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## Newsletter – May/June 2022 | Vol. 71 No.3

### President's Message



*Tracy Smiles,  
President*

"Time is gone,  
Song is over,  
Thought I'd something more to say..."

P. Floyd

Here I am, after two terms serving as your president, penning my last "President's Message" column for the *Thumb Sketch*. And while the last two years have been filled with a range of challenges and notable successes, I am leaving this position with a grateful heart, and eager to resume being a "regular" member of our vibrant organization, enjoying interest groups (I have always wanted to learn how to play Mah Jongg), engaging in community action and public policy activities, and helping raise money for our scholarships.

When my husband and I made the decision for me to leave my university position and relocate to Arizona, I was concerned what impact moving to a new area without a job would have on me personally. What would I do with myself, and who with? My then neighbor, Phyllis Moss, invited me to go with her to an AAUW meeting. Phyllis explained that she had been a member for many years and how much the organization meant to her. I went, and was so glad I did. I could see immediately that this organization had so much to offer active, intellectually vibrant women. I remember meeting then president Deb Dillon, who said something to me I will never forget, "This group has been my [retirement] lifeline." She was right. Through service on the board and participation with various interest groups, life has been abundantly busy and full, and the friendships I have forged are some of the most rewarding and meaningful relationships I have had as an adult woman.

I am excited for the AAUW Prescott Branch going forward. Penny Briner Ewell will make an excellent president, along with Carol Dosse as president-elect, and new board members Jet Sletten, Marla Jirak, and returning board member and past president, Becky Gunn. I am deeply appreciative for their willingness to serve. Furthermore, plans are underway for creating a destination event here in Prescott for the women of Arizona through a women's forum at Yavapai College, thanks to Anne Barton's energy, vision, and ability to bring people together. And we're back to in-person meetings and events! To quote an eighties anthem, "The future's so bright I have to wear shades."

Thank you all for your constant support over the last two years. We forged through the pandemic years and continued to thrive, together, with still a lot of work left to do on behalf of gender equity for women and girls. And I will continue this work as a grateful

and proud member of the American Association of University Women.

## Upcoming Programs/General Meetings

### Emergency Preparedness & Management in Yavapai County Saturday, May 14, 2022



Yavapai County and local municipalities work together to have response plans for a variety of emergencies, natural and man-made, that may occur in our area. At the May meeting, Ashley Ahlquist, Emergency Management Planner for the Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management, will discuss what types of emergencies they plan for and what the response plans include. Additionally, she will address the responsibilities and actions that need to be taken by the public in these emergencies.

Ashley has recently been appointed Emergency Management Planner. Previously she served as Public Safety Telecommunicator and Communications Supervisor, established the only tactical dispatch team within Yavapai County, and has facilitated in-service training for dispatch agencies in Northern Arizona. Her training includes Critical

Incident Stress Management peer counseling, FBI Crisis Negotiations, and certification as Incident Command Communications Manager. She has a B.S. in Public Safety and Emergency Management, an M.S. in Forensic Psychology, and is finishing a second M.S. in Leadership.



*Ashley Ahlquist*

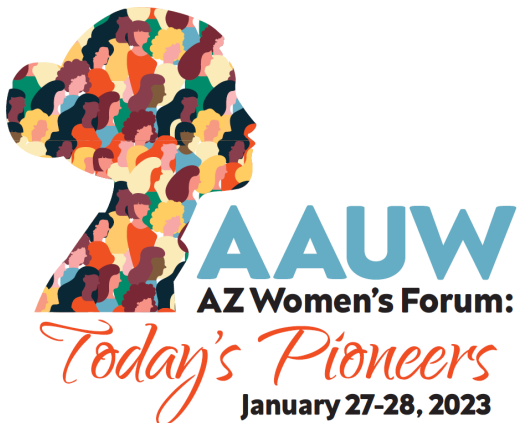


**June Meeting  
Saturday**

Morning  
"Gather and  
Gab"  
June 11th,  
2022 | 9:30-  
11:30am  
*Save the  
Date | Details to  
follow*

This will be a year-end social event with no program – a wonderful chance to reconnect with all of your Prescott AAUW friends. (Our membership drive that, in the past, has been held in June will now take place in September.)

## Coming in January 2023!! Arizona Women's Forum: Today's Pioneers



Plan to join an exciting interactive symposium featuring inspirational speakers, panel discussions, live music, art show, book exhibit, meals, along with opportunities to meet with women who support educational choices for Arizona women.

The purpose of the event is to educate, engage, and entertain Arizona Women who support the women who will follow in their footsteps.

The proceeds, after expenses, from this event will be applied to educational scholarships for deserving Arizona women, with an emphasis on first-generation college students.

