

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

Upcoming Events

Branch General Meeting, 2020

Are you ready to begin a new year with our Portland Branch? Please join us for our General Meeting:

**September 10th, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Our Branch co-presidents, Katie Raetz and Susan Marthens, will introduce the 2019-2020 officers who will orient us to plans for the new program year. Linda Stern, Study Group VP will discuss how and if our Interest Groups are operating at this time of sheltering in place under Governor Brown's state-wide mandate.

We will also welcome the AAUW of Oregon state co-presidents, Pat Lehman, who will discuss the frame of priorities and objectives in which we will work in the new program year.

We will miss the delicious brunch that has accompanied this meeting in the past, but do look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this first meeting of the year!

We are asking our members to register for this meeting as a security measure and those registration emails will be sent to you by your branch Communication team as we get closer to the meeting date so keep an eye out for them and remember to check your spam/junk folders if you don't see them in your inbox. Once you register for a meeting, Zoom will automatically send you the meeting information that you will need to logon to the meeting when it is time.

Rose City Reporter

September 2020 Leaders Update

Happy September!

I am writing this newsletter in August, sitting next to my calendar. I frequently need to check the day of the week as well as the day of the month. Time has felt fluid. The anchors that kept my days in a rhythm are missing. I know many of you feel the same.

Susan Marthens and I are excited about this next year! Prior to accepting the Co-President job in July, I had attended only one Board meeting. The Board members are so impressive: thoughtful, well informed problem solvers. A pleasure to work with!

At this point in August, four of the Summer Skills classes have taken place. I know that I am learning a lot and becoming energized as well!

Highlights for me:

- Trish Garner led a very well done discussion about racism. Trish, you are such a good speaker! And fearless-not an easy topic.
- From the social media class: If you are on Facebook, please like and share posts from AAUW Portland and AAUW Oregon. This will increase our visibility. Along this line Kim Churches suggests that the Communications Chair become a voting member of the Board.
- Your Board asked that Kim Churches, the CEO of AAUW, address the The Lilly article outlining a racist culture in AAUW. Her response was **beyond** reassuring.
 - Many of the events outlined in the article took place during a reduction in work force, due to serious financial constraints.
 - The staff at National is now minority white.
 - There is currently a very active Equity, Inclusion Group.
 - 60% of Fellowships and Grants go to Women of color.
 - National is following the Platinum Rule: Meet Members where they want to be treated.

Hope to see all of you at our September meeting!

Katie Raetz
Co-President

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

Public Policy Update

I surely hope that everyone is enjoying the summer as much as possible. As you might anticipate, we have been busy in Public Policy land on a number of fronts! Here are some of the items that might interest you.

1. Legislative Update

2. Chalk the Vote Celebrating the Centennial of Women Getting the Vote - A Great Branch Public Policy Project on August 26th

3. Get Out the Vote

4. Ashland Branch at Work!!! Preparation of a Report about Requiring a Certain Number of Women to serve on Corporate Boards

5. Ballot Measure Update

6. Shout Out to Kathy Moyd (Portland) - Her Letter to the Editor about IP 57 was published!

7. The Oregon Economy in a COVID-19 World - An Event Sponsored by AARP, August 11, 10:30 - 11:45

1. Legislative Update

Another short legislative session has been scheduled beginning on August 10th. Needless to say, other than budgetary issues, I'm not sure what else will be taken up. It's actually a rather closely held secret as to whether any policy measures might be tossed into in the legislative hopper and/or whether the session will last beyond one day.

One of the issues we have been closely following is police accountability reform. The Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform has held a number of hearings (10 since July 8th). AAUW of OR has listened to all of them and filed written testimony regarding a number of proposed bills. The topics that have been addressed include: use of tear gas, chokeholds, statewide disciplinary standards, the arbitration process that deals with serious police misconduct, the public's ability to identify officers, an officer's duty to report other officer misconduct, reporting and publication of disciplinary actions, rules regarding use of deadly force and setting up a Task Force to review these matters. You may remember that some of these issues were addressed in the July Special Session, but many of those bills have been amended or expanded and new proposals have been added. The work has been truly impressive and remarkably well informed. Again, I have no idea whether any of the 10 legislative concepts discussed in the Committee will be considered in the August special session.

