



THE SAGE HEN

A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council

2021 - 2022 Volume 3 - July 2022



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

President's Message:

THANK YOU AAUW NEVADA MEMBERS!

As AAUW Nevada begins our 2022-24 term, we are extremely grateful for your support. Over the past two years, AAUW Nevada was able to implement our goals and objectives as outlined in our Strategic Plan!

THANKS TO YOU!

Thank you for participating in our 2021 Spring Conference which featured Chancellor Melody Rose and others! We all learned the importance of Zoom to allow AAUW members to continue to learn and grow. Our 2022 Spring Convention featured Dr. DeRrionne Pollard, President, Nevada State College and our own AAUW National President, Gloria Blackwell. Our conversations with our Nevada US Senators, Catherine Cortez-Masto and Jacky Rosen were very informative.

Thanks to the planning and implementation by the 2020-22 AAUW NV Executive Council members, AAUW members throughout Nevada were able to hear inspirational speakers, gain new knowledge to share with their Branches and much more. Special thanks to Jennifer Verive, Debbie Nicholas, Millie Szerman, Marian Stanton, Janet Usinger, Jane Johnson, Pamela Sheldon, Janice Flanagan, Doris Dowden and others for your leadership the past two years! Your time and talent are truly appreciated! Thanks also to Branch Presidents and other representatives who regularly attended meetings: Carol Roeder, Fallon; Laura Durica, TahoeNV; Valerie McNay and Linda Gardner, Boulder City; Dr. Janice Noble, Capital; Judy Ingham and Shirley Hills, Las Vegas; and Courtney Burns, Reno for attending our meetings and providing your very valuable input and insight.

WHAT'S NEXT??

Your 2022-24 Executive Council met on June 14th to develop our plans and strategies for the next term. Since we are in an election year, AAUW NV will be providing a Zoom session on the November ballot measures. We know that one issue will be regarding the ERA in our Nevada State Constitution – but there may be others as well. Stay tuned! The Nevada State Legislature will be in session during our Spring 2023 Conference – so topics will no doubt relate to issues being discussed by our state legislature.

YOUR feedback to our Membership Survey in June will be used to plan our upcoming programs and events. We appreciate your feedback AND volunteering to help us deliver our 2022-24 programs.

AAUW members across Nevada are encouraged to reach out and share ideas and thoughts about our AAUW NV programs and activities. The officers elected in April 2022 for a two-year term beginning July 1st are: Jane Johnson, Jennifer Verive, Debbie Nicholas, Millie Szerman, Marian Stanton, Janet Usinger, Doris Dowden and Helene Winkler. Their contact information can be found in our leadership directory on page 10.

With YOUR participation and support, we are bound to be successful. Thanks for ALL YOU DO for AAUW NV!

*Best,
Caroline PUNCHES
President, AAUW Nevada*

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Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Title IX

You're invited to mark this auspicious occasion with AAUW. We're offering a range of options to learn more and get involved.

Webinar June 23, 2022 AAUW's Title IX 50th Anniversary Virtual Celebration
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pIHsRyu4RrSeaYPkltm3Sw

Donate \$50 for 50 Years

<https://my.aauw.org/donatenow?aid=a1x6g00000037iOAAQ&pid=a1B6g000004CZOrEAO>

Please consider helping to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. The webinar or donations are great, and even better sign up for the 2-minute activist and contact your representatives to Support the Gender Equity in Education Act:

Stand Up for Equity in Education: Tell Your Legislators to Co-sponsor GEEA!

While the U.S. Department of Education is currently working to strengthen Title IX rules and regulations, passing GEEA would codify protections designed to help students address sex discrimination in all areas of education. It would:

- Provide additional resources, training and technical assistance to educational entities in order to ensure compliance with Title IX;
- Establish an Office of Gender Equity in the U.S. Department of Education to coordinate activities within the Department and among other federal agencies;
- Support the work of thousands of Title IX coordinators by providing annual training and technical assistance;
- Authorize competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local educational agencies, or states to support their gender equity work.

Sex discrimination has no place in our schools. Urge your members of Congress to stand up for equity in education by co-sponsoring GEEA.

