



OREGON NEWS

Summer Edition, June 2021

Covid-19 Guidelines: AAUW's recommendation is to adhere to the state guidelines as determined by its governor. [Link to Coronavirus.oregon.gov.](https://www.coronavirus.oregon.gov)

Many members are understandably eager to return to in-person affiliate gatherings, but it's important to follow all city, state and county guidance and be mindful of the risks.



AAUW's National 2021 Election Results

- This year's voter turnout reached a record high, with 23% of all members casting a ballot.
- Julia Brown has been re-elected to serve as board chair for three more years.
- Re-elected to the board for three-year terms were Elizabeth Haynes, Joseph Bertolino, and Malinda Gaul as board vice chair.
- AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.
- The ballot initiative to eliminate the membership requirement got 63% of the vote, which was just below the two-thirds majority needed to enact a bylaw change.

State Presidents' Recap of the Year

Pat Lehman & Sue Klumph, Co-presidents

As we near the end of our first year as state co-presidents, we reflect on the past and look to the future.

For the past year:

*We feel privileged and grateful for our amazing board that has accomplished so much.

*We are excited by our engaged and effective committees: Public Policy, Governance, Technology, AAUW Funds and Nominating.

*Our team adapted quickly and effectively to the pandemic's demands, with meetings by Zoom, updated social media platforms and robust continuing education and anti-racism series.

*Our major goal of enhanced communication has led to regular meetings with branch presidents, a newly defined role for District Directors, co-president branch meeting "visits."

*Our state Strategic Plan has been implemented, thanks to the Executive Committee's effort.

*We successfully navigated AAUW of Oregon's annual meeting and awards celebration, with a great deal of thought and preparation from the leadership team.

*We have connected members with National to find information.

*We have attended several National webinars.



As we look ahead:

*We welcome outstanding new members to the state board.

*We are excited about Summer Skills Camp 2.1.

*We will evaluate our strategic priorities and set new goals.

*We hope to be meeting in person when restrictions are lifted.

*We will continue to meet by Zoom with branch presidents, district directors, and any other group that requests a virtual meeting.

*We will continue to utilize National's resources to inform and support our state and branch.

AAUW Funds Report

Claudia Gray & Betsy McDowell, AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

The AAUW of Oregon Awards Ceremony was held on Zoom on April 20th; 67 people attended. Featured speaker was Alexandra Vargas Quiñones, an International AAUW Fellow from Lima, Peru. Alexandra is studying wastewater management at Portland State University.

Branch AAUW Funds contributions were announced: #1 Portland \$13,054, #2 Gresham Area \$10,575 and #3 Ashland \$9,342. Gresham Area was #1 for per capita contributions with \$182.33, Portland #2 with \$130.54, and Hillsboro-Forest Grove #3 with \$122.74.

Nineteen Oregon branches selected Branch Named Gift Honorees: 56 branch members were honored, and two branches chose to honor all their members.

AAUW of Oregon Membership Vice President Gini Dideum gave “virtual gnomes” to Ashland and Medford for adding new members despite a decrease, and to Oregon Online and Tigard Area for increasing the number of members. Special Projects Fund Chair Penney Hoodenpyle updated us on the activities of former Breaking Barriers Awards recipients. Public Policy Chair Trish Garner honored the Ashland Branch and a Linfield University student for their work on the corporate board diversity bill.

AAUW of Oregon State Named Gift Honorees 2021

The state Named Gift Honorees were announced. Nancy Brown (Oregon Online) was honored for her technical skill in handling all the AAUW of Oregon Zoom meetings and training members. Trish Garner (Portland) was honored for her work as the State Public Policy chair and as curator of the anti-racism series. Pat Squire (Lake Oswego) was honored for her work as State Program Vice President, hosting all the summer camp training sessions.



Pat Squire



Trish Garner



Nancy Brown

96th State Annual Meeting: AWARDS PROGRAM SPEAKER

The guest presenter was **Alexandra Vargas Quinones**, the AAUW International Fellow from Lima, Peru, who is completing her master’s in environmental management and science at Portland State University. After becoming concerned with the environment, she said she had wished to drop out of school as a teenager and just go sweep the streets in her community. Her mother persuaded her to continue and to focus on environment as a college major. She achieved her bachelor’s in Environmental Engineering in Peru, then worked in that field for seven years for a cosmetics firm before deciding to pursue further studies.

