

June 2023

Volume 34 Issue 1

## President's Message



Lori Gwyn

### State Leadership Meeting

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Dear Fellow AAUW/OK members,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we continue to work together towards advancing gender equity and empowering women and girls in our community, I am thrilled to say "hello" to you all in this special edition newsletter and to have a serious discussion about **advocacy**.

Advocacy lies at the heart of our mission as members of AAUW driving meaningful change for a fairer society. Recent challenges only reinforce its importance. We must stand up for women's and girls' rights in all aspects of life. Advocacy has fueled transformative social movements, from suffrage to civil rights. Our work encompasses raising awareness, lobbying for policy changes, and dismantling barriers. I encourage you to engage with elected representatives, attend town halls, and join grassroots campaigns. Let us leverage the power of social media and other digital platforms to amplify our advocacy efforts. Share articles, videos, and stories that highlight the experiences and achievements of women and girls. Use these platforms to engage in respectful and constructive dialogue with others, fostering a sense of understanding and empathy. Together, let's challenge biases, foster empathy, and create inclusive environments where everyone thrives. **Your voice matters**, and by making it heard, you are not only advocating for yourself but also for countless others who may not have the same opportunities.

Remember that advocacy is not a one-time event; it is an ongoing commitment. It requires persistence, resilience, and collaboration. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of women and girls across Oklahoma and beyond. I invite you all to attend our upcoming State Leadership Meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City: **Inspire Change!** We have an exciting slate of inspirational speakers, and you can make your voice heard by voting for next year's officers and letting us know what issues are important to you as we enter a new membership year. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and unwavering support of the AAUW mission. Together, let us stand strong, advocate fiercely, and pave the way for a brighter and more equitable future.

In solidarity,  
Lori Gwyn  
AAUW/OK President  
lorigwyn@gmail.com



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# INSPIRE CHANGE

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**JULY 29TH 2023**

Register by July 17th!  
<https://tinyurl.com/AAUWandOK>



# Inspire Change!

## Summer Leadership Conference

### Convention Details

Location: Mary Nichols Family Leadership Center  
6100 N Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Conference time: 10 AM to 4 PM  
AAUW Board Meeting: 4:30 PM-6:00 PM

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/AAUWandOK>

Cost:  
\$50 per person registration fee for AAUW members, friends, and supporters  
\$40 per college student (must be currently enrolled in an Associate's, Bachelor's, or Graduate program)

All participants will receive a Convention T-shirt!  
T-shirts come in v-neck or round-neck, sizes (S to 3XL).  
**Make sure to register by July 17<sup>th</sup> so your t-shirt will be ready.**

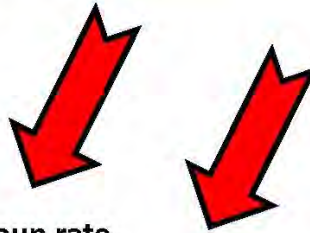
Need a place to stay?

Link to hotel for group rate--

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=OKCNB&checkInDate=28&checkInMonthYear=062023&checkOutDate=29&checkOutMonthYear=062023&PMID=99801505&GPC=AAU&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

Holiday Inn & Suites, Oklahoma City North  
6200 N Robinson Ave  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
Ph: 405-286-4777

**Let them know you're with AAUW/OK.**  
**Cut-off date is July 13 for the guaranteed group rate.**





## Featured Speakers



### **Anne Roberts, Nonprofit Consultant**

Anne Roberts is a life-long advocate for the health and well-being of children and youth, having served for 20 years as CEO for the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, followed by 10 years at INTEGRIS Health as Director of Legislative Affairs. In these roles, she was a registered lobbyist, and worked with state and national policy makers to advance positive changes for Oklahoma families.

Now retired, she provides consulting services to a number of non-profit organizations. She has been a gubernatorial and legislative appointee to a variety of state-wide entities, including the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Governor's Task Force on Workforce Development. In 2000, she was named National Child Advocate of the Year by Voices for America's Children, and was honored with the 2018 Visions Award by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits for her achievements in nonprofit advocacy and leadership.

