



President's Message

By Patti Blackwood

GREETINGS AND HAPPY SPRING!



Once again, I have to say, if you missed the last General Meeting, you missed a great one. John Amos, CEO and President of YRMC, presented a most informative program on the state of our local health care services. Not

only did he present much-needed and up-to-date information, but he also fielded the group's excellent questions regarding health care delivery and options. And, he even took note of personal requests from audience members. As John said, "There's nothing like living in a small town!"

And you are in for a treat again in May with our program, "STEM becomes STEAM" at Granite Mountain Middle School. We will venture into the worlds of Robotics and Odyssey of the Mind, along with other creative endeavors. You don't want to miss it! Additionally, at our May meeting we will install our officers for 2015-16. (See page 2 in this newsletter.) In this issue, have bios of four new officers and links to the other officers who have already been featured in previous newsletters.

On Wednesday, June 10, from 5-7 pm, we will gather at Yavapai College for our **Annual Summer Membership Social**. All current branch members are invited and encouraged to attend and to invite prospective members. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about AAUW and all that

we have to offer. You can find more information by clicking [Summer Social June 10](#). Plan to come and invite a friend. It's great fun!!

Finally, it's hard for me to believe that my tenure as President is coming to an end. This has been a wonderful time for me and I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve. Not only has it been an honor and a privilege to be of service to this organization, but it has also been gratifying, enriching, and satisfying to be permitted to serve in such a capacity. Thank you all for your support and your encouragement throughout my time as President-Elect and President. I look forward to another great year ahead for the Prescott Branch of AAUW.

Take care and see you soon.

MAY MEETING LOCATION!
The MAY 9 meeting will take place at
Granite Mountain Middle School.
[Click here for a map to GMMS](#)

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The Thumb Sketch Newsletter Team includes Stephanie Brown, Janet Orr, Patricia Allen-LaFleur, Edi Taylor-Richards, Cindy Cassidy and Desiree Perez.

2015-16 Officers Announced

We are excited to present the new Board of Directors of the Prescott AAUW branch. All of these dynamic women are qualified, responsible, and eager to serve. On the next few of pages we want to introduce your newly elected officers to you and help you to get to know them. Others were previously featured in the September/October 2014 Thumb Sketch.

When you have a chance, please thank each of these ladies for agreeing to serve in these important positions.

- President**-----Gail Shay
- President Elect** -----Deb Dillon
- Treasurer**-----Gayle Rumble
- Recording Secretary** -----Kat Cooper
- Corresponding Secretary** -----Julie Cargill
- Program Co-VPs**-----Annette Gauthier
Jeanette Polvani
- Membership Co-VPs**-----Marlene Walsh
Pamela Core

Congratulations to all our officers, both first-year and second-year. AAUW-Prescott has a dynamic group of women, and we all appreciate the officers' commitment to our organization.

Pictured to the right is our new Board of Directors. Some women have already been featured in previous issues of the Thumb Sketch and others have not. If (TS) appears after the name, please refer to the September/October 2014 Issue of the Thumb Sketch.



Gail Shay (TS)



Deb Dillon (TS)



Gayle Rumble (P3)



Kat Cooper (P3)



Annette Gauthier (TS)



Jeanette Polvani (P4)



Marlene Walsh (TS)



Pamela Core (P4)

Gayle Rumble, Treasurer



Who am I? Well, I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio (one of six girls) and raised in the suburbs. (Did you know Cincinnati was originally called Porkopolis? That is why there are flying pig statues around the city.) I married at 18, had two wonderful children, and

then started my college at 25, attending at night. The marriage ended at 30, but college classes lasted a lot longer.

I have an AA, BA and MBA with Certificates in Government Contract Management and Systems Engineering. All this education qualified me for various business management type positions, usually working for government contractors.

In addition to Ohio, I've lived in Illinois, Rhode Island, Virginia, South Carolina, California, Washington state, and, of course, Arizona.

