

## AAUW OF OREGON CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Pat Lehman & Sue Klumph

Exciting, energizing, inspiring, rewarding—those words and more describe the tremendous pleasure and pride we feel in our role as Co-Presidents. Dedicated, hard-working, creative, responsive—those describe our amazing leadership team of VPs, District Directors, Committee Chairs and Branch leaders.

We could not be more pleased with the progress that AAUW of Oregon is making toward updating our state documents and practices and the innovations that leaders are bringing to our organization in these challenging times. For example, we met with our District Directors, reviewed their questions and concerns, and updated their Position Description, so we are all working together with the same understanding. We have filled all our board positions by appointment of the Executive Committee and are delighted by their enthusiasm for their roles.

The Strategic Plan priorities for 2020-2021 have been finalized. We look forward to learning how branches will be implementing them and reporting to their District Director. We hope that branches will apply for branch grants involving one or more of those priorities. There are many ways that branches can pursue mission-based projects through Technology, Leadership Development and the AAUW Fund.

Encouraged by the tremendous success of Summer Skills Camp, our Program VP Pat Squire and Events Coordinator Nancy Brown, along with Public Policy Chair Trish Garner, and other leaders, are planning several educational options that you won't want to miss. These events place AAUW of Oregon at the forefront of AAUW state organizations in our work to inform and to inspire our members.

We ask all our branch leaders: Who could become a leader in your branch? What can you do to educate, mentor and support someone who might become a leader in the future? What can we do to support you?

We are staying in touch with branches and members who have lost so much to the horrible fires and offer whatever support we can as they try to return to their homes and lives. Thank you who have worked to help. As always, we continue to strongly advise all our branches to observe state and local Covid-19 guidelines and to be especially cautious about events that might place our members at risk.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELECTS STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES AND MAKES OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Marie Mueller, Secretary

At its meeting on October 1, the AAUW of Oregon Executive Committee selected three strategic priorities and filled the board vacancies of newsletter editor, AAUW Fund chair and North-Central District director.

### Strategic Priorities

- With the goal of getting the maximum number of AAUW members involved and attending state meetings, practice sessions or personal instruction will be offered to members needing assistance with using Zoom technology and other platforms.
- Because leadership development is vital, emphasis is being placed on mentoring new leaders and delegating responsibilities in supportive and empowering environments. Working with District Directors has begun, with plans for more training for other leaders.
- Informing members and the community about the existence and purposes of the AAUW Fund was selected. It is anticipated that publicizing the Fund can enhance marketing AAUW to our communities.

### Filled Board Vacancies

Pamela Alegria, Astoria was appointed as Oregon News editor; she has been the newsletter's proofreader. Claudia Gray, Hillsboro-Forest Grove, and Betsy McDowell, Salem, current co-chairs of governance, will also share the state AAUW Fund chair position. Lake Oswego Branch president Mary Pat Silveira was appointed to complete the North-Central District Director term.

### 2021 ANNUAL MEETING: VIRTUAL OR LIVE?

Pat Squire, Program Vice President

"To Be, or Not to Be".... in person....an appropriate question for the home of the Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Oregon. The Ashland Hills Hotel is ready to host AAUW of Oregon in April 2021 for a convention/annual meeting. Of course, that depends on the protocols for hotels at the time, and also the comfort level of our members. This is a wonderful hotel with spacious public spaces with room to socially distance. It has nice amenities and lovely guest rooms.

But the big question is (and we'll be asking you about that very soon), whether you will be willing to get together in person. We know we would LIKE to, but is it going to be comfortable and safe?

Two things will determine this: The board of directors' meeting on November 1st with this as a topic of discussion. And a survey which will be sent to all members within a month, to determine their comfort level attending this potential meeting in April. In the meantime, keep in touch with each other, keep Zooming, and stay safe and comfortable.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT, OCTOBER 2020

Kathy Gervasi, Nominating Committee Chair

Members of the Nominating Committee met by Zoom in August and are presently working on nominating members for the State 2021-23 open positions. Candidates for president-elect (one-year term), program vice president, finance vice-president, secretary, north-central district director, and south district director are being sought for two-year terms

The committee members are Kathy Gervasi (chair), Georgia Applegate, Joan Rycraft, Lucy Hutchens, Arlene Lemieux and Theresa Johnson (alternate).

