



ART OF WOMEN

AAUW ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 6TH TO 18TH 2022

BY ZOOM

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

If you are curious about what happens and/or have ever considered stepping beyond your branch and attending a state, regional or national AAUW Conference, now is your chance. Our own **Rocky Mountain AAUW Regional Conference** will be held by ZOOM this year and, will be available for all members to participate. What could be easier? This is your chance to hear some outstanding speakers on interesting topics, take part in some fun activities, meet other women from the region PLUS you will have the opportunity to hear AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown speak. For the agenda details, dates/times and how to register, see page 2-3.

A Legacy of Empowering Women

When AAUW began in 1881, few women had the opportunity to pursue a degree—prompting founder Marion Talbot to support a fund for women’s education. Today, women outnumber men in earning degrees at nearly every level. Yet our work is far from done.

Over the past 140 years, AAUW has evolved to become the leading voice in advancing gender equity in education and workplaces everywhere. Through **research, education and advocacy**, we’re committed to ensuring that *everyone* gets the same opportunity to learn, earn and lead. Our programs aim at moving women forward—and we fight for policies that support our goals.



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The deadline for the September issue of The Sun will be Aug. 25th. Please send digital photos and text to Joye Kohl, editor.

President's Message



Well summer is here again, I think I forget how warm it gets, but we make the best.

We have new officers for the state, starting with Sara Schmitt as President-Elect, Kimberly Batty-Herbert as Vice President for Program, Suzanne James as Recording Secretary, Tracy Smiles as Communications/Corresponding Secretary. Please join me in welcoming them to their new positions.

Thank you to all the board members that are continuing in the positions, I'm looking forward to an amazing and exciting year ahead.

I want to thank the officers that are retiring from their positions, they are Connie Harrison, Michelle Higgins, and Ann Mitchell, thank you for your tireless work and time dedicated to our AAUW mission.

Look at the information relating to the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference and register for what I know will be inspiring and enjoyable.

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.

Send your list of new branch officers to Tracy at recordingsecretary@aauwarizona.org.

We have started the planning for our Fall Forum, more information soon.

Take care and stay safe.

.....Ana Nygren



ART OF WOMEN **AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Conference** **June 6th to 18th 2022** **by Zoom**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 6th at 9:00 am MST – The Heard Museum and Native American Women Artists with Dr. Ann Marshall, Director of Research

Learn about the Heard Museum which strives to be the world's preeminent museum for American Indian art and see examples of women's art.

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June 10th at 5:00 pm MST – Women's Pioneer History Happy Hour

Did your family grow up on the frontier? Were you pioneers? Join us to share stories, ask questions, and make new friends.

June 14th at 5:00 MST – “Envisioning a Critical Change in Education to Match the Needs of the 21st century” with Angela Marquez, Outreach Program Manager at UArizona

Join us to hear her discuss best practices for engaging students in data science in a supportive learning community.

June 15th at 5:00 MST – Wine Tasting with Total Wine & More

Gather with your AAUW sisters in person and connect with others virtually across the region for a guided wine tasting. You will receive a list of wines to purchase at your location and share among your group.

June 18th 8:30 MST – Conference Day and Keynote

8:30 MST – Presidents' Reports and Business

Wyoming – RC Johnson, President

New Mexico – Lynn Heffron, President

Utah – Laurie Hofmann, President

Colorado – Joan Brown, President

Arizona – Ana Nygren, President

June 18th 10:00 MST – Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair, Keynote Address**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

To register please click on the link below and select the events you are interested in attending.

<https://forms.gle/tosvwr9TVYvCYTJC8>

Copy this link into your browser window to register:

For questions, please contact Sara Schmitt at csaauwaz@gmail.com

Donations - In order to recognize that women should be compensated for their work, we are asking for a \$25.00 donation to give our speakers and logo designer an honorarium. Please make checks payable to AAUW Arizona Treasurer Gail Garrison at the following address.

