



News in the Time of COVID, August 2020 Edition
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AAUW Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Questions or comments about the newsletter?
Please send them to aauwboise@hotmail.com.

President's Corner by Norma Lloyd



Hello to all of you out there in COVID-19 land. It's been since March that we last had the opportunity to meet in person at a meeting. At the time, we had no idea we would be facing such a huge disruption in our lives. On July 1st, I officially took over as branch president and it looks like I may not have the opportunity of meeting with most of you in person during my term! Unfortunately, we had to cancel our lunch and dinner meetings at the Riverside through December and, unless we (our state) reduces the number of cases and a vaccine is developed, it is likely we will not be meeting in January through March. Let us all do our best: wear masks and avoid large crowds or anyone who might be exposed to the disease.

So, the question started bubbling up in June. How does our branch stay relevant and retain its membership? We will still support the Inez Robb scholarship for a deserving collegiate woman. We will still support a Project Recognition scholarship for a high school junior. We will still support STEM projects as identified. We will still support the Young Women in Leadership Conference at BSU. And we will continue supporting the What the Vote project to register young people to vote. Hopefully, we will once again engage in Lobby Corps efforts after the first of the year to influence legislation that aligns with AAUW's mission (**see the shout-out box below**). We have always been flexible to reach out and support efforts like these and we plan to do so throughout the year. In other words: the important work and mission of AAUW goes on!

Kathy Scott suggested that we try ZOOM interviews with different people since we lost the April and May meetings. So far, we have interviewed Beth

Oppenheimer, Boise School District Trustee, about the district's response to the pandemic. Then we interviewed Dr. Marlene Tromp, BSU President, about her position and the plans for the Fall. Last Wednesday, we interviewed State Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb and her son Phillip Thompson, Executive Director of Idaho's Black History Museum. If you missed any of these excellent programs, you can listen to a recording of the conversations by going to the [Members Only tab of our branch website](#).

Our Happy Hour group, headed up by Kathy Scott and Gayle Wilde, has chosen to meet every Wednesday under the new name "Joyful Visiting." We want it to be a time we can connect with each other, and Kathy always has a serious question for everyone to address. Out of this group comes suggestions for speakers as well as the opportunity to see members' faces and to socialize. Our book groups are meeting virtually on ZOOM as well. The Great Decisions class finished last week virtually. And a few people have gathered according to zip codes in the open air in parks where they can physically distance.

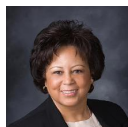
I regret that we will most likely will not have our August picnic, unless we ask you to bring your own food and drinks and we spread out in a park. Let me know if you would be interested. As you can see, we may not have the liberty of meeting regularly, but we are still very much alive and committed. In other words: the work and mission of AAUW goes on!



Branch members living in zip code 83714 enjoyed some face time on July 31, 2020. Yes, it was hot, but that didn't deter them. From left to right: Twila Gallaher, Barbara Krebaum, Sylvia Chariton, Marlys Davenport, Pam Cardinale, and Marsha Bravo.

Shout-out to AAUW Idaho Statehouse Lobby Corps

At the end of Wednesday's "conversation" with State Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb, she



had this to say about the AAUW Idaho Statehouse Lobby Corps:

"I appreciate you...The AAUW is an important force in legislators' activity at the Capitol again and again. I don't think we would have even made it through sometimes. We got beaten the hell up if we hadn't seen you guys there. So thank you for being and being and being."

This Letter to the Editor appeared in the July 22, 2020, edition of the Idaho Press:

Together

As President of the local AAUW branch, an organization promoting education and equity for women and girls, I want to thank Boise Mayor Lauren McLean for her willingness to make difficult decisions in an unprecedented time. Wearing masks is critical to the welfare of all people as well as the recovery of our economy. Guiding the reopening of our city is critical to stopping the spread of this virus. This is not about taking away freedoms; it is about taking responsibility for our freedoms and ensuring the health of our community.

Mayor McLean has said that with challenges comes opportunities. She has taken this opportunity to listen and engage the community to find solutions to this unprecedented event in a most democratic way. She has taken this opportunity to work with other leaders in the Treasure Valley as well as the governor. She has taken the opportunity to collaborate with service providers of the homeless, school districts, public health groups, hospitals,

faith communities, school districts, and other agencies to find the best solutions to protecting the health of us all which ultimately means economic recovery. She has taken the opportunity to look long and hard at our need for affordable housing as her team develops a budget, another safety measure for our community.

