



**State Convention News**  
**Schedule, Ballot, Registration,**  
**Speaker Bios, and More!**

**Volume 33 Issue 3**

## **Biennial Convention**

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## **AAUW/OK Biennial State Convention:**

### **Today's Women's Rights**

### **2020 Virtual Venue**

**Monday, July 6, to Friday, July 10 (Noon to 1 PM) and  
 Saturday, July 11 (10:30 AM to 4 PM)**

*Celebrate the past, present, and future of Women's Rights from July 6 to July 11!*

The 2020 biennial state convention will be held virtually in accordance with AAUW National recommendations for state meetings -- **The virtual format will enable AAUW/OK members to (in the words of National Board Chair, Julia Brown) "stay home, stay safe, and stay connected."** The convention features daily presentations via Zoom on economic, gender, educational, legal, and healthcare issues. The keynote speaker is award-winning journalist and author, Elaine Weiss. In addition, National AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager, Robin Lucas, will be joining us from AAUW National. The convention also offers stress relief via mindfulness practice, friendly competition (silent auction), virtual social hours, and opportunities to win door prizes. The convention concludes on Saturday with AAUW/OK's biennial business meeting, which is only attended by AAUW members.

Convention registration is \$30/person – this includes access to all sessions, the silent auction, and door prize drawings, plus official convention t-shirt and survival kit. Your registration also supports speaker gifts, prizes for the Teen Voices Awards, and other costs of conducting a convention. **All payments for registration must be received by Wednesday, July 1, to ensure access to the entire convention.** Late registrations welcome through July 8. **Register and pay by credit card or debit card online, or mail in the convention form with your check or money order.**

While all AAUW/OK members are encouraged to participate in the convention, retail therapy is available to anyone. Purchase an AAUW/OK scarf or (extra) convention t-shirt. Donate to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund or other national fund, and support AAUW/OK programs. Shop and play using coupons from Weatherford, Oklahoma. So, enjoy the comfort of your own home while experiencing the 2020 Virtual Convention - *This is a great time to celebrate all things AAUW/OK!*

*Submitted by: Lisa Appeddu, AAUW Oklahoma State President, 2018-2020*



## 2020 AAUW Oklahoma Virtual Biennial State Convention Schedule

*Times are approximate and schedule order may change*

### Lunch Break Lectures – To be held Noon to 1:00 PM (CST) via Zoom

July 6, Monday: *Welcome* by Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown, followed by *100 Years of Women's Suffrage* by Dr. Sunu Kodumthara, Associate Professor of History, Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).

July 7, Tuesday: *Broaden Your Knowledge of Investing* by Kristen Arrington, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, AAUW/Duncan member.

July 8, Wednesday: *Cultivating Positive Queer Spaces* by Jackson Shubert, SWOSU student and incoming Vice President of SWOSU's Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSM) Project; and Jillian Drinnon, SWOSU student and LGBTQ+ Newspaper Columnist for *The Gayly*.

July 9, Thursday: *Mindfulness Practice for Stress Reduction* by Brianna McQuade, PharmD, BCACP, Academic and Family Medicine Research Fellow, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy.

July 10, Friday: *Modern Feminism* by Dr. Traci Brynne Voyles, Ph.D. and Chair of the Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) Program, University of Oklahoma.

*~ Opportunities to win door prizes will be provided to participants at each presentation ~*

### Meet with Friends

July 9, Thursday, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM: Zoom Happy Hour

July 11, Saturday, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM: Community Coffee Chat



### 2020 Biennial Celebration (July 11, Saturday) – To be held 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM via Zoom

10:30 AM: *Welcome* by Dr. Randy Beutler, SWOSU President; Mrs. Lisa Friesen, AAUW/Weatherford Branch President; and Dr. Lisa Appeddu, AAUW/OK State President.

11:00 AM: *AAUW National Update* by Robin Lucas, National AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager.

Noon: *Virtual visit* with Elaine Weiss, award-winning journalist and author, and long-time supporter of the League of Women Voters (NOTE: Her book, *The Woman's Hour*, will be presented to Teen Voices contest participants and as a door prize).

1:15 PM: *Teen Voices Contest Winners* hosted by Dr. Jeannette Loutsch, AAUW/Chickasha Branch and Ms. Rose Unterschuetz, AAUW/Tulsa Branch.

2:00 PM: *Women's Issues Across the Globe* featuring Dr. Obasi-Obonga (Nigeria), Dr. Beate Rynek (Germany), and Dr. Sylvia Orozco-Do (Mexico); moderated by Dr. Susie Hull, AAUW/Alva Branch.

Immediately following the previous session: Silent Auction Winners.

3:15 PM: AAUW/OK Business Meeting & Installation of Officers.

4:00 PM: Adjournment.