We have also signed onto the Healthcare for All coalition (<https://www.hcao.org>). We hope that in the regular 2021 Session we will move a universal healthcare program forward. We're in the initial

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

planning stage and there are lots of details to be worked out, but we support the concept that everyone should be able to receive quality healthcare.

2. Chalk the Vote - A Great Branch Public Policy Project on August 26th

The Oregon Women's Historical Society is collaborating with a number of groups — including some of our branches — in the Chalk The Vote project. It honors a number of truly significant

events in our history including the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (removed sex from the group denied voting rights) and the 15th Amendment (removed voting rights bans on race, color or prior servitude) by chalking the text of these and other Amendments on our sidewalks and public places. Sounds like fun to me — and you can do it while social distancing!

Here is a link to get all the information you need for this project, including the text of the Amendments: <http://www.oregonwomenshistory.org/uncategorized/chalk-the-vote/>. In case you want a great example of a Chalk Project, here you go: <https://vimeo.com/153245047>.

A couple of our Branches already have plans to join in celebrating the day. The *Seaside* branch is gathering on August 26th at 9:00 am chalking sidewalks — and also encouraging people to get out the vote in November. It's a BYOC — Bring Your Own Chalk — event!

The *Lake Oswego* Branch is committed to participating in the celebration and has organized an area-wide campaign with local League of Women Voters members and the Lake Oswego High School Women's Studies class. Way to Go Lake Oswego Branch!!! They will also be holding a city-wide event on August 26th which includes auctioning off a gorgeous quilt created by their members commemorating the centennial. You can see the quilt at <https://www.loaauw.org>. And yes, I have purchased raffle tickets — please cross your fingers for me!

3. Get Out the Vote

It's not too early to think about what you and your branch can do to support people's ability to have their vote count. It may be that person-to-person voting drives won't be possible, but there may very well be other avenues you might want to use to make sure people know how to register and vote.

In this election in particular, there may be a problem in getting our ballots in and counted. As you may know, our mail may not be delivered as quickly or efficiently as it has been in the past. Thanks to *Sherry Schroeder* (Medford) for reminding me that each of us should be checking with our county elections clerks about whether there are any guidelines or options we should be learning about in order to facilitate the voting process. For example, you may want to make sure you know where ballot drop boxes are located. A next step is to communicate this information to your membership. It would also be a great idea to get the information out to your entire community.

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

4. Ashland Branch at Work!!!

Your Ashland AAUW public policy committee is preparing an educational report for our local and statewide membership and interested Oregon legislators to encourage familiarity with a national movement to address women's inequity on corporate boards. Both California and Washington have passed legislation requiring a quota for women on publicly held corporate boards headquartered in their states, placing Oregon as an outlier between adjacent states. Additionally, numerous other states have either passed or are in the process of legislating bills to address women's inequity on corporate boards in their respective states. The Ashland AAUW report will include sections on the history and current status of women on U.S. corporate boards, the obstacles women face for corporate governance as well as the inherent benefits women bring to corporate boards, summary information for each state's proposed or passed legislation, an analysis of gender diversity on Oregon's largest publicly held corporate boards, and a reference section. This report will be ready for approval from our Ashland Board, our Oregon State Public Policy Committee, and our Oregon AAUW Board of Directors in later 2020.

So - KUDO's to the Ashland Branch, and of course, stay tuned!!

5. Ballot Measure Update

I thought you might want to begin seriously thinking about the ballot measures that are coming up for a vote in November. Here is some info:

Initiative Petition 57 - Sets up an independent state and Congressional Citizens Voting Redistricting Commission. Right now, these decisions are made by legislators. It's not entirely clear whether this measure will be on the ballot. We await a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court about whether the Oregon State Court's decision to modify the required number of signed petitions will be sufficient to have it placed there. I feel positive about it! AAUW of OR has sent in a PILE of petitions in support. Thank you!! Thank you! And remember to vote "yes" when it's on the ballot.