Alexandra wanted to try a different climate from the dry and brown desert of Lima, so she looked for graduate programs in “green” locations and chose Portland State University. Her graduate advisor told her about the AAUW fellowships and the goals of this organization. She applied and was thrilled to be selected for a fellowship that assisted in paying for the final courses of her master’s degree. Alexandra graduates this spring (in 45 days or so, after her thesis defense). Her visa allows her three more years in the United States for work, so she is now seeking jobs in the environmental field.

Several attendees made suggestions for her to follow, and all wished her good luck. The pandemic has prevented Alexandra from experiencing the type of study and travel that she had anticipated, but she has had her first vaccine and reported that her family in Peru are all well. She hopes to visit various areas of the U.S. if she can find a job and work for the next three years.

Interestingly, in response to a question, Alexandra said that both in Peru and in her program at PSU, environmental students are predominantly women. In Lima, 17 of 20 students were women. At PSU, 60 percent are women. Alexandra is researching storm water management and the impacts of urban “run-off” on areas and streams near a city. How can we capture and clean water that runs off? How can we capture and use rainfall? What is the anticipated effect of climate change on rain intensity and frequency? She is working on recommendations for the next 50 years for PSU to follow. At present, only 19 percent of PSU’s run-off is filtered, so this is a serious topic for the institution.

Alexandra is an excellent example of why donations to AAUW Funds make a difference in our world.
By Marie Mueller, State Secretary

96th State Annual Meeting: ACTIONS/EVENTS OF NOTE

Marie Mueller, State Secretary

For the first time, all 23 branches of AAUW of Oregon were represented with voting delegates; 136 members attended. Prior to the meeting, members received the *Annual Meeting Workbook*, *Officers' Reports*, and *Awards Program*.

Betsy McDowell corrected a scrivener's error in Article IV, Sec. 2, A, 4b: added "and state" dues to the sentence regarding 50-year honorary members. As there were no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers and new nominating committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee were elected.

State Officers:

- **Linda Lybecker** (Hillsboro / Forest Grove) as President-elect
- **Pat Squire** (Lake Oswego) as Program Vice President
- **Monica Weyhe** (Medford) as Finance Vice President
- **Marie Mueller** (Salem) as Secretary
- **Mary Pat Silveira** (Lake Oswego) as North Central District Director
- **Pam Shay** (Ashland) as South District Director

Nominating Committee

- **Linda O'Hara** (Yamhill County) (Past State President)
- **Kathy Gervasi** (Tillamook) (continuing member)
- **Theresa Johnson** (Albany)
- **Susan Wahlke** (Lincoln City)
- **Cathy deWolfe** (Medford)
- **Jill Heffner**, alternate (Pendleton)

The 2022 meeting venue is the Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites, April 8 – 10, 2022.

Summer Skills Camp 2.1 for 2021 will be online. Planning is underway with the schedule and dates to be announced soon.

The Awards Program (April 20, via Zoom) recognized top contributing branches and AAUW of Oregon State Named Gift Honorees.

1. **Nancy Brown** for guiding us through the Zoom transition and for her fabulous work on programs and events.
2. **Trish Garner** for her meticulous, continuing work on Public Policy and her anti-racist program series, with the challenge of doing it virtually during the pandemic.
3. **Pat Squire** for superb ideas and energy to direct and inspire us through virtual training and events.



Linda Lybecker
President-Elect



Pat Squire
Program VP



Monica Weyhe
Finance VP



Marie Mueller
Secretary



Mary Pat Silveira
North Central DD



Pam Shay
South DD

96th State Annual Meeting: KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County Commissioner, lawyer, mother, Latina, and activist discussed the importance and value of continuing to pursue equity and inclusion, especially for women and children, and most especially for those of color, those in dire economic straits, and those with a background which makes participation in society less possible.

Ms. Vega Pederson discussed her work on the Pre-School for All Task Force which ultimately convinced voters to pass the ballot measure to provide that service. Having pre-school care helps families to succeed. Childcare is essential if family members are to participate in the workforce; yet the cost is prohibitive for many families, resulting in an adult family member or even an older child having to stay home to provide that care. Despite costs of thousands per year for professional childcare, the average pay for pre-school teachers is a dismal \$12 an hour. That prevents qualified, trained childcare providers from continuing in the profession and further limits available slots for enrollment.

It is vital to bring diverse groups to the discussions to encourage partnerships. Having all groups present allows for inclusion of voices, clarification of cultural and family concepts, workplace needs (not all jobs are 9 to 5 and Monday-Friday), and helps bring women into the workforce. Most impacted by a lack of pre-schools are those of color, those of low income, those who do not speak English as their native language, those who are disabled, and those who are not mainstream. They are the most harmed.