If you are interested in working on public policy planning or events, please contact me at
nicholas89451@gmail.com

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar!

- 50th Anniversary of Title IX – June 23, 2022
- Planned Forum on Ballot Initiatives (September-October-TBD)
- November Early Voting: October 22, 2022 – November 4, 2022
- Nevada Day : Friday, October 28, 2022
- Election Day: November 8, 2022

Please make sure to check your voter registration and get information on deadlines to register or make changes!

[Nevada Voter Registration \(nv.gov\)](https://nv.gov)

[Voter Registration Search \(nvsos.gov\)](https://nvsos.gov)



We Know What We Are...But What Are We Not?

By Dr. Jennifer Verive, AAUW NV DEI Coordinator

As members of AAUW, we know what we are – we are advocates, activists, learners, helpers, fundraisers, and leaders. We have educated and fought for gender equity for almost 150 years! We are quite clear on who we are and why we do what we do. This may be why, when we reflect on National's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) campaign, some of us bristle. Just a bit. We bristle at the idea that the way we have been doing our work for over a century is...not quite right. We feel a hint of resentment at the suggestion that our smeared and battered glasses have been rose-colored all along. After all, we have marched, lobbied, and raised our voices to create positive change. We know that we are resilient, strong, and determined.

Indeed, we are! We are, Gentle Readers, also “privileged.”

(Perhaps some of you recognize Miss Manners' trademark greeting. If there is ever a time to be gentle, it is in a discussion of “privilege” I borrow it with gratitude.)

Gentle Reader, I have learned that “privilege” is not about how much money your family had when growing up, or whether you had to work hard or go without. In the context of DEI, “privilege” is not about what mattered; it's about what *didn't* matter. For example, a straight, white gentleman has rarely been denied a job because he is straight, white, or a man. Mr. SWM (straight, white, man) lives his life with little thought to his sexual orientation, race, or gender – as if he has blinders on – because none of these things mattered when he enrolled in college, applied for a job, or bought a house. His sexual orientation, race, and gender simply played no part in the success of those endeavors. One could say, Gentle Reader, that he was privileged. He was privileged to *not* be gay, Black, or a woman.

As/Is, a body-positive social media influencer group, gives this example of privilege: “Some people are born into families where they have to walk for miles to get water. I just have to turn on the faucet. That's privilege.”



And so Gentle Reader, I invite you to consider what you are NOT, and how that has benefitted you – your ability to go to college, open a bank account, join a social club, live in a certain neighborhood. You may find that your lived experience is influenced as much by what you are *not* as by what you are.

Why does this matter? Because when we take off our own blinders, we see the world in a wider and deeper context. We realize that we have much to learn about the lived experience of the people who are not like us, often the people whom our AAUW activities are meant to help. Alas, Gentle Reader, our loving hearts are no longer sufficient. As “accidental activist” Franchesca Ramsey says, “It's not about intent, it's about impact.” The most recent social justice movements (e.g., #metoo, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQIA+, Decolonization) are politely asking us to step to the side, to walk behind, to use our privilege to support those who are different from us, so that they can fight for their rights.

It's true, Gentle Reader! We are not being asked to eschew our privilege. Quite the contrary, we are being asked to revel in it, indulge it, to use all that we are – and all that we are *not*— to stand up and speak out for what we know is right; to be allies. Privilege, it turns out, is a powerful tool. One that we can use to share the love and co-create a more equitable and peaceful world.

For more information on Privilege, please explore the AAUW DEI Toolkit. The Key Terms section on Privilege has great videos, books, and other resources.



Spring cleaning can be paused for two reasons: (1) you legitimately don't care if it's done or not and (2) you need to renew your AAUW membership. At least put down that Swiffer™ immediately, log in on National's [website](#) and renew online. If the new process baffles you, watch a how-to video [HERE](#) or read written instructions [HERE](#). Or just send in your money to your Branch.





