



## "Fake News and Ethics in Journalism"

Thursday, Jan. 18th - 9 am; come early for coffee

Sun City West Foundation Room, 14465 RH Johnson Blvd., Sun City West

We've all heard the attacks on the media and the charge of fake news and alternative facts. What does it mean? How can we assess the accuracy of information especially in this era of electronic and fast moving information? While, the media has been called the "fourth estate" of American government and plays an essential role in our democracy along with the judiciary, executive and legislative branches, the media has been under serious attack.

Come hear ASU Senior Research Professor **Douglas A. Anderson** address the issues surrounding media, fake news and the role of the media in our democracy. Having served from 1987-1999 as ASU Director of the Cronkite School, Anderson rejoined the Cronkite School in 2014 as a senior research professor after retiring from Penn State University's College of Communications. He had served at Penn State from 1999 to 2014 as dean and professor of journalism. He is also a past president of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication and in 2013, he received the Presidential Award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.



## CRISIS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: Teachers & Funding

*What are the facts?  
How does it affect me?  
What can I do?*

### West Valley Education Forum

Thursday, Jan. 25th, 2018

(6 p.m. Snacks and Browsing Displays  
6:30 p.m. Program Begins)

**Dysart Education Center**  
(15802 N Parkview Place, Surprise)

Speakers: Dr. Dan Hunting, Senior Policy Analyst, ASU Morrison Institute; Dana Wolfe Naimark, President of the Children's Action Alliance and Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Grand Canyon University & former Exec. Dir. of Support Our Schools AZ.

**AAUW-NWV is a cosponsor of the Forum!!**

## "Fashion with Pizzazz"

### Annual Fashion Show & Boutique Fundraiser

Monday, Jan. 29th  
Briarwood Country Club  
Shopping begins at 10:30 am  
Luncheon at 12:00 noon

Major Event to Benefit our  
Local Education Scholarships

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

## President's Message



New Year's Resolutions. We all make them, whether we write them down or they are just thoughts in our minds. Did you ever think about making an AAUW New Year's resolution?

Perhaps you could resolve to make a new friend this year by sitting next to someone you don't know at our next meeting. Or you could resolve to read a different kind of book than those you usually do by participating in one of our Book Clubs. You could resolve to get more exercise by taking a hike with our Hiking Club or resolve to get more "culture" by attending a live performance with the Culture Club group. Resolve to become active in Branch leadership by volunteering. The list could go on and on...

For those who are attending our Fashion Show Luncheon fundraiser on January 29<sup>th</sup>, I hope you resolve to be generous in buying raffle tickets, bidding at our Silent Auction and perhaps purchasing some fabulous new clothing from Calle Rose. It promises to be a fun and rewarding event! Our thanks to the Event co-chairs, Stephanie Rogall and Patty Lang, and all the others who have worked hard on making this event perfect.

Another type of resolution is our "Resolution on Sexual Harassment and Assault" written by Joye Kohl and our Public Policy Committee. Read it in this Newsletter and resolve to be an advocate for women and girls in our society.

Let's resolve to make 2018 a good year for us and for AAUW.

Judy Neigoff, President NWV-AAUW

### Coming Events for early 2018 Clip & Post OR Mark your calendar



**Saturday, January 6th - *March to Save Our Schools*. 9am-Noon, AZ Capitol Lawn**

Cosponsors include: SOS AZ, AZ PTA & AZ Schools Now <https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSchoolsArizona/>

**Monday, Jan. 15th - Branch Board meeting** - 9 am, Birt's Bistro.

**Thursday, Jan. 18th - General Meeting: *Fake News and Ethics in Journalism*.**

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

**Thursday, Jan. 25th - *Crisis in Public Education: Teachers and Funding*, a LWV initiated**

West Valley Education Forum co-sponsored by the AAUW-NWV Branch. Time: 6 pm snacks and browsing exhibits, program begins at 6:30 pm. Location: Dysart Education Center (15802 N Parkview Place, Surprise. See article on page 4.

