



COVID-19 Guidelines: AAUW's recommendation is to adhere to the state guidelines as determined by its governor. Link to <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

OREGON NEWS

Summer Edition, June 2022



Oregon Garden, photo by Ilga Ross

In this Issue:

Annual Meeting Recap, State Business Meeting Report, Branch News, Awards.

AAUW FUNDS CHALLENGES

Claudia Gray & Betsy McDowell, Co-Chairs

Eighty-three Oregon members met the **AAUW 140th Anniversary Challenge** by donating at least \$140 to AAUW Funds within the challenge period. Their names were printed in the state Annual Meeting Awards Celebration program on April 9th and they each received a special certificate. Congratulations!

Now the state AAUW Funds Co-chairs have challenged members to **donate \$50 or more to honor the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX**. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education, protecting staff and students in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. National AAUW will celebrate this event on **June 23, 2022**.

STATE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Pat Lehman & Sue Klumph, Co-presidents

When we assumed our role as co-presidents for AAUW of Oregon, we were excited about the opportunity to pursue several goals. We hoped to clarify and solidify lines of communication, develop and evaluate our strategic plan, help to update state documents, encourage greater use of technology, and build strong relationships with our members statewide. We certainly didn't anticipate that our work would mainly be in front of a screen!

Nor did we realize at the time that our amazing leadership team would make our goals achievable--and would accomplish so much more. Those strange two years have resulted in an organization that is creative, nimble and responsive, and we are proud to be a part of this group and its extraordinary work.

Some members have told us it's sad that we have missed out on all the fun of live annual meetings and far-flung branch visits. There has been an upside, though. Our annual meetings have been very well attended and members continue to view sessions on our YouTube channel. We haven't driven all over the state to visit branches, but there's something to be said for attending meetings and social times in bedroom slippers. We do look forward to resuming in-person gatherings, though, and enjoying hugs too.

Very soon, President-elect Linda Lybecker will become President Linda. We have absolute confidence that she will do a fabulous job. We know this because she has been doing it all year, leading the creation of a better state strategic plan, attending committee meetings, keeping up with our copious email traffic, and organizing our June Board Summit. Linda too will have an outstanding board, and we will all support her as she navigates the next two years.

Finally, we thank you, our members, for your concern, assistance, suggestions and humor as together we strive to fulfill AAUW's important mission. Our appreciation is boundless.

ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE 2022 STATE BUSINESS MEETING

Marie Mueller, AAUW of Oregon Secretary

Secretary's Report:

BYLAWS Betsy McDowell and the Governance Committee proposed the following amendments to the current Bylaws. All passed by a wide positive vote.

Article X, Officers, Section 2

The appointed officers of this state shall be a parliamentarian, AAUW Funds chair, public policy chair, governance chair-and such other officers as may be considered necessary to carry on the work of the state and shall be listed in policies. They shall be appointed by the president, in consultation with the executive committee with due regard for geographical representation.

Article IX, Duties of Officers, Section 3

This section was struck, with the information moving to *AAUW of Oregon Policies*, Section 110.

AAUW of Oregon Officers 2021-2022

Co-Presidents
Sue Klumph & Pat Lehman

President-Elect
Linda Lybecker

Communications VP
Ilga Ross

Finance VP
Monica Weyhe

Membership VP
Gini (Virginia) Dideum

Program VP
Pat Squire

Secretary
Marie Mueller

Article XV, Section 4A, Standing Committees, Number 8:

A new section was added which defines the Committee on Technology and reads:

8. The Committee on Technology will provide training for members, coordinate media for state meetings, secure and maintain the Web-based shared document interface, and create and monitor AAUW of Oregon's social media presence.

PUBLIC POLICY

The Public Policy committee moved that AAUW of Oregon adopt the addition to the Public Policy Program Goals for 2022/2024, by adding to the Economic Self-Sufficiency and Security section, the following: *The ability of all persons to have affordable access to electronic and other communications systems.* The motion passed by a wide margin, resulting in this language:

Economic Self-Sufficiency and Security

- Greater availability of and access to benefits that promote work and life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care;
- Safe, livable, and affordable housing;
- Strengthening of retirement benefits, including the protection of Social Security;
- Increased access of women to all levels of the economic process;
- Pay equity and fairness in compensation;
- **All persons to have affordable access to electronic and other communications systems.**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee presented a proposed slate of officers. This was followed by nominations from the floor, resulting in election of the following women to new offices:

Candidates and voting results: All were elected with wide majorities.