*~ Breaks will be taken throughout the day to stand up, grab lunch, and win door prizes ~*

## **Reminders:**

**It is time to renew your AAUW Membership!** Don't wait until July 1 -- you can renew your 2020 - 2021 membership today! In fact, the new membership year started on March 15.

Contact your branch to renew by check or cash, or renew online by going to the updated [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org) → click on Membership → go to Membership Services Database (MSD) → Login → Enter the MSD → Renew My Membership. Note: There is an option there to print a Membership Renewal Invoice to send to your local branch treasurer with a check. **This is also where you can look up your membership ID.**

**National AAUW dues are \$59, AAUW/OK dues are \$10, and each branch amount will vary.** And, don't forget that \$56 of the National dues are tax deductible. While it is possible to be a national member only, it is a bargain to pay a little bit more to support state and local branch efforts. Find a branch near you from the National AAUW Membership page. For help, contact your local branch Treasurer or State Finance Officer, Faye Henson, at [epita@cebridge.net](mailto:epita@cebridge.net).



**Exercise your right to vote:** Oklahoma Primary Elections and voting on state and local issues will occur **on June 30**. And, as you know, the next Presidential Election is this November. Go to [www.ok.gov/elections/](http://www.ok.gov/elections/) to register to vote, apply for an absentee ballot (mail in by Tuesday, June 23 for the upcoming vote), and other information. It is even possible to subscribe for email updates from the Oklahoma State Election Board.

For more ways to get involved in elections, check out this article by Robin Lucas, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy manager: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/>



## **Other Convention Information**

### **Virtual Silent Auction: *Raise funds for your branch's favorite AAUW Fund or local cause***

In this time of COVID-19 and all things virtual, the Silent Auction is also going virtual. As in the past, we are asking each branch to provide a "basket." One idea is to search online for pre-made gift baskets or to create your own basket. Each branch is responsible for mailing the basket to the winner, so one suggestion by the Tulsa branch is to use an online source such as Amazon with Prime shipping .

Instead of bringing baskets to the convention, the branch will **submit a picture and description of the items by July 1st** to Jeannette M Loutsch ([jloutsch@usao.edu](mailto:jloutsch@usao.edu)). These will be placed on the AAUW Oklahoma Facebook page and the AAUW/OK webpage to promote the event. Next, the branch will be asked to provide information about the starting bid price and to where proceeds should be distributed.

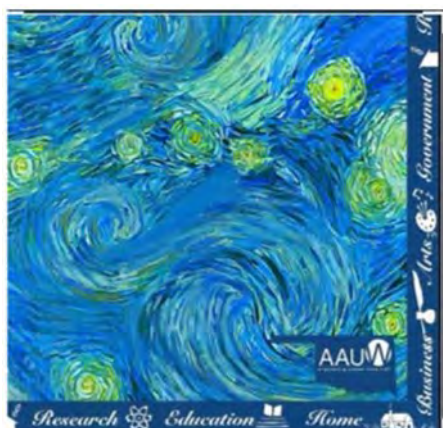
The convention planners are still working on the mechanism and times for bidding. Bidding will most likely be done by text messaging the name of the item and bid. Bidding may take place the entire convention, or certain baskets may be featured during different presentations to enable "live" bid updates. Final details will be shared by email and online after the close of convention registration on July 1.

If you have any questions or need basket suggestions, please contact Jeannette M Loutsch at [jloutsch@usao.edu](mailto:jloutsch@usao.edu) or (405) 512-8330 -- *"please leave a message if I do not answer!"*

### **Purchase an AAUW Scarf or Convention T-shirt: *Support AAUW/OK and look great!***

The scarf is custom-made for AAUW/OK by artist Sarah Ward. The idea for the design came from President-elect Susie Hull, Alva Branch, to reflect AAUW, Oklahoma, and our mission. The background is a blending of colors inspired from Van Gogh's "Starry Night" painting. Scarves are rectangle in shape and are 72" long by 28" wide. All scarves are light weight, made with fine silk-like poly chiffon. Scarves are manufactured by Knotty Tie, Co. ([www.knottytie.com](http://www.knottytie.com)), a U.S. company which uses fabrics made from recycled plastics certified by the Global Recycled Standard. Scarves are \$50 each, which includes shipping.

