

AAUW & COVID-19: Standing Strong through Crisis



By KIMBERLY CHURCHES
Chief Executive Officer

We at AAUW are deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on our members, supporters, fellowship alumnae and their families around the world. Your health and safety are our top priority.

We are all only beginning to wrap our heads around the unprecedented repercussions in the months and possibly years ahead, as well as the economic and social rebuilding efforts that will be needed.

AAUW has been at the cutting edge of fighting for economic equity for nearly 40 years. And what we're witnessing is how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all of the nation's inequities.

The issues we've been long been fighting for are now alarmingly urgent, and our efforts are needed now more than ever. Consider:

- Close to 30 percent of working Americans have no sick leave and have to choose between a paycheck and potentially losing their job or risking exposure to infection.
- Women comprise more than 70 percent of the healthcare industry, including more than 85 percent of nurses. They are on the frontlines, putting themselves and their families at risk to care for others.
- More than 10 million Americans have already filed for unemployment due to the outbreak — and women may well be the majority. The female labor force accounts for a large proportion of service jobs: more than 80 percent of waitstaff, 65 percent of retail cashiers and 65 percent of hotel and hospitality workers. These fields are among those most likely to face furloughs and layoffs.
- Part-time workers and hourly wage workers will face job loss, hourly wage loss and will need reskilling and retraining as we move beyond the immediate pandemic crisis.
- Education is being upended, exacerbating existing education gaps for lower-income and students of color.
- Women in college and graduate schools will be entering one of the worse economies in modern history, while still holding two-thirds of the nation's \$1.3 trillion of student debt.
- Retirement and other savings have been hard hit. Already, retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or below the poverty level. As the economy falters, retired women's ability to pay monthly bills and survive will be at risk.

AAUW has always used our collective influence to fight for economic justice from grassroots to national and international fields. But never has our work been as badly needed as it is right now. So my promise to you is that, when things finally settle down, we will be on the front lines of the coming battle to ensure equity and economic security for all.

These are trying times for everyone: for us as individuals, for our families and friends and for our fellow AAUW members. But we are part of a community that is there for each other—as we have been since our inception.

Please stay well, be kind to one another, and know that I along with the AAUW national staff are available and thinking of you.

We're all in this together. And together, we can make a difference.

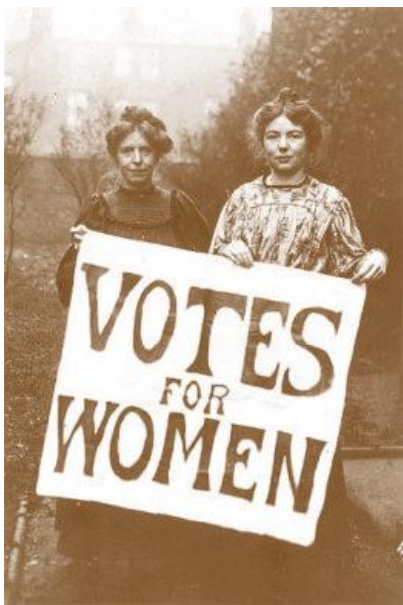


President's Corner

Because of COVID-19, we are sheltered in and canceling our April and May meetings. Hopefully by June we will get the all clear and the board will come up with a meeting/reunion to celebrate! Until then, stay safe and wash your hands.

Refer to the board contact info in your newsletter if you need help with anything or to ask questions.

—*Pam McDonald*
President, AAUW Tulsa Branch
adamsfamily9857@aol.com
or call 918-636-5131.



Work Smart Online

<https://salary.aauw.org/work-smart>

BRANCH NOTES

The Regional AAUW Meeting in Moline, Illinois, set for June 18-19, has been canceled. The state AAUW board will have a phone conference April 16 to discuss the state convention.

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Elastic is needed by a teacher friend of Linda Brooks who is making masks for her local hospital. If you have elastic to share, contact her at Ryker.lesa@unionps.org.