MEET THE NEW BRANCH PRESIDENTS

AAUW NEVADA
Sage Hen
July 2022



Patricia Cuocco
Co-President, Capital

Patricia Cuocco is a retired University Administrator with a background in Information Technology, Policy Analysis and Accountability Metrics. She has a master's degree in Public Policy from CSU Long Beach. She has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for foster children in Los Angeles, a member, past-president and policy chief for the Greater Whittier Area branch of AAUW and is currently serving as the co-president of the **Capital Branch** of AAUW in Nevada. Patricia is the secretary of the Douglas County Democratic Central Committee, the vice-president of the Douglas County Democratic Women and the Northern Nevada regional director of the Nevada Federation of Democratic Women. In her spare time, Patricia enjoys hanging out with her husband and her beautiful British Cream Golden Retriever; cooking and reading fiction. She and her husband have one daughter.

A six-year member of the AAUW Tahoe Nevada Branch, Jane Dykstra has previously been elected to two offices within the Branch (Programs Co-Chair and Treasurer) and has been involved in Branch leadership as a member of various committees and as the creator of Tahoe-Nevada's digital Branch Directory.

Jane has B.S. degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from California State University, Pomona. After working in public accounting and earning her CPA license, Jane was fortunate to be able to take some time off to raise her children and follow her husband's career overseas. The family moved Lake Tahoe in 1999. As the kids grew and were needing less of her time, Jane decided to break back into the work force slowly – and in a way that she was able to share school breaks and summer vacation schedules with them! The position of Registrar at Incline Middle School was the perfect fit; and the Spanish she learned while living in Costa Rica for almost seven years came in handy, as well! Once her children moved on to high school, Jane was drawn back into the world of finance. She accepted a position as the Director of Finance and Administration for the Truckee Tahoe Airport District, and worked there ten years, until she retired in 2014. Working at the school, Jane developed an appreciation of the difference that can be made in children's lives through volunteers – a mission that stays with her to this day.



Jane Dykstra
President,
Tahoe-Nevada Branch

CONTINUING
BRANCH
PRESIDENTS



Janice Noble, Ph.D.
Co-President, Capital Branch



Judy Ingram
Co-President, Las Vegas Branch



Shirley Hill
Co-President,
Las Vegas Branch



From the Boulder City Branch:

The Boulder City Branch of AAUW is celebrating its 80th Anniversary year! Our Branch has more than 20 members with diverse interests and degrees from all over! Each of us has a strong commitment to assist other women to achieve their educational and life goals. Our Membership Chair, Linda Gardner, has created a great brochure with this information and much more including a membership form.

Our April 2022 Branch meeting included a presentation by Mary Ralph, the President of Emergency Aid of Boulder City. Emergency Aid provides food, rental, utility and other financial assistance to Boulder City residents. Mary provided history about Emergency Aid which originated to provide assistance to workers during the building of Hoover Dam in the 1930s. When Hoover Dam workers got injured and couldn't work, Emergency Aid provided needed help. Mary expressed appreciation of our Branch in annually donating backpacks and school supplies to Emergency Aid.

On Saturday, April 30th, our Wine and Chocolate Tasting Scholarship Fundraiser took place.. Thanks to all of our AAUW members, friends, and sponsors, we will be able to give 5 scholarships to students continuing their education for the Fall semester. Our Scholarship Chair, Anne Slavicek, put the word out on our website and to local media about how to apply, and will obtain help from members to serve on the Scholarship Committee to select worthy students.

Our May 2022 Branch meeting included a presentation by Dr. Christina Vela, the CEO of St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Dr. Vela shared the mission of St. Jude's: To transform the lives of abused and at-risk children, young adults and families by empowering them to create new chances, new choices and new hope in a caring community. The programs provided by St. Jude's include: Foster Care Services, Homeless Youth Services, Child Sex Trafficking Services, Support Services (Clinical Services, Educational Support, Job Training, Discharge Services, Post-Secondary Scholarship). For ages 0-18: Therapeutic Residential Program, Sibling Reunification, Pregnant & Parenting, Transitional Housing. For ages 18-24: Transitional Living, Rapid Re-Housing, Drop-In Center. Ages 10-24: Specialized Foster Care, Homeless Services and Healing Center (coming soon).

Our Branch also provided Book Group meetings in April and May at the home of Laura Pyzer, former President of Boulder City Branch.

