

## President's Message



Becky Gunn, AAUW  
Prescott President

### Becky's Last Banter...

I write this while still sheltering in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has interrupted all of our lives, and it is under the cloud of these interruptions that I 'craft' my last column as President

of the Prescott Branch of AAUW. It was a year in which we set a goal — to increase our scholarship endowment funds by \$20,000. And, by March we had achieved that goal with the support of all of our members. Many thanks go to our Scholarship Committee who worked incredibly diligently to make this happen. Our monthly meeting programs were stellar with a broad range of topics. Kudos to our Program VPs for making these meetings worthwhile. Our Community Action Chairs were busy with Reality Store events and with Rock-It Day. Public Policy held their monthly meetings helping us learn about the critical issue of educational funding. Much appreciated! Our other board members— Treasury, Communication, Directory, Membership, Hospitality, and Secretaries— helped make our organization run efficiently and effectively. All of our members who participated in our events and meetings and Interest Groups this year are also much appreciated. Together we had a great year.

And, then, it was abruptly interrupted. It has been disconcerting, yet it has also been an affirmation of our strength as women in Community. We have been there for each other. Our new President, Tracy Smiles, will take up the reins and re-energize us, I am sure. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you this year. Please know that it would not have been as wonderful without all of you. Thank you.



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## Officers for 2020-21

### Officers for 2020-2021

#### Current and Newly-Elected Officers:

*(New officers highlighted)*

**President:** Tracy Smiles

**President-Elect:** NONE AT THIS TIME

**CoVP Programs:** Ellen Anderson & Cathy Cunningham

**Treasurer:** Katie Wrigley

**CoVP Membership:** Penny Briner-Ewell & Annette Gauthier

**Recording Secretary:** Cathy Englekirk

**Corresponding Secretary:** Shirley Kay

#### Continuing and Newly-Appointed Officers:

*(New officers highlighted)*

**Archivist:** Carol Dosse

**Communications:** Sara DeRouchey & Lenore Hemphill

**Community Action:** Kelsey Wilkes & Pat Mann

**Directory:** Lenore Hemphill & Marla Jirak

**Hospitality:** Lynne Murphy

**Parliamentarian:** Edi Taylor-Richards

**Public Policy:** Victoria Sweet

**Public Relations:** Deb Dillon

**Scholarship:** Sandra Bennett

**YRMC Council of Electors:** Carol Talbott

*We are currently without a President-Elect!*

*Please consider this position or consider sharing this position with a colleague.*

*Contact Tracy Smiles at [prescottaauwbranch@gmail.com](mailto:prescottaauwbranch@gmail.com).*

## March General Meeting Report

### Community Conversations – Part II

At our last Saturday meeting in March, before the current Health Crisis shut down the YC campus, members gathered to participate in our Community Conversations, formerly known as Neighborhood Meetings. This interactive event included small group break-out sessions where participants shared memories related to the year on the penny they drew from a bag, created adjectives that began with the first letter of their first name to describe themselves, completed a survey to provide input to the board in order to plan future programs, and celebrated International Women's Day with an impressive spread of treats provided by the board. After the meeting, fresh flowers were given to members, and they were then encouraged to reflect on women's achievements and ongoing challenges.

The survey, organized by broad umbrella themes such as "Healthcare," "Economy & Jobs," and "Environment," explored possible topics within each theme. For example, Natural Disaster Preparedness, Emergency Management Systems, Water Resources, and Public Lands Protection & Management were discussed under the theme of Environment. Additionally, members offered specific suggestions on possible speakers and organizations in the comment section.

The results of the survey indicated that the AAUW Prescott membership is drawn to issues that reflect who we are as an organization, our dedication to the advancement of gender equity for women, and girls through education, research, and advocacy.

The most votes any one topic received was 30, and those topics included: public education funding and reproductive justice (Roe v. Wade under threat). The theme that drew the most

votes overall related to the environment, such as interest in natural disaster preparedness, water resources, and municipal recycling programs. We also discovered that members also have a great interest in recruiting healthcare providers and medical services to Yavapai County. In addition to women's issues, members are clearly interested in issues directly related to our local community. The survey included many written comments and suggestions, too many to list here. Along with ideas for speakers and programs, some small groups suggested a balance between programs related to personal enrichment and community activism. Also, members expressed some disappointment in not getting to meet as "neighborhoods" and recommended, perhaps, alternating the two formats.

Jan Herbert, Ellen Anderson and I, on behalf of the board, thank you for your participation and input. We are already using this important data to plan experiences for the coming AAUW year. We also want to extend an invitation to those of you who were not able to participate in the meeting to provide any ideas you might have for the betterment of AAUW Prescott. You can email or call Tracy Smiles with your ideas.



