

President's Message

Becky's Banter Happy New Year!!!



Becky Gunn

Some of us make resolutions at this time of year; others of us abhor that idea. For me, it is a time of reflection – what might I accomplish this year, what might I do better – but most of all I reflect on what made my previous year one for which I am grateful.

First and foremost, I am so very grateful for those in this Branch that make AAUW what it is. It takes an army to accomplish what we accomplish. And, most of us don't see what is happening behind the scenes to keep things running. The simplest of events take extensive coordination, trouble-shooting, publicity, organization, and just being there. We so often take it for granted that everything will go smoothly. Most often it does, but when it does not, we may complain. When less than perfect things happen, it is not intended. Sometimes we need to give those who do what needs to be done a break. Anyway, I just want to express my appreciation for those of you who work so very diligently to make it all happen.

At the beginning of our year the Board set a goal to fulfill our scholarship endowment obligation. We needed to raise \$20,000 in order to do that. Many of us were somewhat skeptical that we could reach that goal, but it is apparent after our Holiday Brunch and with our Mardi Gras event on the horizon, that we are going to meet and probably exceed our goal. We need to congratulate ourselves, but not stop our efforts. The young women who benefit from our scholarship dollars can use even greater support in the future.

We have an exciting winter/spring coming up with the aforementioned Mardi Gras and more Reality Store events and Rock-It Day. There will be the **State Legislative Day on Feb 4** as well as the opportunity to work for a more stable, robust educational funding stream in Arizona through our Public Policy Committee. And, as always, we have our interesting Interest Groups to keep us nicely involved.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon. And, again, **Happy New Year!**

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January 11 General Meeting Program

Breaking News in Arizona



Laurie Roberts

After an extraordinary year of explosive media stories at international, national and local levels, 2019 comes to a bumpy close, with many folks warily wondering: What headlines will be ushering in the New Year? What's in store for Arizonans in the months ahead? Please join us for

an expert, insider perspective on these questions from Laurie Roberts, award-winning journalist and columnist for *The Arizona Republic*. Laurie will be examining top issues and news stories heading into the 2020 elections.

February 8th General Program

Arizona's Energy & Economic Future



Kris Mayes

Former Arizona Corporation Commissioner and ASU Professor Kris Mayes will discuss the opportunity for Arizona to advance its economy, conserve precious water supplies, and improve its air quality through

the deployment of clean energy sources such as solar, wind and energy efficiency. Mayes, who co-authored Arizona's most sweeping clean energy laws during her time on the Corporation Commission, will discuss how the state could boost the amount of renewable energy required of the state's utilities such as Arizona Public Service Company from the current 15 percent to 50 percent, saving ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars while creating thousands of high-paying jobs. She will also outline how a focus on clean energy should be one of Arizona's most important strategies in the fight to conserve groundwater. Mayes will talk about the need to reform the way utilities do business – from merely providing a commodity – energy – to providing energy services, as more and more Arizonans seek customer-sited energy solutions such as rooftop solar and battery storage. Finally, Professor Mayes will discuss where Arizona ranks among states in the West for clean energy advancements.



AAUW Speakers Bureau

In an effort to promote AAUW and to increase our visibility in the community, AAUW is developing a Speakers Bureau, chaired by Paola Wegner.

If you have contacts with an organization to whom we might speak, please contact Paola. Also, please let Paola know if you would be willing to be a speaker.



December Holiday Brunch Highlights

Check out photos taken at the Holiday Brunch using this [link](#).

(In PDF format, link may no longer be available)

AAUW Prescott Board Brief

November 2019

Sister-to-Sister will be held **February 13**, possibly at Embry Riddle, and will now include boys. A discussion ensued regarding the relevancy of AAUW's participation in this event, as its focus has changed, and perhaps it has evolved to the point that it may no longer align with AAUW's mission.



Deb Dillon

PASS (Prescott Area Shelter Services (originally PAWS), a program for women and their children, is eager to initiate an alliance with AAUW. The board approved holding discussions with PASS about supporting the women as they seek to improve their education and career opportunities.

Approximately \$1,400.00 was made on the Literary Luncheon, so \$726.00 was added to each of the scholarship funds.

The board discussed the possibility of AAUW's joining the Prescott or Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce as a means to enhance our presence in the community. Discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

No board meeting was held in December.



Awards Presented: Mover/Shaker, Rookie, and Ongoing Stamina

Congratulations to this year's winners!

Our **Rookie of the Year** award winner is **Carol Dosse**. Carol has jumped into AAUW with both feet! She serves as the Membership Co-VP, is a member of the scholarship



Carol Dosse

AAUW Prescott Newsletter

committee and is our branch's Archivist/Historian. She also is active in several interest groups. Her organization skills, positive attitude, and kindness are beyond compare.



