



THE SAGE HEN

A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council

2024 - 1st Quarter



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

President’s Message:

Greetings AAUW Nevada Members! It’s 2024 and what a year we have ahead of us! It is going to be a year of elections! For us as individuals, as registered voters in Nevada and as AAUW members!

NV Presidential Primary: As I am writing this, Nevada is conducting its first ever “official” Presidential Primary! Registered Republican and Democratic voters can vote in person or by mail in this primary. The Republican party has opted to have an in-person caucus on February 8th and has let registered voters know that delegates to their National Convention will be selected through the caucus process only. Republican registered voters will also receive a primary ballot in the mail, but that ballot will not include Trump. AAUW Nevada really appreciated Sondra Cosgrove’s Zoom meeting on January 12th explaining the process(es) in detail.

AAUW National Election – Bylaws Update: Every AAUW member will have the option to vote to eliminate the educational requirement for becoming a member. Ballots will be sent via email from an outside vendor to every AAUW member. Voting will begin on April 3rd, 2024 and will close on Wednesday, May 15th at 12:00 pm ET. Please check your membership profile at www.AAUW.org to make sure you can receive emails. If you have questions about what this means, check out this website: <https://openupaauw.org>.

AAUW Nevada Election: Election of the 2024-26FY Nevada Council will be held on Saturday, April 27th as part of our State Convention! If you have not yet registered for this incredible event, do it today! Your announcement for the April 27th Convention was sent via email the week of January 22nd. (Check your spam folder.) Check out Jennifer Verive’s article about the importance of this convention later in this newsletter.

Nevada Primary Election – June 11th, 2024: This is a “closed” election meaning you receive a primary ballot based on your party registration. This election includes candidates for Nevada legislative offices among others. Voting will include in-person as well as by mail.

Nevada General Election – November 5th, 2024: This is Presidential election day as well as for other specific Nevada legislative and county offices.

WHEW! What an exciting and very busy year ahead for all of us! Looking forward to a great year and YOUR involvement as AAUW members!

Caroline Punches
President, AAUW of Nevada

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PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

By Debbie Nicholas

For anyone who missed it, there was an excellent Webinar given by AAUW National on January 31st titled **Inclusion in Practice: How AAUW's Policies and Practices Promote Inclusion**. I will give you some brief highlights below, but strongly recommend that if you have the time to spare, you visit the website to view it.

The highlights included: A review of AAUW

- Mission: Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.
- Vision: Equity for All.
- Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional.

Discussion of the difference between Bylaws (Organizational Governing Documents - changes are voted on by the members - one member/one vote and Policies (approved by the Board of Directors).

Discussion of the **New Civility Policy and Members' Rights and Responsibilities**, which can be viewed on the website at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/civility-matters>. It was also included in an email to all members from our Board Chair, Julia T. Brown, Esq. on January 31, 2024. She points out that "As we approach another vote on open membership, creating respectful, courteous and inclusive environments is essential for us to achieve our mission, and AAUW members have a responsibility to demonstrate civility towards our collective AAUW community."

During the webinar, Edwina Martin provided some basic and appropriate skills to utilize when engaging in difficult conversations with those who have opinions other than your own. They include: be empathetic, be an active listener, visually show the person you are listening with gestures, body language that indicate engagement and understanding, be non-judgmental and non-condescending in your replies and comments, stay calm, respectfully agree to disagree, be patient, and attempt to find common ground.

We will have a challenging year ahead full of many controversial topics and areas, including but not limited to, the open membership vote, reproductive rights, Title IX rules, the ERA, and upcoming elections from local to national.

I encourage every member to strive to conduct themselves with civility and allow for a multitude of opinions on subjects. If you seek guidance on creating an inclusive space, there are many resources available on the national website by searching under DEI Toolkit.

Please remember that if you are ever a victim of bullying behavior at an AAUW event, please contact national to discuss your situation, and determine if a review is necessary.

Lastly, I would like to call your attention to upcoming events:

On **February 28th**, there will be a webinar at 7 pm EST, **Evolution of AAUW**, which will highlight our organizations' long history and how we have arrived at the present day.

