

ASHLAND VISION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Annual Board Retreat

Are you ready to roll up your sleeves and plan for our Branch future? Then please consider attending our Annual Board Retreat taking place on Saturday, June 29, from 10 am -2 pm in the Ashland Asante Hospital Conference Room, 280 Maple Street, Ashland. Sandra Coyner will be leading the planning session and we definitely need member participation for success.

Your Board will be engaged in:

- Reviewing the strategic plan
- Taking a close look at the recent survey results
- Deciding on Branch priorities and actions for 2019-2020

We will gather at 9:45 in the Conference Room for coffee, tea, and some breakfast snacks and start at 10 am sharp. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. We also request each member bring her own dish, drinking cup/coffee mug, and silverware.

Directions to the Hospital Conference Room: Use Entrance 1 on Maple Street. This is the first entrance as you come up the hill approaching the Hospital. There is street parking and also a lot before the entrance. Once inside the doors, the Switchboard can direct you to the Conference Room.

When: Saturday, June 29, 10 am - 2 pm

Where: Ashland Community Hospital, Board Conference room

Looking Ahead

AAUW Medford Garden Tour	June 8
Annual Board Retreat	June 29

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



By the time this last *Vision* of the 2018-19 AAUW year hits your inbox, another Celebration of Scholars will be history. How impressed we were with all of those young women from SOU

and RCC pursuing their educations despite tremendous challenges. Thanks to you, the members, for making these scholarships possible and helping these women fulfill their dreams. Special thanks to Scholarship Chairs Wanda Chin and Kate Wolf-Pizor, the Scholar Mentors, and the Scholarship Committee for the difficult job of selecting the recipients from the large number of worthy applicants. Also, many thanks to Sherri Morgan and Sandy Theis and their committee for organizing the celebratory event and mentoring the students.

With the scholarships celebrated and the Upscale Sale completed and only the June 29 retreat remaining on the calendar, we end another successful AAUW year. I am ending my tenure as co-president and feel very honored to have had the opportunity to serve this Branch of amazing thoughtful women so dedicated to the cause of social and economic justice. It has been a great experience for me and one that I have thoroughly enjoyed. I have many people to thank and will not attempt to name them

all or I will miss some, but I especially thank our Board members. They gave freely of their time and expertise and provided thoughtful discussions on financial decisions, strategic planning, meeting venues, and numerous other topics. My special thanks go to Pam Shay, my co-president during 2018-19, who brings so much joy to her job whatever it may be. It has been such a pleasure to serve with Pam. Her reputation for building consensus and teamwork as a school principal were apparent as we moved through numerous decisions.

I am thrilled that Paula Wiiken has stepped up to serve with Pam and start another two-year term. Paula has been serving as the very capable dedicated Public Policy chair in addition to serving as co-chair of the Upscale Sale. I know Pam and Paula will be a great team. The Branch could not be in better hands.

It is vital that the Branch have a regular influx of new ideas and personalities. Having served on the Board for several years, I have learned so much about the national and state organizations, become better acquainted with many members, and best of all, made new friends. I encourage members to volunteer as their lives permit for any of the myriad of jobs that keep AAUW Ashland functioning.

—Gretchen King

Nine Women Honored at Celebration of Scholars

By Wanda Chin, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

AAUW Ashland awarded nearly \$29,000 to our nine scholars for the 2019–20 academic year. Friends and family joined RCC President Cathy Kemper-Pelle and SOU President Linda Schott to honor the women enrolled at Rogue Community College and Southern Oregon University.

Kate and Jim Wolf-Pizor and their Portland family presented SOU student Sierra Sims the first-time award of the Wolf-Pizor Family Scholarship. Kait Fairchild was awarded The Judy Yin Shih Scholarship.

Our women scholars represent different majors and stages of their academic careers. Jahna Thompson is persistent: leaving an abusive home, high-school dropout to earning a GED, now to studies in the natural world. Emily Lindley, an SOU graduate student, performs with Left Edge Percussion. A restoration worker in the Applegate, Valerie Miller studies natural resources at RCC. Enrolled in SOU Honors College, Turtle McCloskey studies environmental science and is spending eleven weeks at Harvard's Ecological Research Campus.

One of 11 children and home-schooled, RCC nursing student Gabrielle Johnson has persisted through challenges. She states, "When I find myself saying 'can't', I know I really mean 'not willing to put in the effort necessary.' I aim to always be willing." Sierra Sims tells about dropping out after the loss of both parents, then her return to SOU studies in English and Native Studies.

Three mothers weave together their families, studies, and community service. SOU graduate Kait Fairchild worked at Oregon Shakespeare Festival before returning to study for her Master in Teaching. Throughout her life she has volunteered for a Jamaican organization to increase literacy. First year RCC Nursing student Samantha Sochia read her rhyming poem of her life journey, and she credits the support of her husband and two young children for her demanding schedule.