After 20 years of being single, I remarried, adding two stepdaughters, a step-grandson and step-granddaughter to my family of a son, daughter, two granddaughters and a grandson.

My husband and I moved to Prescott in 2009 where I enjoy working in the yard, making stained glass windows and walking. I'm part of the AAUW travel group, library book group and the 4th Wednesday Great Decisions group. My husband and I participate in the evening Great Decisions. Hopefully some of this information will stick (and I think some has).

Even though I'm vocal in the groups, I like quiet and solitude. I like and admire many of the people around me, so I find their opinions and perspectives interesting.

I'm looking forward to being the treasurer. I'll do my best.

Kat Cooper, Recording Secretary



Kat Cooper describes herself as grateful, for incalculable reasons, including finding AAUW in 2011, upon retirement and relocation to Prescott.

Kat hails from Toledo, Ohio. Thanks to her maternal grandmother's

encouragement, a college education was her primary goal, but her father did not share her enthusiasm. After three years in a college preparatory high school, she was heartbroken when her father enrolled her in a commercial high school in her senior year, to learn shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. Her father's decision to thwart her plans for college, led to meeting her best friend of 53 years, and a fortuitous set of circumstances led her to a B.S. degree from Wright State University.

Kat's career has taken many turns, beginning as a sixth grade teacher. Upon relocation to Arizona, she obtained her MSW degree at Arizona State University, while raising two young children. Work experience includes marriage and family therapy, clinical director in a hospital treating psychiatric disorder and addiction issues, court administrator, mediator, child custody evaluator, women's group leader and public speaker.

After an eight year marriage that ended well, and a few years of "growing up single", she married Ed Cooper 37 years ago. She is immensely proud of her two children, her two "bonus" children, their spouses, her "grands" and "bonus-grands," as well as decades-long friendships.

It appears that with her new post as AAUW Prescott recording secretary, that shorthand is going to come in pretty handy.



Pam Core, Membership Co-VP



Growing up in Boston, my vision was to live in the West. When I graduated from college, I moved to Phoenix as I was in love. I married someone else, moved to Portland, and had my daughter. When we moved to Ohio, my marriage ended. I

returned to SC where my family now lived, and I earned my master's in Educational Administration. I was soon hired by Chapman University out of Orange, CA to run a satellite campus on Whidbey Island, WA. I was able to learn many aspects of college administration, especially as it pertained to military personnel, their spouses, and other adult students.

After a number of years, I was promoted to a much larger campus at Vandenberg AFB, CA. I became quite active in a national group, the Council of College and Military Education. This is a wonderful group that works closely with the DOD to promote education for military personnel.

When I left, I went to Barcelona, earned a TEFL certificate, and moved to Mexico where I had a teaching job. Returning to the States, I moved to Sedona where I met the love of my life. We moved to Prescott Valley almost two years ago. Since joining AAUW, I've met so many intelligent women, and it's also enabled me to be an agent for change.

A heartfelt thank you to the nominating committee who helped with assembling the Slate of Officers for this year: *Gail Shay, Patti Blackwood, Marge Rubin, and Marlene Walsh.*

Jeanette Polvani, Program Co-VP



I was born in Kansas, and our family moved to Arizona in 1963. We lived first in Chinle on the Navajo Indian Reservation. That is where our love of Arizona began. My parents, brothers, sister, and children still live in Arizona.

I am a Registered Dietitian and began my career in public health working in Prescott in 1978-80. We moved to the valley, where I spent most of my 30-year career at Chandler Unified School District, beginning as the Food & Nutrition Director, and then moving to Assistant Superintendent (overseeing, food service, transportation, new construction, and human resources). My final five years, I served as Chief Financial Officer.

My husband and I moved back to Prescott six years ago and retired 2 years ago. My volunteer activities include the Children's Museum and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. I love being outdoors and enjoy hiking, biking, tennis, golf and traveling.