Anne received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in music from the University of Oklahoma, and studied opera in Europe. She has enjoyed a long and diverse career as an accomplished singer of opera, musical theater, jazz and oratorio, and still maintains an active performance schedule. She is also a certified yoga instructor and an avid hiker. Anne's major volunteer activity is leading week-long excursions in the great outdoors.

### **Veronica Riera-Gilley PharmD, BCGP, CFMP**

#### **Changing Your Health Destiny**



Dr. Veronica Riera-Gilley (she/her) is a holistic pharmacist, Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (BCGP), Certified Functional Medicine Practitioner (CFMP), and Certified Yoga Instructor (CYT-200) who is passionate about maximizing health with minimal medication. She is a nationally recognized speaker and creator of educational programs for healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers. She is the visionary behind Prairie Fire Pharmacy Consulting, a company committed to promoting healthy living, aging, and dying. Her professional affiliations include The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) where she serves as co-host of the ASCP podcast, SeniorRx Radio, and the Functional Medicine Pharmacists Alliance (FMPhA). She is a faculty member at Evidence in Motion, the leader in hybrid healthcare education, and a member of the Leadership Team at Pharm to Table, the first group of functional medicine pharmacist consultants offering

care through telehealth. Dr. Riera-Gilley earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy. She resides in North Texas with her husband, two children, two rescue dogs and a small flock of city chickens.

### **Convention Abbreviated Schedule**

9:30 AM	Registration/Coffee & Pastries
10:00 AM	Welcome—AAUW/OK President, Dr. Lori Gwyn
10:15 AM	Anne Roberts
10:45 AM	Break and Silent Auction bidding
11:00 AM	Dr. Veronica Riera
11:45 AM	Lunch, Networking, and Silent Auction bidding
12:45 PM	Banned Books discussion
1:30 PM	Break and Silent Auction bidding
1:45 PM	AAUW Panel—News from branches, signature projects (Past Essay winner, SAGE STEAM campers, Hall of Honor honoree, others)
2:30 PM	Break and Silent Auction bidding
2:45 PM	Advocacy—Call to Action
3:00 PM	Afternoon Business Session and Installation of Officers
3:45 PM	Silent Auction Winners
4:00 PM	Adjournment
4:30 PM	State AAUW Board Meeting

### **AAUW Swag**

Interested in AAUW/OK Swag? Check out the Convention registration site!

**MAIL-IN BALLOT OF THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2023—2024**

The following is the Slate of Officers for AAUW/OK who will serve during 2023—2024, if elected:

*Incoming President (will serve as President for the 2023 – 2024 term):* **Faye Henson — Weatherford Branch**

*President Elect (will serve as President for 2024 – 2026 term):* **Lisa Appeddu — Weatherford Branch**

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

*Vice President of Membership:* **Jeanna Wing – Tahlequah Branch**

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

*Finance Officer:* **Angie Lewis — Chickasha Branch**

This Slate of Officers is presented by the 2023 Nominating Committee: Chair, Jeanna Wing, Tahlequah branch; District 1 (Tulsa): Pam McDonald; District 2 (Durant and Tahlequah) Jeanna Wing; District 3 (Alva and Weatherford) Carol Erickson; District 4 (Chickasha and Duncan): Dianna Morgan; District 5 (Edmond): Diana Campo.

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):**

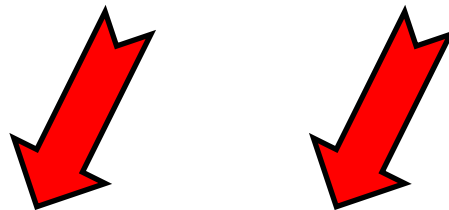
**Yes, I approve this slate of officers**     **No, I do not approve this slate of officers**

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

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

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

Jeanna Wing  
17235 N Limbsey Ln  
Tahlequah, OK 74464-1205



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

**DEADLINE:** MAIL-IN BALLOT OR ELECTRONIC VOTE MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 24, 2023

**Questions:** Contact [Jeanna Wing, Nominating Committee Chair, wingjc@nsuok.edu](mailto:wingjc@nsuok.edu)

## State Officer Biographies in Order of Ballot

*Incoming President (will serve as President for 2023-2024)*

### **Faye Henson — Weatherford Branch**

**Faye is from Shattuck, OK. – graduating in 1970.**

**Education:** Bachelor of Science ('73) and Master in Education ('78) degrees from SWOSU, Weatherford.

**Professional Credentials:** While working, Faye maintained her credentials as a Registered Record Administrator (RRA), now known as a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) in 1973, plus a CCS (clinical coding specialist) credential.

