

President's Message



*Penny Ewell Briner,
President*

As I write this, I don't quite feel the hope of spring in the air, but I know it is coming. I do, however, feel a certain energy within the branch that comes from great speakers at our general meetings, a successful Women's Forum, attendees at Legislative Day, and busy interest groups. Just like spring, it's

exciting and hopeful.

March 8th is International Women's Day and the entire month, Women's History Month. We all enjoy the PBS *Unladylike Series* viewed during the general meetings. What a fantastic group of women we've learned about through this series! As AAUW, we celebrate so many who have made history, and we strive to foster more women to do the same. Personally, when I consider Women's History Month, I also often think of those women who were role models and mentors for me; who helped maybe not blaze a trail, but set stones in the foundation of my path. Their stories became my story, even if I was never aware at the time.

My Great Grandmother on my Dad's side graduated from Palmer Chiropractic School in the late 1800s. As far as I know, she never practiced. To have been one of a handful of women pursuing such an education must have been extremely challenging and also rewarding.

AAUW Prescott Newsletter

My paternal Grandmother taught in a one-room schoolhouse. As were the times, single was the life of the school marm, but not the life for my Grandmother. After having her family, she became the consummate volunteer. She served on many boards from the school to the credit union to Presbyterian women. Her time on the election board was roughly 60 years. She founded the branch library in my hometown. (Some would say the book doesn't fall far from the shelf.) On my Mom's side, my Great Grandmother was a homemaker with every fiber of her being. As I'm sure many of you do, we have beautiful handwork and lace that took countless hours to make. My maternal Grandmother was a nurse, doctor trained. From what I know, she was very skilled at her craft. My grandparents also had a ranch out in nowhere Wyoming. I recently asked my Mom what my Grandmother would do if there was a

This Thumb Sketch Includes:

[President's Message](#)
[March General Meeting](#)
[April General Meeting](#)
[AAUW Business](#)
[Scholarships](#)
[Interest Groups](#)

rattlesnake. My Mom's frank reply, "She'd shoot it." This was not the cookie-baking, gin-rummy-playing Grandmother I knew! And my Mom worked in a male-dominated industry — oil and railroad. There were times when she was the boss and totally capable of letting her male counterparts know. I fear I've written too much

about my lineage, but the point is simple, we all have stories, women in our past, who even if we weren't aware, shaped our futures. Maybe it was family, a neighbor, a teacher, or a coworker. I encourage you to share your own stories of these women who may never have made history, but definitely made her-story!

For those of you who attended the AAUW-AZ Women's Forum, thank you for your generosity and for making this a successful event. To those on the Women's Forum committee, thank you for bringing us this two-day conference! It was filled with inspiring stories and women who were passionate about passing on their own experiences and knowledge.

I encourage all who are able to attend the state **Spring Forum on April 22nd**. Our very own Becky Gunn will be installed as the State President! This year's theme is "Justice for Women's Issues," and the day will focus on topics related to equity in access to education and health care, as well as equity when it comes to pay and opportunity.

I hope to see many of you at our March and April general meetings. Until then, ponder your own stories, celebrate the important women in your lives, and look forward to spring!



March 11 General Meeting

In honor of Women's History Month, our March program will feature a panel of three local women entrepreneurs.



Debbie Maranville from The Garden Group of Companies (Goods from the Garden, The Natural Healing Garden, and soon, Amazing Pies), **Gidget Slater** (Schuette) whose accounting firm is Slater-Rutherford formerly Schutte-Hilgendorf, and **Jane Orr**, retired CEO of the Prescott Teachers Credit Union, who single-handedly rescued a failing credit union. The three will discuss the joy and pain of operating a woman-owned business. Join us to hear their stories and find out what propelled them and who inspired them.



Kathy Lopez

April 8, General Meeting

Williamson Valley Historical Societ-E

Join us in April for a lively discussion and Q&A with our very own **Kathy Lopez**. Have you ever traveled through backroads where the farms are few and far between and we wondered -"How do these people make a living? What do they do for fun?" In a question-and-answer format, learn about the daily lives of pioneers of Williamson Valley and beyond. Kathy has written three books about the history of the Williamson Valley area, Mint Valley, and Walnut Creek. She hosts a Williamson Valley Historical

Society Facebook Page and is the President of the Morgan Ranch Park Association. Kathy is currently working on historical articles for the Sharlot Hall Museum. If you've ever been curious about our local history, now is your chance to learn.