Officers:

- Communications Vice President Kelli Matthews
- Membership Vice President Catherine Lutes
- Northeast District Director Karen King
- Northwest District Director Kathy Gervasi
- Central District Director Joyce Zook

2024 Nominating Committee:

- Claire Berger
- Pat Lehman
- Linda O'Hara
- Theresa Johnson
- With no nominees or volunteers from the floor, two positions are still open.

Northeast District Director
Karen A. King

Northwest District Director
Susan Wahlke

North-Central District
Director
Mary Pat Silveira

Central District Director

South District Director
Pam Shay

AAUW of Oregon Officers 2022-2023

President
Linda Lybecker

Communications VP
Kelli Matthews

Finance VP
Monica Weyhe

Membership VP
Catherine Lutes

Program VP
Pat Squire

Secretary
Marie Mueller

Northeast District Director
Karen A. King

Northwest District Director
Kathy Gervasi

North-Central District
Director
Mary Pat Silveira

Central District Director
Joyce Zook

South District Director
Pam Shay

RESOLUTION FOR AAUW OF OREGON Betsy McDowell and Claudia Gray, co-chairs, presented the following from the Governance Committee. It was adopted unanimously by those present.

COURTESY RESOLUTION FOR AAUW OREGON ANNUAL MEETING - April 9, 2022

WHEREAS COVID, soon known as a global pandemic, affected all our lives, starting in 2019; and

WHEREAS Members sewed or bought facemasks to wear and isolated at home, as directed by the CDC, Oregon Health Authority and AAUW rules; and

WHEREAS Oregon and Washington AAUW leaders traveled, negotiated, planned, and selected meals for an elegant bi-state 2020 convention which was then, after painful deliberation, cancelled; and

WHEREAS AAUW of Oregon Program VP Pat Squire and AAUW of Oregon Event Coordinator Nancy Brown taught members how to set up, use and communicate on Zoom at the 2020 and 2021 online Summer Leadership Camps; and

WHEREAS Branch and state boards met using Zoom instead of in person; and

WHEREAS Branch meetings and study/interest groups were on hiatus or conducted on Zoom; and

WHEREAS The 2021 AAUW of Oregon Annual Meeting was held via Zoom; and

WHEREAS AAUW of Oregon Communications VP Ilga Ross increased the number of state news releases to members and updated the state website to function as an information hub; and

WHEREAS Georgia Applegate and the AAUW of Oregon Technology Committee shared new modes of communication, developing our Google Drive, YouTube channel, office hours and online workshops; and

WHEREAS Members Zoomed to the diversity workshops and lobby days organized by AAUW of Oregon Public Policy Chair Trish Garner and Event Coordinator Nancy Brown; and

WHEREAS Membership VP Gini Dideum succeeded with membership diminished by only 5.5%, and with eight branches gaining members; and

WHEREAS AAUW of Oregon members' 2021 contributions to AAUW Funds exceeded all prior years, partly as a result of the \$140 challenge for AAUW's 140th anniversary, and

WHEREAS AAUW of Oregon Secretary Marie Mueller kept us on track with complete and accurate minutes of our meetings; and

WHEREAS Locations and program events for the AAUW of Oregon 2022 Annual Meeting in Ashland were secured and then rescheduled to Zoom, due to rising infection rates in January; and

WHEREAS AAUW of Oregon Co-presidents Sue Klumph and Pat Lehman never got to hold an actual state meeting in person, which denied them personal rewards and FUN;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT We are all hereby proclaimed **survivors of the pandemic**, standing together wiser but also sadder for our losses, with a bond in AAUW that was tested and proved strong, in spite of harsh challenges; and

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT We honor our members, all of the branch presidents for 2020-2022, and especially AAUW of Oregon Co-presidents Sue Klumph and Pat Lehman, who provided compassion, spirit, insight, humor, and strength in the most difficult of times!