**Friday, January 26th - 5pm - February Newsletter Deadline** for all digital copy and photos. Earlier submissions are appreciated. Send digital copy to Joye Kohl.

**Monday, Jan. 29th - "*Fashion with Pizzazz*" Annual Fashion Show and Boutique**

**Fundraiser.** 10:30 shopping begins, Lunch 12 noon. Briarwood County Club. Reservations required. Tickets Were Sold Out in Dec.!

**Tuesday, February 20th - AAUW of Arizona 2018 Legislature Day** - Check the AAUW Arizona website at [www.aauwarizona.org](http://www.aauwarizona.org) for more info & a registration form. See page 7 for an article on Legislative Day.

**AAUW Arizona - NWV Branch  
Resolution on Sexual Harassment and Assault**

WHEREAS all people need a safe, professional, supportive environment where they can grow and work optimally,

WHEREAS disturbing allegations of sexual assault and harassment by powerful, high profile men have prompted increasing numbers of women to come forward with stories of how predatory sexual behaviors have impacted their lives and careers,

WHEREAS acts of predatory sexual behaviors may know no gender, women and girls have been disproportionately impacted,

WHEREAS the problems of sexual harassment and assault impact people in homes, business, entertainment and media industries, sports, education, health care and scientific entities, the accommodation, food and retail industries, at all levels of government, and are known to be systemic and culturally pervasive.

WHEREAS, though more visible in high profile cases, low wage workers are particularly vulnerable to predatory sexual behaviors and the incidence is more prevalent in industries which rely on customer service and where employees are expected to please and/or to endure harassment.

WHEREAS sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

WHEREAS, equality of rights under the law should not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex,

WHEREAS sexual harassment intimidates, disempowers and discourages women in many occupations,

WHEREAS, our culture has tended to ignore, minimize, silence, blame the victim and/ or cover-up instances of sexual harassment and assault, victims have been reluctant to speak out, fearing repercussions to their life, job, or career,

WHEREAS the vision of AAUW is to empower all women and girls to reach their highest potential and the mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that AAUW Arizona shall increase efforts to empower all people to reject, report and expose predatory sexual behaviors,

The increased efforts of AAUW Arizona shall include:

- (1) branch meeting programs and through leadership and/or support offering programs in communities, colleges and schools,
- (2) speaking out via publication of our positions in the media,
- (3) advocating for strong human resource responses and a climate where the victims of predatory sexual behaviors are neither blamed, retaliated against, or held to pay-off and non-disclosure clauses that are used to cover-up the predatory behaviors
- (4) asking our elected officials and candidates for elected office to sign a pledge to do all that they can to end sexual assault and harassment, and
- (5) asking our elected officials and candidates for elected office to sign a pledge to vote for the Equal Rights Amendment when it is introduced into the Arizona Legislature.

.....approved by the LWV-NWV Branch Board - Dec. 11, 2017.

## **AAUW- NWV Branch Supports Efforts to Increase Arizona Teacher's Pay.**



Our NW Valley Branch of AAUW sent out 157 ballots to the membership to propose public policy initiatives for our branch. We received 108 ballots back. The ballots were tabulated by two visitors from Florida and showed overwhelming agreement on item #2: "I want our branch to support legislative efforts to increase AZ teachers' pay" with 101 votes agreeing, 1 no opinion, and 4 disagreeing. The population of Arizona teachers is overwhelmingly female with elementary teacher population estimated to be 85 percent female.

Craig Harris of the AZ Republic reported Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 that "AZ elementary-school teachers are the lowest paid in the country while high-school teachers rank No. 48 in pay." WalletHub rated AZ as the worst place to teach, and the Morrison Institute released a study which showed that 42 percent of AZ teachers hired in 2013 quit by 2016. The AZ School Personnel Administrators Association report states that 526 teachers had quit as of Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and found AZ is short 1,398 teachers this school year.

