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Newsletter May-June 2021

President's Message



Tracy Smiles,
President

"What a Long, Strange Trip It's Been..."

Reflections on Where We've Been, and Where We're Going...

During "normal" times, if ever such a time existed, this would be my last "President's Message." I remember when past president, Becky Gunn, penned her last column last year. In it, she described how she was sheltering in place and reflecting on her year as president. In her final column, Becky took the opportunity to express her appreciation for members of our organization that keep it vibrant and forward-moving. Though I have committed, with your support, to serving another year as president, I, too, am going to follow Becky's example in my last column for the AAUW year by expressing my appreciation for those who have kept this organization going during these unprecedented times. Specifically:

- The Communications Team: Chris Maxwell, Sara DeRouchey, Lenore Hemphill, Patti Allen LeFleur, Janet Orr, & Edi Taylor-Richards. This group of women took on the challenge of COVID by studying, implementing, and teaching the technology that made it possible for us to deliver monthly general meetings, interest group meetings, and board meetings, and always did so with generosity and good humor. I never would have been able to carry on the duties of president without their tenacity and expertise.
- Edi Taylor-Richards, the first recipient of our branch's newest award, Ongoing Stamina, and the board of director's parliamentarian. Edi has gone above and beyond in supporting my ability to carry out branch business by providing reminders of upcoming events, following AAUW National news that impacts our business at the local level, and carefully editing minutes, reports, and the *Thumb Sketch*. Additionally, she participates in creating the budget through a system she created years ago that is still used by our branch treasurers today, and is able to address complex policy questions through her deep knowledge of, and history with, Prescott AAUW.
- Lynne Murphy, past president and hospitality co-chair, as well as the 2nd recipient of the Ongoing Stamina award (Note the pattern here?). Lynne has acted as the ex-officio President Elect, fulfilling those branch duties that the president elect, a position that remained vacant, would normally fill. Everything I asked Lynne to do she did above and beyond expectations, such as maintaining up-to-date information about interest groups and chairing the nominating committee. I cannot express enough how much I have appreciated Lynne's energy and commitment to this branch.
- Katie Wrigley, branch treasurer. Katie has served as branch treasurer for over 2 terms now (4+ years) while working full time and participating on the scholarship committee. When money questions arise, whether related to the large scholarship funds or individual member questions, she generously addresses issues through detailed correspondence and reports, and has always done so with grace and kindness.
- Penny Briner Ewell, membership co-chair and president elect. Since the last general meeting I've heard from many of you express your appreciation for my willingness to serve another term as president. Truth be told, if it weren't for Penny, this

would, indeed, be my last column. It was Penny who, through generously stepping up to serve as your president elect, convinced me that there is important work to do as we transition to a new normal, and that together we can support this work. One phone conversation with Penny gave me the energy to continue in a leadership position for this incredible organization.

- All members of the Board of Directors. Your support and hard work continue to inspire me and what we, together, can achieve as we fulfill our mission on behalf of women and girls locally and globally. I am beyond eager to serve another year with each one of you!
- The Interest Group Leaders. Thank you for keeping your groups solvent and relevant through this challenging year. I know it's hard work, but know your efforts have not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.
- All members of AAUW Prescott. Despite being locked down, you've recruited new members, showed up for general meetings, participated in scholarship fundraisers, and generously supported me as your president. THANK YOU!!!

Though the past year under the umbrella of the pandemic has been a strange trip indeed, I am looking forward to the coming new year with a grateful heart as we open up, reconnect, and continue as a productive and energetic collective of women committed to education, service, and community. Onward.

Programs

May 8th General Meeting

Climate Impact: How Women Will Lead Us to a More Sustainable Future

9:15 Join Zoom Mtg. | 9:30 Announcements | 10:00 Program

Dr. Frances Julia Riemer will explore and discuss the many issues of social justice and gender inequity in a changing climate. This will include examining the higher risks and greater burdens on women from the impacts of climate change and the ways in which unequal participation in decision-making processes and labor markets compound these effects and prevent women from fully contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making, and implementation.