The Convention T-shirt is an original design by Jillian Drinnon, convention speaker and English Education major at SWOSU. T-shirts are softstyle and are available in unisex sizes (not fitted) as a round neck or v-neck. While one T-shirt is included with each convention registration, extra T-shirts can be purchased separately for \$20. All proceeds for T-shirts and scarves support AAUW/OK. **See page 7 -- order by July 15.**



*Buy a custom-made scarf and support AAUW/OK – see scarves modelled on AAUW Officer Candidates **on page 10** of this newsletter.*



*Purchase an extra convention T-shirt as a fun souvenir of these extraordinary times -- and support AAUW Oklahoma.*

**Other Convention Information**, continued from page 4**Proposed 2020 Virtual Convention Rules:**

AAUW Oklahoma State Board members updated the convention rules based on AAUW National bylaw changes. In addition, rules relating to conduct during virtual meetings were added, using the 2020 League of Women Voters proposed convention rules as guidelines. These rules will be voted upon at the start of the business meeting on Saturday, July 11. **Rules are published on the AAUW Oklahoma website for members to review prior to the meeting:** <https://aauw-ok.aauw.net/2020/06/20/2020-convention-rules/>

For more information, contact: Jeanna Wing, AAUW/OK 2018-2020 Bylaws Chair, at [wingjc@nsuok.edu](mailto:wingjc@nsuok.edu)

**Candidates sought for the 2020-2022 Nominating Committee:**

Below are the candidates proposed for each district at the time of publication of this newsletter. Additional candidates may be nominated during the State Convention virtual business meeting on the afternoon of Saturday, July 11. The primary representative and up to two additional alternates from each district will be voted upon during the virtual business meeting via electronic polling. The 2020-2022 Nominating Committee will be tasked to select a Chair on Sunday, July 12.

For more information, contact: Shelli Wasson, AAUW/OK 2018-2020 Nominating Committee Chair, at [shelli-wasson@omrf.org](mailto:shelli-wasson@omrf.org).

- District 1 – Tulsa: *No candidates to date*
- District 2 -- Durant & Tahlequah: Chandra Scroggins, Tahlequah (*Need one to two more*)
- District 3 -- Alva & Weatherford: *No candidates to date*
- District 4 -- Duncan and Chickasha: Dianna Morgan, Duncan; alternate Angie Lewis, Chickasha (*Could use one more*)
- District 5 -- Edmond: Diana Campo; alternate Shelli Wasson (*Could use one more*)

**AAUW Funds: Editorial provided by incoming AAUW Oklahoma State Funds Chair, Diana Campo**

Given the consequences of the 2020 Pandemic, AAUW Greatest Needs is the focus of the fundraising effort for 2020-2022. AAUW Greatest Needs is a biennial effort to allocate donations to the National AAUW Programs that serve the activities that meet the greatest need of the greatest number of recipients. With that being said, please plan to provide contributions to any AAUW programs as you see fit. I (Diana Campo) will donate to the Gender Equity Fund -- others of you may want to donate to a local Girls' Summer Camp for 2021. Still others will donate with the statement "use where the dollars can do the most good" -- this includes local scholarships, state scholarships, Association Fellowships, even the AAUW General Fund. Please send a copy of the donation to me (Diana Campo), so that I can report contributions per program, as well as give individual members and their branches credit for their support.

Mail to: Diana Campo

AAUW Funds

PO Box 7042

Edmond, Oklahoma 73083

**[Note: If you donate using the convention form, whether online or by mail, this information will be automatically shared with Diana Campo]**



## Support AAUW's Mission

### Our Mission Is Bold

Donate to advance equity for women and girls!

All members recently received a letter from Kimberly Churches, CEO of AAUW, addressing the impact of COVID-19 in all of our lives. This is especially a burden to women -- many who are having to balance the caretaking and virtual schooling of their children who are sheltered at home, with work outside of the home in order to maintain their family's livelihood.

The second purpose of the CEO letter was to remind all members about **AAUW's Annual Giving Drive** and the goal to raise \$250,000 by **July 8, 2020**. National is setting the bar higher this year, because women still bring home 18% less money in their paychecks than men, and 30% less in retirement income. This is the **most important AAUW fundraising appeal of the year**.

Your donation can help to build a “**new normal**” that includes equal pay for equal work, equitable leadership opportunities, and schools and workplace free of discrimination and harassment. **Donate to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund or to earmark your support to a specific AAUW cause using the convention form online or on page 7, or go to: <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>**



**AAUW Oklahoma also asks for your support of local and state-wide AAUW efforts.** Besides fundraisers such as scarf sales, the only income for AAUW/OK is from state dues. Make a charitable donation using the mail-in or online convention form to enable state board activities, which include:

- ♦ Conducting state-wide contests such as Teen Voices
- ♦ Sending Oklahoma college students to NCCWSL
- ♦ Enabling reduced registration fees for Oklahoma college students to State Conventions and Leadership Meetings
- ♦ Hosting and participating in events to promote the AAUW mission of "equity for all"

Both you and your branch will receive credit for your support of AAUW National and AAUW Oklahoma. We know these are tough times -- ***Any amount helps and is greatly appreciated.***