## April 11th and May 9th General Meeting Updates

The April 11th and May 9th General Meetings have been cancelled. The April Speaker, Mayor Coral Evans, is now tentatively scheduled for our September meeting. Regarding the May cancellation, our speaker, Col. Felicia French, had been scheduled for a Yavapai College-sponsored Zoom session. However, we have been informed that Col. French has accepted a volunteer medical position with the Navajo

Nation to help with the COVID-19 pandemic. We will reschedule her presentation for October or November.

Our Program VP's are considering all options for presentations for the fall – video, Zoom, Webinar, YouTube, or in-person events. Members will be offered opportunities to learn more about these modalities and how to use them in the summer. Stay tuned for information regarding those learning opportunities as we move forward to connect with our members in the COVID-19 era. We will reach out to you via email and be sure to check our [Website](#) to keep up-to-date. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.



## Board Brief



### April Board Meeting Recap

By Deb Dillon

The following items were discussed at the virtual April AAUW Board Meeting:

- Election of officers will be held by email.
- Current membership is 217.
- Programs
  - 59 members attended the Community Conversations in March.
  - Previously scheduled April general meeting speaker Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans will present in September.
  - A May general meeting program is under review.

- Scholarship reported that Uncle Bud’s Place Cajun restaurant charged AAUW only \$160 for all the food provided for the February Mardi Gras event.
- \$2,765 was donated to the Mary Alice Moulton Scholarship in memory of Elaine Smith.
- This year’s Summer Social is being cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
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## AAUW Prescott 2020-21 Budget Approved

### Surplus Cash Contribution to YCF Announced

We are pleased to announce that the Board approved an additional \$2,000 in funding for Yavapai College Foundation at the April 9, 2020, Board Meeting. These are AAUW surplus cash funds that we suggest being used for the student Emergency Fund. We are glad to help the students during this difficult time.



Katie Wrigley, Treasurer



The 2020-2021 Budget was approved by the Board on March 5. Please click on the link below to view.

[Approved 2020-21 Budget](#)

## AAUW Business

### EVERY VOICE MATTERS National Election for Board of Directors Now Open



**Voting Takes Place  
Wednesday, April 8,  
through Monday,  
May 18.**

AAUW members play an important role in shaping the future for women and girls by choosing the organization’s leaders and policy priorities. Your voice – and your vote – are vital in our 2020 election. The Directors you elect to AAUW’s Board will work alongside CEO Kim Churches and her team to continue implementing AAUW’s trailblazing strategic plan.

We depend on strong, skilled, and experienced leadership to advance our mission of gender equity and economic security for women and their families. So please take the time to carefully review this year’s candidates – then cast your ballot. We need your vote to strengthen the future of our organization. To view the candidates, go to this [AAUW National website](#).

You have until 6 pm EDT on May 18 to vote online. To find your Member ID and Voter PIN, check the email sent to you from AAUW on April 8.



## Hospitality

### Thanks for your Support!



Lynne Murphy,  
Hospitality

A big thank you to all of the neighborhood groups who provided refreshments for our regular meetings this shortened year! Those of you who did not have the opportunity to show off your culinary skills will have an opportunity during next year's meetings. As a matter of

fact, so you don't feel deprived, you're welcome to help out twice! September and October are expected to be large meetings when we could use more food than is normally provided. So, feel free to add a helping hand!

Once again, we encourage members to bring their own drinks. But, as we did this past year, beverages will be provided for those who are visiting or forgetful (like me!).



## Membership News



Carol Dosse,  
Membership Co-VP

Due to the State of AZ COVID 19 [Stay-at-Home Order](#), upcoming New Members Teas have been cancelled. We will reschedule the teas as soon as it is deemed appropriate.

We are committed to providing a welcoming atmosphere to all our members, especially new

members. Unfortunately, the current situation makes that challenging— but we will do our best to make you feel welcome. Stay tuned, and we will be in touch!

Thank you to all for your understanding.

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## AAUW Membership Renewal Time Coming Soon

Look for an email reminder in the next few weeks.

Members now have three choices for renewing annual membership in AAUW.

1. Respond to the email you will receive from AAUW National and charge your \$95.00 annual dues directly through the national website.
2. Mail or give a check for \$95.00 to Prescott Treasurer Katie Wrigley. (Treasurer, AAUW Prescott, PO Box 10881, Prescott AZ 86304)
3. OR
4. Use PayPal to pay your \$95.00 annual dues from our [AAUW Prescott Membership Renewal page](#) and click on the “Add to Cart” button.

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## IRS Tax Filing Deadline Now July 15, 2020

This is just a reminder that a portion of your National AAUW dues is tax-deductible for the year 2019. If you paid the full amount of \$95 for the year 2019-20, you can deduct \$56. If you joined at a Shape the Future event and paid ½ price dues to National, you can deduct \$26.50.