**Employment: Currently Retired.** Worked in La Mesa, CA (San Diego area) from 1973 -1975 before returning and working fulltime at SWOSU from 1975 – 2003. Taught as an adjunct faculty member – 2010 – 2012 and 2017 – 2021. From 2008 - 2016, Faye did consulting work in the Health Information Management field with her business Faye Henson, HIM Consulting. From 2018 – 2021, she worked in a part-time position for the U. S. Census Bureau.

**AAUW activities:** (1) Served in leadership position in the Weatherford AAUW branch; (2) Currently Treasurer and Past-President of AAUW/OK (American Association of University Women/Oklahoma),

**Community Activities:** (1) member - Weatherford Environmental Group (WEG) and works to educate about recycling and to organize recycling events in Weatherford; (2) Past-President of the OK Health Information Management Association (OkHIMA); (3) organizing member of the Oklahoma Women's Coalition (OWC); (4) currently serves on the board of the SWOSU Wesley Foundation; (5) active on the local, district and state levels of United Women in Faith; and (6) active on committees at church. Faye stays busy reading, cooking, gardening, singing in the choir and ringing bells plus traveling as time allows.



Faye Henson

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

### **Lisa Appeddu—Weatherford Branch**

Dr. Lisa Appeddu is a Professor of Physiology at the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. Lisa is Chair of the SWOSU Pre-Medical Professions Committee, Co-Chair of the Pharmacy Curriculum Committee, and mentors students in both survey- and lab-based research. Outside SWOSU, Lisa is a member of the Weatherford Rotary Club, supports the Connections Food and Resource Center, and was Past-President (2018 to 2020) for Oklahoma/OK. Lisa has been involved with the SAGE STEAM Camp at SWOSU since its inception as Tech Trek in 2013. She leads camp planning and camp-related activities year-round. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys reading, watching Netflix, and walking her husband and two rescue Shetland sheepdogs.



Lisa Appeddu

To contact Lisa, email [lisa.appeddu@swosu.edu](mailto:lisa.appeddu@swosu.edu), call 580.774.3148, or text 405.760.2539.



## State Officer Biographies in Order of Ballot, continued from page 7

### *Vice President of Programs:*

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

Jeannette M Loutsch, PhD, is a professor of biology at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha, OK. She received her PhD in Pathology from Saint Louis University in 1996 and did a post-doctoral fellowship at Louisiana State University Eye Center of Excellence. She currently teaches many upper-level biology courses to prepare students for graduate and medical school as well as a life science course to train citizen scientists in Interdisciplinary Studies. She spends time out of the classroom gardening, crocheting and other yarn crafts, reading and implementing outreach programs for the children from 5 to 18 years old. She also has 2 puppies – Ponca and Tater Tot and 1 cat – French Fry. Photo is the best selfie I have probably ever taken outside the Surgical Pathology Museum in Edinburgh, Scotland



Jeannette M Loutsch

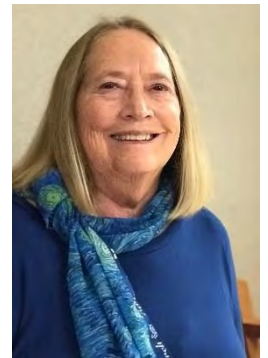
### **Vice President of Membership**

#### **Jeanna Wing – Tahlequah Branch**

“AAUW has been a large part of my life since I first joined in 1983. My first position in the Tahlequah AAUW branch was as branch photographer. After serving several years in various local AAUW branch positions, I was persuaded to attend the AAUW/OK state board meetings and soon was appointed Interim Financial Officer. Since then I have served on many of the AAUW/OK committees and in all the AAUW/OK state elected positions during my 26 years on the state board including one term as AAUW/OK President and one term as AAUW/OK Co-President.

