



THE SAGE HEN

A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council



2020/2021 - Volume 3 - January

Mission Statement: To advance gender equity for women and girls, through research, education, and advocacy.

President's Message:

GOOD BYE 2020! HELLO 2021!

Needless to say, 2020 has definitely been one for the record books! COVID 19 is a world-wide epidemic! A vaccine has been developed in record time and is being administered! A Presidential election set a new record for voter turnout and legal challenges. AAUW Branch fundraising activities and plans are reformatted to minimize personal contact and meetings. Zoom becomes a new "go to" program for AAUW, community and family functions.

It is time to reflect and a time to plan! It is definitely a time for AAUW to remain strong and focused on our vision to achieve equity for all. The Nevada State Legislature will convene on February 1, 2021 and AAUW will actively advocate for those legislative issues which help us move closer to that vision. YOUR participation is encouraged.

Our 2020-22 Strategic Plan is focused on facilitating collaboration and promoting interaction! Branches are encouraged to invite members from other branches to participate in their "virtual" meetings or trainings. AAUW Capital Branch included Nevada Member at Large (MAL) members and members from other branches in their first technology session (How to Tweet). Watch for other invitations as well from our Nevada Communications chair, Doris Dowden!

As state president, I am particularly enjoying one of the benefits of Zoom meetings! I not only have attended my local Capital Branch meeting but have been able to attend meetings of the Las Vegas Branch and the Reno Branch without leaving my home! I have learned about the status of STEM Research at UNLV as presented by Alison Sloat at the Las Vegas Holiday Social. I was also able to attend the Reno Branch meeting featuring Brian Sandoval, Former Nevada Governor and now UNR President and his wife Loralyn. I not only learned about diversity goals of UNR but also about the role diversity mentors played in Loralyn's successful career.

YOUR Executive Council will be meeting on January 21st to discuss options and plans for our 2021 "Biennial" State Convention. Needless to say, this event will happen virtually. We need to hear from you during the planning stage. What topics interest you? What new skills do you want to learn? What would encourage you to sign up and participate? Are you willing to step forward and help plan the conference??

The success of our AAUW Executive Council and all the AAUW branches in Nevada depends on YOU – the member. **Your involvement, participation, and feedback is very important to us! How can we improve?? Your input is critical to our success – so let us know your thoughts.** Email me at cpunches206@charter.net or call me at 775-246-1850. I look forward to your input. **LET'S DO THIS!**

Caroline Punches
President, AAUW of Nevada



2020 AAUW NATIONAL WEBINARS

One of the programs implemented by our national office was the 2020 Convening Series! Monthly zoom conferences on timely topics were shared by national staff and volunteers. AND, if you were unable to attend the conference, you can still access the recordings on the AAUW website – <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening>.

The December 20th topic was Working Together to build a Diverse and Inclusive AAUW. Speakers included Dr. Lisette Garcia, Inclusion & Equity Committee Chair and Sheila Amo, Inclusion & Equity Committee Staff Liaison. This event featured the launch of a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Tool Kit. You can access the lit at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit>.

Branches and state organizations are being encouraged to establish a DEI in each organization. The tool kit provides a number of resources which can be utilized – One of the statements in the tool kit is “The beauty of diversity — and the thing that makes it so powerful — is learning to appreciate it and creating an environment where it can grow and thrive. Diversity can be a great source of strength. Our aim is to create an environment where we can explore our differences in a safe and respectful way that helps each person understand their value and celebrates what diversity brings to AAUW.”

HOW WILL YOUR BRANCH UTILIZE THE DEI TOOL KIT?? WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO LEAD THE DISCUSSION THROUGHOUT THE AAUW STATE ORGANIZATION??

Let me know via email – cpunches206@charter.net or by phone: 775-246-1850.

Thanks much!



AAUW OF NEVADA MEMBERS SUPPORT NATIONAL PROGRAM FUNDS!

Congratulations and Thank You to those AAUW members who financially supported national AAUW funds! Between January 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020, 112 gifts were donated by individuals and branches in support of National funds for a total of \$9,901. Incredible generosity! THANKS SO MUCH!