## REACHING OUT TO CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Gini Dideum, Membership Vice President

It is uplifting to see how branches are reaching out to current and prospective new members by holding virtual events, promoting Get out the Vote events, chalking sidewalks and driveways, and supporting the AAUW mission. People can attend meetings from anywhere. Speakers from far away are making branch presentations. And for those unable to attend a meeting, branches are making available links to watch the meeting at a later date.

AAUW National is offering something new in the Shape the Future program. While we continue holding virtual events, the ability to join at a discount has been made easier. Instead of collecting checks, send a link to your prospects (MOB only) to join your branch at 50% off national dues, plus regular state and branch dues. The branch Finance VP can set up this link in the MSD under the Membership Payment Program (MPP). Click on the Shape the Future Discount Link and get started. This offer is for new members only or those who have lapsed two or more years.

## RESEARCH: THE NEED FOR WOMEN ON CORPORATE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Trish Garner, AAUW of OR State Public Policy Chair

The Ashland Branch has worked very hard on a report supporting AAUW of Oregon's efforts to make sure more women and people from historically underrepresented communities are included on corporate boards of directors. The report is superlative. It is thoroughly researched, clearly organized and entirely well written. It will be invaluable in supporting AAUW of Oregon's efforts to get legislation passed in the 2021 Session that makes their recommendations a reality. As they clearly demonstrate, having a critical mass of diverse board members not only creates an environment where these members are no longer viewed as outsiders and whose viewpoints become valued, but corporate bottom lines benefit as well.

The AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Committee has reviewed and endorsed the report. AAUW of Oregon will be working with Representative Karin Power (Milwaukie) who has agreed to champion a bill that will accomplish the goals suggested in Ashland's report. Being a champion means that she will be the primary leader in advocating for a bill through the 2021 Legislative Session. We'll be right there with her. A big thank you to Rep. Power!

So aside from joining with me in congratulating the Ashland Branch for their excellent, and very useful work, I most sincerely hope you read the report in full. It can be found on the website.

## TECH TIPS: FACEBOOK SECURITY

Nancy Brown, Technology Committee

Concerned about being on Facebook?

With a little knowledge, you can make Facebook private to protect your information and still get the benefit of connecting with family, friends, and even AAUW. But you must be proactive when Facebook makes changes, they don't tell you about it, and it can affect your privacy settings.

Here are a few things you can do to stay safe on Facebook:

1. Learn how to use Facebook's privacy settings to share comfortably and connect with others.

- Here's a recent, visual overview of how to change your privacy settings (for desktop): <https://www.lifewire.com/steps-to-make-facebook-private-2654416>

2. Remember these simple rules about staying safe online:

- Have a strong, unique password, and never share it.
- Think before you post.
- Be sure to log out of Facebook after use if you're on a shared computer.
- Adjust your privacy settings and review them often.
- Only accept friend requests from people you know personally.
- Report things that look suspicious.

We're building an AAUW of Oregon-only Facebook group, and we'd love for you to join us.

If you're already on Facebook, just go here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AAUWofOregon>

If you're not yet on Facebook, or have questions about it, join our next "Tech Talk with Nancy" on Monday, November 16 at 7:00pm. You'll get an email with the JOIN link in early November. If you want to ask questions about Facebook, email Nancy at [aauw.or.events@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.or.events@gmail.com).



Many of us in our professional lives have taken/are taking continuing education courses (CE) to enhance our knowledge and careers and, in many cases, for needed credits. AAUW of Oregon is offering some continuing education classes to enhance your personal growth and leadership experience.

Join us for any or all these sessions, no cost, no credit, and no boredom, but a great experience and a chance to network with members around the state. All sessions will be on Zoom. Watch for the monthly training emails from Events Coordinator, Nancy Brown, for the registration links for each session.

### **November**

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m. President's Club AAUW of Oregon Co-Presidents Sue Klumph and Pat Lehman will moderate a session with branch presidents to discuss their needs, hopes, and plans for the year. Enjoy great connections and have some fun in this lively conversation.

Monday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. Branch Leadership Succession Planning and Mentoring for a Smooth Transition AAUW Oregon Past President, Kathi Dew, offers tips and strategies that help branches develop new leadership and encourage new ideas.

Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m. Tech Talk: Facebook: Why Be on It, How to Join and Use It Safely Our tech guru, Nancy Brown, will demystify this often confusing but useful platform and make it simple to understand and use – in the way you want to use it.

