



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

## Are We There Yet?

*Well, if we aren't we may be very close to being past the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic. In view of recent news we still should remain cautious, but at least we can begin to get together again after 17 long months.*

## Welcome Back!

Our first General Meeting will be a “welcome back” luncheon to be held at the

**Kenmure Country Club  
on Friday, September 10, 2021**

**Our Special Guest will be Pat Ashe, new NC State President!**

The Board is arranging tiered-price meals ranging between \$20 and \$30 so you can decide what you want to spend.

Of course we will start with a social hour beforehand at 11:30 a.m. Drinks will be available for purchase (credit card only). Lunch will be served at 12:30.

Invitations will go out by August 1 with complete details. Please make every effort to attend! If transportation is an obstacle, please contact Norma Treadwell or Sandi Lancaster. We will make arrangements for another member to pick you up. Don't let that be the reason you stay home. We miss seeing YOU!

## Let's Light the Fires Again!

Your Board has been working very hard this past fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2021. ZOOM meetings were the primary way we communicated with each other as well as State and National leadership. We held General Meetings via ZOOM and we had some great sessions. However, attendance was very low. Cathy Veal and her committee found interesting speakers and topics for us. Here is a list of what you might have missed:

*"Pandemic Curses and Blessings"* facilitated by Cathy Veal, 12/18/20. Using the letters P, A, N, D, E, M, I, and C, members shared some of their curses and blessings that started with each letter. Responses were thoughtful, funny, insightful, creative, revealing, wistful, and heartfelt.

*"Smart Start Partnership for Children"* by Carrie Ann Chandler, 2/12/21. Our speaker informed us of her agency's programs and services to help children be successful in school and life, and how their all-women team is navigating the pandemic. Q&A followed.

*"Our Experiences in Book Writing and Publishing"* by local women authors Georgia Bonesteel, Ann B. Ross, and branch member Zsofi Teleki, 3/12/21. They shared information about writing and publishing their book(s), including their motivations, obstacles they encountered and how they overcame them, other lessons learned in the process, and advice they have for other women who are thinking about writing a book. Q&A followed.

*"Women Inmates: An Insider's Look at the Inside"* by Katie Smith, 4/9/21. A former inmate, Katie candidly spoke of her personal experiences and the realities of incarceration. Her mother and our branch member, Peggy Smith, shared what it is like being a family member supporting your inmate. Q&A followed.

*"Women Farm, too!"* by Bryson Nix-Edney, 5/14/21. Bryson discussed her work as orchard manager at Apple Wedge Packers & Cider, what a typical day in her busiest season looks like and what the off-season entails, and her thoughts on women in agriculture more broadly speaking. Q&A followed.

The Board thanks Cathy Veal and her committee members, Margi Rex and Carol Walters, for their dedication on the Program Committee last year.

Barbara Beckerman and Diana Bagwell have completed membership renewals for the upcoming fiscal year. Total membership is now reduced to 53 members. With the almost 19% decrease in membership, the Board is faced with a challenge of performing necessary functions (Board, Committees, Interest Groups, etc.).

As you may or may not know, two North Carolina branches closed their doors this past year. Currently only about 23% of our membership participates in branch activities on a regular basis. This trend cannot continue without more participation or we will suffer major burnout! All Board positions are up for reelection next year and we don't even have a Nominating Committee. How are we to support the mission of AAUW this way? At our last meeting, two officers, Diane Harrison and Anne Goff, have agreed to extend their terms by a year so we can have staggered elections in the future. The Board needs your input and cooperation if we are to get past this roadblock!

By now, each of you should have received in the mail a Membership Questionnaire prepared by the Board. It is important that you take a little time to complete this and get it back to us. We need to know if and how we can continue as a viable branch.

*Norma Treadwell and Sandra Lancaster, Co-Presidents*

## Moving Forward

**AAUW First Friday Bridge has resumed!** The venue has changed to 109 Carriage Walk Lane. We continue to meet at 12:30 as before. We welcome new members who are interested in playing, it is a friendly laid back atmosphere. The only thing we require is a valid Covid vaccine. Anyone interested should contact Zsofi Teleki at 828 242-2160.

**Book Groups Consolidated! Come join the fun.** The former Tuesday and Thursday book groups are now one. For August we will discuss *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore. Our active and interested group will meet on August 5 at 1:30 p.m., in person at the Church of Christ Annex at 1975 Haywood Road (across from Pi-Squared Pizza). This book opens yet another chapter in American history that you probably never studied in school. No time to read the book? There's a movie on Netflix or Amazon Prime Video. The story is poignant and displays how persistence can achieve victory over money and power. Everyone is invited. Not comfortable with in-person? You can Zoom in. Come, join us! For anyone not currently on the meeting list, please contact Mary Ann Bents for your Zoom link.

**Membership Directory: THERE WILL BE NO NEW DIRECTORY** this year. The Board decided not to stretch our already thin resources by collecting new information and setting up meetings with everyone involved in this laborious process. The following information should be added to your current (orange) directory:

**Delete (non renewing members):**

Patricia Amick	Sylvie Kassab
Lyenatte Goff	Nelda Orr
Bernadette Golbesky	Belinda Peters
Mary Beth Hayes	Martha Rumbough
Ann Holland	Debra Saalfield

**Delete (deceased members):**

Ruth Bird	Sibyl Lange
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**Address Change (effective August 1)**

Virginia P. Newsom  
Carolina Village, 600 Carolina Village Rd, Apt. 120  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

**Meetings:** We will continue for the next few months to hold Board Meetings via ZOOM. We are talking to Trinity Presbyterian about renting their large meeting room again to conduct General Meetings on the second Friday of each month. For our General meeting in December, we will try to reserve time at the Hendersonville Golf & Country Club for our annual Holiday Party if someone steps up to plan and organize it this year. Until further notice, Board Meetings will take place on the fourth Friday of the month (via ZOOM at 10:00 a.m.) and General Meetings on the second Friday (time and location to be announced). Please mark your calendars accordingly.



