

Vignettes and Stories of Migrants Crossing Our Southern Borders

*Thursday, Feb. 15 9 am
Sun City West Foundation Webb Room*



Anne Lowe will travel from Tucson to share vignettes and stories about the migrants crossing our southern borders that Humane Border (HB) volunteers have encountered. Volunteers with the Humane Borders organization service water stations in the desert and monitor that migrants, especially women and children, get humane treatment from our border personnel..

Anne grew up in upstate New York and attended Syracuse University. She taught sixth grade, but more recently she was the Outreach Director and NW Division Director for the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. After retiring nine years ago, she remains busier than ever. Anne serves as president of her synagogue and is a member of the presidium of Hadassah Southern Arizona. She is also an artist and author; the mother of three children, grandmother to eight.



"Fashion with Pizzazz"

Successful Major Event to Benefit

Our AAUW-NWV Education Scholarship Program

Nearly 300 women enjoyed fashions and camaraderie at "Fashion with Pizzazz", our fundraiser to help support our educational scholarship program. Stephanie and Patty, event co-chairs, estimate about 35 members were involved in making the event a success in addition to all those who provided items for the wonderful baskets and silent auction items. Early estimates indicate that more than \$6000 was raised in the very successful fundraising. Thanks to all who helped, made purchases, contributed to the items for the baskets and silent auction. Way to go NWV!

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

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President's Message



Leadership and Volunteerism:

We all appreciate our Branch's activities! And we all know that it doesn't happen by magic. This Branch has so many dedicated and hard workers; each putting in her time and attention to the job, and at the level of commitment she chooses. We have jobs large and small. We have opportunities for helping at small things and positions of larger responsibility. Something for everyone.

Our Nominating Committee is currently meeting to prepare the Slate of Officers for the 2018-19 year. This Slate must be presented to membership at the February General Meeting. I understand that there are still some unfilled positions: Membership and President-Elect. I ask you to consider stepping up and making that commitment to become more involved in our Branch's leadership.

If you feel that you don't have the ability to take on a Board position, then it is time to learn. Volunteer to assist. Volunteer to be a Chairperson. Volunteer to lead one of our Special Interest Groups. Open your NWV-AAUW Directory and read down the list of Appointed positions and SIG groups. Pick something and explore how you can get more active, not just in attending, but in leading.

To our members who are leading and volunteering, my hearty thanks. To the members who are about to step up, you are in for a very fulfilling experience. We make the magic happen!

Judy Neigoff, President NWV-AAUW

Coming Events for February Clip & Post OR Mark your calendar!



Wednesday, Feb. 11th - Special election notification card must be returned to get a ballot by mail.

Monday, Feb. 12th - Branch Board meeting - 9 am, Birt's Bistro.

Wednesday, Feb. 14th - Love Rally in support of public education. 4 pm, Arizona State Capitol. Celebrate statehood day with AZ Schools NOW and lift your voice for public education.

Thursday, Feb. 15th - General Meeting: *Humane Borders*

Time: 9 am, Location: Sun City West Foundation Room, 14465 RH Johnson Blvd., Sun City West

Tuesday, February 20th - AAUW of Arizona 2018 Legislature Day - Check the AAUW Arizona website at www.aauwarizona.org for more info & a registration form. See page 7 for an article on Legislative Day. If you want to attend Legislative Day, you must register individually and directly with Margaret Noser mnoseraauw@aol.com. Space is limited.

Thursday, Feb. 22th - New Member Coffee - 9:30 am. By invitation. Please RSVP to Sharon Phelps or Ellen Erickson

Friday, February 25th - 5pm - February Newsletter Deadline for all digital copy and photos. Earlier submissions are always appreciated. Send digital copy to Joye Kohl.

