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In Memoriam:

Susan M. Hull, MD – Alva Branch

AAUW/OK State President

Susan Hull, MD passed away September 9, 2020 due to complications from cancer. She was the AAUW/OK President for only 2 months after being installed on July 12 at the Business Meeting following the virtual AAUW/OK Biennial Convention.

Susie was assisted by her daughter, Kelsey, in planning the international panel of women speakers for the state convention. This involved the coordination of "Zooming" to Nigeria and Germany, as well as connecting with a physician (originally from Mexico) who participated from Kansas. Susie and Kelsey were also part of the Committee who chose the Teen Voices Contest winners.

Susie Hull was a longtime advocate for equal opportunity, education, and rights for all. Susie served her community through her medical practice in the rural community of Waynoka, Woods County, in northwestern Oklahoma. She worked with and served 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.

See In Memoriam, page 11.



Susan M. Hull, MD

Presidency Succession

According to Article IX Officers, Section 7, of the AAUW/OK Bylaws states that the VP of Programs is next in line to fill a vacancy for Presidency.

As the VP of Programs, Jeannette M. Loutsch, PhD agreed to assume the office of President, effective immediately.

See Presidency, page 8

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AAUW/OK Biennial Convention**Overview**

Thirty-four AAUW/OK members representing all eight Oklahoma branches connected virtually by Zoom from July 6 to 11, 2020, for the AAUW Oklahoma Biennial State Convention and Business Meeting. They were joined by two College/University Representatives (one from Oklahoma City Community College and one from the University of Central Oklahoma), one AAUW/National member, two friends / supporters, five AAUW members from other states who are part of the regional conference planning committee (which was postponed from June 2020 to June 2021). The event was hosted by the Weatherford branch who helped to put together a convention Survival Kit featuring items donated from SWOSU, the branch, and AAUW members. Registrant and speakers also received an "I survived the Virtual AAUW Oklahoma State Convention 2020" t-shirt.

The virtual convention consisted of hour-long, lunch break lectures, from noon to 1 PM on Monday to Friday, July 6 to 10. Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown welcomed convention participants at the start of the first session. Programming included the history of women's right to vote, investment tips, LGBTQ+ college student perspectives, stress reduction, and modern feminism (see "Convention Resources", page 8). AAUW/OK state President, Lisa Appeddu, and Weatherford branch member, and Sally Drinnon co-hosted these sessions. AAUW/OK state Secretary, Lori Gwyn, and the Weatherford branch President, Lisa Friesen helped with the behind-the-scenes functions.

The state convention ended with the biennial celebration on Saturday, July 11; members were welcomed by Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) President Randy Beutler. The day-long program included Robin Lucas, Grassroots Advocacy Manager from AAUW National; a question-and-answer session with author Elaine Weiss and Tulsa branch member, Rose Unterschuetz; Teen Voices winners (see "Teen Voices", page 7); an international panel of women speakers hosted by Alva branch members, Kelsey and Susie Hull; and the AAUW/OK Business Meeting, during which the 2020-2022 AAUW Oklahoma state officers and chairs were inducted.

There was a lot going on throughout the week-long convention. Gift cards were drawn as door prizes at each session and, on Saturday, two lucky participants won Elaine Weiss' book. The virtual silent auction was organized by Chickasha branch member, Jeannette Loutsch, to feature six items up for bid from Wednesday through Saturday via "32auctions." Convention participants visited with each other virtually during two social hours – one on Thursday evening and one on Saturday morning. And, everyone had the opportunity to purchase scarves and extra t-shirts, as well as to donate to AAUW National and to AAUW/OK.

A special thanks is extended to all of those who donated to AAUW Programs. In the end, \$533 was raised via the Silent Auction to support branch programs, \$385 for AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund, and \$545 to support state-wide programs (such as the Teen Voices Contest and sending Oklahoma students to NCCWSL) empowering women and girls.

To conclude, AAUW Oklahoma thanks AAUW Weatherford and all of those who helped with the virtual state convention. While we missed seeing each other in-person, this format enabled members to stay safe while still staying connected. And, lessons learned will be applied to future meetings. See the article on "Convention Resources", page 8 for speaker reading recommendations, as well as how to request a convention speaker (whether by video or in person) to use for virtual branch programming over the next year.



Votes for Women!