# AAUW Prescott Directory Information

## Requests for Hard Copy of Directory – Instructions

As our Branch will not be meeting face-to-face before the Branch Membership Directory is prepared, members who wish to receive a physical directory may request one by emailing the Directory team at:



Stephanie Brown

[directory@aauwprescott.net](mailto:directory@aauwprescott.net).

The Directories will be ready for distribution at the September 2020 General Meeting.

Your Photo is needed for the Directory by June 30th, 2020

The next printed directory will be distributed in **September**, which gives us about 4 months to gather photos for new members and redo a photo for anyone who would like a different pose.

There are a few guidelines and options for producing these photos:

- Camera photos look better than cell phone photo—generally.
- Choose high quality setting and email the full-size image in jpg format
- Try to have a solid-color wall background without other people or clutter, or large pattern behind
- Avoid having shadows on the face.
- Try to look straight at the camera, not down or to the side
- If you are using a cell phone for a selfie, hold the phone at eye-level and look at the camera

- It is not as flattering to have the phone camera look up at you
- If you wear glasses, try to avoid a flash or bright window reflection crossing the eye.
- You can tilt your head/chin down just a bit, so that the plane of the glasses does not reflect the light from the flash, sun or window
- You can tilt the glasses down just a little, raising the earpiece above your ear
- You can remove your glasses, if you are comfortable doing that.
- We only need a photo from the top of the head to mid chest, with some space on top and sides. Please do not crop the photo.
- Send the camera or cell phone photo in color and we will convert it to black and white for the directory. Please don't convert to a square or Black and White.
- **Email the digital file at least 200 kilobytes in size, scan a print and email, or snail mail a print** that you like to Stephanie Brown. (Check the directory for her address.)
- Choose a photo you like. This year we cannot offer to take a photo of you.
- If you decline to have your photo in the directory, we will place a N/A next to your information.
- If you decline to have a photo, please inform Dot Williamson and Lenore Hemphill who can both be reached at this email: [directory@aauwprescott.net](mailto:directory@aauwprescott.net)

Thank you all for your cooperation. Most people have found the photos in the directory to be very helpful, especially when meeting new people.

## Public Policy

### Webinar Addresses State of Public Education in Arizona



Sue Marceau

Save Our Schools (SOS) Arizona hosted a public education webinar April 4. Multiple facts were presented, including Arizona's ranking as second in the most crowded class sizes in the U.S.; 46th in per student spending with a total that is \$3,300

less per pupil than the national average; and 49th in median teacher salary.

The webinar leaders also reported that Arizona has the highest teacher turnover in the country: 3,400 classrooms without a certified teacher; and 70K students without a permanent teacher. Additionally, Arizona's teachers leave the profession at the highest rate in the country, a frequency nearly three times higher than the national average.

The state issues \$14 billion a year in tax cuts and credits, including Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) and School Tuition Organization (STO) vouchers. Such credits are a huge drain on the state education budget, which otherwise could be allocated to District schools.

Concerned members can help by signing up for SOSAZ emails, sending donations, and visiting the SOSAZ website: [sosaznetwork.org/get-involved](http://sosaznetwork.org/get-involved). The AAUW-Prescott Public Policy Committee (PPC) has identified initiatives to establish a dedicated, equitable and sustainable funding stream for public K-12 education a near-term priority.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, updates on future meetings will be forthcoming as they become available. PPC meanwhile is collaborating with the Prescott Education Advocacy Council (PEAC), the League of Women Voters (LWV), and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on a future education forum featuring Legislative Candidates.



## Community Action

### Reality Store News



Pat Mann, Co-chair,  
Community Action Team

Unfortunately, the *The Reality Store* event on **April 23, 2020** was cancelled. We we look forward to rescheduling this popular workshop for students, possibly in the fall.

### Girls Rock-It Day at ERAU a Resounding Success



Co-chair, Community  
Action Team

Kelsey Wilkes, Co-chair,  
Community Action Team

On March 3, three AAUW volunteers (Jeanne Wellens, Mary Gephart and Kelsey Wilkes) joined girls from four different area Middle

Schools for a fun and interactive Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) Girls Rock-it Day. As in the past, there were four areas of interest, and this year each school group attended each of the interest areas: Global Interest, Aviation, Engineering, and Natural Sciences. The AAUW volunteers were each assigned to a school group and thus, we also got to experience all the facets of STEM that ERAU has to offer.

In the Natural Science Physics Demo the girls learned about the Life Cycle of a Star and participated in a demonstration of sound and wave lengths.

They then moved on to the Engineering – 3D Printing Lab/Rocket Development demonstration. The girls each got a small rocket produced by the ERAU 3D printers and were treated to an explanation of how 3D printing is envisioned, developed and printed.