From the Capital Branch:

On May 14th, Capital Branch celebrated this year's scholarship winners at the Plaza Conference Center in Carson City. The event, which included lunch, was well attended and everyone was pleased to hear the accomplishments and aspirations of our two very deserving recipients.

The newly elected officers were installed in a "Spiced Up" installation by Past President, Jennifer Verive as Installation Officer. Our Officers for the 2022 – 2023 term are:

Co-Presidents: Janice Noble and Patricia Cuocco
Co-Vice Presidents for Programs: Diane Koditek and Iris Blaisdell
Co-Vice Presidents for Membership: Sharon Orgain and Rita Osborne
Co-Treasurers: Betsy Strohl and Diana Clark
Co-Secretaries: Mary Wilson and Michelle Gleitsmann
Corresponding Secretary: Maureen Smith

Capital Branch wishes them success in the year ahead.

Our Branch will have its annual Joint Board Meeting/Retreat in July to plan the goals and activities for the coming year. Our meetings will again be held at Western Nevada College on the first Tuesday of each month. We are grateful for their willingness to open their doors to us and allow us access to their AV equipment so we can offer Zoom as an option to our members.

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We have lots to celebrate and to be thankful for. Shirley Hills and Judy Ingham's first year as co-presidents has been quite eventful. We have been able to meet in person and have had wonderful speakers. These include Hollis Gillespie, Director of the Nevada State Museum; Senator Pat Spearman; Dr. Melody Rose, Chancellor of Nevada System of Higher Education; Lauri Thompson, lawyer; Rowena Trim, registered nurse and International Public Health Consultant; Melvin Stringer, Founder of KenyaKEEP; Dr. Jenny Lee; Dr. Afi Bruce; Nate Tannebaum, KLAS 8 News Now; Anthony Morrone, Nevada State College Financial Aid Director; and Cindy Fox, Nevada Ballet Theatre. The Zoom speakers at the AAUW Nevada State Spring Convention were inspirational. Congratulations to Las Vegas Branch members Helene Winkler and Marian Stanton for being elected to the Nevada State Executive Board!

We reached out to our community and supported SafeNest with blankets, pillows, and toiletries. Our generosity was much appreciated.

We are proud of our 2021-2022 scholarship winners: Miah Strellnauer, Vanessa Magana-Pedraza, and Ruby Munoz Eguiluz. Congratulations to Ruby Munoz, who received a scholarship from AAUW Nevada to attend the NCCWSL conference, in May, 2022. We wish our scholarship winners well as they continue with their studies and prepare for their future careers. We continue to raise money for our future scholarship winners. Our annual auction was quite a hit! We are ever so thankful for all of the support and generous donations that we have received this year. New award winners will be announced in the near future.

Our Board has been very active behind the scenes and we are thankful for their hard work in keeping our organization energized and thriving through these hard times. We welcomed 12 new members! The Board is in the process of setting up programs for the coming year. With election season coming up, we will have an exciting Fall in store for all! Have a wonderful summer.



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Branch News
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From the Reno Branch:

In May, the Reno Branch concluded a year of successful membership Zoom meetings with a presentation by Nevada's First Lady, Kathy Sisolak. She spoke about the importance of financial literacy and breast-cancer screening and shared stories about growing up as a Chinese American in Las Vegas. You can read about her on the Nevada Women's History Project website, <https://www.nevadawomen.org/research-center/first-ladies/katherine-won-ong-sisolak/>.

To launch summer 2022, we are hosting our very first LUNAFEST®, a program of short films by, for, and about women who empower and inspire. All ticket sales will benefit AAUW Reno programs and support various scholarships including young girls' technology camps, Nevada Girls' State, and scholarships for non-traditional college women. We are encouraging our membership to buy tickets and persuade family and friends to participate. Tickets are available at \$30 per person, at <https://watch.eventive.org/lunafest/play/62727b7194f88c004cb3ee>.

The event starts on July 8 at noon and ends on July 10 at noon.

Also upcoming in July is the leadership-council retreat to map out 2022-2023's budget, the DEI Committee's recommendations of programs and events, and fundraising ideas in support of operations.