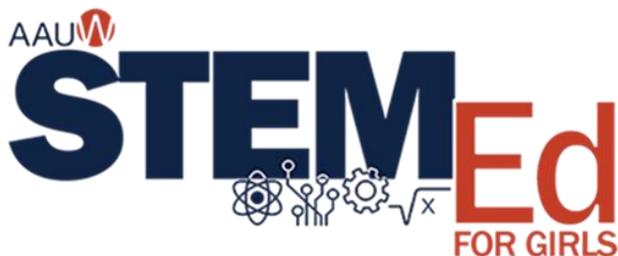
Parents, workers, unions, organizations, community groups, agencies, legislators—all were involved in passing the “pre-school for all” concept. The vote passed with 64%, partly helped by the COVID pandemic which clearly illustrated (1) the vital role that schools play as they underpin our economy and (2) the economic impact of 76 million people losing jobs, a disproportionate number of whom were women. We need women in all professions to be leaders and to earn living wages. If women are in charge, there is a difference in priorities and in what is accomplished to help women, children, and families.

Many of the things needed for family success have been in place for decades in other nations, but not in the United States:

- Funding for education for all
- Childcare for all, 24-hours-a-day to help all workers. (Did you know that childcare was available at multiple places before Vanport, Oregon, was washed out by the floods? That helped Vanport residents successfully participate in their work to support World War II.)
- Student loan costs—repayments over decades continue to hurt families.
- Health care costs and lack of access to health care due to that cost.

Ms. Vega-Peterson acknowledged the help and support provided by AAUW over the past nine years and urged us to continue our work.

By Marie Mueller, State Secretary



National AAUW is offering a brand-new STEM program created exclusively for girls in grades 9 through 12 — and for the parents and guardians who support their dreams and aspirations.

Encourage a teenage girl to register for the series of six lively, informative, and engaging virtual workshops in July-August 2021 that will pave the way for success through high school, into college and eventually to a career.

AAUW STEMEd for Girls is supported by a grant from the Arconic Foundation.
More information at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/stemed-for-girls/>





Summer Skills Camp 2.1 Offers Fun and Learning

*Pat Squire, Program VP &
Nancy Brown, Facilities Chair*

Remember how much fun you had last year at Summer Skills Camp? (And if you're a new camper, you're in for a treat.) Think fun connections, no mosquito repellent or sleeping bags, no driving for hours or sleeping on the ground. But of course, there will be s'mores to be had (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHywb4g0GvY> – wait until the ad finishes)! August 16-26, 2021

Put on your camp outfit (or buy a logo t-shirt during camp!) and join us online, August 16-26.

Our theme is "It Takes a Team," and thank you to those in the Facebook Group who selected the favored baseball team logo. Each Camp program will end with action steps you can take (if you choose!).

We'll kick off with a dynamite inspirational speaker to get you in the mood. Then we'll go on from there with our individual one-hour sessions. Programs will be during the evenings and a few weekends, depending on the availability of our speakers. We'll include topics on team building, training the rookies, stepping up to the plate (planning), throwing a strike (public policy), hitting a home run (taking on a project), scouting key players (successful recruiting), the million \$ bonus (successful fundraising), and lighting up the scoreboard (using electronic media).

Join us for these free, fun, and informative camp sessions, and pretend you're by the fire with friends, sharing stories, gathering tips for your AAUW experience, and eating s'mores! We'll "see" you in the dugout!



Pat Squire & Linda Lybecker



Summer Leadership Conference 2019 at Western Oregon University

AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Report, May 2021

Trish Garner, State Public Policy Chair

Members of the state public policy committee, branch public policy chairs, branch presidents, and district directors met for a brainstorming session about how state and branch public policy efforts might benefit from closer collaboration. More to come on this effort.

It has been an exceedingly unusual and not very pleasant legislative session. It is difficult to engage in casual conversations with legislators, staff, and other advocates when everything happens within a scheduled Zoom appointment.

Insofar as AAUW of Oregon goes, we have had three priority bills.

- House Bill 3110A provides that a publicly traded corporation with its principal place of business in Oregon must have at least one woman and one person from an underrepresented community on their board of directors. The bill was passed in the House and is pending before the Senate Labor and Business Committee.
- Good news on Civics legislation. It was passed in the Senate and on May 13th passed out of the House Education Committee with a 10 - 1 vote. It's up for a House floor vote next week. Senate Bill 513 states that students from public and public charter high schools must complete 1/2 credit in civics out of the required 24 total credits to graduate. This bill applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026.
- House Bill 2938 sets up an Age Discrimination Task Force. It is currently in the Ways & Means Committee. It is challenging to determine whether and when the bill will move -- or not, but it should pass. This legislation has suffered from a variety of setbacks. In 2019 the bill was drafted to eliminate age discrimination but at the last minute -- and contrary to all assurances -- was pulled. The Senate walkout took place in the 2020 Session when a Task Force bill had been filed. Now we're here!

