



President's Message

Greetings Fellow AAUW/OK members,

As we head toward the heat of summer, I hope this newsletter finds you well. As you may know, I served as (Co)Director for Tech Trek at SWOSU from 2013 to 2017, which then became SAGE STEAM from 2018 to present (with a gap year in summer 2020). We are pausing SAGE STEAM Camp, having served over 550 Oklahoma girls in 11 camps. As a tribute, this message shares the origins and inspiration behind AAUW Tech Trek in Oklahoma and, afterwards, SAGE STEAM.

The Weatherford branch is historically associated with Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and, in 2012, several of us were STEM faculty. At the August back-to-school meeting, I shared information with the branch about AAUW's plan to expand Tech Trek STEM camps for middle school girls outside of California. We all thought, ***we could do that!***, so the branch applied for one of five \$10,000 grants.

Much to our surprise, we were selected. So, we (naively) dove into the logistics of running a STEM camp. We also had the honor of working with Tech Trek founder, Marie Wolbach (pictured second from left in photo below, with Weatherford branch members Andrea Holgado, myself, and Lori Gwyn). Marie started Tech Trek because of her own challenges – while she had been an excellent student, she was discouraged from becoming a physician solely because she was female. Therefore, Marie took on the more traditional role of being a nurse and raising a family. However, the more she worked in medicine, the more she realized, ***I could have done that!*** So, she created the Tech Trek program at Stanford University in 1998, enabling girls to have positive STEM experiences, become comfortable on a college campus, and to gain the confidence needed to go on to pursue their STEM dreams.

For me, Weatherford's "camp origins" story is tied to my mother, who had passed away in 2012. For me, conducting camp enabled me to honor her memory. It was not under after her death that I learned she had been earning a business degree when she met my father. So, she changed her career trajectory to take on more traditional roles of being an educator and housewife. However, my mother never gave up her management dream – ten years after starting a family, she went back to school to earn a master's degree in library science while still working as a teacher. I remember how she cooked, cleaned, paid the bills, herded kids, and even mowed the lawn when my dad was "busy with (his) work." She graded papers and pursued her own interests late at night. Ultimately, my mom achieved her career goals via becoming the lead high school librarian in inner city Toledo, managing library activities, assistants, and a budget. In this role, she encouraged students to earn their high school degree and to use education to achieve their dreams. Furthermore, through the local Alpha Xi Delta chapter, she provided scholarships to future teachers. To me, she exemplifies the phrase, ***I did do that!***

Through camp, I realized my mom instilled in me that ***can-do spirit*** and ***value for education***. I am sure many of you have memories, whether about your mother, a friend, or even yourself. I encourage you to reflect on and record your origins story – these personal histories made us who we are, plus inspire the future for women.



Lisa Appeddu

JUNE 2025 VOLUME 36 ISSUE 1

AAUW National Highlights

New 2025 Strategic Plan
Branch survey (Due June 30)
Leader Resources & Tools
Review of National Dues increases
New Funding Categories
NCWSSL under new management

2024-2025 AAUW/OK Events

2024 State Meeting in Chickasha
2025 Virtual Leadership Meeting
(with links to watch)
Items from June 2 Board Meeting
Upcoming Board Meeting: Aug. 4

2024-2025 Branch Activities

Alva – Nothing to report
Chickasha – See State Meeting
Durant – Scholarship Fundraiser
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State Contacts

AAUW/OK State Board members
AAUW/OK Branch Presidents



AAUW National Highlights



- **New 2025 Strategic Plan** – AAUW stands for economic security, education, and equity. Based on those values, updated priorities for AAUW include:
 1. **Expanding Access to Higher Education:** Providing funding for women in underserved communities and underrepresented fields, such as STEM, to promote economic security and upward mobility.
 2. **Advocating for Inclusive Policies:** Championing legislation that supports women's success in higher education and the workplace, including pay equity, paid family and medical leave, and robust workplace harassment protections.
 3. **Strengthening AAUW's Reach:** Supporting local, state and branch efforts and maximizing AAUW's financial and operational strength to build a movement of champions for gender equity.