March 8, 2024 is International Women's Day

March 12, 2024 is Equal Pay Day (Combined day for all women vs men salary). Please look for and participate in social media.



**AAUW Capital and AAUW Nevada Present
An Evening with Nevada Supreme Court Justice Patricia Lee**

Tuesday, March 5th @ 6 to 7 PM via ZOOM

In conjunction with AAUW Nevada, AAUW Capital Branch is excited to welcome Nevada Supreme Court Judge Patricia Lee. Justice Lee joined the court in November 2022 when she was appointed by former Governor Sisolak. She is the first African American woman and the first Asian American woman to serve as a Nevada Supreme Court Justice. Justice Lee is a graduate of George Washington University Law School. She will speak about women entering the field of law in Nevada and the issues most important to her, and offer insights related to Nevada cases about voting and the coming election.

Please join us via ZOOM!

RSVP is required, ZOOM link will be sent by March 4th to those indicating they will attend.

For more info on the program, please contact Capital Branch at aauwcapbr@gmail.com

Here's the LINK for the RSVP: <https://forms.gle/QYKYuGBTEpGuFJws5>

AAUW Capital &
AAUW Nevada
Present

Click HERE to RSVP.
Zoom Link will be emailed to you by 3/4.

**AN EVENING
WITH...**



**NEVADA
SUPREME
COURT
JUSTICE
PATRICIA LEE**

RSVP REQUIRED

TUESDAY MARCH 5TH @ 6 TO 7 PM VIA ZOOM



AAUW NV 2024 Convention Sex Trafficking – Let’s Get Informed and Answer the Call!

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness month. I didn’t know that when I first started raising my own awareness about sex trafficking in preparation for organizing our 2024 AAUW Nevada Convention, **Spotlight on Sex Trafficking, Red Means Stop: Survivorship & Advocacy**. I was thankful when Caroline Panches, AAUW Nevada President, suggested we attend an event being held at the Governor’s mansion in Carson City. The event was organized by Xquisite, a non-profit committed to “resourcing survivors to live a life that is filled with potential and propel them into their dreams.”

The event included the reading of a proclamation by Governor Joe Lombardo declaring January 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day with addresses by Attorney General Aaron Ford, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, Senator Jacky Rosen, Nevada Senator Lisa Krasner, and Nevada Assemblywoman Angie Talyor. Brenda Sandquist, Xquisite’s Founder and Executive Director, and Tyson League, Supervising Deputy District Attorney for Carson City also spoke.

From these esteemed and passionate leaders, and my own research, I’ve learned:

- 73% of human trafficking cases involve sexual exploitation.
- 5,000 people are trafficked for sex online in Nevada *every* month.
- The average age of a sex trafficked survivor seeking help is 12 years old.
- Recent anti sex trafficking bills have been *unanimously* supported by both Democrats & Republicans in the Nevada legislature.

The relevance to our mission as AAUW Nevada members can’t be clearer; the call to action is deafening. Indeed, AAUW National has issued a statement and Fact Sheet on Human Trafficking, which includes sex and labor trafficking:

“AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.”

Please join me at the AAUW Nevada 2024 Convention to learn more about the commercial sexual exploitation industry and trafficking – **Nevada has the largest commercial sex industry per capita in the U.S.** – and what it takes to help survivors get out of “the game” and reclaim their lives. And then to move beyond awareness, into action, to ally with survivors and advocate for the prevention of trafficking.

Fighting for equity and helping women live full and rich lives is what we AAUW members do best! I look forward to seeing you at this year’s convention, where we are certain to be inspired by our keynote speaker, Annie Lobert, CEO and Founder of Pink Chair

--Dr. Jennifer Verive
Program and DEI Coordinator
AAUW Nevada

For more info:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-human-trafficking/>

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/08/Human-Trafficking-Quick-Facts-Jan-2022.pdf>



MEET THE CONVENTION SPEAKERS!

AAUW Nevada has three wonderful speakers to help us get informed and answer the call!



