



Fall 2020, September

President's Message

Dear Friends:

It's hard to believe when the temperatures in Arizona are still in the triple digits that fall is almost here! But such is the case, and a new season of AAUW East Mesa branch is about to begin.

Jan Kelly is working on the plans for our first scheduled "mask to mask" meeting scheduled for October 21. The challenge is this: we have members that are not Leisure World residents, and Leisure World is not currently allowing non-residents to attend Leisure World events. Therefore, the Board, meeting on September 9, voted to hold an "in-person" ice cream social on the rec #1 promenade BUT also to bring in non-resident members of AAUW and those not comfortable with a "mask to mask" meeting by ZOOM technology.

I am sure that everyone would like to know what unique ways we have spent our quarantine time, or maybe something we accomplished during this time that we have been putting off. So, call an AAUW friend you haven't talked to and let them know what you have been up to. Tell them you are looking forward to seeing them at the Ice cream social on October 21, in person or by Zoom.

Meanwhile, stay safe; and while this season of AAUW may be a little different from others we have enjoyed, there will be a season for you to participate in.

Sandra Lackore, President
East Mesa Branch of AAUW

COVER LETTER FOR AAUW-AZ EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Dear Arizona AAUW Branch Presidents,

You may be aware that the Arizona AAUW Board voted to give \$500.00 to each branch to be used to support traditional public education. This investment in public education is very much in keeping with the vision and values of AAUW and will, we hope, make a positive difference for Arizona students.

Attached is a cover letter and a document that explains the imperative behind this initiative and details about the process. Our Green Valley AAUW branch, like many of your affiliates, will be meeting virtually, and while we're happy to connect with our colleagues and hear stimulating presentations from our monthly speakers, we know it's important to keep our members engaged in AAUW related activities. That's what gives so many of us a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. We hope this project will be one way for interested members of your branch to become more involved. We also hope this initiative will be an avenue to publicize and promote your AAUW branch during this time when we're less visible to the public.

Please contact committee co-chairs, Sharon Rezac Andersen or Kathy Davisson, if you have questions.

Best regards,

Sharon Rezac Andersen
rezac003@umn.edu
218-255-0905

Kathy Davisson
kadavisson@yahoo.com
248-762-1216

This initiative will be discussed at the October East Mesa Board meeting; if any members have suggestions, please email Sandra at cdlackore@aol.com.



*Education is everything.
Education empowers.
Education gives us dignity.
Education liberates the girl child.*

....Tererai Trent, AAUW 2001-02 International Fellow and 2017 Alumnae Recognition Awardee

Dear Arizona AAUW Branch Presidents,

Public education is a pillar of our society and a key area of focus for AAUW. Public education is the avenue through which we achieve equality. Sadly, public education in Arizona is woefully underfunded and our teachers and staff are woefully underpaid, resulting in below average student achievement.

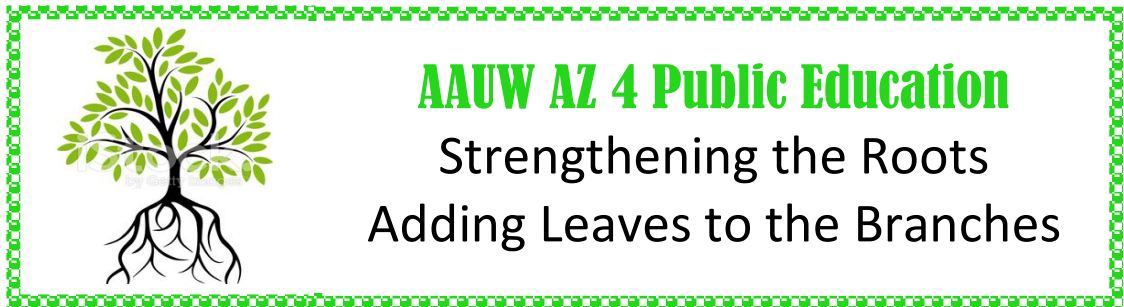
Recognizing the importance of public education, AAUW Arizona has established an initiative to empower local branches to help address the underfunding of education in our state. **AAUW AZ 4 Public Education** will provide \$500.00 per branch that can be used to support traditional public education. The attached document will provide further details and information.

We hope every branch in our state will explore ways to use these funds on behalf of your local public schools. In addition, we look forward to sharing branch projects with others via our newsletter and website and sharing our endeavors with local news outlets to promote AAUW's commitment to enhancing education in Arizona.

Sincerely,

AAUW AZ 4 Public Education Committee:

Sharon Rezac Andersen, Green Valley
Kathy Davisson, Green Valley
Gail Garrison, Green Valley
Ana Nygren, Tucson
Linda Alepin, Tucson
Joye Kohl, NW Valley
Becky Sayler, NW Valley & Sun City/Peoria
Janet Larkin, Scottsdale



AAUW AZ 4 Public Education

Strengthening our Roots

Education is a core value for AAUW and a part of the strategic plan at the national level. Sadly, public education in Arizona ranks near the bottom, if not at the bottom, when compared with other states in terms of quality and per pupil spending, resulting in below average achievement scores overall for students in our state.

