperately needed for first graders to achieve equity within their learning environment. When AAUW donated the \$500, Superintendent Rico was able to leverage additional

organizations for donations, including the *Better Together Coalition*, with a total of \$27,000, so with community support, all first graders were provided new Chrome Books. AAUW will continue to be engaged in reading, math and science enhancement when school begins in the fall. Ms. Rico stated, “This is what can happen when communities work together for the common good. There is no greater investment than education for our children.”

**Southeast Valley Branch** previously had an ongoing relationship with two elementary schools in their district through Art Masterpieces, tutoring, listening to children read and helping in the library. In conversations with the principle and librarians, they chose to use the grant money on buying books that feature strong, successful girls and women. To increase AAUW visibility in the community, each book was stamped on the inside cover with our logo and mission statement. Candace Cox- Co President stated, that with \$122 budgeted for meeting rooms and not used because of COVID, the rent money was used for both Marcos and Galveston Elementary, two Title 1 schools, that have many immigrant students and students of color. The AAUW Branch felt that with these library books they hope to inspire not only growth in reading skills, but also growth in personal dreams, confidence and self esteem.

**Northwest Tucson AAUW Branch** donated their \$500.00 to the Walker Elementary School home learning kit project. Walker Elementary K-5 school with enrollment of 425 students worked to construct at home learning kits for students such as paper, pencils, glue sticks, marker, and scissors along with materials that will support creative learning such as additional art materials. The school will send books home to support at home library's for each student as well. A common feedback that teachers get from parents and students is the lack of options for reading material at home. Books are grade specific and provide families with access to text at their child's reading level. Principle, Christopher Tremble stated, “We hope that these learning kits will enhance the learning opportunities for our students during this difficult time. Walker School is approximately 55.8 % Hispanic, 2.9 % African American, 0.8 % Native American, 4.6 % Asian, 32.6 % White, 3.3 % Multi-racial. 5.8 % of students receive English as a Second Language services. Report by Carol Collins.

Continued from page \_7....\_\_\_\_\_

**Flagstaff Branch** purchased 35 books for Native American students in Leupp Elementary School. The books include stories told in both English and Navajo text used by Kindergarten/First Grade students. The Three Little Sheep tells of animals that the Navajo children will be familiar with and interested in. It provides both an English and Navajo version of the story, thus promoting literacy while honoring the school's mission and the culture of the Navajo people. The agreement for the purchase was made after consulting with the school principal and one of the board members. The Mission of the Leupp School is to “prepare and empower all students for the choices and challenges they will face by providing positive, healthy social and educational environment based on knowledge and language. The local Flagstaff bookstore specializing in producing books for Native American students was helpful in making the selection. The Flagstaff Branch felt this culturally responsive idea of supporting the school on the Navajo Reservation will encourage literacy building.

**Prescott Branch** purchased two standing desks to be used by students with special needs at the Humboldt Unified School District. The desks provide an opportunity for flexible movement in Glassford Middle School general education classes. Tracy Smiles presented the project knowing the Advocate Pedestal Leg Single Student Desk would provide various options for students with varying needs. The desks are appreciated by the both school educators and students.

**Tucson Branch** provided a virtual community network for local K-12 public school teachers called the Tucson Teacher Trading Post. This virtual community has over 300 members and intended to be a community that fosters support, cross-communication between schools and best practice sharing. In March, the branch sponsored “March Madness for Teachers” which required an application be submitted explaining what the teacher would do if granted a \$50 gift card from a local education store. 109 applications were received and 46 gift cards awarded. Comments from recipients were overwhelming. Just a couple: “Thank you! Thank you! With the gift card, I purchased conversation cubes to help build class community, a set of civic posters illustrating the three branches of government and their corresponding responsibilities, name tags for students' class folders, a timer for classroom management and organization, and festive borders for the bulletin board.” Another, “Thank you for the gift certificate. I was able to purchase graphing paper, sticker rewards, math manipulations and a book with group work tasks for algebra.” Report by Jane Russ

