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Looking Ahead

September Branch Meeting	Sept 26
October Branch Meeting	Oct 24
2020 Presidential Election	Nov 3

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

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Welcome Back!

We look forward to welcoming you back -- virtually. Until we have access to a vaccine or the pandemic is under control, AAUW Ashland will hold Branch meetings online.

We will be meeting at 10:30 am on Saturday, September 26th. You'll receive an all-member email before the event, including details about an optional practice session and how to attend the Zoom meeting.

The September welcome meeting is a perfect time to find out what is happening in our Branch during the pandemic. We will celebrate the recipient of the Florence Schneider Award, watch an inspiring short video, hear from some of our members, and do some virtual sharing.

Our usual in-person September meeting would include short presentations from our interest groups with sign-up sheets available. You can find information about interest groups elsewhere in this edition of the "Vision."

An online Branch meeting is a new experience for AAUW Ashland. We hope you will join us on this adventure to a brave new world. We look forward to connecting with you safely online.

When: Saturday, September 26, 10:30-noon

Where: Online with Zoom

—Your Co-presidents,
Catherine Lutes and Paula Wiiken

Coming Up in October!

Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle, President of Rogue Community College, will be our speaker for the October 24 Branch meeting. Her topic will be "Thriving in the Time of COVID-19." Her presentation will be based on life lessons learned as a wife, mother, leader, and entrepreneur, and will address how women can not only survive but thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

100 Years 1920 - 2020

19th Amendment of the Constitution:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."



September 26

Fall Welcome Back Meeting

Presenters: Paula Wiiken and Catherine Lutes, Co-presidents

October 24

Thriving in the Time of COVID-19

Presenter: Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle, President, Rogue Community College

November 21

A 2020 Look at Your Financial Future

Presenters: Melissa Grudin, Retired Financial Adviser and Friends

January 23

Public Policy Committee/Oregon Legislative Update

Presenters: Pam Marsh and Jeff Golden

February 27

Diversity, Inclusion & Title IX at SOU

Presenters: SOU Panel

March 27

Women Living Leadership

Presenters: Dee Anne Everson, Executive Director, United Way of Jackson County

April 24

Presidents' Meeting

Presenters: Paula Wiiken and Catherine Lutes, Co-presidents

May 22 OR TBD

Celebration of Scholars

Presenters: Celebration of Scholars Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a year is upon us!

I came upon this poem by Haroon Rashid in an Oprah editorial:

"We fell asleep in one world and woke up in another.

Suddenly Disney is out of magic, Paris is no longer romantic, New York doesn't stand up anymore, the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress and Mecca is empty.

Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons, and not visiting parents and friends becomes an act of love.

Suddenly you realize that power, beauty and money are worthless, and you can't get the oxygen you're fighting for. The world continues its life and it is beautiful. It only puts humans in cages. I think it's sending us a message:

'You are not necessary. The air, earth, water and sky without you are fine. When you come back, remember you are my guests. Not my masters.'"

This time at home will, hopefully, serve as a time out, a re-set, if you will, to help us get our priorities in order.

We have a national election coming up in November, racial injustice is calling people to the streets to demand real change, economic insecurity (especially for women) is rampant. Even in the throes of a global pandemic, the end of which is nowhere in sight, we are in a position to do something about all of this. "What can WE do?" you ask. These are, indeed, dangerous times. And as you will hear more about this at our September meeting:

"Dangerous times call for dangerous women."

I am asking that we lead with our hearts, with a fierce compassion that is not soft and sentimental, but the kind that fuels us, and drives us to fight against racial and economic injustice, that won't let us rest while people are suffering, knowing that empathy and ethics are not signs of weakness but of strength.

I hope you will join us this year.

—Catherine Lutes, Co-president

AAUW Ashland Branch Leadership for 2020-2021

The AAUW Ashland Branch Board is comprised of elected officers and committee chairs. Each one of our beloved projects is managed by a project coordinator.

