

President's Message



I can think of few places better for sheltering in place than Prescott and the Quad Cities. Mountains, forests, canyons, lakes, and sweeping views across wide-open grasslands offer visual stimulation and ample opportunities to get outside. I sometimes forget

the big “why” I was drawn to the Prescott area, especially given “all that is” with the pandemic, economy, and political unrest. However, a recent visit to Goldwater Lake with some of the women who comprise the AAUW Prescott leadership reminded me of the many assets living in Prescott abundantly provides, especially being part of a dynamic community of women. Every summer, in preparation for the coming “AAUW year,” our local branch’s board of directors holds a retreat. The purpose of this extended meeting is to plan for the coming year, problem-solve potential challenges, and reconnect with our mission and each other. Typically, this meeting is held at a member’s house, or at public space like a church, runs over the span of 4-5 hours, and includes a potluck lunch. However, just as it is with *everything*, COVID-19 made such a gathering impossible. Hence, after consulting the recommended CDC guidelines, the board opted to meet outdoors at the lake.

More than is comfortable to admit, prior to the retreat I spent the summer less than enthusiastic about the coming AAUW year. Thinking about

how our branch traditionally administers Saturday general meetings, interest groups, community action, and public policy activities, and the ever-popular scholarship fundraising events, left me wondering what the consequences of the pandemic would be on our organization and membership. However, my reticence was transformed after reconnecting with these visionary and hard-working members of the branch. I now feel nothing but excitement as I realize AAUW Prescott will continue to flourish, with creative gusto, regardless of what the coming year brings.

This Thumb Sketch Includes:

President's Message

Do You Zoom?

September General Meeting

October General Meeting

Directory News

Public Policy

Membership

Community Action

Reality Store

PASS

Interest Groups

Adventure Group

Healthy Living Group

Photography Group

Genealogy Group

Dining in All Directions

I see no finer way to kick off the AAUW year than with a presentation by Flagstaff mayor Coral Evans. I have heard Coral speak several times before and always find her interesting and inspiring. I am eager to hear about the ways in which Flagstaff is addressing the challenges of climate change. Our communications team is ready to help members fully utilize our Zoom license, both for official AAUW business, and for initiating personal gatherings. Community action is reaching out to multiple organizations and fostering new opportunities for outreach to women and girls that capitalizes on the resources our members have to offer, and the scholarship team is exploring fundraising activities which I anticipate will be fun for us all. As you read this edition of the *Thumb Sketch*, and learn about the ways in which our members engage with each other and the community, you will be as energized as I am for the coming year.

August 28 marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. I celebrated and reflected by taking stock in the important relationships I have made with women who, as I said in my last column, carry on the tradition of activism and education like the suffragettes of the past. For this reason, coupled with the abundance of our

beautiful city, I am more than ready for the coming year.



Photos from socially distanced Board of Directors Retreat at Goldwater Lake



Do You Zoom?



In order to make good use of our AAUW Prescott Zoom account, besides having interest group and committee meetings, we are opening it up to members to use for any social event of their choosing. *So, if you want*

to invite friends for a virtual “happy hour” or share recipes online, or play interactive group games online, etc., etc. you may now do it using our Zoom account. For more information contact the Communications Team commteam@aauwprescott.net.

Since many of our branch’s general meetings, as well as interest group and committee meetings, will be via Zoom for the “unforseeable” future, we want to be sure members are comfortable with this mode of communication.

[Click here for a downloadable version of instructions for how to use Zoom.](#)

[Click here for a downloadable version of instructions for hosting a zoom meeting.](#)

Upcoming Zoom Meetings:

- **Sept 12th: The City of Flagstaff’s Climate and Adaptation Plan**
- **Oct 10th: Inspirations for Aging in Arizona, The Feminine Perspective**

September General Meeting

The City of Flagstaff’s Climate and Adaptation Plan—Sep 12



The Honorable Coral Evans, the Mayor of Flagstaff, will be presenting the City of Flagstaff’s Climate and Adaptation plan. “The Plan recognizes the value of the community, the thriving economy, the neighborhoods, and the people. To protect what we love about Flagstaff, we need

to ensure that we are prepared for change. The benefits of planning ahead are innumerable: we see that value through forest treatments that help us avoid catastrophic wildfire and flooding, as well as through investments in services that keep our vulnerable community members safe. This Plan was made by and for the Flagstaff community. Hundreds of residents contributed through open houses, online surveys, and coffee and climate conversations.”