*Please put January 27 and 28, 2023 on your calendars.*

*Invite friends and families to attend  
this inspiring and engaging event with you.*

## New Officers

### Penny Briner Ewell, President



Penny came to Prescott four years ago from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and joined AAUW shortly thereafter. Though she grew up in Wyoming, she has lived in several places in the Rocky Mountain region, as well as the Midwest. Penny is a sociologist by degree and an educator/librarian by choice. She has taught all ages – kindergarten through college. Her interest in AAUW was piqued by its scholarship program. Penny has served on the scholarship committee, as Membership Co-VP, and President-Elect. She enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, and hiking. She has three sons, one who is still at home and will be a senior at PHS next year. She looks at next year as an opportunity to continue AAUW's great work!

*Penny Briner-  
Ewell, President*

### Carol Dosse, President-Elect

Carol moved to Prescott from Minnesota where she had a wonderfully varied 40-year career as a public librarian. Her experiences included running a bookmobile and small neighborhood and large downtown libraries. She worked with adult and children services, including everything from homework help and story time to adult education to designing websites. Carol joined AAUW in January of 2018 and quickly became involved in interest groups where she formed many friendships. Carol has served as Membership Co-VP and Archivist, as well as being on the scholarship and community action committees. She looks forward to being President-Elect, meeting new members, and embracing new challenges



*Carol Dosse,  
President Elect*

### Marla Jirak, Membership Co-VP



Dr. Marla Jirak currently owns CoachSmart Consulting, LLC which specializes in coaching and consulting life's transitions—career, relationships and caregiving. Her areas of expertise are in behavior change strategies needed for individuals, caregivers, leaders, and teams based on the foundations of emotional intelligence. Besides her extensive experience as a certified coach, Marla also has worked at the University of Arizona, as well as having been employed as an Industrial Engineer with two companies in Iowa. She has also been active in a variety of civic and professional organizations. An important aspect of her life is family – her husband Kevin (a retired Captain from the Maritime industry) and her daughters Arica and Anna. Having

*Marla Jirak,  
Membership Co-  
VP*

raised a daughter with a traumatic brain injury, Marla continues to be active in advocacy for the developmentally disabled. Her pastimes include her passion for lake and fly fishing, boating, hiking, and enjoying the beautiful outdoors with her family and friends. Marla currently is semi-retired

## Jet Sletten, Programs Co-VP

Jet is originally from Iowa and landed in Prescott via Indonesia, Argentina, Texas, Germany, Venezuela, Washington DC, and Scottsdale. She and her husband had a (summer) home in Prescott for seven years but late last month made it their permanent residence. Jet and her husband spent nearly 30 years in the Diplomatic Corp. He was a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of Commerce, and she was with the Department of State. Jet became a member of AAUW a few years ago after meeting several interesting members through a Prescott Library Book Group. Jet enjoys the Wednesday afternoon Great Decisions group and the Healthy Living group. She also enjoys hiking, gardening, sewing, and oil painting. Jet hopes to learn more about Prescott and the community while researching possible programs for our AAUW branch next year.



*Jet Sletten,  
Programs Co-VP*

## Becky Gunn, Recording Secretary



*Becky Gunn,  
Recording  
Secretary*

Becky is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister and manager in the high tech and wine industries. She moved to Prescott in 2015, knowing that she wanted to retire in the western part of the US where she grew up. After she moved here, Becky joined AAUW, was co-chair of the Public Policy Committee, President-Elect, and then President for the 2019-20 year. She is also very active with Prescott OLLI, currently facilitating classes, and is the current Curriculum Committee Chair. Becky loves to read, eat out, chat with friends and dabble in politics.

## Ellen Momeyer, Appointed Hospitality Co-Chair

Go Steelers! Ellen is originally from Pittsburgh and purportedly bleeds black and gold. She enjoyed a 27-year career in nursing. After retiring in 2019, Ellen moved to Prescott Valley from Peoria, AZ. Ellen enjoys hiking, reading, and documentaries, as does her mutt.



*Ellen Momeyer*

## Business

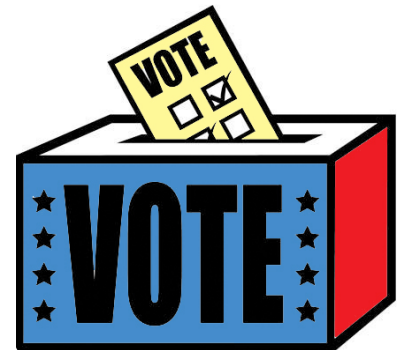
### Vote in the AAUW National Election

Please take a moment to vote in the [AAUW National Election](#).

For this year's vote, we're being asked to elect members to the national AAUW Board of Directors and to weigh in on changes to the bylaws that would streamline the nominations process and ballot administration.