To view an informational video and more details, visit: <https://www.aauw.org/about/strategic-plan-2025/>

- **Branch Survey** – As part of #3 of the new Strategic Plan, AAUW encourages 100% of the 110 branches to complete the Annual Branch Survey – **deadline June 30, 2025**. Not only does this allow your branch to earn **Five Star Program** recognition (see: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/5-star-program/>), but also survey completion enables branches to share their needs and concerns with AAUW. Note: There is a link to the branch survey on the Five Star Program webpage.
- **Leader Resources & Tools** – To support mission-based programming and advancement activities (such fundraising and member recruitment/retention) at the state and branch levels, AAUW created links to many resources and tools. In addition, AAUW offers weekly virtual Office Hours sessions. Link to these items: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/>
See AAUW press releases, policy updates, and news: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/>
- **Review of National Dues Increases** – Remember the \$2 increases in National AAUW dues. This means that National member dues are \$74 as of April 1, 2025, and will increase again to \$76 on April 1, 2026. Add on the \$10 AAUW Oklahoma state dues and your local branch dues. Dues are \$1,480 for Lifetime membership. As an undergraduate at an AAUW College/University partner, such as Cameron, USAO, NSU, and UCO, students can join at no cost as an e-student affiliate member. Otherwise, dues are \$18.81 for student members. National dues are fully tax-deductible.

Also remember that dues are on an individual annual cycle. Therefore, if you (re)joined AAUW in May 2024, your dues should have been renewed in May 2025 and will be good through May 2026. More information about AAUW dues and these changes can be found here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/membership-dues-change-talking-points/>

- **New Funding Categories** – Along with the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (comprised of unrestricted gifts which can be used for AAUW programs and projects when and where they are most needed), supporters can now specifically direct their donations to the **Defend Higher Education Fund** and to the **Public Policy Fund**. Go to: <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail>
- **NCCWSL under new management** – In 2025, the NCCWSL was conducted from May 28 to 30 in College Park, MD, for the first time by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). See: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/>



2024-2025 AAUW/OK Events – 2024 State Meeting in Chickasha – August 10, 2024

Top Row Photos, left to right: Chair Yoga presented by Tiffany McDaniels, Oklahoma Yoga instructor; Financial Literacy shared by Tina Herndon, Tinker Financial Credit Union; and AAUW member Faye Henson bidding on one of ten Silent Auction baskets, which raised \$407 for to support branch activities.

Bottom Row Photos, left to right: The Role of Matriarchs of Heritage presented by Kyra Hornbuckle, Choctaw descendant; Diversity in Postsecondary Education Keynote Address by Tarrah Kinney, USAO Associate Director of the Neill-Wint Center for Neurodiversity; 2024 Edmond Girls' Hall of Honor Display. Not shown: Zoom presentation by Mehr Manzoor on gender inequalities in global health.



AAUW/OK State Nominating Committee for 2024-2026: The following individuals were selected by their districts at the meeting:

- i. District 1 - Tulsa: Rose Unterschuetz, alternate is Gwen Hampton
- ii. District 2 - Weatherford: Faye Henson, alternate is Open
- iii. District 3 – Alva: Carol Erikson, alternate is Mary Ann Evans
- iv. District 4 – Edmond: Shelli Wasson, alternate is Diana Campo
- v. District 5 – Chickasha/Durant: Angie Lewis, alternate is Jeannette Loutsch

AAUW/OK State Meeting Finances:

Income: \$1300 Registrations + \$250 Scarf Sales

Expenses: \$1061.56 Food and Facility Fees

Net Gain: \$488.44 (or \$238.44 less Scarf Sales)

Dr. Kayla Hale, USAO's 13th President, shared words of welcome and expressed her gratitude for the work AAUW has done over the years to advocate for women and girls. She returned to swear in the 2024-2026 AAUW/OK elected officers. USAO was initially established as a higher education institution for women in Oklahoma.

Left Photo below: Dr. Kayla Hale (right) institutes Angie Lewis (left) as AAUW/OK Finance Officer.

Right Photo below (left to right): AAUW/OK officers Vicky Escoe (Recording Secretary, Tulsa branch), Angie Lewis (Finance Office, Chickasha branch), Jeanna Wing (Membership VP, Tahlequah branch), Jeannette Loutsch (President-Elect, Chickasha branch), and Lisa Appeddu (President, Weatherford branch).

Bottom: Chocolate Chip Cookie recipe: Cooked by Jeannette Loutsch (state book club facilitator).