AAUW National Convention

Want a cool summer getaway?

Don't forget the AAUW National Convention in San Diego this summer, June 18 - 21! It's filling up fast and promises to be both fun and informative. Check the national website for more information. —Gail Shay



AAUW National Election – *Why Should I Vote?*

AAUW National changed from voting by delegates at conventions to one-member-one-vote several years ago. Thus each member has a responsibility for the management of the organization should she choose to exercise it.

This election starts on April 15 and ends on June 19. There are three parts:

- Approval of changes to the Public Policy principles
- Election of officers and board members
- Approval of bylaw changes.**

All the information you need to learn about these proposed changes and the officer candidates is in the Spring/Summer 2015 issue of the Outlook magazine that started arriving in the mail at the end of March.

This is an online vote process, and by now each member should have received an e-mail reminding her that it's time to vote, and facilitating this process with a single click. This is the first time for this e-mail process, so there may be hiccups. On the back of Outlook you will find your member number and a voter PIN which you may use if the e-mail from AAUW.org is somehow not effective or, if your e-mail address is incorrect at the National office, you may not receive the notice.

****One bylaw change proposal is truly significant** this year. It will, if successful, eliminate all college degree requirements for membership. Consider this change, discuss it with other members, and be sure to vote your preference.

You may vote online, or request a paper ballot by emailing to this link: connect@aauw.org or by calling 800-326-2289. — Sara Wolters

Membership Renewal

FY 2015-2016

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

By Jenine Peterson

It is time to renew your membership for the next year, beginning July 1, 2015. Dues are \$85 annually



(of which \$49 goes to national membership, \$9 goes to AZ state membership, and \$27 goes to AAUW-Prescott. \$46 of our national dues is tax deductible.)

The deadline

for renewal is June 30, 2015.

There are two options available to you for paying your dues. One is to pay them 'online' using your credit card and the other is writing a check to be sent to the Treasurer. National has improved the 'online' version considerably (removing the requirement of knowing your member number and password). Therefore, all of you will be receiving an e-mail with an 'invoice' for your dues shortly. The e-mail will still give you the option of paying using your credit card, OR sending our Treasurer a check for the \$85.

When you receive the e-mail 'invoice,' if you want to elect to pay online, simply click here. (***No longer needing to go to the website with member ID and password and no need to access the MSD!***)

If, however, you still prefer to pay by check, or have already done so, simply ignore the e-mail 'invoice,' and write the check for **\$85 payable to AAUW Prescott** (the breakdown information about how much of the \$85 goes to National/State/Branch is simply for your information).

If you still have any questions, be sure to contact our Treasurer, Jenine Peterson (her contact information is in the Directory).



Summer Social Is Scheduled June 10

By Deb Dillon



AAUW Prescott's annual Summer Social is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 5-7 p.m., in the Community Room (Building 19) at Yavapai College. This event provides an opportunity to share the value of AAUW membership with potential new members as well as to touch base with current members before we disperse for the summer.

Do you know of someone who might be interested in joining AAUW? Think of women (men are eligible too) you encounter in your career, volunteer efforts, church, gym, and social activities. They must hold a degree - associate's, bachelor's, or higher - in order to join. If you know of someone you would like to invite, please send the name, e-mail, phone number and full address (for written invitations) to Marlene Walsh (refer to member directory for contact information). Also, please indicate whether you plan to attend with your guest. **The Summer Social Committee will mail printed invitations to invited guests.**

Contact a Summer Social committee member if you have any questions. Committee members are Patti Blackwood, Deb Dillon, Patti Allen-LaFleur, Jeannie McCall, Toni Reynolds, Laurel Shunk and Marlene Walsh.



The annual *Dreams to Reality* event was held this year at ERAU on March 21. Edi Taylor-Richards and Heryl Kroopnick helped figure taxes.