MEMBERS ENJOY ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

(Yes, on Zoom!) Pat Squire, Program VP & Nancy Brown, Events Coordinator

2022 Online Conference & Annual Meeting



AAUW of Oregon

Oregon members turned out in good numbers for the 2022 Annual Meeting and Conference in early April. Nearly 100 members joined the annual business meeting, which included a brief presentation by AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell on April 9. That same afternoon, state AAUW Funds Co-chair Claudia Gray led a fun awards session that featured a wonderful talk by AAUW American Fellow Safia Farole, an assistant professor at Portland State University studying local elections in South Africa.

Separate speaker sessions were meant to emulate an actual conference held over a few days and it worked very well. Dr. Scott Burns, a geologist and wine expert, gave an interesting talk on the significance of soil and climate, and our wine-drinking members brought their own glasses of wine to the talk! It was a fun and informative evening. Sessions following became a little more serious and focused on “Can We Get Along”, which was an interactive session with Chisao Hata from Oregon Humanities. Dr. Neesha Patel talked about aging gracefully and Keynote Speaker Rep. Pam Marsh (Dist. 5) discussed the apparent divisions that exist in our state and how we might bridge the gap. All sessions, except the Oregon Humanities one, were recorded and edited by Nancy Brown and are available on AAUW YouTube.

The State Board will meet in June to discuss the most effective way to deliver training and other assistance for branches and their members. Stay tuned!

AAUW OF OREGON HONORS FIVE OFFICERS

Claudia Gray & Betsy McDowell, AAUW Funds Co-Chairs

At the AAUW-OR Annual Meeting Awards Celebration on April 9, five state officers were recognized as **Oregon AAUW Named Gift Honorees** for the year 2021. The five are: **AAUW-OR Co-presidents Sue Klumph** (Grants Pass) and **Pat Lehman** (Wallowa Co.), AAUW-OR Membership Vice-president **Gini Dideum** (Hillsboro-Forest Grove), AAUW-OR Secretary **Marie Mueller** (Salem) and AAUW-OR North Central District Director **Mary Pat Silveira** (Lake Oswego).

Nominations were sent in by members across the state and the honorees were chosen by the winners for the year 2020: Nancy Brown, Trish Garner and Pat Squire. The award is given to an AAUW member who has gone above and beyond any requirements for her AAUW position and who continues to advance the mission of AAUW.



Sue Klumph



Pat Lehman



Gini Dideum



Marie Mueller



Mary Pat Silveira

AAUW of Oregon website password to “Member Center” is *oregonaauw*

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Gini Dideum, AAUW of Oregon Membership VP

It is time for you to renew your membership for the new fiscal year. **Remember that National dues are now \$67.** You can renew online with a credit or debit card by logging into the **Community Hub**. The Community Hub replaces the MSD and is where you can renew your membership, make donations and update your contact information.

To enter the Community Hub for the first time, you will need to change your password if you had an account previously; if not, you will need to set up a new account entirely. When renewing your membership online, be sure to mark state and branch dues too. You may also send a check to your Finance VP/Dues Treasurer who will be able to renew your membership. Check with your branch leaders to see what they prefer.

This is my last article as Membership VP as I have served two terms. Thank you to everyone who has been helpful and supportive.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS “Most Important Branch Achievements of 2021-22”

CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT— Joyce Zook, District Director (pro-tem)

Thank you to Joyce Zook for gathering these articles and photos from the branches in the Central District. She assumes her position officially in July as Central District Director.

ALBANY BRANCH, Theresa Johnson, President

The Albany Branch is continuing its work to **support and promote girls and women going into STEM related careers**. Some of the projects we have supported in the past were put on hold during the pandemic. Now that things are opening back up we have discovered that, fortunately, many of them have since found full funding from other sources. Also, over the last few years a new consortium of STEM career promoters has been formed. It is the Mid-Valley CTE-STEM Hub.

