



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

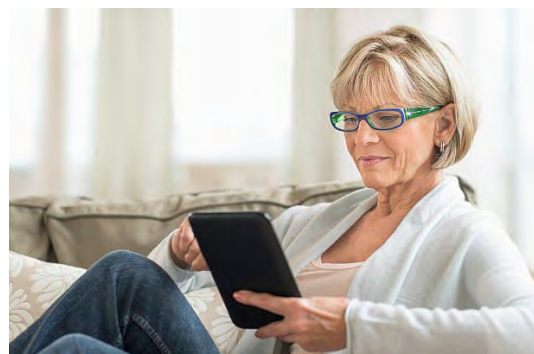
National Vote Begins April 7



Beginning next week we will be asked to vote in an AAUW national election. The principal issue is whether to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Both the national AAUW Board and the AAUWNC board have unanimously voted to back this change. **AAUWNC is sponsoring a members-only Town Hall for you to learn more about the Board-supported proposed changes to the bylaws on April 1, at 4:00 p.m.** They will also discuss Get Out the Vote efforts during the COVID pandemic and what you can do to help make sure that member voices and votes are counted. The Town Hall will include breakout groups, which will allow for more specific discussion on the items up for membership vote in April, as well as GOTV efforts that you can participate in. Then make your own decision and vote. If you are confused or need assistance to cast your ballot, contact one of the Hendersonville Board members.

[REGISTER NOW - AAUW National Town Hall on Member Education Requirement](#) [\(click link\)](#)

- April 7 Voting opens – You will be notified by a special e-mail. Online voting is encouraged. Those without a listed e-mail will be notified by mail. **Paper ballots will be mailed only by request.**
- April 16 Last day to request a paper ballot.
- April 30 Postmark deadline for mailing paper ballots; ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 pm ET to be counted.
- May 17 Online voting ends at 5:00 pm ET.
- June 1 Vote results announced online.



April 9 General Meeting -Women Inmates: An Insider's Look at the Inside

Our speaker for April 9 will be Katie Smith, daughter of Hendersonville Branch member, Peggy Smith.

Katie has an incredible amount of experience with the criminal justice system, too much if you ask her. She is committed to educating the general public about incarceration and clarifying the misconceptions people have about how inmates really live and get through their day-to-day routine.



Katie has a bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University in Business and Criminal Justice. However, she lets her personal story be the primary educator by openly discussing her experience on the inside and answering any questions an audience can think of.

Peggy Smith, will add a few words about what it is like being a family member supporting your inmate.

This will be an eye-opening program on an important, often underreported topic. I hope you'll be able to join us on **Friday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.** A Zoom link will be sent to all members via e-mail prior to that date. If you need assistance in connecting to Zoom, please contact Mary Ann Bents at mabents@verizon.net or 667 967-0147.

The Reality of Women in Prison Today:

The female incarcerated population stands over seven times higher than in 1980. More than 60% of women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18.

Between 1980 and 2019, the number of incarcerated women increased by more than 700%. This is the result of more expansive law enforcement efforts, stiffer drug sentencing laws, and post-conviction barriers to reentry that uniquely affect women.

Thirty-six percent of youth incarcerated for status offenses (such as truancy and curfew violations) are girls. More than half of youth incarcerated for running away are girls. One-third of incarcerated girls are held for status offenses or for violating the terms of their probation.”

**AAUW – HENDERSONVILLE BRANCH
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 (VIA ZOOM)**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by co-president Norma Treadwell.

Cathy Veal, 1st VP for Programs, introduced the three author panelists for a Q&A program “Experiences in Publishing.” They shared information about writing and publishing their books, including their motivations, what they learned in the process, challenges and obstacles they faced, advice for other women who are thinking about writing, and other women authors they would recommend. The participants presented delightful and interesting answers to questions posed; thereafter, a general conversation continued. The program was quite informative and enjoyable and lasted until 11:05.

Following the program, co-president Norma Treadwell called the business meeting to order. She praised the program, and then announced the state ZOOM conference taking place 03/19-20/2021, with even a virtual happy hour and an online scavenger hunt. She mentioned an upcoming ZOOM COVID meeting and will share what she learns.

Co-Presidents Norma Treadwell and Sandi Lancaster have been brainstorming concerning COVID problems and meetings for ideas on how to continue once this pandemic is over. We need new people to participate in the future. One suggestion was that we partner with other chapters to promote fundraising efforts and for other purposes. Website issues were also discussed; Jan cannot do tracking. Barbara Beckerman noted that Diana Bagwell put together a notebook of new members and their interests.

Barbara Beckerman (Membership) reported that renewal information will come out in the near future: \$91 total annual dues. We currently have 63 members.

No changes in our bank accounts.

Mary Scott expressed concern about lack of continued interest in the garden study group. She also noted her concern about the lack of interest generally in our branch. Mary Ann Bents suggested perhaps members could participate in various groups’ activities without actually being a “member” of the group.

