



Arizona Fall Forum

**“Education State of the Union –
From Words to Action”**

When: Saturday, November 4, 2023

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Scottsdale Community College

(Watch for reservation form.)



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

Empowering Women Since 1881

AZ – AAUW STATE BOARD 2023-2024

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President's Pen

Becky's Musings



When I agreed to become the next President last Fall, I did a lot of thinking. Why did I become a member AAUW in Prescott? First of all, because a friend asked me to attend a general meeting as her guest. I think she knew that I would like the women there, but also because it is an organization based on goals – not just a social coffee hour. I truly thought – this group understands me - it wants equity and opportunity for women. I became a member that first day. Shortly after that I became the Public Policy Chair, then President-Elect, and then President of the Branch. The women I worked with were intelligent, committed, and INVOLVED. I had found a home in a somewhat (very) conservative locale with women who were thoughtful, caring, and open to learning about diverse issues.

Last Fall when approached to consider the Presidency of the State organization, I was aware that it would be a highly visible position filled with responsibility. So, I asked myself “why would I take this on?” I obviously believe in the organization’s principles, its goals. But the State felt somewhat removed from local advocacy. I realized that if I took the position, I wanted to change that perspective. I want the State organization to be more of a resource for our local Branches, not just a layer between National and Branches.

I hope to encourage an environment in this state where all of our Branches feel as if they are a part of a thriving, productive organization focused on education and advocacy of women’s issues – equity in employment and education, personal and professional development, and legislative empowerment. I would like us to all work together to make progress and the State can be the mechanism to bring us together.

Because I am new in my position, I feel it necessary to learn what the Branches and their members feel that they need and want from the State organization. What can we do to help make you more successful? Please send me your comments and suggestions at uubecky@gmail.com and the Board and I will try and implement what we can.

In terms of what has kept me busy for this summer, I have been a member of the Planning Committee for our Fall Forum which will be held on November 4 at Scottsdale Community College. I am incredibly excited about the topic. We will be looking at the changing culture around education by considering the purpose of education from the perspective of some professional educators/administrators at the University level and from some graduate students who are training to become educators. We’ll also consider what we might do to improve the situation in Arizona. Our goal is to provide information and education about our current educational environment as well as provide some possible action steps.



Thank you for your faith in me and your patience with my learning process.
My door/phone/email is open for business.





COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

Supporting the Education of Women and Girls

College/University Connections

by Suzanne James, AAUW-AZ Recording Secretary and Chair – College/University Relations

This is to invite all AAUW-Arizona branch College/University Connections Chairs and Scholarship Chairs as well as any interested member to join our ZOOM virtual meetings as follows:

Every Fourth Wednesday at 4 p.m.

First Zoom Meeting will be September 26 at 4 p.m.

AGENDA

- ✚ What will your branch will be doing with your College/University partners during 2023-2024?
- ✚ What obstacles are you facing in College/University partnerships?
- ✚ What are your needs from the state level?

Please email Suzanne James suzannejames@gmail.com to get the Zoom meeting details. The same Meeting ID and Password has been set up for the 2023-2024 AAUW year every 4th Wednesdays of the month at 4 p.m.

Thank you, and don't hesitate to contact with any of your questions, ideas, suggestions, and agenda items, etc.

Our AAUW History

AAUW's story begins in 1881,
when a small group of female college graduates
banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement
and to encourage more women to pursue higher education.



BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

by Sharon Phelps, Membership Vice President



Recently I read an article published by [The Membership Marketing Benchmarking Report 2020](#) from Marketing General, Inc. They reported that the TOP 3 Ways Associations recruit New Members are:

1. **Word-of-Mouth Recommendations** --67% of their associations report that word-of-mouth recommendations get their organization the most new members.
2. **Email** --52% of associations report that *email* gets their organization the most new members.

To make the most of email recruitment, create [automated email campaigns](#) that include offers relevant to your prospects – upcoming invitation to meetings and events – these could go to any recent visitors or friends who might be interested in the event.

3. **Association-Sponsored Events/Meetings** --46% of associations report that *association-sponsored events/meetings* get their organization the most new members.