**AAUW/OK 2020 BIENNIAL REGISTRATION FORM**

**By mail:** Complete this form to print out and send with payment as directed below.

**On-line:** <https://tinyurl.com/y9pnogn8> – online payment includes 3% + 30 cents fee

**Contact information:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark which best applies to you:**

\_\_\_\_ National or At-Large AAUW Member

\_\_\_\_ Branch – specify branch \_\_\_\_\_ AAUW ID: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ College/University Partner – specify C/U school \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Student – specify school \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Friend / Supporter – Affiliation with AAUW/OK: \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Registration:** *Supports State Convention costs, which include one Convention T-shirt, Convention Survival Kit, Teen Voices awards, Speaker gifts, Door prizes, Shipping, etc.*

**Mark which best applies to you:**

\_\_\_\_ \$30 per person registration fee for AAUW members and Friends / Supporters

\_\_\_\_ \$15 per college student

\_\_\_\_ \$0 registration for Convention speakers, Teen Voices participants, & special guests

*Each Registration includes one Convention T-shirt – Choose unisex adult size and style:*

Size (circle one): S M L XL 2XL 3XL Style (circle one): v-neck round neck

**Donation opportunities and sales:** *You can do these without registering for the Convention*

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donate to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund – suggest \$30 for AAUW Five Star Program Goal

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donate to another National AAUW Fund - please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donate to support AAUW/OK - i.e., NCCWSL, reduced student registrations, programming, etc.

**~ You, your branch, and AAUW/OK will receive credit for charitable donations ~**

**Sales:** *You can do these without registering for the Convention*

\$\_\_\_\_\_ AAUW Starry Night design scarf (\$50 each): Specify number of scarves: \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Convention T-shirt (\$20 each) – Note: Convention Registration already includes one T-shirt

Size (circle one): S M L XL 2XL 3XL Style (circle one): v-neck round neck

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Checks or money orders made payable to **AAUW/OK** and mailed with completed form to:

Faye Henson, AAUW/OK Treasurer, P. O. Box 535, Weatherford, OK 73096

**IMPORTANT:** Registration and payment due by **July 1** to ensure access to the entire convention. Late registrations welcome through **July 8**. Donations and sales orders must be received by **July 15, 2020**.

## MAIL-IN BALLOT OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2020-2022 BIENNIUM

The following is the Slate of Officers for AAUW/OK who will serve during 2020-2022, if elected:

*Incoming President (will serve as President for the 2020 – 2022 term):* **Susie Hull – Alva Branch**

*President Elect (will serve as President for 2022 – 2024 term):* **Lori Gwyn —Weatherford Branch** *Vice*

*President of Programs:* **Jeannette Loutsch —Chickasha Branch**

*Vice President of Membership:* **Lisa Appeddu —Weatherford Branch**

*Secretary:* **Linda Brooks— Tulsa Branch**

*Finance Officer:* **Faye Henson — Weatherford Branch**

This Slate of Officers is presented by the 2018-2020 Nominating Committee comprised of Shelli Wasson (Chair, Edmond branch), Pam McDonald (Tulsa branch), Sarah Turner McGowen (Tahlequah), Cynthia Pfeifer-Hill (Alva), and Dianna Morgan (Duncan). AAUW/OK appreciates the efforts of committee members and other AAUW/OK members who were involved as candidates were sought to serve.

**Your vote (mark one):**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I approve this slate of officers** \_\_\_\_\_ **No, I do not approve this slate of officers**

**Your AAUW ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Branch:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print out and mail ballot to:**

Shelli Wasson

2533 NW 58th Place

Oklahoma City, OK 73112-7104

Or, members may choose to **vote electronically:** <https://tinyurl.com/yc2lo2dm>

**DEADLINE:** MAIL-IN BALLOT OR ELECTRONIC VOTE MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1 PM

**Questions:** Contact **Shelli Wasson**, Nominating Committee Chair, at [shelli-wasson@omrf.org](mailto:shelli-wasson@omrf.org)

**Eligibility to Vote:** **ARTICLE XVIII, Section 2, Representation part a: Voting Body:** Each Oklahoma AAUW member in good standing at the time of the meeting notice of the biennial convention year shall be entitled to one vote on the slate of officers, bylaw amendments, and any board approved resolutions that are submitted to the membership for vote 30 days prior to the convention. There shall be no proxy voting. Votes can be submitted either in the mailed ballot OR by an elec-tronic voting process developed by AAUW/OK. Each Oklahoma AAUW member in good standing on February 1 of non-convention years shall be entitled to one vote on any matters approved by the board for submission to a membership vote at times other than convention. At least 30 days notice shall be provided for any such vote.

