



THE SAGE HEN

A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council

2023 - 2nd Quarter



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

President's Message:

Happy Spring! I am loving the change in weather. Enjoying the absence of snow and ice. But also realizing that Mother Nature is in control and can quickly change her mind! So, I am taking some short walks and love feeling the warm sunshine.

HAVE YOU VOTED YET?? Your individualized voting link was sent to your home email address (the one provided to AAUW) with your vote ID and instructions. This personalized link was emailed on Wednesday, April 5th. If you don't remember getting it – check your spam folder. If you have yet to vote, you do have time – **voting ends on May 15th!** Results will be announced on **May 17th.**

AAUW Nevada's Spring Conference on April 22nd was a great success! We definitely got IN the Mood, thanks to the outstanding and inspirational speakers. Lots of "food for thought" as well as "WOW" moments. Special thanks to **Dr. Jennifer Verive** for her leadership in organizing the event, **Judy Ingham** and **Las Vegas Branch** for co-hosting the day, and **Millie Szerman** for creating promotional flyers and the conference program. We were **INformed** and **INspired** – thanks to your **INnovation**. What a great day!

IT'S DUES TIME! Time flies, especially when we think about paying dues. The membership renewal process has been updated and revised a bit. AAUW's Membership Database (now referred to as the Community Hub), has undergone a major revision. **Your Branch membership chair** can help answer any questions you may have. All AAUW members should be receiving notification on renewal processes by email. If you have questions or need help with the renewal process, do ask **YOUR Branch membership chair** for assistance.

Note: Honorary Lifetime Members do NOT pay national dues or state dues. Some Branches do ask them for local dues. Lifetime members (paid) do NOT pay national dues but do pay Nevada state and local Branch dues.

AAUW NEVADA – Your AAUW Nevada State Council will be meeting on June 8th to review our progress on achieving our goals for 2022-23FY AND outlining plans for the 2023-24FY. **YOUR opinions** on the programs this past year or suggestions for the 2023-24FY are encouraged and welcome. Please forward them to me at cpunches206@charter.net OR at cpunches206@gmail.com.

Thanks for all YOU do to support AAUW.

Caroline Punches, President



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AAUW National Election voting opened April 5th - Deadline to vote is **May 15th**
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/>

Please be sure to vote!!!! Look for an email from National with information. This link provides information on the Candidates, and the Public Policy Updates.

A Note on Title IX from our **NEW Senior Director of Policy & Member Advocacy**, Megan Kissell, MSW (she/her):

“Title IX regulations that were released on April 6th from the Department of Education on athletic eligibility for transgender students
<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-us-department-educations-proposed-change>. These proposed changes come as we are seeing policies around the country that categorically ban those students from participating in sports teams consistent with their gender.

Given that access to athletics is a key component of educational equity under Title IX, last year <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/to/issues2022/09> regulations that affirm and protect the inclusion and participation of all students, including transgender and nonbinary students, in school athletics.

We will work with our partners to fully evaluate the proposed rule to ensure it is consistent with our principles and evaluate if there are changes that might further strengthen the proposal.

There will be a 30-day public comment period from the date of publication in the Federal Register (likely early next week), so look for work information about how to engage.”

NATIONAL Issues Needing Your Support – 2-minute Activist Links below:

Paid leave bills like FAMILY and Healthy Families (<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/family-act/>; <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/healthy-families-act/>

ACT: student debt in Congress: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/protect-student-loan-borrowers/>

The Women’s Health Protection Act (<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/reproductive-rights/>



Nevada Legislature Updates

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us>

Upcoming Deadlines:

May 8 (Start Resolving Budget Differences); May 19 (2nd House Committee Passage); May 26 (Second House Passage); May 31 (Budget Bills Introduced); June 5 (End of Session)

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023Meetings>

Quick Link to see Meetings Scheduled for certain days/and their agendas.

Partner Updates & Events

PLAN (Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada) <https://planevada.org> They are following and testifying on several environmental, water conservation & protection, housing equity, and reproductive health protection bills. Check out AB 131, AB 312, SB419 for additional information.

May 4 – Monthly Housing Justice Meeting (5:45 p.m. Las Vegas) RSVP:

<https://www.mobilize.us/planevada/event/549486/>

May 7 – Inaugural Debra BlackCrow Memorial Prayer Run (Las Vegas)

<https://www.mobilize.us/planevada/event/559574/>

Nevada Women's Lobby <https://nevadawomenslobby.org> Join their email list for Lunch with the Lobby Zoom Meetings (excellent speakers on current topics/legislative representatives).