Our **Mover and Shaker** award winner is **Sue Marceau**. Sue is not only an impressive Mover & Shaker for AAUW Prescott members but for all AAUW members in Arizona. She is very active and has had a positive impact as our Public Policy Chair. Sue has written outstanding pieces, which have been published in media across the state, supporting our AAUW goals and the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.



Our new award, **Ongoing Stamina** goes to **Edi Taylor-Richards**. Edi defines this new award and has been an active member for over 50 years. If you ever need to know details about AAUW history or protocol, Edi is the one to ask. She currently serves at the Parliamentarian and assists in coordinating the media at general meetings and events. Edi has served as president, treasurer, newsletter editor, and webmaster. She is a tireless advocate (our own energizer bunny) for the mission of AAUW.



CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCY FIELDS – AAUW MEMBER FOR 50 YEARS

It is not often when an AAUW member receives recognition for 50 years of membership. This year our Prescott Branch is honoring one of its own – Lucy Fields. In response to a request for information so that we could tell her story at our Holiday Brunch, Lucy wrote her personal AAUW history. Below is a lightly edited version of that history. We congratulate Lucy for her ongoing commitment to AAUW...and may it continue for many more years. Retold by Becky Gunn.



Lucy Fields Describes Her AAUW Life:

When my daughter was about 3 years old, I needed some adult stimulus. AAUW in Arcadia, California offered a broad variety of general programs for young women and an interest group aimed especially at moms of young children. It was called “Juniors Group”. As our children grew older, we renamed our group the “Night Owl Group.” At that time, I also participated in the “Book Group” and was chairwoman one year. It was a dinner group that met at a restaurant and also reviewed books. Even when I went back to work full time, I continued to be active in the Branch.

In 1986, we moved to Palm Springs, California. I was teaching there but also wanted to get to know more people in the community. I transferred my AAUW membership to the Palm Springs Branch. The big fundraiser for the Educational Foundation at that time was a Home Tour each year. I helped with that as well as participated again in their Book Group. Other committees found me working at various tasks. Of course, luncheons were always popular occasions.

1990 found us in Prescott where we had planned to live for 3 years just to experience the lifestyle. Knowing that the easiest way to make new friends in

a new town was to join AAUW, I decided to have dual membership in Prescott and Palm Springs. We kept our home in Palm Springs and planned to go back and forth. As I became more involved in the Prescott Branch, and we kept living there, I dropped my dual membership and only belonged to the Prescott Branch. I served on the Board for quite a few years in different assignments. I was a treasurer and membership chair, as I recall. There were several interest groups that I was involved with. Couples dinner group and book group are among those that I attended.

In the mid ninety's, I went to work full time at Head Start in Chino Valley. I had been subbing for Prescott Unified School prior to that. My husband was retired and was involved in playing clarinet for several bands in the area. All of these activities kept us very busy and obligated.



Public Policy



Sue Marceau

Funding for District K-12 Education: Alliances

Explored PPC is brainstorming with local movers and shakers to establish alliances with like-minded organizations supporting a dedicated funding stream for district K-12 education. We have initiated collaboration with the Prescott Education Advocacy

Council (PEAC). Watch for updates on this alliance and others in future issues of Thumb Sketch. Email publicpolicy@aauwprescott.net if you would like to become involved in helping properly fund the education of our communities' children.

Charter Schools: Public Forum Opportunity

AAUW-Prescott's Board member Deb Dillon has been researching charter schools to identify what they are, how they operate in Arizona, and their impact on the Prescott area. Dillon, a member of the

Prescott Unified School District (PUSD) Board, plans to share her findings with the board, district leadership and staff, legislators (in the local area and beyond), the media, and the public in general. She anticipates finishing the report around January. Utilizing Dillon's framework, PPC is exploring hosting or co-hosting a public forum in 2020. Potential speakers include Dillon and area school officials.

Fall Forum 2019 AAUW-Prescott was represented at the state AAUW Fall Forum this year by five members: Patti Allen-LaFleur, Becky Gunn, Lynne Murphy, Edi Taylor-Richards, and Jeanette Polvani.

Boost to ERA Ratification in Virginia Seat changes in the Virginia House and Senate during the November 2019 elections bode well for the state's becoming the 38th and milestone state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). VAratifyERA cites new leadership in the House and a preponderance of "equality candidates" winning seats in both houses as evidence of the increased probability of ratification. For the 2020 legislative session, 55 legislators in the House of Delegates and 26 senators are anticipated to be staunch supporters of the ERA. A September 2019 poll by the Washington Post-Schar School reports that 83 percent of Virginians support ratification of the ERA.