## State Officer Biographies in Order of Ballot

*Incoming President (will serve as President for the 2020 – 2022 term):*

### **Susie Hull – Alva Branch**

Susie Hull is a longtime advocate for equal opportunity, education and rights for all. Susie continues to serve her community through her medical practice in a rural community and working with and serving on multiple committees for AAUW, and Oklahoma State Medical Association, Oklahoma Home Community and Education and the Scouts. She earned her medical doctor degree at The University of Kansas and attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University for undergraduate.

Susie along with the state officers and state chairs, will work to implement the 2020-2022 AAUW Oklahoma Strategic plan -- see:

<https://aauw-ok.aauw.net/2020/05/26/aauw-oklahoma-2020-2022-strategic-plan/>



Susie Hull

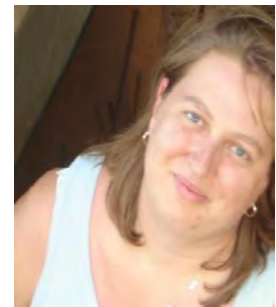
*President Elect (will serve as President for 2022 – 2024 term):*

### **Lori Gwyn —Weatherford Branch**

Lori Gwyn has been a member of AAUW since 2010. Over that time, she has served multiple roles for the Weatherford branch including scholarship committee chair, VP Membership, President, and Advisor for the AAUW@SWOSU branch. She has also served on the state board as co-committee chair of College/University relations and most recently as Secretary.

Lori is from Silo, OK. She is a graduate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis with a BS, MS and Ph.D. in Chemistry. She currently serves as the Director of Sponsored Programs and the Student Success Center for SWOSU.

She is excited to serve as the President-elect for AAUW-OK. Her goal is to continue outreach to women and children in our state. Lori resides in Weatherford, OK with her husband Jim and their 12 year-old twins, Caroline and Jacob.



Lori Gwyn

*Vice President of Programs:*

### **Jeannette M. Loutsch — Chickasha Branch**

Jeannette M. Loutsch holds a PhD in pathology and is trained as molecular virologist with specialties in herpes viruses and molecular techniques. She has been teaching at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha OK since August 2007. Loutsch uses her free time to garden, preserve fruits and vegetables, cro-chet and knit, read, and doing science outreach. She enjoys teaching young people about cooking and food preservation. She and the USAO Women In Science club hosts a workshop called "Women In Technology and Science" for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls on the first Saturday of November. She has been a member of AAUW since 2014 as a College/University Partner.



Jeannette M Loutsch

## State Officer Biographies in Order of Ballot, continued from page 10

### *Vice President of Membership:* **Lisa Appeddu —Weatherford Branch**

Lisa Appeddu has been an active member of AAUW since 2002. She served as the Weatherford branch Membership Vice President (2009-2013), Weatherford branch President (2013-2015), and AAUW/OK State Public Policy Chair (2013-2017). In addition, Lisa was a member of the national AAUW STEM Task Force (2014-2016) and reviewer for the Physical & Biological Sciences section of the AAUW International Fellowship Program (2011-2018). Lisa is currently finishing as AAUW/OK State President (2018-2020).

Lisa served as Co-Director of AAUW's Tech Trek STEM Camp for seventh-grade girls from 2013 to 2017 in Oklahoma. She helped in the transition to the Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts / Humanities, and Mathematics (SAGE STEAM) Camp in 2018 and 2019. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 camp is postponed until summer 2021.

Lisa earned her BS and MS from the University of Kentucky, and PhD from New Mexico State University. She joined Southwestern Oklahoma State University, teaching in the Department of Biological Sciences and School of Allied Health Sciences from 2002-2013. Currently, Lisa is an Associate Professor of Physiology in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. To unwind, Lisa enjoys reading, watching Netflix, cycling, doing yoga, and spending time with her husband and two Shetland Sheepdogs.



Lisa Appeddu is modeling the AAUW/OK scarf.

### *Secretary:* **Linda Brooks— Tulsa Branch**

Linda Brooks: I have been a long time member of AAUW Tulsa Branch serving in various offices. I support AAUW mission of education and equity for women and girls. Having recently retired from teaching English for Union Eighth Grade Center (24 years), I look forward to spending more time volunteering, reading and participating in book clubs. My husband Charles is a librarian at the University of Tulsa and our daughter Maggie will be attending the University of Iowa this fall to work on her Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication. I hope to join the AAUW/OK board as your Secretary, a position I held a few years ago. Thank you for your vote.



