



## President's Message



Becky Gunn

AAUW Prescott is an organization that offers a broad range of opportunities for participation. Our General Meetings (the 2nd Saturday of each month, September through May) provide educational and informative programs on topics of interest

to most of us. We have Community Action activities that offer empowering messages to young women, such as our Reality Store, which will be presented at Prescott High School this month for its Freshman class. Later in the year we will have Sister-to-Sister and Rock-it Day. We now have Community Field Trips where we learn more about our community and its organizations. Our Public Policy Committee is working hard this year to raise awareness for full educational funding as well as continuing to support the ERA efforts in Arizona. We have several active Great Decisions discussion groups. Needless to say, we have loads of Interest Groups. We offer educational and fun activities fostering social interaction. We are awesome. Please let others in our community hear about us through you. If we have more visibility and participation in our activities and events, we can be even more effective in meeting our goals.

This year our primary goal is to support our scholarship endowments. Those scholarships provide some women a launching pad for their dreams. Please consider donating in the various ways possible: Scholarship events (Literary Luncheon and Mardi Gras), the Shawl Opportunity Drawing, and the Matching Donation Challenge (See more info on that in this newsletter.). This in many ways is a simple ask: let's meet our goals of \$20,000 this year and help young women achieve their dreams. If you

look at our membership numbers (we are over 200 members right now) think of how we can meet this year's goal. An average donation of \$100 per member and we are there. Let's do it!

Happy Fall and beginning of Winter.



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## November 9 General Meeting Program

### Prescott Regional Airport: Milestones & Accomplishment



Dr. Robin Sobotta

Prescott Regional Airport (Ernest A. Love Field) recently celebrated completion of its first year of regional jet passenger service with United Express, operated by SkyWest Airlines. The airline's daily non-stop service to Denver and Los Angeles is on track to serve more than 57,000 total passengers this year.

Airport Director Robin Sobotta, PhD, will be sharing the challenges encountered and milestones reached over the past 18 months, as well as the exciting future plans the City of Prescott has for airport capital development at the fastest growing commercial service airport in Arizona.



### Holiday Brunch Scheduled for December 14



Featuring Mover & Shaker, Rookie of the Year, Ongoing Stamina Awards, BMHS Women's Ensemble

Please join us for the AAUW Prescott 2019 Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 14, 9:00 am at The Club at Prescott Lakes, 311 East Smoke Tree Lane, Prescott, 86301. The annual brunch program includes a served breakfast, followed by the annual awards ceremony and will conclude with musical

entertainment. This year, the Women's Ensemble from Bradshaw Mountain High School will provide a selection of seasonal and holiday music.

We will honor our Star Awardee (a new 50-year member), as well as present the Mover & Shaker, Rookie of the Year, and the new Ongoing Stamina awards. These awards honor AAUW members for dedicated service and exemplary contributions in promoting our AAUW Mission: *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.* If you would like to nominate someone for any of these awards, fill out an **Award Nomination Form** and submit it to President-Elect Tracy Smiles via email or turn it in at the November general meeting.

This year's brunch menu features two scrambled egg options, a French Toast choice and something new, a vegan entree: Tofu scramble with seasonal veggies served with sliced tomatoes and fruit. Each of the four brunch entree choices includes coffee, tea and water service. **Please send your reservation form and check (\$20 per person), made out to AAUW Prescott (with Holiday Brunch on the memo line) to Katie Wrigley (address in the directory) or to AAUW at PO Box 10881, Prescott, AZ 86304.** Reservation forms and checks can be mailed, or you can make your reservation at the November general meeting. **Please be sure to include your menu choice.** We look forward to enjoying your good company and sharing good cheer together at the Holiday Brunch, on Saturday, December 14, 9:00 am!



**Annual Award Nominations Now Underway**

***A Third Award is Added This Year***



Each year at our Holiday Brunch in December we recognize AAUW members who have contributed to our Prescott Branch through their involvement in our activities and as leaders.

This year we are adding an additional award – the Ongoing Stamina Award! The focus of this award is to honor an individual who has been here for the long haul – doing what needs to be done, organizing, planning, and contributing her time and energy. We are looking for an individual who has been with AAUW for 10 or more years for this award.

The Rookie of the Year Award is for a person who has been a member for three years or less. The Mover and Shaker Award focuses on those who this year, or for the last few years, have been outstanding contributors to AAUW.

Selection criteria include personal integrity, leadership and initiative, and sustained dedication to the Mission of AAUW and personal growth opportunities within the membership.

We ask that you nominate individuals you feel worthy of the award. After receipt of the nominations a committee will review the nominations and select the award winners.

The Nomination Form is on our [website](#) and will also be available at the November General Meeting. They are due no later than November 21st and should be sent to Tracy Smiles.