You'll find all the information you need on the AAUW [National Election page](#), which includes key deadlines, board candidates' bios, and answers to members' most frequently asked questions. **Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, May 16, 2022.**

If you have an email address, the voter information and link should have been provided to you. Your Member ID and Voter PIN number in the email are required for you to cast a vote.



You are being encouraged to vote online by computer, cell phone, or tablet to ensure your ballot will be received and counted immediately. Paper ballots were mailed to those without email addresses on file, but the deadline for returning them was April 29.

If you have questions, feel free to contact National at [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

**Please vote today.** Your voice and your vote are vital. The future of AAUW is in your hands.

### AAUW Prescott Final Budget for 2022-2023

## AAUW PRESCOTT 2022-23 BUDGET

	2022-23 Budget
<u>Receipts</u>	
Dues	15,450.00
Total Income/Receipts	<u>\$15,450.00</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>	
Natl & State Association Dues	11,400.00
Total Disbursements	<u>\$11,400.00</u>
Net Dues (Memo Only)	4,050.00
 <u>Budgeted Branch Expenditures</u>	
Member Directory	150.00
Liability Insurance	200.00
Directors' & Officers' Insurance	350.00
Program Expense	1,000.00
Summer Social (Membership Tea)	200.00
Installation	75.00
Officers' Retreat	150.00
Community Action	150.00
Public Policy	150.00
Public Relations	500.00
Office/Adm/Supplies	350.00
Hospitality - General Mtgs	75.00
Fundraising Exp.	100.00
Memorial Contributions from Branch	100.00
Website Maintenance	500.00
 Subtotal of Budgeted Expenditures	 <u>\$4,050.00</u>
Total Disbursements & Expenditures	<u>\$15,450.00</u>

## Membership Renewal FY2022-2023

Membership renewal time is here. Your dues support legislative initiatives, research, and dissemination of information. Dues for the next fiscal year are \$103.00 (\$67 to National; \$9 to State; and \$27 to our branch). The deadline for renewal is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

You have 3 ways to pay:

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





# Public Policy

## Prescott Public Policy Report

from Victoria Sweet, Public Policy Chair



House Bill 2284 is a school takeover initiative that would close D- and F- rated public schools in which students do not perform well on standardized tests. The bill would require takeovers of these lower-performing Arizona schools by in-state or out-of-state charter companies with no accountability for the millions of dollars allocated to them.

This takeover model employing charter schools has been undertaken in several states, resulting in negative outcomes for students. Tennessee, for example, spent \$1 billion over 10 years on a program such as that outlined in HB 2284. Student achievement remained unchanged, and the state is now returning schools to their original configurations. The failed program has merely created instability in the affected schools.

Because schools that accumulate D- and F- ratings serve students living in poverty, the greater need is to provide district public schools with more educational resources, such as experienced teachers, innovative principals and wraparound services like enhanced healthcare provided at school.

Our Public Policy Committee advocates for equitable public education funding – including implementing a “poverty weight” formula in state budgeting – rather than handing over Arizona’s academically-challenged public schools and their finances to unregulated charter organizations.

## Interest Groups

### Healthy Living Group

A demonstration of **Very Gentle Yoga**, **“Spice” Up Your Life**, **“Olive University”**, **Dressing for the Time**, **Esthetician Demonstration** on how to do make-up, a video and discussion of **12 Healthy Habits**. All of these are upcoming topics for the Healthy Living Group. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. [See our webpage](#) for dates and location.

All are welcome.



## Mah Jongg Group

The Mah Jongg group meets on Tuesdays at the Gateway Mall Food Court, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (except on the Tuesdays when the Travel Discussion Group meets). Laury Shayne and other experienced players are mentoring new players. You are welcome to join anytime! The co-chairs for the group are Laury Shayne and Edi Taylor-Richards. Please feel free to contact them for more information.



## Hiking Group



In March, Kaye Shriver led the Hiking Group on a gentle walk around Willow Lake. As they returned under Highway 69 many ducks could be seen on the lake. Photo courtesy of Edi Taylor-Richards

## Travel Discussion Group

The TDG regularly meets on the 2nd Tuesday, alternate months. Unfortunately, in May the meeting rooms at the library are not available. As a result, we will meet at Flinn Park, 280 Josephine St, Prescott, AZ, just off Gail Gardner and Oregon on May 10th From 1:30-3:00 pm. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on. The topic is traveling in **Mexico and Central America** and the issue for discussion is strategies for using accumulated points or airline credits efficiently.

The **July 12th Gathering** is often a picnic or tour of a travel-related establishment. Suggestions are welcome.



On September 13th, we will return to our previous schedule at 1:30 pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite B.. Topic and issue to be determined.