**Sun City-Peoria Branch** for Women's History Month, purchased 40 copies of the book, She Persisted: 13 Women Who Changed the World,” The books were purchased at a local bookstore and were used in the 3rd grade classrooms. A thank you from the school with a photo was placed on social media and the Branch put it on Facebook Report by Becky Saylor



**Mesa Branch** with the AAUW state \$500.00 took up the challenge and sent a check for \$15,000 to the Mesa Public School Foundation as a result of a bequest from the Estate of a member. The funds designated were for: Eye Exams/glasses: \$5,000.00; Technology, \$8,500.00; Clothes and Shoes, 2,000.00. The Mesa Branch was pleased to make these funds available and the difference their contribution will make in the lives of children in the Mesa Public School system. This gift was stimulated by a decision of the Arizona State Board of AAUW donation to each Branch of \$500.00. Report by Sandra Lackore

The **Northwest Valley Branch** is pleased to report on their partnership with the Dysart Unified School District through a Public Education Grant of \$5,900.00 to fund two projects in response to new instructional requirements by the AZ Department of Education.

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Working with Dysart Educators Adriel Grieshaber, Tiffany Byrne, and Holly Johnston, the Northwest Valley Branch was able to further its mission to support local public education efforts and bring these projects to the classroom.

The AZ State Board of Education established a new requirement for students to receive "Instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides" at least once in either grade seven or eight. The Dysart School District selected the book "Living among the Dead: My Grandmother's Holocaust Survival Story of Love and Strength" by Adena Bernstein Astrowsky, which will provide teachers with a cross curricular option to support the reading standards as well as the social studies standards as required.

**STEM / Vernier Sensors Project:** In 2019 the State of AZ adopted a new set of science standards to reflect the evolution of science and how science is best learned, including the embedding of science and engineering practices as a core component of the standards. The new practices are based on students doing science as it is done in the field. The Vernier Sensors will provide students with the opportunities to use science probe ware to ensure they are ready for post-secondary science field work.



The branch is grateful to AAUW AZ for providing the seed money to further local public education efforts and to the AAUW Northwest Valley branch members for their collective efforts to fund the two projects. Report by Cynthia Ferguson

## WOMEN'S HISTORY: A PROUD HERITAGE

### Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink

First Asian-American Women Elected to Congress

Patsy Mink was a third generation Japanese-American, having been born and raised on the island of Maui. She graduated valedictorian of her senior class and attended the University of Hawaii for 2 years. She then transferred to the University of Nebraska where she experienced racism and worked to have segregation policies eliminated on campus.



Patsy applied at 12 medical schools, but was rejected by all of them. She decided to study law instead and was accepted at the University of Chicago Law School. After their marriage and birth of their daughter, Patsy and John Mink returned to Hawaii where Patsy was refused the right to take the bar examination. She challenged the sexist statute and won, but could not find public or private employment. Patsy opened her own practice and became a member of the Democratic Party.

In 1964 Patsy ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives from Hawaii. She was the first woman of color and the first Asian-American women elected to Congress. She served 12 terms (24 years), 1965 to 1977 and 1990 to 2002. She was a strong woman, dedicated to making things right for those facing injustice.

Patsy Mink was an AAUW member. She was responsible for introducing or supporting bills that were important to women, children, immigrants and minorities. She is best remembered as the co-author of the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act, which prohibits gender discrimination by federally funded institutions of higher education. It was renamed the Pasty T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act in 2002.

Mink died in August 2002 from complications of chickenpox. In recognition of the national mourning of her death, all flags at military installations were lowered to half-staff. She was honored with a state funeral held in the Hawaii State Capitol. Sources: Wikipedia and "Patsy Mink: A Women Who Fought For Our Rights: AAUW."