Important legislation regarding firearms control has passed. As always, the details are important, but there are two separate parts to the legislation. Senate Bill 554B provides that (1) firearms must be safely stored and (2) certain public buildings are firearms-free zones. These buildings include the State Capitol in Salem, PDX passenger terminals, and school grounds where prohibitive policies have been adopted. Governing boards of public universities, OHSU, community colleges, and district school boards may adopt policies to declare gun-free zones. Importantly, the legislation does not have an emergency clause which means it will likely be referred to the voters.

Several bills regarding police reform are awaiting action in the Ways & Means Committee. They include tear gas regulations, the duty of a police officer to report misconduct by another officer, creation of a database on police misconduct, changes in the arbitration-appeal process, establishing statewide standards for the use of force, and more.

*Lobby Day
2017*



MEMBERSHIP: What is MOB?

Gini Dideum, Membership Vice President

The membership renewal period is now open. The goal is to have all memberships renewed by July 1st when the new fiscal year begins.

I am often asked what do the abbreviations for the different types of AAUW membership mean. It is an alphabet soup that doesn't always match the words. There are four basic categories of membership: member of a branch, lifetime member of a branch, dual member of a branch, and student member of a branch. Most of us are an MOB which stands for Member of Branch. Lifetime members can be an MBHL which stands for Member Branch Honorary Life, meaning a member has been in AAUW for 50 or more years. This is truly a lifetime commitment to the organization. Also, lifetime members can be an MBL which stands for Member Branch Lifetime. These members make a tax-deductible donation to AAUW equal to 20 times the current National dues amount and pay no more National dues for their lifetime.

There is no abbreviation for dual but there are two types: one when the member's primary branch is in Oregon and one when the member's primary branch is in another state. Student members are broken down by whether they attend an AAUW affiliated school or not. ESAFs attend affiliated schools and SAFs do not. Recently, new abbreviations have been added for graduate students, but that is more confusion.

Oregon has almost 100 lifetime members, about 10% of our membership. We have several members that join multiple Oregon branches and 15 from other states. Student membership has been higher in previous years but continues to be an important part of Oregon's total membership. Membership in AAUW is a commitment to our mission. No matter how long you have been a member, your continued support and membership are important to all of us.

*"We're flooding people with information. We need to feed it through a processor. A human must turn information into intelligence or knowledge."
Admiral Grace Hopper*

Technology Tips

Visit the redesigned State website at:

<https://aauw-or.aauw.net/>

for resources, documents, and links.

Member Center Password oregonaauw

District and Branch News

Central District—Elena Rae, Director

I went to Salem's Equal Pay/Start Smart workshop program on April 1st, on Zoom. It would be nice while telling women how to negotiate salary, if we told people to ask for the job they really want, not just the one that was advertised. We watched a video of two students who went through the Start Smart program. They said that being around a (Zoom Breakout) room full of really smart dedicated women (the AAUW members) was a real high point. Joyce said that a couple of male students said the same thing. A student came back and gave the feedback that she practiced, interviewed, and Joyce Zook, the Branch president, said that she thinks that she got the job. It is so impressive to me that real work got done. The role-playing in the Breakout Rooms seems to be the big breakthrough.

Eugene-Lane sent a Branch letter in support of the Civics in Schools legislation as CHIPS' originators and sponsors. There were a lot of signatures. They also had a program on Arctic Governance by Mary Durfee, a Branch member. It was really enlightening as to how things are done on this "ocean surrounded by land", and the land belongs to many different nations and ethnic groups.

ALBANY BRANCH, Virginia Staffelbach and Theresa Johnson, Co-presidents

The Albany Branch is looking forward to holding its first in-person meeting in June at one of our local park shelters. To accomplish that, we postponed the meeting from the original May date. Due to the recent decision by the CDC and the fact that all our members are vaccinated, we feel this will be a safe gathering. All other meetings this year have been via Zoom.

We started with an update on how our City's library system was managing providing services to the community amid the pandemic. Our November meeting was co-sponsored by the Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Department at the community college with students leading a panel discussion. In March we hosted Angel Harris, Immediate Past President of the Corvallis/Albany Branch of the NAACP with a focus on the role of Women of Color in Politics. Our last meeting of the year is our membership recruitment meeting and our annual fundraiser for AAUW Funds.