Linda Brooks

### *Finance Officer:* **Faye Henson — Weatherford Branch**

Faye has been a member of the Weatherford AAUW since 1980 and served in many leadership functions. She has served previously as Treasurer for AAUW/OK. Faye served two terms as President of AAUW/OK as well as other leadership and committee positions. Faye volunteers with the Weatherford Environmental Group, the Weatherford Regional Hospital Board, and local & district levels of United Methodist Women (UMW). Faye was the AAUW/OK organizational representative when the Oklahoma Women's Coalition (OWC) was started. Faye is from Shattuck, OK. and currently lives in Weatherford, OK. She worked in the medical record / health information management field from 1973-2018. She completed her BS ('73) and Master Ed. ('78) with emphasis in Biology from Southwestern OK State University, Weatherford, OK. After retiring from full-time teaching in 2003, she consulted in her field until 2017 and recently taught Biology Concepts Lab as an adjunct at Southwestern. Faye stays busy reading, cooking, gardening, and recycling.



Faye Henson is modeling the AAUW/OK scarf.

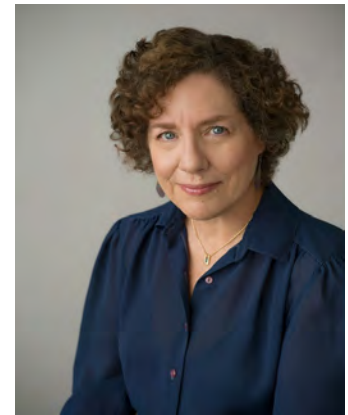
## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Virtual Visit with Elaine Weiss

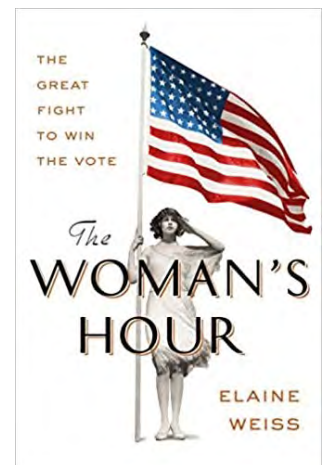
**AAUW Oklahoma is proud to feature award-winning journalist and writer, Elaine Weiss, as the keynote speaker for the 2020 Virtual State Convention.** Her magazine feature writing has been recognized with prizes from the Society of Professional Journalists, and her by-line has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, as well as reports and documentaries for National Public Radio and Voice of America. She has been a frequent correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*. Her long-form writing garnered a Pushcart Prize "Editor's Choice" award, and she is a proud MacDowell Colony Fellow. Her first book, *Fruits of Victory: The Woman's Land Army in the Great War* was excerpted in *Smithsonian Magazine* online and featured on C-Span and public radio stations nationwide.

Signed copies of her current book, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, are being provided to all students who participated in the AAUW/OK Teen Voices Contest. This book was chosen in recognition of the 100-year celebration of women's right to vote. *The Woman's Hour* was awarded "The 2019 Silver Gavel Award" from the American Bar Association for furthering the American public's understanding of the law.

Elaine holds a graduate degree from the Medill School of Journalism of Northwestern University. She has worked as a Washington correspondent, congressional aide and speechwriter, magazine editor, and university journalism instructor. Elaine lives in Baltimore, Maryland with her husband, Julian Krolik, a professor of astrophysics at Johns Hopkins University; they have two grown children. When not working at her desk, she can be found paddling her kayak on the Chesapeake Bay. And she votes in every election. For more information, visit: <https://elaineweiss.com/>

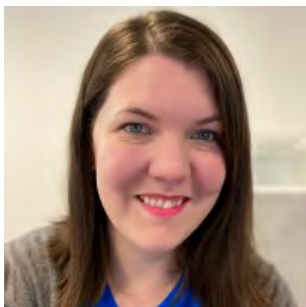


Elaine Weiss



## AAUW National Representative

### Robin Lucas, National AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager



Robin Lucas

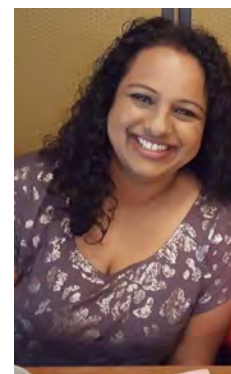
**AAUW Oklahoma is excited to welcome Robin Lucas from the National office!** As AAUW's Grassroots Advocacy Manager, Robin engages the organization's national issues and election advocacy. She drives the grassroots field strategy on voter education and Get Out the Vote campaigns, and manages core volunteer leadership networks nationwide. Robin focuses on the power of engaging and motivating local advocates to lead in their communities.

Prior to joining AAUW, Robin worked on grant-writing for infectious disease research with the Sabin Vaccine Institute, international business development with the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, foreign policy, and cultural exchange programs at the University of Delaware. She has directed grassroots advocacy and professional development organizations in the Washington, D.C. area focused on reproductive rights and women in leadership. Both a born-and-raised native and eventual alumna, Robin holds a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Delaware.