A New Look for the Directory

By Stephanie Brown

Over the years Prescott branch members have suggested and requested that our directory include a photo of each



of us. It is a complicated task, and this year Dot Williamson volunteered to take it on. Wendy Jones, Stephanie Brown and members of the photography interest group are capturing photos of us. The small black and white image will help both our new and long-time members connect names and faces of our ever-growing, 200+ members. Currently we have over 150 photos of our members. We hope to complete the picture taking by June. ***If you choose not to have a photo next to your name, you can opt out by contacting Dot Williamson or Stephanie Brown.*** And if you have a photo you especially like, please send that to Stephanie Brown, no later than June 1st. (Contact information is in the Directory.) Thank you all for your cooperation and help

Dining in All Directions

By Dot Williamson

The **Dining In All Directions** interest group is winding down another successful year with many interesting dinners having been enjoyed by members and partners. We are now looking forward to a Kick-Off for the new season in mid-to-late August, where we meet the members of our new dining groups and make plans for the new season. Anyone thinking about or planning to join this interest group for the next year should contact Dot Williamson or Wendy Jones ASAP, so you can be included in the August meeting. This is the only time the entire group meets, and then we divide into groups of 6-8 for dining adventures for the rest of the year. Since this is one of the few couples (as well as singles) groups, it is a chance for the men to meet your AAUW friends.

Dot and Wendy hope you will consider joining this fun group.

Public Policy Report

By Deb White

At our March Public Policy Meeting the committee had a presentation from Desiree Perez, AAUW Prescott member and Planned Parenthood Regional Health Coordinator. Desiree provided an update on



Arizona legislation affecting women's health care and gave us information regarding her role in the community of Prescott. She welcomes calls and questions from members who would like to help and be involved in health issues for women.

In April the Public Policy Committee met to review current issues and to discuss and plan for the coming year. The April meeting began with an overview of what Public Policy Prescott has done and been involved with during this membership year. Highlights have included bringing candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction to Prescott for a forum in October; examining the Women & Diversity issue at the college level with a presentation by Melanie Wilson, a branch member from ERAU; attending AZ Legislative Day in February; and efforts to revitalize and bring *Smart Start* to a college site in Prescott. The committee discussed and noted items that came up at our March Neighborhood Meetings. A plan to make Public Policy more visible and available at monthly General Meetings will be developed. All agreed that increasing member awareness of Public Policy is a priority, and the committee will look at meetings and topics suggested through the Neighborhood Meetings.

The May Public Policy Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 5 at 1:00 pm in the Founders Room at Prescott Public Library. The topic for May is *The Prescott General Plan* with presenter Lindsey Bell. This meeting is open to all branch members, as is every meeting of Public Policy.

The first Public Policy Meeting for next year will take place on Sept. 1, 2015. All members are welcome.

Gimme an "A"!

By Annette Gauthier

Join us for our exciting May 9 General Meeting at Granite Mountain Middle School!

With just one letter in the right place, STEM



becomes STEAM! Besides the obvious difference, we're going to learn how one word changes into the other. On Saturday May 9, our general meeting will take place in the Granite Mountain Middle School Cafeteria where we will learn about VEX Robotics

and its impact on STEAM. Dr. Rachel Saunders, Principal of Granite Mountain Middle School, will be joined by robotics teacher Ryan Anderson and math/science teacher Roberta Schamber to inform us about the STEAM program underway at GMMS. Join us as we learn how VEX Robotics, Odyssey of the Mind, CSI: Granite Mountain, The Body Museum, and World War G integrate the STEAM standards across the curriculum. We will meet in the cafeteria at Granite Mountain Middle School at 9:00 for social time with announcements following at 9:30. The presentation will begin at 10:00.

Granite Mountain Middle School is located at 1800 Williamson Valley Rd., Prescott. See a link to the school on page 1 of this publication.

Make a difference!

***Join the
Woman-to-Woman
mentoring team!***

Contact Claudia Greenwood
for date and time of spring
training.