**Remember receiving that Membership Questionnaire from AAUW? Find it, complete it, and return it NOW! We want to restart our Branch in a way that makes you want to participate in it. We can't do it without YOU!**

**AAUW- HENDERSONVILLE BRANCH  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021 (VIA ZOOM)**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by co-president Norma Treadwell.

Cathy Veal, first Vice President for Programs, introduced Bryson Nix-Edney, Orchard Manager, Apple Wedge Packers & Cider, on the topic, "Women Farm, Too!" Bryson spoke about the commercial growing and packing operation currently run by her and her sister, as the latest owners in a family venture begun in 1979 and expanded to include apple cider.

Bryson was thanked for her excellent presentation by Norma Treadwell, who brought the business meeting to order at 10:42 AM. She stated that this would be the last general meeting of this season. Next general meeting will be held September 10, 2021, location to be announced. Norma also highlighted the following:

Pat Ashe, NC AAUW incoming president has asked for a volunteer to fill the position of NC Public Policy Chair. Responsibilities include communication with NC Branches, keeping informed about what is happening in the state and nationally on matters pertaining to the mission of AAUW.

Monday, May 17 is both the deadline for filing federal and state income taxes and the last opportunity to vote regarding bylaws changes for AAUW. Voting must be electronic now; mail-in deadline has passed. Voting will end at 5:00 PM on Monday.

The Hendersonville Board turns over in June, 2022. Norma suggested that those in office currently consider assuming a different position. Norma and Sandi will be contacting people over the summer to determine their willingness to serve in some capacity.

Diana Bagwell presented an update on membership. We currently have 63 members. Of those, 40 have renewed their membership and 2 have dropped membership. Beginning Monday, Diana and Barbara Beckerman will begin making phone calls to encourage those who have not responded to mail in their checks.

Margi Rex was absent – no report on the Operating Account. Ann Goff reported that there has been no activity in the Fundraising Account.

## General Meeting Minutes, Continued

In the absence of Mary Scott, Directory Chair, Norma reported that due to Covid interruption in our regular programs and schedules, there is a need to continue a paper membership directory for the coming year. It will probably be smaller due to fewer organized activities and an anticipated reduction in membership. The option to go to an electronic directory will be postponed.

Susan Huff, Newsletter Editor, stated that she will attend a Mail Chimp webinar on May 24 with the intent of updating the newsletter to that format in order to better track how many members are actually opening and reading their newsletter. Next newsletter will appear for September, with information on meeting dates, format, and location.

In the absence of Mary Ann Bents, Susan Huff reported that Mary Ann has been serving as the very capable leader of the First Thursday Book Group, which continued through last summer and all of this season, via Zoom. As the only Interest group to have survived during Covid, Mary Ann has encouraged other members to participate, both to read and discuss books and to keep an open channel of communication among members. Later today there will be a special e-mail blast to all members asking their cooperation in selecting the books that will be read in the coming year.

New Business: Susan Huff suggested that an in-person luncheon would be a good way to begin next season as a restart for the Branch. Questions arose as to what Covid restrictions might apply at that time. Norma indicated that despite the CDC recent reversal on the need to wear masks for fully vaccinated people, AAUW still recommends it. It was generally agreed that if such an event took place, it would not be until August. Ann Goff suggested that further discussion on the subject be postponed to the next Board meeting, when safety recommendations would be more clear.

Norma Treadwell announced that the next General Meeting would be on September 10 and that the next Board Meeting would be on May 28, via ZOOM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Huff, for Peg Holmes, General Meeting Secretary

Susan Huff, Editor/Publisher  
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## New Needs, New Committees—and Please Report

Congratulations to Pat Vestal, who has given up her position as Chair of the Community Interest Committee in order to pursue her writing. She and her committee members came up with some ideas about how the responsibilities could be realigned by dividing the responsibilities in two. The **Community Interest** committee will seek out ways for our Branch to participate in the community volunteering our time and making AAUW and its mission more visible. The **University/College Relations** committee will be the main contact for scholarship recipients and the college administrators in the area, involving them in our webinars, meetings, and activities when appropriate, and participating in college events.

**Fundraising/Ways & Means** is the committee that will generate the ideas for raising funds in the post-pandemic environment. Suggestions and estimated budgets will be presented to the Board for approval. The committee chair will recruit volunteers to carry out each activity. Anne Goff, as Fundraising Account Manager, will continue to collect funds and issue reimbursements for fundraising costs.

If any of these sounds like something you would enjoy be sure to indicate your interest on your Membership Questionnaire.

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The Board is also asking that all currently-serving Committee Chairs and Interest Group leaders send Sandi Lancaster information about the members serving on your committees or in your groups. Until we find a new Interest Group Coordinator, now is the time to find out who is still in your group. There has been a suggestion that we establish an “ad-hoc” interest group to try out new groups for a short period of time to determine participation. At the September luncheon, Chairs and Group Leaders will be given the opportunity to talk about their committees and groups to invite participation and present planned activities for October, November, and beyond.