Lessons in Chemistry Chocolate Chip Cookies

Procedure

Materials Needed*

3 cup gluten of finely ground, bromated, unbleached hard and soft seeds of *Triticum aestivum*

2 tsp NaHCO_3

2 tsp refined halite

1 cup partially hydrogenated tallow triglyceride

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup crystalline $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$

1 cup unrefined $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$

2 tsp methyl ether of protocatechuic aldehyde

2 calcium carbonate-encapsulated avian albumen-coated protein

2 cups theobroma cacao

**All reactants should be at room temperature.

1. Preheat oven to 350°C .
2. To a 2-liter bowl, add hydrogenated tallow triglyceride, and unrefined and refined $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$. Mix until a homogeneous mixture is obtained.
3. Add calcium carbonate-encapsulated avian albumen-coated protein once removed from coating and methyl ether of protocatechuic aldehyde to the above mixture. Stir until well blended.
4. Add the first 3 dry reactants to the wet reactants in the 2-liter bowl. Slowly stir until well blended.
5. Add the Theobroma cacao and mix well.
6. Place appropriate number of balls on a cookie sheet.
7. Place the cookie sheet into the oven set at 350°C .
8. Bake for 10 minutes.
9. Carefully remove from oven using a hot mitt. Place on a heat-protected surface and allow to come to room temperature.



Shout out to Jeannette Loutsch, AAUW/OK board members, USAO, and Chickasha branch for hosting a wonderful state meeting – which included Axe throwing on the night before!

2024-2025 AAUW/OK Events – 2025 Virtual Leadership Meeting (with links to watch)

- **Monday, March 3, 12:10 to 12:50 PM:** Malinda Gaul, Co-President of AAUW/TX and former National AAUW Board member, discussed the Five Star Program and how it can guide branch activities in supporting AAUW's mission.

To stay up-to-date on AAUW activities and to be more involved, Malinda recommends reading AAUW Membership Matters, watching AAUW webinars, and reviewing AAUW news releases.

Malinda can be contacted at mgaul@satx.rr.com

To view this recorded presentation, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsNPxAwa1o>



AAUW OK Virtual Leadership Session 3/3/25 -- Five Star Program

- **Monday, March 10, 12:10 to 12:50 PM:** Dr. Sunu Kodumthara, Professor of History in the Department of Social Sciences from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), used the history of Kate Barnard, the first woman elected as a state official in Oklahoma, to relay key takeaways for successful activism and engagement in politics:

1. **Pick your issue** – you need to be passionate about it!
2. **Be willing to hear other voices** – this includes to listen to both sides, and “never be the smartest person in the room.”
3. **Define what you can do** – you can’t do it all, so focus on involvement within your wheelhouse.
4. **Be ready for the long haul** – Know that change takes time and expect setbacks.

A Life on Fire by Connie Cronley is a biography about Kate Barnard's life.

Link to Dr. Kodumthara's presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzPV1oOlm6U>



- **Monday, March 17, 7 to 8 PM:** Dr. Jeannette Loutsch, Professor of Biology at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO), led a virtual “book club” discussion of *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts. This book explores how a family's life experiences contributed to the story of “The Wizard of Oz” from Maud Baum's perspective.

View the discussion:

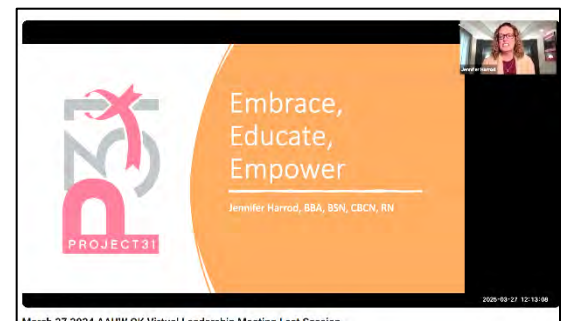
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyxdE5Zl3iQ>




- **Thursday, March 27, 12:10 to 12:50 PM:** Jennifer Harrod, Breast Nurse Navigator for Project 31, shared her personal journey with breast cancer and why it is better to not to go through it alone. P31, an Oklahoma-based, non-profit organization, provides individual guidance, as well as organizes support groups, across the state.

See the next page for more information on P31.