AAUW has given me the opportunity to develop many friendships across the state of Oklahoma and elsewhere with those who share my interest in the AAUW programs that support women and girls through education and equity.

My husband, Gary, has supported me through the years and can usually be seen at AAUW/OK conferences and board meetings. Gary and I have three children and five grandchildren. I am a graduate of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah with a B.S. in Accounting and a B.A. in German.”



Jeanna Wing

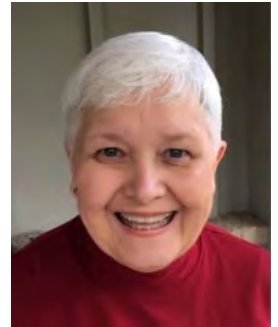


## State Officer Biographies in Order of Ballot, continued from page 8

### Secretary — Linda Brooks

Linda Brooks is Tulsa branch member, and have served in several positions through the years including hospitality, membership, programs, ways and means, and President. Currently, I help with programs. I also facilitate the monthly mystery book club meeting at Barnes and Noble in Tulsa. I am currently serving as AAUW/ OK secretary.

Linda is retired from teaching but still does a little substitute teaching. Also, I am a docent at the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art and Culture. I believe in AAUW's mission for equality and education for all women and girls.



Linda Brooks

### Financial Officer — Angie Lewis

Angie Lewis joined AAUW/Chickasha branch in 1985, soon after graduation from college. For more than 30 years, Angie has filled leadership roles in the Chickasha Branch as president, treasurer, VP of Programs, and VP of Membership.

She has served on the Oklahoma State Board multiple times as Treasurer. Angie has also served as VP of Membership and worked on several committees.

Angie wrote, "AAUW has always been very important to me. I feel that it is where I really learned leadership skills, especially how to run a meeting, work with volunteers, and to plan and organize events. I have put these skills to work in so many areas of my life."



Angie Lewis



## **Branches: Here's What's Happening**

### **Alva**

Carol Erickson said there was nothing to report at this time.

### **Chickasha**

We turned 100 years old in 2020 and have a long history in Chickasha. The Chickasha branch sponsored the first Kindergarten in Chickasha in the 1960's, and up until a few years ago we sponsored the Creative Writing contest in area schools and a Student Art Show. We continue to support the Friends of the Chickasha Public Library through their Annual Chocolate Celebration fundraiser. Today we are few in number, but we continue to be committed to making our world a better place for women and girls.

Submitted by Angie Lewis

### **Duncan**

#### **Year in Review, Duncan branch 2022—2023**

The Duncan branch of AAUW began the 2022/2023 year hosting our annual planning meeting at the Duncan Library.

In October, we hosted a networking wine and appetizer event at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. The event was open to all women in Stephens County and we were pleased to have over thirty members and guests in attendance.

Our November meeting focused on the assembling of our chicken noodle soup packets. We sell these soup packets as our main fundraiser to support scholarships and awards for the year. This year we sold over 400 packets of soup mix.

The December meeting was a "Soup and Sweets" luncheon at the Chisholm Trail Arts Council Gallery. It featured our own chicken soup. We invited women, who had attended our October networking event and we are pleased that five women are now joining our branch of AAUW.

Our January, February, and March meetings focused on the planning for our county-wide Forum, which this year was a panel discussion on "Connections -Empowering Women". We also selected three women from Stephens County whom we nominated for the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. In March, some of our members volunteered as judges at the Red River Technology Center Science Fair. Our branch presents a \$100 award to the Outstanding Female Contestant.

In April, we hosted our Forum panel "Connections – Empowering Women" at the Duncan Cameron University campus. Our panel consisted of four successful women from our area, who addressed questions on networking, mentoring, and interviewing. This event was open to the public and we were happy to have around thirty members and guests in attendance.

In May, we presented a gift and plaque to the Duncan High School Outstanding Girl, as selected by the DHS faculty. This is a tradition that the Duncan AAUW branch has performed since the 1920s. Our branch also presented a \$1000 scholarship to a Duncan High School graduating senior girl. We ended this year with a dinner hosted by members of our Branch.