Monday, November 30, 7:00 p.m. Anti-Racism: Indigenous Peoples Eve Nañez, the Indigenous Event Coordinator, Reed College Multicultural Resource Center, will speak about the traumatic real origins of the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States, as distinct from the mythology celebrated in popular culture.

## **December**

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. AAUW Funds: How to Support AAUW and Why Join Claudia Gray and Betsy McDowell, new Oregon AAUW Fund Chairs, as they moderate a discussion with branch leaders on the importance and impact of this program.

Monday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. Tech Talk: Focus on MailChimp Should you use it? Why and How. Our tech expert, Nancy Brown, will offer her usual understandable explanation of this useful tool that can be used to communicate easily with your members.

Tuesday, December 29, 7:00 p.m. Anti-Racism: The Discussion Continues Join Trish Garner and guest(s) for further insight into anti-racism.

## **January**

Wednesday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. How to Build/Rebuild a Branch Is your branch languishing and needing a re-set? Or Is your community ready to be the site for a new AAUW branch? Join two long-time AAUW members, Linda O'Hara and Ilga Ross, who have successfully built and rebuilt branches in Oregon.

Thursday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. AAUW's Five Star Program How It Works and What's in It for Your Branch and the State? The co-presidents of the Ashland Branch, which is the only branch in the state to have achieved 5 Stars from National AAUW, will explain the importance of the program and how it enhanced their branch. Join Catherine Lutes and Paula Wiiken for tips and strategies to achieve this significant status.

Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. Mission-related Programs for Your Branch Learn from three program pros about how strong mission-related programming promotes your branch and enhances members' experiences. Linda Loftin, Portland; Linda Lybecker, Hillsboro-Forest Grove; and Pat Squire, Lake Oswego, will talk about different approaches to programming.

Wednesday, January 27, time TBA Anti-racism Our theme continues with facilitator Trish Garner. Program to be announced.

AAUW OREGON CENTRAL DISTRICT  
Elena Rae, District Director

Thanks to the magic of Zoom, I was able to visit both the Bend and the Salem branches during back to back meetings on September 19th. The Bend presidents presided from Sacramento and Los Angeles, respectively, and one member logged in from Nevada, one from Portland, and I logged in from Eugene, as well as the Bend Branch members who were actually somewhere in that vicinity. They are moving their summer 2020 would-be Tech Trek participants to 2021, fingers crossed that next summer will be possible. Their membership survey came back with the top thing that members wanted out of their membership being the socialization aspect. We come for the like-minds, and stay for the emancipation action.

The Salem Branch edited their various Oral History recordings together into a single presentation and played it for us at the meeting. It was a great editing job, and really brought out the most attention-grabbing bits. In Marion Churchill's presentation (Marion has recently died), she told of being verbally put down in front of the Oregon State Legislature for her attempt to get supplies for the women's prison. The public censure of performing her civic duty resulted in a reluctance to reappear at the legislature, as intended.

**Albany** – Theresa Johnson and Vickie Staffebach, Co-Presidents

The Albany Branch has lost some members; however, we have continued our efforts to reach out to those who have indicated that their main reason for dropping their membership is due to COVID-19. Treating it more as temporary, as opposed to a permanent discontinuation of membership. Over the summer we connected with our members and published a special summer newsletter to share how and what members have been doing while under the COVID-19 restrictions.

We have made our programming plans for the coming year, always keeping in mind the health and safety of our members. All of our meetings are planned to be virtual unless there is a change in the State COVID-19 restrictions, and we feel it is safe for our members to meet in person. We believe by ensuring the safety of our members as well as providing interesting and informative programs we will continue to retain our current level of membership. We just held our September meeting with a presentation by the new Albany Library Director. Our upcoming meeting for November will be a topical presentation by Linn-Benton Community College Institutional Equity, Diversity & Inclusion student leaders.

**Bend** -- Jane McEldowney and Kaitlin O'Donnell, Co-Presidents

We met on the 17th of October. Had a delightful meeting featuring a readers' theater with members performing the script written by members from Salem, honoring the Suffragists. It was a Zoom meeting, as they all will be this year. We did invite others to attend, and my daughter, who lives in British Columbia, enjoyed it. Our Chalk the Vote efforts were fun, clever, attractive, and noticed. We received coverage from the local press and the Women's Historical Consortium. No budget news to report. Minutes were complete and approved. We are looking for a Sunshine Person and planning a Christmas card project that will involve sending cards to persons in assisted living arrangements. No firm details have been determined. That about covers what we've been doing. No new members.