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National AAUW has closed their physical office. All employees have moved to mandatory telework status at home. But work continues as AAUW advocates for real-time solutions to deal with emergency situations.

* * * *

Public Policy Chair of our AAUW State Board Rose Unterschuetz reports that AAUW is supporting voting by mail to increase voter access. Some states have passed laws that allow absentee voting for all with no qualifying reason. Also some states have eliminated the voter ID requirement.

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A short clip on Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony is wonderful As always PBS is a great resource. Go to:
<https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/not-for-ourselves-alone/>

Our Branch Family

GET WELL WISHES to **Kathryn Fisher** who is recovering from emergency surgery in early March.

GET WELL WISHES also to **Dr. Susie Hull**, State AAUW President-Elect, as she is undergoing treatment for cancer.

TULSA VOICE

Monthly newsletter of American Association of University Women,
Tulsa Branch, 5219 S Joplin Ave, Tulsa, OK 74135

Web Site: <http://tulsa-ok.aauw.net/>

President: Pam McDonald, 918-627-1823

Editor: Gwen Hampton, 918-742-6485;

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Interest Groups

ADELANTE READING GROUP



Our April selection is The Woman's Hour: the Battle Over the 19th Amendment Comes to Life, by Elaine Weiss. This is the story of the nail-biting climax of one of the greatest political victories in American history: the down and dirty campaign to get the last state to ratify the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote. You can learn more about it at www.goodreads.com.

We won't be able to get together but let's keep reading!

Rose Unterschuetz, phone/text
918-688-7128, or tulsarose@sbcglobal.net.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP

The Mystery Book Club will resume in July or August. Keep reading great mysteries, and stay safe.

I'm currently reading Murder in An Irish Churchyard by Carleen O'Connor. It's an Irish Village Mystery. She has other titles. This is my first time reading this author.

Questions?

Call Linda Brooks, 918-664-9914, or
lshbrooks@yahoo.net



GOURMET GROUP



The Gourmet Group's meeting dates are pretty much in limbo right now. Keep the following dates in mind, and we'll let you know when we can get together again.

May 27 (Wednesday), 5:30 p.m.

Lowood Restaurant
817 E. Third St., Tulsa,
<https://lowoodtulsa.com/>

September 11 (Friday), 6:00 p.m.

Potluck at Jan Graham's home,
312 E. 19th St., Tulsa

November 19 (Thursday) 5:30 p.m.

Nola's...Creole & Cocktails
1334 E. 15th St., Tulsa

*Questions? Contact Gisele at
giselemcdaniel@gmail.com or 918-583-3042

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Dear AAUW Friends,

As you know the AAUW Membership year ends June 30th. It is not too early to renew your membership for the year ending June 30, 2021. Please access the link below and choose the Branch option to quickly renew online using your credit card.

We know you have many organizations competing for your support. We hope you will continue to support women and girls through choosing to rejoin AAUW.

While you are visiting AAUW.org be sure to check out the redesigned and updated website:

<https://www.aauw.org/membership/>

Rose Unterschuetz,
Vice-President of Membership
tulsarose@sbcglobal.net

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

Prospect's Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (w) _____ (H) _____

AAUW Contact _____
(Return to: Rose Unterschuetz, 5820 S. Evanston Ct., Tulsa, OK 74105)

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SPRING

Our Stories

Since we can't get together these days, here are some notes from members in their stay-at-home status.

OATMEAL COOKIES Thank goodness for serendipities in the midst of such devastating times. Ron and I are enjoying the gifts that Spring brings with new life chirping outside our windows with flowers and trees bursting with new growth. Another serendipity came when Reasor's kindly substituted 48 ounces of a non preferred variety of oatmeal for our old fashioned variety as part of our online and drive-through order. You cannot return or share items due to possible virus contamination precaution so what do you do? You make oatmeal cookies with raisins and nuts from the pantry. We had forgotten how good they are!! Wish we could share with all of you and we wish all of you the joy of unexpected pleasures.