Story compiled by Ann Mitchell



Throughout the Pandemic, I have met with various Membership VPs from our Arizona Branches and of course we have certainly been challenged by the constraints of a Global Pandemic. Every branch has had trouble reaching out to their existing members in a meaningful way, therefore adding new memberships to their branch has proved almost impossible -- yet a few have managed to do that by rising to the challenge and adapting their outreach using new avenues of contact. Congratulations to every branch who has worked harder than ever this past year maintaining and engaging existing and prospective new members. You are all ROCK stars. You were able to pivot and continue doing important work for your branches. Thank you all, Membership VP's for continuing the challenge.

Very few of us, I suspect, had even heard of teleconferencing or ZOOMing to provide outreach for our Membership. NOW all of us have participated in or led an event using a virtual format. It has proved to become an essential format for us, and I am sure it will continue to be an essential way to engage all our members from time to time, no matter where they are to perpetuate our mission and goals in the future.

On Thursday, May 20th, I was able to tune in for the National invitation to the AAUW Membership Leader Mixer. In my breakout room, almost all who were tuning in had embraced the virtual technology and discussed several attributes that using this new format brought to their branches. Not only were they continuing to meet and engage guest speakers, but they were also able to raise the quality of their programs and guest speakers. By using this format, the speakers did not have to travel to a specific place, book a hotel, or accrue travel expenses needlessly. They could engage the branches from their office or home, saving them endless amounts of time and cost. They also felt that they could more easily get a higher quality of speaker since the travel aspect was removed for them and they all are eager to continue this format in the future, perhaps adopting a hybrid model.

As I was reviewing some of the important ways we can continue doing outreach for our next year, and be able to engage and attract new members into our branch, I ran across 3 important benchmarks or statistics from the Membership Marketing Benchmarking Report, 2020. They are:

- 67% of associations reported that word-of-mouth recommendations get their organization the most new members
- 52% of associations reported that email gets their organization the most new members
- 46% of associations reported that association-sponsored events/meetings get their organization the most new members

These statistics can still apply. The global pandemic may have halted our in-person event plans, but our events can still be a prime recruitment tool. We can still meet, even if virtual, and can plan new, even better events that can help keep our existing members engaged and help foster new excitement and enthusiasm for new members, maybe even attracting new members who could not ever meet in person. Put on those thinking caps and plan for a SUPER great new year. And don't forget to get your publicity for those awesome events advertised in local newspapers. Send pictures taken at an event that briefly describes the event but shows members getting together, making sure that you provide contact information for getting involved. Just this past week, my Northwest Valley Branch got together

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Membership Report continued from page 10...

for our 1st Summer Survival Luncheon at Angela's Kitchen in Surprise. Thirty-two members and three prospective new members met on the patio and enjoyed a wonderful lunch. We have three more planned (on the 3rd Thursday of each month; June, July, and August). Our branch has used these luncheons in the past to attract many of our newest members because they attended as a friend or guest.

Enjoy your summer planning exciting new ways for your members to engage and gather safely. WE ALL look forward to a SUPER new year. Let me know your successes and we can share them with others. I can't wait to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me at: [shrnphelps45@gmail.com](mailto:shrnphelps45@gmail.com).

...Sharon Phelps



## College Connections: Supporting the Education of Women and Girls

### NCCWSL 2021: By the Numbers

849 Participants from 49 States  
California had the highest number of attendees  
300 college/university campuses

Twenty-three college and university students from Arizona attended the two-day Virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, known as NCCWSL. Kimberly Churches, CEO of AAUW brought a warm welcome. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Brittney Cooper, author of the book *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*. Her timely presentation centered around racism, equity and inclusion. The conference featured panels of experts and a selection of workshops that met the needs of both undergraduates and graduate students.

Shown below are some of the Arizona students attending NCCWLS.



Photos are from the NCCWSL online conference.  
The selfies were provided by the students.

...,Ann Mitchell

### An inclusive learning community with a single goal: equity for all.

AAUW has established the Equity Network for college and university students. These young adults are afforded the opportunity to build their network, enhance their professional development and work alongside others to advocate for change. It is a vehicle by which students can connect with individuals who share their commitment to inclusion on their campuses, in their workplaces, and in their communities.

