

March 27, 2019 edition of Surprise Today

Superintendent touches on teacher shortages, grad rates

By Joye Kohl

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA



Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman has a full plate in front of her in her first year on the job.

Ms. Hoffman spoke to more than 100 people March 14 at the Dysart Education Center, 15802 N Parkview Place. She touched on the challenges she's facing and said prioritizing the issues that need to be addressed is her biggest concern.

"We absolutely must have a sustainable funding source to increase school funding for all of our schools," Ms. Hoffman said.

Some other priorities include addressing the teacher shortage, improving graduation rates, fighting for competitive pay for all educational team members and seeking funding for special education in the next legislative session.

Ms. Hoffman said 25 percent of all teaching positions are unfilled, plus one-fourth of the education workforce is eligible to retire by 2021. Other problems include a high number of staff members leaving after three years or less and districts employing too many staff members who are under-qualified.

Ms. Hoffman also weighed in on last year's approved "20x2020" plan, which increases a teacher's stipend by 20 percent by 2020. She said most people don't understand the rule was designed for homeroom classroom teachers and didn't include special education, music or art teachers, nor support staff such as school counselors, occupational therapists and school psychologists.

"There is a need to have competitive pay for all of our educators," Ms. Hoffman said. She also shared examples of the problem in meeting some specific teaching needs such as physics teachers, sign- language teachers, school counselors and rural school personnel needs. Ms. Hoffman said this year's AZ Education Job Fair saw a one- third increase in the number of qualified applicants with most of them new instead of teachers seeking to move from school to school.

Ms. Hoffman discussed some of her early policy successes, noting the removal of the four-hour English language learning blocks, which passed the Legislature unanimously. She also discussed the formation of a state ESA task force with prioritizing improved management and oversight of the ESA program.

The 2019 Forum was the fifth in a series of West Valley Education Forums held since 2014. Initiated by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County, the Forum was cosponsored by more than 25 state and local organizations and school districts.

"It is important to remember why the people work so hard for public education," said Kathy Knecht, an organizing committee member.

"It's about workforce development and property values, community health and lower teen pregnancy rates, cohesive neighborhoods and lower crime rates, maintaining a solid tax base and social security available when needed and about fulfilling a state constitutional obligation."

Ms. Knecht closed out the forum stating "It is always about the kids. Arizona's children are relying on us to provide them the chance they deserve to achieve the American Dream."

Editor's Note: Ms. Kohl is the education co- chair for League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County.

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A video of the Forum is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/BRs1Cc34NtE> or on LWVAZ's Facebook page.



**Fundraising
for a Cause:
Advancing the
opportunities for
women & girls.**

**Proceeds from
the Fashion
Show
Luncheon
\$7974.44**



Directory 2019-20 Mailing Addresses

Directories are mailed to the local address. We have on file for you. If you have a permanent summer address and will not be returning prior to September 15th, please send your address to Nancy Wilson.

Last year 23 Directories were returned, had to be tracked and resent to the recipients. Please let me know if you prefer having your Directory held until you return.

Thank you! Have a fantastic summer. Nancy

AAUW NW Valley Public Policy Committee 2018-2019 Annual Report:

Thank you for engaging with AAUW NW Valley public policy issues. I love the fact that individual committee members take the lead for us to pursue separate issues. Here is what we have worked on:

October 2017 to present: Sharon Astle sought 100% branch support (voting in general meeting and by mail) to **support legislative efforts to increase teachers pay**. In AZ, the overwhelming majority of teachers are women. The effort continued through April, 2018.

November, 2017 and forward: Joye Kohl composed for AAUW NW Valley and AAUW State a resolution for **freedom from sexual harassment** concluding in part: "AAUW AZ shall increase efforts to empower all people to reject, report and expose predatory sexual behaviors..." AAUW NW Valley Branch supported 100%.

January/February 2018: Joye Kohl (together with League of Women Voters) organized and conducted "**The Crisis in Public Education**" Forum garnering 100% support for our Branch to become a \$200 sponsor of the forum.

October, 2018: Sharon Astle, Bonnie Boyce-Wilson and Sherrie Douglas spear-headed NW Valley AAUW's support of "**state education standards aligned with those developed by nationally recognized organizations...**as preparation for nationally utilized exams (such as SAT and ACT)" **especially in science**. We delivered our position to the State Board of Education. Our branch unanimously approved.