AAUW Ashland Branch Board

Officers:

Co-presidents: Catherine Lutes & Paula Wiiken

Financial Officer: Sonja Friedman

Dues Treasurer: Diana Quirk

Recording Secretary: Peggy Audibert

Parliamentarian: Sandra Coyner

Members-at-Large: Sylvia Whitman & Gail Engblom

Chairs:

Membership Chair: Claudette Paige

Communication Chair: Ellen Fowler

Program Co-chairs: Janet Troy & Kathleen Mackris

Fundraising Chair: Bessie Azari

Public Policy Chairs: Rotating

Strategic Planning Chair: Sandra Coyner

AAUW Ashland Branch Project Coordinators

Membership:

Welcoming: TBD

E-Communication: Maureen Wilson-Jarrard

Directory Editor: Chris Licata

Contact Secretary: Linda Moreland

Communication:

Website: Ellen Fowler

Newsletter Editors: Pat Brewer, Ellen Fowler
& Elaine Sweet

Facebook: Alice Mallory

Newsletter Design: Chris Licata

Photographer: Rotating

Chamber Liaison: Donna Wright TBD

Programs:

Celebration of Scholars: TBD

Interest Groups: Sylvie Whitman

Friendship Circles: Elaine Sweet

Holiday Party: Pam Shay

Hospitality: TBD

Fundraising

AAUW Funds: Bessie Azari

Endowment: Jean Conger

Upscale Sale: Bessie Azari & Paula Wiiken

Community Projects:

Scholarships: Kate Wolf-Pizor & Wanda Chin

AWSEM: Carryl Breon

Maslow: Victoria Giffin

WiN: TBD

SOU Partners: Mimi Pippel & TBD



Ashland Branch Goes Digital!

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly changed our lives in unanticipated, sometimes negative, ways. But change also can encourage us to think creatively. Because relationships and collaboration are so important to what makes our Ashland AAUW Branch so special, we've been working hard to enhance our communications to keep our connections strong and meaningful. Here's some of what we're doing:

- This issue of **"Vision"** has many "hot links" that will take you right to our website, to more information, and to directly contact members by clicking on their names. You can easily join a new interest group or friendship circle with a click!
- Check out our **Website** at ashland-or.aauw.net. It's now up-to-date with current news and happenings and member resources such as the online directory, membership application forms, year-at-a glance calendar, leadership information, past issues of the newsletter, and more! It's a work in progress so keep checking back frequently to stay informed about local, state, and national issues.
- The online **Membership Directory** found at ashland-or.aauw.net/membersdirectory/ is a fabulous new resource! Not only do we now have beautiful color photos of our members, but the directory is easily accessible wherever you are so you can have the information at your fingertips! And because it's digital, it can be updated in real time to add new members or change contact information so you know it's up-to-date! Kudos to Chris Licata for her hard work in enabling this transition!
- Our **Branch Facebook page** www.facebook.com/ashland.aauw/ is a great place to keep up on our Branch, our community, and issues important to our mission. Alice Mallory is doing a fantastic job of keeping the page up-to-date, so visit it often. In order to extend the reach of the page, please LIKE us on Facebook and comment on and share our posts.
- Last but not most important, our **Branch meetings will be held via Zoom** until conditions permit in-person gatherings. Many of you are quite familiar with Zoom by now, but if you're still not comfortable, there are a lot of online tutorials to help. Here's just a sample: **Fun and Easy Online Zoom Connection**. You'll be receiving specific information about how to join the meetings and we'll have practice sessions for those who want them. Stay tuned!

—Your Communications Team

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We can safely say this has been the most unique and unusual summer for ourselves, our nation and our Ashland AAUW Branch. And "safely" is the operative word going forward.

Because we were unable to meet this spring, our membership application and renewal process went totally online. This was a big change for our members but you stepped up—we are pleased that 135 members renewed online! Three new members joined over the summer: **Cathe Ledford, Diane Steffie-Smith, and Carol Sunahara**. You'll learn more about them in the October "Vision." If you know them, please welcome them to Ashland AAUW. If you haven't yet renewed, please visit our website at <https://ashland-or.aauw.net/join/>. It's easy and you don't want to miss being a member!

Chris Licata has worked hard to create a new and improved online Membership Directory now available on our Branch website at <https://ashland-or.aauw.net/membersdirectory/>. The color photos are wonderful! If you want to

include or change your photo, please contact **Chris**. Send any other changes to your contact information to me, **Claudette Paige**. Because the Directory is online, it can be kept up-to-date and accessed anytime, anywhere, on your computer or mobile device! For more information, see the article in this issue.

The work of AAUW is becoming more and more urgent given the regression that has occurred in the last 3-1/2 years. Women and girls need all the advocacy that we can provide. So get ready to work for what we believe in!

Looking forward to "seeing" everyone in September, even if only in 2D.

—Claudette Paige, Membership Chair

In Our Thoughts

Get well cards were sent to Susan Lander and Elizabeth Essex.

The Directory at Your Fingertips—In More Ways Than One!