Submitted by Carol Murphy

### **Durant**

The Durant branch was able to successfully host our scholarship fundraiser. The Spring Children's theatre was attended by students from local elementary schools, head starts, and daycare centers. This was the first play we were able to host since Spring 2019 due to the COVID pandemic. We have begun planning for next year's event. Submitted by Darla Ellett

## Edmond

The Edmond branch held the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Girls' Hall of Honor. Each spring, one 7<sup>th</sup> grade girl from each of Edmond's six middle schools is honored for her leadership qualities. At the event at the Edmond Public Library, each girl gives a Power-Point presentation and talks about her contributions to the Edmond community and her school. Each girl makes a poster demonstrating her leadership accomplishments and all the posters are featured in the display case at the Edmond Public Library during the month of March, *Women's History Month*.

The emcee this year was Shelli Wasson, branch president. Pat Snodgrass introduced the Mayor of Edmond, Darrell A. Davis, and he presented each girl with a personalized Proclamation from the City of Edmond. Jo Ann Bullard read an essay written by branch member Megan Eisle who formerly was a middle school math teacher, titled "*Girls and Math*" (Megan now lives in the Pacific Northwest working on her PhD).

Diana Campo spoke about items contained in the gift bags, including the book, *Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World* by Rachel Ignatofsky. The AAUW Certificate of Excellence was also presented to each girl (certificates were made by Diane Chapel and the AAUW seal was affixed by her husband). A reception followed and Lynn Wiley assisted with the refreshments.

More than 80 friends and family members attended. The mayor met with parents and families after the presentations. This year teachers, media directors, administrators, and one principal from Edmond Public Schools attended showing their support for this AAUW program and the students honored. Middle school librarians liaised with teachers to nominate outstanding girls and to date more than 200 girls have been nominated. Erma Stewart, former Memorial High School librarian and longtime Edmond branch member, developed this program for AAUW branches to honor and build self-esteem and confidence in 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. She is willing to consult with other AAUW branches looking to start this valuable program in their community.

The Edmond branch is looking forward this summer to their "Movie Afternoon Fundraiser". Jo Ann Bullard will host the branch at her home for pizza and watching a movie together. Members donate (if they so choose) what they would have spent going out for pizza and a movie. Easy way to raise funds for the branch and a fun social time!

Submitted by Shelli Wasson



Members of the Edmond branch attending the Girls' Hall of Honor: (l to r) Jo Ann Bullard, Diane Chapel, Lynn Wiley, Pat Snodgrass, Mayor Darrell A. Davis, Erma Stewart, Diana Campo, Shelli Wasson.



Mayor Darrell A. Davis (center) and the 2023 awardees at the 8th Annual Girls' Hall of Honor.



### Tahlequah

The Tahlequah branch held a "Woman to Woman" Conference in March 2023 to celebrate Women's History month. Six women panelists at the conference presented on the topics of Chair Yoga, Reiki, "How Life Affects the Body", Health Food, Women's Health, and Tai Chi. There were a variety of display booths. Admission was free and refreshments were provided. Approximately forty women attended the event.

Funds for our Graduate Woman Scholarship were raised through our partnerships with Funds2orgs and Lynch Creek Farms. We collected new and gently worn shoes for Funds2orgs in return for payment per lb. of shoes collected. Proceeds from that fundraiser were \$448.80. Lynch Creek Farms paid our branch a percentage of sales of their products ordered by our AAUW members and supporters. Proceeds from that fundraiser were \$84.39. AAUW Tahlequah will award a \$1,000 Graduate Woman scholarship to an NSU graduate student for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters. Submitted by Jeanna Wing



October 2022  
(l to r) Irene Wickham,  
Meg Watkins,  
Beth Green-Nagel,  
Aletha Rodgers,  
Mayor Sue Catron,  
Jeanna Wing,  
Linda Hardcastle West  
Beth Purdy Cohenour

### Tulsa

In March, the Tulsa branch toured the [GREENWOOD RISING Black Wall Street History Center](#).