Mayor Coral Evans was elected in November 2016. Although new to the position of Mayor, Ms. Evans was not new to the Flagstaff City Council. She was first elected to serve on the Flagstaff City Council in 2008 and reelected in 2012. She served as Vice Mayor of the City from 2012-2014. She is the third generation of her family to live in Flagstaff. Her family, the Dorsey’s, have been an active part of the Flagstaff and the greater Northern Arizona community since the early 1900s. In addition to serving on the Council, Ms. Evans is the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association of Flagstaff, Inc., and is a small business owner, Destiny’s Creations.

October General Meeting

Oct 10th

Inspirations for Aging in Arizona: The Feminine Perspective



AARP believes that no one's possibilities should ever be limited by their age. Every day we fight to remove barriers that stand between people and their Real Possibilities. Disrupt Aging challenges outdated beliefs and

sparks new solutions so more people can choose how they live and age. Dana Kennedy will encourage you to add your voice to the thousands who are changing the rules about aging.

Dana Marie Kennedy is the State Director for AARP Arizona with more than 25 years as a leading advocate for working families, retirees, and women at the local, state, and national levels.

As State Director, Kennedy is making AARP the go-to organization for Arizonans who are 50 plus. AARP is championing issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment security and retirement planning, and preventing fraud and abuse. Her focus includes helping people age in place—living independently in their homes for as long as possible, family caregiving, and helping to keep energy costs affordable. Partnering with our aging community on issues important to older Arizonans and creating collaboration and innovation to solve difficult problems with limited resources is a key priority.

Kennedy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and a Certificate in Gerontology from California State University Long Beach and a Master's in Social Work from Boston University, where she also acquired Certificates in Human Service Management and Gerontology.



Directory News

The 2020-2021 AAUW Prescott Branch Directory is being finalized. Please review your listed information in the current directory and send an email to directory@aauwprescott.net if you need to have that information corrected or updated.

Also, email directory@aawuprescott.net if you would like to receive a hard copy of the Directory. The Electronic Directory and Addendum (updates through the year) will be emailed to members by September 12, 2020./p

Public Policy

Understanding Public Money for School Choice



By Victoria Sweet,
Public Policy Chair

As our Public Policy Committee promotes dedicated, equitable and adequate funding for public education in Arizona, we continue to build our understanding of public money for

school choice.

First, more per-student funding is distributed by the state to charter schools than to district schools. This is designed in part to compensate charters for their exclusion from the bond override system that district schools often forfeit anyway from voter resistance.

Furthermore, public funding is available for students who enroll in private, home, or micro school options. Two distinct avenues are **School Tuition Organizations (STOs)** and **Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs)**.

STOs give funds to families with private school or home schooled children by covering a portion of the expense of attendance, with the balance paid by parents. The source of these funds is tax credits provided to individuals or companies in lieu of state income tax liabilities.

In the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program, the Arizona Department of Education assesses a student's financial need and issues a voucher of between \$6,000 and \$40,000

for one year. The average allocation to a student is \$12,000 per year.

ESAs are used by home school families for services, such as teaching aides and online programs. Micro schools were recently launched in homes for small groups of students, using "guides" as opposed to teachers, so that students are eligible for ESA funding to fully cover the expense of attending.



Beyond the inequitable distribution of public funding across many school choice options, there also is inequality in student access to these options. Based on research conducted by Save Our Schools Arizona, 20 years of school choice shows that white and Asian students are over-represented. Latinos, who comprise nearly half of Arizona's students (for example), only account for one-third of charter and private school pupils.

As the general election approaches, we have an opportunity to review candidates' education platforms, including their views on school choice, and cast our votes accordingly.



Membership

Greetings from Membership!



Penny Briner-Ewell,
Membership Co VP

Despite the lack of the Summer Social and amidst a pandemic, we are still happy to report that we have four new members to our branch.

Please Welcome:

Ju Ames

Anne Fugit

Lisa Raygoza

Renee Vanuk



Annette Gauthier,
Membership Co VP

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our temporarily “virtual” branch, please have them contact Penny Briner-Ewell or Annette Gauthier, or direct them to

our website. We will be having a gathering for our new members (virtual or in-person as circumstances require) sometime in the fall.