Teachers, parents and public school advocates plan to rally at the state Capitol on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> to call on the Legislature to significantly raise teacher pay during a Save Our Schools Arizona event. A CEO Advisory Group to Gov. Ducey is supporting increased teachers' pay through a sale's tax initiative. The group has drafted a referendum to be offered at the 2020 ballot, according to Jim Swanson, co-chair of the Governor's Classrooms First Initiative Council.

A general mission statement "to support teachers" scored 95 votes in agreement, six no opinion, and four against, so we will offer ideas and projects for those who want to follow through on that initiative. Regarding involvement in efforts to repeal SB 1431 (which allows state public school funds to go to the cost of private school tuition) 80 votes were in support of repeal efforts, several had no opinion and 17 were against efforts to repeal SB 1431, and NW AAUW public policy committee will not engage this issue.

Ten of us from the branch have signed up for public policy committee work, and each will be contacted by phone and e-mail for the January kick-off meeting.

Sharon Astle, Public Policy co-chair

## **How do we find and keep certified teachers? What issues must be addressed in school funding? Attend the Public Education Forum/Get the Facts!**

Public schools have always been the great promise of a free society and teachers are the key and irreplaceable element in a good public education system. Findings from the Arizona State University Morrison Institute (MI) for Public Policy show "teacher recruitment, retention and pay at crisis levels in Arizona with more teachers leaving the profession annually than bachelor of education degrees produced by the three universities, compounded by an exodus of instructors for reasons ranging from retirement to poor salaries." In a country where salary equates with status, teachers have slipped from being able to make a living to relying on second jobs to get by. As noted in an Arizona Republic editorial, "Arizona needs to look hard at the twin realities of what teachers face and how our schools are performing."

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. At the same time Arizona is facing a 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.

Attend the West Valley Public Education Forum on Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> and hear **Dan Hunting**, Senior Policy Analyst and principal researcher, discuss findings from the 2017 MI released study, Finding and Keeping Teachers. Hear **Dana Naimark**, President/CEO of the Children's Action Alliance addressing funding issues. Listen to **Jennifer Johnson** address impact for all. Take part, ask questions and get documented and factual information.

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The West Valley Public Education Forum will be held at the Dysart Education Center at 15802 N Parkview Place in Surprise. This forum, **cosponsored by our AAUW-NWV branch**, will begin at 6 pm with snacks and browsing exhibits. The program will begin at 6:30 pm

As stated by Steve Seleznow, President & CEO of Arizona Community Foundation. **“When we undervalue our educators, we under educate our children.** This problem will not go away without fundamental change in the ways we support our teachers.”



**MARCH TO SAVE OUR SCHOOLS**  
SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AZ

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SATURDAY  
JAN 6, 2018  
10AM-NOON  
AZ CAPITOL LAWN

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**SPEAKERS, PERFORMANCES, FOOD TRUCKS & MORE!**

On January 6th (3 days before Gov. Ducey's State of the State address), we will declare 2018 the "Year to Save Our Schools." Please join us to show your support for public education in AZ!

## "Fashion with Pizzazz"



Getting ready for the annual Fashion show and luncheon fundraiser **Fashion with Pizzazz** to be held at 10:30 AM, Monday, Jan. 29th, Briarwood Country Club. Shown are team members Deb Channel, Mary Jo Blum, Patty Lang, Rosemary Dougherty, Rosalie Chapman, and Stephanie Rogall.

**Planning for the many outstanding baskets! Look, buy and support our scholarship program.**



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

### Useful Links

[www.aauwarizona.org](http://www.aauwarizona.org) (State website)

[www.aauw.org](http://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/](http://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>



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

***Elected Positions:***

President .....Judy 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 new member  
**Sandy Vanmeulebrouck**  
 Welcome Back Renewal Member:  
**Heidi Roupp**

Please take time to introduce yourself and remember, when you see a "Red Heart" on a name badge, it signifies a new member. We will be continuing to invite members to our "Get To Know Us" – following every General Meeting. Stay for a few minutes and help us give them all a warm welcome to our NWV branch.