**Eugene-Lane** – Sheila Ramerman, President

We installed Sheila Ramerman as Branch President and Wendy Cook as Communications VP at our September meeting, and presented "Breaking Through Barriers: The Suffrage Movement in America" via Reader's Theatre, courtesy of the Salem Branch. A local historian heard about the program and was in attendance as we read excerpts from writings and speeches by Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sarah Grimke, Susan B Anthony, Abigail Scott Duniway, Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Carrie Catt, and Lucy Stone.

Our October meeting was an overview of Oregon and local ballot initiatives co-presented with the Lane County League of Women Voters. After approval by AAUW Oregon's Public Policy Committee, the branch endorsed the Eugene Public Library Levy to maintain library services.

Our CHiPS (Civics, History and Political Science) program has 2 activities this year: A Civics Trek video contest with the digital story-telling organization, Girls' Voices Matter, <<https://digitalstorytellingpnw.com/>> as first reported in May, and sponsoring the Mock Trial team at Willamette High School in Eugene.

We've been able to maintain our Book Club virtually. September's book was Radium Girls (Kate Moore), and October's book is The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek (Kim Michele Richardson). A new interest group has been proposed on the subject of Implicit/Unconscious Bias.

**Salem** – Joyce Zook, President

On August 26 Salem branch members "Chalked the Vote" on the streets of Salem. We encouraged passersby to participate. Our Zoom Branch Meeting for September featured an edited version of our Oral History Project compiled by our life and long-term branch members. Many thanks to Nancy Brown, our AAUW Events Coordinator, who edited the videos to make this possible. To commemorate National Domestic Violence Month (October), our local Center for Hope and Safety's executive director will be presenting "Survivor Services During a Pandemic and Wildfires". The branch awarded a scholarship to an Outstanding Graduating Woman from Chemeketa Community College, who eventually hopes to complete a degree in environmental science.

Our strategy for member retention: plan strong, mission-related programs; involve members in programs, projects, and interest groups; communicate monthly with newsletter.

**Yamhill County** – Linda O'Hara, President

No strategies for member retention...sigh...but we have not been sitting on our hands. At the end of September, we had a presence at the McMinnville Farmer's Market, promoting awareness to vote in November and handing out voter registration cards. We offered to turn them in for people if they preferred. We collected 9 registration forms and 10 or so were taken by the voter to mail or turned in. When those nine forms were taken to the county clerk's office, they told us several folks had already dropped theirs by, making reference to where those were obtained—our booth. Great visibility for AAUW.

**AAUW OREGON NORTH-CENTRAL DISTRICT**  
Mary Pat Silveira, District Director

In October of this year, I was appointed to complete the term of Nancy Dunis as District Director. Fortunately, as the current President of the Lake Oswego branch, I have had the opportunity to meet the representatives of each branch in the North Central district at the 2019-2020 meetings of the IBC. Nonetheless, I look forward to the (non-COVID) moment when I will be able to visit all the branches in this district both individually and collectively. In the meantime, I hope to connect with everyone through our current default mode: Zoom. See you in the "cloud"!

**Gresham Area** – Peggy Taylor and Bonnie Jepsen, Co-Presidents

The branch is putting substantial emphasis on current member involvement and inclusion. Our communications chair did extensive training and resource delivery prior to our first Zoom Branch meeting; 16 attended which we thought was a good start. Our most recent Keynotes newsletter asked members to send Get-Out-The-Vote postcards that the Branch provided, participate in another Chalk the Walk, and considered giving to the homeless/poor students at Mt. Hood Community College.

Board members worked successfully to encourage individual members to renew. Program chairs have designed programs focusing on the interests of our Branch members, and the new membership chairs are working on a telephone/email/Zoom-based outreach plan for the rest of 2020 and perhaps beyond. Great energy by all.

**Hillsboro-Forest Grove** – Claire Berger, President

The Hillsboro-Forest Grove Branch of AAUW has been busy these last few months trying to keep members connected with the Branch and with each other. We sent out a member survey in September and are currently using the feedback to craft our upcoming activities.