Prior to voting for AAUW Nevada 2024 – 2026 state council officers and members, we're delighted to hear from Regent Carol Del Carlo. Also a Past President of AAUW Tahoe-Nevada, Regent Del Carlo will provide a brief update on the constitutional and legislative issues regarding the Board of Regents.

Next, we are grateful and honored to feature Annie Lobert, CEO and Founder of Pink Chair, as our Keynote Speaker. Annie will share her journey as a survivor of sex trafficking, raise awareness of the myths and facts of the sexual exploitation, and help us understand how we can advocate for and ally with survivors.



Annie Lobert, CEO & Founder, Pink Chair (Annie's bio from pinkchair.org)

Annie Lobert is a survivor. Annie experienced more than a decade of sex trafficking in Hawaii, Minneapolis and Las Vegas. She has been working with survivors of trafficking for more than 20 years.

From her own personal experience, Annie is an internationally recognized expert and advocate of ministry to those who have been sex trafficked and commercially exploited. She fully understands the traumatic psychological, emotional and physical effects of initially choosing the sex industry as a job choice only later to be trapped, beaten and sold to the sex trafficker's highest bidders. She is also a survivor of Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD), domestic violence, sexual abuse, cancer, drug addiction, abortions, miscarriages, pornography, anorexia and bulimia.



We'll wrap up by hearing from Eliza McCoy, VP of Awareness and Prevention Programs for the American Hospitality and Lodging Association (AHLA) Foundation about how the Hospitality Industry is preventing sex trafficking in hotels and motels across the country, and their new grant fund to support survivors.





From the Boulder City Branch:

Michael Mays, who is the Director of Community Development of Boulder City since 2017, presented at our monthly meeting in November, 2023. Michael met with Power Point Manager of the Conference Room prior to his presentation to make sure the AV equipment worked with his device. He also provided his business cards and maps showing Boulder City annexation history to all participants. Michael shared his background, his degrees and work experience. His Power Point presentation was highly informative regarding city planning and promotion of economic development. We learned about his department's role in code enforcement, overseeing building permits, historic preservation, redevelopment grants, wayfinding measures and much more. Feedback from attendees was highly favorable!



December brought our annual holiday luncheon, held last year at the Boulder Creek Golf Club. We celebrated the success of our November Home Tour, making over \$5,000 for scholarships. We also celebrated our new scholarship recipients, as two of them joined us for lunch. All are students at Nevada State University.

Eric Estes, recently retired CEO of the Boulder Dam Credit Union after 30 years, was our speaker at our monthly meeting in January, 2024. When our Boulder City AAUW members were asked who they would like to invite to our meeting, members unanimously agreed with recommendation to invite Eric and his wonderful wife, Linda! Our members believe that his leadership of the Boulder Dam Credit Union has been outstanding and has financially benefitted members and the community at large! Boulder Dam Credit Union has helped support our scholarship fundraising over the decades. Financial donations from the credit union were utilized to purchase inscribed wine glasses so all ticket sales could go directly to scholarships. During his tenure as CEO, the credit union also facilitated the selling of tickets for our annual AAUW Home Tour, which took place in November 2023, raising more than \$5000 for scholarships to local women. Everyone in the audience appreciated the sharing of his background, which included degrees, work experiences and three decades of living, working and loving Boulder City. Audience members appreciated Eric's explanations and responses to questions. Feedback from attendees was highly favorable.



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Branch News
(Continued from Page 6)

From the Boulder City Branch (continued):

January ended with our visit to PBS Vegas with Las Vegas AAUW members. It was a most interesting tour.



From the Capital Branch:

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Two activities are the primary fund sources for our scholarships. One is our annual Pecan Sales, which is conducted over the Holidays. This year we were thrilled to have raised over \$5K, in no small part due to the extraordinary efforts of our Pecan Chair, Kathy Steinle. Despite the pecans not arriving in time for our major sales event, Kathy took orders and delivered pecans all over Washoe County, Lyon County, and the Carson Valley.