-Rose and Ron Unterschuetz

FAMILY HELP We are well cared for at OMM [Oklahoma Methodist Manor], and I have dear family nearby who drop off whatever I request at the gate. I miss Tulsa's vibrant cultural life, but I do get out daily to walk around the duck pond and enjoy the flowering trees.

Be well.

-Doris Piatak

WALKING THE DOG So good to hear from everyone! Surely was glad we didn't have the March meeting! I became sick with bass voice, fever, cough, but was well after a week! I've stayed away from everyone in case those symptoms might have been COVID-19. Vonnie and I with dog Odin walk daily to closed Gathering Place and home, 2 miles. Vonnie then pedals his bike 20+ miles many days. Surely hope all of you are doing well!

We have a Cornell NYC Hospital doctor 52 minute discussion about the virus — emphasized the wearing regular masks when in grocery store, not to worry about but wash your hands often — the doctors and nurses must have the hospital masks since the patients cough during some of the procedures. Wash hands well or Purell top and palms + fingers, rubbing in well!

-Jan Graham

FAST FOOD I am fine. My outings consist of groceries, fast food and Rx — all in Brookside — close to home. Not far enough to take advantage of cheap gasoline. Phooey.

Am off to use an Arby's coupon. 36 degrees outdoors. Brrr. April 7 election moved to June 30. I have already voted via absentee ballot for the April one.

-Gabbie Jones

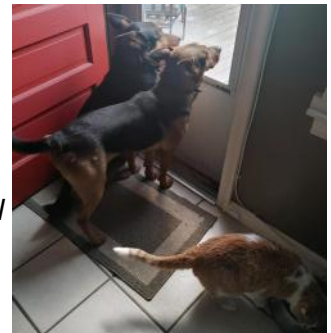
DVIS & PETS As most of you know, I work at a non-profit that helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence and sex trafficking. Of course, we are considered an "essential business" and are still open. But we've made a lot of changes. We are working on skeleton crews at the shelter, transitional living and at our outpatient office. We are encouraging our residential housing to stay put, but that's hard for them. Some of them still have jobs and some have just been so controlled by their partners in the past that they resist staying in now.

At our outpatient office, we are taking crisis walk-ins and of course, we are taking crisis calls 24 hours a day as always at 918-743-5763. In case you know someone who needs the number, I want to be sure and give it to you. Our counselors are continuing to have counseling sessions with clients via phone or via a video chat service.

I'm working from home most of the time, but going in at least one day a week. We are having lots of video meetings, even an all staff meeting every week with 60 or more people on at a time. It's good to see people's faces and hear their voices.

It's a trying time. To cope, I'm focusing on this part of spring. I love the redbuds, dogwoods and azaleas. I'm also working around my house some and I have three bouquets of fresh flowers around the house — which makes me smile. And the two dogs I adopted in December are a real treat along with the cat. I've been going on some walks with my neighbor, which is really good for me. I am not eating very healthy food—I have got to start paying attention to that.

I hope everyone is doing okay!



-Donna Mathews

More of Our Stories

LOTS OF COOKING *The McDonalds are doing fine. A lot of TV watching and yard work, neighborhood walks. Never cooked so much in my life! Ha Ha!*

—Pam McDonald

NEW DOG, ABIGAIL *Ed and I are doing fine and our new dog Abigail is the light in our days. She's the perfect companion! So glad she is with us to add laughs throughout the day! And for those dog lovers among us, I highly recommend to you Google PLUTO LIVING for some tips from a miniature Schnauzer on surviving our challenges. Good luck to all of you in dealing with our new restricted lives and my best wishes that you stay well.*

—Judy Anderson

LONG DISTANCE LEARNING *We're doing well. Charles and Maggie are working from home. I'll be winding up the school year with long distance learning for my students at Union. Hopefully all will go okay. Miss seeing you all. Reading a lot of mysteries.*

—Linda Brooks

STREP THROAT *I hope you are all doing okay. Gary just got over strep throat. He may have given it to me, or I may just have a cold, but I'm sure I will be okay in a few days. We have been staying in as much as possible.*

