



THE SAGE HEN

A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council



2020/2021 - Volume 5 - May

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

President's Message:

HAPPY SPRING AAUW MEMBERS OF NEVADA!

*Thanks to ALL who attended our AAUW Nevada Virtual State Convention on Saturday, April 17th! Members from all six branches in Nevada enjoyed the presentations from our outstanding speakers! **Shaila Rao Mistry** provided insights about the need for diversity and inclusion to achieve equity! **Chancellor Melody Clark** shared how the Nevada System of Higher Education proposes to achieve equity. **Assemblywoman Jill Tolles** and **Senator Pat Spearman** implored us to take action on some key pieces of legislation! Special thanks to our technical staff, **Jennifer Verive** and **Doris Dowden**, to ensure a smooth event!*

As your branches are winding down your program years, are you evaluating your activities? What types of activities will you be continuing or revamping?? Will ZOOM meetings continue to play a role in your Branch? Are you going to be ramping up fundraising activities? What about scholarship support? Any changes?

*AAUW National has just released **Strategic Plan 2.0**. The areas of focus have not changed. AAUW's commitment to Education and Training, Economic Security and Leadership will continue to impact girls and women. A larger emphasis on STEM activities is noted as the direct result of a generous bequest that AAUW received. A continued commitment to best practices in Governance and Sustainability is noted. AND, AAUW's commitment to racial and gender equality in all areas of advocacy and programming remains strong. Check it out at www.aauw.org/strategic-plan-2.0/*

*Will you be updating YOUR Strategic Plan in the near future? AAUW National has recommended that every local and state affiliate appoint a DEI officer. I am pleased to announce that **Jennifer Verive** has agreed to serve in this capacity for AAUW of Nevada. She will be serving as a key liaison between branch DEI officers, the state and National. The Diversity Officer job description can be found in the DEI toolkit at aauw.org.*

*Lastly, let us know if YOU think AAUW of Nevada should be doing something more or different!
Email me at cpunches206@charter.net.*

Thanks for all YOU do in support of AAUW locally, statewide AND nationally.

*Caroline Punches
President, AAUW of Nevada*

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YOUR VOICE COUNTS!
AAUW 2021 National Election
Voting ends May 17, 2021 – 5PM Eastern

*Have YOU voted yet? Voting began on April 7th for membership bylaws changes, 2021-2023 Public Policy Priorities AND election of AAUW Board Members. **You should have received an email with your personalized Voter ID on April 7th from Shannon Wolfe, AAUW.** The email they use is the one you have shared with them. If you did NOT receive your Voter ID – please contact them at connect@aauw.org and they will send you a new one.*



Our newest Board member:
JANE JOHNSON
AAUW Nevada State Treasurer

Jane Johnson is a Lifetime member of AAUW, having joined the Reno Branch in 1967 before moving to Douglas County, and Capital Branch in 1980. She has served in several capacities here, including three years as Branch President. Her mother was also a Lifetime member of AAUW before Jane.

Jane graduated from Stanford University and taught elementary school for 36 years and holds a Master's degree from UNR. Jane has been a widow for many years, but continues to love the outdoors in Carson Valley, especially riding her bicycle. She plays cello in the Carson City Symphony and in an early music ensemble called Consort Canzona. Jane has one daughter and two grandchildren with beginning careers in STEM.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR LEGACY?

When I think about Legacies, I immediately think about **Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi**. Many of you probably remember this dynamo! Although legally blind, she travelled the world – often without a companion. An avid supporter of AAUW and our International Fellowship program, Linda established a Fellowship many years ago. She loved meeting the recipients of this fellowship. Upon her recent death, AAUW received another generous gift from her estate in support of that Legacy.

Philanthropy is very personal for each of us. If you are in the process of updating or creating your Will or Trust and would like to support AAUW in that process, you might consider contacting AAUW for more information. There are number of options available. Check out the website at www/aauw.org/legacy for additional information.



PUBLIC POLICY by Debbie Nicholas

AAUW NEVADA
Sage Hen
May, 2021

Public Policy Updates

Hello, Nevada AAUW Members! So much is going on in the world of Public Policy that it is a difficult task to focus on a few items. There is limited space in a newsletter so here goes!