Have you surveyed your members lately to determine how they originally joined your branch? This can be very helpful and can be obtained by simply having a place on your application form for new members to state how they heard about your branch. If they state an existing member's name, you can follow up with that member with a **"THANK YOU."** Remember: Any member who recruits 3 members in any given year can earn a reward. Your branch could even make it a competition if this is happening . For more great ideas, tune in to my first **AZ MEMBERSHIP MATTERS ZOOM** session scheduled to take place:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 - 12 P.M. - 1 P.M.

"What is your Elevator Pitch?" (Enjoy eating lunch while chatting with other Membership Chairs and members on how you pitch membership in your branch while stepping on an elevator or meeting someone for the first time who might be interested in joining your branch.)

If you wish to attend, please send me your name and email, and I will include you in the Zoom invite. It should be nourishing and FUN for Mind and Body. shrnphelps45@gmail.com



East Mesa

by Janice Dill, President

The East Mesa Branch will kick off another exciting year with our annual . . .



Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, October 25
1:30 p.m.



Leisure World Outdoor Promenade

While Covid changed how we delivered the ice cream for the past two years, this year we will return to a traditional ice cream social with yummy toppings. The Board members are looking forward to greeting members, and we will have some guest “scoopers” for the event.

We also look forward to participating in the annual **Activity Fair at Leisure World**, which will be held on **November 3**. This is an excellent way for our branch to recruit new members and let our neighbors know the good things we are doing for our community. This year, we look forward to developing a partnership with the Mesa Public Schools – stay tuned for more developments. In addition, mark your calendars for March 2, 2024 – we will have our Scholars Luncheon, featuring the author, Carol Dunbar. Carol’s first novel *The Net Beneath Us* is set in Northern Wisconsin.

Participants will receive a copy of Carol’s book, and there also will be a silent auction to become a character in her next book. Complete information on ticket prices and location will be available by January 1, 2024.

Green Valley

by Amy Perlick, Co-President Green Valley Branch

This spring we will celebrate our **50th anniversary** as an AAUW branch in Green Valley.



Last spring our branch awarded **\$1,500 scholarships** to six deserving women to attend **Pima County Community College**.

The Green Valley Branch was awarded a Community Action Grant for Keeping Girls in School,” by AAUW Arizona. Project Director Marie Cory spearheaded this effort and recently her group delivered a year’s worth of feminine hygiene products to the local K-8 school so girls wouldn’t have to miss school due to a lack of hygiene products. This group is hoping to expand their outreach to more schools in southern Arizona over the next year.

The program committee has been hard at work this summer putting together an inspiring and interesting program for this year. Our first program of the year will be Tuesday, September 19, on St. Andrews Children’ Clinic. The Branch supports the Clinic by providing lunches every month for the young people who are served by the clinic in Nogales, AZ.

Some of our interest groups met over the summer: **Needles and More . . . Summer Book Group . . . Out to Lunch Bunch . . . Exploring Women’s Culture**. We have several new and re-started Interest Groups also: **Opera Lovers** and **Mah Jongg**, plus a few more in the pipeline.

Northwest Valley

by Marge Whitman, President

Greetings from Northwest Valley Branch!

We are eager to reconvene on September 21; it will be extra-special because our **AAUW AZ president Becky Gunn** will be our guest. Because “**AAUW Cares**” about the future of our youth, we chose “**School Safety**” as our theme. Will Humble, executive director of Arizona Public Health Association, will be our speaker; he was quoted in the AZ Republic saying,

“Firearm violence in Arizona is an avoidable public health crisis.”

We appreciate his leadership in this effort, and look forward to his research and potential “solutions” for our state.

In October, we are excited to feature “**Driving Miss Daisy**” as our speakers roll out the new driverless transportation in Sun City, Arizona. This is right in our neighborhood, and we will view one of the cars and perhaps ride driverless around the parking lot!!

Then in November we look forward to a **SIG Fair and Live auction**. We are interested in auctioning services more than items. Because we are a retirement community, we have passed the stages of wanting “stuff” and buying “stuff.” Now we are getting rid of “stuff!” But we’d love a trip to the spa or a couple of pies, a loaf of bread, or a dog sitter while we travel.

We look forward to the AAUW AZ Fall Forum and preparation for another year of political activism. While we are non-partisan, we certainly have issues that need addressing! The anxiety management skills shared at the AAUW AZ 2022 Fall Forum were invaluable helping to address the stress we all experienced due to Covid isolation and an intense political campaign.