Greenwood Rising Black Wall Street History Center allows us to explore the history of Tulsa's historic Greenwood District and connect to the spirit of its Black citizens through an immersive journey that uses projection mapping, holographic effect, and environmental media.

The experience brings to life the memories of the past and the visions of success for the future and catalyzes important dialogue around racial reconciliation and restorative justice.

The movie, "Still We Rise", introduces visitors to the Greenwood District as both a Black business mecca, and the site of racial violence. Created and directed by a Tulsa-based producer, the film features Greenwood community members.



The quote pictured is on the wall of the Greenwood Rising Center



**Tulsa, cont.**

**Challenges of a Librarian in Today’s World**

**Speakers: Jennifer Green**, Librarian at Union Sixth & Seventh Grade Ctr.

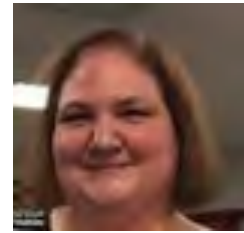
**Gisele McDaniel**, Former Librarian at TCC Northeast Campus

In light of the recent complaints and charges on education and libraries from the Oklahoma Superintendent of Schools, in April the Tulsa branch AAUW invited two librarians to talk to us.

Jennifer Green spoke about her career as a public school librarian and some of the challenges she encountered.

Gisele McDaniel, a member of Tulsa AAUW, served as an academic librarian for 36 years at Tulsa Community College, Northeast Campus. She has been speaking with a librarian at Edison Middle School and passed on some of what she has learned from her. In addition she talked about her time at TCC Gisele is also a member of the Board for Friends of the Tulsa City County Library.

Our program covered the two Tulsa school districts, Union and Tulsa. Members brought a book for the book exchange; this way we recycled some of our



Jennifer Green



Gisele McDaniel

**Holiday Tea, December 2022**



(l — r standing) Jan Graham, Gisele McDaniel, Pam McDonald, Linda Brooks, Kathryn Fisher, Donna Mathews, Jean Eames, Kay Witt  
(l — r seated) Beth Webb, Gwen Hampton, Doris Piatek, Rose Unterschuetz

## Weatherford

Fifty-one students from 26 counties and 38 different schools across Oklahoma graduated from the **fifth anniversary year** of the Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts/Humanities, and Math (SAGE STEAM) Camp on June 16, 2023. When including the five years of Tech Trek from 2013 to 2017, the Weatherford branch has accomplished ten years of camps (taking a one-year hiatus in 2020 for COVID-19) and impacted over 480 girls.



As you know, the SAGE STEAM Camp at SWOSU **integrates the arts and humanities in STEM** with the goal to demonstrate that these careers are interesting, important, and attainable. The camp committee recruits middle school-aged girls who are interested in STEAM, but who have lower potential for STEAM experiences and/or who need that boost of confidence. Therefore, this camp provides a wide variety of hands-on experiences, positive interactions with women mentors, exposure to many career opportunities, and a taste of college life to foster the awareness and self-assurance in Oklahoma students to pursue additional activities, coursework, and futures in STEAM following camp.

AAUW of Oklahoma remains a vital part of this non-profit camp. Donations from branches and members enable camper families to pay \$200 or less of the actual \$1000 cost per camper. Members of the Weatherford branch volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to be part of the STEAM Team which plans and conducts outreach activities year-round. Furthermore, AAUW is featured on the camp t-shirt, in supporter publications, and on the green dorm group's Exponential Growth Award - This award recognizes campers who have blossomed with significant personal and professional growth over the week of camp. Overall, the focus of the SAGE STEAM Camp directly corresponds with AAUW's vision of, "Equity for all."



**For more information:** Become a part of the closed Facebook page by going to "SAGE STEAM Camp at SWOSU" and asking to become a member, or go to <https://linktr.ee/SAGESTEAM> or use the QR code.

*And, attend the state meeting this summer to meet previous and current campers!*



## SAGE STEAM Camp Pictures



2023 campers, counselors, and STEAM Team members.



