



THE LEADER

December 2016
 Volume 29, Issue 2

Special Points of Interest

- AAUW Branch News!!
- Edmond branch is selling beaded items—great as stocking stuffers!
- AAUW 2017 Calendar
- State Convention Pictures
- Tech Trek Pictures

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**THE LEADER has a
 New Editor, Shelli Wasson**

Dear AAUW/Oklahoma Members,

I want to let everyone know how excited I am to be the new state newsletter editor and that I wholeheartedly volunteered for this great position! After serving the last two years as AAUW/OK Co-President, I wanted to stay active and involved with branches across our state.

First, I want to thank Jeanna Wing, Tahlequah Branch. She has passed the torch and the computer template to me. Thanks so much, Jeanna!

Second, you will be able to tell from this issue of the newsletter that I love pictures. I will include as many pictures as possible so be sure to send pics (.jpg) of your events, meetings, or just members working together to me for inclusion in the newsletter. I want to send out a quarterly newsletter so the next newsletter deadline will be March 1.

Please send me your ideas for continually improving our state newsletter. I want this to be a newsletter that everyone looks forward to receiving.

Sincerely,

Shelli

**A Note from Co-President,
 Angie Lewis**

Greetings from the State AAUW Board!

We have a great board again this year and are excited to carry AAUW into the future. Sometimes when looking to the future it is important to look back at the past. When I look back on my years in AAUW I see so many people and opportunities that truly shaped my life and made me who I am today.

I joined AAUW in 1985, right out of college. The Chickasha Branch held an Annual Senior Reception each year for USAO Graduates. It was at the Reception that I met Eleanor Edmondson. Many members across the state knew Eleanor and what a champion she was for AAUW and for women. At her encouragement (or was it insistence?), I joined the Chickasha Branch.

AAUW has taught me leadership skills, networking, how to run a meeting and especially how important it is to mentor young women. I know many of you have an "Eleanor" in your lives and know how she shaped your future. As I think about the future of AAUW I think about how important it is for each of us to become an "Eleanor". We need to be meeting young women, encouraging them in whatever area of life they are in, and especially telling them about AAUW. Be on the lookout for women in your community who you can introduce to AAUW, the future depends on it. Eleanor died in April 2012 at the age of 92. She was my cheerleader and hero until the end.

Season's Greetings,

Angie

What's Happening with AAUW in Oklahoma!

Edmond Branch

The AAUW/Edmond Branch was active and involved in 2016. Our great success was founding the "Annual Girls' Hall of Honor" through the inspiration and total dedication of Erma Stewart, long-time branch member. Erma presented the idea and then worked like a Trojan to make this successful. Each of the five Edmond Middle Schools nominated a girl in their school exhibiting exceptional leadership qualities. More than 30 girls were nominated. In March, the branch hosted a special ceremony honoring those winning students (one from each school) and their families. Each student made a poster board and presented a three minute video or slide presentation about their activities and accomplishments. The posters were featured in the Edmond Public Library's large display case during "Women's History Month".

During the ceremony, one mother cried and sobbed the whole time her daughter was presenting her program. It was obvious how proud she was of her daughter as well as an opportunity to tell the Edmond Community how one little girl had accomplished so much for the benefit of others. Family members attended as well as teachers, principals, friends, and even out-of-town AAUW members. Jeanna and Gary Wing, Tahlequah branch, and Angie Lewis, Chickasha branch, were in attendance. It was a very moving and delightful ceremony that we want to continue building on each year. Press coverage was provided by the *Edmond Sun* and *The Oklahoman* newspapers. Erma was our inspiration and leader but each member of the Edmond Branch contributed to make it the success it was. Happy times for all.



Annually, Edmond Branch members volunteer to answer the phones for the OETA (public television) Phone-A-Thon. Pat Snodgrass has been in charge of this activity for more than 40 years. State co-president and Edmond branch member, Shelli Wasson, was interviewed live on TV. She gave a great plug for AAUW and thinks that will be her first and only TV interview.

Back Row: Pat Snodgrass, Lynn Wiley, Diana Campo
Front Row: Shelli Wasson, Betty Hughes, (Norman), Jeanna and Gary Wing (Tahlequah).