Finally, McNair Scholar, mentor, and mom, Amanda Smith aims to research and develop applied improvisation to train others in promoting a myriad of growth and developmental behaviors. She already has traveled to the Oregon State Legislature in Salem to talk with state representatives about the need to support higher education.

Our AAUW Ashland scholarships are core to our mission: from scholarship to policy, family to community, education empowers women.

AAUW Ashland 2019–20 Scholarship Awards

Rogue Community College

- Gabrielle Johnson**, Nursing
- Valerie Miller**, Natural Resources
- Samantha Sochia**, Nursing
- Jahna Thompson**, Biology

Southern Oregon University

- Kait Fairchild**, Graduate
Master of Arts Teaching
Awarded The Judy Yin Shih Scholarship
- Emily Lindley**, Graduate
Master of Music in Percussion Performance
- Turtle McCloskey**, Junior
Environmental Science
Honors College
- Sierra Sims**, Junior
English major with a Certificate in Native American Studies; McNair Scholar
Awarded Wolf-Pizor Family Scholarship

- Amanda Smith**, Senior
BS in Psychology, a minor in Communications Studies, and a certificate in Leadership Development; McNair Scholar

Learn more about our scholars in future newsletters. Many thanks to Stephanie Hanigan, SOU Scholarship Coordinator, and Anna Manley, Support Specialist, RCC Foundation, for their assistance.



2019-20 AAUW Ashland Scholarip Awardees: from left, Valerie Miller, Jahna Thompson, Samantha Sochia, Gabrielle Johnson, Kait Fairchild, Amanda Smith, Emily Lindley, Turtle McCloskey, and Sierra Sims



Jean Conger, Kait Fairchild, (The Judy Yin Shih Scholarship recipient), Kate Wolf-Pizor, and Wanda Chin



Rich Pizann, Miriam Pizann, Sierra Sims (Wolf-Pizor Family Scholarship recipient), Kate Wolf-Pizor, Jim Wolf-Pizor

AAUW Ashland 2019–20 Scholarship Awardees and Their Mentors



Sarah Seybold and Gabrielle Johnson



Valerie Miller and Ellen Fowler



Samantha Sochia and Sandy Theis



Jahna Thompson and Gretchen King



Kait Fairchild and Carole Florian



Ann Lovett and Emily Lindley



Turtle McCloskey and Lyn Gutierrez



Kate Wolf-Pizor and Sierra Sims



Erin Finklea and Amanda Smith

Annette Pugh

If you haven't renewed your membership for next year, please do so by the end of May. My team and I will start calling in June to remind you, so it would be wonderful to have your checks and updates in earlier.

We are already starting on next year's directory, so please keep me posted with any changes of status, address, phone, name change, etc.

Our annual retreat is June 29 at Ashland Community Hospital in the Board Conference Room, and I hope to see you there.

Have a wonderful summer! Let's hope for less smoke and more blue skies. . . .

—Catherine Lutes, Membership Chair

Annette Pugh passed away on Sunday, April 23, 2019. Annette was our Branch President in 1989–1990 and an active member for many years. She began her real estate career in 1979, and as a realtor for Gateway Real Estate she usually placed an ad in our directory and supported our many causes. She was a Charitable Partner, which means she made a donation to our Scholarship Fund every time an AAUW member used her real estate services.



She had also been President of Soroptimist International of Ashland and a member of Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon.

Her husband, Lance, passed away May 2010. They had moved to Ashland in the early 70s and owned Lithia Grocery, a deli type store on the Plaza. Lance was a columnist for the Daily Tidings, and in 2006 he published a book, "Essentially Ashland: The Missing Years," full of clever anecdotes and history.

Over the years Annette and Lance renovated historic properties in Ashland and Jacksonville, including Plaza Dance Studio and Ablaze Modeling Agency.

At this time no memorial service is planned.

—Jean Conger

In Our Thoughts

A card has been sent to Colleen Searle following her being involved in a car accident.

—Rosemary Adalian,
Contact Secretary

Charitable Partners

These two members have pledged to make a donation to either the AAUW/SOU or AAUW/RCC Scholarship Fund every time an AAUW member uses their services or refers someone who uses their services. We thank them for their generosity and dedication to AAUW.

Liz Murphy, CFP MBA/Financial Advisor
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Sara Walker, Broker
Patricia Sprague Real Estate
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2019–2020 AAUW Ashland Branch Officers & Chairs