Our branch STEM committee chair sits on the board of the STEM Hub and worked with the group to identify ways that we could continue to support the efforts of promoting STEM careers for girls and women in our community. During the past year we have donated 42 books that feature women in STEM fields. These books are available to any teacher in the Linn-Benton area to check out.

In addition, we have provided scholarships for women students who are pursuing STEM field careers in their studies at Linn-Benton Community College. We have given four scholarships to women who are studying everything from coding to engineering. All four intend to go on to pursue a four-year degree or beyond.

BEND BRANCH, Jane McEldowney, President

The most outstanding achievements for the Bend Branch this year were **continuing to meet regularly, hear interesting presentations** and stay in touch with about a dozen members each zoom meeting.

Among our programs were talks on: the possibilities of "Tiny Homes" to help with the houseless folk Project Wildfire, which taught us about which plants are safest for landscaping and the importance of distancing ladder fuels; and life as the administrator of Bend Airport.

EUGENE-LANE BRANCH, Sheila Ramerman, President

At the risk of being COVID-centric, the Eugene-Lane Branch is most proud of holding branch and board meetings almost every month this past year according to our usual schedule; we cancelled the April 2022 meeting that conflicted with the Oregon State Annual Meeting.

Starting in September 2021 and except for January 2022 (Omicron variant concerns), we held hybrid branch meetings. Those who felt comfortable meeting in person did so and those who didn't feel comfortable or couldn't attend in person attended via Zoom. In-person attendance included social distancing, masking, and a request that only vaccinated persons attend. It was great to be able to see folks in person again!

Those who couldn't attend in person were so appreciative of being able to participate via Zoom. In fact, **we increased monthly branch meeting attendance with hybrid meetings** because some members weren't comfortable enough with the tech to attend remotely when remote was the only option. Typical remote-only attendance had dwindled to a dozen or so stalwarts; with hybrid attendance, we saw at least that many in-person with another 5-10 remote attendees.

Our meeting venue has a great sound system that enables remote attendees to hear well without the speaker being close to the laptop microphone.

SALEM BRANCH, Joyce Zook, President

Our first in-person meeting since the Covid pandemic was our Holiday Event in December, featuring a quiz that focused upon the branch's highlights of the last 100 years. **Yes! It is our Centennial celebration come October 21, 2022!**



Although it was the fourth year we sponsored a Speech Trek Contest for high school 10th or 11th grade girls, this year was outstanding because we had more contestants, and we had a variety of ethnic backgrounds in our judges.

The contest commemorated Women's History Month in March. The topic of the speeches was a "current or historic woman who made, or is making, a significant impact in the areas of government, STEM field, or leadership". The top three winners received cash awards: \$500; \$300; \$200.

Salem Branch Speech Trek 2022 contestants striking a pose: "The Strength of Women." Photo by Karen Sims.

YAMHILL COUNTY BRANCH, Linda O'Hara, President

We are establishing a **presence on social media!** With the help of an intern via Linfield University, we have an Instagram account, but we are not sure about Facebook. Find us on Instagram and tell me what you think.

NORTH CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT— Mary Pat Silveira, District Director

During the past year, I held **four meetings of branch presidents**: the first was an in-person event at a winery and the subsequent three were all held on Zoom. The purpose of these meetings has been three-fold: to give branch presidents throughout the district an opportunity to get to know each other and to share information among themselves, to allow the district director to share information of interest from the AAUW of Oregon state leadership, and to solicit inputs from the branches for state planning and other purposes. The most recent meeting took place on May 13. The same approach will likely continue into the next year.

I would like to voice my thanks to all of the branch presidents who have stepped up and steered their respective branches through a very difficult and challenging year. They have made herculean efforts to maintain a sense of community within their branches, to provide excellent programming and to take every opportunity to forward the mission of AAUW. **We also bid a fond farewell to four of our co-presidents – Bonnie Jepsen and Peggy Taylor (Gresham Area) and Susan Marthens and Katie Raetz (Portland) – who have reached the end of their terms.**

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

Reflecting over the past difficult months, AAUW Gresham Area Branch recognizes a pivotal success milestone. **This spring marked the endowment of the Mt. Hood Community College Scholarship Fund**, established in 2007, for **\$3,000.00 annually** into perpetuity.