State officers at the AAUW/OK Board meeting on Sunday, July 12 in Weatherford, OK – Branch and State Office listed, (l to r) Jeanna Wing, Tahlequah, Bylaws Chair / Parliamentarian; Faye Henson, Weatherford, Finance Officer; Diana Campo, Edmond, AAUW Funds Chair; Shelli Wasson, Edmond, Newsletter Editor; Lisa Appeddu, Weatherford, Membership VP; and Lori Gwyn, Weatherford, President-Elect. Masks are being worn due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

AAUW/OK State Board, 2020-2022

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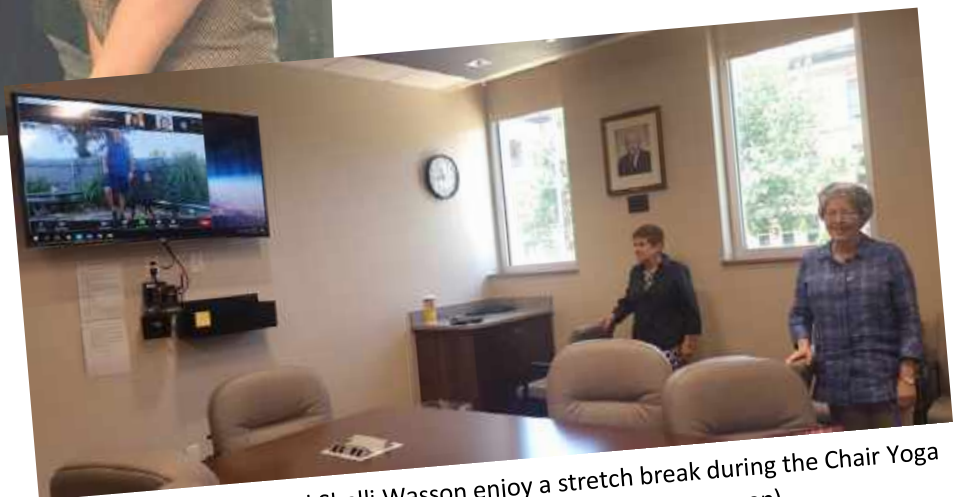
Members socializing during the Zoom Happy Hour on Thursday, June 9.



(l to r) Sally Drinnon and Lisa Appeddu co-host lunch break lectures in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy Conference Room and Jillian Drinnon, convention speaker and convention t-shirt designer.



Alva branch members, Dr. Susie Hull and her daughter, Kelsey Hull, were inducted together onto the 2020 - 2022 AAUW/OK Board. Susie was the incoming President, and Kelsey, the Diversity Co-Chair.



(l to r) Diana Campo and Shelli Wasson enjoy a stretch break during the Chair Yoga session led by Tim Bodenstein of Hesed Yoga (shown on the screen).



Do you see yourself?

Zoom photo of some of the virtual convention participants on Saturday, July 11.



Author Elaine Weiss discussed the inspiration and research behind her latest book, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, as well as the ongoing election and voting challenges of today.



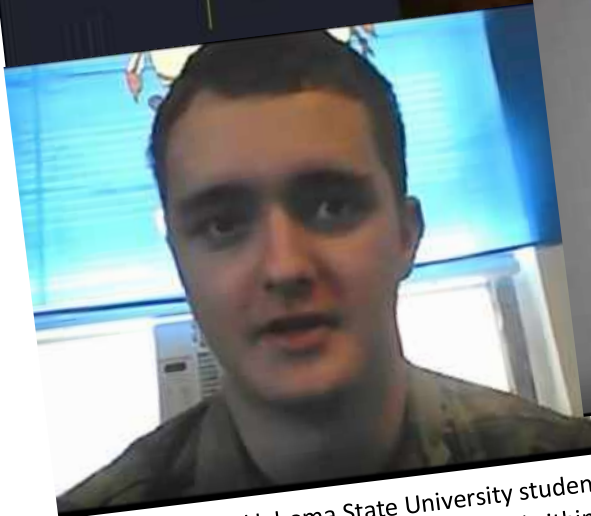
Robin Lucas shares strategies for GOTV campaigns – examples include posting promotional photos of dressed up pets (her dog is shown in the photo) and children going to the polls with their parents on social media.



Dr. Sunu Kodumthara, SWOSU Associate Professor of History, kicks off the convention at the first lunch break lecture, sharing what it took for women's suffrage to be ratified in the U.S. and for it to be shared among all



Dr. Brianna McQuade, Clinical Pharmacist in Family Medicine at UI Health in Chicago, shares the benefits of and leads a practice session on mindfulness during the fourth lunch break lecture.



Southwestern Oklahoma State University students, Jackson Shubert and Jillian Drinnon, share their experiences in the military and in college (within and outside Oklahoma) and suggestions as to what makes a positive queer space.

