

Volume 34 Issue 1
February 2021

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Help Recruit Oklahoma Students to Attend the Virtual 2021 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), May 25-26, 2021.

This annual program offers leadership training, inspiration, and networking to hundreds of college women from around the country. For those of you who have met the young women who have attended, you will remember that NCCWSL was a deeply meaningful experience for them.

Information about NCCWSL may be found on the AAUW National website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/> or at www.aauw.org

The 2021 conference is virtual this year, which means the only cost to attend is registration so this event is very affordable at \$125. Early Bird Registration and National Scholarship Application Closes **February 28, 2021**. To help overcome financial barriers, AAUW/OK sets aside funds to support students. In addition, individual AAUW/OK branches have donated funding in the past.

In anticipation of an increased number of student requests, AAUW/OK has a digital form to formalize the process. Any student attending 2- or 4-year colleges and universities in Oklahoma is welcome to apply for NCCWSL support. Professional students in medicine, law, pharmacy, and nursing are also encouraged to submit a request. Due to state funds being limited, students are encouraged to seek other lines of financial support, as possible.



Students selected to receive support from the AAUW/OK must provide the registration receipt for reimbursement after attending NCCWSL, plus the awardee must share their experience with AAUW members -- examples include speaking at a branch or state meeting or submitting an article (500 to 750 words) with pictures / screenshots for the state newsletter. In addition, social media posts and tagging the AAUW/OK Facebook page during NCCWSL are encouraged.

Here is What's Happening with AAUW in Oklahoma!

Alva

Members have been on hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The branch is considering using Zoom for virtual meetings this spring.

Submitted by Carol Erikson

Chickasha

The branch is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2021!! Angie Long Lewis has written a beautiful synopsis of the branch's activities over the past 100 years. Please see her Angie's article on pages 7-8.

Duncan

Martha Burger, long-time member of the Duncan branch, has 2 pictures entered in the AAUW Art contest and would appreciate your vote. The photo on the left is called, "I Bring the Bold" and on the right is "Bending and Blending". Martha's really getting good at adding special effects to her photography. Thanks for your help, Dianna Morgan



"I Bring the Bold"



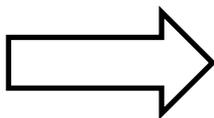
"Bending and Blending"

Art Contest www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/art-contest

March 3 Voting ends on AAUW Art Contest

The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring.

Duncan Fundraiser



See Duncan, Page 8

Edmond

The *Girls' Hall of Honor*, sponsored by the Edmond branch, will be held virtually on Sunday afternoon, March 7 at 2:00 PM (invitation with Zoom information below). Please join the us in honoring the 7th grade girls, one representing each of Edmond's six middle schools.

This is the sixth year honoring students and 29 nominations were submitted by a teacher or school administrator. Girls must demonstrate leadership abilities to be considered for this award plus write an essay to complete their submission. The Application Review Committee of Pat Snodgrass and Shelli Wasson, narrowed the field to the top two applications for each school, then the branch members made the final selection of one student per middle school.

The *Girls' Hall of Honor* program was developed and established, in 2015, by AAUW member Erma Stewart, a long-time Edmond resident, devoted civic leader and published author. She serves as a consult for other AAUW branches interested in establishing a *Girls' Hall of Honor* in the respective communities.

Invitation to the Edmond *Girls' Hall of Honor* Virtual Event

Sunday, March 7, 2021 - 2:00 PM via Zoom and Facebook Live

From: Jana Lewis Harkins [mailto:jana-harkins@cox.net]

Subject: Zoom Link - AAUW Edmond Girls Hall of Honor - Sunday, March 7, 2021 - 2:00 PM

Jana Lewis Harkins is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. The event will also be live streamed on Facebook.

Our organization Facebook page can be located by typing AAUW.Edmond in the Facebook search field.

Topic: AAUW Edmond 2021 *Girls' Hall of Honor*

Annual Program Honoring Edmond Middle School Girls

Time: Mar 7, 2021 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82357899270?pwd=WkwrRDBGQmlFYmtjdFgvbkJ3djV6UT09>

Meeting ID: 823 5789 9270

Passcode: 2021HOH



Tahlequah

While the Tahlequah branch has not been meeting in person due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, members have been corresponding through emails. Despite the pandemic, the branch received 23 applications for the Tahlequah AAUW Graduate Woman Scholarship. The scholarship is \$1,000 for the academic year and the recipient is Gena Holden. Gena attends Northeastern State University and is a Master of Business Administration student with a business analytics concentration. Congratulations, Gena!!
Submitted by Jeanna Wing

Tulsa

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Tulsa branch has been very active in new ways and Zoom (virtual) meetings have saved the day! So nice to be able to use technology to keep everyone in touch and continue meetings.