With the strong, generous support of the branch membership, annual sponsorship of one female second year student seeking her first degree was achieved. Funding was gathered during the branch annual fundraiser, “Calling All Angels”, in late fall. Additional funds were donated by branch members throughout the year. Scholarship funds are distributed among three consecutive terms during the academic year, and the student must maintain a 3.0 GPA. She must be in a planned program of study leading to a preferred degree in a STEM major. The scholarship is administered by the Mt. Hood Community College Foundation whose mission is “Transforming Lives – Building Communities.”

Due to this successful achievement, Mt. Hood Community College is awarding the **“Mount Hood Heroes for Education Award”** to the AAUW of Gresham Area Branch at a ceremony in May. Branch membership is very much appreciative of the award and looks forward to working with MHCC in support of future scholarship recipients.

HILLSBORO-FOREST GROVE BRANCH, Donna Wellington, President

What has been HFG AAUW’s greatest achievement over the past year? With so many to choose from I requested that the board members share their thoughts about this. There were multiple responses ranging from our well attended on-line Zoom meetings, surprising fund-raising successes, and maintaining our membership. This topic from our own Mary Hoffman expresses how the most frequently suggested topic, “community connection”, affected our journey during 2021-22.

Mary wrote, **“We held together as a welcoming, caring community.** We built on our pre-pandemic strengths. We came out of the pandemic's first year determined to keep supporting each other. We talked on the phone. We had complex email conversations. We shared experiences with Zoom program meetings and book club. We made every encounter fun! Sometimes it was a moment or two exchanging a borrowed book in person but masked. Other times it was a circle of camp chairs on the lawn, socially distanced. People felt valued. Persistence counts. Caring counts. We are all in this together.”

This HFG AAUW branch will continue utilizing the *“Caring Connection”* going forward as we plan for 2022-23 for the best possible year advocating for women, girls and each other.

LAKE OSWEGO BRANCH, Catharine Hojem, President



Lake Oswego Branch May Homecoming Party

This year, the greatest achievement of the Lake Oswego Branch was to **establish a relationship with the Oregon Tradeswomen (OTW)** that has both strengthened our mission and informed much of our work. We shifted our scholarship money to fund women in the apprenticeship program at OTW, a decision that has allowed us to contribute to the economic security of women, the majority of whom are BIPOC, single mothers, and victims of sexual or racial harassment. Through our public policy committee, chaired by Sharron Noone, we have also been collaborating with Oregon Tradeswomen by helping them carry out research for their “RISE Up” (Respect, Inclusion, Safety and Equity) program in the construction industry.

As our cooperation deepened, we were able to recognize that the organization’s Director, Lisa Palermo, is herself an outstanding role model for all the values to which AAUW is committed and she is passionate about helping women succeed for themselves and their children. We were pleased to be counted among those who this year nominated Lisa for the AAUW of Oregon Breaking Barriers Achievement Award, which she won.

ONLINE BRANCH, Georgia Applegate, President.

Our most outstanding achievement of this past year was **our programming**, which ran the gamut from top leaders of AAUW to a no-agenda happy hour for members.

We hosted Julia Brown, Chair of the Board of Directors of AAUW, at our September meeting. In November, Lisa Palermo, an official with Oregon Tradeswomen and the winner of this year’s AAUW of Oregon Breaking Barriers Achievement Award, spoke to us. January brought our new AAUW CEO, Gloria Blackwell, who gave us an honest and thorough update of the state of AAUW. Her talk can be viewed on the AAUW Oregon YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IQI6PMTVck>

In February Jessica Mole Heilman, Director of the Center for Women’s Leadership at Portland State University’s College of Urban and Public Affairs, told us about the Center’s “New Leadership Oregon” program, and in April we enjoyed a branch happy hour with no agenda other than getting to know each other better. On June 14th we will celebrate Title IX’s 50th Anniversary. Lucy Jane Bledsoe, a fellow Oregonian, will discuss her new book, *No Stopping Us Now*, her personal story on Title IX and its impact on her as a young teen.