Senate Joint Resolution 18 - Authorizes state and local governments to enact laws to limit and require disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures, and to require political ads to identify who paid for them.

Initiative Petition 34 - Oregon Psilocybin Services Act - Permits physicians and other service providers to administer psilocybin to pre-screed individuals over 21. Establishes an OR Psilocybin Advisory Board to advise the OR Health Authority on guidelines and rules.

Initiative Petition 44 - Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act. Reclassifies certain drug offenses, primarily eliminating jail time, reducing fines and requiring a completed health assessment, An Oversight and Accountability Council is established which would give grants to government or community-run organizations to create drug addiction treatment and recovery program centers. The funding comes from the marijuana tax fund. Right now, the marijuana funds are distributed as follows: 40% state school fund; 20% mental health, alcoholism & drug services; 15% state police; 10% cities; 10% counties; 5% alcohol & drug abuse prevention, intervention & treatment.

House Bill 2270- Increases taxes on tobacco with revenues to be dedicated to medical and health programs. NOTE: This measure comes from the legislature and frankly current budgeting assumes

5

Rose City Reporter

Portland AAUW Branch Newsletter

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

that this money will be coming in. If it does not pass, we would be looking at additional budget cuts. Ouch.

6. Shout Out to Kathy Moyd (Portland) - Her Letter to the Editor about IP 57 was published!

Public policy in action — Thanks to Kathy who wrote a letter that was published in the *Oregonian* in support of Initiative Petition 57 (See below). It was published in the Wednesday, July 29th edition. You may remember my asking you to send in your petitions to get IP 57 on the ballot. Thanks to all of you and Kathy!!!

7. The Oregon Economy in a COVID-19 World - An Event Sponsored by AARP, August 11, 10:30 - 11:45

AARP will be fielding an e-event about the Disproportionate negative impact of COVID-19 on the elderly and communities of color. Speakers include John Tapogna, President of ECO Northwest, and Rukaiyah Adams, Chief Investment Officer from Meyer Memorial Trust. They will talk about how to navigate the new economic realities in a COVID-19 world and provide some strategies for moving forward. AARP Oregon State Director Ruby Haughton-Pitts will moderate.

Here's the link to register: <https://bit.ly/agefriendlyeconomy81120>.

Conclusion

Thanks again and Take Care!!

Trish

Trish Garner

State Public Policy Chair,

AAUW of OR

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

LETTER TO THE EDITOR BY KATHY MOYD (Portland)
The Oregonian, Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Redistricting petition is vital

I am glad to be able to join the League of Women Voters, Common Cause and the American Association of University Women of Oregon in the campaign for Initiative Petition 57, which would set up a commission to do the 2020 redistricting in Oregon. I have been involved in redistricting since 1980, when I was a programmer for the redistricting of the California Assembly. I discovered then how personal and partisan it was: When I entered the office for the first time, I was told our requirement was to get 41 votes from legislators, many of whom would be voting on how they would be spending the next 10 years. In 1984, I ran for the California Senate in a district where many of my likely supporters living within several miles of me had been assigned to a district over the mountains and 112 miles away in order to try to save a seat when the incumbent retired. This supported my concern about partisan redistricting by legislatures.

From going through the application process for the 2010 California Citizens Redistricting Commission and evaluating the resulting districts, I know a commission, such as this one proposed for Oregon, can be thorough, fair, nonpartisan and transparent. I ask all Oregon voters to go to www.peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/sign-the-petition/lwvor/ to read the proposal, download a petition, sign it in both places, and mail it by Saturday, Aug. 1.