From a group of mostly vulnerable members, thank you Mayor McLean for helping to keep us safe. Masks are critical to our interactions at work, in hospitals, as well as in businesses. If I wear a mask, it helps you; if you wear a mask, it helps me. We're all in this together.

Norma Lloyd, Boise

Programs by Pam Ahrens



It is our intent to provide timely programs for the remainder of 2020 via the ZOOM Internet platform.

The programs are designed to keep our branch membership connected and informed. Dates and times for the on-line conversations will vary, depending on the availability of speakers and topics to be discussed.

Upcoming "Conversations":

Thursday, August 13, 12 noon - Lauren McLean, Mayor, City of Boise

Monday, August 24, 10:00 a.m. - Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager, Idaho Public Television

Thursday, September 3, 2:00 p.m. - Phil McGrane, Ada County Clerk

Tuesday, November 10, Time TBA - Lynda Buehring, former federal agent and expert on Human Trafficking

Possible presenters include journalist Betsy Russell and Dr. Sky Blue, an infectious disease specialist.

Kathy Scott will send out a save-the-date notification ahead of time and ZOOM links closer to the interview to you all.

This is most definitely a time for us to re-create our AAUW branch, in order to sustain and build on our past community successes.

Membership Update by Deborah Newton and Paulette Penney



Greetings from your new membership co-VPs, Deborah Newton and Paulette Penney.

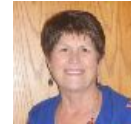
As many of you know, we are working to keep membership strong and stay connected with our members. A survey was sent out this summer designed to help us meet those goals. Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond.

From the survey, we learned that most members who responded would like to continue meeting, preferably in outdoor settings with appropriate social distancing. Several members have started meetings in parks, reaching out to members in their zip codes. . Additionally, several members suggested Zoom meetings for interest groups. If you are interested in helping with these activities, or just attending, let Paulette or Deborah know so we can get you the information or make sure you are included in the appropriate groups.

This pandemic has really changed the way we do just about everything, but we want to make sure we continue the important work that AAUW does, and for that, we need a

strong, committed membership. If you have additional suggestions as we continue working our way through this, please let us know.

What The Vote! by Chris Stokes



Fall 2020 is looking quite different for the What The Vote! voter registration and education activities. Despite Covid-19 challenges, a program will be offered to all high school government teachers; however, it won't be delivered in classrooms by our passionate army of volunteers. What will it look like? Not all of the details have been hammered into place, but some things are in the works.

- A video, which will hopefully be shown in the government classes, will soon be available for review. The video is expected to provide the information for students that would normally be delivered by volunteers in the classroom. Featured in the video are several young students and the program founders, Nancy Viano and Chris Stokes. Amy Steckel and Sue Fillman will be reaching out to teachers to coordinate.
- The Student Advisory Council will consist of one student from each high school in Boise and West Ada school districts, including Bishop Kelly. The council now has one student from Timberline and one from Centennial. Plans are in place to reach out to schools (and others) to fill the remaining 8 positions.
- The website, <http://whatthevoteidaho.org>, has been updated and enhanced to show election information for all of Idaho. If you haven't visited the website recently, please take time to check it out. We also encourage readers to "like" us on Facebook (What The Vote Idaho) and Instagram (WTV_Idaho). AAUW member Roberta Olson and others are looking for articles and interesting items that would appeal to younger followers to post on social media.
- Planning is underway to host voter registration tables for college campuses in September on National Voter Registration Day. What The Vote! volunteers may be asked to assist with those activities (Covid-19 precautions will prevail). AAUW member Cathe Scott is coordinating activities with college students.



What the Vote! volunteers can expect an email very soon that will provide more information about the activities and volunteer opportunities for Fall 2020.

REMINDER - REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT !

If you haven't already done so, [click here](#) to request your absentee ballot for the November 3 general election.

Boise State Food Pantry by Tracy Bicknell-Holmes



Boise State Food Pantry – Temporarily Closed

Classes at Boise State University are all online due to the pandemic, and very few students are in residence this summer. Faculty and staff are just beginning to return to campus in stages and most buildings are still closed, as is the Boise State Food Pantry.