**Gail Garrison AAUW AZ Treasurer
1931 E. Canyon Wren Way
Green Valley, AZ 85614**

The AAUW Arizona Officers for 2022-23

President: Ana Nygren

President-Elect: Sara Schmitt *

Vice-President for Program: Kimberly Batty-Herbert *

Vice-President for Membership: Sharon Phelps

Corresponding Secretary: Tracy Smiles *

Recording Secretary: Suzanne James *

Treasurer: Gail Garrison



to the newly elected officers *

Thank you to continuing, retiring and new officers for your leadership.



Public Policy

AAUW ARIZONA Resolution on the wrongful Detention of Brittney Griner, WNBA player for the Phoenix Mercury 05/18/2022

Whereas, Brittany Greiner of the Phoenix Mercury has been detained in Russia for over 80 days without a formal hearing;

Whereas the pretrial detention of Brittany Griner has been extended for another month;

Whereas the United States government has declared her to be wrongfully detained;

Affirming the belief that all people should have the benefit of the rule of law when accused of a crime;

Strongly supporting the belief that all people have the right to a fair and just environment to earn a living for themselves and their families.

Be it resolved AAUW AZ condemns the unlawful detention of Ms. Griner and the interference with her right to earn a living.





Take Action

There are lots of ways to get involved with AAUW's work to advance gender equity. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

- Donate to support gender equity
- Be a part of our Equity Network
- Partner with us



Economic Security

We've been working to narrow the gender pay gap, which greets women as soon as they enter the workforce and widens throughout their working lives. Unequal wages stand in the way of a woman's ability to pay off student debt, build wealth and save for a secure retirement.

On May 18th the **AAUW AZ** board voted unanimously to extend our sympathy and support to our AAUW sisters in **Flagstaff, Prescott**, and our regional partners in **New Mexico** for the damage caused by the recent wildfires. Although the immediate danger for our Arizona branches has passed we recognize that the effects including physical, environmental, and emotional will linger into the future.





College Connections: Supporting the Education of Women and Girls

AAUW-AZ Sends Two Students to NCCWSL

AAUW - Arizona was able to have two Arizona students attend the AAUW National Conference for Women College Student Leaders, known as NCCWSL. The virtual leadership conference was scheduled for May 24-26, 2022.

Attending the leadership conference from Arizona was Diane Weightman, a student at Scottsdale Community College, majoring in Computer Information Systems. Diane commented that she "loved the conference. It was really awesome, very empowering and informative. I'm so happy I got to attend."

Diane attended the **Collegiate Women's Guide to Conscious Careers** by Chelsea Williams. Diane related, " This was an excellent workshop that was very thought-provoking. Chelsea was enthusiastic, informative and easy to listen to. I have connected with her on LinkedIn and she is awesome!"

Koyoni Hughes also attended NCCWSL. She is a junior at ASU West with a Business Administration major.

Ann Mitchell, Chair- College-University Relations



Spotlight on College Members South Mountain Community College

South Mountain Community College reflects the diversity of its surrounding community, a rich mix of rural, urban and suburban neighborhoods. The college was established by the governing board of the Maricopa Community College District. It opened its doors in 1980. The college takes its name from South Mountain which is just a few kilometers south of the campus. It serves the students of Phoenix, Ahwatukee, Guadalupe and Laveen. SMCC is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution.

Today South Mountain Community College strives to provide a wide range of services, resources and events, and to create an inclusive community where every student feels supported and inspired to climb higher. In 2003 South Mountain Community College added a Performing Arts Center. It is considered a community landmark to showcase the talents of the students. The translucent glass of the performance hall affords a breathtaking view of South Mountain and central Phoenix, making it an ideal place to be during sunset.

Under construction on campus is a new Science Complex set to be completed by May 2022. The building will provide students with the latest technology in labs, classrooms and career preparation. South Mountain Community College appears ready to move forward for years to come!



Sources: Wikipedia.org; South Mountain Community College website.

Prepared by Ann Mitchell, Chair - College Relations.



2022-2023 AAUW ARIZONA Community Action Grant Awards

Congratulations to the AAUW Southeast Valley, AZ and the AAUW Tucson, AZ Branches as they have been selected as the two Community Action Grant Award selectees for 2022-2023! These two projects clearly reflect the AAUW Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. See the snapshot of winning grant applications.