Note: Other convention speakers included (but not pictured) Kristen Arrington, Edward Jones Financial Advisor and AAUW/Duncan member, who shared investing knowledge, and Dr. Traci Brynne Voyles, Chair of the University of Oklahoma Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) Program, who provided an overview on modern feminism. These speakers requested to not be recorded, but would be more than happy to provide live presentations to AAUW branches.

Teen Voices Winners

Present Their Essays During the Convention

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 55th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, AAUW/OK relaunched the Teen Voices Contest in Spring 2020. This state-wide essay contest was open to all girls across Oklahoma enrolled in grades 9 to 12. The topic focused on investigating leadership skills of an American woman or group who led the fight for women's rights. The state-wide contest was led by Jeannette Loutsch, Rose Unterschuetz, Faye Henson, Kelsey Hull, Susie Hull, Cyndi Crook, and Shelli Wasson. Awards from AAUW/OK included \$250 for first prize, \$125 for second prize, and \$75 for third prize. All contest participants received an autographed copy of Elaine Weiss' book, *The Woman's Hour*, and a certificate.

Contest winners shared their essays virtually on Saturday during the state convention.

First place: Natalie -- *The Woman behind the "Giant Leap for Mankind"*

Second place: Ainsley -- *The Courage of Clara Barton*

Third place: June -- *Mary Wollstonecraft: Founder of Feminism*



Natalie



Ainsley



June

Convention Resources for Branches

Wondering what to do during COVID-19? Your branch could feature the programming from the 2020 AAUW/OK Virtual State Convention.

Available by request, these presenters are willing for their videos to be shared, and may even be available for some live Q &A:

100 Years of Women's Suffrage by Dr. Sunu Kodumthara, Associate Professor of History, Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

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*.

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

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 member and AAUW/OK President, and Kelsey Hull, AAUW/OK Diversity Co-Chair.

Available by request, the following convention speakers are potentially available to present in person, and may have other topic areas they would be willing to share:

Broaden Your Knowledge of Investing by Kristen Arrington, Edward Jones Financial Advisor and AAUW/Duncan member.

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

For a timely book discussion, read "The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote." Request the convention video to hear its background from the award-winning author and journalist, Elaine Weiss, as hosted by Mrs. Rose Unterschuetz, AAUW/Tulsa Branch member and AAUW/OK Public Policy Chair.

Please contact Lisa Appeddu (Past AAUW/OK President) for more information at lisa.appeddu@swosu.edu or 580-774-3148 – she can provide an introduction to a convention speaker and/or provide access to a convention video for a branch meeting.

Presidency, Continued from Page 1

Jeannette 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 (USAO) of Oklahoma in Chickasha, OK since August 2007. She and the USAO Women In Science club hosts a workshop called "Women In Technology and Science" for 5th and 6th grade girls on the first Saturday of November. Jeannette uses her free time to garden, preserve fruits and vegetables, crochet and knit, read, and doing science outreach. She enjoys teaching young people about cooking and food preservation. She has been a member of AAUW since 2014 as a College/University Partner. You may contact Jeannette at jloutsch@usao.edu.



Branch News and Highlights

Edmond

The Edmond branch met via Zoom for the September meeting and voted to continue the Girls' Hall of Honor. The tentative date is Sunday afternoon, March 7, 2021 at the Edmond Public Library.

More than 25 students were nominated for the award in 2020 by a teacher, counselor or a school administrator for demonstrated leadership skills and community involvement. The award presentations were made just a week before everything shut-down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Girls' Hall of Honor program was developed and established in 2015 by AAUW member Erma Stewart, a longtime AAUW member of the Edmond branch. She serves as a consult for other AAUW branches interested in establishing a Girls' Hall of Honor in their respective communities.

Submitted by Shelli Wasson



Shelli Wasson and Erma Stewart at the Girls' Hall of Honor, March 8, 2020.

Tulsa



The Mystery Book Club met at St. Dunstan's Garden on September 16 to discuss mysteries they had read recently. The group meets bi-monthly and the November meeting theme is Election/Washington D.C. mysteries. Social distancing amid the COVID-19 Pandemic is a must so the group wore their masks and sat apart. Everyone was happy to see each other!!

Submitted by Linda Brooks

(l to r) Linda Brooks waving, Beth Webb waving, Rose Unterschuetz, and Andy Lupardus. Two members were unable to attend.

Weatherford

Dr. Wendy Yoder, Vice President of Programs for the Weatherford branch, will serve as Weatherford branch president over the next year. Wendy is Coordinator of Retention Management at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). She has already planned for the Weatherford branch to participate in the annual SWOSU Organizational Fair on August 27 to share information about AAUW and to recruit new members.