Nevada NOW <https://www.nevadanow.org>

SAVE THE DATE: August 26, 2023 - 1st Women's Equity Day Gala

Seeking assistance AGAINST AB285 & AB330 due to restorative justice being removed.

Bears watching in the video archives of Committee hearings – on AB330.

Seeking assistance and comments in favor of AB37 & AB69 Funding for Mental Health Initiatives

Some other Bills to review:

AB356 – bans ability to use trackers on vehicles (this will assist many DV survivors)

AB109 – Soil Health (has bipartisan support)

AB228 – Mandatory Geography Courses in High School

AB225 – Some protections against police officers leaving an agency and going to another when being investigated.

AB340 – Bringing Eviction Processes into line with other Civil Matters

AB416 – Ability to use accessory dwelling units for public housing rentals (if this is allowed in local code)

SB391 - Minden * this is to end a particularly racist practice of Siren's sounding at dusk – a very triggering practice that effects indigenous citizens of the town- seems it is the last one of these Sundown laws in the country.

SB367 - Removes ability of those convicted of a hate crime to possess firearms.

AB241 – Allowing all students to have access to College Readiness if they desire.

SB308 – Revisions to statute for J1 Teachers (who are on 5-year Visas)



PUBLIC POLICY

(Continued from Page 3)

AAUW NEVADA
Sage Hen
2nd Quarter 2023

PLEASE NOTE: The descriptions above are very brief to give you an idea of the general subject area. Please access the actual bill in the legislative website, read it and decide on your position, and then plan testimony, contact your legislator by email, complete comments /polls!!

Anyone with Contacts in Pahrump NV – Please note that their Library Board has begun taking steps to control/ban access to certain books recently. If you have an interest in this issue, please contact me at nicholas89451@gmail.com. I can put you into contact with someone there who has attended the meetings for details.



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
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E	Program/DEI	Jennifer Verive	jmverive@gmail.com	775-315-4748	Capital
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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	Dsquared2@sbcglobal.net	775-827-2481 775-750-1560	Reno/Cap



From the Boulder City Branch:

Boulder City Branch AAUW has been honored by outstanding speakers and consultants for our monthly meetings in 2023!



On January 11th, Blair Davenport and Ray Turner joined us to discuss ideas and recommendations for putting on an AAUW Home Tour, which has been on hiatus due to pandemic for 3 years. Blair and Ray are active leaders in the Boulder City History & Arts Foundation and Boulder City Historic Preservation Committee. They suggested homeowners in the Historic District are willing to follow up to support homeowners who are interested in including their home on the 46th Annual AAUW Home tour to help fund our scholarships for women in the Boulder City area.

For our February 8th meeting, one of our fantastic AAUW Scholarship Recipients (who will soon be receiving her MA in SLP) suggested we host Dr. Angel Ball, Ph.D., CCC-SLP who is a Professor and Program Director Speech - Language Pathology School of Education at Nevada State College and mentor for several of our scholarship recipients. Dr. Ball provided us with detailed information and handouts about the Speech - Language Pathology Clinic and Early Childhood Education Center at Nevada State College. Dr. Ball answered questions about services provided including training sites for future Speech-Language Pathologists. Feedback from participants was highly positive in evaluating Dr. Ball's presentation!



Pat Murphy, a novelist, science writer and educator, was recommended as our speaker for March 8th by one of our book and library loving members. She discussed how stories can change the world. And why writing stories is worth the trouble. She revealed the secret about fiction writing that she discovered at 12 years of age. Pat is the author of 8 published novels, many short stories, and more than 20 science books for adults and children. Her work has won multiple awards in numerous categories. She is also co-founder of the James Tiptree, Jr. Literary Award for fiction that expands or explores our understanding of gender and gender roles. The award was created to encourage authors to change the world by imagining a new one! The highlight of her talk was her reading of her very short and very angry story in the form of a phone conversation. Search for "Motherhood"

by Pat Murphy!