The AAUW Southeast Valley Branch has been selected to be awarded a \$500 grant to support their Period Poverty Awareness community action project. Promoting Period Poverty Awareness and making period packs available is important because no student should have their education disrupted by the anxiety that can arise from not having access to essential menstrual items which can result in lower productivity in the classroom or worse, missing school altogether. They have several project initiatives that directly support the community:

- Period Packing Parties to create hygiene kits
- Menstrual Product Drives - Go With the Flow Donation Boxes will be placed on campus at Chandler High School and throughout the Chandler community to collect menstrual products and zippered bags.
- Menstrual Awareness Social Media Campaign - through Facebook, Peach Jar (Chandler Unified School District [CUSD] email service to families), TikTok, etc.). Create a flyer for posting at CUSD schools.

The AAUW Southeast Valley Branch will collaborate with the following organizations within the community to assist with community action project, Go With the Flow (GWTF) (<https://gowiththeflowaz.org/>) which is a nonprofit organization that envisions a community where menstruation is no longer a source of shame and taboo, the West Chandler Girl Scouts (<http://www.westchandlergs.org/>) which serves about 700 girls, 1/2 of which are girls of menstruating age, and the AAUW SEV Branch as they have previously collaborated with Go With the Flow, and the Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council as they previously hosted a Women's Health badge workshop for high school age Girl Scouts, in the Summer of 2021. The importance of this community action project is about the lack of access to menstrual products on high school campuses. The project will create and implement free access to personal hygiene products.

The AAUW Tucson Branch has also been selected to be awarded a \$500 grant to support their community action project for the Running & Winning Elections Workshops for junior senior high school girls. The short-term goals of the program are to expand young women's understanding and appreciation of public service and encourage their leadership in current and future endeavors. Their Running and Winning Program is unique and fills a huge need for increasing female representation in the political arena. We elected our first female Mayor in Tucson and need to continue the momentum we had going pre-COVID. Currently, women comprise 51% of the population but only 20% of Congressional Representatives and Senators are women and we are working to close that gap. The long-term goal is to increase the number of women running for office.

Running and Winning is a non-partisan, one day, interactive workshop for junior and senior high school girls who exhibit leadership skills. It is coordinated, presented and supported within the community with the support of:

- The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson (LWVGT)
- Current co-sponsor, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Tucson
- Current co-sponsor, the YWCA of Southern Arizona

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- Each year, we are pleased to have women from Tucson, Pima County and Arizona who have or currently serve as elected officials at all levels of government to share their time and experiences with the young women participating in the workshop

We firmly believe this ties directly to assisting in closing the gender gap and increasing representation in the political arena locally and nationally. Awakening interest in civic activities and encouraging young women to become more politically active is imperative and in direct alignment of our mission. This Running and Winning project has a strong connection to community collaboration since it is a long-standing initiative in partnership with AAUW Tucson Branch. Holding this event in collaboration is what makes it so strong, unique and of benefit to the community. It also allows us to build stronger partnerships with the schools and districts we participate in for the future. The Empire High School in the Vail School District, Tucson Arizona, has been selected and for those who are able to attend the activities scheduled can potentially increase the number of women running for office in the future.

Again, congratulations to the these two AAUW Branches and we look forward to hearing about the impact these two initiatives achieved within your communities upon completion. I look forward to sharing with everyone the successes that occurred during these two amazing projects that will be taking place in their respective communities soon. I also look forward to receiving AAUW AZ Community Action Grant Applications for the upcoming 2023-2024 year. These applications will be due in March 2023, so additional information about the grant and application materials will be emailed out in early February 2023. If you have any questions about the community action grant or a project that you may have in mind, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Joan Jorgensen, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.A.
AAUW AZ Community Action Grant Chair (CAGC)
aawtucsonmembership@gmail.com

AAUW Scottsdale Creates Community Supporter Designation

The AAUW Scottsdale Branch members voted at the April 9th General Meeting to add the category of Community Supporter to the bylaws:

Article IV. Membership and Dues
Section 2. Basis of Membership
A. Individual Members



(5) Individual Community Supporter

Any individual who supports the AAUW Mission and wishes to associate with the Scottsdale Branch is invited to become a Community Supporter. Supporters shall not vote or hold a branch elected office. There shall be no educational requirements as a prerequisite.