In addition to our program and business meetings, we have also held pop-up meetings to connect with members around important events, such as the November election, the traditional holiday social, and Pay Equity Day. One last thing we implemented was a phone tree to contact members periodically just to keep in touch and update them on events.

EUGENE-LANE BRANCH, Sheila Ramerman, President

Membership: The Eugene-Lane Branch gained 3 new members this year, in addition to 5 student members from the UofO. We sponsored attendance of one of the student members, Victoria Olajide, to the virtual NCCWSL conference this year. Victoria also volunteered to help with our College/University Relations efforts next year. The board sent note cards to each member we haven't seen in zoom meetings recently, to let them know we're thinking of them and to ask for feedback on what's working for them and what's not working in the current remote and restricted pandemic climate. We had the same discussion with attendees at our branch business meeting in May.

Programs: Our Program VP, Carol Hildebrand, and the board put together another stellar slate of programs. Outstanding programs included the STAR voting process, how we make decisions, and upcycling. Our winter holiday celebration featured a historian, Trena Cleland, who led us in a discussion of personal memories of winters and winter holidays past. It was a great time of sharing and learning about the histories of each other.

Branch/Board Activities: The board completed a rewrite of the Branch Policies, to correspond to recent Bylaws updates and to better reflect current branch governance. The board also finished a complete overhaul of board officer job descriptions and posted them in the members section of the branch website. We published two articles in the weekly Creswell *Chronicle*, one on the history of the branch and one on current & future activities. Unfortunately, the highly anticipated Civics Trek contest didn't get off the ground. After a lot of work by the CHiPS Committee and our partner, Girls Voices Matter, there was only one entrant, and she withdrew on learning she was the only one. Other difficulties included a dwindling committee and pandemic-related impacts. We hope to be able to use the work and materials in the future and are willing to share them with other branches.

SALEM BRANCH, Joyce Zook, President

Salem Branch activities for Spring, 2021 include the following:

- **Equal Pay Day (EPD) Acknowledgement** - Via Zoom, Dolores Mlynarczyk provided an overview of the significance of EPD; this was followed by a video tape highlighting two of the Willamette University students who commented on the benefits they received from the Start Smart "role play" practice session with Salem Branch members.
- **AAUW National Vote** - Several board members contacted branch members by phone to explain the importance of this year's national election and helped with the details to enable them to vote online or call for a paper ballot. They were encouraged to vote!

- **Named Gift Honorees and AAUW Funds accomplishments/awards** - were celebrated in our newsletter after the announcements at our state meeting.
- **Earth Day Acknowledgement** - Patricia Farrell, Climate Plan Manager for the City of Salem presented a program describing the Salem Climate Change Task Force. She presented some of the data and objectives, and what changes every person might consider in lowering the carbon footprint. Their study and proposals are expected by year end.
- **Oregon Tradeswomen** - will be providing a program for us in May. A few years ago, a couple of our branch members held a session explaining the Equal Pay legislation.

We were successful in achieving two “co” officers on the boards (a goal in our succession plan). We have met as a board to plan activities, programs, and funding for 2021-22 after receiving many suggestions from the broader membership.

We wish to thank our Central DD, Elena Rae, and AAUW OR Co-Presidents, Sue Klumph and Pat Lehman, for being responsive to requests during the past year! Their recommendations and advisements have been so appreciated! In addition, they have attended our branch Zoom meetings on more than one occasion.

YAMHILL COUNTY BRANCH, Linda O’Hara, President

Not much to say about Yamhill County branch that is “new” from the last report. We rendezvous once a month via zoom to stay connected, hopeful an in-person event as we have hosted in the past will be possible in the fall. We also might consider having a table during Farmer’s Market later in the summer, which is good for visibility but we have yet to get any new members when we are there...but that might change if the membership requirement is modified as of May 17.

North Central District—Mary Pat Silveira, Director

GRESHAM AREA BRANCH, Bonnie Jepsen and Peggy Taylor, Co-presidents

In September, the board reached out to all our members to reconnect after summer and to help them navigate Zoom. Board members frequently contacted every branch member, sent birthday greetings, and created and mailed both holiday cards and Valentine cards. *KeyNotes*, our newsletter, was artfully published monthly.

Our **50th Birthday Celebration** held in February included hand-delivered birthday party bags containing a birthday greeting, a birthday cupcake and candle, and a PayDay candy bar to remember Equal Pay Day. The branch acknowledged our charter and life members. The *Gresham Outlook* newspaper detailed our celebration with a lengthy article and pictures.