The third rotation was “War Games,” which focused on how the military interacts across the globe with other countries during disasters. An example

was provided of a disaster, and the girls were divided into different aspects of governmental and non-governmental entities. Their mission was to collaborate and come together with an informed and productive response. The girls were very engaged and creative, demonstrating excellent critical thinking skills!

The fourth stop was Aviation and a tour of the outdoor ERAU Crash Lab. The crash lab is the largest Crash Site Lab for forensic examination and investigation for students and professionals across the globe. Mr. Ibarra explained how actual aeronautical crashes are brought and meticulously reassembled at the ERAU site and what types of forensic examinations occur.

The final stop was the Rocket creation and shoot. The girls made their own cardboard rockets (which they took home) and then shot them off with air compressors; the three that went the farthest got prizes. The students had a ‘blast,’ and it was great to see how their different designs helped or thwarted the rocket’s trajectory.

While this year’s event was only one day (the first date in February was snowed out) our plan is to collaborate with ERAU again next year for another *Girls Rocket-it Day* event. Here are some comments from the AAUW volunteers about the day:

- **Was the day what you expected?** I did not know what to expect, but it exceeded what I imagined and I had a wonderful day. It was better than I expected. I volunteered maybe 2 or so years ago, and it has been streamlined and is much more organized. The presenters were right on with the kids.
- **Did you feel you had a role to play with your group of girls?** I felt my role was rather limited. I was involved with the girls during War Games, which was helpful in guiding them. But, other than that, I was merely an observer, asking a few questions. I did try to engage the girls in conversation as much as I could. Yes, I was engaged with the kids and felt I had a purpose.
- **Did the ERAU staff include you in the group/processes?** Yes, in War Games. But the other sessions were demonstrations that only the girls participated in. Yes.
- **Did you think the girls benefit from GRID?** Absolutely, YES! I am sure it was an eye opening experience for many. I really felt the girls were engaged and absorbed a lot of info. from the day.



- **DO you think this was a valuable event for AAUW to be involved in and would you volunteer again?** Yes, I would volunteer for this again. My question would be: Does Embry Riddle and/or the schools think that a few extra volunteers were helpful. If so, then yes, it is a good cause for AAUW. Yes! I think we should continue to work with ERAU on this event.

**Comments:** If AAUW is going to participate again, it would be nice if the plan was for one of the volunteers to speak to the group as a whole, telling them about the mission of AAUW, what kinds of things we do and why we are here today. I didn't feel like we (AAUW) were recognized at the event. It would be good if the teachers knew that we were volunteers from AAUW. Thanks for a wonderful day!

In preparation for next year's event we will work with the ERAU staff who put on this event to explore how AAUW can have a greater role and amplify the AAUW organization and mission.



## Interest Groups

### Adventure Group

Due to the State of AZ COVID-19 [Stay-at-Home Order](#), the Trip to Lake Powell has been postponed until further notice. Members should look for email updates, which will then be posted on our website page. Due to changes in the schedule, all other adventures will be rescheduled as well.

Take care and stay adventurous!



## AAUW National Updates Website



Laura Segal

### Laura Segal, AAUW SVP: *Communications & External Relations, Explains in a Letter to Membership*

I hope you are staying safe and healthy during this unprecedented crisis. Please be assured we at AAUW are with you and there for you during this time. As part of our ongoing work, AAUW is pleased to announce the launch of our [new website](#), and we hope it will help us to stay more connected than ever.

Our team is thrilled to showcase our important work together towards advancing gender equity. The site is the result of many months of hard work and close collaboration with design experts, staff at all levels and many of you.

It is intended to get you the information you need quickly — whether that's the latest statistics on the [gender pay gap](#) or advice on how to [stay connected with your community](#) through the coronavirus crisis. I hope you will take some time to look around and peruse the striking images, at-a-glance stats, and inspiring stories about the world-changing women AAUW supports.

Thank you to the many AAUW members who gave us vital input to guide our approach. You are an integral part of AAUW's rich history, and,

because of you, we can now also communicate to a new generation of women and men why equity is as critical today as it was when AAUW was founded 140 years ago.

The **Membership** section of the website puts important member resources at your fingertips, including information on:

**Why** membership matters.

**Tools** for effective governance and advocacy.

**Timely initiatives** like the 5-star recognition program and our upcoming board election, which opened April 8.

The **Member Services Database** that many of you rely on will get an upgrade later this year, but meanwhile you can still access it on the new site. And, your branch and state websites haven't changed.

As proud as I am of the new site, I'm also committed to continuous improvement and **eager to hear your feedback**. Websites are never truly finished, but I hope you'll agree that we're off to a very strong start with the new **AAUW.org**. Thanks, as always, for your commitment to AAUW. Be safe and healthy, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Laura M. Segal

Senior Vice President, Communications and External Relations