This year, we were able to fund a partial scholarship for the Tech Trek camp at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. We also donated money to a special program at the University of Central Oklahoma which provides assistance and money to students when they experience a financial crisis that could cause their withdrawal from the University.



A new fundraising project was kicked-off this spring. Branch members made beaded bookmarks which can be used for a lot more than just marking the page in a book! Some have been seen hanging on rear-view mirrors, around door-knobs, made into a bow, pinned on a jacket, and given as teacher/sorority gifts. Pat Snodgrass and Lynn Wiley manned the booth at the State Convention.

There is a large selection of bookmarks available. These would make great Christmas gifts so you may order them from Jo Ann Bullard, Edmond Branch President, by contacting her at joannslp@cox.net or 405-341-7271 (h). The price is \$5 each plus \$1 for mailing.

Our Branch is growing in membership with two new members and we are especially proud of this. They are devoted AAUW members engaged in our work and spirit for advocating for women and girl's rights. Their contributions to our Branch will enable us to continue our various activities and engagement with our community. This is critical as we advance our service and dedication to women all over the United States.

Success was possible only by each Branch member devoting their time, money, and energies to accomplishing Branch goals and AAUW Goals. Submitted by Jo Ann Bullard, Edmond Branch President

Duncan Branch

October 3, the Duncan Branch partnered with our Chamber of Commerce to host a Candidate Forum. Six candidates running for three different offices attended. They answered prepared questions and those from the audience. The event was well attended - lasted an hour past ending time.

The Executive Director Darcy Reeves of the Chisholm Trail Arts Council shared on November 7th how they are making an impact on the youth of community through various arts projects.

Also two of our members received their 5 year AAUW membership pins - Jacey Fye and Janet Deeg. Submitted by Cyndi Crook



Jacey Fye and Janet Deeg

South Oklahoma City

Schedule for AAUW /South OKC Meetings for FY2017

Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM or longer if you wish to stay
 Place: Massey Center on the Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC) campus
 Use the south entrance, room 131

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Fri., Feb. 10	Dr. Maria del Guadalupe Davidson	Race and Gender
<u>Background</u> Dr. Davidson is the Director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Co-Director of the Center for Social Justice, and a Fellow in the Faculty Leadership Academy and the Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Oklahoma.		

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Fri., April 14	Chimamanda Ngozi	We Should All be Feminists
<u>Background</u> A TEDxEuston presentation. She grew up in Nigeria, has been widely published in magazines such as the <i>New Yorker</i> , The O. Henry Prize Stories, and the <i>Financial Times</i> . She wrote <i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i> which received numerous awards. She also wrote a story collection of <i>The Thing Around Your Neck</i> and a novel entitled, <i>Americanah</i> . Submitted by Janet Perry		

Tulsa Branch

Tulsa Branch Programs 2016-2017
<u>Sunday, December 11</u> <i>HOLIDAY TEA</i>
<u>Saturday, January 14, 2017</u> <i>TITLE IX</i>
<u>Saturday, February 11</u> <i>HISTORY OF BLACK VOTING RIGHTS</i>
<u>Saturday, March 11</u> <i>WOMEN'S HISTORY</i>
<u>Saturday, April 8</u> <i>TBA</i>
<u>Saturday, May 13</u> <i>CELEBRATE 2016-2017 SUCCESS!</i>

Reprinted from *the Tulsa Voice*,
 AAUW/Tulsa newsletter

Weatherford Branch

The Weatherford branch hosted a political forum on October 7th with SWOSU President Randy Beutler talking about current issues, voter registration, and highlighting the Oklahoma State Questions on this year’s ballot.

The branch worked on their AAUW Fall plans, including a breast cancer awareness project for the month of October, Tupperware fundraiser, solicitations for SWOSU student applications for the annual AAUW scholarship, and Tech Trek Summer Math and Science Camp.

The Weatherford branch has a website (<http://weatherford-ok.aauw.net/>) and can be found on Facebook: AAUW, Weatherford Branch.