Link to Jennifer Harrod's presentation on P31: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF2BZJ-Jifs>





ABOUT US

Project31 is a group of survivors trained in mentoring other survivors. We are a faith-based nonprofit with leadership team of 24 located throughout the state, here to be a support system for you AND your family. We welcome you to contact us anytime. Below is an overview of the ways you can get involved and find support no matter where you live or where you were diagnosed.

TWICE-MONTHLY ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS

On the 1st Tuesday of each month, we watch our "Staring Cancer in the Faith" curriculum together, addressing the hard conversations about cancer.

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, we feature a variety of guest speakers, including medical professionals, therapists, doctors, survivors, etc., who will provide valuable information. Some weeks, we have open discussions. You can join in and participate to whatever extend you want and whatever comfort level is best for YOU. Meetings are from 6:30-7:30 PM.

TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST AND/OR TO JOIN THE ONLINE GROUPS, CONTACT SALLY@PROJECT31.COM OR DEBY@PROJECT31.COM

MONTHLY IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUPS - OKLAHOMA CITY

1st Friday of each month: morning meeting, 9:00 AM at Stephenson Cancer Center, 800 NE 10th St, 5th Floor, Suite 5058.

For details, contact Venita Hoover: venita.hoover@yahoo.com.

2nd Thursday of each month: Norman meeting: 6:30 PM at The Oklahoma Breast Center @ Norman Regional Health System, 3440 RC Luttrell Dr., Room 103. For details, contact Krista Price: kristaprice486@gmail.com

4th Thursday of each month: north.OKC/Edmond meeting; 6:30 PM at Mercy Coletta, 4401 McAuley Blvd., 1st floor, room 1410.

For details, contact sally@project31.com

MONTHLY IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP - ENID

4th Tuesday of each month: 6:30 PM at Grace Place, 802 S. Cleveland.

For details, contact Karen Boardman: kboardman.coe@gmail.com.

MONTHLY IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP - TULSA

2nd Thursday of each month: 6:00 PM at St.Francis Cancer Center, 11212 E. 48th.

For details, contact Leslie Ireland: hellonurse2009@yahoo.com.

MONTHLY IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP - ARDMORE

2nd Thursday of each month: 6:00 PM at Ardmore American Red Cross building, 1006 NW Blvd.

For details, contact becki@project31.com.

MONTHLY IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP - STILLWATER

3rd Thursday of each month: 6:30 PM at Stillwater Cancer Center, 1201 W. 6th Ave.

For details, contact Melinda Wilson melindajwilson@gmail.com



Join our private Facebook page to connect and share with other survivors.
PROJECT31 SURVIVORS COMMUNITY



Check out our podcast and YouTube channel called
PINK RIBBON ROLLER COASTER



HERE FOR THE SCARS BREAST CANCER LEAVES ON YOUR HEART
project31.com

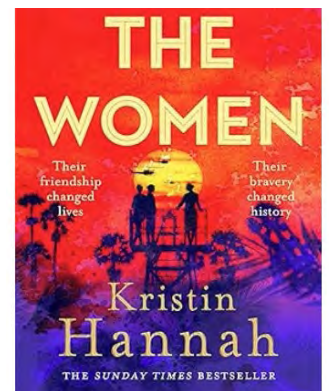
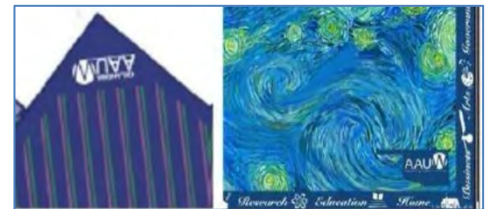
2024-2025 AAUW/OK – Items from June 2, 2025, Board Meeting

- **Membership update:** Membership VP Jeanna Wing reported the total AAUW members in Oklahoma was 85 as of 6/24/25. Branch numbers included: Alva (2), Chickasha (6 + 2 lifetime members), Durant (12), Edmond (6 + 2 lifetime members), Tahlequah (20 + 1 lifetime member), Tulsa (18 + 6 lifetime members), Weatherford (6), plus disbanded branch Duncan (4 lifetime members). Please let AAUW/OK know if your branch needs help – a merger with another branch may be a viable option.
- **State Budget** – State Treasurer Angie Lewis and Secretary Faye Henson will work on the upcoming 25/26 budget, and Chickasha branch members will assist with auditing 24/25 state spending.
- **State Shirt Sale** – You may notice your fellow branch members sporting new AAUW tees! There are extra crew (XL) and v-neck (S to XL) tees available. Reach out to state board members -- at \$25 short sleeve and \$30 long sleeve (delivery included), they are a quality deal!