The Branch promoted voter registration and voting in the fall, including a “Chalk the Vote” campaign on the sidewalks of downtown Gresham, and it sent out League of Women Voters’ postcards to all branch members.

Our crowning achievement was our “Calling All Angels” fundraiser. We reached our goal to endow Mt. Hood Community College \$3,000 scholarship into perpetuity.

Branch programs included guests from East County Rising, Planned Parenthood, and our Multnomah County Commissioner, Lori Stegmann. Many members participated in virtual Lobby Day and our State meetings. Members were involved with issues surrounding Public Policy such as community college funding.

Although the year has been difficult, the Gresham Area Branch perseveres and continues to be proactive with strong, active members who promote and advance equity for women and girls.

HILLSBORO-FOREST GROVE BRANCH, Claire Berger, President

The Hillsboro-Forest Grove branch has been active despite the Covid lockdown. During this quarter, we offered monthly Zoom programs: “Celebration of Oregon Women” for Women’s History Month; “Branch History”; “Emergency Preparedness”; “Be an Informed Voter” and “Redistricting” with the League of Women Voters; “After Election Implications” with Trish Garner; and “How to Deal with Strife and Turmoil.”

We organized fundraisers: a spring plant sale, a poinsettia sale, an on-line sale of donated items, and “Winesome” which raises money for two awards at Pacific University, a Student Award and a Leadership Award. In a Zoom meeting, Sydney Linden, the 2021 Student Award recipient, spoke, as did 2020 Student Award recipient Jacqueline Lopez. The 2018 Student Award recipient Dr. Consuelo Perez shared her experiences working in pediatric audiology. The plan for next year is to meet in person at a favorite winery!

We updated our policies, adding both a Dues Assist for new members and a Succession Plan. The branch is particularly proud of the fact that our branch member, Linda Lybecker, will serve as President-Elect of the AAUW of Oregon next year and assume the mantle of president the year after.



Clockwise: Oregon State Co-president, Sue Klumph; Catharine Hojem, new Lake Oswego President; Jeanne-Marie Pierrelouis, Secretary; and Marge Ransom, VP for Program Coordination.

LAKE OSWEGO BRANCH, Mary Pat Silveira, President

The Lake Oswego branch was able to continue to hold monthly branch, board, and interest groups meetings through the miracle of Zoom. Many members also took full advantage of all the state training, presentations, and discussions, including Lobby Day. We are very much looking forward to meeting in person at both branch and state levels soon.

The membership committee was terrific in reaching out to all our members, whether online or not, through phone calls, cards, and emails, and in keeping our membership numbers intact.

The branch had little difficulty in filling its leadership positions. We decided to replace the Program V-P with a VP for Program Coordination, who is working with a committee with shared responsibility for monthly programs. The board also decided to provide for the president-elect to “shadow” the president for six months before assuming office. Co-president Sue Klumph installed our new officers at our May branch meeting (see photo).

Another major change involved our scholarship. The branch decided to move its scholarship arrangement from Clackamas Community College to Oregon Tradeswomen. This will be an especially good fit should AAUW vote to change the membership requirements.

Finally, given the financial toll that the pandemic has had on many people, the Board decided to establish a confidential dues-assist program.

OREGON ONLINE BRANCH, Elena Rae, President

We have two new members, one as a Primary Branch member, and one is the North Central District Director. Congratulations to Penney Hoodenpyle as our Named Gift Member!

At its May 11th meeting, the Online branch elected Pat Lehman and Bev Van Critters as Co-Program Vice-Presidents, Mardy Stevens as Membership VP, Gini Dideum as Finance VP, and Julie Skinner as Secretary. The branch is still trying to identify a president. I (Elena Rae) will not be renewing my AAUW membership. I have been a member for five years and have voted to change the character of the organization to get rid of the education requirement three times.

Our combination Branch and Board meeting was held on the evening of May 11th, with a program on Propaganda.

PORTLAND BRANCH, Susan Marthens and Katie Raetz, Co-presidents

Most Portland Branch activities and meetings were via Zoom as listed below, including all board meetings, and several book groups.