Kathy Moyd, Portland

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

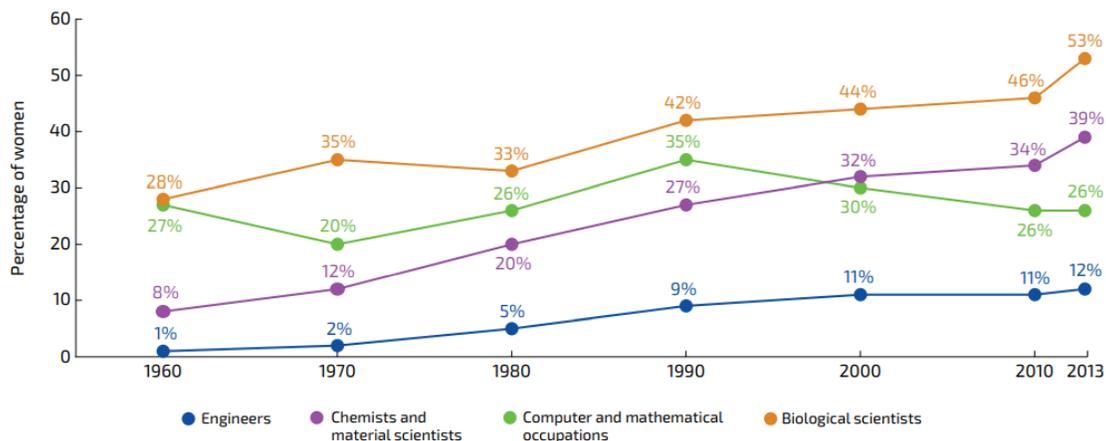
September 2020 STEM report: Girls Engage Technology

I don't know how you are holding up to the current stresses of life, but I find myself sometimes turning the news off and diving into a fictional universe. Another coping mechanism is to find a small area where we can make a positive difference ... Grandchildren! Voting! or Teaching Computing to Girls. Seriously, all future adults will be surrounded with computers and girls systematically report low interest in the fields of computing and engineering (often based on no actual information).

Background

Although girls and boys show equal competence in math and science and more females graduate with bachelor's degrees than males do, the proportion of women receiving bachelor's degrees in computer science is lower now than in 1985!!! (this makes my head explode). There is even lower participation in engineering (~12%). This lack of females in highly paid professions contributes to the gender pay gap and is a detriment to the innovations and creativity of American companies.

FIGURE 1. WOMEN IN SELECTED STEM OCCUPATIONS, 1960–2013



From Solving the Equation. AAUW report 2015 <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/Solving-the-Equation-report-nsa.pdf>

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

There are further disparities for women of color. (Notice one bright spot for URM)

	Age 20-24 % population	BS degree in Computing (2013)
Asian American Women	3%	2%
Under-represented Women	18%	6%
White Women	28%	10%
Asian American Men	3%	8%
Under-represented Men	19%	18%
White Men	29%	56%

- Under-represented (in STEM field) is Black, Hispanic and Native Americans

Accomplishments for School year 19-20

Girls Engage Technology is a 7-year old, AAUW-sponsored program to promote girls confidence, interest and self-identity in engineering and computing. For the 2019-20 school year, (shortened by 2.5 months), we taught programming and engineering to 221 Girl Scouts – mostly in 4th and 5th grade. This year’s newest class, Beginning Robots, was a big hit. Shown below, four Sphero robots are converging on an excited Girl Scout.

In this class, the girls use small tablet computers to write programs that control the robot’s movements, lights and sounds. One of our success criterion is maximum giggles per hour.

Another assessment is pre- and post- surveys of the girls’ skills, attitudes and self-identity. We were thrilled to see a 20% increase in agreement with the statement “I am the kind of person who could be an engineer”. After the class, a whopping 94% agreed with this statement.

This class takes the whole village to teach. Saturday Academy writes grants to cover the cost of equipment/ insurance etc. Girl Scouts provide the venue. AAUW provides adult volunteers and supports the salary of a paid teen assistant. Research has shown that when teens are treated as “an expert”, their self-confidence increases. (In 2019, two of our GET teens graduated high school and enrolled in programming-related majors at OSU! Both girls told me that their experience with GET reminded them how much they liked programming and technology.) Teens are paid minimum wage, supported by AAUW donations. This year, one teen was our very competent tech expert for every robot class. Her own self esteem was greatly improved by her experience (as reported to me by her mother). AAUW provided all the adult volunteers for these weekend classes. The class ran best with two adults in addition to the instructor. Girl Scout rules require at least one extra adult, but in this very energetic class, with stickers needed at each of 7 continents, and programming assistance provided individually “prn”, two volunteers smoothed the way for 100% of the girls to agree “I would recommend this class to a friend”.