Our Nevada State Conference (VIA ZOOM) on April 17th, 2021 was extremely inspiring in many ways - especially in terms of Public Policy. We were fortunate to have as presenters Assemblywoman Jill Tolles from District 25 (Email: jill.tolles@asm.state.nv.us Cell: 775.815.4237) and Senator Pat Spearman from 1st District (Twitter: @Senatorspearman, email: Pat.Spearman@sen.state.nv.us).

As advocates for equity and inclusion, it is imperative that we act on the policies that we care about and participate to the best of our ability! Please take time to send your leaders your feedback on issues via whatever means works for you - be it by phone, email, tweet, whatever is best! We all get discouraged from time to time, but it is essential that we understand that our democracy only works as well as people are engaged and participating!

Please note that during our ZOOM visits with our representatives, they indicated some preferences for contacts. Assemblywoman Tolles indicated she is available by phone and email but remember to allow time for replies. Senator Spearman indicated that her preference is Twitter and email but prefers a personal email (not boilerplate) which explains your reasons for seeking her support for a bill. It is helpful to use the most beneficial methods but use what works for you and your schedule, as any action and contact is better than none!

Both speakers brought to our attention a few bills that they are requesting our review and support of during the current legislative session. I've listed these below, and they are by no means a comprehensive list of items we need to support.

SB190 - Medical Equity Issue - Provides for the dispensing of self-administered hormonal contraceptives.

AB182 - Sex Trafficking Equity Issue -Revises the elements of the crime of advancing prostitution.

AB225 -Allows for Accommodations in Licensing Exams - Revises provisions governing examinations for the licensure of teachers and other educational personnel.

A number of our Partner organizations are urging our support of Revisions to the Mining Tax in Nevada. This is based on the need for additional revenue in the state to support education and other state services needed to ensure equity for our citizens. Please review the issue and take time to contact your representatives in this important matter. Below is a short synopsis and link to contact legislators.

AJR1 of the 32nd (2020) Special Session** - Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to revise provisions governing the taxation of mines, mining claims and the proceeds of minerals extracted in this State. (BDR C-25). For too long, mining corporations in the state of Nevada have not paid what they owe. Due to this, Nevadans have long suffered from underfunded education and healthcare. It is not that we can't afford to invest in education and healthcare; there is money in this state and it's time the people see it. There is a cost to providing over \$5 billion in annual deductions to corporate mine owners - that cost is our children's future and quality healthcare we depend on. Act with us to change this now! Take action at: <https://plana.salsalabs.org/taxtheminers21>

Support SB177: One of NCEDSV priority bills, SB177, needs support to reach the ⅔ majority required to pass out of the Chamber. Senate Bill 177 will increase the marriage license fee dedicated to domestic violence services from \$25 to \$50. This increase will provide additional funding for domestic violence and, for the first time, statewide funding for sexual violence services. Submitting opinions, calls, or emails into the Senate are all appreciated actions.

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PUBLIC POLICY

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I encourage everyone to keep updated on our national website, be active through our *Two-minute Activist* campaigns, tune into local and state news. There are decisions made on every level of government which have long term implications to not only us but our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

On a wonderful note, the US House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act on April 15th. It is now on to the Senate!! <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/paycheck-fairness/>

Other National Issues include:

The Healthy Families Act: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/healthy-families-act/>

For the People Act : <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/forthepeopleact/>

The Equality Act: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/equality-act/>

I've included the links to the *Two-minute Activist* process in case you are not signed up...this is an incredibly easy way to reach your representatives via email.

Please take note on your upcoming Calendar of **MOM's Equal Pay Day on May 5th**! Give Mom more than a card or gift on Mother's day! Let's advocate for Equal pay so that the Moms of the future are on equal financial footing with the men in their lives! **How does NEVADA STACK UP?**

Member of Congress	Men (2019)	Women (2019)	Earnings Ratio (2019)	Ranking in State*
Titus (D) NV 01	\$36,159	\$32,286	89.3%	2
Amodei (R) NV 02	\$53,165	\$41,556	78.2%	4
Lee (D) NV 03	\$56,758	\$46,958	82.7%	3
Horsford (D) NV 04	\$43,853	\$39,724	90.6%	1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019. *The congressional districts are ranked from smallest wage gap to largest

Do not forget to VOTE in the AAUW Election before May 17th. You should have received your individual ID and PIN to vote in an email in early April. Please email connect@aauw.org If you need to retrieve your invite or PIN to vote.

