



The purpose of the AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Well, to say the least, this has been an incredible year full of upheavals, challenges and new opportunities. It may not seem that way now that we have been socially distanced for nearly a year, but there is one good thing to say about 2020 – ***it sure has gone by fast!!***

These past few months have given each of us an opportunity to perhaps assess where we are at this point in our lives; take on one of those projects that we have been putting off until we had “some time”. How we interact with those around us may never be the same as before and we can no longer rely on how we did things “before COVID.” Much like our ancestors who endured the pandemic in 1919, our world is on the brink of a major societal change! Are you ready to move forward in 2021?

I know we all miss the social aspect of the branch activities but that is no reason for u to stay isolated. So many of you joined together to meet the 2020 matching challenge that we will be able to fund BRCC scholarships next year; and while ZOOM meetings may not be what you want to do, this may become the “new normal” for how we conduct business. However, general meetings with speakers and topics and the ability to mingle will come back when it is safe to do so.

So please join our ZOOM Holiday Meeting on December 18th at 2:00 p.m. It will be a time to see old friends and allow us to catch up on what we have all been doing. If you cannot attend and would like to relate a 2020 experience, please send Sandi or me an email to be shared with the group.

We are now into the Holiday Season and it is a great time to make a GRATITUDE LIST for yourself – to give thanks for all the choices and opportunities available to us all in this country – working together for the common good – helping others that are trying to help themselves –giving a LEGUP and not a HAND OUT – share a SMILE and hope for the New Year 2021!

Happy Holidays to you all!

Sandi Lancaster and Norma Treadwell

Co-Presidents – AAUW Hendersonville Branch



2021—Hapless or Hopeful?

Political preferences aside, I see hope for the new year. We recently mourned the loss of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and hopefully monitor the decisions of **Justice Amy Coney Barrett** in her approach to women's issues. With public health, the economy going forward, and full equality for women in the workplace at stake, let's take a moment to appreciate that the incoming national administration has discovered women! Not just young women and pretty women like you see doing the color commentary on network sports, but educated, thinking, qualified women – women who could change the world! I don't claim this is a complete list, but it is something to watch as it develops. Further, if you (like I) have ever been discouraged by attempts to write to your (male) legislators, perhaps there are other avenues.



Announced Appointments of Women to the new Administration (some of which will require Congressional approval):

Cecilia Rouse – Chair, Council of Economic Advisors
Avril Haines – Director, National Intelligence
Neera Tanden – Director, Office of Management and Budget
Linda Thomas-Greenfield – UN Ambassador
Janet Yellen – Treasury Secretary
Jennifer O'Malley Dillon – Deputy Chief of Staff
Dana Remus – White House Counsel
Kate Bedingfield – White House Communications Director
Karine Jean-Pierre – Principal Deputy White House Press Secretary
Julie Chavez Rodriguez – Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Ashley Etienne - VP Communications Director
Symone Sanders – VP Chief Spokeswoman and Senior Advisor
Tina Flournoy – VP Chief of Staff



Linda Thomas-Greenfield



Cecilia Rouse



Janet Yellen

It may behoove us to get to know these women and watch their actions on the national scene. The more people we see in powerful positions who look like us, the better our chances to achieve long-term goals AND stimulate our daughters and granddaughters to aspire to places of influence in their own fields.

Susan Huff, Editor



Let's Get Together for the Holidays!

It has been *nine months* since our last General Meeting. Just that quickly we were closed up and isolating in place due to COVID-19. Now it looks like we may be living this “new normal” for a while longer. We cannot wait!

The Hendersonville Branch will have a ZOOM Holiday Meeting for all interested members on

Friday, December 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Scheduled to coincide with our annual holiday luncheon at the Hendersonville Golf & Country Club, each member is encouraged to

- * decorate around your ZOOM environment and
- * enjoy a cup of tea (or your beverage of choice – we won't be driving!)
- * share your holiday snacks with the others and
- * dress as if we were going to the club for lunch.



The best part about this is that it is FREE and you can stay warm in your own home! We will also be announcing the results of our HVL 2020 Matching Challenge for the benefit of BRCC Education Foundation.