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

Plan for 2020-21 School year

Personally, I plan to teach classes at the Girl Scout Center twice a month for the entire school year. I have two new advanced programming classes for girls who already know the basics. (Girl Scouts have a new badge "Coding for Good".) There will be more robots and fewer Product Design classes. There will likely be no classes in September and possibly for the rest of 2020. The GET program is also contacting Boys and Girls Clubs, in minority neighborhoods, to establish partnerships. Stay tuned ...

Submitted by Barbara Miner

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

Time on Your Hands?

Beginning this month we will highlight book selections from our Study Groups. This month, the Non-Fiction I book group has some ideas for us.

Need something to keep you occupied while you “shelter in place”? Out of ideas for books to read? The Non-Fiction I book group has some ideas for you. Here’s what the members of the group will be reading in the next few months. They thought you might be interested.

Guest House for Young Widows: Among the Women of ISIS

by Azadeh Moaveni

Learning from the Germans, Race and the Memory of Evil

by Susan Neiman

Pelosi

by Molly Ball

Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope

by Nicholas Krisof

Rose City Reporter

September 2020 Study and Interest Groups

September 2020

Breakfast in Bridgetown (open)

Second Thursday, 9 am, unless otherwise stated

Group on hiatus

Current Affairs (open)

First Tuesdays, 1 pm

Date: September 1

Zoom meeting

Contact: Sue Thomas, 503-427-0403, sueonoak@comcast.net

Curtain Call (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

First Tuesday Reader's Theatre (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Judy Holt, 503-378-5602, jholt58@gmail.com

International Lunch Group (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, petiepad@icloud.com

Literary Comments and Criticism (open)

Fourth Thursday, 11:30 am

Date: September 24

Zoom meeting

The Gilded Hour by Sara Donati

Contact: Petie Padden, 503-235-0892, petiepad@icloud.com

Mahjong (open)

Beginning mahjong lessons

Currently on hiatus

Contact: Mary Shaw, 503-939-4589, docsu@hotmail.com

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

Modern Fiction

Fourth Tuesdays, 11:30 AM

Date: September 22

Zoom meeting

[The Grammarians](#) by Cathleen Schine

Contact: Nancy Thomas, 503-201-4420, nmthomas@teleport.com

Movie Mavens (open)

Group on hiatus

Contact: Suzanne Fleming, 714-898-6456, multiteach@aol.com or

Karn Hill, 503-206-8444, karnhill@gmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group I

Third Wednesdays, 10 am

Date: September 16

Zoom meeting

[Guest House for Young Widows](#) by Azadeh Moaveni

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

Non-Fiction Book Group II (open)

Third Fridays, 7pm

Date: September 18

Zoom meeting

[Seven Brief Lessons on Physics](#) by Carlo Rovelli

Contact: Kathe Hart, 503-372-6338, kathehart@hotmail.com

Overbooked

Second Tuesdays, 10 am

Date: September 8

Zoom meeting

[The Dutch House](#) by Ann Patchett

Contact: Linda Stern, 503-232-5637, lindamstern@comcast.net

Sleuth Sisters (open)

Fourth Wednesdays, 12 noon

Date: September 23

Zoom meeting

[The Trapped Girl](#) by Robert Dugoni

Contact: Carla Huegeli, 503-457-6145, cshuegli27@gmail.com

Rose City Reporter

September 2020

Wimpy Walkers Eager Eaters (open)

First Saturday, 10:00 AM

Group on hiatus

Contact: Joyce Kligman, 503-309-3185, joycekligman1@gmail.com