The second way that our Branch raises funds for scholarships is through a “Non-Event Fundraiser.” This is a clever way to invite members to stay at home, pour themselves tea, coffee, hot chocolate, or an “adult” beverage and write a check – no traffic, no having to dress up, no weather issues. We raised over \$4K last year and are hoping to exceed that this year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US:

2024 is the 80th Anniversary of Capital Branch’s founding. We are planning a Fashion Show focusing on women’s clothing during the 9 decades we have been extant. We are still searching for a venue and seeking vintage clothing. Should you have such clothing to loan us, we would be glad to cover shipping charges both ways. As soon as we finalize the date/time/place, we will let you all know.

WE GET TO HOST THE CONVENTION:

Because this is such a special year for us, we decided to step up and be the host city for AAUW Nevada’s April 27, 2024 Convention. We are looking forward to sharing with you the beauty of our piece of Northern Nevada and telling you some of our history.

LAISSEZ LES BONTEMPS ROULEZ

Our Gourmet Group hosted a Mardi-Gras dinner in January. AAUW Nevada President (and Capital Branch member) Caroline Punches parties with Nancy Bailey and Iris Blaisdell.



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Branch News
(Continued from Page 7)

From the Fallon Branch:

We started our new year with a Membership Luncheon. We've added three new members. The director of the Chamber of Commerce was our guest speaker, and we heard about all the things the Chamber does for our community. We were eager for our Branch to join, as we now will be able to advertise our fundraisers on their website.

In October, a new member and the new director of our Churchill County Library was our speaker. The library was doing a study of herbs and handed out a sample. There is always a Christmas Fair in Fallon the last weekend of the month and that is when we have our homemade candy sale. It's the first fundraiser of the year and many people look for homemade fudge, peanut brittle and other goodies.

January brings our New Year's Luncheon and White Elephant sale. We even had some fresh lemons from California this year. We have moved our Film Festival to March, so we're moving up our International Pot Luck to February. Everyone brings a dish (hopefully) and article from somewhere they have visited. This year, we have four world travelers so far: Hungary, France, Costa Rica and somewhere else exciting are on the menu.

Since this is a leap year, our film is called "Leap Year." It will be shown on March 16th at our local historic theatre. Our community always provides lots of snacks and coffee (sometimes Irish) beforehand.

April will be our Scholarship Luncheon and May is the last meeting of the year.



From the Las Vegas Branch:

AAUW Las Vegas held a successful fundraising event in November to support our scholarships at Nevada State University. We will be able to provide at least four \$1,000 scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year. Our main speaker in November was Miranda Richardson who spoke on AI (Artificial Intelligence). We also had a short presentation from Sean Taylor with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department who spoke about Crimes Against Children. Both were enlightening topics.

In December we had a lovely holiday gathering at the home of Shirley Hills and enjoyed socializing and talking with each other amongst Shirley's beautiful holiday decorations.

We also collaborated with Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada on their annual coat and toy drive. Members made donations of new toys and new or gently used coats. A big hit were teddy bears donated from the Assistance League, courtesy of Helene Winkler.

January, our speaker was Kimberly Trueba, CEO of Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada who shared her own experiences about growing up in the Girl Scout program, as well as what led her back to Girl Scouts as a Girl Scout Council CEO. She also spoke about today's Girl Scout program which focuses on STEM activities and leadership development. She also touched briefly on the research that the National Girl Scout Research Institute does on girls.

In January, our Out to Lunch group enjoyed a tour of PBS Las Vegas followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Members from the Boulder City Branch also joined us for the tour and lunch.

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Branch News
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From the Reno Branch:

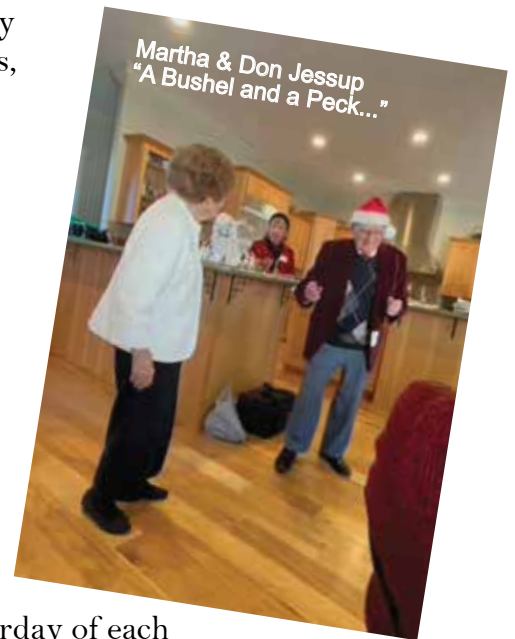
The Reno Branch had a well-attended December lively holiday party at the beautiful home of Mary Venkat. We had delicious dishes, great conversation and a spirited song and dance performance by nonagenarian members, Martha and Don Jessup. Here's the Link to watch the video on our Youtube channel (video clip by Joxe K. Mallea-Olaetxe).