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund received a total of 94 gifts! The Equity Network received 3 gifts; Education & Training Fund received 8 gifts; Leadership Fund was supported by 3 gifts and one gift was given in support of the Economic Security Fund. Additionally, the Linda Hiebert-Sekiguchi Fund received three gifts. Please note some of our members gave more than one gift in support of a program. It should also be noted that each AAUW Branch in Nevada had members who supported the national organization. Well done!

Obviously, the total amount and number of gifts probably increased with the “end of the year” contributions in support of our National programs.

*We know this has been a very difficult year for our branches as they worked to fund their own programs and scholarships – so the support of so many members to our national organization as well as supporting local fundraising efforts is truly commendable! **Way to go Nevada AAUW Members!!***



Grassroots Lobby Days - February 21, 2021

The Nevada Women's Lobby will once again be offering citizens across the state the opportunity to learn about the legislative process with its acclaimed Grassroots Lobby Days to be held virtually on February 21, 2021. This day of civic education enables Nevadans:

- ✓ to learn about important issues
- ✓ to examine and understand the lawmaking process
- ✓ to join together to make a difference, and to interact with and influence our state legislators.

This is the NWL signature event and will be comprised of workshops, panels, renowned speakers and virtual participation in lobbying activities. Learning to influence Nevada legislators and to exchange views is the key focus of the event. Please mark your calendar and look for the opening of registration in mid-January.

To make sure you are on the mailing list, join the Nevada Women's Lobby at www.nevadawomenslobby.org.



PUBLIC POLICY

By Debbie Nicholas

SAVE THE DATE

Join the League of Women Voters of Southern Nevada!
We have an important training coming up on January 16, 2021 from 9-11 am via Zoom!!! Please carve out time to attend if you are interested in actions on the agenda in the upcoming Nevada State legislative session.

We all know that money will be in short supply in the upcoming session, so we've invited Ellen Spiegel to share her experience and strategies for effective advocacy during a budget crisis.

The RSVP to register is below. Additional questions? Please contact Sondra Cosgrove or visit <https://vote-nevada.org/>

RSVP: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/legislative-advocacy-during-a-budget-crisis>



The 2021 legislative session begins Feb. 1, 2021 Stay tuned for Information and updates. The State Website is updated regularly with new information. Nevada Legislature (state.nv.us)

Taxes are on the agenda:

The sales tax initiative would **RAISE** the state's Local School Support Tax from 2.6% to 4.1% and bring the state's baseline sales tax rate to 8.35%. Individual counties have differing sales tax rates, meaning that change would result in a 9.875% sales tax in Clark County.