November: Native American Heritage Month was observed. The Pay Gap for American Indian and Alaska Native women is astonishing. Native women are paid about 60 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men. Two bills have been passed to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.



January: Members attended a Virtual book launch event at Magic City Books. Author Randi Pink's new book, *Angel of Greenwood*, was showcased at the event. Then at the branch meeting, "Let's Talk About It", members discussed the book and other events pertaining to racial healing.

February: The virtual meeting was on "Human Trafficking of Indigenous People" led by Patti Buhl, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Coordinator for Oklahoma.

Tulsa branch members were encouraged to join the AAUW/OK Book Club for the discussion of the book, *Killers of the Flower Moon*. This book meshed perfectly with the February program.

The Tulsa branch continues supporting Tulsa Community College's Fuel Pantry. This resource provides help for students in the form of food, cleaning items, personal hygiene items, etc. Last year, the Tulsa branch collected feminine hygiene items for the Fuel Pantry.
Tulsa Voice Newsletters, Gwen Hampton, Editor

Weatherford

Last fall, the Weatherford branch participated in a service project helping the STEP UP Transitional Living Program. The program is designed to move individuals from homelessness to self-sufficiency by providing transitional housing and support services, including education, counseling, and employment for youth 18 to 24 years old.

The Weatherford branch purchased 25 toolkits to help get individuals started in their own homes. Each 23-piece tool kit includes a measuring tape; ratchet, socket, and screwdriver set; and allen wrenches inside of a cloth bag with "AAUW" printed on the cover. Individual branch members also contributed home goods such as cleaning supplies and toiletries.



The Weatherford branch is donating these items to the STEP UP Transitional Living Program. Notice the AAUW bags that are ready to go.

SAGE STEAM Camp June 13 to 19, 2021

Weatherford branch members are planning the Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/ Humanities, and Mathematics (SAGE STEAM) Camp from June 13 to 19, 2021. We can use the help of AAUW Oklahoma branch members to make this year's camp a success, in the following ways:



After camp was postponed in 2020, the fifty students selected are being invited to attend the 2021 camp. A new set of campers will also be chosen this spring, which will create a "mega-camp" of up to 85, rising eighth and ninth grade girls. We are looking for students from across the state who are currently in seventh grade and interested in exploring STEAM. The camp is geared toward girls who may have limited access to STEAM-related activities and may truly benefit from this experience, personally or academically. New for this year -- Girl Scout and Boy Scout Leaders may nominate students, along with teachers and other school officials. Also new for this year, the camp will feature a professional development workshop for up to ten teachers before and during camp.

See Camp, Page 6

Camp, from Page 5

While nominations officially ended on January 27, please let us know of a teacher, troop leader, or girl you recommend to participate by mid-February.

After being nominated, students will complete an online application by February 23 and then undergo a “get-to-know-you” phone interview in March. Interviewers work in pairs to call and recommend which girls to select. If you are interested helping with interviews, please let us know by mid-February.

Campers pay a non-refundable \$200 registration fee; the remaining \$900 in costs per camper is covered by grants and generous supporters. To reduce financial burden, reduced registration fees and payment plans are available. For the 2020 camp, \$1365 in donations were received from the Edmond branch, the Duncan branch, and AAUW/OK branch members for the 2020 camp -- these funds will roll over to support the 2021 camp. In January, AAUW Tulsa contributed \$1500 to the 2021 camp. Tax-deductible donations to the SAGE STEAM 2021 "mega-camp" may be made via the SWOSU Foundtion. The camp appreciates the on-going support of AAUW/OK branches and branch members.

More information about the camp may be found online at www.swosu.edu/about/pre-college-programs/sage-steam-camp, or may be acquired by calling 580-774-3148 (Camp Director Lisa Appeddu) or emailing sagesteamcamp@gmail.com.



Campers celebrate their successes at the Graduation and Awards Banquet at the end of the 2019 camp.