**September**

- The board approved endorsement and promotion of a program from the Yavapai College Police Department: “Dismantling Hate – Building Respect and Civility.”
- The board voted to add a third award for our branch (in addition to the Mover & Shaker and the Rookie of the Year). This new award, named the Ongoing Stamina Award, will honor a member who has been a contributing member of the branch for 10 or more years.

**October**

- Our membership total as of October 10 was 207
- The annual financial review of our books was completed and records were found to be accurate, and all entries were coded correctly.
- The board discussed positive changes to the directory and Sister-to-Sister program

**Scholarship Update**

- As previously announced, our branch goal for this year is the full funding of our two scholarships to a total of \$150,000. **As of October 12, our total is \$139,981.** In addition, four members have each pledged to match up to \$1,000 of total contributions in this campaign.
- We have just completed the Literary Luncheon, our fall fundraiser. Our spring fundraiser, **A Taste of Mardi Gras, will be held on Friday, Feb. 21.** Be sure to save the date so you can be a part of the Krewe of Javelina! Tickets will go on sale in early January.

## Blue Name Tags Identify AAUW Prescott Board Members



During our general meetings, you may have noticed that some of us are wearing light blue name tags. Why? Because we want you as members to know who your Board members are. If you need to ask a

question about the Board or Committees, you can identify those who are on the Board or are Committee Chairs with blue name tags and ask them. We want your questions and feedback. – Becky Gunn, President



### Non-Partisan Statement

AAUW is a nonpartisan organization that promotes equity for women and girls, and it has a long history of creating social change through public policy efforts. Because this work is often done within the political world, there is sometimes confusion about AAUW's political work versus our nonpartisan stance.

Our work has always been political but has never been partisan. Put simply, being political is a way to influence legislation and regulation through government or public affairs, while partisan activities have a firm adherence to a party, faction, or person.

Please remember that our organization includes members from all partisan persuasions, and we need to make every member feel welcome.



## President Gunn Hopes to Improve Branch Visibility

In addition to AAUW Prescott's branch goal of reaching our full scholarship endowment levels, members can expect to hear much about advocacy this year. That will be the focus of President Becky Gunn's efforts.

Becky hopes to improve AAUW's visibility in the community by increasing the organization's involvement in various activities that promote education and support for women and girls. That may include working with other local organizations to sponsor public forums and promoting dialogue in the community, such as AAUW's support of the "Dismantling Hate" program last month at Yavapai College.

A political science graduate, Becky's background includes civil service, business management, and ministry. Becky has brought her energy and varied background to her involvement in two book groups, a meditation group and political activity in both campaigns and issues. She is also extremely active in the Yavapai College OLLI (lifelong learning program), teaching and taking classes as well as serving as vice chair of their Curriculum Committee.

### Public Policy



Sue Marceau

The Public Policy Committee (PPC) has embarked on its journey toward identifying and promoting a dedicated funding stream for district K-12 schools. The past weeks have presented occasions to expand members' knowledge of educational structure and plan our approach to like-minded organizations.

The October meeting was a tour of the Mountain Institute Career and Technical Education Center (MCTEC) at 220 Ruger Road in Prescott. Chief Executive Administrator Bill Stiteler described

multiple challenges facing MICTEC, including reduced funding, staff cutbacks, budget mandates, and conflicting policy directives from the state. He said AAUW Prescott could best support MICTEC by advocating expansion of its career and tech program to four years so that students aging out could complete their training.

Humboldt Unified School District (HUSD) Superintendent Dan Streeter spoke at a multi-congregational Immigration Panel in September. He explained that district schools may not deny enrollment based on status of legal citizenship. Districts are permitted to require proof of living within their boundaries, but legally must be careful about how they obtain such information. FIRPTA requires schools to maintain confidentiality of personally identifying records, unless a parent or eligible student provides written consent. Immigration enforcers are not permitted access to this information, except for exceptions tied to safety.

Streeter said the recent move toward denying citizenship to illegals who have accepted government aid ultimately could result in children coming to school hungry and parents not accessing health care for them. There is a negative tone around immigration at present, he concluded, and schools must keep an eye on the impacts of immigration policy.

The next PPC Meeting will be Monday, November 5th, from 1 to 3 pm at the Prescott Public Library. The topic will be tactics for moving our education agenda forward.

AAUW-Arizona urges all members to attend Legislative Day, February 4, 2020, in the historic Senate chambers at the Arizona State Capitol in Phoenix. Speaker will be Katie Hobbs, Arizona Secretary of State.



## Community Action



Kelsey Wilkes,  
Community Action  
Chair

AAUW Community Action programs are the heart of AAUW in action. These events provide opportunities for us to work with young girls in person in order to pass on our experience, wisdom, and heart.

Currently, we have 3 annual programs that comprise our Community Action:

### **Sister-to-Sister at Yavapai College**

This annual event, established by our own Dr. Claudia Greenwood, paired local high school girls with AAUW members at a luncheon held at Yavapai College. Stay tuned! It's being re-envisioned, and we are exploring a different approach this year.