Wendy is stepping in for Mrs. Lisa Friesen, who served from 2019 to 2020. As Weatherford branch president, Lisa played a vital role in helping with the technology for the AAUW/OK 2020 Virtual State Convention. She also garnered branch support for the convention survival kits. Lisa is Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at SWOSU – this is the university resource on virtual platforms and, therefore, is very busy during COVID-19. Lisa is also going to focus on completing a Ph.D. in Adult and Higher Education. The Weatherford branch thanks Lisa for her service, and looks forward to Wendy's leadership as branch president.

Submitted by Wendy Yoder



(l to r) Lisa Friesen and Wendy Yoder

Weatherford, continued from page 9

The Weatherford AAUW branch hosted a kick-off event for the year at SWOSU's Organizational Fair. **We had 44 students and 6 employees sign up to receive information** about membership! We held a drawing with 58 participants for an AAUW shirt, tote bag, and Votes for Women pin.

Members who helped with the event were Drs. Lori Gwyn, Lisa Appeddu, Karen Sweeny, and Wendy Yoder. We are looking forward to reaching out to those potential new members!

Submitted by Wendy Yoder



Drs. Wendy Yoder and Sally Drinnon manning the booth at the SWOSU Organizational Fair where they recruited new AAUW members.



New Year, New Members

It is that time of year when branches start over – we set the ideas for new programming and to recruit new members. Invite a friend to 'join' as you work on an AAUW project or participate in social meeting -- that participation may be the spark for them to try out AAUW. Grow our membership to further AAUW's efforts of equity for all.

Be sure to utilize AAUW programs as you recruit new members. **Shape the Future Campaign** enables new members to join at half off the national dues cost (\$29.50, with \$26.50 being tax deductible). And, be sure to cash in on **Free Memberships** earned for your branch. For more information on these and for access to a printable AAUW brochure, go to: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/shape-the-future-campaign/>.

And, **Give a Grad a Gift** still allows AAUW members to gift one year of AAUW national membership at no cost to them or you – see: <https://ww3.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>.

While AAUW does have a membership brochure, AAUW/OK is going to create our own brochure that provides specific AAUW Oklahoma facts along with general AAUW information, and that has an area which can be customized by each branch. If your branch already has a brochure or informational document that you pass out at recruitment events, AAUW/OK Membership VP, Lisa Appeddu, would appreciate it if you share that with her this fall.

For assistance with membership or to share your recruitment items, contact Lisa Appeddu at lisa.appeddu@swosu.edu or (580) 7774-3148.



In Memoriam, continued from page 1

This was the President's message for the newsletter, written by Susie Hull on August 17, 2020

Are you excited about 2020 and all that it may bring? In a time of unprecedented change, AAUW is well positioned to up the ante in Women's empowerment around the globe. This year has been a challenge, don't get me wrong, but when the going gets tough, you know what we do. Since 1881, we've been empowering women to take more of an active role in our communities, whether it be in business, arts, government, research, education or the home.

Amidst the first pandemic on American soil in over 100 years, we continue to lend 2 helping hand so our citizens may weather the event and limit the devastation. So many took to making masks, social distancing, educational endeavors, caring for our neighbors and family and communities. With safety in mind we successfully launched our first ever virtual AAUWOK conference, which had an audience nationally and globally some of our speakers from Germany, Mexico and Nigeria. While the 1918 flu devastated families all over the world, our AAUW sisters wasted no time getting to work on moving the needle for women's rights, the right to vote in the United States being only the beginning of their efforts. It is this dedication and selflessness that should naturally put women in leadership roles, making our world a more just and loving place.

If you'd like to join the movement in helping women help women make the world a better place, check out our website and reach out to your local chapters to get involved. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Susan Hull MD

2020 AAUW/Oklahoma State President

Obituary:

www.marshallfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Susan-Hull

Marshall Funeral Home in Waynoka, OK

Susie was the "Doctor of the Day" at the Oklahoma House of Representatives, May 1, 2019. She was sponsored by Representative Carl W. Newton.



Susie being pinned as President by her daughter, Kelsey, during the installation of AAUW/OK officers on July 12, 2020.



A memorable time for Susie and Kelsey.



Susie speaking at the 2018 Business Meeting after she volunteered to serve as President-Elect, 2018-2020.

AAUW/OK

Shelli Wasson, Newsletter Editor

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CALENDAR

November 3 Election Day!



AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)(3) charity.

Donations are tax deductible.

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