Students are still facing food insecurity. If you've looked at the Food Pantry website lately, you will see that the Dean of Students is referring students to a series of other local resources including:

- Idaho Food Bank's Food Assistance Locator @ <https://idahofoodbank.org/getfood/>
- Treasure Valley Community Resource Page @ <https://www.unitedwaytv.org/covid-19-treasure-valley-community-resource-page>
- St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry @ <https://svdpid.org/food-pantries/>

Here's how you can help:

If you've been watching the news, a wide range of people who need to work to put food on the table can't work due to the pandemic, and the need for food assistance is very high. If you're inclined to donate to any of the organizations above, you will be helping Boise State students as well as other members of the community who are struggling.

The Boise State Food Pantry is accepting financial donations in lieu of food because it offers them more flexibility to help students. Any and all donations would be helpful. To donate to the Boise State Food Pantry please go to:

<https://www.boisestate.edu/deanofstudents/student-support/food-help/food-pantry/>

- Scroll down past the photo until you get to the "Location and Hours" information
- Click on the "Financial Donations" tab located to the right of the "Location and Hours" tab
- Click the large Orange button that says "Financial Donations"
- This form will automatically route your donation to **ASBSU/Dean of Students Food Pantry**
- Enter the information needed for "Give Today" and "Additional Information"
- Then click the Orange "Continue" button and follow the rest of the instructions

What about Fall Semester?

Boise State University is working hard to prepare for having students back on campus this fall. Students move into the Residence Halls the week of August 17-21, and classes begin August 21, 2020. Hopefully, the Food Pantry will be able to open again when students are back. If it does, I will send out a call out to anyone who is willing and able to help stock the pantry.

If you have questions about the food pantry or other ways you can help our Boise State students through this tough time, call the Dean of Students Office at 208-426-1527. Although they may still be working off campus, the Dean of Students and his staff are answering their phones and/or retrieving messages.

**AAUW Boise-Inez Robb Scholarship Recipient
by Nancy Otterness**



The recipient of this year's scholarship is Lucy Murphy. Lucy is a junior in BSU's Honor College. She is majoring in Business and Economic Analytics (analyzing customer sales trends, efficiency and productivity). Lucy is an active member in several campus groups and works part-time as a teaching assistant. Lucy plans on continuing her education pursuing a Master of Business Administration.

**Project Recognition
by Carol Fowler**



The AAUW Boise Area Branch developed Project Recognition in 2013 to bring attention to Treasure Valley female students who intend to pursue education beyond high school. The selected young women have gone above and beyond by serving

their communities through direct action in their communities with extracurricular activities. Each year, two local Treasure Valley high schools encourage female junior students to submit applications for a scholarship award to an accredited university, college, or trade school. The Project Recognition committee selects an applicant from each school and notifies each successful candidate at the end of her junior year. Formal recognition is given at the September general meeting for AAUW; a monetary award is given to the school once the student is accepted to a school and a student account is developed. A member of the Recognition committee tracks the successful candidate to ensure the transition of the \$500 award to the higher education program.

Members of the 2019-2020 committee were Kay Reed, Norma Lloyd, Wendy Rancourt, Jane Hobbs, Amie Bruggeman, Paulette Penney, and Carol Fowler. Unfortunately, the application process was not completed due to the disruption of the 2019-2020 regular academic school year by COVID-19.

If you are interested in serving on the Project Recognition committee for 2020-2021, please contact [Carol Fowler](#).

Book Group (Mystery) by Linda Anderson



Our meetings are at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom the second Monday of each month. Kathy Scott sends out a link for the meeting a few days before. We hope you will join us. If you would like to be added to the list, please email Linda Anderson at lcander@pacbell.net.

Here is the schedule:

Monday, August 10th, *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Kruger

Monday, September 14th, *The Old Contemptibles* by Martha Grimes

Monday, October 12th, *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

Book Group (Sunday) by Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh



The Sunday Afternoon Bookclub meets via Zoom on the third Sunday of the month, 2:00-3:30 p.m. A Zoom link is sent out to members the week before the meeting. We always welcome new members!