Equal Pay Day With Lilly Ledbetter

By Sharon Groves

On April 14, Lilly Ledbetter joined with AAUW



of Arizona, Linda Hallman, AAUW CEO, the Phoenix Women's Commission, and over 200 other advocates to celebrate Equal Pay Day 2015. Dr. Carolyn Warner, Superintendent of AZ Public Instruction, and

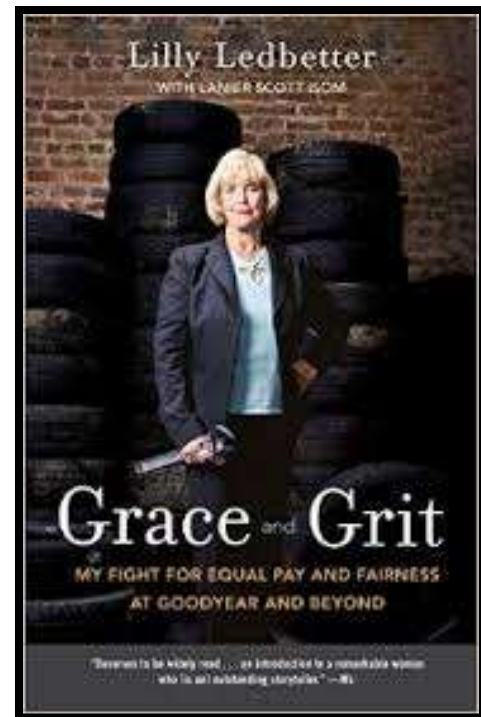
AAUW Scottsdale branch member, introduced Lilly Ledbetter at the luncheon in Phoenix using this story: *"The little boy (girl) asked the preacher what the saints were. He asked the child what he (she) thought they were. And with the brilliance that comes with childhood, remembering them being pictured in the stained glass windows, said, 'Oh, the saints are the people the light shines through.' So, I am honored to introduce the sainted woman the light shines through... Lilly Ledbetter."* Sara Wolters and I, along with 35 other AAUW AZ branch members were delighted to be present at this luncheon honoring Lilly.

The City of Phoenix declared April 14, 2015, **Lilly Ledbetter Day**. Lilly Ledbetter took a stand when she learned that she'd long been receiving a lower salary than her male counterparts. She brought her pay discrimination case to the United States Supreme Court, and to Congress, and her story spurred the movement for equal pay. This year, her 77th birthday fell on Equal Pay Day — the day in the year that symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. The very latest figures show that at a national level, women "earn" 78 cents for every dollar paid to their male peers. That's just a penny more than where the statistic has been for a decade.

AAUW has been urging members of Congress to co-sponsor the **Paycheck Fairness Act**. The measure provides a much-needed, first-ever update

to the Equal Pay Act of 1963, bringing the law's principles and practices in line with our nation's other civil rights laws. Without the Paycheck Fairness Act, women will continue to be silenced in the workplace and to struggle to make ends meet. With the Paycheck Fairness Act, women will be protected: Women workers will be able to talk about wages with co-workers without the fear of being fired. The Paycheck Fairness Act has a strong history of support, having twice passed in the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan majorities in prior Congresses and falling just two votes shy of a Senate cloture vote in the 111th Congress. Women and families are tired of waiting; it's time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Lilly's book, *Grace and Grit*, is the inspiring story of the woman at the center of the historic discrimination case that inspired the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act - her fight for equal rights in the workplace, and how her determination became a victory for the nation.





Our annual Neighborhood meetings took place in various homes in the Prescott area on March 7th. Members had lots to say, and their voices will be extremely valuable in steering our programs and events in the coming year. On the next two pages Gail Shay reports on AAUW Prescott's comments, suggestions, and ideas.