Thursday, March 1st - Community Action Project Applications due to State AAUW Chair. For more information, and application procedures, go to the state website at www.aauwarizona.org

Deb Dillon, AAUW Arizona Co-President Visits Branch Meeting



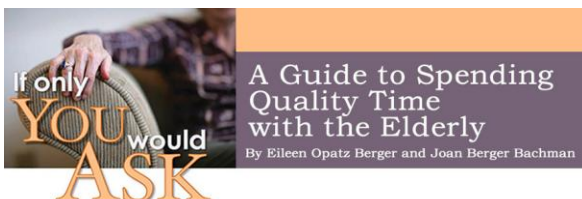
Eileen Berger Publishes, Credits AAUW

After the initial pleasantries, do the minutes drag on? You may very well love a person, but find yourself struggling to carry on a conversation. An hour can seem endless. If only you could think of something interesting to talk about!!

Concerned about cross generational communication, AAUW-NWV branch member Eileen Berger and her daughter Joan Bachman came up with an idea and published a new book to help. If Only You Would Ask, is a resource for quality conversation with the elderly, transforms this situation!

With 42 topics and over 400 questions, If Only You Would Ask provides a framework for tapping into memories that may not have been thought about or talked about for years! The following link to a YouTube video produced by Mayo Clinic Radio gives additional information and includes Eileen's credit to the AAUW-NWV Memoirs SIG for the book idea::

<https://youtu.be/Wfxz-ZV1YIU>



Eileen Berger and her daughter Joan Bachman.

Fake News: "Deliberate falsehoods, masked as accurate and distributed anyway."

(AP Style Book definition)

Fake News & Journalistic Ethics

Around 100 members were treated at the January meeting to an in-depth exploration and discussion of the fourth estate and its role in a democracy going back through time to the beginning of this nation. ASU Senior Research Professor and former Director of the Cronkite School, Douglas A. Anderson, noted the irony of being asked 10 months ago to speak on January 15th, 2018, a day when the AZ Republic carried front page stories addressing fake news and ethics. He discussed the code of ethics covering journalists and shared the four pillars of the Code of Ethics held by the Associated Press:

- ★ *Seek truth and report it;*
- ★ *Minimize harm;*
- ★ *Act independently*
- ★ *Be accountable and transparent.*

Anderson traced the evolution and decline in the public's attitude toward media credibility as shown by a Gallup poll conducted every two years since 1974. He stated that 1976 was the high year in public attitudes toward media credibility with 72 percent responding they had a great deal or fair amount of confidence in the news media. For several decades the response held at about 50 percent, dropping in 2008 to 43 percent and subsequently in 2016 to a low of 32 percent.

He made a distinction between journalism and the broad, loose term "media" generally used today to cover all types of transfer of information including through social media. After venturing into a discussion of "fake news", Anderson gave the following AP Style book definition for fake news: *"Deliberate falsehoods, masked as accurate and distributed anyway."*

The speaker concluded with the personal viewpoint that we have never had more well-educated journalists than we do today. *"A free press has historically funded our democracy"* he stated.

Anderson served as a past president of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication and in 2013, received the Presidential Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.



AAUW-NWV members, including branch president Judy Neigoff, participated in the Women's March.



New
AAUW - NWV
members
attending the
January
branch
meeting.
Welcome!

Resolution Update

The Sexual Harassment and Assault resolution initiated from our branch was approved as a statewide resolution at the January AAUW Arizona Board meeting. The American Association of University Women advocates for equitable climates free from harassment and bullying, as well as freedom from violence and fear of violence in schools and work.

Recognizing the critical impact in education, AAUW has developed fact sheets and resources available on the subject of sexual harassment and assault. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. Title IX protects students from unlawful sexual harassment in all of a school's programs or activities, whether they take place in the facilities of the school, at a class or training program sponsored by the school at another location, or elsewhere. Title IX protects both male and female students from sexual harassment, regardless of who the harasser may be. For a fact sheet from AAUW on this topic, go to <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/sexual-harassment-violence-in-school/>

Celebrate statehood day with AZ Schools Now as we Lift Our Voices for Education! There will be speakers, a marching band, Valentine's for legislators, a "selfie" station, and more. Join your fellow education advocates as we show our L.O.V.E. for Arizona's public schools! For more information, go to www.AZSchoolsNow.org

"Public school students are experiencing a severe shortage of permanent teachers in their classrooms, outdated textbooks and technology, and dysfunctional school facilities." (Children's Action Alliance, Jan. 2018)

CRISIS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: *Teachers & Funding*