Linda Brooks (left in photo) wearing the AAUW/OK long sleeve tee at a “No Kings Rally” in Tulsa on June 14, posing with fellow branch member Gwen Hampton.

- **Scarf Sale** – AAUW/OK still has Knotty Tie scarves, including one square Stripe (last one!) and eight rectangle Starry Night design (see images to right). Reach out to state board members – the cost is \$50 each (delivery included).
- **State Book Club** – President-elect Dr. Jeannette Loutsch recommended “The Women” by Kristin Hannah for our next virtual book club. Add this to your summer reading and stay tuned for a late July or August discussion (image to the right shared from Amazon online store).
- **2026 AAUW/OK State Meeting** – It will be here before we know it! Ideas include going to Tulsa or Tahlequah, a location in the Edmond / central OKC region (i.e., Guthrie), or returning to Chickasha. Note that the state AAUW will plan, help to finance, and execute the meeting; branch support is requested to recommend local venues and (as desired) to help with the meeting. Your input is needed!
- **2026 State Election** – Please reach out if you are interested – see page 15 for state positions.
- **Newsletter** – State President Lisa Appeddu is assisting Newsletter Editor Shelli Wasson with this edition. Thanks to everyone who has helped to provide information – and keep up the great work!



Next AAUW/OK Board Meeting: Monday afternoon, August 4, Chickasha (in person) or virtual – link and location will be provided with agenda prior to the meeting. *ALL members welcome!*

2024-2025 Branch Activities

- **Alva – Nothing to report**
- **Chickasha – See page 3 – hosted AAUW/OK State Meeting**
- **Durant – Scholarship Fundraiser**

The Durant branch worked with Southeastern Oklahoma State University to host the annual children's play. As has been done previously, proceeds are used to support scholarships for women attending Southeastern. In addition, the play involves audience participation and conveys a "moral of the story" to the children. The following report was taken directly from a university press release:

"Theatre at Southeastern will present 12 performances of 'The Great Cross Country Race' in Montgomery Auditorium next week, bringing nearly 4,000 local elementary school, Head Start, and daycare students to the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

There are three performances each day on Monday, March 31, through Thursday, April 3, with the first 11 shows dedicated to young audiences from around the area. There will be a public performance on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m., with tickets available at the door for \$2.

The production of 'The Great Cross Country Race' is a presentation of the American Association of University Women and Theatre at Southeastern.

This play from England is a lark, a merry chase, peopled with human-like animals who make better sense than people. Assembled for Sports Day, the animals cannot find anybody to compete with the fleet hare in the cross-country race until the slow-moving tortoise agrees to challenge him. In the course of the race, the scatter-brained hare tends to get diverted by his encounters with members of the human race—stopping to gorge on a fisherman's picnic lunch, getting trapped in the urban-Notcouths' poaching bag, pausing to spy on a pair of "soppy dates," getting pinned up by the ears to Mrs. Stainer's clothesline. Meanwhile, the tortoise plods steadily and relentlessly on to the finish line. Only the animals speak intelligible language. The humans' gobble-de-gook is as incomprehensible to us as to our animal friends."

Theatre at Southeastern Presents
**THE GREAT CROSS
 COUNTRY RACE**
 Montgomery Auditorium

- Monday, March 31: 9am, 10:30am, 1pm
- Tuesday, April 1: 9:30am, 11am
- Wednesday, April 2: 9am, 10:30am, 1pm
- Thursday, April 3: 9:30am, 11am, 7pm

Go to HomeTown ticketing
 to secure your \$2 tickets and
 use promo code: **POPurchase** if paying
 with PO, check, or cash.
 Payment due by
 performance date.

