



***Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage* Achieves Success**

- Award of Distinction from East Tennessee Historical Society
- Books donated to all public high school libraries in Tennessee
- Scholarships awarded to Tennessee women to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

Two special events launched the book, *Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage*. The first, sponsored by AAUW of Tennessee and the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, was held at the Economic Summit for Women in Nashville in October 2013. The East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville hosted a second book launch in December. The public responded with much interest, as shown by book sales, news articles, and requests for programs by various civic, history, and women's groups.

In 2014 the East Tennessee Historical Society recognized *Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage* with an Award of Distinction as part of their Awards of Excellence program. The program annually recognizes individuals and organizations for significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, and interpretation of the region's history.

Proceeds from book sales, along with help from Knox County Commissioner Amy Broyles and other individuals, provided funding to place copies of the book in all public high school libraries in Tennessee. This enables high school students to learn more about the contributions of women in our state's history and provides role models to inspire today's girls.

Additional proceeds from book sales fund scholarships for Tennessee women to attend the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. AAUW of Tennessee administers these scholarships.

HOW IT BEGAN—TENNESSEE WOMEN PROJECT

The idea for a book grew from an article in the *AAUW Tennessean*, state newsletter of AAUW, celebrating Women's History Month. Co-editors Charlotte Crawford and Ruth Johnson Smiley initiated the Tennessee Women Project under the auspices of AAUW of Tennessee. Additional broad-based support was elicited from women's organizations and higher education institutions across the state. Five

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organizations and two university groups became partners for the Tennessee Women Project. The advisory council comprised of partner representatives and other key individuals provided a network from which to solicit nominations for historic women to be included in the book.

THE PROCESS

From the more than one hundred historic women nominated, twenty-two were selected for the book. Each of these women was chosen based on her influence on life in Tennessee, the era in which she lived, and her geographic location, ethnicity, and vocation.

Twenty Tennessee women, all with writing experience and from a variety of professional backgrounds, volunteered to research, document, and create original profiles of the twenty-two women included in the book. Manuscripts were reviewed by volunteer readers, and each manuscript was carefully edited.

LOOKING AHEAD

AAUW of Tennessee members, with publication of *Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage*, can be justly proud of the Tennessee Women Project. Numerous groups and individuals contributed to this success. The book has achieved recognition that helps assure its lasting presence in recorded Tennessee history.

Book sales continue, and royalties are received. The book may be purchased through select museum gift shops and through Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/>

The book has an on-going presence on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/tnwomen/>

For more information or to schedule a program on Tennessee women's history, contact the editors, Charlotte Crawford and Ruth Johnson Smiley by email:

tnwomenproject@gmail.com

The Women's Equity Foundation, a supporting organization of AAUW, is the fiscal agent for the book,

<https://weftn.wordpress.com/>

Charlotte Crawford
Ruth Johnson Smiley
Editors

Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage
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