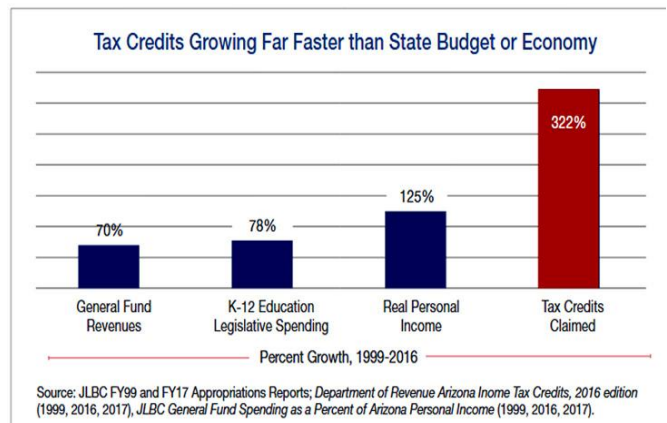
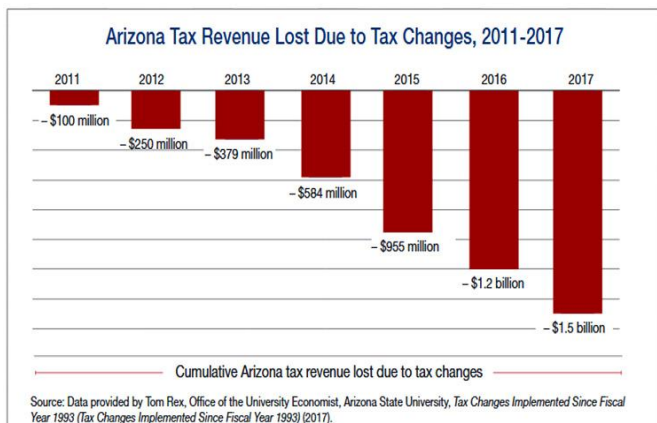


➔ If you missed the forum, you can still access the forum video online. ➔

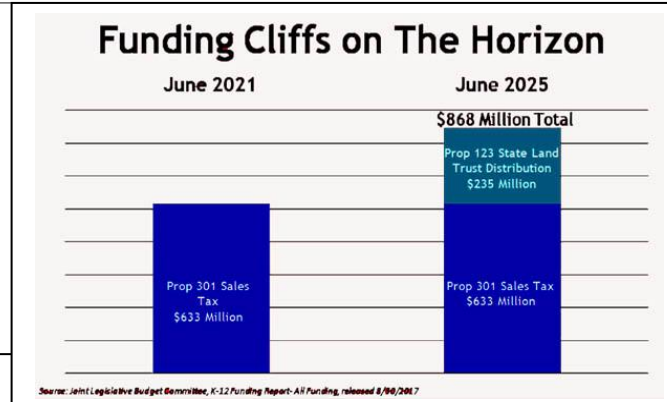
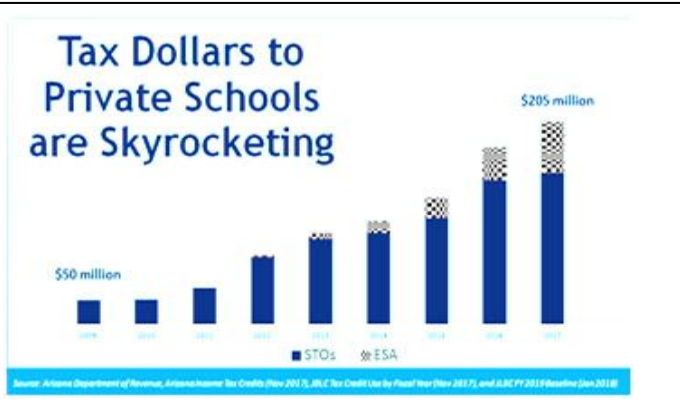
The **"Crisis in Public Education: Forum** on January 25th, cosponsored by 15 organizations including our AAUW-NWV branch, was a very important discussion of the realities facing public education. The documented data presented demonstrates that we, in AZ, have much to be concerned about. If you missed the forum we urge you to take the time to watch the three excellent presentations -- all jam packed with data, graphs and discussion of the importance for each of us. The Q&A was excellent. The video of the forum is available online and is worth the time to watch if you are interested in knowing the complete picture of what is happening in Arizona K-12 education. To access the forum video, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVAZ/videos/1664796846920147/> You do need to be patient and wait for the five minute screen lead-in before the actual forum begins. It is worth the wait.