Campers work together on hands-on projects, such as creating a functional catapult at Baker-Hughes during the field trip to OKC.

CHICKASHA BRANCH TURNS 100

The AAUW Chickasha (OK) branch of is turning 100 years old in 2021! The branch was formed in January 1921 by Miss Jane Hill-Miller. Miss Miller was Head of the Department of Modern Languages, a Professor of Spanish and also taught French at the Oklahoma College for Women (OCW) in Chickasha. Mrs. Lula A. Barr was the first President and an instructor of Mathematics at OCW. Most of the early members were on the faculty of OCW.

The first Annual Senior Tea was held in 1931. This was a very special event on the OCW campus. It celebrated the seniors as well as educating them on the work and activities of AAUW and encouraging them to join. This was an annual event through the 1990's. Angie Long Lewis, a 35-year member of the branch joined at the 1985 Tea immediately following her graduation from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (formerly OCW). The Tea was a great recruiting tool.

Historical records of the Chickasha branch include:

1940: Branch members discuss English refugee children from WWII and the placement of children in Oklahoma. Fund Raising for the British Relief Fund is designated as a project.

1942: The branch discusses issues and problems arising from pre-school children of working mothers in Oklahoma. In later years, around 1960, the branch helps to raise funds for and organize the first Kindergarten in Chickasha.

1942 – 1943: The Chickasha branch sponsors USO dances and war bond drives in Chickasha. With the close proximity of Ft. Sill in Lawton, the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha was a very popular location for these dances!

1943: The Chickasha branch sends a resolution to the Chickasha City Council urging passage of an ordinance for garbage disposal and other sanitary projects.

1960's – Two projects were initiated. The first being the Creative Writing Project founded and chaired for many years by long-time member, Hattie Orr. This was a county-wide contest for students in Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Members traveled to schools throughout the county to gather entries. The entries were distributed to members to judge, choosing a certain number from each grade. All winning entries were then published in *The Fledgling* booklet and a copy was given to each student. The highlight of the project was a special night for all winning students read their winning entries for their families and branch members. Former Chickasha Branch member Shelli Wasson, now a member of the Edmond Branch, remembers winning two different times; poetry, 1975 and prose, 1983.

The other project introduced in the 1960's by member Cora Oaks was the Student Art Show that involved students from the Chickasha Public Schools. Art pieces were submitted by teachers and displayed at the Chickasha Public Library for the public to enjoy. A special reception was held each year to honor the artists. Shelli Wasson remembers helping her mother, Jannis McVey, serve refreshments at the annual event in 1975 (Shelli was in 5th grade) held on a Saturday so family members could bring their students to see the art work. See Chickasha, Page 8



CHICKASHA (OK)
BRANCH

Chickasha, From Page 7

The Annual Women's Day was another major event for the Branch for 3 decades, in the 70's, 80's and 90's. This event had many different forms over the years – a luncheon with Lt. Governor Mary Fallin held at the USAO Ballroom, luncheons with other women leaders in state government, day-long workshops and seminars, and evening events honoring local women leaders. These events brought the community together in recognizing and addressing women's issues.

The Chickasha branch received the prestigious National Five-Star Branch award in 1995. More than 100 members were in the Chickasha branch at that time.

Scholarships have been presented to many non-traditional students attending USAO.

The Chickasha branch has produced many leaders. At least four members or former members have served as the Oklahoma AAUW President. They are Loretta Jackson, Shelli Wasson, Angie Long Lewis and the current President Jeannette Loutsch. Members have also served in other state AAUW offices or as board members; Ann O'Bar served as Diversity Chair in the 1990s.

In recent years, branch membership has drastically dropped, however, a few faithful members are keeping the branch alive, and with it the memory of all those who have served and sacrificed over the years to make Chickasha a better place for not only women and girls but for all community members and families.

Current Branch President is Betsy Phillips, a graduate of USAO, and a History teacher at the Chickasha Middle School.

Submitted by Angie Long Lewis

Duncan, From Page 2

The Duncan Branch is selling 2021 calendars featuring the photography of Martha Burger, Duncan branch member. Each month features a beautiful picture of a flower; featured flowers include Dinner Plate Dahlia, Anthurium, Love Song Rose, Molineux Rose, and Snow on the Mountain (all grown in Oklahoma!). Each calendar is \$15 (plus \$3 shipping if mailed). Every calendar sold to an AAUW member, Martha returns \$6 to the local Duncan branch to be used for scholarships. For several years, the Duncan branch has donated the money to the SAGE/STEAM camp in Weatherford. If you buy 5 or more calendars, the price goes to \$12 and \$5 is returned to the branch. The calendar is in a plastic stand. Please contact Martha Burger for ordering information, mburger@cablone.net.