We thank our Program Vice-Presidents, Bev Van Citters and Pat Lehman, for these amazing programs!

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

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

Portland Branch has been **actively pursuing the creation of an AAUW endowment** through the PCC Foundation at Portland Community College. Portland has funded scholarships for the past 40 years at PCC. These scholarships are at the core of how we approach our mission.

Difficulties in recruiting Portland Branch leaders during and prior to the pandemic forced us to look seriously at how we could best provide long-term support for educating PCC students in STEM careers. We are working closely with the Major Gifts Officer for the PCC Foundation. She is helping us

understand tax advantages when donations are made from retirement accounts. We have found that there is not only a tax advantage, but that the administrative fee on an endowment is 0.7%, while on annual scholarships, it is 2%. The Portland Board is exploring this option.

Our hope is that the AAUW Portland Branch Endowment fund could be in place by the end of June 2022 if the board and membership agree to proceed. We see this as a lasting legacy to PCC students and a mark of AAUW's commitment in education.



Who are these masked women? Tigard Area Branch Holiday Luncheon 2021

*Facing L to R: Marian Dunlap, Mary Kerns, PCC Liaison Nancy Hartman, Local Scholarship Recipient Olivia (Liv) DeNicholas, Linda Talluto.
Bottom L to R: Judy Silverforb, Madison Yoshioka, Ally Yoshioka, Ilga Ross, Sue Deeming. Photo by Courtney Neron.*

TIGARD AREA BRANCH, Ally Yoshioka, President

Tigard Area Branch has been proud, in the year 2022, to continue **riveting meetings that host diverse speakers**. We are lucky to have members with interests in many types of educational attainment, backgrounds, and experiences. In addition, this year we have been able to resume in person meetings. A most recent meeting spotlighted Kit of "Maker Space" at Tualatin Library who showed members the immense pride that comes when the act of creating becomes more accessible to the public. Our group has come through the pandemic feeling stronger together, and we are excited to continue our learning journey together.

NORTHEAST OREGON DISTRICT—Karen King, District Director

Northeast Oregon District branches are excited to hold in-person meetings once again.

In fact, Pendleton Branch held its first in-person meeting in over two years on Saturday, May 7, at the home of Harriet Isom (*pictured at right*). Harriet spent 35 years in Africa and Indonesia in the foreign service and has many interesting stories to tell. She showed part of her extensive collection of textiles and jewelry.

Northeast Oregon District branches were happy to share some of their outstanding achievements:



Speaker Kristen Campbell will present a program on Human Trafficking.

Monday April 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Baker High School, 2500 E Street

*Come learn how to identify trafficking
and how to help prevent it.*



Sponsored by Baker AAUW and Baker High School.

BAKER BRANCH, Wanda Raffety, Co-President

Baker Branch and 5J School District sponsored an “**In Our Backyard**” presentation on human trafficking to all freshman health classes on Monday, April 25th and 26th. Presenter, Kristen Campbell of Bend, Oregon, also spoke to the public at the High School Library on the evening of April 25th. “In Our Backyard” (IOB) is a Central Oregon nonprofit established in 2009 by Nita Belles, human trafficking expert and author of *In Our Backyard: Human Trafficking in America and What We can Do to Stop It*. IOB works locally in cooperation with other nonprofits, government agencies, and law enforcement to stop human trafficking. IOB has several programs which work locally and nationally to prevent and eradicate human trafficking. If interested contact: www.inourbackyard.org or 541-639-5005.

WALLOWA COUNTY BRANCH, Pat Hines & Susan Gilstrap

Wallowa branch is excited to meet in person once again and to select a recipient for the **Maxine Town scholarship**, which will occur in late May.

PENDLETON BRANCH, Susan Doyle, Co-President

AAUW Pendleton Branch has had a successful year. Our programs on Zoom have been excellent and well attended. The Zoom format is so popular that **members want to continue with some Zoom programs next year**. Our annual sales of grapefruit fundraiser went well in spite of a price raise. The branch funded three worthy STEM projects in local schools that were much appreciated by teachers and students. This year our annual scholarship to a Blue Mountain Community College was awarded to a nursing student.