Once a part of the Equity Network, the student will receive the monthly newsletter, *Our Equity Express*. They will be invited to learning sessions and discussion groups. For more information go to: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/equity-network/>.

Source: AAUW.org; Ann Mitchell, College Relations

## Good News for AZ Community Colleges

The Arizona Community Colleges got good news in May as the state legislators passed SB 1453 and Governor Ducey signed the bill. The state will now join 23 other states that offer 4-year degrees. Throughout Arizona, the consensus from community college administrators, faculty and staff was very positive.

It appears that for rural community colleges, there are no restrictions on baccalaureate offerings they make available or on the tuition charges. Maricopa and Pima Community Colleges have more restrictions and a complex process to go through before making 4-year degrees available.

Dr. Linda Thor, Maricopa Community College Governing Board Member, stated, "This historic legislation will enhance equality and access to bachelor's degrees, will help fill the need in areas of high workforce demand, and will save students money. Maricopa Community College students will be able to get bachelor's degrees in areas such as healthcare, applied technology, education and public safety at a cost of around \$13,000 for all four years. We are grateful for the bipartisan support in the legislature and the advocacy of so many in the community." Marie Sullivan, Governing Board President, commented, "I'd also like to recognize Dr. Thor, who has represented 25 years of interest and dedication to this effort."

Dr. Teresa Leyba-Ruiz, President, Glendale Community College, offered this reaction to the news. "We are exceedingly thankful to the Arizona Legislature and Governor Ducey for their support and belief in our ability to meet the needs of our community. We look forward to offering targeted and specific baccalaureate degrees in areas that will benefit our community."

"SB 1453 represents a significant step forward for Arizona. First generation and working-class students all over our state can now prepare for careers and life, attaining the earning capacity of a 4-year college degree at familiar campuses, close to their home and supportive networks" was noted by our AAUW-AZ Legislative Liaison, Jodi Liggett.

Let's toast our community colleges for this important step forward in higher education!

...Ann Mitchell, Chair - College Relations

## Virtual Community College Graduation 2021

Most colleges and universities found it necessary to plan a 2021 Virtual Graduation Ceremony. For students, this was a fitting close to a year of online classes and pandemic issues that overlapped into college, jobs and family life. Here are just three examples of how Arizona community colleges endeavored to make graduation for their students a celebration.

Graduation speeches were part of the program. Pictured are Dr. Teresa Leyba-Ruiz, President, Glendale Community College, and Dr. Dolores Duran-Cerda, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Pima Community College. Both educational leaders congratulated their students on their accomplishment coupled with wishes for a successful future.

A page for each graduating student was provided with their name and degree. Students were given the opportunity to add their photograph and a personal message. They were encouraged to host a party for family and friends.

**AAUW Arizona congratulates  
all the 2021 graduates!**



Photos are from the websites of Glendale, Pima and Coconino Community Colleges.

...Story compiled by Ann Mitchell.



## SPOTLIGHT ON COLLEGE MEMBER



**PHOENIX COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Phoenix College is located in the Encanto neighborhood in Phoenix. It was founded in 1920 and is one of the oldest community colleges in the nation. The college was originally part of the Phoenix Union High School and Junior College District, and was known as Phoenix Junior College. PC became part of the Maricopa County Community District in 1960, and is now considered the flagship campus of one of the largest community college systems in the nation.

Phoenix College attracts more than 30,000 students each year between its central Phoenix and downtown locations. It offers 200 degree and certificate programs ranging from college mainstays like engineering and nursing to newer fields like digital media and forensic technology.

In its decades-long history, Phoenix College has produced governors, mayors, two Miss Americas (1949 & 1964), CEOs, community leaders and one of the most infamous school mascots around. Bumstead the Bear gets no respect, but plays a part in the seven Phoenix College sports teams that compete in the NJCAA.