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/24BeENMfMY4>

Unfortunately, our much-anticipated January speaker had to cancel her talk on "Fake News: Misinformation, Disinformation, and Filter Bubbles in Light of the 2024 Election." We hope to reschedule.

We're looking forward to the remaining STEAM programs: "Art and Soul: Nurturing Creativity" (February) and "Update on Girls in Math" (March).

All program meetings are held via ZOOM on the second Saturday of each month from October through May, from 9:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. If you would like to be added to our newsletter list, please sign up at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dp78CndgU95k_Ku8cCbzx8HF_Hv22XW1nrmuFeydLVI. You'll receive the monthly newsletter with meeting announcements and links to the monthly Zoom meetings.



From the Tahoe-Nevada Branch:

The Spring programming of AAUW Tahoe Nevada got off to a rather slow start. Our January program was cancelled due to a snow storm, which we were actually happy to get after a dry December. Fortunately, our Program Co-Vice Presidents, Suzie Evans and Christine Silk, were able to reschedule the presentation by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) for next Fall.

Our February program meeting fell on Valentine's Day, so we encouraged our members to spend the evening with someone special. Finally in March, we will be treated to a presentation by the daughter of one of our members, Peggy Poindexter. Allie Balin is an entrepreneur in the hospitality business. After opening an award-winning restaurant in Nashville, she currently is the only female CEO of a female-owned wine distribution business in Nevada.

Our other activities were preparation for two fundraisers this Summer. We have secured 80 tickets for *Always ... Patsy Cline* at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor on Friday, July 19th. We would love for you to join us. For tickets, contact Millie Szerman at milliesz746@gmail.com (see Flyer at the end of this Newsletter). We are also gearing up for our Garden Party and Silent Auction which will be held in September. Stay tuned for more information on all of these events.



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

SAVE THE DATE



**2024 AAUW Nevada
SPRING CONVENTION**

focus on **Sex Trafficking**

**“RED MEANS STOP:
Survivorship and Advocacy”**

Via ZOOM

**APRIL 27,
2024**

**10:00 a.m. to
12:30 p.m.**

We are honored to share presentations by

- **Keynote Speaker:** Annie Lobert, CEO Pink Chair, discusses the myths and facts about trafficking, and how to support survivors in getting out of the "the game" and reclaiming their lives.
- **Mini Session:** Carol Del Carlo, NSHE Board of Regents, District 9, discusses the Board's Legislative Updates.
- **Mini Session:** Eliza McCoy, VP of Awareness and Prevention Programs - AHLA Foundation, discusses the hospitality industry's innovative programs to prevent human trafficking and support survivors.



Annie Lobert
Pink Chair



Carol Del Carlo
NSHE Board of Regents
District 9
Past President
AAUW Tahoe-Nevada



Eliza McCoy
VP of Awareness & Prevention Programs
AAUW AHLA Foundation

- **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**
- **JOIN US TO LEARN AND TAKE ACTION!**
- Attend from the comfort of your OWN home.
- **PLUS:** Vote for 2024-2026 Nevada Council Officers and Members
- **R.S.V.P. - CLICK HERE**



present a
Summer fundraiser



Always Patmy Time

FRIDAY, JULY 19th, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Sand Harbor Amphitheater

Tickets: \$ 90.00

includes: Appetizers, Desserts,
Wine/Beer, Non-Alcoholic Beverages

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

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!

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

For more information:

Millie Szman

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.