—Jeanna Wing

CONTACTING OLD FRIENDS *I'm busy reading The Woman's Hour for our AAUW book club. As more women are being released from prison and living in programs such as Exodus House, I've been going through my closets to provide clothes for them. Many walk out of prison with one set of clothes and that's it. The Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries helps them with lodging, job applications and training, and many programs to give them another chance.*

After my surgery I received many cards and that really perked me up, so I have started reaching out to friends we haven't seen in awhile just to say hello. Many of those have resulted in phone calls with fond memories shared and updates given.

Our church has started using an app called Zoom. I am technologically challenged but luckily my 11 year old granddaughter is an expert so I get to see some of my friends from church whom I've been missing. Jerry has, as always, taken good care of me during my convalescence plus he has been

cleaning up the garage so we can have a garage sale once we put this virus behind us.

Our green cheeked conure Nibbles seems to enjoy her extra time with Jerry. She "allows" me to feed and water her but her favorite human is Jerry so she spends lot of time on his shoulder.

Our daughter calls everyday to check on us and the other three either text or Facebook us about every 10 days. My sister Ella and I talk every other day. She lives in KCMO

All is well with us.

—Kathryn Fisher

READING, COOKING *I'm doing well though missing all the stimulating face-to-face conversations and laughter that in-person meet-ups offer. Not being a gamer nor willing to spend my day on a lot of screen time, I've been reading, solving crossword puzzles, cooking, walking the neighborhood and spending more time with my nearby grandchildren. Maybe one of these quarantine days, I'll actually do something useful — like clean out a closet or paint the bedroom a new color.*

—Deborah Burke

COVID-19 *I have taken advantage of our stay-at-home for a lot of reading, catching up on recorded tv shows. Our daughter made masks for everyone in the family; I have one that matches my kitchen! — actually my appliance covers and the kitchen stool seat.*

She is buying our groceries also. Son has supplied us with toilet paper! On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we had a Zoom get-together with our whole family, and are planning one for next Sunday when we'll play games.

I'm also using Zoom with my Brookside Library Book Group, and meetings of church committees.

The Covid-19 has invaded our extended family; my brother in California and my niece in Denver both have it.

Hope all of you stay well.

—Gwen Hampton

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Thank you to everybody who sent in their stories; it has been interesting and enlightening!*

NCCWSL & COVID-19 status

As a result of the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19 and the impact from travel restrictions and need for physical distancing, AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) 2020 that was scheduled to take place May 27-30, 2020, at the University of Maryland, College Park has been postponed.

This heartbreaking decision is responsive to the advice of health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO) who have declared a global pandemic. AAUW's first priority is the health and welfare of our dedicated staff, NCCWSL participants and the campus community.

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### VOTE IN AAUW ELECTION

We are all part of the AAUW community as we continue to fight for equity through uncertain times. Please take a moment to ensure AAUW has strong leaders to guide us into the future by **voting in the AAUW National Election**. This year, members are being asked to vote on four candidates to join AAUW's 15-person board of directors. You can read more about them and the election on the **National Election page** of our newly redesigned website.

You should have received by now an email from Shannon Wolfe, AAUW Managing Director & Chief of Staff, that will list your **Member ID**, and your **Voter PIN**, both of which you will need to cast your vote.

We are encouraged to vote online, but paper ballots will be accepted that have been postmarked by Friday, May 1, 2020. The deadline to request paper ballots from connect@aauw.org is Friday, April 17.

**Please vote today.** The future leadership of AAUW is in your hands.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT LIMITS WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS

Women of all ages, races and ethnicities face sexual harassment at work. **Workplace sexual harassment**

...threatens women's mental health and physical safety.



- It can lead to depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- It is linked to an increased risk of long-term physical health problems.