Report of Neighborhood Meetings

By Gail Shay

Over 70 AAUW Prescott members joined fellow neighborhood members in meetings on March 14 this year and enthusiastically participated in sharing views and ideas about our past and future programs and events. All the complete information from all of the neighborhood meetings has been circulated to the Board of Directors and all of the groups who benefit from this valuable feedback so that we can work to improve what we do. This means that, even when there were disagreements or conflicting opinions in any area, we shared everything with the responsible groups to allow them to pursue these issues.

Most **popular programs** included Viva la Verde, the presentation by Tim Carter (County School Superintendent), Human Trafficking, Prescott Center for the Arts presentation, and Girl Rising. Everyone who attended also appreciated the neighborhood meetings themselves, with the opportunity to get to know members who live in their area plus learn more about AAUW and our local operation.

We received lots of good **ideas for future programs**, from pursuing past topics more in-depth, covering medical and aging issues, introducing additional education and budget topics, to using our own members as resource persons to give presentations. There were quite a few (often conflicting) ideas for the Holiday Brunch, although it is a very popular event.

All of the neighborhood groups came up with many **ideas for fundraising** to generate income for our scholarships. Just a few of these were: silent auction at some of the monthly meetings; a “non-

event” event asking for donations in lieu of a fund-raising event; an event with resale items and book exchange/sale; book event and /or author’s luncheon; wine tasting tour.

Members generally like our **Prescott Branch** meeting format and did not have concerns over our local **budget**, although we can improve our communication by providing more frequent updates on our scholarships and continuing to use the neighborhood meetings to explain the budget or budget issues.

There was favorable response to our avenues of **communication**. Members access our informative website, avidly read the Thumb Sketch, and find the branch e-mails useful and not excessive.

Since our Prescott Branch is large, we are able to offer a good variety and number of **interest groups**. Members are quite satisfied with the current groups and offerings. Suggestions for future groups included more evening groups for working women, an art interest group, and a current events group. Another idea was to bring back interest group tables at general meetings, so members can learn about the groups.

Our two mission-based committees are Public Policy and Community Action. We received various suggestions for issues and study topics for **Public Policy**, and a plea to publish a program schedule possibly 3 to 6 months in advance to allow members to plan ahead and create interest in the programs. Some suggested topics were teacher retention, Arizona’s education budget, legalization of marijuana issues, and Skyped interviews from distant sources.

Members unanimously support the **Community Action** Sister-to-Sister program. There is also

support for Woman-to-Woman and the Dreams to Reality Day. New ideas included adopting a classroom by neighborhood, bringing back AWARE (American Women Actively Returning to Education) with a brown bag lunch program support group, and collaboration with the League of Women Voters to provide a civics program for students. Members proposed engaging in community projects that would go beyond the focus on education and that would include the whole Quad Cities area.

All in all, our neighborhood meetings were very productive, and our talented and capable members came through again by providing our organization with helpful feedback and productive suggestions that will enable us to keep our branch growing and moving forward. (A complete summary of the neighborhood meetings may be found [on our Website](#).)



Big Changes in Fall Scholarship Fundraising Event!

By Ann Barton



Our Fall Scholarship Event has been changed!! We will NOT be holding an Antique Appraisal Fair. In its place, we are holding an amazing, fun Open House at the Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center on the campus of Yavapai College.

On Saturday, September 12th, 2015, we will begin the event with refreshments on the playground. We will have the opportunity to tour the Center and learn about the students, the staff, and all the exciting learning that takes place there.

After our tour, we will return to our regular meeting room, next to the Yavapai College Library. At that time we will have presentations about the two AAUW scholarships we support—the Mary Alice Moulton Scholarship and the Centennial Scholarship. You will hear about the origins of the scholarships, the recipients of each scholarship, our goals for growing these endowments, and how our contributions assist women in our local community continue their educational pursuits.

Put September 12, 2015 on your calendar, with a reminder to bring your checkbook, in order that we may continue to grow the principals in our endowment accounts and generate more funds for these worthy students.

We guarantee that you will enjoy this very special fundraising event!



AAUW Prescott

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