Sources: Wikipedia and [www.phoenixcollege.edu/news](http://www.phoenixcollege.edu/news)

....Ann Mitchell, Chair - College Relations

### **AAUW Arizona is 1,300 AAUW Members Strong!**

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

**Vision: Equity for all**

**Values: Nonpartisan, Fact based, Integrity, Inclusion & Intersectionality**

AAUW ARIZONA is part of the Rocky Mountain Region of AAUW. With fourteen branches throughout the state, our members have for over fifty years achieved goals for improvement, opportunity, and equity for women & girls in education, the workplace, and the community.

AAUW ARIZONA collaborates with thirteen College/University Partners to advance partnerships and share membership benefits with the student body and faculty.

Throughout our history, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.



### **News from Flagstaff -**

After over a year of meeting via Zoom, we recently had a chance to get together in person! The Flagstaff weather warmed up nicely for a members' picnic on May 19th at one of the county parks. Barbeque from a local vendor and salads, etc. made by our talented hands was enjoyed by all. It was wonderful to catch up with friends, old and new and enjoy glorious views of the San Francisco Peaks!

Many of our members have been participating in the public policy Zoom meetings hosted by branches around the state this year. We were pleased to host a discussion with NAU's Dr. Stephen Nuno on immigration issues. And earlier with Lena Fowler, Coconino Co. District 5 Supervisor, on Native Americans' challenges. We are most grateful to our member and AZ AAUW Public Policy Chair, Harriet Young for organizing these forums. And to AZ AAUW Corresponding Secretary, Sara Schmitt for coordinating all the meetings. Be sure to look for one or two more before we take a break for the summer.

Our Scholarship Committee just met to choose a recipient of our support for the 2021-22 academic year. Ms. Melissa Waltiere is attending Coconino Community College, aiming to continue at NAU. She plans to complete her prerequisites and apply for admission to Veterinary School. Best of luck to Melissa!

Sue Peters

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### **AAUW Tucson Closes Out 2020/21 Programs with a WOW!**

Dr. Kathy Short of the University of Arizona gave us a tour of the World of Words on Saturday, May 7. It was fascinating to understand various aspects of their collection of global children's literature – one of the largest in the world.

As a recognized expert in the field, Dr. Short believes that knowledge of the world and an understanding of global perspectives have become a necessity, not a luxury for our children. Literature expands children's life spaces and takes them outside the boundaries of their lives to other places, times, and ways of living to participate in alternative ways of being in the world.

There is a recording of her talk at <https://vimeo.com/547237501>. Skip to minute 7:45 for her part of the program. (We invested officers and announced the winner of our Woman of Distinction 2021 in the first six minutes.)

We want to return to the physical location for a future meeting. There are exhibits as well as the literature. The World of Words is located on the fourth floor of the College of Education building at the university in downtown Tucson

– Linda Alepin



### **A Grand Slam for SE Valley's Local Scholarships fundraising!**

The SE Valley Branch conducted a very successful spring 2021 fundraiser for local women needing scholarships to attend Chandler Gilbert Community College. The effort included financial donations from Branch members, a raffle for 14 donated prizes, and culminated at a local woman owned business, Judy Wear Boutique, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, whose owner generously donated a raffle prize as well as 10 percent of proceeds that day for this important initiative.



Record-breaking fundraising proceeds exceeded \$4,800 and with a generous contribution of \$2,000 from the Branch we will award six \$1,000 scholarships this year! A big thanks to all who purchased and sold raffle tickets and to those who donated directly to the scholarship fund or contributed raffle prizes. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Three scholarships have already been awarded through Chandler Education Foundation to qualified high school graduates and three additional \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to women returning to Chandler Gilbert Community College to further their education and enhance their career potential. Applications are currently being accepted and reviewed by the Scholarship Committee with the remaining three scholarship awards to be decided and presented this July.