The AAUW-Prescott Annual Business Meeting will be held with a presentation of the budget and election of officers for the 2023-24 year.



AAUW Business

AAUW Prescott Board Positions Open for 2023-2024

Would you like to join the AAUW Prescott Board? A number of positions are open for the next year. You can review the [job descriptions](#) on our website. Feel free to contact anyone presently holding those positions if you have questions about the duties. To express interest in a position, contact Carol Dosse, President-Elect for 2023-2024.

Elected Officers:

- President-Elect (1 yr then President)
- Treasurer (2 yr; Judie Beck can do one more year, we'll need someone who can train with her)
- Recording Secretary (2 yr)
- Corresponding Secretary (2 yr)
- Membership Co-VP (2 yr; first as junior and second as senior)

Appointed Officers:

- Archivist
- Directory (co-chair with Lenore Hemphill)

Hospitality (co-chair with Ellen Momeyer)
Public Relations

Committee and New Positions:

- Communications
- Public Policy/Community Action (TBD)



AAUW Arizona Spring Forum: April 22, 2023

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Spring Forum:
What is Justice for Women?
Arizona
Historical Society
1300 N College Ave, Tempe



With speakers and workgroups, on the **22nd of April**, our Spring Forum will be held in Tempe. The theme of "*What is Justice for Women?*" will offer the opportunity to collaboratively explore some of the critical issues facing women today: access to quality education, availability of health care, equal pay, and equal opportunity. We will hear from some key lawmakers/influencers about what is currently happening in Arizona, and then we will discuss how we as members of AAUW can work to transform our systems through activism, education, and service at the local, state, and national levels.





Jodi Liggett, David Lujan, Nicky Indicavitch

Legislative Day 2023

On Thursday, February 23rd, AAUW held its annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol in Phoenix. With 50 in attendance, the event had representation from almost every branch despite some branches being unable to attend due to inclement winter weather. There was a palpable energy in the room, in part from meeting in person for the first time in several years.

The focus of the day was a panel consisting of Jodi Liggett, Founder of the Arizona Center for Women’s Achievement; David Lujan prior legislator and current President and CEO of the Children’s Action Alliance; and Nicky Indicavitch, the Statewide Outreach Director for Save Our Schools Arizona.

About halfway through the discussion we were also joined on the panel by Representative Patricia Contreras from Legislative District 12 . Rep. Contreras provided a ‘live’ perspective about what is going on in the current legislature.

Facilitating the panel, Jodi Liggett’s, first question was basically how the current

legislative environment was different from previous years due to the ‘divided’ government. Each panelist was clear that, since it is such a closely-divided House and Senate with one party in charge, fewer bills are receiving a thorough analysis/consideration. Some indicated that the Request to Speak information may not be considered seriously; that said, it was clear that one means of having a say/ impact is to use the RTS system. All panelists strongly advised that we continue writing our Senators and Representatives. Your voice needs to be heard. It was also acknowledged that the Governor will be vetoing many of the bills that are passed.



Representative Patricia Contreras

Another issue discussed was that of the Budget ‘negotiations.’ To be honest, at this point in time there is almost no bi-partisan discussion, but there will have to be some level of give-and-take in order for a budget to be passed. There are some individual senators/representatives who are willing to ‘cross the line.’ All of the panelists were encouraged that a budget will be passed which will address education funding and taxation.

What can we do besides write to our elected Legislators? Work to change the Senate from the current Party’s control for the next election. We will then be able to LEGISLATE instead of trying to use the initiative process to make changes to, or fund, public education adequately or to appropriately consider women’s rights issues.



About 30 out of the group of 50 met with Governor Hobbes, mostly as a photo op in her reception area on the 8th floor of the Executive Building. The room was electric, given this opportunity.

Responses from Participants of the day were glowing...” the best ever” was said more than once. And, know that there will (circumstances willing) be an even better event in February of 2024.

Submitted by Becky Gunn with pictures by Tracy Smiles.