Our April 12th speaker was Nicole Twardzik, a local business woman with vast experiences as an educator and school counselor. One of our super AAUW members recommended that Nicole speak to us because of her awesome, creative, and fun local business, "Cards o' Glee," and because of her support of other women-owned small businesses. Growing up in Chicago, Nicole's undergraduate degree was from Elmhurst College, with a major in communication and minors in Art, English and French. Her first Master's Degree was in Curriculum and Instruction at UNLV, moving here to teach



Branch News
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From the Boulder City Branch: (continued)

via Teach for America. Nicole's 2nd Master's Degree in School Counseling is from Touro University. She started her current business online in 2021 and opened her retail store in Boulder City in 2022. Nicole discussed how she proudly sells products from 70 women-owned businesses and hosts monthly crafting workshops to offer a space where participants can create and collaborate. She spoke of her experiences helping students to get to college even with barriers and told us about starting her business, growing it, lessons learned and hopes for the future! Nicole donated cards to attendees, made a generous donation to our scholarship fund and to upcoming fundraisers!



From the Capital Branch:

As our 2022 – 2023 term draws to a close, Janice Noble, Ph.D. will be the outgoing President of Capital Branch at the end of June. "It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this leadership role," comments Dr. Noble. "I have so many thank you wishes to send to so many people in my Branch and across the state. I have felt supported at all times as I asked questions and received timely and helpful responses. I have learned an amazing amount about AAUW, its values, and goals. As National began to implement DEI into the organization, I learned so much on how to integrate these principles into my personal perspective. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and want to extend my thanks to all."

A recap of Capital Branch's last quarter brought many new topics and great information. In January, we were fortunate to have Shannon McDaniel present details about our water in Carson Valley. February brought us the opportunity to learn about Mental Health Issues in Carson Valley from a representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) with a focus on women's issues. March brought terrible weather and a revisit to a *Zoom only* program and gave us an up-close look at the legislation being considered during our current legislative session. We had a fun *business meeting* with food, raffles, and the first in our series of mini-presentations on the push-back some organizations are receiving on *women only* scholarships by Jennifer Verive. Thank you, Jennifer!

Our last meeting of this term will be held on May 20th at the Governor's Mansion to honor our Scholarship award winners and install our newly elected Board members and to thank our outgoing Board. The following is a list of the new Board members.

President: Patricia Cuocco
Vice President- Programs: Iris Blasdel
Vice President-Membership: Rita Osborne
Treasurer: Betsy Strohl
Recording Secretary: Michele Gleitsman
Corresponding Secretary: Shirley Hammon

Co-President: Joann Carpenter
Co-Vice President-Programs: Alice Meyer
Co-Vice President-Membership: Mary Wilson
Co-Vice President-Treasurer: VACANT
Co-Recording Secretary: Carly Page





Branch News
(Continued from Page 6)

From the Fallon Branch:

Our Candy Sale and Film Festival were very successful this year and we are able to fund our scholarships again.

We enjoyed our Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, April 15th where we also honored our Branch and Community Women of the Year awards. We had a wonderful International Pot Luck and our speaker, a young woman from Mexico and a DACA, explained the difficulties that face our young DACA people. We were also treated to two wonderful Mexican dancers that had us tapping our feet.

Our final meeting will be lunch and a tour of the Fallon Oats Park Art Center.

We are saddened by the passing of Nancy Hedges, our Honorary Life Member of AAUW. She will be missed.



Nancy Marie Hedges was a Lifetime Member of AAUW, and enjoyed her retirement on the farm where she had lived for the last 65 years. She graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a B.S. in Home Economics in 1945. She married Weldon Hedges in 1948 and they had five children. In 1957, they settled in Fallon, Nevada.



As one of the first middle-aged women who went to work after starting her family, Nancy commuted daily to the University of Nevada and obtained an elementary teaching certificate. She commenced teaching first grade in the Fall of 1963 and taught for the next 22 years as either a first or second grade teacher.

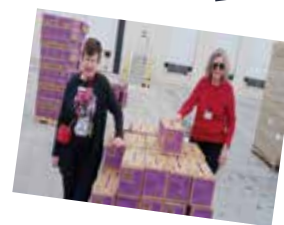
Nancy had been active in AAUW for many years and had held all the local chapter offices. She was AAUW Fallon's Woman of the Year in 1984 and Community Woman of the Year in 1998-1999. She was President of the local teachers' association in 1977-1978.

Nancy remained engaged with her lifelong interests in reading, walking and the Fallon Methodist Church, and liked to attend AAUW meetings and activities.