You can review Public Policy Priorities at this link:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

As Public Policy Officer, I desperately want to hear from you on what you want our priorities to be, and innovative ways in which we can reach out and accomplish our goals in progressing legislation on all levels. Please contact me at nicholas89451@gmail.com if you would like to talk about ideas, and connections we can make. I would welcome all feedback and ideas, and am happy to call or ZOOM to discuss them.





2021 AAUW NEVADA SPRING CONFERENCE

A Report by Janet Usinger

On Saturday, April 17, AAUW Nevada held its Spring Conference. Members from all of the Nevada AAUW branches participated in this very lively, albeit virtual, event entitled **Pathway to Equity**. Nevada State AAUW President Caroline Panches facilitated the conference that featured four speakers and intermittent breakout sessions during which AAUW members could share news and ideas.

The first speaker was Shaila Rao Mistry, who serves as a Director on the National AAUW Board. Her presentation, **Bolstering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Every Day**, provided a brief history of AAUW's involvement in the fight for equity. Promoting the AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Toolkit, she posed the question: *What can I do to embrace inclusion as an AAUW member?* Her answer included: capacity-building through studying and learning; ensuring inclusion in programs and activities; creating a welcoming and inclusive environment; and selecting a diversity officer for each of our branches.

Ms. Rao Mistry elaborated upon the importance of constantly “checking” for implicit biases, our unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups. She then explained the concept of intersectionality. In essence, each of us is made up of many different characteristics (e.g., race, education, class, language, culture, gender, education, ethnicity, age, ability, sexuality) that come together to make us who we are. She argued that “single issue” struggles are impossible because we do not live our lives through only one of our various lenses. These overviews led to a presentation on how to engage in difficult conversations by creating safe spaces and becoming allies in support of diversity and inclusion. We were given the homework assignment of accessing and using the AAUW DEI Toolkit at <https://www.aauw.org/?s=DEI+toolkit>

After this national perspective of equity, Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education (and AAUW member), spoke about **Equity Through Education**. Citing research and her own background as a first-generation college-going student, Dr. Rose spoke with conviction about the need and process of tackling inequity through education, particularly higher education. She explained the five strategic goals that Nevada's public institutions of higher education are undertaking.

1. **Access**, particularly for under-represented students. A primary strategy is to increase the number – and consistency throughout the state – of dual credit or dual enrollment classes. These are classes for which a student receives credit at both the high school and college levels. The importance of this effort is that 90% of the students enrolled in dual credit successfully graduate high school compared to 78% of all students nationally. Furthermore, 30% of the students enrolled in dual enrollment earn an Associates of Arts (AA) degree along with their high school diploma. She was happy to report that she is working directly with Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jhone Ebert, to improve the pipeline from high school to college.
2. **Student support**. To address the often overlooked area of health and well-being, she has created a Mental Health Task Force to help students who have been negatively affected by the pandemic. They are also working hard to ensure that students can come back to campus through vaccinations. The second barrier to success that she discussed was sexual violence, coupled with her commitment to make sure that campuses are safe.
3. **Reducing the achievement gap**, particularly of Native American and African American students. This involves both academic and financial support.

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2021 AAUW NEVADA SPRING CONFERENCE

A Report by Janet Usinger

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AAUW NEVADA

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May, 2021

4. *Ensuring a highly skilled workforce.* This effort zeroes in on the role of the community colleges, many, she explained, are led by women. In addition, there is a focus on addressing the teacher shortage in Nevada. Again, she cited her work with Superintendent Ebert. Later in her presentation, Dr. Rose explained the importance of teaching “soft skills” in higher education. Describing them as the “secret sauce” of postsecondary education, she included the skills associated with communication, teamwork, sales and customer service, leadership, and problem-solving and complex thinking.
5. *Research.* Dr. Rose reported that women have played an important in Nevada’s research efforts; however, we cannot be complaisant. To ensure that research continues to thrive, it is critical to involve more diverse researchers.