The **Sue Waldman Memorial Fund** was established this year. Long-time AAUW member Sue Waldman died in August 2021 after living with Alzheimer's for almost a decade. Sue graduated with degrees in mathematics from UO and OSU. Starting her career as a math teacher, she later excelled as a computer scientist at the Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center, USDA, located in Pendleton. The branch memorial committee (Kate Mace, Mary Davis and Marlene Krout) worked closely with Sue's family to set up a memorial fund in her honor that will provide funding opportunities for both STEM projects and educational scholarships. Established under the umbrella of AAUW of Oregon Special Projects Fund and with approval of the Waldman family, the memorial fund was established with the Blue Mountain Community Foundation in her honor.

Thanks to Title IX:

- Women now make up over 56% of America's college students.
- Women hold nearly half (48%) of tenure-track positions.
- Since Title IX's passage, the number of female athletes climbed more than 10 times: female athletes now make up 42% of all high school athletes.
- In 1972, only 700 girls played soccer on high school teams. In 2018, there were 390,000.



NORTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT—Susan Wahlke, District Director

ASTORIA BRANCH, Liz Bartell, President

On April 19th, Astoria AAUW, Clatsop Community College, KMUN Coast Community Radio and The Astoria newspaper **collaborated on a Candidates' Forum for the north coast**. We invited candidates for US House of Representatives District 1, State Senator District 16 and State Representative District 32 and Clatsop County Commissioners Districts 1, 3, and 5.

Candidates were required to appear in person. They were not allowed to send a written statement or proxy. We began with House of Representatives, then State Senate and Representatives. The last grouping included the three Commissioner's districts.

Some questions were developed ahead of time by an AAUW question committee to ensure that there were questions enough for candidates to respond to. Written questions were taken from the audience. Cards and pencils were given out by greeters as the audience members arrived, and then collected and given to the question committee. On the spot, the question committee screened questions for civility, redundancy and clarity, and sorted by candidate grouping. Questions from the audience were prioritized. The same questions were asked of each candidate in a grouping.

This event was live streamed by KMUN. We learned afterward that as many people listened to the Forum as attended. Additional listeners tuned in and out. The Forum was posted on KMUN's website. Others listened after the fact. We received many compliments on the event, and a couple of great suggestions, too.



Seaside Branch prior to their walk along the Prom to the Roundabout for the Victims' Rally

SEASIDE BRANCH, Karen Beck and Julia Weinberg, Co-presidents

In April the Seaside Branch members, along with invited Astoria Branch members, gathered with friends and relatives to march along the Prom in Seaside and gather at the Turnaround. The gathering was a **Victims Rally to recognize and be informed of human trafficking and domestic violence** in our area and our nation.

Our first speaker, Shannon Symonds, shared all her work with stopping human trafficking. And our second speaker, Elaine Bruse, shared what "The Harbor" in Astoria offers for victims of domestic abuse. A worthy event and quite an eye-opener for us.

LINCOLN CITY BRANCH, Susan Wahlke, President

The Lincoln City Branch is **small, but mighty, and growing!**

I guess our biggest accomplishment this year was that we had our first in-person meeting in quite a while in April. It was so good to see people instead of pictures on a screen! Sorry that I forgot to take photos to submit with this report. Our speaker was a staff member at the high school who helps students with scholarships. Our scholarship committee meets soon to decide which students we will be supporting with scholarships.

The local library has reopened its community room for meetings, so we look forward to meeting there again and planning programs to help attract new members. In April, I was re-elected as president, and look forward to the 2022-23 year leading the Lincoln City branch.

TILLAMOOK BRANCH, Susan Pierce, President

AAUW Tillamook is always up to something good. Most of our members wear many hats and serve on various community committees and boards. Our scholarship committee just selected three worthy recipients for next school year with STEM as criteria. Our Tillamook Bay Community College endowment scholarships will be awarded after June. A gala for our installation and honors banquet will be held May 14. Another **successful public, non-partisan, political forum** was held using Zoom. AAUW Tillamook takes the summer off and next September will hold a member recruitment tea which is usually themed, colorful and fun. To my knowledge, each of our members is vaxed and handling safety with intelligence.