Fall 2018 to the present: Sharon Phelps and Becky Sayler took the lead on gathering unanimous support for **Public Policy to work on the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment** in AZ. The effort includes letters and calls to legislators, marching, and speaking at our NW Valley AAUW Branch meetings, and distributing ERA sashes.

January, 2019: Becky Sayler helped NW Valley AAUW annual fund-raiser "Fashion with Pizzazz" Show by **organizing the silent auction**.

January/February, 2019: At general meetings, Becky Sayler and Bonnie Boyce-Wilson each trained our branch members on how to be an advocate: "**Two Minute Activist**" (Becky) and "**Request to Speak**" (Bonnie).

March, 2019: Joye Kohl, Kathleen Long, and Becky Sayler led AAUW NW Valley Branch to become a co sponsor of the League of Women Voters initiated West Valley Education Forum: "**The Continuing Crisis in Public Education**" Forum II. The video stream is available at www.facebook.com/LWVAZ and at

Public Policy Committee meetings were held after general meetings (on 3rd Thursday), for publishing letters, for stuffing envelopes, for airing opinions and support. Next year, Becky Sayler has agreed to be my replacement and Sherrie Douglas to continue as Public Policy Committee secretary.

....., Sharon Astle Co-Chair of Public Policy

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)

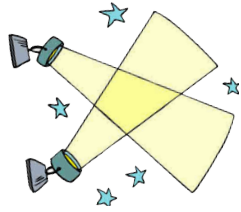
(Branch website - in process of updating)

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aaup-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>

SPOTLIGHTING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

**FUN, FELLOWSHIP, SHARED INTERESTS, CULTURE, HIKING,
EDUCATION, READING, WRITING AND STIMULATING CONVERSATION.**



Girlfriends SIG – Opportunity for April 28th

Orpheus Salutes America at Church at Litchfield Park

The Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix presents “Orpheus Salutes America” as their spring concert series to conclude their 90th season. Orpheus will present patriotic music and other genres that salute America, such as spirituals and folk music. Cole Porter, Stephen Foster, and Randall Thompson will be among composers who will be included. The performances will pay tribute to those who have or are serving in our armed forces.

Date: April 28, 2019

Time: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Cost: \$20.00 or \$15.00 for seniors or students

The date is **Sunday, April 28th - 3 pm**. Each person must order personal tickets in advance. We advise ordering immediately as this will sell out quickly. Carpools may be organized for those interested. Please contact Marlene Young after securing your tickets. See directory for her contact information.

To hear a short teaser video of their performance, go to: <https://orpheus.org/orpheus-salutes-america/>



About the Orpheus Male Choir of Phoenix: The nine decade history of the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix (OMC) encompasses over a thousand performances in a variety of venues, both in this country and abroad, and over 3500 rehearsals in preparation for those performances.

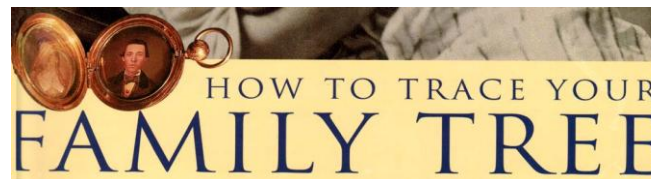
...Joye Kohl and Marlene Young

Memoirs SIG Plans for 2019-2020

Date	Topic
Nov. 4, 2019	What I believe about philanthropy.
Dec. 2, 2019	Most important decision I've made in my life.
Jan. 6, 2020	“Old Wives Tales” (cures my family used).
Feb. 3, 2020	Best tour or destination of my life.
Mar. 2, 2020	Favorite quote which I refer to frequently.
Apr. 6, 2020	How my spirituality has changed over time.

If you have ever thought about turning your life memories into memoirs, check out our group. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 9:30 am in a member's home. Write, learn, share, grow.

My Story



Genealogy SIG Resurfaces for 2019-2020

Date	Time
Nov. 8, 2019	Military Family Member
Dec. 13, 2019	Family Holiday Traditions
January 2020	Tour planned of West Valley Genealogical Society Library
Feb. 14, 2020	Family Romance in the Air
Mar. 13, 2020	Women's History Month- women important in your life
Apr. 10, 2020	DNA and ancestry research
Make a note of the dates and join us in Nov.	



Membership Application 2019-2020

Information is utilized in the AAUW-NVW Directory, for use by AAUW members only.