## Lunch Break Speaker Biographies

### Monday: Dr. Sunu Kodumthara, Associate Professor of History, SWOSU

Dr. Sunu Kodumthara is an Associate Professor of History at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, specializing in 20th-century U.S. History, women's history, and the history of the American West. She has been a featured guest on BrainBox, the podcast for Oklahoma Humanities, as well as a Humanities Scholar for Let's Talk about it Oklahoma. Her article, "Preserving Home and Country: Edith Cherry Johnson on Women, Family, and Suffrage" appeared in the Spring/Summer 2020 issue of the award-winning magazine, Oklahoma Humanities. A forthcoming article, "'The Right of Suffrage has been Thrust on Me': The Reluctant Suffragists of the American West" will appear in a special issue of the Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era in late 2020. She has served as a board member for Oklahoma Humanities since 2017. Kodumthara has also worked with the Oklahoma Historical Society over the course of the last few years, including planning and organizing events to celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage in Oklahoma.



Dr. Sunu Kodumthara

### Tuesday: Kristen Arrington, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones, Duncan, OK

Since 2014, Kristen has endeavored to help investors build strategies to achieve their long-term financial goals. She especially focuses on educating and empowering women investors and small business owners as they navigate their unique needs and considerations. Though she has built her business in her home town of Duncan, she partners with clients all over the state and throughout the country. Kristen and her husband, Braylin, also enjoy volunteering in their community with organizations like Main Street Duncan, United Way, and Duncan Chamber of Commerce. She holds Bachelor's Degrees in Economics and Business Management from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma as well as an Accredited Asset Management Specialist designation.



Kristen Arrington

### Wednesday: Jackson Shubert and Jillian Drinnon, SWOSU students

Jackson Shubert is a student at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He is the incoming Vice President of SWOSU's Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSM) Project

Jillian Drinnon is an English Education major at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and works as a freelance graphic designer. She is an on-going volunteer at the Weatherford Food and Resources Center, plus helps with the Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts & Humanities, and Mathematics (SAGE STEAM) Camp at SWOSU. Jillian also works as the rural columnist for The Gayly, an LGBTQ+ newspaper distributed throughout Oklahoma.



Jillian Drinnon

### Thursday: Dr. Brianna McQuade, Clinical Pharmacist, University of Illinois

Dr. Brianna McQuade, PharmD, BCACP, graduated from the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy and completed two years of residency training at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. After working in the pharmaceutical industry, she realized her true interests were in research and primary care clinical practice, which led to her completing further post-graduate training with a research fellowship in academia and Family Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy. She is currently a Substance Use Disorder/Mental Health Clinical Pharmacist in Family Medicine at UI Health. Additionally, she is working towards her Masters in Health Professions Education through the UIC College of Medicine. Her research interests include supporting and expanding pharmacist practice through interprofessional collaboration and education.



Dr. Brianna McQuade

### Friday: Dr. Traci Brynne Voyles, Women's and Gender Studies, OU

Dr. Traci Brynne Voyles is an Associate Professor and Chair of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Oklahoma. She is an award-winning researcher in the fields of US environmental history, Indigenous history, feminist theory, and critical race studies. She is the author of two books (Wastelanding: Legacies of Uranium Mining in Navajo Country, 2015, and The Settler Sea: California's Salton Sea and the Consequences of Colonialism, forthcoming 2021), and a number of journal articles and essays in edited collections.



Dr. Traci Brynne Voyles

## **International Speaker Biographies**

### **Saturday: Women's Issues Across the Globe**

#### **Chinenyem "Chichi" Obasi-Obonga**

##### **Nigeria**

Chinenyem, fondly called Chichi, trained at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria and graduated as a Medical Doctor. Her passion for Preventive Medicine led her to pursue a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.

She also has a Certificate in Marketing Strategy from Cornell University as well as a Certificate in Managing Nutrition and Health in Adverse Situations, Human Nutrition from University of South Africa.

Chichi has a passion for developing and improving the lives of women and young children which led her to working with the Promasidor Group Africa on matters regarding the Importance of Nutrition in the first 1000 Days Of Life and relates this to developing Quality & Affordable Food Product.

Chichi has been an active member of Medical Women Association Of Nigeria since 2010. When not working Chichi loves listening to inspirational music, reading motivational books, cross stitching and sci-fi movies.



Chichi Obasi-Obonga

#### **Dipl.-Psych. Beate Rynek**

##### **Germany**

Beate Rynek is a Psychotherapist for adults, children and youth. She specializes in Behavior Therapy and beyond. She has been working in private practice since 1987 in Muenster, Germany. She received her degree at the University of Muenster, Germany, Diploma there in October 1979. Beate enjoys traveling, swimming, and photography. She belongs to the German Medical Society and the Medical Women's International Association. Beate enjoys her garden, wandering in the nature, traveling, singing, the coast and the sea.