SOUTH OREGON DISTRICT— Pam Shay, District Director

ASHLAND BRANCH, Catherine Lutes, President

In April, we had a well-attended final meeting of the year in-person, and what a celebration it was! Pam Shay was awarded the Florence Schneider Award for her loving, compassionate service to our branch and state, and many faithful, hard-working branch members were Named Gift Honorees. We also had **a great presale event in preparation for the Upscale Sale**. The presale was great fun and created excitement for **our largest fundraiser** scheduled for Memorial weekend. At this meeting, we also elected a new board of wonderful women leaders who will carry on the vision of AAUW and the Ashland branch with care, grace and professionalism. Our branch board Retreat will occur on June 25 for future planning. We have not awarded scholarships yet because of delays related to the Covid-cancellation of our scholars' event, but we look forward to reporting these achievements and our fundraising results in the fall.



The Ashland Branch Presale for the Upscale Sale on Memorial Weekend. Taken at branch meeting on May 7, 2022. Pictured: Members (left to right) Pam Shay, Priscilla Arnold, Bessie Azari.

GRANTS PASS BRANCH, Kathleen Tenove and Elizabeth Ramirez, Presidents

This past year has seen many of our branch programs and activities canceled due to Covid. In order to keep our members involved, not only with our branch, but more importantly with our local community we **developed a program where each quarter we select one or two local organizations to which to donate.**

Our members donated over 480 pounds of food to the Josephine County Food Bank as part of the Green Bag Program. Foundry Village was the focus of another volunteer opportunity. Foundry Village is the first tiny house community offering short-term housing for people affected by homelessness in Grants Pass and Josephine County. Suitcases, duffels and backpacks were given to Our Foster Kids, Inc. One of the needs of foster children is to own something, besides paper bags to transport their belongings when they transfer to homes. We donated much needed supplies to the Women in Crisis Support Team, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the cycle of domestic violence and sexual assault in Josephine County through intervention, prevention, and safe shelter.

The generosity and dedication shown by our members to our community was, and continues to be amazing! As AAUW members we have displayed all the traits that make our organization so essential during these difficult times.

LAKEVIEW BRANCH, Deb Watts, President

Being a very small branch, the effect of the pandemic has been enormous. Our branch members have not been able to meet together at all this past year --- neither on Zoom nor in person. We have some senior members that continue to remain quarantined and, additionally, several members that are not connected online. So, combined, these issues have prevented

us from gathering together in any form. The good news is that **we are planning a “revitalization” meeting** with our branch officers to get things started up again for the late summer and fall. Our hope is that Lakeview’s AAUW Branch will come back stronger and better than ever.

MEDFORD BRANCH, Carol Koszyk, President

Our main focus and a great achievement for the Medford Branch has always been to provide women with educational opportunities. For the upcoming school year, 2022-2023, we are pleased to **award a total of \$16,700 to help women further their education.** The breakdown of donations is:

- \$13,500 awarded toward higher education for women attending either Rogue Community College (RCC) or Southern Oregon University (SOU). (We gave three \$2700 scholarships to women attending RCC and two \$2700 scholarships for SOU students.)
- \$2700 awarded for scholarships to support our younger women so they can attend events to help cultivate and challenge their curiosity to learn by attending ACADEMY and AWSEM.

The ACADEMY is a week-long camp on the SOU Campus for academically talented students completing grades five through eight; and AWSEM (Advocates for Women in Science) is a one-day gathering for students in grades six through eight who are interested in learning more about STEM careers.

ROSEBURG BRANCH, Betty Mack, President

I proudly share that **the Roseburg Branch is a most generous group of women.** Although we are a small group of only 14 members, these members give with mighty heart. Ample contributions of our members led us to give **three scholarships to Umpqua Community College students** this year rather than the usual two. Also, at the Oregon State Awards Celebration, the branch was recognized as the tenth branch in the state as to per capita giving to AAUW Funds. Three of our members met the AAUW’s 140th Anniversary \$140 Challenge. So, I submit these wonderful deeds as the Roseburg Branch Outstanding Achievement of this year.