New Member _____ Renewal Member _____ Date _____

Name _____

RENEWAL MEMBERS do not need to complete this form BEYOND THIS SECTION UNLESS they have INFORMATION CHANGES for the DIRECTORY or Additional Selections on Back of Form.

Dual Member _____ Dual State _____ Telephone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Please indicate your contact preference _____ Email _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address: Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Summer Address _____

Full Name of College(s)/University(s) for AAUW National Roster _____

Degree(s) Earned _____ AA _____ BA _____ BS _____ MA _____ MS _____ PhD _____ MD _____

Other Degrees _____

Major or Specialization: _____

How did you hear about AAUW? _____ If AAUW member include name _____

Positions held in other AAUW Branches _____

Return this form with your check for the **fiscal year, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.**

Annually, Fiscal Year Dues are \$90.00. This includes National Dues \$59.00 (\$56.00 tax deductible); State Dues \$9.00; and AAUW-NVW Branch Dues \$22.00).

For **Dual member** or **Life Member** branch dues are \$31.00; **Honorary Member** Dues is \$22.00.

Please mail this form along with your dues to **NVW-AAUW, 13940 W. Meeker Blvd., Suite 115-217, Sun City West AZ 85375.**

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Check Number _____ Amount Paid _____ Date Received _____

Refer to back of form to select ways you wish to be involved in advancing our AAUW Mission





Membership – Get Involved in Advancing Our Mission

Name _____ Contact Number _____

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

The NWV-AAUW offers a variety of ways for you to follow your passion, contribute to your community, explore your interests and meet engaging and empowered women.

Please indicate your chosen activities by placing a check in front of your interests of choice.

Branch Projects and Initiatives

- ☐ College Connection Team (*An opportunity to raise awareness of AAUW for college women*)
☐ Public Policy (*Pay Equity, Educational Issues, Human Trafficking, Voter Education, Lobbying/Legislation*)
☐ STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Math*)
☐ Major Scholarship Fundraiser ☐ Scholarship Committee (*Awarding scholarships for local women*)

Branch Support and Committee Volunteer Opportunities

- ☐ Hospitality Committee ☐ Publicity/Marketing ☐ Photographer
☐ Membership Committee ☐ Fundraisers ☐ Newsletter Reporter

Special Skills you can Share in Supporting a Successful Organization

- ☐ Leadership (Officers, Chairperson, Meeting Leaders, Organization) ☐ New Member Support
☐ Publicity/News Releases/Writing ☐ Programs/Program Planning/Writing
☐ Finance/Budgeting/ Accounting ☐ Fund Raising (major and small events)
☐ Marketing/Brochures/Graphic Design/Exhibits/ AAUW Outreach Activities
☐ Computer Programming/Managing and/or Website

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS) – An opportunity to participate, enjoy, and build friendships.

Groups with no time specified meet at 1 PM; Complete information available in SPI Trifold and the Directory.

Travel and Adventure: ☐ Arizona Adventures (time varies) ☐ Hiking Club (time varies)

Arts and Hobbies: ☐ Culture Club (event time) ☐ Creative Writing ☐ Food and Wine Club I (4 PM)
☐ Food and Wine Club II (4 PM) ☐ Memories into Memoirs ☐ Girlfriends (varies) ☐ Genealogy
☐ Solos (time varies)

Book and Card Clubs: ☐ Monday Book Club ☐ Evening Book Discussion (7 PM) ☐ The Open Book (2 PM)
☐ Snowbird Book Club ☐ Euchre ☐ Mexican Train Dominoes ☐ Mah Jongg
☐ Bridge (1st and 3rd Wednesday); (2nd and 4th Wednesday); **Now forming** (Friday 1st and 3rd) Or (Monday 1st and 3rd)

Other areas of interest: _____

Annual Spring Luncheon Coupon

Name _____ Contact # _____

Guests _____

Entrée Selection _____ **Classic Chicken Caesar Salad** or _____ **California Turkey Wrap** (Spinach
Wrap with Turkey, Ham, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, & Avocado)

(Please complete information below!)

Vegetarian or Dietary Restrictions:

Luncheon Cost per person = \$22.00

Check Enclosed _____ Number of Guests _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail Payment to: NWV AAUW Annual Spring Luncheon; 13940 W. Meeker Blvd.,

Suite 115-217, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Information Contact: Stephanie Rogall. (Please see your directory for contact information).

Reservations due by Wednesday, April 10, 2019