Dr. Frances Julia Riemer is an educational anthropologist, feminist, and self-described traveler extraordinaire. She has worked and traveled in the US, Europe, East and Southern Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Latin America alone, as part of a team, a couple, a nuclear, and an extended family. Her ethnographic research focuses on change and issues of equity and access, gender, development and sustainable communities, women's crafts and tourism, and cultural difference and the social organization of community, school, and workplace. Dr. Riemer is a Fulbright scholar, and her work has been supported by the Spencer Foundation and the National Academy of Education. She organizes for progressive policies locally and nationally, and speaks on Women's Suffrage, the ERA, and Gender and Climate Change. She is a Professor of Educational

Foundations and Associate Faculty, former Director of Women's and Gender Studies Program at Northern Arizona University.



Future Programs

Developing the Programs for 2021-2022 is Underway

In February and March members were asked to respond to a list of possible program topics for the 2021-2022 year. Fifty-three people participated in the poll, and fifteen topics received twenty or more positive responses. Current planning calls for program speakers to be able to present either on Zoom or in person, depending on what happens with COVID-19 and its variants.

The broad categories gathering the most interest, but not listed in any order were: Native American issues; climate and environment; women's health; poverty/homelessness/hunger; immigration; racism and minority issues; building community and civil society in politically divided times; gun violence; disaster and emergency preparedness.

Your Program Committee is working to develop a varied palate of programs for the upcoming year. If you are interested in helping them discover interesting and stimulating speakers and topics, please contact Cathy Cunningham, Program Co-VP.

June: As we are unable to have our customary Summer Social, we recognize the need for both a social event and a recruiting event. We are in the stages of planning both! A brown bag picnic is being planned in June. It will be held outdoors with social distancing, but it will be a safe way for those who wish to have some time together. More information will be available soon.

September 11th: The second event will be during our first regular meeting in September. Entitled "Bring a Friend," this brunch meeting will be a great way to kick off the new year, offer some social time, and recruit some new members. Hope to see everyone soon. In the meantime, keep recruiting and stay healthy and safe.

The next Thumb Sketch will be published August 23rd, 2021, with program updates.

Report on Community Conversations held March 13, 2021



*Cathy
Cunningham,
Co-VP of
Programs*

After the “Unladylike” video and announcements, the Communications Team divided the members into 5 breakout rooms on Zoom. Board members facilitated the discussions about our strengths and weaknesses, and ideas to make AAUW more responsive to the needs and interests of our members. The board and program committee will be discussing how to address these issues in coming meetings. Thirty-seven members and three guests attended.

Communications: All five groups were very positive about the quality, frequency, and timeliness of communications. The Communications Team received high praise for Zoom and the inclusiveness and continuity it brought to our group in general meetings, committee meetings, and interest group gatherings.

Leadership: To recruit leaders we need to do a better job of promoting the positions and what they entail. Interest groups need to be reminded that the leadership of the group may change at any time.

Member recruitment, retention and inclusiveness: We need to try to recruit members with a wider variety of viewpoints and demographics. A committee of greeters should meet new members/guests at the door and introduce them to other members. The president-elect should call all new members, discuss their interests, and help them contact interest group and committee leaders. Each Interest group leader should contact any new member who has indicated interest in that group. We should have fun, outdoor events or meetings for current and new members with fun being the primary motivation.

Scholarships and fundraising: One group indicated that two events per year was enough. Another suggested a once-a-year request for scholarship donations. Praise was expressed for our relationship with Yavapai College.

Programs Topics: (additional suggestions duplicated poll responses) Community building and civil discourse, Americans with Disabilities Act, Human Trafficking; Safety at outdoor activities, Search and Rescue, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.

New interest groups suggested: AAUW chorus, “Unladylike” women in history or similar.

Comments pertaining to programs, mission, etc.: There is interest in having some programs that include activities, break-out sessions, and suggestions of how to respond to community needs. Increase AAUW community involvement and recognition. Community outreach or service that includes elements like co-sponsoring events.

AAUW Business

AAUW Prescott Approved Budget FY 2021-22

This budget assumes there will be 150 members in FY 2021-22.