AAUW Arizona has established a fund to help branches support public education. Specifically, with the establishment of the **AAUW AZ for Public Education** program, each branch is eligible to receive \$500.00 to be used in partnership with **Pre K-12 traditional public school district(s)** in your community with endeavors that will boost educational quality and student achievement. Below are examples of how these funds could be used. This list is not meant to be limiting, but rather to provide some ideas.

- Staff professional development
- Purchase of classroom or school wide materials
- Purchase of technology and digital materials
- Ongoing educational research related to educational policy

Branches might consider inviting members to add to the funds. In addition, we would encourage you to give thought to working in cooperation with other organizations in your area (i.e. Universities, local non-profits that support public education, parent-teacher groups) to maximize the impact of your efforts.

It is the desire of our committee to make this process as easy as possible for local branches. Your branch will determine how the money should best be spent. After you've expended the money, you can return your receipts to AAUW of Arizona for reimbursement. While no application is required, periodic reports on your branch project are requested for sharing at Fall Forum (Nov. 7th), on our website and for publication in the Arizona Sun newsletter.

Projects can begin upon receipt of this information and must be completed during the 2020-2021 school year. It is our hope that we will be able to continue funding AAUW AZ 4 Public Education in years to come.

LARNEY FUND BEQUESTS

The following two grants were made in 2020 from the Larney Fund for outside grants:

MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS: \$7, 785 to the STEM/SIM program
ARIZONA THEATRE MATTERS: \$2,000 to ongoing programs for female playwrights





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Lori P. McGee
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Sandra Lackore, President AAUW East Mesa
P.O. Box 6792
Mesa AZ 85216

Sandra Lackore, President AAUW East Mesa
2330 Leisure World
Mesa AZ 85206

April 1, 2020

1323 7,785.00 04/01/20

Dear AAUW, East Mesa,

On behalf of Mesa Public Schools, I want to thank you for your cash donation to the Mesa Public Schools STEM/SIM program of Mesa Public Schools, Mesa, AZ. Please use this letter to meet the requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Tax Act. Mesa Public Schools is a political subdivision of the State of Arizona, which qualifies us as a nonprofit entity. Because of this we are exempt from applying to the Internal Revenue Service for a nonprofit determination letter. No goods or services were provided to you in exchange for the donation.

Mesa Unified School District #04 (a.k.a. Mesa Public Schools)

Tax Identification Number: 86-6000481
Amount of donation: **\$7785.00**
Date of donation: **3/16/20**
Check # **1323**

If you should have any questions please call either Gina Forestieri (480-472-0100) or myself.

Sincerely,
Lori McGee
Phone 480-472-0103

Interest Groups “Chatter”

AAUW Quilters

I have some ideas for this “pandemic” time to keep us quilting and enjoying the experience. But I want to hear your ideas. So please email me or call my cell number for suggestions. A few ideas:

BOM - Block of the Month on the web

Table runners for the coming seasons, Halloween, Xmas, Easter, etc.

Mini quilts

Flag or door hanging

So what do you think?

Judy Shahenian
480-459-0455



Scholarship Luncheon 2021

We hope this “pandemic” will not interfere with our luncheon. We hope to have the same author. The same caterer will be doing the luncheon in 2021.

We have 12 scholars, so we want to have this money-raising luncheon for their benefit. Hope to be able to provide more specific information as the new year arrives.

Judy Shahenian
Luncheon Coordinator
480-459-0455

SEPTEMBER IS HERE



Summer Book Club Group

We had a rather small, but interesting discussion on *The Giver of The Stars*. Thank you, Betsy, for setting up the meet.

Fran Johansen will moderate our September book, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. The meeting will be Thursday, September 17, at 10:00 am on ZOOM. Mark your calendars. It will be the last Summer Book Club Meeting. See you on ZOOM.