Pat Vestal reported that scholarship recipients are difficult to keep in touch with. Perhaps we can encourage them to become interested in AAUW membership wherever they end up. Norma suggests staying in touch to find out interests and needs.

Susan Huff noted that the April newsletter deadline is 03/30/2021. She suggested maybe we can have some evening ZOOM meetings. Perhaps this might attract interest. Prospective new members might be interested in or know of ways to fundraise. We also need to brainstorm new ways to get AAUW information and goals out to the community.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11pm.

The next ZOOM general meeting is scheduled for Friday 04/09/2021 at 10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Harrison

Substituting for Peg Holmes, Recording Secretary

We Bid A Fond Adieu to Susan Murphy

Saying good-bye isn't easy but we had a beautiful day for it!



Thank you Norma Treadwell, Sandi Lancaster, Mary Scott, Ann McFadden (and family), Barbara Beckerman, Jody Davidson, Jan Allen, and Susan Huff. Susan Murphy's new address appears on page 6.



Editorial: Time to Vote—Again

Change is inevitable. We want to believe that we will always live at home, that our spouse and/or children and/or pets will always be around us, that our friends will always be near, that we will never need glasses, or hearing aids, or a cane. Alas, try as we might to ignore it, things change. If we are strong, and we are a group of strong women, we somehow accept the intrusions on our lives and go on. Sometimes the changes we are forced to endure result in surprising new opportunities.

Next week, on April 7, AAUW will begin a national vote. The main question is the elimination of a degree requirement for membership in AAUW. This has occurred once before in my short tenure as an AAUW member, just two or three years ago. So why are we voting on it again?

The answer is that change is inevitable. Is AAUW going to thrive or die? The average member today is a 72.5 year-old white woman. Membership is declining nationwide. Two North Carolina branches have dissolved. On the other side, we have a young, national CEO in Kim Churches who is working our mission, which is to advance gender equity.

When AAUW was established, women did not have equal access to advanced education. Today more women receive both undergraduate and graduate degrees than men. The issue now is that women are not receiving the same compensation as men working in degreed professions. At the same time, this modern world has provided more than one avenue to achieving professional success. While the traditional four-year degree is one path, it comes with increasing student debt. Alternatives abound, including certificate programs and apprenticeships that can just as well lead to a professional career. The women who choose these avenues are perhaps more interested in being part of a strong, national organization that supports the equal treatment of women in a myriad of still-to-be-won battles for female empowerment.

Some of you are AAUW members because your mothers were, perhaps even your grandmothers. *That AAUW is behind us.* A new century demands a revitalized organization, geared to the needs for the success of today's rising young women. If we have learned one thing from this last year it is that nobody knew what Zoom was a year ago and now we can't live without it! *The world has moved on, without our permission, and we can either jump on that future or drift into obscurity.* We have a choice but we also have a responsibility to meet the expectations of our current members.

My great grandfather was among the group of men who started the YMCA in Rochester, NY. A former circus acrobat, he was the athletic director there for many years. When it began, the "Y" was a home away from home for country boys coming to the city to seek employment. They had a safe place to live, a venue to stay healthy, and a quiet room to study their Bibles. Today that same organization serves all manner of people; young and old, male and female; children and youth. There is extensive outreach to families for any number of needs.

Thus it could be with AAUW. *Without erasing the powerful history of the organization, we can build on it to go further, serve more, and create a stable and growing base that will extend into yet another century.* The national AAUW Board and the AAUWNC Board have both voted unanimously to support this change. But the decision is yours. A voting timeline and instructions appear on page 1. No matter your opinion, the most important thing you can do is vote. The Hendersonville Branch will support you if you need assistance to cast your ballot, but we implore you to consider the critical impact - and vote!

Susan Huff, Newsletter Editor

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From Sputnik to Title IX: Opening Doors for Women in Higher Education



Dr. Deondra Rose, Ph.D.

Associate Professor at Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University
Public Policy, Political Science, and History

Annual Fundraiser for Scholarships for Women

Sponsored by AAUW-ODC

April 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for our 2021 Fundraising Event, April 29
@7:00 pm via Zoom.

Topic: "Sputnik and Title IX: Opening Doors for Women in Higher
Education".

Dr. Deondra Rose of Duke University's Sanford School of Public
Policy will address the role that federal policies have played in the
progress women have made since the 50's.

Your contribution of \$25 goes to fund scholarships for women at
UNC, NCCU and Durham Technical College.

For tickets: ([https://chapelhill-NCCU.AAUW.net/spring2021-
fundraiser-tickets/.](https://chapelhill-NCCU.AAUW.net/spring2021-fundraiser-tickets/))

Liz Leone
Public Policy, AAUW ODC

First Thursday Book Group will meet, via ZOOM, on April 1 at 1:30 PM. This month's book is *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. The book for May 6, 2021 is *The Mercury 13: the Untold Story of Thirteen American Women and the Dream of Space Flight* by Martha Ackmann and Lynn Sherr. Want to join us? Contact Mary Ann Bents at mabents@verizon.net.