Submitted by Lori Gwyn

Duncan Branch Hosts 2016 AAUW/OK Biennial State Convention

Members of the Duncan Branch hosted three dozen AAUW members from nine different branches across Oklahoma on April 15-16, 2016 along the old Chisholm Trail. The theme was "Blazing New Trails." Last held two years ago in combination with AAUW/Arkansas in Fayetteville, this year's convention returned to the Sooner State and featured Alicia Hetman, AAUW National Board Vice Chair, and Shirley Breeze, AAUW Leadership Corps representative.

Participants who arrived on Friday enjoyed dinner at a local diner, followed by an enthusiastic and athletic performance by a dance/vocal group from Colombia, called "Cimarron" at the Simmons Center. The group specializes in the "joropo" style of Andalusian and indigenous Indians, with African roots.



On Saturday morning, State Co-Presidents Dianna Morgan (Duncan) and Shelli Wasson (Edmond) opened the meeting and conducted a brief business session. Alicia Hetman gave an update of national AAUW activities and successes, and screened a new video called, "AAUW: Changing the Climate for Women and Girls," available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/AAUWinfo>. Shirley Breeze shared information on the AAUW Midwest Ten-State Regional Conference, which was held June 3-4 in Kansas City, KS.

After a catered lunch, Duncan member Sharon Burum portrayed Elizabeth Cady Stanton as who blazed new trails for women.

Peggy Glenn (Tahlequah), State Vice President of Programming, presented a session on AAUW resources, including "videos and books that will expand and blow your mind," followed by a state legislative report from Danielle Ezell, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Women's Coalition (OWC). The Oklahoma Women's Coalition is a statewide network of individuals and organizations working together to improve the lives of women and girls through education and advocacy. AAUW/OK is a Coalition Partner. Ms. Ezell explained that while the legislative session was contentious in many ways, OWC celebrated the passage of eight bills that will improve the lives of Oklahoma women and girls, which can be found at <https://www.okwc.org/issue-areas/legislative-priorities/>.

New state officers were elected and installed at the afternoon business meeting. In 2016-17, the State Co-Presidents will be Angie Lewis (Chickasha) and Gabrielle Jones (Tulsa).

After a spirited silent auction of baskets donated by each of the attending chapters, with all proceeds going to national AAUW Funds, participants enjoyed an exclusive dinner and evening at the Chisholm Trail Museum, featuring world-class Western art, interactive exhibits, and a large-screen theatre in which it actually rained and you could smell the bacon frying on the campfire on the screen.

Sunday dawned early but not bright, as a severe storm system rained out the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Run/Walk/Sleep-In, which still raised funds for the AAUW fund of the same name <http://www.aauw.org/resource/eleanor-roosevelt-fund-award/>.

The weekend ended with a state board meeting where the new co-presidents began planning for the coming year.

Many thanks to Dianna Morgan and the Duncan Branch members who graciously hosted participants during the convention and planned great events and provided delicious meals throughout the weekend!

Planning will begin soon for the 2018 AAUW/OK Biennial State Convention, so contact Peggy Glenn at

peggy.glenn@aol.com if you'd like to host the conference or get involved. Submitted by Peggy Glenn



Officers for 2014-2016

Angie Lewis, Treasurer; State Co-Presidents Dianna Morgan and Shelli Wasson; Peggy Glenn, VP of Programming; Linda Brooks, Secretary; Nora Pugh-Seemster, VP of Membership.



Incoming Officers for 2016-2018

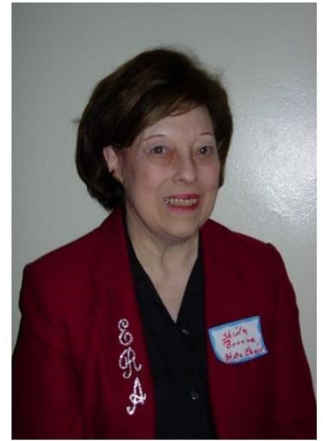
Stephanie Toney, Treasurer; Susie Orsenigo, Secretary; Nora Pugh-Seemster, VP of Membership; Peggy Glenn, VP of Programming; State Co-Presidents Angie Lewis, and Gabrielle Jones; Shirley Breeze, AAUW National Representative, conducted the swearing-in ceremony.