- July 2020--a presentation by the Oregon Women's History Consortium, on the History of Suffrage in Oregon.
- August 2020--the Executive Director of the Welcome Home Coalition, on the hoped-for results of the successful passing of the Homeless Services Ballot Measure.
- September 2020--General Meeting Pat Lehman, State Co-President, spoke to us about the State goals and objectives.
- October 2020--a presentation on promoting racial equity.
- In December 2020--Board members wrote Christmas Cards to each branch member. Twice during the fiscal year, Board members called each branch member personally.
- January 2021--an OHSU physician scientist explained each type of COVID-19 vaccine and how it works and answered many questions.
- March 2021--Annual Meeting featured a discussion between PCC Foundation and our Branch Scholarships Chair and a presentation from one of the current recipients.
- The Honors Celebration on May 20, 2021 will feature Jill Kuehler, Freeland Founder and CEO of Freeland Spirits, a Portland-based, women-owned and run craft distillery, and our newly elected branch officers will be inducted.

TIGARD AREA BRANCH, Ilga Ross and Marsha Brockmeyer, Co-presidents

At the State Awards Celebration we were greatly surprised to hear that Tigard Area Branch tied for first in increased membership this year. The presentation of a virtual garden gnome marked this amazing achievement!

That was only one of the highlights of our year. The branch responded with astounding speed to the Covid-19 restrictions and carried out a program of events, either contactless or virtually. Two of our members had Zoom accounts already and made them readily available for branch use. Randa Blanding and Judy Silverforb collaborated to produce excellent monthly programs with interesting speakers. The topics of police response, legislative issues, immigrant support, student social justice, women's suffrage, and climate progress drew as many monthly attendees as our live programs had. The book group chose to read several books on race-related issues and met virtually for discussion.

We are incredibly happy that student member Ally Yoshioka will finally be able to attend NCCWSL, although virtually. Also, Ally graduated college this past year and was elected co-president of our branch. Next year will be interesting for Tigard Area branch, as we decide what to retain and what to change following this past year's experiences.

Northeast District—Karen King, Director

The biggest hurdle all Northeast Oregon District branches have had this year is learning how to Zoom. However, the branches have done an amazing job of not only learning Zoom but also using it to their advantage, including hosting speakers from outside the area that would not have been possible otherwise. In addition, many members have taken advantage of state workshops that they would not have been able to attend in person, and some reported they enjoyed putting faces to names of our state AAUW leaders. All in all, the Zoom experience has made the pandemic more tolerable.

BAKER BRANCH, Wanda Raffety, President

Baker Branch completed their 2020/2021 Strategic Plan--all on Zoom.

Baker Branch had amazing programs during the year. They put on three performances of Reader's Theater - "The Suffrage Movement in America" written by Gloria Holland, Salem Branch. The cast consisted of community and Baker Branch members.

In addition, the branch utilized You Tube to view "Oregon Women's Right to Vote," and "Visit to the Arizona/Mexico Border." They participated in "Neighbors of Baker," which is a joint project of the Baker County Safe Communities Coalition and Baker Community Justice Project. They celebrated International Women's Day by having Baker High School Senior Glendi Luna speak on her life journey.

Additional programs included: "Becoming a Financial Advisor in a Man's Financial World" and "Baker Relief Nursery-Keeping children safe and families together." Finally, they had 5-J School District Superintendent speak on the upcoming School Bond Issue.

PENDLETON BRANCH, Kate Mace and Kathy Chaney, Co-presidents

We made it through the year very well, we'd say, especially considering the state of the world. It would be difficult for us to pick a special program as they all were special in their individual ways.

Our program committee prepared an excellent series of programs all through Zoom. Some of the Wallowa County branch members participated in Pendleton's programs this year. At the second to last meeting, it was decided that we needed a candidates' forum for the upcoming local school and college board elections. That's all it took--two of our members volunteered and developed a forum via Zoom with another member stepping up to moderate. It went very well and even the candidates were impressed.

We hesitated to have our annual Grapefruit Sale but went ahead with it with restrictions put in place. It went extremely well, and we made a good return especially considering the circumstances. We may even incorporate some of the procedures that were developed into future sales. Yes, we'd say it was a particularly good year all in all.

Northwest District—Susan Wahlke, Director



Congratulations, Madam Mayor!

Susan Wahlke, AAUW of Oregon Northwest District Director, was elected mayor of Lincoln City, Oregon, at the May special election. Five candidates vied for the position with Susan as the clear winner.

I am pleased to represent the four Northwest District branches on the State Board. I was recently elected as Mayor of Lincoln City to fill out the unexpired term of Dick Anderson who was elected to the State Senate last November.

Astoria has been meeting virtually via Zoom.

Seaside had their first in-person meeting at the Astoria Country Club with members who are fully vaccinated. The meeting was also offered via Zoom.

Tillamook has been meeting virtually but will have an installation and honors gathering in June with an appropriate theme of “Resilience.”

Lincoln City has had a couple of virtual meetings and fully vaccinated members are looking forward to meeting outside in June to honor their three scholarship winners.