Mary Ann Bents will be setting up this meeting for us through AAUWNC and helping those members not familiar with ZOOM. Mary Ann is happy to answer your ZOOM questions at ma-bents@verizon.net or (667) 967-0147.

Please make every effort to join us on this day. Let's close out the year 2020 with a bang!

AAUW HENDERSONVILLE BRANCH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS – October 23, 2020

The October 23, 2020 ZOOM meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 10am by Norma Treadwell, Co-President, who welcomed all who were present and confirmed a quorum. The minutes of the last Board meeting held on September 25, 2020 were approved as revised to add Peg Holmes' name as an attendee.

ELECTED OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Co-President Report: Norma reported on a ZOOM meeting with NC State President Jane Terwilliger and NC State Branch Advocate Janet Bunger. National needs all branches to expand membership to include younger members, males, and people of color in order to attract grants for our programs. The educational requirement will be up for another vote in the spring. We are exclusionary, whereas we need to reduce obstacles to membership. Norma also noted that the National website has a list of NC grant recipients willing to speak at programs. Additionally, she reported on programs being undertaken by other branches to stay in touch with each other during COVID, including coordinated walks or drives, and donating toys, etc. for the holidays. Fundraisers are not feasible at this time, although Brevard did hold their annual book fair. Ideas for programs and virtual meetings include a matching funds challenge for members and possible walking groups.

1st Vice President's (Program) Report: Cathy Veal requested ideas for future ZOOM meetings, if there is any interest. She also mentioned training possible for becoming familiar with ZOOM.

2nd Vice President – Membership: Diana B. reported we now have 74 members, including 6 life members.

Operating Accounts Manager's Report: Margi Rex reported a balance of \$4,172.97. The bank has requested notification of new officers; she will take care of this.

Fundraising Accounts Manager's Report: Anne Goff reported a balance of \$2,430 + \$175. \$2,555 has so far been collected from our Hendersonville Matching 2020 Challenge. Question was raised as to what portion of Challenge funds will go to scholarships. All of it will be designated for Blue Ridge.

Committee Reports:

Public Policy: Sue Hammer reported that there have been no meetings of the group during COVID. She is keeping members posted online re informational programs concerning national and NC legislative updates on economic and social justice.

Community Interest: Pat Vestal reported she has written to all of this year's scholarship recipients but has not heard back from them. She mentioned that Tiffany is working at her art through Art Mob; Pat sent her a condolence card on the loss of her grandfather.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

Norma spoke about the possibility of an AAUW name change in the future if an upcoming vote approves opening up admission. Inclusivity is being considered as an important goal.

Sandi L. mentioned the continuing impact of COVID on activities, and urged all members to get a flu shot.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Harrison (Board Recording Secretary)

Happings—And There Are Some!

The December Board of Directors' ZOOM Meeting, originally scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2020 will take place at 12:30 p.m. prior to the Holiday Meeting on December 18th. Upon adjournment, Board members will join the General Meeting.

First Thursday Book Group is looking for new members. We haven't missed a meeting during COVID and we are going strong! Next ZOOM meeting is Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 p.m. Our book selection is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This is the story of human cancer cells with an amazing capacity to continue to grow and reproduce indefinitely, gathered without permission in the 1950's, and now known as the ubiquitous HeLa cells used in every cell culture lab in the world. Facilitator will be Barbara Beckerman.

Future book selections will be:

February 4—*A Midwives Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. Facilitator—Susan Murphy.

March 4—*White Houses: A Novel* by Amy Bloom. Facilitator—Anne Hartig.

April 1—*Little Fires Everywhere: A Novel* by Celeste Ng. Facilitator—Susan Huff.

May 6—*The Mercury 13: the Untold Story of Thirteen American Women and the Dream of Space Flight* by Martha Ackmann and Lynn Sherr. Facilitator—Mary Ann Bents.

This is for you and your friends or neighbors who are looking for a place to gather, to read, discuss, and keep in touch. If you are interested in just one book or more contact Mary Ann Bents to be added to the invitation list. We'd love to see you there!

The Public Policy Committee is meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m. If you have an interest in following AAUW's policy priorities regarding women and girls' rights and their ongoing quest for legal justice, you are welcome. Contact Sue Hammer for details.



**AAUW Hendersonville
Newsletter**

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December Change:

New e-mail:

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