Now you can access the AAUW Ashland Membership Directory as a live, password-protected page on our Ashland Branch website at www.Ashland-or.aauw.net/directory/

You can have the Directory at your fingertips, online, accessible, whenever you want, wherever you are, on your home computer or your mobile device. The Directory will be updated regularly so you can be sure that the contact information is always up-to-date.

Need to send an email immediately? The email address links are "hot"—just click to send one off!

Love that printed version you've been so accustomed to? There's a full color printable version to download, with instructions on how to easily print, assemble and bind into a booklet.

What's more, we can update your information on the website immediately, and the PDF for printing can also be easily updated and replaced with a current version. Don't take my word for it—Check it out now! <https://ashland-or.aauw.net/membersdirectory/>

—Chris Licata, Directory Editor

Lessons Learned from the Fight for Suffrage

My understanding of the history of the 19th Amendment and women's rights was very jaded until I started getting inundated with the documentaries and news articles this summer. Of course, I had heard of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Seneca Falls. I had a vision of perhaps a few hundred women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries marching in their long skirts and hairbuns with posters demanding their democratic rights. It was actually thousands of mostly anonymous women of all races over seven decades and three generations who continued to challenge their fathers, sons, husbands, and employers while putting themselves in severe physical and economic jeopardy. These were badass ladies on a mission who didn't quit. They organized the first Women's March on Washington and the first pickets on the White House.

We now acknowledge it was not a perfect movement. There were divisions within the ranks. For the sake of expediency and probably a lot of raw racism, they betrayed their sisters of color. In 1920, mostly white

women went to the polls to elect a president. They wanted to make a difference in the world and in their country. They had big plans for the country. They had ideals of reforming health care and education, eliminating child labor, and refocusing politics for the greater good. In 1921, Congress, wary of this new voting bloc, enacted a law protecting infant health by training nurses, licensing midwives, and establishing clinics for young mothers and their babies. That seemed like a good start, but physicians yelled "socialist medicine" and it was quietly repealed in 1929. For a long time, no other "women's issues" moved forward. Two steps forward, one step back. Well, except for Prohibition, and we know how

that turned out. It is amusing now to realize the sale of liquor was one cause that really did bring the women of the country together.

Today we continue to fight many of the same fights: better health care, better education, and voting rights for all citizens. A part of me feels overwhelmed realizing how long they struggled for basic rights that are still denied to so many and discouraged that their ideals were so quickly dashed. But this is not a discouraging story. Universal health care and reproductive freedom are now ideals supported by a wide proportion of the electorate. Think of the 70-year history of this amendment



to allow women to vote. Thousands risked their physical safety and economic security. The 19th Amendment was a beginning not an

end. It is a story of hope and faith and especially perseverance. I have no right to be discouraged when progress on issues of women's equity seems stalled. Women running for office is now a norm and the U.S. House of Representatives is nearly one quarter female. Women make up over 28% of state legislators nationwide. Women go to the polls more consistently than men. Progress is slow and halting. We get to stand on the shoulders of those tough suffragists who risked it all. So I think the lesson I've learned is we still have a lot of work to do in our commitment to a fair and just society and it is time to get to work. We owe it to them.

If you are inspired by the efforts of the thousands who worked for our voting rights and the story of the 19th Amendment, consider joining AAUW's Public Policy team this year.

—Gretchen King, Public Policy

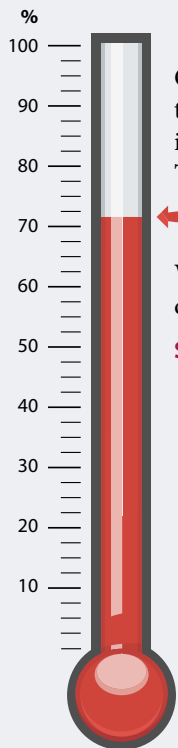


"Women running for office is now a norm and the U.S. House of Representatives is nearly one quarter female. Women make up over 28% of state legislators nationwide. ... We get to stand on the shoulders of those tough suffragists who risked it all."





Lang Match Challenge Update



Our Lang Match Challenge thermometer has risen to 72%! The total this year for the SOU Foundation is \$13,335, and \$22,764 for the RCC Foundation! That's an increase from 43.5% in June.

We want to acknowledge a few of our recent donors:

SOU FOUNDATION

Thanks to **Chris Donchin** who mentioned our AAUW endowment fund to **Sid DeBoer** last year, and to the **DeBoer Foundation** for a recent \$5,000 contribution.