### **Girls Rock-It Day at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University**

Do you have a passion for STEM? We could use your support as we plan this event for early Spring 2020. Please let Kelsey Wilkes know if she can count on your support! The day includes STEM-related breakout sessions such as Aviation, Engineering, Global Interest, and Physical Sciences. ERAU draws on its professors who offer hands-on workshops for small groups of girls from the middle and high schools in the quad-city area.

### **The Reality Store**

This popular event now has three co-sponsors: Yavapai College, and new in 2019, the Launch Pad WEB Spring conference, and PUSD-Prescott High School this fall!

**Additionally**, we are exploring an affiliation with the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS), an organization that serves women, children, and veterans by providing temporary housing, resources, individualized case management, and a pathway to permanent housing.

In order to inform and enlighten our AAUW members about community agencies and resources, we have periodic Community Field Trips. Watch the Thumb Sketch or the Current News sidebar for where and when. Any member can attend to gain a better understanding of services available in the area. These excursions also help increase the visibility of AAUW Prescott within the community.



### October Community Field Trip Enlightening

A Community Field Trip excursion was held on Tuesday, October 1, in conjunction with the Public Policy group. Ten AAUW members toured the Mountain Institute Career and Technical Education District, with the tour being conducted by Bill Stiteler. It was a productive and enlightening tour of our local Vocational Educational facility. We witnessed the training that is provided in a number of programs offered by the institute. Some courses offer college credit, and others are part of a certification program. When Mr. Stiteler was asked what concerns he had that we might discuss with our legislators, he told us his most urgent concern was for another year of funding by the state for vocational programs.

## Scholarships

### Mary Alice Moulton and Centennial Scholarship Matching Challenge



Ann Barton,  
Scholarship Co-  
chair

Four generous but anonymous AAUW members have pledged up to \$1000 (\$4000 total) to match donations for our endowment scholarship program. This means that, if you donate, your donation will be matched allowing us to double the money! When we have successfully completed this challenge, we will have a total of \$8000 to add to our scholarships.

Simply make your checks out to *YCF* (stands for Yavapai College Foundation) for your donation amount – \$100, \$50, \$200, \$25 – whatever your wish to give. On the memo line indicate *AAUW Matching Program*. Give the check to Katie Wrigley at any AAUW meeting or send it to AAUW Prescott, PO Box 10881, Prescott, AZ 86304.



Debra Brown,  
Scholarship Co-  
Chair

After we have met this challenge, we encourage you to continue your donations so that we can meet our 20 in 20 goal for 2019-20.

Cash donations to YCF are tax deductible.

## Scholarship Contributions from IRAs



Some of us are required to take “Required Minimum Distributions” from our IRAs, because of our ages. All, or part, of an RMD from an IRA account can be contributed

directly to a charitable 501(c)(3) organization such as the **Yavapai College Foundation** and our scholarship funds and will be **nontaxable** to you. Unfortunately this doesn’t apply to RMDs from 401(k) funds.

To accomplish this, contact the financial institution that handles your IRA to request that a portion, or all, of your current RMD be made as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Foundation.

The two scholarships are the Mary Alice Moulton Childcare Assistance Fund and the AAUW Centennial Fund. The address for the Yavapai College Foundation is 1100 E. Sheldon St., PMB 6904, Prescott, AZ 86301. If they ask for the Federal ID number of the Foundation, it is 23-7232985.

This is an easy way to increase our funds and saves you taxes.

## Interest Groups

### Adventure Group Open to All Members

The Adventure Group is not a closed group, and we welcome all AAUW Prescott members to its events. When you sign up to participate in the Adventure Group, you receive updated notifications via email, a big advantage to being on our mailing list. You can pick and choose which event you’d like to experience. An RSVP is all that is required to add your name to your selected activity. To get on the Adventure Group email list, contact Kathy Lopez whose email is in our directory.

AAUW members who are on our mailing list will also have first choice for events with limited spaces. If you are not on our mailing list, look for our announcements in the Thumb Sketch or during our General Meetings. Our announcements will note whether friends may be invited. Check out the Nov 1 After-Halloween Party on our [Interest Group page](#).



## Save The Date: Mardi Gras Fundraiser Feb. 21

### Celebrate with the ‘Krewe of Javalina’!

Our annual Spring fundraiser for Scholarships will be held on February 21, 2020, at the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

This exciting event will include:

Music 🎷 Jazz, Zydeco, Cajun

Food 🍲 Jambalaya, red beans and rice, beignets, King Cake

Beverages 🍷 Wine, beer, mead, Mardi Gras mocktails

Costumes 🎭

A Second Line Parade 🎆

The Coronation of the 2020 Royal Court 👑

Photo ops 📷

Fun, fun, fun!

Please save the date; invite all your friends and neighbors; plan on attending the best Mardi Gras event ever!