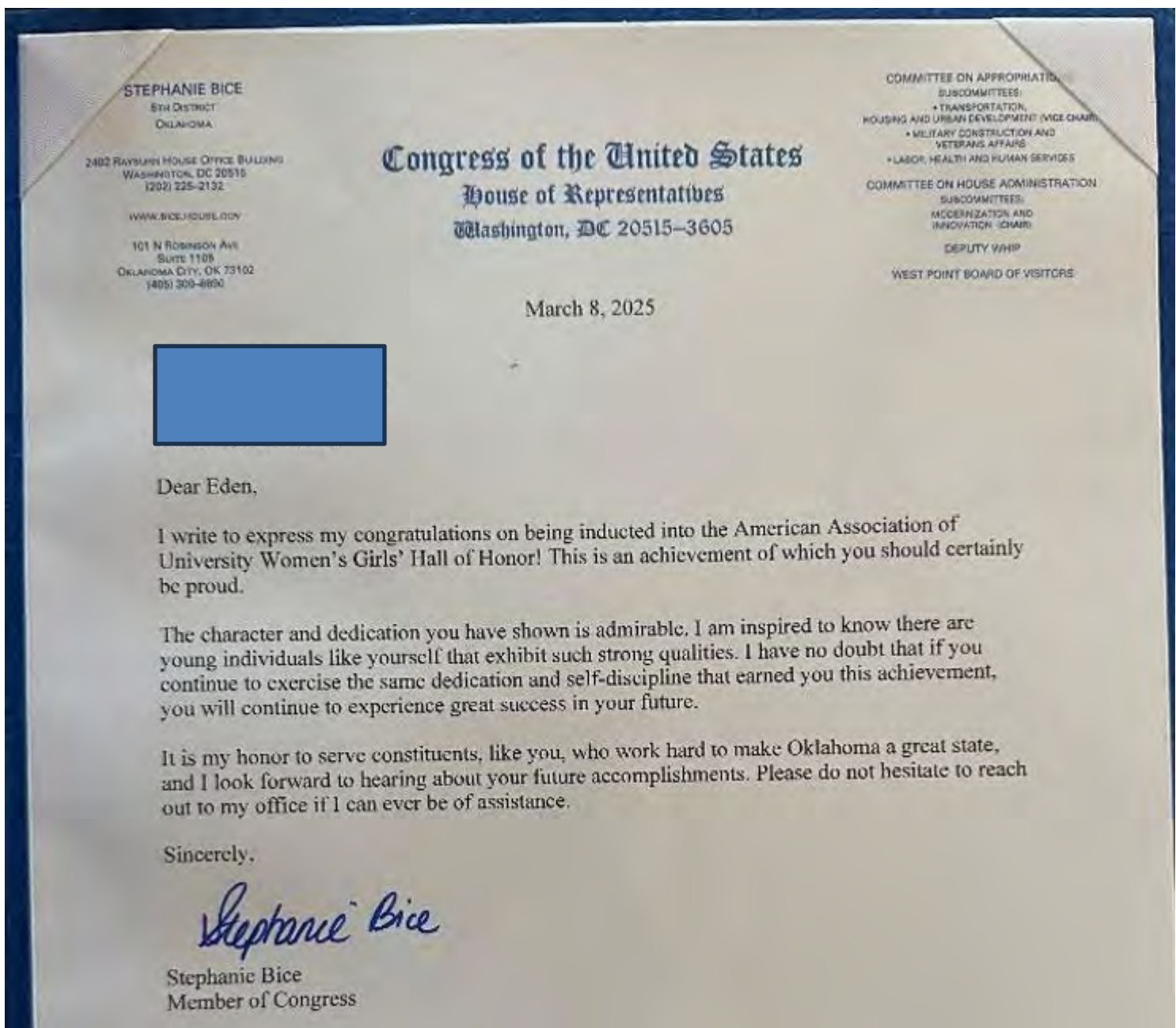
<https://shorturl.at/xpN6d>

AAUW
 Empowering women since 1891

<https://www.se.edu/2025/03/theatre-at-southeasterns-production-of-the-great-cross-country-race-to-bring-nearly-4000-local-students-to-campus/>

- **Edmond - Girls' Hall of Honor**

AAUW Edmond branch member, Shelli Wasson, reported the 10th Girls' Hall of Honor event went off perfectly on March 8, 2025, at the Edmond Public Library. Over eighty family members, three principals and other administrators, and friends attended. Edmond's mayor awards each girl a Mayoral Recognition Award (proclamation). This year, United States Congresswoman Stephanie Bice (OK-5) sent a letter of congratulations to each girl, as seen in the example below:



In addition, all six awardees were recommended for the 2024 SAGE STEAM Camp by the Edmond branch, with two of them going on to attend and graduate from camp.