Upcoming Events: AAUW-Arizona: Legislative Day The AAUW-Arizona 2020 Legislative Day is set for **Tuesday, February 4**, beginning at 8:30 am in the Arizona State Capitol. Email publicpolicy@aauwprescott.net to reserve a spot and get on the carpool list. More information is on the AAUW Arizona website: <https://www.aauwarizona.org/advocacy/legislative-day-2020/>

Next PPC Meeting The PPC next meets **Tuesday, Jan 7, from 1 to 3 pm** in Founders Suite B at the Prescott Public Library. Presenters: Education Advocate Julia Watson and AAUW-Prescott's Ellen Anderson. Topics: an advocacy game plan and voting records of our legislators.

Community Action – Reality Store



We had a wonderful time with 180 adolescents at the most recent Reality Store at the Prescott High School Freshmen Academy in November, 2019. The students reported that they learned a lot and really enjoyed the experience as well.

Reality Store was featured (front page) in *The Daily Courier* on November 21st – here is the link in case you missed the article. <https://www.dcourier.com/news/2019/nov/21/reality-store-prescott-high-offers-freshman-taste-/>

We will be doing it all again for another 180 Freshman students **Thursday, April 23rd** at Prescott High School. **Please join us when the call goes out for volunteers.** You're going to love this activity!



Scholarships

Scholarship Fund Total in December Impressive

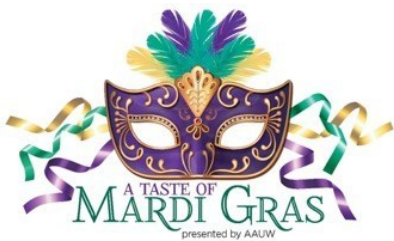
Prior to the Holiday Brunch, our scholarship totals were:

Mary Alice Moulton – \$97,036;
Centennial – \$47,695.

We received an additional \$3,765 at the brunch, so **we are within about \$1,500 of our goal to fully fund both scholarships this year.** What an amazing achievement!



Scholarships Continued: Mardi Gras



**Date: Friday,
February 21, 2020**

**Time: 5:00 PM –
7:00 PM**

**Location: Yavapai
College PAC**

Be sure to join us for AAUW's spring scholarship event, A Taste of Mardi Gras. The community is invited, so bring your friends!

All proceeds from this event will go to AAUW scholarships for deserving Yavapai College students whose children attend the Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center or women who are majoring in one of the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math).

The event will include Creole and Cajun foods; Jazz, Cajun and Zydeco music; a no-host bar; election of a Mardi Gras Court, and a Second Line Parade. Costumes Admired but not Required!!

Deadline for reservations is **February 15, 2020.**

Cost: \$50 Tickets may be purchased online at www.yc.edu/AAUWMardiGras or you may mail a check to:

AAUW Prescott, P.O. Box 10881, Prescott, AZ 86304



Ann Barton,
Scholarship Co-
chair



Debra Brown,
Scholarship Co-
Chair

***SaveThe Date* for the
Mardi Gras Fundraiser Feb. 21**

Interest Groups

Joining a Book Group is very popular among Prescott AAUW members. Two book groups have openings presently, check out their pages on our website for contact information:

- [Prescott Valley Book Group](#) – Meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at the Prescott Valley Library.
- [4th Thursday Afternoon Book Group](#) meets in members' homes.

MahJongg Interest Group is still meeting every Tuesday at 1 pm at the Mall Food Court. We would welcome any interested ladies to join us!! All members who are beginners or experienced, come try us out! We have a lot of fun, and are stretching our brains! Contact Marty Lewis for more information.

Great Decisions (couples, night group) Are you interested in joining a new Great Decisions Night Group which would include couples and singles? The first group is still full, and, since the meetings are held at members' homes, they can accommodate just so many. I will not participate in the 2nd group but will help in the coordination. Please email Muriel Haverland, the group leader if you are interested in joining a Great Decisions Group.

Adventure Group will meet at 12:30 – 1:30 in the Founders Room B to discuss the May 27-29 Lake Powell trip to see the Slot Canyons. This trip is open to all AAUW members, friends and family. Most members have booked individual accommodations and their preferred tour with Adventurous Antelope Canyon Tours. Our next meeting is to discuss carpooling. Contact Kathy Lopez for more information.

Travel Discussion Group will meet immediately following the Adventure Group meeting at 1:30 to discuss travel to South Asia – India, Bhutan, Tibet, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. We will also discuss how to stay healthy while traveling and Kathy Lopez will share the anatomy of an insurance claim if you do not manage to stay healthy!