We have been using three major strategies to retain branch members:

- Convening monthly member meetings using Zoom have included: the "League of Women Voters' Redistricting Effort," "Women's History Webinar," and "Be an Informed Voter: Resources from the League of Women Voters". Socials were and are being held via ZOOM monthly around fun topics.
- A monthly calling tree has been instituted to stay connected to members and provide aid and support when necessary.
- Finally, we are acting proactively to recruit members to serve in leadership capacities in upcoming committee branch activities and as officers for the 2021-22 program year. Our goal is to have a full slate of officers and committee leads by January 2021. We will provide mentoring and coaching to these individuals.

We are evaluating the effectiveness of our work and will adjust methods and strategies as we move through this fiscal year.

**Lake Oswego** – Mary Pat Silveira, President

The Lake Oswego Branch is working both to retain and assist its members, as needed, through a combination of Zoom meetings, newsletters and phone calls. All our interest groups are meeting on Zoom, and we are adding more as members' request. We are planning to have an "art fest" event to engage our many talented members, and we have scheduled a Zoom Holiday Party in December to provide fellowship and community during an especially difficult period.

We have now had two Branch meetings on Zoom which have been quite well-attended, and we have set up a new buddy system to remind and invite new members. We are also opening our Branch meetings early for anyone who would like to have some social time before the speaker, and we are remaining after the speaker for those who would like to have a conversation or raise issues.

Our most difficult challenge is engaging members who do not or cannot use Zoom. For this, we rely on Board members to reach out to them frequently to make sure that they are OK, and we try to use our newsletter, which is mailed to those offline, to keep in touch as well.

**Oregon Online** – Elena Rae, President

Our website is back up and current. Pat Lehman and I posted to our first blog since 2015, and there is a new member's area (which is as of yet uninhabited). At our September meeting, where we discussed "Black Feminism," we decided to reverse the order of the Branch meetings to place the program first. Our next program will be on "Indigenous Slavery," and a resource page was sent out. To address Strategic Priorities, Penney Hoodenpyle is resurrecting our Facebook Group page. We need more members ask what they can do to help our Branch thrive.

**Portland** – Susan Marthens and Katie Raetz, Co-Presidents

The Summer Skills Camp list promoted a positive sense of connection, interaction, and engagement as key to member retention. Being unable to greet and welcome members in person with warmth and sincerity calls for increased creativity. Many members do not open the monthly newsletter despite efforts to make it user friendly. Most members belong to study/interest groups. Friendships and closeness are frequently fostered in these groups because of the smaller group size and self-selection. In an effort to engage our members more, it was suggested that the contact persons for the study and interest groups make a brief announcement at the beginning of the meeting. It is felt that a message received in this setting may be heard differently, thereby increasing our members' response. Topics presented can be opportunities for volunteering (in our return to normal) with STEM, openings on the Board, upcoming programs, etc. We will keep you posted on the success of this endeavor.

**Tigard Area** – Marsha Brockmeyer and Ilga Ross, Co-Presidents

At our last Zoom board meeting, we talked about how we might stay connected to our membership. We split up the roster and agreed to call each member within two weeks. We created a list of speaking points to ensure we shared AAUW updates but also wanted to see how everyone was dealing with the isolation. Our Membership VP is staying in close contact with our 5 newest members. My own calling experience was wonderful. I learned about family members, hobbies, and even recipes, and I was able to share AAUW updates. We have continued our programs with monthly Zoom meetings. After our speaker finished, members stayed on-line. The board members introduced themselves and said a few words about their roles. We wanted our newer members to get to know who we are and a little about what we do. Other members in attendance introduced themselves and said how long they had been a member of AAUW. Most importantly, we asked our new members to tell us a little bit more about themselves and followed up with a few questions. It was a fun, informal way to get to know each other.



AAUW OREGON NORTHEAST DISTRICT  
Karen King, District Director

**Baker** – Wanda Raffety, President

Baker County Branch is doing an excellent job of keeping in touch with their members. They notify and invite members by email of Zoom board meetings and regular Zoom meetings. The calling tree calls each member for regular meetings and hopes to talk to a person (some text their list). They use slow mail to send out info they think is important such as the AAUW Funds program, which they will be doing in November instead of December. Branch president Wanda Raffety reports she tries to contact members just to say hello and to get them involved.