The selection process commences by AAUW Edmond asking teachers or other school administrators to nominate girls. Nominees include honor students, entrepreneurs, thespians, band members, musicians, athletes, etc. Each girl completes an application that includes an essay, and the Edmond branch's Selection Committee reviews each application (31 girls applied this year) to narrow it down to 2 or 3 applications per school. Then, at the February branch meeting, members review the selected applications and cast their vote on which girl best represents each middle school. In the end, one girl who attends each of Edmond's six middle schools is selected for the Girls' Hall of Honor. At the Girls' Hall of Honor event, the honorees give a 3 to 5-minute presentations about their leadership skills at school and in the Edmond community. Erma Stewart, a longtime Edmond branch member, founded the Girls' Hall of Honor in 2016.

Each girl also makes a poster showing her leadership qualities. Their poster and portrait, if desired, are displayed at the Edmond Public Library during the entire month of March, *Women's History Month*. See three examples below:



Shout out to Edmond Branch Members for hosting ten years of this awesome program!

Shelli Wasson, president and coordinator, Girls' Hall of Honor.

Diane Chapel, treasurer

Erma Stewart, Jana Harkins, Diana Campo, Lynn Wiley, Pat Snodgrass, and Jo Ann Bullard.

• Tahlequah – Year in Review

Tahlequah branch member, Jeanna Wing, reported that the branch started out the year with a successful Wine and Cheese Membership Drive that brought in 10 new members. This event featured Tahlequah's Graduate Woman Scholarship winner, Audrey Rodden-Adams, as a presenter (shown in white shirt in the photo below left).



Regular meetings featured quality speakers, including Cheryl Van Den Handel, Political Science instructor at Northeastern State University who spoke on Women in Politics, and Tahlequah Mayor Suzanne Myers (shown standing in photo above right) who talked about improvements going on in Tahlequah and upcoming community events. Members and guests enjoyed the yearly Christmas party held at a cabin on the Illinois river owned by one of the branch members.

AAUW Tahlequah's annual Woman to Woman conference continues to be a great success. The conference theme this year was "Women's Mental Health," with three guest speakers participating in the conference (see photo below). Over fifty women attended, and four of those joined AAUW Tahlequah. The silent auction brought in \$720 to help support the Tahlequah branch Graduate Woman Scholarship program. We are looking forward to next year's conference.



Dr. Carolyn Cox, licensed clinical social worker and assistant professor at NSU School of Social Work (left in photo), offered strategies for addressing mental health challenges specific to women. Leigh-Anna Miller (center in photo), Director of NSU Student Counseling Services and adjunct instructor for NSU School of Social Work, spoke on the impact of depression across the stages of life in a woman. Debra Proctor, BSN, RN, CPXP (right in photo), addressed the issue of inter-generational trauma, using her personal experiences of growing up on four Indian boarding school campuses. She also provided effective approaches to promote healing.



Shout out to Tahlequah as a FY24 Award-Winning branch in AAUW's Five Star Program for Communications (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/5-star-program/>).

• Tulsa – Year in Review

AAUW Tulsa is a super active branch with a wonderful newsletter! Checkout the newsletter at: <https://tulsa-ok.aauw.net/newsletter/> or contact newsletter editor Gwen Hampton at gwenscout@aol.com to subscribe. The following are highlights and photos that state newsletter author (Lisa Appeddu) took from branch newsletters posted October 2024 through May 2025:

- Branch programs, including:
 - Celebrating Tulsa Pride Weekend with a conversation featuring retired CEO from Tulsa Equity Center, Toby Jenkins
 - Understanding impacts on Oklahoma from changes in Title IX
 - Celebrating Black History Month by learning about the African American Resource Center at the Tulsa City-County Library
 - Celebrating Women's History Month and International Women's Day with presenter Mary Vogt, an active volunteer at the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum
 - Featuring Women Powered for Democracy with its co-founder, Judge Dyna Post
- Holiday tea and gift exchange (see photo below left).
- Chili, Cornbread, & Bingo Fall Fundraiser in support of Phoenix Rising Alternative School and SAGE STEAM Camp at SWOSU.
- Donating snacks for students at the Phoenix Rising Alternative School (see below right).
- Hosting AAUW/OK President, Lisa Appeddu, and her colleague for lunch in May 2025.
- Active interest groups including two Book groups and a Gourmet (food) group.
- Sharing information, political happenings, and AAUW news for members to stay educated.
- Posting dates and locations of other programs and rallies for members to stay connected.
- Featuring individual member news and highlights to promote branch comradery.