From the Tahoe-Nevada Branch:

The AAUW Tahoe Nevada Branch had such a successful year!

We implemented a "Buddy System" for our new members to help welcome them into the Branch with a smoother transition. We had 18 new members this year.

We formed two special committees: a Financial Oversight Committee and a Strategic Planning Committee. Both worked hard to help review and define new processes for the Branch to keep us running smoothly in the future. One of our goals this year was to assist the community/schools at the lower grades to target STEM activities and interests. The Strategic Planning committee worked with the schools to understand some of their needs and the Board was able to approve \$7,300 to the schools and the community. We purchased a Math Assessment Tool, Culinary Club equipment, 3D printer, a UNR Math Camp scholarship and assisted the Dean's Future Scholars Summer program. We are implementing a grant process in order to award additional dollars to the community over the next four years.

Working with the Tahoe Basin and Carson City Branches we held a STEM TREK Day in June. We had 15 girls participate in the event and had three awesome speakers: Anna Serbinendo, an acrobatic flyer who is also studying Astronautics, and Laura Patten and Tiffany Racz who spoke on the technology used to monitor invasive species in Lake Tahoe. A big thanks goes to Meri McEneny of the North Tahoe Branch for chairing this event.

We awarded three scholarships this year, two being renewable for 3 more years to very deserving young women. Our Scholarship Committee works hard each year to identify and interview candidates.

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Branch News
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From the Tahoe-Nevada Branch (continued)

We held our Annual Business Meeting with a luncheon at The Chateau, located at the Champion Golf Course in Incline Village. We had a rolling slide show of our activities throughout the year, our scholarship recipients were introduced, we voted and inducted our new officers, and did our final report summarizing for the year. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

This summer our Branch plans to walk in the community 4th of July parade honoring our scholarship recipients. We will also be holding our annual meet and greet meeting this summer.

It has been a pleasure to serve as President of the Tahoe-Nevada Branch for 2021-2022. Jane Dykstra will be leading us next for the 2022-2023 term. For more information about our Tahoe-Nevada Branch, visit: <https://tahoe-nv.aauw.net>



Outgoing President, Laura Durica hands the gavel over to Incoming President, Jane Dykstra



2021 Board Members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting





2022-2024 AAUW State Council Information

	OFFICE	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE #	BRANCH
E	President	Caroline Punches	Cpunches206@charter.net	775-246-1850 775-443-8318	Capital
E	Treasurer/Finance	Jane Johnson	jane3491@charter.net	775-267-3427	Capital
E	Secretary	Helene Winkler	hipwinkler@yahoo.com	702-916-4663, 310-998-7969	Las Vegas
E	Program/DEI	Jennifer Verive	jmverive@gmail.com	775-315-4748	Capital
E	Public Policy	Debbie Nicholas	Nicholas89451@gmail.com	775-843-0775	Tahoe
E	Newsletter	Millie Szerman	MillieSz746@gmail.com	775-833-3311	Tahoe
E	Membership	Marian Stanton	mikistanto@aol.com	702-263-1028	Las Vegas
E	At Large	Janet Usinger	usingerj@unr.edu	775-831-0343 775-240-1004	Tahoe
	Past President	Janice Flanagan	janflangan@aol.com	775-828-1993	Reno
E	Communications	Doris Dowden	Dquared2@sbcglobal.net	775-827-2481 775-750-1560	Reno/Cap



AAUW Reno
PRESENTS
FILMS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN

JOIN US VIRTUALLY
Noon July 8 until Noon July
10, 2022

TICKETS: \$30 per person

TO LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS:
CLICK HERE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



BENEFITING:

AAUW Reno
Scholarship
Programs



Fundraising for Scholarships
and Community Action Grants

JOIN US FOR A
GARDEN
party

When: Sunday, August 28, 2022
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Where: Ron and Maureen Ashley's
Lakefront Home
Cost: \$100 per person
Includes: Libations and Appetizers
Music and Local Artists
Silent Auction from August 12 to 31!

For Tickets, visit
<https://tahoe-nv.aauw.net/gardenparty/>

For questions, please contact
Events@tahoenvaaauw.org