South District—Joan Rycraft, Director

The South District has been productive with a variety of activities and accomplishments this past year despite the restrictions due to COVID-19. Highlights for the year are reported.

ASHLAND BRANCH, Catherine Lutes and Paula Wilken, Co-Presidents

Oh, What a Year! After ping-ponging back and forth, in person or virtual, with no certainty on the horizon, we decided early on to have all our meetings on Zoom.

In the meantime, over the summer, after much hard work, we received our 5 STAR program award. The co-presidents did a short presentation to interested parties about what it entailed and how it focused our Branch program.

Also hard at work over the summer, was a small group of Public Policy team members who researched and wrote the report Women on Corporate Boards, which has been brought to the legislature as HB 3110, and just passed the House. Testimony is being heard now by the Senate.

We started off our official year with a Welcome Back meeting in September showing a video of Pat Mitchell encouraging us all to become “dangerous women;” not dangerous as in feared, but fearless: a force to be reckoned with. In embracing the risks necessary to create a world where safety, respect and truth burn brighter than the darkness of our current times.

We had a delightful Zoom Christmas Party, complete with wacky sweaters, hats, jewelry - and gift certificates to boot! In February, we listened to a panel from SOU discuss the challenges of conducting Title IX investigations into sexual harassment and other initiatives related to Title IX compliance that SOU has championed. Engaging and oh so enlightening!

At our Presidents' meeting, in April, Named Gift Honorees and the Florence Schneider awards were given. Gretchen King, past co-president and current chair of our Public Policy team was the worthy Florence Schneider recipient. We ended with a short video made by Emma Roberts about Equity and how far we've come and still how far we must go.

GRANTS PASS BRANCH, Lee Bollschweiler, President

Despite all the challenges faced by our branch this year, branch members demonstrated their dedication to AAUW and its mission through creativity and persistence. One outstanding response to the challenges imposed by Covid was our decision to connect with every branch member by phone. Our Executive Board made phone calls to each member both in the Spring and again in the Fall of 2020. Not only did we learn how each member was faring regarding the Covid crisis, but we also heard some outstanding suggestions for programs and creative ways our Branch could move forward. In keeping with this desire to connect personally with each member, we also sent a hand-made card to every member at the holidays. This direct connection with each member is something we hope to continue even when Covid isn't keeping us physically separated.

MEDFORD BRANCH, Carol Koszyk, President

- Passed Branch Bylaws in June 2020, to reduce tasks/maintain effectiveness.
- Public Policy: Collected signatures for Initiative 57 to establish an independent redistricting commission for state and congressional voting districts; did "Chalk the Vote" highlighting the 19th U.S. Constitutional Amendment's 100 Year Anniversary; joined Oregon's Virtual Lobby Day.
- Purchased a Zoom Pro Account for meetings.
- AAUW Funds: Contributed \$5840 in 2020, and \$2795 in 2021.
- For 2021/2022 year: Awarded 3 SOU and 3 RCC students Scholarships of \$2500 each; 10 students an AWSEM Scholarship (\$45 each); 6 students an Academy Scholarship (\$350 each).
- Our Membership V.P.'s: Utilized a "Phone Connection" to talk to members; mailed birthday cards; Kid-Time Museum Polar Express Project serving 1000+ local children; invited AAUW Members-at-Large to join our Branch.
- STEM: Donated supplies/volunteers to the Kid-Time Museum and a "STEM Book Library" to their Preschool; developed a Rogue Valley Girls Rock (STEM) event for September 25, 2021.
- Interest Groups/ACT: Helped the Maslow Project (homeless students and their families) and the St. Vincent DePaul charity for persons in need.
- Newsletter Editor: Highlighted members' lives; started column "Most Cherished Advice"; Mother's Day Tribute.



Another Shot at 5-Star Success

It's been a fantastic year for the Five-Star National Recognition Program, with more than 100 AAUW branches from 25 states earning stars for their work to advance gender equity. Branches and states have until June 30 to submit for Five-Star status in the existing program before we retool and relaunch this summer. Stay tuned for information about a virtual celebration in June and watch the webinar on June 2nd about the program changes.

AAUW of Oregon

Mission

AAUW of Oregon promotes advocacy, takes action to empower women and girls, and connects National AAUW with branch members.

Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Vision

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

We're on the Web!

<https://aauw-or.aauw.net/>

Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/aauworegon>

Instagram!

https://www.instagram.com/aauw_of_oregon/

Pinterest!

<https://www.pinterest.com/aauworegon/saved/>