Receipts	
Dues	\$15,000.00
Total Income/Receipts	\$15,000.00

Disbursements

Natl & State Association Dues	10,950.00
Total Disbursements	10,950.00
Net Dues (Memo Only)	4,050.00

Budgeted Branch Expenditures

Member Directory	100.00
Liability Insurance	200.00
Directors' & Officers' Insurance	350.00
Program Expense & Y/C Room Use	1,000.00
Summer Social (Membership Tea)	200.00
Installation	63.00
Officers' Retreat	150.00
Community Action	150.00
Office/Adm/Supplies	762.00
Hospitality – General Mtgs	75.00
Conventions/Conferences/Meetings	300.00
Fundraising Exp.	100.00
Memorial Contributions from Branch	100.00
Website Maintenance	500.00
Subtotal of Budgeted Expenditures \$	4,050.00

Total Disbursements & Expenditures \$15,000.00

AAUW Prescott Elected Officers 2021-22

One Year Term

President – Tracy Smiles
President-Elect – Penny Briner Ewell

Two Year Term

Recording Secretary – Cathie Englekirk
Program Co-VP – Miriam Haubrich
Membership Co-VP – Patti Allen-LaFleur

There is still an opening for a Treasurer, whom Katie Wrigley will be more than willing to mentor.

The following elected officers will be serving the second year of their terms:

Corresponding Secretary – Shirley Kay
Program Co-VP – Cathy Cunningham
Membership Co-VP – Annette Gauthier

These are the appointed officers for next year:

Archivist – Carol Dosse

Communications Co-Chairs – Sara DeRouchey, Lenore Hemphill
Community Action Co-Chairs – Ellen Anderson, Pat Mann
Directory Co-Chairs – Lenore Hemphill, Connie During
Hospitality – Lynne Murphy, Margie Crider
Parliamentarian – Edi Taylor-Richards
Public Policy Chair – Victoria Sweet
Public Relations Chair – Deb Dillon
Scholarship Co-Chairs – Sandra Bennett, Julia Smith-Appletree
YRMC Council of Electors Representative – Carol Talbott

Membership Renewal FY 2021-22

Membership renewal time is here. Your dues support legislative initiatives, research, and dissemination of information. Dues for the next fiscal year are \$98 (\$62 to National; \$9 to State; and \$27 to our branch). The deadline for renewal is June 30th.

You have 3 ways to pay:

- Respond to the email you will receive from National and pay with a credit card.
- Mail a check payable to AAUW Prescott to our Treasurer (Katie Wrigley).
- Use the link on our website to pay your dues via [PayPal](#) (includes a slight service charge).



Membership



Penny Briner-Ewell,
Membership Co VP

Greetings! Kudos to each and every member of AAUW Prescott as I believe we've accomplished quite a remarkable feat. Congratulations on recruiting 21 new members to our branch during a pandemic! *We are 21 in 2020-2021!* Having new members is a testament to the fortitude and dedication of our membership — well done! Since we haven't had the opportunity to meet our newest members in person, let me offer a brief introduction. Mary Adkins and Margie Hultberg returned to AAUW Prescott after a brief absence, and it is great to have them back. Several members are not new to AAUW, but just to us. Ann Fugit and Winnie Hoots join us from branches in California, and Claudia Carmichael belongs to two branches. Several of our newest members are also working. If you are hoping to travel soon, consult Barbara Allen and Sue Southwick, our newest travel experts. Sue Baskette is the pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church here in Prescott. Sonya Tenney teaches English at Prescott High School, while Lisa Raygoza and Jacqui Mounce both work at Yavapai College. Jacqui's mother, Liz Bailey, is also one of our new members. Two new members have already joined our board. Connie During, who moved during the pandemic, serves on the board as Directory/Address Book Co-Chair. Miriam Haubrich, who retired from Habitat for Humanity, will be helping with programming come fall. Jeanne Wellins joined us in January of 2020 and hopefully was able to attend a meeting or two. Penny Devlin joined in March, just as we locked down and geared up for our virtual meetings. Ju Ames, whose interest was piqued by her neighbor, is now a member. Renee Vanuk, like many of our members, is a former elementary school teacher and is still interested in promoting

education. For all you bridge players out there, Carla Sparks would like to learn. Finally, our two newest members who just joined in April, are Ann Magno and Stephanie Voss. Welcome one and all! We hope to meet you in person in the near future.