Phoenix

Kalen Preece, Co-Vice President

Linda Thor, Co-Vice President

After a long, hot summer, our first general meeting of the 2023-2024 year will be on September 16 at 11 a.m.

The meeting place is the **Mandarin Super Buffet at 1501 W. Bethany Home Road**. Just a reminder that all meetings are the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. Our guest speaker will be . . .

Lennie Andrews, Outreach Coordinator
Arizona Talking Books Library

Rather than preparing a new branch directory, there will be a 2023-2024 addendum page available at the meeting. This addendum will provide all meeting dates, new member names, address and phone number changes, etc. If you cannot attend the meeting, contact Lennie Andrews about getting a copy.

The Great Decisions group has been meeting for several years between February and May with 10 or more members in regular attendance. However, over the past five years, attendance has been more sporadic and fewer in number. That affects both the purchase price of the booklet and the level of discussion. At this time, there is no coordinator for the program who is responsible for setting up meeting dates and arranging for purchase and distribution of the booklets. If anyone wishes to take the coordinator position or wants to be a participant, please contact Pam at 602-643-5618 by October 15. Otherwise, the group will NOT be meeting.

The Scholarship Committee has selected three candidates for the fall term and will present each with a \$750 grant to continue their studies. More information will be available at the September general meeting.

The Book Discussion Group is starting up and for further information contact either Linda Eaglestone at 602-265-6962 or Carolyn Baker at 602-277-8032.

Plan to attend our September meeting!!!!

Prescott

by Carol Dosse, President

Prescott Woman Magazine

We are pleased to be included in the current issue. It is currently available in print and at <https://prescottwomanmagazine.com/> August/September 2023, page 68.

"Striving for Equity, Creating Opportunities: The American Association of University Women Provides Scholarships and Resources to Help Young Women Follow Their Chosen Paths."

The tours mentioned are available on our website: **A Stroll through Victorian Prescott** and **On and Off the Wall: An AAUW Guide to Public Art in Prescott.**

<https://www.aauwprescott.net/scholarships-2/electronic-guides-to-historic-prescott/>

We have a new meeting location . . .

Center for Spiritual Living

Why are we moving? Yavapai College is no longer offering AAUW a waiver for meeting space. Board Members felt it would be fiscally responsible and in AAUW-Prescott's best interest to investigate costs for other meeting spaces. The committee considered cost, availability, appropriateness of facilities, location, accessibility, and audio video capabilities.



Did You Know?

Education

As soon as girls start school, they encounter attitudes and expectations about what they 'should' and 'shouldn't' do. This continues throughout their schooling, steering them toward certain career paths and away from others.

Leadership

The pipeline is filled with qualified women ready to move into top slots. Yet it isn't happening: Barriers, biases and an outdated workplace model present challenges to women eager to get ahead.

Women & Student Debt

Women tend to borrow more for their education — and struggle more to pay it off — in part because of the gender pay gap.

Scottsdale

by Karen Ramos, Past President

The Scottsdale Branch ended the 2022-23 year with a successful Adopt-a-Book donation to Yavapai Elementary School.

Yavapai Elementary was the Title I school selected and received a **donation of 442 books** this year. All books were delivered on April 4, 2023. Each child in kindergarten through 5th grade selected a book to keep as a personal copy. It was exciting to watch the joy and excitement of the children as they went through the books to select their favorite to keep. This task requires many volunteers to sort, review, label, and add a bookmark to every book. The counting, boxing, and delivery again were completed by our devoted Scottsdale Branch members and our **Adopt-a-Book Chair, Linda Nance**.

During the summer, the **Co-Program VPs Judy Hubbard and Gail Stempil** worked hard to finalize the schedule of speakers for the upcoming year.

Our first meeting will be held at **Starfire Golf Club** on **September 9** and is a **Meet and Greet** for all members and guests. **Our Membership VP, Jayann Fordon** hopes to recruit some new members to join.

Judy Hubbard and Gail Stempil also planned some gatherings during the summer to keep Scottsdale Branch members connected. The Lunch Bunch met in June, July, and August and was well attended. **Branch President Sue Jaros** and the Board look forward to another exciting year!



Scottsdale volunteers bring books into the school.