While Arizona faces a serious teacher shortage and billion dollar school funding deficit, lawmakers have continued the trend of cutting taxes and/or increasing tax credits every year but one since 1990. The result: a cost to the general fund of more than \$2.2 billion in revenues and more than double that amount when adjusted for inflation. The simple fact is that the Arizona Legislature has diverted so much money from the general fund via tax credits and tax cuts that the state is losing the capacity to either restore funding to 2008 levels or to re-invest in public education.

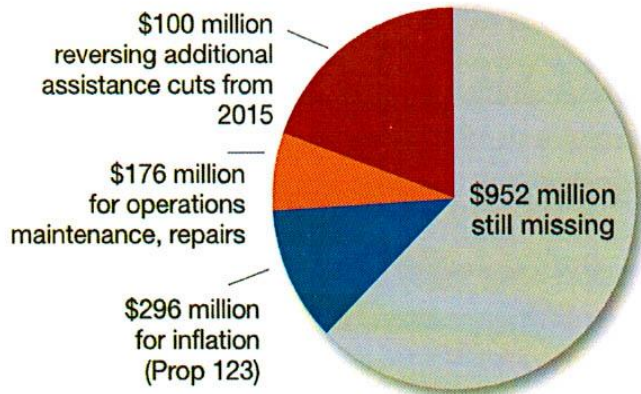
What is happening to our potential to fund necessary state obligations?



Upper graphs reproduced from the Children's Action Alliance Policy Brief about K-12 Education, Arizona's Tax Credits Are Not Growing Fast Enough to Re-Invest in Public Education. Last two graphs are from Dana Wolfe Naimark presentation at Forum.



Governor Ducey's FY 2019 Proposal Leaves Public Schools \$952 Million Short, Compared to 2008



* Chart does not include new school construction.

A Massive Hit During the Great Recession.

- ▶ Our Legislature slashed \$1.5 billion in funding, the biggest reduction in K-12 monies in the nation.
- ▶ The 2016 voter-approved settlement over inflationary funding, known as Proposition 123, only restored 18% of the cuts that had been implemented since 2008.
- ▶ Part of the money used to meet the obligation approved in prop 123 came from an accelerated draw on the state land trust for school funding.
- ▶ Arizona was ranked 47th in funding before the great recession. We rank even lower today.
- ▶ Though lawmakers appropriated some additional dollars for fiscal year 2018, Arizona schools are still receiving far less than a decade ago.

TEACHER SHORTAGE AT CRISIS LEVEL

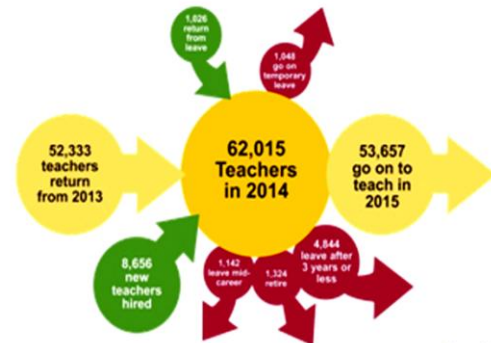
Thousands of Arizona classrooms are without full-time, certified teachers according to data released by the Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association and ASU's Morrison Institute (MI). Findings from MI show:

- ★ 5,000 teachers leave their positions after three years of experience.
- ★ In 2013-14, 22 percent of teachers left after one year of experience.
- ★ Over one-third of K-12 teachers have less than five years of experience in the classroom and have not matured into the profession.
- ★ 866 teachers fled Arizona's public school classrooms during the first four months of the 2017-18 school year.

Arizona Teacher Movement

Why Should We Care?

In 2014, the number of teachers leaving after spending three years or less in the classroom was nearly double the number of teachers leaving later in their careers.