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PUBLIC POLICY

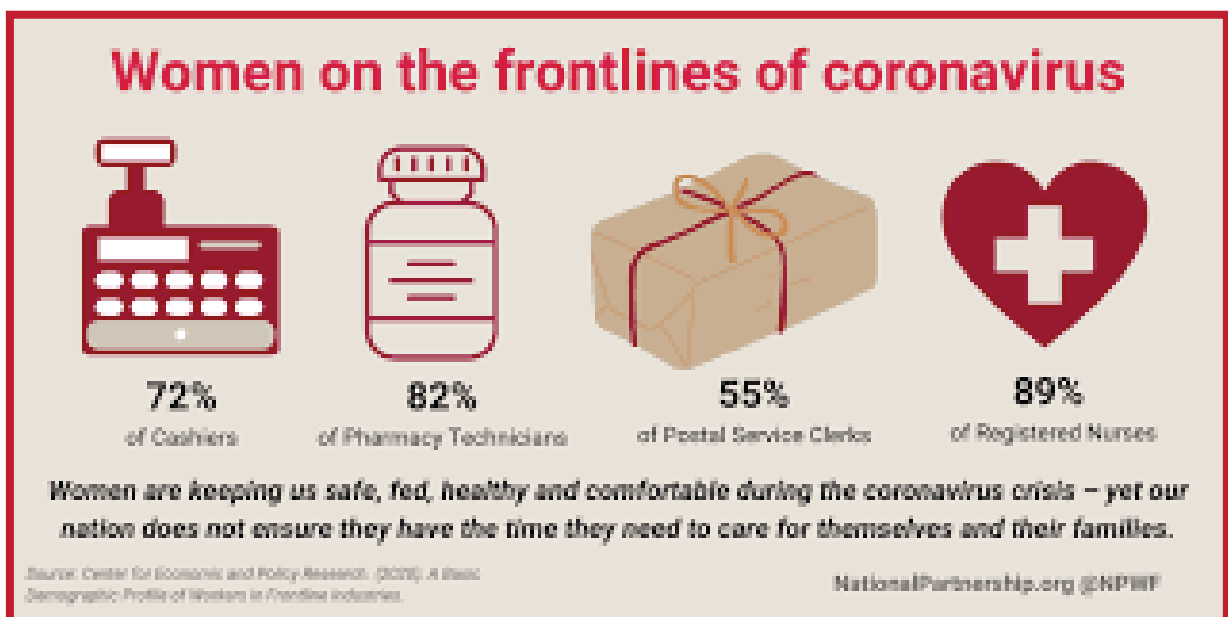
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The other initiative would raise the state's gaming tax rate from 6.75% to 9.75%. Nevada lawmakers are facing down a legislative session of austerity after a panel of economists projected general fund revenues of about \$8.5 billion over the next two years — a figure down about \$400 million dollars from the \$8.85 billion they projected for the current biennium in May 2019.

Two years after Nevada made history as the first U.S. state to have women compose a majority of its state Legislature, lawmakers will return to Carson City in 2021 with nearly 60% of the seats filled by female legislators — by far the largest percentage of any state house in the country. In total, the 42-seat state Assembly will have 27 female lawmakers and 15 male lawmakers, including 19 female Democrats and eight female Republicans. In the 21-member state Senate, men will hold 10 seats and females will hold 11 (two Republicans and nine Democrats).

Regardless of gender make-up, lawmakers entering the 2021 legislative session will have an immediate and pressing agenda: **constitutionally-mandated redistricting; a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and likely additional major budget cuts to the state general fund; and a host of potential tax issues**, including efforts by the Clark County Education Association to qualify a sales and gaming tax initiative, and proposals brought during the 2020 summer special session to hike the cap on mining taxes in the state constitution.

We've had a difficult year and have big legislative challenges ahead! Let's continue our long history of advocacy and championing causes for young women in this Nevada!





From Dr. Valerie Jean McNay, AAUW Boulder City:

The members of our AAUW Boulder Branch send best wishes to AAUW State Council, AAUW Branches and all AAUW members and Friends in Nevada! We are grateful to all for including our branch in notices about virtual meetings. We are not meeting virtually but hope to connect via email to make plans for 2021!

We don't have real news yet on our scholarships. We hope to have \$2,400 in donations. The scholarship section of our branch website is <https://bouldercity-nv.aauw.net> and Nevada State's Financial Aid office list scholarships of \$500 each. The students who are enrolled full-time are eligible for a \$500 match from the state, so they each net \$1,000.

From Marian Stanton, Las Vegas

Las Vegas AAUW entertained their members with a Virtual Holiday Happy Hour on December 6th at 3 p.m. Dr. Alison Sloat presented her STEM Project which includes a Rebel Science Camp that has brought over 480 fifth graders to UNLV to learn about science. Students from four local schools (projected to increase to eight schools) attended the camp at UNLV from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. College of Sciences undergraduate students led them through hands-on activities about the environment and the effects of climate change on Las Vegas and the world. Dr. Sloat, who is also one of our Branch Board Members, gave us a preview of her involvement with writing a multi-million-dollar government grant proposal which involves about a dozen other professors at UNLV.