From the Las Vegas Branch:

AAUW Las Vegas Branch continues to strive to make a positive impact in our community. Members volunteered in February at the *Cookie Mega Drop*, sponsored by the Southern Nevada Outreach Program for the Girl Scouts. We are now in the process of helping Girl Scouts in grades 4-12, by collecting and delivering items to help them prepare for summer camp.





Branch News
(Continued from Page 7)

From the Las Vegas Branch (continued):



Our Public Policy Chair, Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert, and her committee members Esther Pla-Cazares, Margoth Trello, and Karin Tidgewell, have been keeping us updated on the current bills that impact women during the 82nd Nevada legislative session. They have been focusing on AB226 and AB292 and have attended legislative sessions, and given input and testimonies on the many bills affecting women.

We had a wonderful celebration for Women's History Month! During an afternoon tea, our guest speaker, Dr. Sondra Cosgrove, history professor at the College of Southern Nevada and Executive Director of Vote Nevada, spoke to us about how civics can empower individuals through advocacy. She followed up by sending us contact information about timely legislation regarding AB37, AB69, and an overview of her presentation.

In April, Dr. Afi Bruce and Dr. Dalia Hawwass spoke about the history of women in Nevada in the medical field and what is happening in the field of medicine today. They brought us up to speed on Women's Health and Well-Being in Nevada. In May, Angel Brock, Nurse Practitioner and President of Southern Nevada Black Nurses Association, will speak about current laws and legislation in the nursing field and how it impacts women. Also in May, we will be installing our new Branch officers in the positions of President, Treasurer, and Membership. In addition, our scholarship winners will speak about the impact of their scholarships and update us on their future endeavors.

We have raised \$6,000 for scholarships. We hope to get new applicants from Nevada State College, so that we can award six scholarships of \$1,000 each. Nevada State College will match funds up to \$500, so each recipient will receive \$1,500. We will get a chance to meet our new scholarship winners at our September meeting.

The Las Vegas Branch was asked to be the host for the 2023 AAUW State Spring Conference in April. We enjoyed doing a presentation highlighting our Branch and its rich history.

The *Out to Lunch Group* met again with the Boulder City Branch. We are forging a bond of friendship and sharing ideas about our mission, vision, and values. We look forward to future get-togethers with them.

The *Theatre* group is planning another outing on Saturday, May 13th, at 2 p.m, at the Smith Center to see the Nevada Ballet perform the *Wizard of Oz*. After the performance, they will meet for dinner. Come and join us. We'd love to have you.





Branch News
(Continued from Page 8)

From the Reno Branch:

The Reno branch is wrapping up the program year with the last of our DEI programs and another interesting interaction with Sondra Cosgrove. The membership has shown appreciation by attending and providing great feedback.

"I have found all of the speakers to be exceptionally well spoken, knowledgeable, and engaging . . . they have stimulated thought-provoking discussions. . . . The one big advantage to Zoom presentations is that some of these outstanding speakers would not have been available for in-person meetings."

February: Dr. Donald Easton-Brooks, Dean of UNR's College of Education and Human Development stressed important concepts to keep in mind in managing and promoting education: learning is contextual; favorable laws and policies promote access; cultural biases emerge and may be institutionalized through standardized testing; access to resources, or lack thereof, advances or hinders a student's success in college; and providing a diverse staff of individuals who emphasize and understand students' ethnicities and cultures improves student engagement and performance.

"I especially enjoyed hearing about Dean Easton-Brooks's research on Ethnic Matching and the significance he's found that . . . teachers from diverse racial backgrounds help to engage the students deeply in their learning. . . . The students feel they are heard by their diverse teachers. It is similar to the women's movement when we witnessed the progression of women's rights and civil/equal rights."

March: Dr. Prisca Gayles, a UNR scholar of social movements, spoke on global reproductive rights in the 21st century. She contextualized the significance of the June 2022 Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* in which *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. The Court asserted that abortion is not a right enshrined in constitutional law. Dr. Gayles analyzed the implications in the decision with a discussion on many facets including, government control in women's health decisions, financial hardship, increase in infant and mother mortality rates and mass-scale mobilization in Latin America but not in the U.S.

"What struck me was the international nature of the topic of abortion and the women's movement. I had no idea that there is that much enthusiasm for feminism out there."

April: Dr. Sondra Cosgrove, executive director of Vote Nevada and history professor at the College of Southern Nevada, led a lively discussion about our election system, and its history. Details will be posted on our website.