Source: Arizona Dept. of Education

ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy

Good References for Greater Understanding of the Current Status of K-12 Education

Finding and Keeping Educators for Arizona's Classrooms. Dan Hunting and others, Morrison Institute, May 2017.

https://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/sites/default/files/content/products/AZ%20TEACHERS%20REPORT%202017_0.pdf

In Search of a State Budget that Creates Opportunity for All. The Arizona Center, Jan. 2018. <https://www.azeconcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/AZ-budget-2018-web.pdf>

AZ Tax Collections Not Growing Enough to Re-Invest in Public Education. Children's Action Alliance, Jan. 2018. <http://azchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Policy-Brief-Tax-Collections-Not-Growing-Fast-Enough-to-Re-Invest-in-Public-Education.pdf>

To access copies of each of the forum power point presentations, go to www.lwvaz.org.

Following the Money: Twenty Years of Charter School Finances in Arizona (A Meta -Analysis of Charter School Financials and what they tell us)

http://grandcanyoninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/GCI-Policy-Report-Exec-Summary-Following-the-Money_Sept_17_2017.pdf

AAUW opens doors, breaks barriers, and expands opportunities for women and girls!



**2017-18
NWV-AAUW LEADERSHIP ROSTER**

Elected Positions:

- PresidentJudy Neigoff
- President-Elect.....Rosemary Dougherty
- Program Co-Vice-Presidents:.....Susan Reeb, Sue Rourke
& Fran Cohen
- Membership Vice-Presidents....Sharon Phelps & Ellen Erickson
- Finance Vice-Presidents..... Jean Bramucci & Lu Marchese
- Recording Secretary.....Shirley Swinney
- Corresponding Secretary.....Pamela Zull

Appointed Positions:

- Special Interest Group Chair.....Susan Spinosa
- Event Coordinator.....Stephanie Rogall
- Directory/Records Chair.....Nancy Wilson
- Newsletter Chair.....Joye Kohl
- E-Blast Chair.....Lorie Lux
- Publicity Chair.....Fran Menzel
- Hospitality Chair.....Betty Merwin & Sheryl Saddoris
- Sharing and Caring.....Mary Jo Blum
- Historian.....Kathleen Padula
- Red Envelop Campaign Chair.....Karen Olson Smith
- Dysart School Liaison Chair.....Harriett Grau
- Public Policy Chair.....Sharon Astle & Bonnie Boyce-
Wilson
- STEM.....
- College Connection Chair..... Ann Mitchell & Jo Ellen Fuller
- Scholarship Chair.....Pat Sweetland
- Committee members:.....Mary Jo Blum, Jo Beth Stevens,
Sharon Willy



Welcome to our recent new members:
Gloria Tyler
Deborah Engel
Linda Davis Styrvoll

Please take time to introduce yourself and remember, when you see a "Red Heart" on a name badge, it signifies a new member.



Judy Moor, a new member, was the winner in the newsletter drawing for the "Turquoise and Sterling pendant" donated by John Kohl and offered via the January newsletter. All one had to do to be included in the drawing was to read the newsletter and respond with "Count Me In."



Since AAUW's founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls.

Useful Links

www.aauwarizona.org (State website)

www.aauw.org (National website)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/612025398992133>

<http://www.northwestvalley-az.aauw.net>

AAUW-Arizona-NWV Branch (closed facebook group)

(Branch website - in process of updating)

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/

Become a Two-Minute Issue Activist: Receive urgent e-mail notices to contact the Arizona Congressional delegation via your inbox. Join the AAUW Action Network! You can sign up by going to the link shown above.

Be sure to like the organization on Facebook ---- <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National>

❧ ❧ ❧ ❧ *Special Interest Groups* ❧ ❧ ❧ ❧

Our AAUW-NWV Branch Special Interest Groups fall into many areas including five different Book Clubs, a variety of Cards and Games, Travel and Adventure options, Arts and Hobbies. If you do not find something which meets your needs, contact Susan Spinosa, SIG Chairperson, and see about starting a group. Our SIGs allow members to connect with other AAUW members in a comfortable social setting while providing opportunities for education, involvement, friendship and fun.