During our video meeting, we proudly announced Vanessa Meza-Perez as our 2021 AAUW Las Vegas Spring Scholarship recipient. Vanessa is a student at UNLV who aspires to go into medicine and is the first person in her family to attend college. We were thrilled to meet our 2020 Fall scholarship recipient, Aura Harris, also in attendance at our Happy Hour. Aura is presently taking 19 units at Nevada State College and aspires to go into Speech Language Pathology. She has already brought in another student member to join AAUW. We are on a roll!

We all wore Holiday sweaters, brought our cocktails/beverage of choice, and had a door prize drawing where two members will get their prizes delivered when Marian gets her negative COVID test. We continue to have our Non-Event Scholarship Fundraiser which has already raised about \$1,700. This year has been good to us as we have had a general meeting every month, a Board meeting every month, a newsletter every month, and acquired 14 new members this year. We've also updated our bylaws, created policies, and added job descriptions. We updated our scholarship procedure and awarded two scholarships. Only two members experienced COVID, and they are alive and kicking. We will continue with our Bridge Marathon in January 2021. We will also have two book clubs. Hallelujah!

From Doris Dowden and Sara Vélez Mallea, Reno

The Reno branch leadership has worked very hard this year, rethinking our approach to branch communications and programming to entice our members to learn how to enjoy virtual meetings. We are now providing more frequent and concise communications with focused newsworthy items on issues that impact women and we have remained true to the AAUW mission and vision through educational programs. Our virtual monthly membership meetings are planned with excellent speakers and AAUW mission topics. We've already learned about the 2020 General Election & Electoral College and the Stewart Indian School. At the November meeting, we introduced our two \$1500 scholarship recipients to the branch members and in December we were honored to have former Nevada Governor and new UNR President, Brian Sandoval and his wife, Lauralyn McCarthy, speak at the holiday party. To kick off the spring program events, Judge Lydia Steglich will provide insight into the Nevada Supreme Court. As a result of these thoughtful and positive changes and interesting programs, member interest, enthusiasm and attendance are growing. Also, using the Capital Branch playbook, we have held several successful no-agenda Happy Half Hours just for fun.

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Branch News
(continued from Page 5)

From Janet Usinger, Tahoe-Nevada

AAUW Tahoe Nevada has successfully worked within COVID-19 restrictions to meet and learn, as well as raise funds for scholarships. Our activity groups, including Book Club, Bunco, and Great Decisions adjusted their approach to meeting (read Zoom). Albeit in smaller groups, Outdoor Enthusiasts have successfully transitioned from kayaking, hiking, and biking to snowshoeing as we welcome winter weather. In November, after a general meeting that featured a presentation about the Peace Corps, AAUW Tahoe Nevada hosted a successful Virtual LUNAFEST, a film festival created to provide a platform for women to share their untold stories with the world. Participants watched the short films on their own time. Two Zoom discussions, moderated by Patti Proctor, were held with 30 participants and a wonderful guest speaker, Lizzie Maxwell, the director of "The Perils of Perfume," a film we were able to add to the LUNAFEST roster. We hope to bring it back next year, but in-person.

From Jennifer Verive, Capital

AAUW Capital Branch was busy this Fall! In October, we informed ourselves about candidates and issues with a virtual happy hour and by co-sponsoring our first VIRTUAL candidate forum. Via Zoom, we welcomed local county election officials, who clarified the new voting procedures in place due to COVID. Our November program, held on election night, was a respite from politics – we visited with the president of AAUW Kona branch, and then took time to experience a few Moments of Awe, line-dance, share recipes, and practice some activities.



calming Qi Gong – all member-led We launched two social media campaigns expressing our gratitude and joy for our favorite feminists, and we actually met in 3D (socially distanced, wearing masks) in December for a brisk and festive walk to enjoy the beautiful lights at the State Capitol and the Governor's Mansion. Now, strengthened in spirit, mind, and body, we are ready for whatever 2021 brings!