In Memoriam – Carol Stafford

We are remembering our long-time member, Carol Stafford, who passed away in March. She joined AAUW in 1982 and became a member of the Prescott Branch when she and Bill moved to Prescott from Vista, California. She had been an elementary school teacher. She led the Hiking Group for a number of years and also co-chaired the Lunch Bunch for several years. She is survived by her husband, son, daughter, and grandson. She is certainly missed!



Carol Stafford

Public Policy



Victoria Sweet,
Public Policy Chair

As a Public Policy Committee, we focus primarily on promoting dedicated, equitable and adequate funding for public education in Arizona. As we reach the end of the 2020-21 school year, members of AAUW-Prescott might consider making donations to benefit students in two of our local school districts: Humboldt Unified School District (HUSD) and Prescott Unified School District (PUSD).

Lisa Krietenstein, the Family Resource Specialist and Homeless Coordinator for the HUSD Family Resource Center (FRC), provides support to district families. The FRC offers free clothing and school supplies to HUSD students who qualify for and are registered under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Clothing donations such as coats, gloves and jeans are welcome. The FRC staff also refers families to agencies that offer assistance with rent and/or utilities and supplies information about low income housing. Please call Krietenstein at (928) 759-5104 or email Lisa.Krietenstein@humboldtunified.com for information on donating clean, new or gently-used children's and teen's clothing.

Arizona ranks sixth in the country for the most personal money spent by teachers on school supplies for their students, according to a recent survey released by the National Center for Education Statistics. Recognizing this tremendous cash outlay, totaling an average of \$655 spent annually by state teachers for classroom supplies, the PUSD Education Foundation opened its School Supply Closet. Jane Robertson, a member of the PUSD Education Foundation Board and a retired teacher from Abia Judd Elementary School, spearheads this effort. With the economic impact of COVID-19, many more families are suffering financially. The foundation provides school supplies to teachers so that they do not spend their personal money purchasing school supplies for the many children in their classes who cannot afford them. To donate, please call the PUSD Education Foundation at (928) 445-5400, Ext. 70136 or contact Paul Kirchgraber, Executive Director, at Paul@PUSDEducationFoundation.com.

Scholarships

Congratulations to our Mary Alice Moulton 2020 Scholarship Winner, Brianna Doherty.

Brianna grew up in Prescott Valley and is the first in her immediate family to pursue a college degree. Her fondest childhood memories are sitting on the back porch with her dad quizzing her on simple multiplication problems or stargazing and enjoying the constellations. His enthusiasm and encouragement were the foundation of her love of math and space.

After working for 4 years after receiving her GED, she decided to pursue her dreams of attending college. Currently, she is working on her Associate Degree at Yavapai College and plans then to transfer to Northern Arizona University with a major in mechanical engineering.

Brianna has two daughters ages 5 and 3, works full time as an Outreach & Education/Prevention Specialist, and attends Yavapai College. Her daughters inspire her to keep going even when balancing all the priorities in her life become overwhelming.

Brianna is a truly deserving scholarship recipient and appreciates AAUW for helping her reach her goals.



Scholarship Winner

Interest Groups

Travel Discussion Group – May 11th at 11:00 am

The Travel Discussion Group will tour the new Prescott Regional Airport Terminal on **Tuesday, May 11th**. At 11:00 am, the group will gather at the front door of the new Terminal. All visitors will be required to wear masks. Tour groups inside the building are limited to 10 people in a group. Depending on the number of members interested in the tour, there may be two or three staggered groups.



For those of you interested in eating lunch together after the tour and talking about travel, you can either bring a sack lunch or order lunch at Susie's Skyway Restaurant in the Old Terminal. Check out the menu at <https://www.zmenu.com/susies-skyway-cafe-prescott-online-menu/> Lunch orders can be made just before the tour so they will be ready for a quick pick up. There is seating at Susie's and at outdoor picnic tables near the terminals.

Please reserve your tour space and lunch preference (Susie's, sack lunch or no lunch) by emailing Janet Orr by **Thursday, May 6th**.

Prescott Regional Airport is located at 6630 Airport Ave. Check the website for specific directions. <https://flyprescott.com>

Mah Jongg Group



The Mah Jongg Group is resuming its meetings at **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18th** in the food court at the Gateway Mall. If you are interested in learning to play or are an experienced player, you are welcome. If you'd like to join us or have questions, please contact Marty Lewis or Laury Shayne at mahjongg@aauwprescott.net.