At the January meeting, **Memories into Memoirs** reviewed the book written by member Eileen Berger and her daughter. Each month, members write on a "prompt" topic or one of their choice.



Arizona Adventures Friday Feb 23 Pioneer Living History

Step back in time (1862-1912) (Arizona territorial period). There are 30 historic original and reconstructed buildings, creating an atmosphere of the era.

Lots of walking involved. Lunch after our visit. We meet at 9:15 at The Sun City West Library Parking Row 14

Please E- Mail Babette Spatz if you wish to join us.

Firebrand and the First Lady

The AAUW Adelante Book Club explores "*The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice*", February 7th at 5:30pm MT. The author, a 1984–85 AAUW American Fellow and University of Georgia Professor Emerita, is Patricia Bell-Scott, Ph.D. When 28-year-old Pauli Murray wrote a letter to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor, protesting southern segregation, she could not have known that it would begin a friendship that would last for 25 years. The book provides a close-up portrait of their friendship. To register for the online discussion, go to www.aauw.org.

AAUW Arizona - 2018 Legislature Day Feb. 20, 2018

- **8:30 am to 9:20 am. Historic Supreme Court Chambers - Meet and Greet**
AAUW-AZ, legislators, and their staff are invited for coffee and treats.
- **9:20 am. Move to Historic Senate Chambers**
- **9:30 – 11:30 Guest Speakers**
 - Speaker of the House, J. D. Mesnard**—Welcome Remarks
 - Rep. Pam Power Hanley**—Reviving the ERA amendment in the Arizona Legislature
 - Rep. Michelle Ugenti-Rita**—Women in the Arizona Legislature
 - Rep. Athena Salman**—Representing Women of Arizona
- **11:30 - 12:00 Discussion:** AAUW of Arizona agenda for passing ERA
- **12:00 pm. Lunch on the lawn:** food trucks available
- **1:00 Legislative visits/appointments:** those who wish may visit their legislators to request that they sign the ERA pledge card(s).

Judy Neigoff will be attending and volunteered to assist those attending this event from our Branch. **If you would like to attend this State Legislative Day, you must register directly with Margaret Noser, AAUW of AZ Recording Secretary, at mnoseraauw@aol.com (she will not take group registrations). Space is limited.**

Contact Judy to discuss car pooling.



Fashions with Pizzazz

by Calle Rose

Northwest Valley AAUW

Major Fund Raising Event

To Benefit our Local Scholarship Program



Luncheon, Raffle, Silent Auction, Door Prizes

BRUARWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

JANUARY 29, 2018





Did You Know?



- ✦ The Arizona legislature has cut nearly \$1.5 billion from classroom resources in the last nine years with 1.1 billion dollars still missing. (Arizona school boards Association, 12- 7-
- ✦ A new report shows 2100 teaching jobs remain open. At an average of 35 students per classroom that means about 70,000 students are without a teacher and classrooms are very crowded. Another 3400 classrooms have been filled by people neither trained nor certified to teach. (Arizona Republic, Roberts, 12--19 2017)
- ✦ Arizona is 50th in teacher pay, 48th in school funding, 50th in elementary teacher pay, and 48th in secondary teacher pay. (Save Our Schools AZ, 2017)
- ✦ Arizona teachers going to Colorado will make \$9630 more, going to Utah will make \$11,450 more, going to Nevada will make \$12,080 more, going to New Mexico will make \$15,360 more and going to California will make \$31,540 more. (AEA 10-23-17)
- ✦ More teachers are leaving the profession annually than bachelor of education degrees are granted by the three state universities.(Morrison Institute 4-20-17)
- ✦ Among Arizona teachers hired in 2013, 42 percent left the profession within three years. (Morrison Institute 4-20-17)
- ✦ More than 50 percent of Arizona children live in low income households, with 26 percent living in poverty. (Children's Action Alliance Databook 2017)
- ✦ Special needs students account for 12 percent of Arizona's school children. The Arizona legislature has not adjusted for these students for a decade. (Arizona Capital Times 10-5-17)
- ✦ State investment in Arizona's public schools dropped by 36.6 percent between 2006 and 2016. (Arizona Republic, Roberts 11-30-17)
- ✦ State funding for education is down \$724 million since 2008. (Children's Action Alliance yearbook 2017)
- ✦ The state is now paying \$802 less per student than it did a decade ago when factoring in inflation. (Arizona Republic, Roberts 1-1-18). Our students receive 31% less in per-pupil funding than the national average, even though we have some of the highest rates of childhood poverty in the nation. (AZ Schools NOW website)
- ✦ In the May 2017 special election, 76 percent of all voters said education funding should be increased. (Arizona School Boards' Association. (8-3-17)
- ✦ An Expect More Arizona poll shows education remains the top issue for Arizona voters. The most important issues are: education - 42 percent, illegal immigration - 16 percent, government spending/ taxes - 6 percent, economy - 5 percent. (Expect More Arizona poll 12-20-17)
- ✦ Arizona charter schools spend double or more on administration than do public schools. (Children's Action Alliance report 2017)
- ✦ Vouchers pull millions from the state budget from already underfunded schools. (Arizona Republic editorial 2017). The public dollars diverted from public schools through private school tax credits and ESA vouchers have grown from \$14 million in 1999 to \$253 million in 2018. Furthermore, vouchers give taxpayers no accountability, remain vulnerable to misspending. (AZ Schools NOW website)