Co-presidents: Pam Shay, Paula Wiiken

Financial Officer: Sonja Friedman

Dues Treasurer: Diana Quirk

Recording Secretary: Peggy Audibert

Parliamentarian: Sandra Coyner

Members-at-Large: Kathleen Mackris & Shirley Malcolm

Membership Chair: Catherine Lutes

Welcoming: Claudette Paige

E-Communication: Maureen Wilson-Jarrard

Directory Editor: Chris Licata

Contact Secretary: Linda Moreland

Communication Chair: Ellen Fowler

Webmaster: TBA

Newsletter Editors: Ellen Fowler, Pat Brewer

Newsletter Design: Chris Licata

PR Chair: Janet Troy

Photographer: TBA

Chamber Liaison: Donna Wright

SOU Partners: Mimi Pippel, Olena Black

Program Co-chairs: TBA

Celebration of Scholars: TBA

Interest Groups: Lyn Guitierrez

Friendship Circles: Elaine Sweet

Holiday Party: TBA

Community Projects: Carol Ryan

AWSEM: Carryl Breon

Maslow Project: Vicky Giffin

Scholarships: Wanda Chin/Kate Wolf-Pizor

Strong Girls/Strong Women: Susan Hollandsworth

WiN: Carol Ryan

Fundraising Chair: Bessie Azari

AAUW Funds Chair: Bessie Azari

Endowment: Jean Conger

Facilities/Hospitality: Mimi Pippel

Public Policy: TBA

Strategic Planning: Sanda Coyner

Major Thanks for their work and contributions to our officers and chairs who are not continuing next year: **Gretchen King, Julie Benezet, Carole Forgan, Erin Finklea, Rosemary Adalian, Diana Versluis, Sunny Anderson. Olena Black** is not our Photographer next year, but she will continue as a liaison with **Mimi Pippel** to SOU. And **Paula Wiiken** will no longer be Public Policy chair but Co-president.

—Pam Shay

Help Wanted: Additional Newsletter Editor

The award-winning Ashland Branch newsletter, the “Vision,” is looking for a new team member to join us in helping to keep our members informed and energized. It’s a wonderful opportunity to stay engaged in our mission and use your organizational and editorial skills plus acting as grammar geek. You’d work independently on about 3 issues per year, gathering, organizing, and lightly editing articles from our Branch members. The good news is that there are no committee meetings involved! You can work in your slippers and jammies. When your issue is done, you are footloose and free for a few months! Plus, the Editor is assisted by a team of proofreaders for punctuation, grammar, and style-checks. You don’t need to be an experienced writer, just be able to use Microsoft Word, and organize and edit articles provided by our able fellow members. Interested? Contact Ellen Fowler or Pat Brewer.

Chris Licata moving to St. Louis

We are sorry to announce that Chris Licata, our newsletter designer extraordinaire, is moving to St. Louis for family reasons. The good news is that she will continue her work on the newsletter and on our directory from her new home. We look forward to working with her for many more issues and wish her the best as she and husband Michael head back to their hometown.



Members of the newsletter team at their annual end-of-the-year meeting at Dancin Vinyards: Rae Otto, Pat Brewer, Chris Licata, Ellen Fowler, and Alice Mallory (Olena Black, Margaret Karsten, and Syllie Whitman couldn't be there)



The Endowment Funds Matter!

The recent Celebration of Scholars makes visible the center of what our AAUW Branch is all about—creating opportunities for women. This is why it has been and continues to be so meaningful to all of us.

This year, more than half of our Branch members donated to either the SOU and RCC annual scholarship funds or to the SOU and RCC endowment funds. That shows our commitment to these scholarships and to the colleges we support. Bravo, Ashland AAUW! Also, this year the income from the SOU endowment fund provided more than half of the total funds available for our SOU scholarships!

As the endowment funds grow, the income available each year will also grow and will enable us to help more women in their pursuit of education. Please help us continue this growth by supporting the March to a Million for the AAUW Endowment Fund at SOU. Your contribution to the endowment funds will help fund scholarships in perpetuity.

If you are interested in supporting our March to a Million campaign, please feel free to contact Jean Conger, chair of the Endowment Committee. There are many ways that you can contribute and continue to make a difference for women in our community.

—Vicky Giffin

Books for WiN

The Women in Need team (WiN) will resume our book sale at the September meeting. The proceeds from the book sale are used to purchase bus tokens for Dunn House residents. If you have books that you’d like to donate, please contact Carol Ryan. We ask that you donate books that other members will want to buy (no textbooks, encyclopedias, or outdated travel guides). Thank you.

—Carol Ryan

\$1,000,000



March to a Million...

Ensuring Education for the Future

We invite you to join us in an exciting opportunity! Our Ashland AAUW Branch has been challenged to raise \$500,000 in bequests and cash gifts to the SOU Endowment Fund. A generous, anonymous donor has pledged a \$500,000 bequest to match any monies we raise up to that amount. That means that we could potentially establish a \$1 million SOU Endowment Fund that would annually provide several SOU scholarships in perpetuity! Your gift, now, of cash and/or a bequest to the SOU Endowment Fund will continue to have an impact on higher education for women in the Rogue Valley forever!

Thanks to a very generous donation to the SOU Endowment Fund, Suzanne Duncan is a member of the Platinum Society. We want to thank Suzanne for her support.

So come join us now and be part of the future! For information on how to give a cash gift or how to set up a bequest to the SOU Endowment Fund, please email or call Jean Conger, Endowment Committee Chair.