-Candance Cox

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### **Scottsdale Branch**

The Scottsdale Branch just completed a successful program year. We conducted all our meetings using ZOOM, thanks to our ZOOM Coordinator, Jane Adrian. Jane has made it possible for our Branch meetings, Board meetings and SIG meetings to continue. She took the time to learn the technical aspects of the ZOOM application and is always willing to help a group that wants to meet virtually. The coming year will be a "hybrid", with some virtual and some in-person meetings, and Jane will continue to be our expert on all things ZOOM.

Our talented Program Vice President, Barb Esses, was able to find excellent speakers and creative programs. We had great attendance at our meetings and got great feedback as well. This Spring, we had our biggest fundraiser for local scholarships, the Author's Luncheon, using ZOOM. This year, our Author was Isabella Maldonado, author of The Cipher. Ms Maldonado lives in Arizona and gave a very interesting presentation with lots of questions. We asked for a minimum donation and ended up collecting a substantial amount for our local scholarships.

We are planning for Fall now and want to have in person meetings now that so many of us are vaccinated. Our meetings had been held at Scottsdale Community College, but they are not allowing outside groups for the Fall session - so we are looking for other venues where we can meet.

The AAUW Scottsdale Board recently voted to continue in their current positions for another year to insure we have continuity in our Branch. The Scottsdale Board is a group of dedicated, energetic women who want the best for our Branch. Each one of them is active and engaged. We look forward to 2021-22 knowing our Branch is in good hands.

;;;;Karen Ramos



### **Sun City/Peoria Branch News**

The Sun City/Peoria branch has stayed busy throughout the pandemic. In addition to having Zoom meetings, the branch completed the final steps of a couple projects. We donated over 40 copies of the book “She Persisted” by Chelsea Clinton to Dysart Unified School District (DUSD) for Women’s History Month. We also completed our 19th Amendment/ERA Activity book branch special project, which included donating 900 copies of the activity book to DUSD with AAUW labels on them.

After 46 years, the branch is disbanding. The branch was the original branch out in the West Valley years ago. At one point it had around 300 members. Members split off into other branches and gradually Sun City’s membership declined significantly as the Northwest Valley branch grew. Sun City/Peoria members are having a final get together as a formal branch at the beginning of June and the branch will be formally disbanded by the end of June. ....Becky Saylor

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### **Green Valley Branch**

The Green Valley Program Committee got our branch off to a “swinging” start to spring and summer. Marvol Barnard, LPGA athlete, teacher, coach and golf historian enlightened and entertained us with her presentation regarding women and golf. Marvol took us on a narration and slide trip that began in 1950 with the first 13 original women golfers (known then as the WPGA) and concluded presently in 2021 with the current LPGA membership representing diversity, inclusiveness and youth. The slogan adopted by LPGA members has been that whatever is done for the good of one, is done for the good of all. Currently Marvol is devoting her time to the teaching arm of the LPGA. Lucky students!

Green Valley’s most significant achievement this Spring has been the awarding of five scholarships to women attending Pima Community College. Please read the article elsewhere in the Sun to learn more about the recipients---their dreams and goals as well as the many struggles endured along the way. Pandemic upon us, Susan Kirk, our own Lunafest Queen, zoomed us on to another successful fundraising effort. The women-produced films, the raffle items the donations and the chats were all presented virtually! I personally find the awarding of scholarships each Spring to be the most meaningful aspect of my AAUW membership.

I will be losing my Co-President partner, Phyllis Debertin, as she moves on to Program Vice President Elect, as well as Interest Group Coordinator and her most recent commitment, taking on some of Susan Kirk’s Lunafest duties. We all wear many hats. I have so enjoyed working with Phyllis and now look forward to a new partnership with Marie Cory, Green Valley’s recently elected Co-President. You will have a chance to meet her at the July Board Meeting. She says she has already penciled it into her calendar. Sounds like she is ready to hit the ground running too!

Have a great Spring everyone.

Susan Peterson

**The next newsletter deadline will be Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>.** Please submit digital text and photo to Joye Kohl for inclusion in the newsletter, however do not submit your copy in pdf format or other formats which are difficult to edit please. Thank you.