The books and meeting dates for the next four months is as follows:

August 16: **There There**. Leader is Carolyn King.

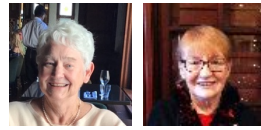
September 20: **The library book**. Leader is Valerie Steffen.

October 18: **Astoria**. Leader is Penelope Smith.

November 15: **The Overstory**. Leader is Valerie Steffen

Questions? Call Mary Ruckh 262-212-8829 or Ann Lewis 208-964-1460

Book Group (Thursday) by Ann Kirkpatrick and Linda Simmons



The AAUW Thursday Evening Book Group has voted to suspend discussions until the coronavirus pandemic is no longer a medical issue for our members.

For additional information, please contact Ann Kirkpatrick (208-887-6759) or Linda Simmons (208-859-5299). to me, Ann.

As we monitor the situation, we will submit monthly updates to the AAUW newsletter and we will be in touch with group members by email to keep you apprised of our activities.

Bowling Group by Stacy Urban



Our group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10:00 am at Westy's Garden Lanes in Garden City. We bowl 2 games and have a lot of fun. You don't have to be a great bowler to join us! We are a motley crew of bowlers ranging from mediocre to pretty good on a good day. **Currently, we are not meeting because of the pandemic.** We will most likely start bowling again in January 2021. Contact Stacy Urban for more info stacycurban@gmail.com 360-914-8866.

Bridge Group by Dena Duncan



The Bridge Group is in a "Coronabatical" holding pattern!

Daytimers Group by Marsha Bravo and Paulette Penney



Our Daytimers' group has been on **Coronabatical** since the Virus arrived. We miss seeing all of our group members and exploring new venues; however, at this time, given the status of things, we will need to remain in a Holding Pattern. If you have any questions or ideas of ways that we could possibly get together, don't hesitate to contact us. Until then, stay safe and healthy until we can meet again.

[Click here](#) to see information about an outing on August 23
being sponsored by the SW Chapter of NOW.

Movie Group by Carolyn Moore and Gerrie Oehlschlager



The Movie Group is in a "Coronabatical" holding pattern!

Newcomers Group
by Heidi Bogert and Elise deWit



The Newcomers Group is in a "Coronabatical" holding pattern!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to the following new members who joined the branch since May 2020:

Kara Elliott
Katherine Fleming
Marlene Tromp
Nancy Viano

OFFICERS

President
Norma Lloyd

President-Elect
Mary Mosley

Co-Vice Presidents, Membership
Deborah Newton and Paulette Penney

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs
Pam Ahrens and Linda Anderson

Finance Officer
Roberta Olson

Finance Officer-Elect
Starr Rausch

Secretary
Beth Popish

APPOINTED POSITIONS

501(c)3 Compliance Coordinator
Julie Custer

Boise State Food Pantry
Tracy Bicknell-Holmes

Directory (Online)
Julie Custer

Feminine Hygiene Products
Linda Anderson

Funds Chair
Kathy Scott

Goodwill Ambassador
Ann Lewis

Newsletter Editor
David Scott

Nominating Committee
Carolyn Moore, David Scott, and Stacy Urban

Project Recognition
Carol Fowler

Public Policy
Julie Custer

Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs
Nancy Otterness and Noreen Pusey

Special Events Coordinators
Amie Bruggeman and Stacy Urban

**Social Media (Facebook,
Instagram, Twitter)**

Julie Custer

STEM Chair

Deborah Newton

Web Editor

Carrie Noriega

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Books, Mystery

Linda Anderson

Books, Sunday Afternoon

Ann Lewis and Mary Ruckh

Books, Thursday Evening

Ann Kirkpatrick and Linda Simmons

Bowling

Stacy Urban

Bridge

Dena Duncan

Daytimers

Marsha Bravo and Paulette Penney

Great Decisions

Pat Alpine and Mary Ruckh

Happy Hour

Kathy Scott and Gayle Wilde

Movie

Carolyn Moore and Gerrie
Oehlschlager

Newcomers

Heidi Bogert and Elise deWit

Voter Registration

Chris Stokes and Nancy Viano

Wine Tasting #1

David Scott

Wine Tasting #2

Mike Camp and Elise deWit



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