Chloe Rawlins (middle) from Tyrone Public Schools received the AAUW Exponential Growth Award for the “Green Goblins” dorm group. She is accompanied by Weatherford branch and STEAM Team members Lori Gwyn (left) and Lisa Appeddu (right).





# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS *together!*

## AAUW Central States Regional Conference

October 19-21, 2023 • St. Louis, Missouri  
 Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch



**Gloria Blackwell**  
 CEO of AAUW  
 Keynote Speaker



**Lisa Maatz**  
 Public Policy &  
 Organizational Consultant  
 Keynote Speaker

*Featuring*

### Plenary and breakout topics:

- Voting Rights and Issues
- Reproductive Rights and Women's Health
- Equity and Inclusion
- Succession Planning and Leadership
- Women's Economic Security • Pay Equity
- AAUW and The Future!



Full conference details at [aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://aauw-mo.aauw.net)

**ADVOCATING UNDER THE ARCH**



## AAUW/OK State Board, 2022-2023

### President

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### International Affairs—Open

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## Oklahoma Women's Coalition, 2008—2023

### Coalition History

Four determined women came together in 2007 with the common vision of a statewide women's coalition that would unite individuals and organizations as one powerful voice to initiate positive change for Oklahoma's women and girls. Dr. Jean Warner, Donna Lawrence, Jan Peery, and Pat Posts had

long seen the need for an organized voice for women and girls. The women approached the Oklahoma Legislative Coalition, a group of women's organizations that had jointly sponsored an Annual Day at the Capitol for more than 20 years. Member organizations voted to join the effort and direct their focus on policies and issues related to Oklahoma women and girls.

The Oklahoma Women's Coalition (OWC) was founded in 2008. Faye Henson, Weatherford branch, was the OWC Founding Treasurer and the American Association of University Women/Oklahoma was a Founding Organization. Other Founding Organizations included Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; YWCA Tulsa; Business and Professional Women; League of Women Voters of Oklahoma; Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma; YWCA Oklahoma City; Girl Scouts—Western Oklahoma, Inc; and the Oklahoma Nurses Association.

The mission of the Oklahoma Women's Coalition was "to advance the potential of Oklahoma women and girls". The vision was to "secure legislation and policies that benefit women and girls by disseminating information on programs and issues that limit or enrich their lives".

The Oklahoma Women's Coalition was a statewide network of individuals and organizations working together to improve the lives of women and girls through education and advocacy. The Coalition promoted nonpartisan efforts, speaking with one voice, while addressing issues important to the progress of Oklahoma's women and girls. "

OWC sponsored an "Advocacy Day at the Capitol and Issues Forum" for many years. Several years ago, AAUW/OK President Lisa Appeddu hosted the AAUW booth at the state capitol handing out AAUW materials. Gary and Jeanna Wing spoke with their legislator about issues while Diana Campo and Shelli Wasson gave office staff information provided by the OWC on current bills before the legislature that affected women and girls. Many AAUW members from across Oklahoma have taken part in Advocacy Day.

AAUW/OK had several Summer Leadership Meetings and board meetings at the OWC headquarters located at the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits on Wilshire Ave.

Shelli Wasson, Edmond branch, was a member of the Board of Directors 2010-2012. Any other AAUW members that were on the OWC Board of Directors should contact Shelli Wasson so this information can be included in the archives.

All money remaining in the OWC accounts has been distributed to a nonprofit entity that closely held the Coalition's values and purpose.

Information taken from Shelli Wasson's OWC Board Manual 2010-11; email with Faye Henson.



AAUW/OK

Shelli Wasson, Newsletter Editor  
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### CALENDAR

State Leadership Meeting (registration on page 3)  
July 29, 2023, Oklahoma City, OK

Central States Regional Conference (information on page 16)  
October 19-21, 2023, St. Louis, MO

**Important Dates in Women’s History:**

- ◆ May 29, 2023  
172<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Sojourner Truth’s Speech “Ain’t I a Woman”
- ◆ December 10, 2023  
154<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the First Women’s Suffrage law in the U.S. (in Wyoming territory)

**State Website:**

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



**Important Date:**

July 19-20, 2023  
175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Seneca Falls Convention

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