Marje Perkins
831-229-1209
marje.perkins@gmail.com



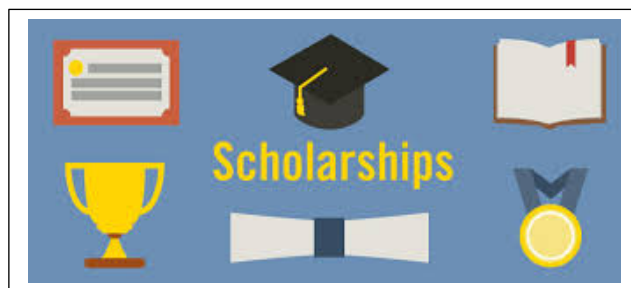
East Mesa Branch Scholarship Committee Activities for 2020

Last April the Scholarship Committee with the Board's approval awarded \$186,500.00 in scholarships to 12 young women for the 2020 – 2021 academic year. The Scholarship Committee selected 2 new scholars attending community colleges. There are 10 returning scholars from the 2019 -2020 academic year that applied and were eligible for continuing in the East Mesa Branch Scholarship Program. Scholars attending a community college within Maricopa County, are receiving \$5,250.00 each semester, and the recipients at the universities, \$9,250.00 for each semester. For the spring, 2021 semester, 4 of the scholars currently enrolled at one of the community college will begin their studies at an Arizona university.

This is the first year the Scholarship Committee was able to fund a STEM Scholarship for a scholar majoring in the sciences with a GPA of 3.5. We selected Jessica Frantz to receive the \$35,000.00 scholarship. Jessica attends ASU and is majoring in mechanical engineering. She has been in our scholarship program since fall, 2019 and her grades and attitude make her exceptionally worthy of being awarded the scholarship. She is so grateful for this unexpected opportunity to finish her education without accumulating more debt and the opportunity to work less hours, while carrying 12 to 15 hours of classes and keeping her grades at a 3.5 or above. As Jessica said, "The scholarship is life changing for her". This is a comment that I hear often from our scholars. They are also grateful for having a mentor be there for them as a friend who supports and encourages them when their life is going smoothly and when they just need someone to listen and help them sort through their options/opportunities.

The Academic Year is off to a good start with our scholars returning to classes. Last March the Scholarship Committee and the Violet Larney Trust Committee agreed to change the administration of the scholarships to the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) from the Mesa Community College Foundation (MCCF). ACF is the same foundation that administers the Violet Larney Family Trust. The relationship with ACF is working very well.

Submitted by
Judy Taucher-Lewis
Scholarship Committee Chair



AAUW EAST MESA BRANCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

BRANCH ACCOUNT

Number of 2020-21 Branch members 68
 Cash Balance at 6/30/2020 \$ 11,508.84

SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT

\$ 7,652.92

INCOME

	FY to date	Spending Plan	Remaining Budget	
Larney Reserve Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Fundraiser	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Interest	\$ 1.96	\$ 8.00	\$ -	\$ 1.30 Interest
Member Dues Deposit	\$ -	\$ 920.00	\$ -	
Total Income	\$ 11,510.80	\$ 928.00	\$ -	\$ 7,654.22

EXPENSES

PO Box rental (3/2021)	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00	
Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Room Rent/Programs	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	
Hospitality-meetings	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	
Directory printing	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
Newsletter-postage/printing	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
BOD end-of-year luncheon	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00	
State Conventions	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	
Regional Conventions	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
AAUW Funds-Nat'l & State	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Bank fees (will be refunded)	\$ 11.90	\$ -	\$ 11.90	\$ 11.90 To be refunded
Total Branch Expenses	\$ 11.90	\$ 2,085.00	\$ 2,096.90	\$ 11.90 Total Scholarship Exp

BOARD MEMBERS

President	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Program VP	\$ -	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
Membership VP	\$ -	\$ 133.00	\$ 133.00
Secretary	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Treasurer	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Communications	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Total Board Expenses	\$ -	\$ 423.00	\$ 423.00

2019-20 LARNEY RESERVE GRANTS remaining funds		\$ 5,509.00	
Mesa Public Schools STEM Programs	\$ -		\$ 7,785.00
Arizona Theater Matters	\$ -		\$ 2,000.00
EMB Programs	\$ -		\$ 1,000.00
Scholarship Lunch Expenses	\$ -		\$ 4,500.00
Dir/Officers Liability Insur-due 6/2021	\$ -		\$ 500.00
Month's Total Grant Expenses		\$ -	\$ 15,785.00

CASH BALANCE 8/31/2020

\$ 11,498.90	\$ 5,509.00	\$ 7,642.32
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LARNEY TRUST RESERVE & CONTINGENCY FUND

Remaining LT Grant Monies	\$ (5,509.00)	
* Contingency	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ 1,500.00
FUNDS AVAILABLE for use at 8/31	\$ 4,489.90	

Newly redesigned AAUW East Mesa website
Check it out: <https://eastmesa-az.aauw.net>



Thanks to Diana Kilby, the website has been renovated to be more user friendly and informative. As part of the change, the headings have been streamlined, and the member handbook is included online. Take a look and let us know what you think.

Great Decisions is scheduled to resume meeting on Friday, November 13. At this time, we are planning to have our first meeting via Zoom. The topic will be *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*. The videos for the 2020 topics are now available to view free on YouTube prior to the scheduled discussions. Further details regarding our fall schedule will be available in the November *EMBERS*.

Mary Hung, Chair