Tulsa Branch Holiday Tea, December, 2024



Holiday Tea Front row, left to right: Linda Brooks, Doris Piatak, Gisele McDaniel, Fran Haxby, Donna Matthews. Back row: Joyce Varner, Amy Stephens, Pam McDonald, Jean Eames, Carole Pistole, Kay Witt, Kathryn Fisher, Debbie Thomas, Rose Unterschuetz – in front of Rose, Jan Graham. (Not pictured, Gwen Hampton, photographer)



Trunkful of snacks collected by the Tulsa branch for the Phoenix Rising Alternative School in Tulsa – left to right above: Gwen Hampton, Pam McDonald, Gisele McDaniel.



Shout out to Tulsa as a FY24 Award-Winning branch in AAUW's Five Star Program for Communications and Programs (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/5-star-program/>).

• Weatherford – SAGE STEAM

The sixth year of the Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/ Humanities, and Mathematics Camp at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SAGE STEAM at SWOSU) was conducted from June 16 to 22, 2024. A variety of STEAM activities were featured and, when possible, these mentors were women. Workshops were held on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford, OK, in collaboration with Engage Learning, Devon Energy, Museum of Osteology, Ag in the Classroom, FIRST Robotics, K-12 teachers, and multiple college departments and professional programs. The program also featured off-campus field trips to Rader Park for aquatic biology and outdoor drawing; and to the Stafford Air & Space Museum for activities led by the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium. During the STEAMentor Night speed-meeting event, campers interacted with 45 women professionals. The week of camp ended by recognizing 45 campers at the Awards and Graduation event. Afterwards, campers enjoyed a celebratory dinner catered at White Dog Hill restaurant. Select camp photos are found on next page.



To see the 2024 Yearbook – Click here: [2024 SAGE STEAM.pdf](#)

Scan here:



Type in: <https://rb.gy/wvh21t>



On Wednesday, June 19, 2024, twenty-one teachers attended the summer edition of the SAGE STEAM Educators Workshop. Many participants had previously attended the day-long workshop in February, when 38 teachers from across Oklahoma came to Weatherford. During both programs, STEM teachers completed activities alongside those who teach literature, English, languages, social studies, and art. They experienced, first-hand, how STEAM-integrated learning enriches the education of Oklahoma students.

Although the SAGE STEAM Camp took a pause in 2025, SAGE STEAM is still active in promoting opportunities to K-12 students. In June 2025, the STEAM Team collaborated with Engage Learning to host the first ever Family STEM Night at SWOSU (<https://www.kecofm.com/featured/swosu-to-host-free-family-steam-night-on-june-5/>), plus conducted activities with the SWOSU College of Pharmacy at the MVP STEM Field Day in Oklahoma City (<https://www.milb.com/news/2025-mvp-field-day-saturday>). Note that three former counselors and two former campers helped to lead these activities, as seen in the photos below.



Left photo: SAGE STEAM Team member, Dr. Lori Gwyn, and former camper, Carrie Gwyn, battle with light sabers created out of straws, tape, a light bulb, and battery at one of ten activity stations for Family STEM Night on June 2, 2025.

Right photo: 2024 SAGE STEAM Counselor Amelia Kerr hosts the reaction time competition between two students at the MVP STEM Field Day on June 21, 2025 – note: Activities and prizes were purchased with SAGE STEAM funds – and all prizes were gone by the end of the event!

Below: State-wide distribution and group photo of 45 campers and SAGE STEAM Team, plus images of the variety of STEAM activities experienced during the 2024 SAGE STEAM Camp at



Shout out to all past and current SAGE STEAM supporters from AAUW/OK branches – your funds continue to support education and women in STEAM in Oklahoma!

State Contacts



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Photo from AAUW/OK June 2025 board meeting – Top row, left to right: Linda West, middle window of members who met in person in OKC (Faye Henson, Diana Campo, Jeannette Loutsch, Shelli Wasson, Lisa Appeddu), Mehr Manzoor. Bottom row: Jeanna Wing, Angie Lewis.



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Shout out to AAUW/OK state and branch leaders – thank you for your time, efforts, and dedication to advancing gender equity through education and advocacy!