...erodes women's short- and long-term economic security

- In a survey, 38% of women who'd been harassed said it contributed to their decision to leave a job early, and 37% said it disrupted their career advancement.
- When women decrease their hours or leave their job to avoid a harasser, it reduces their wages and ability to save and build wealth.
- Older women who leave a job because of harassment often face ageism on the job market and may retire early, missing out on what might have been their peak earning years.
- Women who report harassment risk receiving unjust performance reviews, getting ostracized by coworkers and being denied promotions or raises.

...contributes to the leadership gap

- According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research and AAUW, women who attempt to avoid a harasser can miss out on valuable on-the-job training and mentorship — which are critical in helping women rise into leadership positions.

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### PASS THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND PERSONAL AND FAMILY CARE ACT

The above Act (S. 3415/H.R. 6150) is sponsored by the senior Senator from Washington. Building off of the Healthy Families Act, the new act ensures that working people have access to fourteen days of paid sick leave for use during the COVID-19 outbreak or any future public health emergency.

The Act includes time for quarantine, for treatment and isolation, and for taking care of an ill loved one. It also covers lost income in the event of workplace or school closings.

We can help by contacting our Congressional people, urging them to sponsor the bill. One hundred forty three organizations have signed a letter to Congress urging the bill's passage. AAUW is one of the 143.

# 19A for 21C

19th Amendment for the 21st Century

## EVERY VOICE, EVERY VOTE

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act — two critical milestones in ensuring women’s right to vote. It’s an important time to remember that many individuals, particularly people of color, still face voting suppression.

This year, AAUW will strongly advocate for policies that expand and protect people’s voting rights. AAUW encourages branches to integrate this priority into their work too.

For example, the AAUW Boise Area Branch has an ongoing voter registration project called What The Vote!, which is targeted to high school and college students. The project’s aims are to teach students how to research candidates and register those of voting age. Since the project’s inception in 2018, the branch has registered **5,084** students!

## SAVE THE DATE

Suffrage leader Alice Paul will be a featured character Sunday evening, April 29 on the NBC time-travel drama *Timeless*. The episode doesn’t seem to track much with suffrage history, but the recognition for Paul is heartening.

—from the National Women’s History Project



Tulsa Branch members Rose Unterschuetz, Pam McDonald, Kathryn Fisher, Donna Mathews and Linda Brooks at the February 22, 2020 Rally at the Tulsa Historical Society.



“Elizabeth Cady Stanton” (Sharon King Davis), Gwen Hampton, Marcy Rao, “Carrie Chapman Catt”



Guest speakers at the Rally, l. to r. Michelle Place (Executive Director of THS); Girl Scout; “Ida B. Wells” (Rebecca Marks Jimerson); “Elizabeth Cady Stanton” (Sharon King Davis); “Susan B. Anthony” (Penny Painter and granddaughter); “Carrie Chapman Catt”.



“Carrie Chapman Catt” leading the Centennial Vote Rally at the Tulsa Historical Society.



Future voter!





AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold the associate's, baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

**Our Value Promise:**

"As a member of AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

Websites: Tulsa Branch—<http://Tulsa-ok.aauw.net/>  
Oklahoma AAUW—[www.aauwoklahoma.org](http://www.aauwoklahoma.org) National AAUW—[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## AAUW's Gender Agenda for 2020 Election

AAUW urges all candidates for state and federal office — regardless of party — to commit to these priorities. We also ask every American to stand with women and to cast their vote in what is arguably one of the most consequential elections in our nation's history.

**Highlights include:**

Reducing student debt

Supporting new laws to close the gender pay gap

Implementing paid sick and caregiving leave

Protecting and expanding the right to vote

Instituting robust protections against harassment

Expanding STEM opportunities



## April-May, 2020 Calendar

**April 17** Deadline to request paper ballots for AAUW National Election See Page 6.

**May 1** Deadline for paper ballots to be mailed in AAUW National Election See Page 6.

**April 28** Adelante Book Group See Page 3.

**May 20** Deadline for Summer TULSA VOICE.

**April 29** Drama on NBC featuring Alice Paul See P. 7.