**Pendleton** -- Kate Mace and Kathryn Chaney, Co-Presidents

The co-membership vice presidents for Pendleton Branch are Mary Davis and Joan Deroko. They have been contacting branch members to see how they are doing during this difficult time and just to chat. They report having fun and interesting conversations with members who appreciate the calls.

Co-President Kathryn Chaney said, "On the theme of member retention, I feel that we talk a lot about that. There is always concern about members dropping off at renewal time. We do explore the reasons that some decide not to continue. I think that meeting virtually will possibly make us more connected, especially if we can reach out to all members and try to bring them up to speed with the technology.

As reported earlier, all general and board meetings for the Pendleton Branch are being done via Zoom this year. We are fortunate to have a Zoom guru, Dianne Barnes, who, with her husband Bruce, have a Zoom account and have graciously hosted our meetings. Because these meetings are virtual, we have invited both Baker Branch and Wallowa Branch to join us for future general meetings. This is a great way for our branches to stay connected.

Our November meeting will feature Rebecca Hiers of Sunrise Mediation. Her topic will be, "Finding Common Ground in these Polarized Times." Rebecca is a member of the Pendleton Branch.

**Wallowa County** – Susan Gilstrap, President

Because they are a small branch, Wallowa is not holding regular meetings this year, but members stay connected by contacting each other regularly. They will be joining Pendleton for the November Zoom meeting and some future meetings.

AAUW OREGON NORTHWEST DISTRICT  
Susan Wahlke, District Director

**Tillamook** – Susan Pierce, President

Great Membership Ideas that Work:

- Create a calendar of events for the branch members for the coming year, July 1 through June 30.
- Form a Records Management Committee to review all records of each officer and committee. Create a retention guide for each document.
- Hold a political forum, non-partisan, using Zoom. We just did this and had 83 participants. People were respectful, and we had good reviews.
- Encourage book clubs and social connections following the proper guidelines of no personal contact yet.

Because of the pandemic and stress, many members have paid late. We contacted the leaders of the book clubs and asked them to remind the members that payment of their dues was required.

Tillamook believes we have only lost three members this year, but we have five more who are interested in joining.

AAUW OREGON SOUTH DISTRICT  
Joan Rycraft, District Director

Three of the five branches in the South District submitted articles for the upcoming Oregon News. A sign of the challenges all branches are facing due to COVID restrictions and the devastating fires in southern Oregon. The theme "Strategies for Member Retention" brought forth similar approaches of reaching out and communication with members as most successful.

**Ashland** –Catherine Lutes and Paula Wiiken, Co-Presidents

This year has been difficult for membership! We've had two new members join this year and we have 147 members on our roster, down from 181, If we were meeting in person, our new members wear a green dot on their name badge, so that seasoned members know who our new members are and then can make an effort to reach out to them. Additionally, new members are introduced at branch meetings, and their bios are printed in our newsletter, *The Vision*. We conduct a new member orientation two, sometimes, three times a year, hosted by a seasoned member, where seasoned members get to meet and mingle with new members and share multiple opportunities for new members to "make a difference." At the end of the year, another member hosts a new members potluck as just another opportunity to meet other new members.

We're learning as we go about how to attract and keep new members in this brave new world and look forward to hearing how other branches are managing this.

**Grants Pass Branch** -- Lee Bollschweiler, President

Our enrollment for the 2020-2021 year is down from last year. We have several members who have moved or passed away, but we also have several past members who dropped out because they wanted to meet in person for Branch or Interest Group meetings rather than meeting via Zoom. Our focus has been on recruiting these members in hopes of rebuilding our membership numbers. Friends are inviting these members to sit with them in their home so they can share the Zoom meetings together. The in-person connection is made in a small group that meets social distancing guidelines while still participating in the Zoom format. We have also encouraged Branch members to share a Branch meeting Zoom link with individuals they know who might want to check out one of our Branch meetings; we are not, however, publishing our Zoom meeting links in the newspaper or other public places.

**Medford Branch** -- Carol Koszyk, President

The Medford Branch has membership co-vice presidents for the 2020-21 year. Sandy Heath and Ellen Jones have been actively retaining our members with the following strategies:

- Emailed a reminder for membership renewals to those who did not renew by June 30th.
- Followed up with a personal phone call to the people who did not renew. During that call checked what programs or activities that the member enjoyed and made sure they knew who to contact to enhance their involvement.