Volunteers delivering the books



Southeast Valley

by Mary Humecke, Advisor

2023 Scholarship Recipients

The AAUW AZ Southeast Valley Branch awarded **eight \$1,000 scholarships** to deserving and impressive women to help fund their 2023-24 studies at Chandler Gilbert Community College. The recipients are a very diverse group; all eight are pursuing STEM related degrees/certificates.

The 2023 scholarship recipients are:

- ✚ Aliyah Torres: Exercise Science
- ✚ Nicole Caldwell: Mortuary Science
- ✚ Yeojung Yoo: Data Analytics
- ✚ Kaitlyn Hansen: Biological Sciences (in preparation for Pharmacy School)
- ✚ Vlera Begiri: Computer Science (intends to continue with BS and MS)
- ✚ Jennifer Larson: Nutritional Science
- ✚ Monique Diaz: Biological Sciences (in preparation for medical/biomedical BS)

A repeat scholarship recipient is Angie Munoz, who is pursuing a double emphasis in Nursing and Applied Human Behavior. We are thrilled to continue our support of Angie, mom to four with two special needs children.

The SEV Local Scholarship Committee made up of Lura D., Mary H., Judy M., and Penny R. extend our deepest gratitude to all who so generously participated in basket creation and prize donations, raffle ticket purchase and sales, and in person raffle ticket sales support at local Sun Lakes clubhouses and Judy Wear.

Mark your calendars now for our big scholarship fundraiser on Friday February 2, 2024. Our second Happy Hour Fashion Show will take place

late afternoon in the San Tan Ballroom at Cottonwood and promises, as it was this year, to be a great event. It will be open to the public so plan to invite friends and family, especially women who would be interested in joining our dynamic SEV Branch. Tickets will be advance sale only, and more about that will be announced later in the year.

Coyote Cupboard Gathering a Success

The Southeast Valley Branch held summertime “Chat and Chew” at the Oakwood Library on Monday evening, June 19, to gather donations for the Coyote Cupboard at Chandler Gilbert Community College. Twenty-one attended the event, including several potential members. It was a social gathering with purpose. And it was FUN!

Donations ranged from paper towels to diapers to T-shirts, wet wipes, travel size hygiene kits, and much more. Members who were not able to attend made use of the Amazon link provided in event updates to order products in support of this Coyote Cupboard event.

Justina Burks, Senior Student Advisor and our liaison at the Williams campus of Chandler Gilbert Community College, spoke to us about the basic food, hygiene, and clothing needs for students who simultaneously attend Williams Campus STEM courses, hold down jobs, and raise families; many of them single moms.

Continued donations to the Coyote Cupboard to offer students free access to personal items such as a new T-shirt, pair of socks, and hygiene items as well as items for their children are always welcome. We can be proud, SEV members. Thank you for your generosity in support of this very local and worthwhile program.

Heartfelt Letter from Justina Burks

Hello Members of Southeast Valley Branch of AAUW:

I am writing, albeit later than I had anticipated due to life and work circumstances, to express my deep gratitude for your contributions to stocking our Coyote Cupboard at the Williams Campus.

We were able to send plenty of supplies to our Veterans Services and Lounge on campus to make sure our student veterans on campus have better access to our services. And your donations came along at the perfect time as one of our veteran students just became a new dad last month and is benefitting greatly from the diapers, wipes, and other household items we now have available on campus.

This is just one of the many students and CGCC families who have and will benefit from your organization's donations. To illustrate the impact that our Coyote Cupboard has had this year alone, I'll leave you with a video clip from our May 2023 graduation ceremony. The student speaker was Christina, who earned her Associates of Applied Science in Mortuary Sciences this past Spring. She was also one of our regular users of the Coyote Cupboard and came to every monthly produce distribution. In great and small ways, what we do makes a difference. Thank you for helping us continue that impact. Here's her story:

CGCC 2023 Afternoon Graduation Ceremony - Christina's Speech

With Deep Gratitude,
Justina - Senior Student Advisor
Williams Campus of Chandler Gilbert Community College



ARIZONA SUN

Four issues—September, November, January, and March—of The Sun are published each year.

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Next Deadline: October 30

Please submit all articles to both emails.

Please format in Microsoft Word and photos as Jpeg.



USEFUL LINKS

AAUW Arizona State <https://www.aauwarizona.org/>

AAUW National <https://www.aauw.org/>