Section 4. Dues

A. (1) The annual dues for the individual Community Supporter shall be Branch Dues only.

Rationale and Discussion

1. Inclusion

Inclusion has constituted a topic theme throughout the past two years of AAUW Arizona programs during the pandemic. In the spirit of inclusion, the Scottsdale Branch has removed the most obvious barrier to inclusion in the local organization – the education requirement.

2. National Leadership

Julia Brown, AAUW Board Chair, has consistently expressed disappointment “that the (2021) ballot initiative to remove the membership did not receive the required supermajority to enact a bylaw change.”

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Note that of the members who voted in the AAUW National election (22.85%), 63% of those voted to eliminate the education membership requirement, falling just short of the two thirds majority needed to enact a bylaw change.

AAUW Scottsdale has embraced the opportunity to take the lead to open our branch membership to individuals who support AAUW's commitment and mission to advance gender equity to women and girls through research, education, and advocacy, and our vision of achieving equity for all.

To quote Julia Brown, "More than ever, we must embrace our values and continue to strive towards diversity, equity and inclusion, it's a journey that will never end."

6. AAUW claims a community of supporters at 170,000 members; of that number, only approximately 60,000 are dues paying full members of the organization at the national and branch levels.
<https://www.aauw.org/?s&fwptags=membership>
7. Many branches across the country have long supported a "community", "supporter", "affiliate" member category at the local level. For example, AAUW Springfield, Illinois has had community members for many years. These members are not reported to national or the state and do not vote on state or national issues. They are listed as a separate category of "Community Member" in their membership handbook. The Springfield branch has had up to 20 Community Members and currently has about 5 active Community Members. From the AAUW Springfield website: *The AAUW Springfield (IL) Branch also welcomes those without degrees as Community Members. They have full local branch membership privileges, except that they may not vote or hold board positions.* The By Laws of the Springfield, IL AAUW Branch have been approved by National AAUW.
8. The category of individual Community Supporter creates an atmosphere of inclusion where we welcome not only those who have a degree to join our efforts to create equity for all, but also those who do not have a degree.

Karen Ramos, President
AAUW Scottsdale Branch Board of Directors



AAUW Northwest Valley Summer Doings

May 5th, Northwest Valley Branch held its transition meeting of leadership. Past President Suzanne James passed on the gavel to Karen Bunting, incoming 2022–23 Branch President.

Our elected and appointed position chair people were in attendance, both outgoing and incoming. This allowed us to have a vibrant meeting of the minds. Not only did the new leadership get the "paperwork" needed, but our collective thinking on moving forward, what-if scenarios, and our summer activities in which to participate.

Our Summer Survival luncheons continue at area restaurants where members are not only encouraged to attend and keep in touch, but bring friends, who very often turn into new Branch members. Our events chairwoman also has planned some wonderful outings this summer. Our members are encouraged to take advantage and also bring along friends. The first one will be a local mosque, where a guided tour has been arranged.

We continue to work on our 2022-23 programs, fund-raisers, and SIG group plans. So many things in the works.....with hopefully, some well deserved R and R.
.....Karen Bunting, 2022-23 President



Past NWV Branch Presidents Recognized at Luncheon.



Enjoying recognition and installation of NWV Officers.

Scottsdale Branch Wraps up a Successful Year

The Scottsdale AAUW members completed the 2021-222 program year with a couple of important events. **Adopt-a-Book** is an ongoing activity where we collect children's books for our four Title I schools located in Scottsdale.

For this past school year, 2021-2022, our designated school was **Pima Traditional**. We collected over 600 books, which exceeded the amount we needed by over 100! The extras were shared in the classroom libraries or put into the special book machine the PTO had purchased for the school.

We are grateful for all who donated the new and nearly new books, pre-K-5. We are also thankful for our members who showed up to label and sort the books and then deliver them to the school. The first graders who were there when we arrived were gleeful for sure.

