



THE SAGE HEN

A Quarterly Publication of the AAUW Nevada State Council

2024 - 2nd Quarter



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

President's Message:

THANK YOU - AAUW NEVADA MEMBERS!

What an incredible four years it has been! For many of us on the AAUW Nevada State Council, our journey began on July 1, 2020. Even while challenged by the advent of COVID, we focused on providing periodic programming and timely communication for YOU, the AAUW member in Nevada!

Our goal was to ensure each conference, convention, or other educational session provided speakers who could inspire, motivate and educate. We were privileged to hear from Melody Rose, NSHE Chancellor; Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President of Nevada State College (now University); Assemblywoman Jill Tolles, Senator Pat Spearman, Michelle Joy, CEO Carson Tahoe Health; Melissa Castillo, Executive Director, Silver State Pageants; Annie Lobert, CEO Pink Chair, and many more. We discussed federal legislation with US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and US Senator Jackie Rosen during Women's Equality Day. AAUW Nevada also explored specific diversity topics (use of personal pronouns and use of land acknowledgements), how to use NELIS, and discussed pros and cons of ballot measures.

We served as a resource for you, the local Branch member, and facilitated communication with our national office when there were issues. AAUW Nevada also provided the opportunity for two young women from Nevada to attend the National NCCWSSL Conference each year it was held.

A special "shout-out" to the Branch presidents or other leaders who regularly attended our Council meetings. Your input was extremely valuable. And, I really enjoyed attending Branch meetings, whether in-person or via zoom!

Special thanks to

- **Jennifer Verive** – for your ability to find amazing speakers, provide guidance on diversity and to develop resources.
- **Doris Dowden** – for continuing to keep us all informed with emails and notices.
- **Helene Winkler** – for recording our official meeting minutes.
- **Debbie Nicholas** – for keeping us up-to-date on legislative issues at the national and state level.
- **Janet Usinger** – for great guidance and input.
- **Millie Sberman** – for the amazing Sage Hen!
- **Marion Stanton** – for continued support.
- And to **Terry Owens, Holly Gallup** and **Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert** for agreeing to serve on the 2024-26 Council!

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!
Caroline Punches, President





PUBLIC POLICY

by Debbie Nicholas

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for all the assistance I have received this year with Public Policy matters from our state Council Members, especially Caroline Punches who has attended many meetings and sent countless updates for us!

Our Public Policy Committee and Volunteers who have done so much with their Branches and supported me (in no particular order: Valerie McNay, Linda Gardner, Joann Carpenter, Beth Mancl, Lin Nary, Carol Roeder, Judy Ingham, Evelyn Thompson-Hilbert, Daela Gibson, Doris Dowden, Janet Usinger, Nancy Carlson, Edith Isidora, Jeanine Darduk, Mary Kay Doherty, Julie King and Mary Castro-Wilson, and anyone else who assisted or who I may have forgotten on this list. We have an amazing membership who can be counted on for a team effort!

Thank you all for all you do! Let's look forward to the very busy year ahead!

Please remember to Vote in the Primary, June 11, 2024

Early voting runs between May 25 and June 7

If you mail or drop a ballot at a polling place, please be vigilant about tracking it, and curing any errors for which you may be contacted about. For additional election information: [2024 Election Information | Nevada Secretary of State \(nvsos.gov\)](https://nvsos.gov)



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2022-2024 AAUW State Council Information

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From the Boulder City Branch:

February 14, 2024: The 2nd Wednesday of the month, the date of our AAUW Boulder City Branch program. Not only Valentine's Day but most significantly, the 20th Anniversary of *Dam Short Film Festival*. We share the same conference room and their office is located on the same floor of the Historic Boulder Dam Hotel, so our members decided to support this great event and attend the short films, as many as possible, for our February program.