Stephanie Bullock plans to donate \$100 every year in memory of **Suzanne Duncan**. Another \$250 donation came from returning member, **Elaine Plaisance**, in appreciation to **Jean Conger** who let Elaine use her guest room for four nights until her furniture arrived from Portland.

RCC FOUNDATION

AAUW Branch members **Judy Basker**, **Diana Quirk**, **Mary Coombs**, and **Margaret Humphrey**, a former member, have donated \$1,000 each.

RCC President **Cathy Kemper Pelle** and four RCC board members each contributed \$1,000.

Elaine Sweet once again rolled over her significant IRA distribution in support of the RCC Foundation.

Every donation counts toward our matching goal of \$50,000. We can do it!!! We welcome and appreciate donations throughout the year.

Thank You
—Endowment Committee



Do You Hear the Buzz?

Imagine the community gathered on May 22-23, 2021 at the Bellview Grange, making purchases at our signature fundraiser, the Upscale Sale! We have fingers crossed that we will be able to hold our sale to raise money for scholarships. Please save your items for donation. We need storage space for a few months prior to the sale. Can you help us with this?

Contact Bessie Azari or Paula Wiiken

—Paula Wiiken and Bessie Azari, Co-chairs



AAUW Ashland Branch Fundraiser
Bellevue Grange
May 22-23, 2021

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
Raymond James Financial Services
541-779-9907

Liz.Murphy@RaymondJames.com
raymondjames.com/lizmurphy

Sara Walker, Broker
Patricia Sprague Real Estate
541-951-5454

sara@hatsoff2u.com | hatsoff2u.com

AAUW OREGON NEWS

AAUW Medford Branch

September Branch Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, September 10, at 7 pm

Program: Jacksonville guitarist Dave Gordon

The Garden Tour has been rescheduled for June 12, 2021.

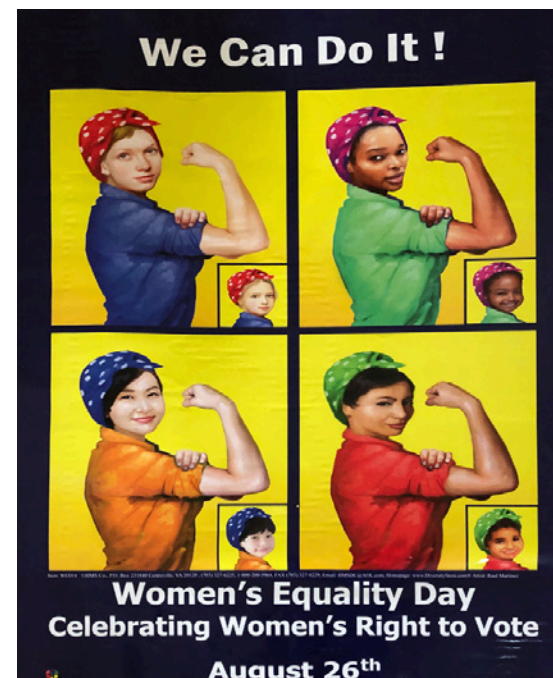
AAUW Grants Pass Branch

September Branch Meeting on Zoom
Saturday, September 19 at 10 am

Program: Welcome Back!

On August 28–29, Grants Pass held a garage sale to benefit scholarships.

The 16th Annual Kitchen Tour scheduled for October 17 has been canceled.



Learn About Our Interest Groups

Learning and laughing together is good for the soul, especially now. AAUW Ashland's interest groups are a great way to learn new things about our hobbies and passions while sharing talents, time, and camaraderie with special like-minded women.

While some interest groups have chosen to suspend meetings due to the pandemic, others are finding new ways to meet and connect.

One group that is still meeting and welcoming new members is Genealogy. "We're meeting using Zoom, which is a wonderful way to screen share photos, documents, and genealogy websites with each other!" says Linda Lipkind who coordinates the group and is a long-time researcher herself. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned researcher, come learn about how to research your family roots, restore those old photos, and share family stories with others!

Book group discussions also lend themselves to successful online meetings and several of the current book groups are continuing to meet via Zoom and accept new members. Thursday Night Mystery Books is one such group. "We read traditional mystery writers but are also always on the hunt for new writers as well. It's fun to discover someone unexpected," says Jean Conger, who has been a part of this group since 2000. If you're a mystery fan, this is the group for you!