AAUW-Prescott Annual Awards Received



This year’s recipients of the AAUW-Prescott Awards received them at the January General Meeting. *Congratulations!*

- Anne Barton, On-going Stamina
- Connie During, Rookie of the Year
- Lenore Hemphill, Mover and Shaker



Membership

We have had eight new members join AAUW this past year bringing our local branch to 175 members. We are looking forward to our first in-person **New Member Coffee on Saturday, May 6., 2023.**



Our last in-person coffee was held in the Fall of 2019—COVID has been tough on our getting together, hasn’t it? So...we are really excited to get together with our new members. The new member coffees include representatives from our board who will provide coffee, tea, and light pastries and will be held at one of our board members’ homes. Our experienced members typically share their AAUW history as well as involvement with interest groups, etc. These gatherings are just one more opportunity to celebrate our new members and our very special branch of AAUW. New members will be sent the specific details on time and place via email in early April.

We are currently looking for a member who has joined in the last 3 or 4 years to be a volunteer for the membership committee. You would be the Co-VP Chair with Marla Jirak who is currently serving in that role. Patti Allen-LaFleur will be stepping down from the membership committee to focus more of her time on the AAUW website. There is minimal time involved

in being a part of the membership committee. The benefit for a member is that you will become part of the AAUW-Prescott Board and gain a better understanding of what AAUW is all about, especially for our branch here in Prescott. Please consider volunteering!!

AAUW pens were ordered for our very first Women's Forum in February! We will have plenty of pens now available to give to new members. We updated the AAUW Prescott brochure and had the brochures available for our February meeting. We are continuing to network with others in Prescott to encourage them to join our local AAUW branch. **Our current membership dues are \$103, which includes national, state, and local AAUW dues.**

Patti Allen- LaFleur, Co-VP
Marla E. Jirak, Co-VP



Tax Deductible Benefit for AAUW Members

This is just a reminder that a portion of your National AAUW dues is tax-deductible for the year 2022. If you paid the full amount of \$103 in the year 2022 you may deduct **\$64 as a charitable contribution.**



Community Action

Reality Store Needs Volunteers

Once again, we are presenting The Reality Store at Prescott High School on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. This is for the Freshman Academy and will serve about 100 boys and girls. We really need your help in presenting this effective program.



*Pat Mann,
Community Action
Co-Chair*

If you volunteer, you will be assigned a specific task: to staff a table and interact with the students directly. More information will be sent to volunteers.

The approximate arrival/departure times on March 28, 2023, are 10:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Prescott High School.

If you have questions, email Pat Mann. Contact info is listed in the Membership Directory.

Thanks for your support! We can't do this without you!



Scholarships

You've made an impact!

WOW!

Thank you to all who attended AAUW – AZ Women's Forum! Through your generosity funds increased the AAUW

Centennial Scholarship Fund given to support a woman student at Yavapai College pursuing a degree in a STEM field.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that we sold all of the items in our Art Auction at the Women's Forum on January 27 & 28.

Bidding was lively, and many of the items had numerous bids. With a portion of the registration fees and the auction, we raised a total of \$10,600 for our Scholarship funds at Yavapai College.

Those who attended the Women's Forum may include the **donation as tax deductible**. The email receipt they received from YC indicates the amount of the registration fee that is tax deductible.

Thanks to all who donated to and participated in the auction. You can view some photos from the event [using this link](#).

Sandra Bennett & Julie Appletree



Interest Groups



The **Craft Group** has disbanded due to a lack of participation. If anyone would like to start a craft group, please do so. Set your own date and time aligned with the AAUW-Prescott Master Calendar.



The **Lunch Bunch** is actively dining all around town. We have ventured to Prescott Valley and may try some other unusual venues. I welcome any assistance with restaurant choices. The biggest struggle these days is that so many places do not take reservations, so we have to ensure they have space for all of us. If anyone would like to take over or assist with the Lunch Bunch, please let me know. Margie Crider



The **Hiking Group** is seeking a new leader. There is a once-a-month hike on the third Wednesday of the month to avoid parking fees at some trailheads. The primary task of the leader is to coordinate who will lead the moderate hike for members and send out an email inviting members to participate. The start time of the hikes may vary depending on the season. If you are interested please contact Laury Shayne.

The **Travel Discussion Group** will meet on Tuesday, March 14th in the Prescott Public Library Founders Suite B, from 1:30-3:00. Some of the discussion ideas are listed below:

DOMESTIC TRAIN TRAVEL	OVERSEAS TRAIN TRAVEL	ISSUES
Napa Valley Wine Train	Venice Simplon-Orient Express	Making connections
Coast Starlight	Jacobite Steam Train -Scotland	Flight cancellations
Rocky Mountaineer	Copper Canyon – Mexico	Optional Side Tours
Maple Leaf	Blue Train – SA	Luggage Trackers