March 23, 2024: Per member request, we invited Ann Inabrnitt, Supervisor/Director of the Boulder City Animal Shelter & Boulder City Animal Control to be our speaker. Ann, who has worked with animals professionally for 27 years, graciously accepted. She discussed upcoming City Council issues including Breeder's License, running at Large Ordinance, and No Kill status. Audience members appreciated her explanations and responses to questions.

April 10, 2024: Dr. Christina Vella, CEO of St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City was our speaker. Everyone was eager to learn about the new Healing Center being built at the ranch. The audience was double our usual number. Dr. Vela discussed most of St. Jude's programs including Foster Care Services, Therapeutic Residential programs, Sibling Reunification, Pregnant & Parenting, Transitional Housing, Homeless Youth Services, Rapid Re-Housing, Drop-In Center, Clinical Services, Educational Support, Job Training, Child Sex Trafficking services, and Healing Center (coming soon).



April 20, 2024: AAUW Boulder City Scholarship Fundraiser: Wine & Chocolate Tasting on the Patio of historic Boulder Dam Hotel. We raised more than \$7,000 to fund eight (8) deserving scholarship applicants!



Monthly luncheons are scheduled, alternating months we plan joint luncheons with AAUW Las Vegas Branch. This quarter, we joined AAUW Las Vegas Branch at the PBS Studios in Las Vegas. Recently, Las Vegas AAUW members came to tour historic Boulder Dam Hotel Museum, followed by dessert across the street at Cornish Pasty. Monthly Book Club meetings are scheduled at a wonderful member's home.





From the Capital Branch:

AAUW Capital was delighted to install its 2024-25 Officers on May 4th at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. The annual event is part of the Branch's Scholarship Luncheon, where members were honored to award scholarships to accomplished Carson High School students, Alexandra Llamas-Cruz and Sophia Hong Chau Nguyen.



From left to right are: Jennifer Verive, Bonnie Bertocchi, Alice Meyer, Caroline Punches, Patricia Cuocco, Jan Sullivan, Shirley Hammon, Carly Page, and Michele Gleitsmann.





Branch News
(Continued from Page 5)

From the Fallon Branch:

In March, we held our yearly Film Festival (our main fundraiser). It was so successful that we were able to give a third scholarship this year. We have a very supportive community.

April is our Scholarship Luncheon. We choose to do it so early because there are so many activities for the Seniors at the very end of the year. Our recipients bring a guest and get to know our members. This year one of our past recipients and her mother also attended and shared some of their experiences with the group. We also honor a Community Woman of the Year and a Branch Woman of the Year. Lunch was held at Lattin Farms (a chance to get some early produce, too.)

As May is our last meeting of the year, we try to plan something extra special. This year we are going to the Textile Museum in Carson City.

This has been good year for the Fallon Branch. We gained four new members and had some very interesting programs.



From the Las Vegas Branch:

In February, we heard from Wonda Riner, Chief Information and Marketing Officer, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV. Wonda spoke about Cultural Bias in Higher Education, which was an informative presentation. We also joined with the Boulder City Branch for a tour of the Hoover Dam Museum located in the Boulder Dam Hotel. The tour was followed by lunch at the Cornish Pasty.

Our March speaker was Rabbi Ilana G Baden from Temple Sinai who spoke about Women in Religion. Our Out to Lunch group also enjoyed a tour of The Smith Center and then enjoyed at Vic's.

April's meeting had Stacy Chapter from Project 150. This non-profit organization supports homeless teens in Clark County. We will be following up with a tour of Project 150 in May followed by lunch. We also enjoyed Out to Lunch at Grapevine Café in April.

In May, we look forward to hearing from the Clark County Library District. This will also be our annual meeting.

To conclude our year, with additional contributions to our scholarship fund, we will be able to provide at least six scholarships this year to women in their junior or senior years.