Submitted by Shelli Wasson

MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Attendees at the 45th Biennial Regional Conference were treated to a wide variety of exciting activities, speakers, and networking opportunities at the meeting in Kansas City, KS held at the Great Wolf Lodge on June 3-4, 2016. Keynoting the event was Dr. Catherine Hill, AAUW National Research Vice President. In her remarks, she addressed the most recent report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*. Although statistics are improving for women including major academic and corporate leadership positions, women still hold a small percentage of the policy-making offices. Katie Simon, National Associate Director of Field Operations, addressed the importance of getting out the vote in this contentious national election year. She also introduced the new materials AAUW has prepared for any activities the branches might take in the next six months. Claudia Richards, AAUW National Senior Branch Relations Manager, joined from the National office and addressed how branches can use new approaches in membership recruitment.



Shirley Breeze

National Representative

On Friday evening, attendees were given an opportunity to view the film *The Hunting Ground*, which addresses the rampant sexual abuse on college campuses. At the Conference Luncheon, Paul Thein, an LAF Plaintiff, discussed his case against the Feather River Community College. The case resulted in major changes for his career and in his family. It is the longest-running case AAUW has supported; he expressed his appreciation to AAUW for the donation of funds for him to pursue it.

The wide variety of break-out sessions included public policy issues and information on AAUW activities and procedures. Speakers reviewed the latest in procedures on membership recruitment, fundraising events, and AAUW public policies. Attorneys Denise Lieberman and Peggy Glenn gave insight into Voter Fraud and Achieving Results Through People respectively. Dr. Kelly Sartorius discussed her research on how academic deans of women promoted AAUW from its very beginning. Human Trafficking was addressed by members of the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and the St. Charles Coalition Against Human Trafficking in their presentation, which has won financial support through an AAUW Community Action Grant. Dr. Mary Mosley addressed the relationship between racism and sexism and how this is reflected in some recent actions locally and around the country.

The Conference ended with an Open Forum where attendees could have their questions answered concerning current activities and regulations of AAUW and future plans of the organization. Shirley Breeze, Reporting

Oklahoma Members Attend the Midwest Regional Conference

This conference is a very popular semi-annual event for AAUW/Oklahoma members. Branch members attending from our state:

Alva: Carol Erickson, Cynthia Pfeifer-Hill

Chickasha: Angie Lewis

Edmond: Shelli Wasson, Diana Campo,
Pat Snodgrass, Lynn Wiley

Tulsa: Eva Pope-Garrett, Rose Unterschuetz

Tahlequah: Jeanna and Gary Wing

National Member: Seidah Rasheed



(left to right) Rose Unterschuetz, Diana Campo, Jeanna Wing, Shelli Wasson, Lynn Wiley, and Pat Snodgrass

The Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City is a very rustic place as you can tell from this picture taken in the lobby.

AAUW Calendar		
2016	December	Registration for NCCWSL Begins
	December 16	Webinar on Advocacy and Equal Pay Day
2017	January 7	State Board Meeting in Tulsa, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Brookside Baptist, Tulsa. Open to all members.
	January 15	Last Day to Register for National Convention at Reduced Rate
	January 31	Deadline for Revised Bylaws
	March 1	Newsletter deadline. Send to information/pictures to Shelli Wasson Email newsletter information to: wasson@ionet.net
	April 1	NCCWSL Early Registration Ends
	April 3	Opening date to request paper ballot
	April 11/15	Equal Pay Day
	April 14	Voting begins online
	May 4	Deadline for AAUW to receive request for paper ballot
	May 22	Deadline for mailing paper ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 PM to be counted.
	May 31-June 3	NCCWSL
	June 14-17	National Convention, Washington DC

The Power of Leaving a Legacy

Making a planned gift to AAUW is a simple way to support our mission and leave a lasting impact.

Benefits of Estate Giving

- Estate gifts allow you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Bequests do not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- There is no minimum gift requirement, and every gift can be tailored to suit your specific wishes.

For more information and giving options, please call AAUW's planned giving office at 877.357.5587.