Community Action

Reality Store



Pat Mann, Community
Action Co-Chair

The Reality Store Community Action event is on hiatus for both Yavapai College and Prescott High School at this point. We were exploring the possibility with Prescott High School of making

the Reality Store a Zoom event. However, at this point, we are at a standstill at least through the fall, it seems.

When something changes, we will be sure to let you know and will be looking for volunteers for the next event. Hopefully, by the spring, we can resume the program, even if done remotely.

Prescott Area Shelter Services – PASS



Kelsey Wilkes,
Community
Action Co-Chair

Prescott Area Shelter Services will provide our AAUW speaker in December. We have created a mentorship program to assist the women at the shelter with obtaining their GED, applying to college,



writing
resumes and
job
interviewing
skills.

However, until the Pandemic allows in-person meetings without social distancing concerns, we are on HOLD. But, stay tuned for volunteering for a new Woman-to-Woman opportunity.



Interest Groups

Adventure Group Twilight Hike on the Peavine Trail



- **When:** Wed. Sept. 30
- **Who:** AAUW Adventure Group members and guests
- **What you need to do:** RSVP to Jean Morin : adventure@aauwprescott.net
- **Where:** Meet at the Prescott Peavine Trail parking lot, Sundog Ranch Rd, off of Prescott Lakes Pkwy
- **Time:** 5-6:30 p.m., (sunset 6:11 pm, moon rise 6:07 pm) Waxing Gibbous (almost Full Moon)

- **How:** Easy, flat hike on the Peavine Trail along Watson Lake
- **Why:** opportunity to hike at your own pace and socialize while social distancing
- **What to wear:** Dress for a hike on a flat, easy trail in the twilight, with comfortable walking shoes, jacket.
- **What to bring:** Hiking stick, drink, snack
- **Extras:** What would you like to contribute? Read a poem or a passage about the moon or sun? Teach us a song?

Adventure Group Leaders Kathy Lopez, Jean Morin, and Julia Appletree



Healthy Living Group



Linda Crider,
Healthy Living
Group Leader

This past July, the Healthy Living group met the challenge of keeping in touch during these uncertain times by holding one meeting for those comfortable with gathering outdoors and offering another option for those who preferred to Zoom it online. Both mini groups managed to have informal discussions where

ideas were shared on how to maintain health and well being under the current circumstances. The outdoor meeting was held at the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden, and, although the weather was warm, we managed to find enough shade to be comfortable.



Photography Group



Gail Shay,
Photography
Group Co-Leader

During this time of the Coronavirus, the AAUW Photo Group has been keeping busy by contributing photos on each month's theme to rotating member volunteers, who each prepare a PDF slideshow.

This slideshow is then shared with the group and ultimately posted on AAUW Prescott's website, so all our members can enjoy the photos. [Check us out when you get a chance!](#)



Chris Maxwell,
Photography
Group Co-Leader



Genealogy Group Welcomes New Members

Have you ever wanted to find out more about your family history and ancestors? If so, you should check out our Genealogy interest group. The group is open to all members who desire to build a family tree, investigate their family history, and learn how to do genealogy research.



Our members range from beginners to seasoned genealogists. The group meets monthly to share our experiences, research tips and resources, and help each other break through “brick walls” in our research. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 2 p.m. Currently we are meeting on Zoom but will resume library meetings when safe to do so.

Contact Elaine Lawson or Melinda Anderson for more information. genealogy@aauwprescott.net.



Elaine Lawson,
Genealogy Group
Co-Leader



Melinda Anderson,
Genealogy Group
Co-Leader

forward. None of our sub-groups were able to complete all of their dinners, so we need an equitable way to do those before trying any new dinners.

It may turn out that we just lose one whole year (2020) and carry on next year (2021). We will contact everyone on our member and potential member list, as soon as we get the “all clear,” to let you know how we propose to continue with our dinners.

Thanks for your patience and understanding!

Dot & Sandra



Dot Williamson,
Dining Group Co-
Leader



Sandra Bennett,
Dining Group Co-
Leader



Dining in All Directions

The Dining Group has been forced to suspend meetings until the Covid threat is over. We did not have our usual Kick-Off in August 1.



Whenever it is safe to meet for dinners again, we will figure out how best to finish the schedule from last year as well as how to proceed going