Branch News
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From the Reno Branch:

The AAUW Reno Branch has focused their speaker series this season on STEAM speakers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) with a monthly speaker representing each of those disciplines. Our final presentation on May 11 was from the Virginia City Silver Circuits (VC Silver Circuits), a robotics team made up of high school students, both public, online, and homeschooled. This STEM group of students, while focused on robotics, not only studies and builds a robot, but also competes at the state, national, and international levels. In addition, they are extremely focused on reaching out to the non-technical community with their encouraging message of the fun and purpose of studying in STEM fields. Additionally, they spend many hours mentoring and encouraging younger students in the schools and other programs in science fields.

While they are competitive, they aren't "cut-throat"; theirs is a philosophy of "Generous Professionalism," where teams (even at the highest level help each other out rather than cut each other down.

This is a 501(c)(3) organization, so they can accept tax-deductible donations to help with the expenses of equipment supplies, travel, and hosting STEM camps to help educate youth in our communities about STEM and the possibilities available to them. You can check out their website at www.vcsilvercircuits.com or reach them at vcscrobotics@gmail.com.



2023 – 2024 Season Achievements

FIRST League Tournament

- Inspire Award 1st Place
- Winning Alliance - 1st Team Selected
- Promote Award
- Compass Award 2nd Place - Carson Knight

FIRST Nevada State Championship

- Inspire Award 1st Place
- Dean's List Finalist - Dallin Guesti

FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship

- 16th in our division (56 teams)
- 41st in the world out of over 7,000 FTC teams



Branch News
(Continued from Page 7)

From the Reno Branch: (continued)



Outreach in our community

- Hours: 444.5
- People Reached: 7,361
- Events:
 - The Future of Reno - Discovery Museum
 - STEM Thursday - Library
 - CANstruction
 - Girl Scouts - Robot Day
 - Carson Tahoe Health - Robot Showcase
 - Community Chest Sumo Bot Battle
 - Girls on the Run
 - EDAWN Presentation
 - Veterans Day Parade
 - Christmas Lights @RH
 - Innovation Session #1
 - STEM Kits
 - PineWild Showcase
 - Innovation Session
 - VCSC "Innovation Session #2"
 - VCSC Trivia Night
 - NCET Tech Wednesday



VC Silver Circuits #16158

- 5th Season in FTC
- Rookie Season 2019-2020
- 12 Team Members 2023-2024 season
- Grades 8-12th
- 4 Seniors
- 3rd Season attending International FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Competition



Branch News
(Continued from Page 8)

From the Tahoe-Nevada Branch:

As Spring turns to Summer, AAUW Tahoe Nevada tends to follow the weather. Spring is considered “shoulder season” when locals have Lake Tahoe to ourselves. However, unlike Fall, when the weather is absolutely gorgeous, Spring weather tends to fluctuate dramatically. Often it is cold and wet; beautiful days are possible, but fleeting. As a result, despite the influx of tourists, we come alive when Summer finally arrives.

This Summer we are planning three major fundraisers. On July 19th, our members will gather to attend the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival performance of *Always ... Patsy Cline*. This event is always fun as we gather in advance to revel in friendship, food, and drinks before enjoying the show. (See flyer at the end of this newsletter).

In September, we will hold a Silent Auction in conjunction with our Garden Party, which will be held on September 15th. These fundraising events allow us to offer four-year scholarships to two young women as they pursue university education. We also support other students with one-time awards to attend college. In addition to students pursuing STEM careers, this year we are supporting young women who want to pursue postsecondary education other than a four-year degree. Specifically, we are supporting several students who aspire to become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA). We also provide funds to schools, the library, and other non-profit organizations through our Community Education Grants.





present a
Summer fundraiser

Always Onine

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 Sberman

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.



and Fundraising for Scholarships
and Community Education Grants

JOIN US FOR A

GARDEN party

When: Sunday, September 15, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: Kern Schumacher Estate
Lakefront Home

Cost: \$100 per person

Includes: Libations and Appetizers
Music and Local Artists

Silent Auction from September 1st to September 18th!

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

For questions, please contact
Events@tahoenvaauw.org