The last two sessions were combined and focused on **Equity Through Legislation**. Assemblywoman Jill Tolles (R), representing District 25, and Senator Pat Spearman (D), representing District 1, explained in detail the legislation they have sponsored or co-sponsored this legislative session. What was particularly remarkable was that in this age of “political division,” both women spoke highly of the other and the work they are doing together on behalf of Nevada. Assemblywoman Tolles added that 55-60% of all bills are passed unanimously and 75% of the bills have bipartisan support. Both discussed the courage it takes to vote one’s conscience in this politically polarized climate. These were reassuring statements for all of us.

Both legislators provided background about how they got into politics and why issues of equity are important to them. Senator Spearman discussed Senate Bill (SB) 267 which requires all state agencies to collect and report information concerning diversity and equality in the workplace. She explained that this audit goes beyond simply “counting” people in the department, but requires reporting who is “sitting at the table” and actually making decisions.

Since joining the Legislature in 2017, Assemblywoman Tolles has been a champion of legislation concerning child abuse, which has led her to sponsor legislation regarding sex trafficking. She asked for support of Assembly Bill (AB) 182 that revises the elements that constitute the crime of advancing prostitution. She explained that the bill would prohibit businesses such as massage, nail, and even tax preparation from using their establishments as fronts for sex trafficking. Praising Awaken, an organization that provides services to women and girls to help them transition out of commercial sexual exploitation, she asked for support of AB 113 that increases the time limitation within which a criminal prosecution for sex trafficking must begin.

Senator Spearman is sponsoring and co-sponsoring a number of bills that pertain to social services. Confessing that she wants her obituary to read, “She always fought for equality,” she has several bills that involve public assistance to various groups (including individuals who are part of the foster care system), as well as bills related to health care and mental health. She explained that her passion for many of her bills stems from her own experiences; she has never understood why a person had to stay poor to remain on assistance, which is why she fights for transitions from poverty to sustainability. Both support various bills associated with education, making specific mention of legislation that would improve the process of licensure for teachers.

When asked the best way to reach them, Assemblywoman Tolles indicated that direct communication was best; Senator Spearman indicated that Twitter is much better than email for her.

The Equal Rights Amendment (SJR8) came up throughout their dialog. Currently the amendment has passed both the Assembly and Senate. It now goes before the voters in 2022 for approval. There was a call for getting out the vote for passage.

Senator Spearman wrapped up the session with an inspired and impassioned plea for action by all those in attendance and for all of us to reach out to others to take action on issues of importance to Nevadans.



From Boulder City Branch, Dr. Valerie Jean McNay

GREAT NEWS from Boulder City: We have a wonderful addition to our Board of Linda Gardner as Branch Membership/Treasurer! Linda is an Honorary Lifetime Member of AAUW and has re-located to Boulder City, NV from Bend, OR where she served in Branch and State Offices. Linda lived in Boulder City, NV when her adult children were young and belonged to the Branch then, about 30 years ago. When Linda and her husband, Tom were searching for property and/or home in Boulder City, she contacted me. We shared personal information and AAUW stories. We are so excited that the Gardners are now residents of Boulder City and that Linda has volunteered to be our Branch Membership/Treasurer. Linda's lifetime experience in AAUW will be a valuable asset to our small branch which is always struggling to stay afloat.

Linda and I sent a detailed email to our National Members about the importance of the National AAUW Voting that is underway. We also proposed a get together in September 2021 to make plans for our monthly meetings and possibly a fundraiser in October 2021.

From Capital Branch, Jennifer M. Verive, Ph.D.

AAUW Capital is looking forward to a very merry month of May! Our annual scholarship luncheon, honoring our three scholarship recipients will be held IN PERSON, outside and masked, at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. Although we have been meeting to hike, read, and make Great Decisions, we have not met in person to socialize and celebrate for over a year. Our high school scholarship recipients are amazing young women and, I believe, both identify as people of color. We'll also be installing our 2021-2022 officers and sending out our annual members survey to start planning for next year. And, we continue to actively engage with our legislators and support STEM activities in our local area. A festive celebration is most definitely in order!

From Fallon Branch, Carol Roeder

The Fallon Branch has had an unproductive year this year due to Covid. However, thanks to our Secret Angel and their donation of \$3,000, we will be able to give three scholarships this year. We are planning our Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, May 1st. We always invite our recipients and family to this event. We also give a Community Woman of the Year Award to an outstanding woman in our community. Our scholarships are given in the name of members who have been very active or sometimes deceased. We are looking forward to a busy 2022 and will have a planning meeting this summer.