The collaboration between Martha Burger and Sammie King presents 15 months of gorgeous 6 x 4 flower photographs featured in a landscape format desktop calendar.

Martha L. Burger Photography
proudly presents the 9th Calendar in a series of
artistic flower desk calendars!

NCCWSL, From Page 1

Application deadline is Friday, March 26, 2021 11:59 PM CST. Please share this link to the online form (http://swosu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cASrpajDLY3NwJU) in your publications and online posts, as well as with AAUW student branches and other potential interested students. Students will be notified of AAUW/OK scholarships by April 15. For more information, contact Dr. Jeannette Loutsch, AAUW/OK State President, at jloutsch@usao.edu

Fun tidbit on NCCWSL: In 2019, the conference was attended by 800 students from over 300 colleges and 48 states!

Membership

AAUW/OK branches are doing a great job in membership during this challenging year. As of January 30, 2021, the state membership count in Oklahoma is 108 from the 8 branches. This is only slightly lower than last year's final state member number of 120. This is quite an accomplishment considering the challenges of the past year with COVID-19 and in-person meetings changing to virtual meetings.

Chickasha, Duncan, Durant, Edmond, and Tulsa branches are recognized for only having one member each not renewed based on the Membership Services Database (MSD) at the end of January. Kudos to Edmond and Tulsa branches, which maintained their membership numbers and each had one new member join. Weatherford is applauded for both having several new members plus previous members re-join, resulting in an increase in their membership numbers.



As we wind down this membership year, know that current, previous, and new members may pay dues as early as March 15 to have it count for the remainder of this year plus the next membership year. AAUW national membership dues are \$59, of which \$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The remaining \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)(4) Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities. Student e-membership dues are \$18.81, of which \$16.81 is tax deductible. AAUW national life membership is \$1,180 and is fully tax deductible.

Use AAUW programs as you recruit new members. **Shape the Future Campaign** still 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. Note that the Give a Grad a Gift program is no longer active. For more information, go to: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/shape-the-future-campaign/>.

In addition, AAUW Oklahoma is creating a membership document that will include national and state information, as well as room for branches to personalize it. This will become available by mid-July, so that it may be used during branch events and recruiting activities.

To share membership ideas or for additional assistance, contact AAUW/OK Membership VP, Lisa Appeddu, at li-sa.appeddu@swosu.edu or (580) 822-4527, or State Treasurer, Faye Henson, at epita@cebridge.net.

AAUW/OK State Board, 2020-2022**President**

Jeannette Loutsch
Chickasha, OK

jloutsch@usao.edu

President-Elect

Lori Gwyn

2601 Harvest Dr.
Weatherford, OK 73096-2437

lori.gwyn@swosu.edu

580-302-3815

Program Vice President

Open

Membership Vice President

Lisa Appeddu

911 Sherwood Street
Weatherford, OK 73096

lisa.appeddu@swosu.edu

c 405-760-2539

b 580-774-3148

Finance Officer

Faye Henson

P.O. Box 535
Weatherford, OK 73096

epita@cebridge.net

c 580-330-2015

b 580-772-5984

Recording Secretary

Linda Brooks

Tulsa, OK

lshbrooks@yahoo.com

AAUW Funds

Diana Campo
Edmond Branch

dianamcampo256@gmail.com

Bylaws/Parliamentarian

Jeanna Wing

17235 Limbsey Lane
Tahlequah, OK 74464-1205

wingjc@nsuok.edu

918-822-4527

College/University Relations

Yajayra Perez

Weatherford, OK

yajayra@okstate.edu

Diversity Co-Chair

Carol Erikson

1117 Flynn St.
Alva, OK 73717-2043

cperikson@sbcglobal.net

580-327-1905

Diversity Co-Chair

Kelsey Hull

Alva, OK

kelsey.m.hull@gmail.com

International Affairs

Cyndi Crook

Duncan, OK

cyndi.crook@drhhealth.org

Legal Advocacy Fund

Open

Midwest Regional Meeting

The meeting was held virtually on January 30, 2021; Shelli Wasson, Diana Campo, and Lisa Appeddu attended. There were 97 participants from 11 states; the table (below) shows number of members in each state. Minnesota was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled state board meeting.