AAUW Nevada Leadership Directory 2020 - 2021

| OFFICE | Term ends | NAME | EMAIL | HOME PHONE | CELL PHONE |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| STATE | | | | | |
| President/Administrator | 6/30/22 | Caroline Punches | cpunches206@charter.net | (775) 246-1850 | (775) 443-8318 |
| Program | 6/30/22 | Marian Stanton | mikistanto@aol.com | (702) 263-1028 | |
| Membership | 6/30/22 | Jennifer Verive | jmverive@gmail.com | (775) 315-4758 | |
| Finance | 6/30/22 | Dorthiann Taylor | dtaylor506@aol.com | (775) 771-1212 | |
| Secretary | 6/30/22 | Pam Sheldon | pamelasheldon961@yahoo.com | (775) 298-7309 | |
| Public policy | 6/30/22 | Debbie Nicholas | nicholas89451@gmail.com | (775) 843-0775 | |
| College & University Relations | 6/30/22 | vacant | | | |
| Newsletter Editor | 6/30/22 | Millie Szerman | milliesz746@gmail.com | (775) 833-3311 | |
| Communications | 6/30/22 | Doris Dowden | dsquared2@sbcglobal.net | (775) 827-2481 | (775) 750-1560 |
| Advisor/Past President | 6/30/22 | Janice Flanagan | janflangan@aol.com | (775) 828-1993 | (775) 742-1994 |
| | | | | | |
| Branch Presidents | | | | | |
| Boulder City | | Valerie McNay | vjm5020@gmail.com | | (702) 845-0907 |
| Capitol (Carson City) | | Jennifer Verive | jmverive@gmail.com | (775) 315-4758 | |
| Capitol (Carson City) | | Janice Noble | drjanicenoble@gmail.com | (775) 300-1125 | |
| Fallon | | Carol Roeder | ccroeder@charter.net | (775) 423-0224 | |
| Las Vegas | | Marian Stanton | mikistanto@aol.com | (702) 263-1028 | |
| Reno | | Doris Dowden | dsquared2@sbcglobal.net | (775) 827-2481 | (775) 750-1560 |
| Reno | | Sara Velez Mallea | svelezhunter@protonmail.com | (775) 338-8743 | |
| Tahoe-Nevada | | Janet Usinger | president@tahoenvaaauw.org | (775) 831-0343 | |

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®



On a tiny Greek island, Sophie is making final preparations for her wedding day in paradise. Little does her mother Donna know that Sophie's last minute preparations include sleuthing out who her father may be among three possible candidates that she's secretly invited. The story-telling magic of pop-hit songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter, family and friendship... which concludes with a trip down the aisle that you'll never forget!



presents a
Summer fundraiser
in association with



SUNDAY, AUGUST 8th, 2021
5:30 p.m.
Sand Harbor Amphitheater

Tickets: \$ 85.00

includes: Appetizers, Wine/Beer, Dessert, Coffee/Tea

BUY YOURS TODAY!!

AAUW Tahoe Nevada
P.O. Box 5465
Incline Village, NV 89450

For more information:
Millie Szerman
775-833-3311 or MillieSz746@gmail.com

American Association of University Women Tahoe Nevada is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation formed in Nevada and registered with the Nevada Secretary of State (Federal Tax I.D. #943055754). Our purpose is the advancement of equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.



JANUARY 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 New Year's Day | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Advocacy Training via Zoom |
| 17 | 18 M L King Day | 19 | 20 | 21 AAUW Nevada Executive Council Meeting | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

December 2020

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Notes:

January 16, 2021 - 9-11 a.m. - Advocacy Training during Budget Crisis, sponsored by League of Women Voters of Southern NV. Contact Sondra Cosgrove or visit <https://vote-nevada.org>

February 2021

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 28 | | | | | | |



FEBRUARY 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 31 | 1 81 st Legislative Session begins | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Valentine's Day | 15 Presidents' Day | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Grassroots Lobby Day | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
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January 2021

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| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Notes:

February 21, 2021 - Grassroots Lobby Day
sponsored by Nevada Womens Lobby. Visit
www.nevadawomenslobby.org

March 2021

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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
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| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |



MARCH 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

February 2021

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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Notes:

April 2021

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