Not being able to meet in person has not stopped at least one interest group from staying in touch with each other. The Opera Interest Group, coordinated by Nancy Kramenko, has been keeping in touch by

email. "There are some wonderful opera performances available on YouTube, PBS, and the New York Metropolitan Opera website. And while we can't sit together to watch a performance, it's fun to share our operatic discoveries with each other," says Nancy. This group is currently accepting new members, too, so if overtures and arias are your thing or even if you'd like to learn what overtures and arias are, contact Nancy to get on their email list.

If you like handcrafts, Knitters and Stitchers, coordinated by Peggy Audibert, might be for you. They meet in person on the second Thursday to work on their individual projects and to share conversation.

Don't see an interest group that focuses on your passion or hobby? Want to join a group but it's full and not accepting new members? Love to paint, cook, watch film noir, garden or perhaps, write poetry? Almost any fun or interesting activity can form the basis of a new group so consider forming your own Interest Group. Grab a few friends (or potential new friends), pick a day and time of the month to meet that is free on the calendar and let me know. I'll put your group on the calendar, put a blurb in the newsletter, and you're launched!!

Check back here monthly for more in-depth looks at the fun ways members are connecting as we showcase individual interest groups in a section called Spotlight on Interest Groups.

—Sylvie Whitman,
Interest Groups Coordinator

Week of the Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st Week		Opera, 4 pm	Daytime Nonfiction 1 pm		
	Monday Evening Books 7 pm				
2nd Week			Shakespeare 12:30 pm	Knitters & Stitchers 1 pm	
				Thursday Evening Mystery 7 pm	
3rd Week	Musicals 4:30 pm		Daytime Fiction 1 pm		
			Evening Nonfiction 7 pm		
4th Week		Brain Books 3:30 pm	Shakespeare 12:30 pm	Genealogy 1:30 pm	Play Reading 4 pm
			Games 7 pm		

Potluck Dinners, 4-6 times per year, date TBD

INTEREST GROUPS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many groups have chosen to suspend meeting for the foreseeable future or are meeting by Zoom or in small groups. Some groups are currently full due to size limitations and are not accepting additional members. For more information, to join, or to check on the current status of the group, contact the individual interest group coordinator by clicking on their name below.

Arts and Language

MUSICALS usually meets the 3rd Monday at 4:30 pm. They are currently not meeting. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Diane Novak](#)

OPERA usually meets the 1st Tuesday at 4 pm. They are currently not meeting but are staying in touch via email. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Nancy Kramarenko](#)

PLAY READING usually meets the 4th Friday at 4 pm. They are currently not meeting but are considering how. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Annette Lewis](#)

SHAKESPEARE AT OSF usually meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 12:30 to 3 pm. They are currently not meeting but may reconvene with a slightly different focus in January 2021. New members welcome then. *Coordinator:* [Peggy Audibert](#)

Book Groups

BRAIN BOOKS usually meets the 4th Tuesday at 3:30 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Sandra Coyner](#)

DAY NONFICTION usually meets the 1st Wednesday at 1 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Linda Lipkind](#)

DAYTIME FICTION usually meets the 3rd Wednesday at 1pm. They are currently meeting in-person, outside. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Colleen Patrick-Riley](#)

EVENING NONFICTION usually meets the 3rd Wednesday at 7 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Ellen Fowler](#)

MONDAY EVENING BOOKS usually meets the 1st Monday at 7 pm. They are currently not meeting but will revisit the idea of resuming via Zoom in Sept. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Shannon Stuver](#)

THURSDAY EVENING MYSTERY usually meets the 2nd Thursday at 7 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Esther Stone](#)

Games, Genealogy, Knitting & Dining

BOARD GAMES usually meets the 4th Wednesday at 7 pm. They are currently not meeting. Full, not accepting additional members. *Coordinator:* [Sylvie Whitman](#)

GENEALOGY GROUP usually meets the 4th Thursday at 1:30 pm. They are currently meeting via Zoom. New members of all experience levels welcome. *Coordinator:* [Linda Lipkind](#)

KNITTERS AND STITCHERS usually meets the 2nd Thursday at 1pm. They are currently meeting in-person. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Peggy Audibert](#)

POTLUCK DINNERS usually meet 4 to 6 times per year, day and time TBD. They are currently not meeting. New members welcome. *Coordinator:* [Elaine Sweet](#)

Friendship Circles Goes Digital!

Friendship Circles is a social program of Ashland AAUW to meet our members' desire to know one another on a more personal level. This program is designed to do just that! It is an easy "get to know you activity" that doesn't take a lot of time, but will result in stronger friendships among the women in each circle. Circles are re-formed each September to ensure getting to know a new set of friends.