From Las Vegas Branch, Marian Stanton

Several of our members attended the State Conference on April 17th, and thoroughly enjoyed the speakers. Our May 15th meeting will be our first virtual Spelling Bee and Silent Auction supporting our Scholarship Fund as we prepare to award a few scholarships for the next school year. As the year opens, one of our new activities is to develop a Lunch Out group and Recommended Readings, along with our Marathon Bridge Group which supports the Scholarship Fund. Our newsletter includes Inspirations and Business cards which help our operating account. Our June virtual meeting includes the Installation of Officers with Caroline Panches as the Installing Officer, and our own member and former scholarship recipient, Susan Taylor, Program Manager of the University of Nevada Extension, as our speaker. Please contact Marian Stanton at mikistanto@aol.com if you care to attend any of our meetings.

From Tahoe Nevada Branch, Janet Usinger

AAUW Tahoe Nevada is emerging from a year of cautious actions in support of public health. I'm happy to report that we have been meeting for outdoor activities for a couple of months, but starting in May, we are "re-opening" by holding some of our indoor activities in-person, including a celebratory Annual Business Meeting on June 9th during which our activity leaders will share their plans for the coming year. Following our very successful Lasagna Fest in May, we will hold an elegant Garden Party in the sculpture garden of one of our members. In addition to enjoying her garden in full July bloom, we will have works of other artists on display. What a treat!



AAUW Nevada Leadership Directory

2020-2021

OFFICE	Term ends	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE
STATE									
President/Administrator	6/30/22	Caroline	Punches	cpunches206@charter.net	(775) 246-1850	(775) 443-8318	206 La Costa Ave	Dayton	89403-8723
Program	6/30/22	Marian	Stanton	mikistanto@aol.com	(702) 263-1028		6295 Shamrock Lake Ave	Las Vegas	89141-8579
Membership	6/30/22	Jennifer	Verve	jimverve@gmail.com	(775) 315-4758		925 August Dr	Carson City	89706
Finance (co)	6/30/22	Jane	Johnson	jane3491@charter.net	(775) 267-3427		3491 Mont Blanc Ct	Carson City	89705-7023
Secretary	6/30/22	Pam	Sheldon	pamelasheldon961@yahoo.com	(775) 298-7309		774 Ways Blvd #10-396	Incline Village	89451
Public policy	6/30/22	Debbie	Nicholas	nicholas89451@gmail.com	(775) 843-0775		908 Harold Dr Apt 42	Incline Village	89451-9051
College & University Relations	6/30/22	vacant							
Newsletter Editor	6/30/22	Millie	Szerman	millies746@gmail.com	(775) 833-3311		633 Woodridge Circle	Incline Village	89451
Communications	6/30/22	Doris	Dowden	dsquared2@sbcglobal.net	(775) 827-2481	(775) 750-1500	4890 Buckhaven Road	Reno	89519-0961
Advisor/Past President	6/30/22	Janice	Flanagan	janflanagan@aol.com	(775) 828-1993	(775) 742-1994	1460 Bermuda Circle	Reno	89509



LASAGNA FEST 2021



May 13th

To Benefit AAUW's Scholarship Fund

- ⌘ Pre-Order our **GOURMET LASAGNA***, ready for pick-up on May 13th
- ⌘ Become a **SPONSOR*** (Includes our delicious lasagna ♦ more)
- ⌘ Bid on our outstanding collection of **SILENT AUCTION*** items
May 1st - May 11th
- ⌘ Make a **DONATION!***

For further information,
please go to our AAUW website at

<https://tahoe-nv.aauw.net/>

*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. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the provisions of Section 170.c of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26, USC 170c.



SAVE THE DATE

RENO ACES GAME Tuesday, September 21st

Who's playing? Salt Lake Bees
Where? Reno

Ticket Cost? \$18

Where are our seats? Infield Reserved!

In Collaboration with other Northern Nevada AAUW chapters
Tickets will be available soon. This is an evening game
and spouses, friends, family and neighbors are all invited!



For more information: Debbie Nicholas at (775) 843-0775 or nicholas89451@gmail.com

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