Beate Rynek

#### **Sylvia Orozco-Do**

##### **Mexico**

Sylvia Orozco-Do has been an advocate for those less fortunate. She was raised in Mexico and currently resides in Wichita, KS with her husband and children. She has been active in her community and serves on many boards such as the Wichita Community Foundation, the Kansas Hispanic Development and Education Foundation, the Wichita Children Home. Past board member the United Way, Wichita collegiate School and Wichita Grand Opera.

She is a graduate of the University of Kansas- School of Medicine, and is board certified in Internal Medicine and Hospital Medicine. She currently works in Wichita, Kansas. When not working she enjoys traveling, photography and spending time with her 3 children.



Sylvia Orozco-Do

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*Lisa Appeddu*  
911 Sherwood Street  
Weatherford, OK 73096 c 405-760-2539  
lisa.appeddu@swosu.edu b 580-774-3148

**President-Elect**

*Susie Hull*  
10759 CR 370  
Waynoka, OK 73860 316-651-6929  
drsusiehull@gmail.com

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*Faye Henson*  
P.O. Box 535  
Weatherford, OK 73096 c 580-330-2015  
epita@cebridge.net b 580-772-5984

**Recording Secretary**

*Lori Gwyn*  
2601 Harvest Dr.  
Weatherford, OK 73096-2437  
lori.gwyn@swosu.edu 580-302-3815

**AAUW Fund**

*Susie Hull*  
10759 CR 370  
Waynoka, OK 73860  
drsusiehull@gmail.com 316-651-6929

**Bylaws/Parliamentarian**

*Jeanna Wing*  
17235 Limbsey Lane  
Tahlequah, OK 74464-1205 918-822-4527  
wingjc@nsuok.edu

**College/University Relations**

*Lori Gwyn*  
2601 Harvest Dr.  
Weatherford, OK 73096-2437  
lori.gwyn@swosu.edu 580-302-3815

**Diversity**

*Carol Erikson*  
1117 Flynn St.  
Alva, OK 73717-2043  
cperikson@sbcglobal.net 580-327-1905

**International Affairs**

*Tugba Sevins*  
tugba.sevin@swosu.edu

**Legal Advocacy Funds**

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**AAUW/OK State Board, 2018-2020****Newsletter Editor**

*Shelli Wasson*  
2533 NW 58<sup>th</sup> Place  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-7104  
shelli-wasson@omrf.org 405-250-6462

**Public Policy Co-Chair**

*Rose Unterschuetz*  
5820 S. Evanston Ct.  
Tulsa, OK 74105-7419  
tulсарose@sbcglobal.net 918-747-5516

**Public Policy Co-Chair**

*Jeanna Wing*  
17235 Limbsey Lane  
Tahlequah, OK 74464-1205 918-822-4527

**Social Media**

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**STEM Co-Chair**

*Jeannette M. Loutsch*  
2502 S. 18th Street  
Chickasha, OK 73018  
jloutsch@usao.edu 405-512-8330

**STEM Co-Chair**

*Cindy Pfeifer-Hill*  
709 7th Street  
Alva, OK 73717  
capfeifer-hill@nwosu.edu 580-748-0306

**Web Manager**

*Linda West*  
1001 Gerri Dr.  
Tahlequah, OK 74464-6210  
west@nsuok.edu 918-456-1548

**AAUW National Representative**

*Shirley Breeze*  
138 Kings Dr.  
St. Louis County, MO 63034  
sbreeze@mindspring.com

**How to Reach AAUW**

Phone: (202) 785-7700

Fax: (202) 872-1425

TDD: (202) 785-7777

E-mail: [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

**Customer Service**

800-326-AAUW (2289)

**National Website**

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**Reminder:**

**Vote for the AAUW Slate of Officers for the 2020-2022 biennium -- online and mail-in votes must be received by Friday, July 10. See page 8 for the ballot.**



AAUW/OK

Shelli Wasson, Newsletter Editor

2533 NW 58th Place

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

**State Website:**

**<https://aauw-ok.aauw.net/>**

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## CALENDAR

**AAUW/OK Biennial State Convention:  
Today's Women's Rights  
2020 Virtual Venue**

***Lunch Break Lectures on***

**Monday, July 6 to**

**Friday, July 10 (Noon to 1 PM)**

***Social Hours on Thursday, July 9, 7 PM  
and Saturday, July 11, 9 AM***

***2020 Biennial Celebration on Saturday,  
July 11 (10:30 AM to 4:00 PM)***

**2020-2022 incoming AAUW Oklahoma  
State Board Meeting on Sunday, July 12**

**Registration must be received by  
Wednesday, July 1, to ensure  
access to the entire convention.**

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