



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

This Is What You Need To Do—NOW!

There is an AAUW national vote underway NOW! The main decision before us is whether to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership. Both the national AAUW Board and the AAUWNC Board have voted to back this change. The AAUW is not the organization it was in 1881 because the members don't have the same needs they did two centuries ago! In order to remain viable, we need to change with the times.

No matter what your opinion on this issue, your vote matters. If you have requested a paper ballot, mark it and get it mailed. If you are voting online, the **deadline is May 17 and 5:00 p.m.** PLEASE make the effort. If you need assistance with casting your electronic vote, any member of the Hendersonville Branch Board will be happy to help you! Do it today!



Membership Dues: Annual membership dues must be remitted to Local, State and National levels before the start of the new fiscal year. **Your remittance is payable by May 31st.** Your checks and forms should be mailed in the self-addressed envelope that accompanied your invoice. If you did not receive a renewal notice, please contact Diana Bagwell or Barbara Beckerman. We need your support!

May General Meeting: Women Farm, Too!

Our program on May 14th (Zoom meeting, 10:00 a.m.) will be presented by **Bryson Nix-Edney**, Orchard Manager, **Apple Wedge Packers & Cider**, a fifth and sixth generation family-owned apple production business in Hendersonville.

As Orchard Manager, Bryson's responsibilities include:

- Organizing employee responsibilities in the field for a crew of 8-20 men;
- Planning all growing including high yield production, general practices, and apple harvest;
- Expanding orchard efficiencies through mechanization and up-to-date growing practices;
- Financial planning and budgeting;
- Chemical planning, purchasing, and record Keeping;
- Food Safety;
- Migrant housing and inspections.



At our meeting, she will discuss her work, highlights and challenges, and what she has learned as a woman in agriculture.

According to the USDA's last Census of Agriculture (2017), the U.S. had 1.2 million female producers, accounting for 36% of the country's 3.4 million producers. More than half of all farms (56%) had a female producer. These female-operated farms accounted for 38% of U.S. agriculture sales and 43% of U.S. farmland. In North Carolina, there were 74,052 total producers, 35.2% of whom were women.

A 2016 article in *Civil Eats* by Jodi Helmer profiled the book, [The Rise of Women Farmers and Sustainable Agriculture](#). One of the authors, Rachel Terman, provided the following in response to the question, "What, if anything, makes women and men different as farmers?"

"Women tend to have less land to work with and less access to the labor and capital needed to get their operations up and running. For this reason, we're seeing more women pursuing opportunities in sustainable and organic farming where they can farm on smaller pieces of land with less equipment. Women are also putting together farms in different ways than conventional agriculture. Their operations are more diversified and often include educational components."

"Women have also been really good at developing networks of women farmers to share information. Learning how to farm and create business models can be overwhelming for new farmers. In other scenarios, farmers may be reticent to share information about businesses, but we found that women who were successful farmers were willing to open up about what worked and didn't. This kind of peer-to-peer networking has been an important innovation for women farmers."

Also of note, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2013, for the first time in history, women outpaced men in the total number of bachelor's degrees awarded in agriculture.

Cathy Veal
VP for Program

**AAUW- HENDERSONVILLE BRANCH
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, APRIL 9,2021 (VIA ZOOM)**

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

Cathy Veal, first Vice President for programs, introduced Katie Smith and her mother, Branch Member Peggy Smith. Katie was to speak about Women Prison Inmates, with support from her mother.

Katie was sentenced to twenty years in prison in 2002. She entered prison at age 18 and exited at age 36. She described intake, classification, prison procedures, isolation, purchasing requirements, mental health issues, recidivism issues, returning to society, and many other stirring areas of information. Katie's mother added perspective from family and procedures and problems supporting a daughter in prison. Katie completed college with a double degree in business and criminal justice while in prison. After the presentation, there was a question-and- answer session.

Upon completion of the program, Norma Treadwell praised the quality of the activity, declared a quorum, and initiated the business meeting. Minutes published in the Newsletter were approved as presented. There was a poll to see how many members had already voted in the National AAUW election which is open until May 17 at 5:00.

Sue Hammer, Public Policy Chair, suggested that as community members we read the current news, as it affects us. She indicated we need to be in touch with legislators to make them aware of our preferences.

Cathy Veal stated there were several possibilities for the next General Meeting which were currently being considered, and that information on the selection would be forthcoming.

Margi Rex reported that the balance in the Operating funds Account was \$4280.93.

Ann Goff reported the balance in the Fundraising Account is \$1082.00. There was a brief discussion regarding the lack of financial activity due to the COVID crisis.

Barbara Beckerman and Diana Bagwell reported that the Request for Dues forms were in the mail now, with a statement that funds submitted would be held until all were collected on June 1. Discussion on this matter was held, and it was decided that a notice would be sent to Susan Huff for distribution that dues would be deposited as collected. Several board members volunteered to work with Membership co-chairs to call members if needed. Susan Huff also indicated that the deadline for the next newsletter would be April 28.

Norma Treadwell announced that the next General Meeting would be on May 14 and that the next Board Meeting would be on May 28, both via ZOOM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Bagwell, substituting for Peg Holmes, General Meeting Secretary

Susan Huff, Editor/Publisher
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We Get Mail

Date: April 7, 2021 at 3:25:54 PM EDT

Subject: Future for AAUW

Thank you, Susan Huff, for the wonderful letter you wrote to the members of our branch of the AAUW. I agree with you. As older wo-men, (white women) we must look at the world today, not backward at yesterday. The objective of AAUW is not completely the same today as it was in 1881. I do feel the purpose of the AAUW organization is still to improve and guard the rights of women through education. However, women's rights have expanded to the work place and also in their personal rights. We must be aware of these issues if we are to be relevant today.

I also want to give my thanks to our officers this year for their hard work and insight. You did a great job getting us through this unusual year.

Don't Forget Book Group!

We have such a good time! And we're open to new friends! Book group is meeting this Thursday (as we do each first Thursday at 1:30 p.m. via ZOOM.) This month we are discussing *The Mercury 13* by Martha Ackermann. Even if you haven't read it, come and learn. Did you even know there was a women's astronaut program in 1960? I didn't. We are constantly learning something new and exploring literature that we probably wouldn't have read otherwise. Now is a perfect time because we are beginning a new cycle of books to read. Do you have a favorite that you want to share? Is there a book you have always meant to read but need a reason to, this is it! Come for a session or stay with us all year. We will meet through the summer. For an invitation and ZOOM connection, contact Mary Ann Bents mabents@verizon.net.