Do you read the newsletter to find out what is going on? We hope so. You will find it always includes a coming events section to clip and post with major coming events plus lots of other info. You get a preview of the next general meeting program. If you have read this item, please email Joye Kohl and say "Count Me In!" Your emailed response enters you into a raffle drawing for a custom designed sterling and turquoise pendant. Now, hush!! Telling others will just reduce your chance of winning.



Sharon Phelps surprises Nancy Wilson with a special recognition for her exemplary support and work on behalf of AAUW-NWV.



*At the Holiday Breakfast, I was completely stunned by the thank you and standing ovation from the members in attendance for my endeavors in support of NWV-AAUW. I believe strongly in the mission of our organization in support of the empowerment of women and girls. The assistance I can provide as a member of AAUW is enriching and the friendships are a special reward.*

*My sincere and heartfelt thank you to all members for this honor.*

*Best Wishes to everyone for a special 2018.*



*Nancy Wilson*

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, friend-ship and fun.



The AAUW Bridge groups, gathered at “Anne Levig’s Christmas House” for our Christmas celebration and an afternoon of bridge. Everyone provided a favorite treat for the tasty luncheon. We all had an enjoyable time and left feeling a bit more of the holiday spirit after spending time surrounded by Anne’s lovely decorations.



Arizona Adventures

Meeting: Day and Time varies as scheduled. (Oct.-April)  
 Contacts: Babette Spatz and Andrea Alpert

Jan 26, 2018, Friday: Mystery Castle (\$10.00 admission fee)

AAUW Arizona 2018 Legislature Day  
 Feb. 20, 2018



This annual event will be held in our traditional venues, the Historic Senate Chambers and the Historic Supreme Court Chambers on Feb. 20. Rep. Pamela Powers Hannley will be our featured speaker on the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution for passage by the Arizona Legislature.

This amendment has been on hold for almost 30 years. Rep. Powers is leading an effort in Arizona to secure passage in Arizona this year. That will put the amendment one state vote away from passage.

*We urge you to put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.*

Our own state elections in 2018 will make this an excellent opportunity to see which of our elected officials support women’s rights and the ERA.

The Impact of AAUW nationally in 2017!



17,000

people learned to negotiate their salary through AAUW workshops.



\$3.7 MILLION

was awarded to women and community projects.



270,000

messages were sent to lawmakers by AAUW members and supporters.

HELP AAUW DO EVEN MORE IN 2018

## ***Getting to Know Our Branch and our History***

To help us all get to know more about our AAUW branch, we are initiating a review of some of the great projects in which our branch has been engaged over the years. We have many community outreach programs for which our branch has received AAUW and other grant funding. We have collaborated with many other groups in our projects. See the state newsletter to find out about the special projects carried on by other branches in the state. See the info below to see if your idea for our branch might be a possibility for grant funding. If you have something you would like to see featured, please send the info to Joye Kohl. Please share your special memories of this branch!!

### **Procedures for Community Action Project Applications due March 15**

The State Board of Directors has approved \$2,000 for qualifying community action projects. Branches may submit as many as two separate proposals if they implement two separate projects and combined, their budgets do not exceed \$500. The total number of funded projects will be determined by the funds available. Winning proposals will be announced in the spring edition of the AZ Sun newsletter.

Proposals must be received by the AAUW-AZ Community Action Grant Chair by **March 15**. Completed proposals may be sent by e-mail or US mail. Alert the CAGC in advance of e-mailing a proposal so that she can anticipate its receipt. Hand-written proposals will not be considered. E-mail proposals must include a scanned copy of the cover page of the application form including the signatures of the branch president and branch community action chair. The CAGC will confirm receipt of proposals by e-mail.

Projects must clearly reflect the AAUW mission. Branches are encouraged to develop projects which actively engage members in their implementation. **Activities covered by the grant must be completed and a final report describing the project and use of funds (including receipts and a completed AAUWAZ expense claim form) must be received by the CAGC on or before June 1 of the following year.. Please include the name and address of the branch treasurer.**

For more information, go to the state website at [www.aauwarizona.org](http://www.aauwarizona.org) You will always find pertinent state info in the SUN.



**Visions from December - compliments of Alice Mason.**