Branch News
(Continued from Page 9)

From the Tahoe-Nevada Branch:

The Tahoe Nevada Branch was very active in the first few months of 2023 – despite record snowfall, our volunteers got out and worked to advance gender equity for women and girls in our community! The STEM Committee, led by Coordinator Mary Fenelon and Past-President Laura Durica, helped Incline Middle School start a “Girls Who Code” club. We also organized a drive to collect kitchenware for the middle school students’ culinary endeavors. We have been working on various programs in all three local public schools with the Incline Education Fund, a local non-profit that is helping to manage the Community Education Grants we awarded in the Fall of 2022.

Our Monthly Program meetings covered topics from creativity to local governance to work-place dynamics. We are looking forward to our May meeting where we will hear about the plans the University of Nevada, Reno has for the new UNR at Lake Tahoe Campus and to our Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon in June, where we will elect officers for next year.

The Scholarship and Community Education Grant Committee are in the thick of reviewing grant and scholarship applications for our Spring awards. We plan to award \$8,000 in Community Education Grants in May and up to \$30,000 in scholarships to Incline High School graduates in June! This would not be possible without the work of our committees, including the Fundraising Committee, which is working on both Game Night and Sand Harbor fundraisers over the summer!

Our Special Interest Groups continue to be hubs of activity. Outdoor Enthusiasts have had plenty of opportunity to snowshoe, our Cooking Club has begun to meet again, and our Great Decisions group has added another session! We have grown to 136 members. And through the dedication and perseverance of our Leadership Team, we are making a difference in our community.





The Reno Branch is pleased to present our second LUNAFEST®. The proceeds from ticket sales will support our programs that provide scholarships for young girls, including technology camps and Nevada Girls' State. Please invite your friends and family to participate. Tickets are only \$32.56 (including fees).

LUNAFEST® provides a program of short films by, for and about women that empower and inspire. The featured filmmakers are from all walks of life and their stories remind us that, when we come together, we all move forward.

The viewing window for our event begins May 20th at 10 a.m. PDT and ends on May 22nd at 10 a.m. Join us for great films supporting great causes!

To buy tickets, go to lunafest.org/screenings, scroll down and select the AAUW Reno event on May 20th.



PLEASE JOIN US

FOR ANOTHER AAUW FUNDRAISER **GAME AND CARD PARTY**

ON THURSDAY, JULY 13TH
AT THE PARASOL BUILDING

5:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

5:30 - 6:30 - SOCIAL HOUR

6:30 - LET THE GAMES BEGIN



MAH JONGG

\$ 25

MEMBERS, SPOUSES,
FRIENDS, FAMILY
APPETIZERS, DESSERTS, WINE



MEXICAN TRAIN
DOMINOES

SPACE IS LIMITED - R.S.V.P. EARLY
(BUT NO LATER THAN JULY 6TH)

PLEASE RSVP AT [HTTPS://TAHOE-NV.AAUW.NET/EVENTS](https://TAHOE-NV.AAUW.NET/EVENTS)

BONNIE YACHBES - (954) 868-1456 OR EMAIL: BONICOOKER@AOL.COM

****PLEASE BE SURE TO INDICATE WHAT APPETIZER OR DESSERT
YOU'LL BRING SO WE DON'T DUPLICATE**

BRING WINE AND BEER DONATIONS TO
MILLIE SZERMAN'S HOME,
633 WOODRIDGE CIRCLE, INCLINE VILLAGE, NV
BY JULY 6TH



POKER



LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

**BRING A WHITE ELEPHANT ITEM
ALL PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO AAUW**

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.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Could fame, fortune, and love be on the menu for a hapless flower shop assistant after he crosses paths with a new and unusual plant? or will this strange, sentient seedling have other things in mind? This campy, cheerful romp has devoured the hearts of audiences throughout the world for over 30 years. The legendary team of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney's *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Little Mermaid*) are behind this delicious sci-fi smash musical that features popular favorites such as "Suddenly, Seymour," "Skid Row," and "Somewhere That's Green."



present a
Summer fundraiser

LAKE TAHOE
Shakespeare
FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th, 2023

5:30 p.m.

Sand Harbor Amphitheater

Tickets: \$ 85.00

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

BUY YOURS TODAY!!

<https://form.jotform.com/230297265636159>



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

For more information:
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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.