- Any member interested may join Friendship Circles by contacting [Elaine Sweet](#): by September 30.
- Members will be computer-sorted into small Friendship Circles of 6-8 participants. The groups will include newer and more seasoned members.
- One appointed person in each group will be assigned the task of coordinating the first get-together with the group's input and serve as the host.
- Over the next year each Circle will stay together and meet digitally once a month. One person in each group will act as the "Zoom Goddess" and make arrangements for all the digital meetings. The host will send out the meeting announcements.
- Each month one person in the Circle hosts and uses the one-hour time slot to tell the story of their life while everyone else listens. There is time for questions at the end and a time for visiting as well.
- By the end of the year you will know 5 -7 other AAUW members very well.
- Should our "Shelter in place" situation change, new instructions will be sent for face-to-face meetings.

2020/21 Deadline: September 30th

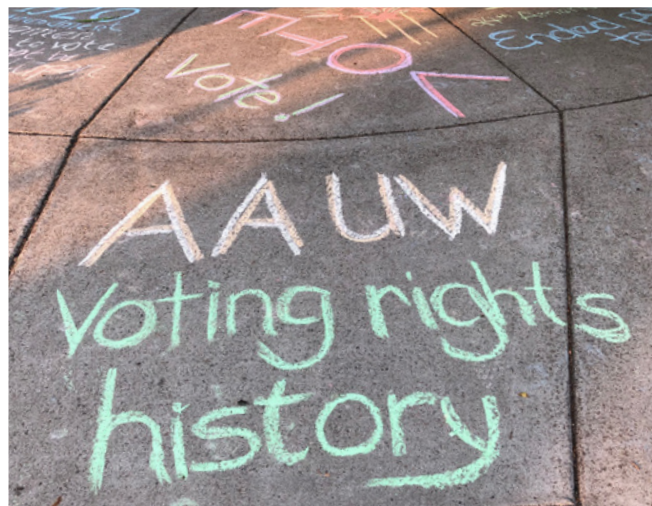
Join by contacting: [Elaine Sweet](#)



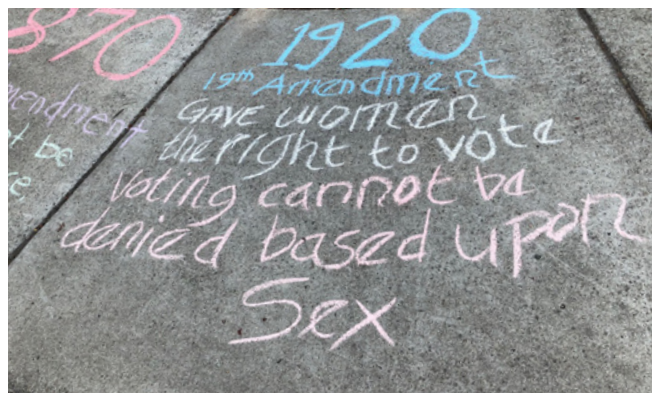
Drawing by Pam Shay

CHALK THE VOTE!

To celebrate Women's Equality Day on August 26, Oregon AAUW branches participated in the Chalk the Vote Project. Chalk the Vote celebrates five significant steps towards universal suffrage by chalking on the sidewalk the text of the **15th Amendment**, the **19th Amendment**, the **24th Amendment**, the **Voting Rights Act**, and the **26th Amendment**. Several of our Branch members discovered their inner artists to celebrate these important milestones.



The two drawings above are by Kate Wolf-Pizor



The two drawings above are by Phyllis and Christine Fernlund

Ashland Vision

is a monthly newsletter of the
Ashland, Oregon, Branch of AAUW

Vol. 35, No. 1 — September 2020

Co-presidents: Paula Wiiken & Catherine Lutes

Financial Officer: Sonja Friedman

Recording Secretary: Peggy Audibert

Membership Chair: Claudette Paige

Public Policy Chair: Rotating

Contact Secretary: Linda Moreland

Newsletter Team

Editors: Ellen Fowler, Pat Brewer,
& Elaine Sweet

Designer: Chris Licata

Photographers: Members at large.

(Photos taken by members at branch meetings,
interest group or other activities are welcome.
Please submit photos for consideration to one of
the newsletter editors.)

Readers: Alice Mallory, Rae Otto,
& Sylvie Whitman

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

AAUW Ashland Website:

<http://ashland-or.aauw.net>

AAUW Ashland Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/ashland.aauw/

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.