Our Co-VP's also utilize these practices:

- Respond to every contact made by members and address their concerns.
- Mail a Greeting Card to every Member for their Birthday.

In general, they are friendly and ask questions to find out what each member wants from our group.

Some of the groups are not meeting at all due to COVID. Ellen and Sandy are currently asking each interest group contact person to reach out to their participants to generate interaction. They will also remind members that our branch purchased a Zoom Account, and encourage the interest groups to use it.

The password to get into the website's  
Member Center is: oregonaauw

## A NEW WAY TO RAISE FUNDS

Claudia Gray & Betsy McDowell, AAUW of Oregon Funds Co-chairs

During this time of social distancing and virtual meetings, fundraising presents new challenges for branches. The most important information for any branch to understand is the policies that guide any branch raising money because ignoring them can lead to legal consequences. I <Claudia> was a member of the national committee that wrote these two policies, which took us several years. As a result, we were all very aware that the IRS can be brutal if your group violates these policies! So please do read and follow them.

The polices can be found on the National AAUW website at

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/fundraising-policies-what-members-need-to-know/>

This leads to Fundraising Policy 501: Supporting AAUW's Mission, Fundraising Policy 502: Funding Local Scholarships, and Collaborations Policy 600: Partnering with Other Organizations. A question and answer section follows.

Programming and fundraising need to be different this year. Some creative ideas for how to use online platforms is given in the link to "5 Ideas for Virtual Fundraising" at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/5-ideas-for-virtual-fundraising/>. Immediate past AAUW of Oregon Funds Chair Ilga Ross <ilgaross@yahoo.com> came up with a contactless fundraising idea for her branch that we are sharing. Here is what she wrote: "Tigard Area Branch members are being encouraged to give to the AAUW Fund during the month of November and then would be entered in a drawing at the December branch meeting. To enter, a member must make an online donation to AAUW at the National website of at least \$25. The member then forwards her email receipt to the branch Fund chair (Ilga Ross, in this case). A ticket in the donor's name is deposited for every \$25 donated, up to a maximum of 5 tickets. (The Branch has some very generous donors who would dominate the drawing if it weren't capped.) Ilga will provide the prizes, which will be from local businesses, such as a local winery, bakery or other that will be mailed or delivered. Prizes will be ordered after the drawing and sent directly to the winners from the business."

## MEET OREGON'S 2020-2021 AAUW FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES



Barbara Hudson-Hanley  
American Fellowship  
Oregon State University



Mary Muthoni Morrison, Kenya  
International Fellowship  
University of Oregon



Alexandra Vargas Quinones, Peru  
International Fellowship  
Portland State University

Barbara Hudson-Hanley, American Fellowship, Oregon State University, Ph.D., Public Health -Environmental & Occupational Epidemiology

Barbara researches environmental and occupational exposures affecting maternal and child health. Her current research evaluates population-level exposure trends to specific toxins found in air pollution. In addition, Hudson-Hanley uses a weight-of-evidence approach to evaluate the association between exposure to these air-pollution toxins and adverse health effects in infants and children. *Sponsors: 1094 - Oregon State Division, 1845 - Tristan Holvick-Norton, 4275 - Tacoma (WA) Branch Centennial, 4395 - Nancy Caroline Gray American Fellowship*

Mary Muthoni Morrison, Kenya, International Fellowship, University of Oregon  
L.L.M., Environmental and Natural Resources Law

Mary is one of the few female environmental lawyers in Kenya. Her work in conservation has highlighted ways to reduce illegal wildlife trade and to effect capacity-building through imparting skills to women and youth in advocacy, in the wake of environmental injustices. She seeks to inspire a generation of environmental women leaders through her goal of obtaining her master's degree. Prior to her studies, she managed the legal team at a conservation organization in Kenya.

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Alexandra Vargas Quinones, Peru, International Fellowship, Portland State University  
M.S., Environmental Science and Management

Alexandra has seven years of experience in carbon emissions management and has driven the environmental awareness program in a woman-led cosmetic corporation whose primary focus is on women empowerment. As part of her current master studies, she is developing a project that focuses on Climate change adaptation in an urban environment and its sustainable implications. She continues with her environmental awareness enthusiasm being part of the sustainability Leadership Fellows program at the university.

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