Did You Know?

...continued

- ✦ Among AZ charter schools, 56 percent have policies that are clear violations of the law or may discourage the enrollment of some students. Under the Arizona Constitution students have the right to a free public education. 35 charter schools charge fees without giving parents waiver options. (ACLU "Schools Choosing Students", 12-14-17)
- ✦ The 2011 legislative "Jobs Bill" which provided one-half billion dollars in corporate tax reductions was expensive and highly ineffective legislation. There is no evidence it helped spur Arizona's economic recovery. (Grand Canyon Institute 1-2-18)
- ✦ Tax credits now take more than half a billion dollars of state revenues. One of the largest areas has been to subsidize private school enrollment which in 2017 amounted to \$150 million. (Grand Canyon Institute 1-2-18)
- ✦ Among Arizona corporations, 74 percent are able to reduce their income tax liability to \$50 or less. This year's corporate income tax collections are predicted to be the lowest since 1993. (Arizona Center for Economic Progress, 1-4-18)
- ✦ The Arizona Department of revenue has laid off 52 auditors and collectors, thus making it easier for tax payers to get away without paying the taxes they owe. (Arizona Center for Economic Progress, 1-4-18)
- ✦ Arizona is the only state, when compared to its neighbors, with a net decline in corporate income tax revenue. (Grand Canyon Institute 1-2-18)
- ✦ The state needs to spend \$1 billion dollars to be in compliance with its constitutional obligation to fund education as well as to restore funding all day kindergarten. (Grand Canyon Institute 1-2-18)
- ✦ The massive hit to Arizona public schools during the Great Recession included a Legislature slashing of \$1.5 billion in funding, the biggest reduction in K-12 monies in the nation. The 2016 voter-approved settlement over inflationary funding, known as Proposition 123, only restored 18 percent of the cuts that had been implemented since 2008. (AZ Schools NOW, 2017)
- ✦ Returning to the funding level for education in 2008 will not solve the problem. According to the Legislative Research Commission Compendium of State Education Ranking (Report #370), for the school year 2008, Arizona was ranked 49th per capita of state and local expenditures for all education including higher ed; 51st in expenditures for public K-12 per student by average daily attendance. Note: Includes District of Columbia with all states. (NEA Ranking of States Report 2010).
- ✦ At the same time Arizona is facing a teacher shortage and a 1.1 billion-dollar school funding deficit, lawmakers have continued the trend of cutting taxes and/or increasing tax credits every year but one since 1990. This has cost the general fund more than \$2.2 billion in revenues and more than double that amount when adjusted for inflation. (AZ Schools NOW website)
- ✦ Our students receive 31 percent less in per-pupil funding than the national average, even though we have some of the highest rates of childhood poverty in the nation. (AZ Schools NOW website)

Compiled by Dr. John W. Kohl, Education Co-Chair
League of Women Voters of NW Maricopa County
Dean and Professor Emeritus, Montana State Univ.