Our school for the 2022-2023 will be **Yavapai Elementary**, the southernmost school in the district.

We also held our **Member Appreciation Luncheon** in early May where we installed the officers for 2022-23. The luncheon was held at Bucca de Beppo and we hope to use that venue for a future meeting.

For the upcoming year, newly installed Co-Program VP's Judy Hubbard and Gail Stempil have been working on securing speakers and venues for our meetings. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

.....Karen Ramos, Scottsdale Branch President



Newly installed Scottsdale Branch officers for 2022-23.



Janet Larkin helps hand out books to first graders.

SE Valley Branch Partnered with Go With The Flow

On May 16th members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) SE Valley Branch partnered with Go With The Flow, an organization promoting period poverty awareness, to pack period hygiene kits for two local Title 1 Chandler, AZ Middle Schools.

The AAUW mission is "advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy". Promoting period poverty awareness and making period packs available are important because no student should have their education disrupted by the anxiety that can arise from not having access to essential menstrual items, causing lower productivity in the classroom or worse, missing school altogether.

A survey in 2021 found that 23% of girls struggled to afford period products while 16% chose to buy period products over food or clothes and 51% wore period products longer than recommended. The SE Valley Branch found an opportunity to show what is possible when we work to promote equity on behalf of girls. When a student at a participating school needs menstrual supplies, they can approach various school staff to obtain a period pack helping to ensure a continuous supply of menstrual hygiene products for students at no cost to the student or the school.

After packing the period hygiene kits we participated in teams of two in an online Women's Health Trivia competition that was a lot of fun and very enlightening, with prizes going to the top three winning teams. It was a great evening of socializing with a purpose.

AAUW has been empowering women since 1881 and if you are interested in finding out more about our organization please send email to aauw.sev.az@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook (AAUW AZ Southeast Valley Branch) or at our webpage: southeastvalley-az.aauw.net.

.....Mary Humecke, SEV Branch President



Photos from the SE Branch "Packing Party".

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

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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.

..... Diana Charbonneau, Tucson Branch President – 2021-22



Upper Left: Shirley Munev & AAUW Tucson Table at the Big Collab! Open House; Right: AAUW NW Tucson – Final Official Meeting at Splendido; Lower Left: Shirley Munev on-stage speaking at the Tucson Bans Off Our Bodies Rally

NWV Branch High Tea Fundraiser Commemorates Women's History Month

The NWV branch **51 Percent High Tea** during Women's History Month provided great conversation with friends, a beautiful setting and weather, tasty treats, team building as we worked together, a stimulating women's history presentation plus made money for the branch education scholarship program! You ask why 51 percent? The reason is simple, women represent 51 percent of the U.S. population though we still experience a gender pay gap, under-representation in history and continuing women's issue challenges.

Speaker Melanie Sturgeon, President of the Arizona Women's History Alliance and retired Arizona State Archivist, discussed the Alliance and the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. Sturgeon reviewed a number of the less well-known women inducted into the Hall of Fame and recounted the importance of their individual accomplishments. In addition, the speaker spent considerable time discussing the accomplishments of Arizona suffragist, Frances Willard Munds. A planned statue of Frances Willard Munds, when placed among the memorials in the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, will be the first statue of a woman on state land in Arizona. The primary goal of the Arizona women's History Alliance is to aid in the expansion of Arizona women's history and education, including the promotion of new research and writing.



A sneak peak of the Frances Willard Munds



Join Us

for an interactive symposium featuring inspirational speakers, panel discussions, live music, an art show, book exhibit, meals, and opportunities to meet with women who support educational choices for Arizona women.

Our Objective

is to educate, engage, and entertain Arizona women who support the women following in their footsteps.

For more info

az.womensforum.org
www.ycprezscott.net

PRESCOTT CAMPUS, 1100 E. SHELDON ST, PRESCOTT AZ 86301

WWW.YC.EDU/AZWOMENSFORUM

YCF Yavapai College
Foundation

Yavapai
COLLEGE

Proceeds from this event will be applied to educational scholarships for deserving Arizona women, with an emphasis on first generation students.