Midwest Regional, 2021		
State	Branches	Members
Wisconsin	40	2,800
Michigan	32	1,875
Texas	30	1,500
Wisconsin	25	1,505
Iowa	21	545
Missouri	17	545
Indiana	13	549
Oklahoma	8	108
Kansas	5	250
Arkansas	5	150
Nebraska	2	95
Total	198	9,922

AAUW CEO Kim Churches spoke on these topics:

- How AAUW will be moving forward with the new Biden-Harris Administration and what our immediate focus should be in that regard.
- The proposed bylaws amendment, public policy priorities, and AAUW's strategic plan 2.0
- Links from Ms. Churches' presentation are below.

Our Biden-Harris wish list from AAUW: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/our-equity-wish-list-for-the-new-administration/>

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/the-historic-diversity-of-2021s-incoming-leadership/>

Here is the AAUW DEI (diversity equity inclusion) toolkit: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

Here is a toolkit from the Board and Racial Equity & Justice Working Group on why they 100% support opening up membership and removing the educational requirement: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

Information from Break-out Sessions:

- Diversity -- focus to change the diversity and inclusion within our membership (besides looking what we can do outside)
- Policy -- become involved locally to have influence / need women to run for office
- Program Chairs -- planning virtual state meetings (recognizing the challenge of sitting in front of screens too long -- combine speakers and breakout rooms?)
- Fundraising challenge -- Making people understand that it is important to donate to Greatest Needs.
- C/U members -- ask National to send to C/U reps what goes to the institutions (so know what is being said/ marketed) -- \$175 membership fee / Should NCCWSL be virtual in the future? pro's and con's / e-memberships available, but no longer "give a grad a gift".

AAUW/OK State Board, 2020-2022

Newsletter Editor

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

Public Policy

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

Web Manager

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

AAUW National Representative

AAUW Equity Wish List

- COVID Relief
- Women's Economic Security
 - Pay equity
 - Minimum Wage
 - Fair scheduling
 - Childcare Access
 - Workplace Harassment
- Educational Equity
 - Title IX
 - STEM
 - Student Loan Debt



How to Reach AAUW

Phone: (202) 785-7700
Fax: (202) 872-1425
TDD: (202) 785-7777
E-mail: connect@aauw.org

Customer Service
800-326-AAUW (2289)

National Website

www.aauw.org

The Midwest Regional was coordinated by Jan Van Gasse

AAUW of Michigan President, janicevangasse@gmail.com.

Michigan's Fundrasier — Notecards <https://aauwmfundraising.square.site/>

From the website: "Note Card Fundraiser, 2021, is featuring the works of Meneese Wall, an American artist whose work inspires reflections, conversation and action. These note cards are of high-quality stock and print. Each card is 5"x7" and contains, not only a colorful print of Wall's original artwork, but also a detailed description of the history behind the depiction on the cover. Each card comes with an envelope and is wrapped to preserve the card. All cards are blank. Please help support our fundraiser by purchasing cards that speak to your passions".

[Editor's note: On the website, you can enlarge the pictures so you can read the history. There are cards for Eleanor Roosevelt, Kamala Harris, Greta Thornberg, MKL, etc. The themed note card sets include: Equality Seekers, Pandemic Perspective, Global Contemporary (S)heroes, Save Our Planet, etc. Individual cards are \$5/ea and packs of themed cards are 10 cards for \$50. One or two of these cards would make a nice gift or stocking stuffer; you could put the card on a small easel to enjoy it yourself!]



AAUW/OK

Shelli Wasson, Newsletter Editor

2533 NW 58th Place

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

CALENDAR

- February 10 Voting begins on AAUW Art Contest
- February 28 NCCWSL Early Bird Closes
- March 3 Voting ends on AAUW Art Contest
- March 26 NCCWSL Scholarship from AAUW/OK Closes
- April 7 Voting Opens on Bylaws
- May 17 Voting Closes on Bylaws 5:00 PM ET
- May 25-26 NCCWSL Virtual Convention

State Website:

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



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

Donations are tax deductible.

Tax ID#: 52-6037388

