



AAUW supports and advances gender equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Winning Women

Watching Lavelle arrive in the box to execute a left-legged strike, scoring the winning goal for the US women's soccer team against the Netherlands in the Women's World Cup this month captured our future in a single moment. This amazing team, for whom **defeat is not an option**, has won world-wide acclaim for their commitment and character – paired with their brilliance on the pitch. Team captain Megan Rapinoe compels our attention with pithy statements on gay rights, equal pay and women in sports. (And, let's face it: some zingers for the president too.) Who cannot love her and her team that is immortalized in the headline: **Purple-haired Lesbian Goddess Flattens France like a Crepe**

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The US Women's Soccer team represents the fight for gender equity both on and off the field. All eyes are on their **legal suit for equal pay filed against the US Soccer Federation** earlier this year in California. The league's high salary for women is \$46,200 and lowest is \$16,538. Their fight for equity especially emphasizes an open embrace of gayness, becoming a model for the world: **French** soccer players noted that it was an honor to watch the US team because of the confidence that they bring to the game, both on and off the field, since gay women in France do not experience the same sense of rights at home.

Yet, in September 2016, **when Rapinoe took the knee** during the National Anthem to show solidarity with Colin Kaepernick, she did so because, "Being a gay American, I know what it means to look at the flag and not have it protect all of your liberties...It was something small that I could do and something that I plan to keep doing in the future and hopefully spark some meaningful conversation around it."

The triumph of the US Women's Soccer Team at the 2019 Women's Cup is testament to the pioneering work of AAUW on Title IX, Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Paycheck Fairness Act that passed out of the US House earlier this year. Through this work, the US has become a global model of gender equity, even as we have much more work to do, especially in relation to women of color, women's leadership and reproductive rights.

At the June leadership meeting for AAUW-TN, I was pleased to receive the support of the membership and the board to launch a statewide challenge of raising \$12,000 for the AAUW Greatest Needs Funds in FY20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020). AAUW-TN has committed \$2,000 of its reserve funds to kick-off this challenge. Now more than ever, we need AAUW National to be a fearless and nimble leader in the fight for gender equity for all women and girls so that we in Tennessee have the depth of expertise to shore up our work on this front. If Megan Rapinoe rightly raised concerns about her liberties in the US, I am sure she would have much to say about the rights of all women in Tennessee.

I will be working with Rachel Schultz in this coming year to engage branches, members and friends to help meet our goal of \$12,000 for the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. As I step into my role as immediate past president, feel free to drop me a line at www.spring.team – especially if you would like to join us in making Tennessee a much more equitable place to raise the next Megan Rapinoe.

Yours in AAUW and the fight for gender equity,

Dia Cirillo
President, FY19
Immediate Past President, FY20
Board Director, AAUW FY20-21

AAUW Tennessee

June Membership Report

For FY 2018-2019, seven of nine branches participated in AAUW Tennessee's challenge to retain 90% of their members, increase their membership by 10%, and improve age and/or racial diversity by 5%.

Branches submitted their final reports in February 2019 with these results:

- Four of the seven branches (Knoxville, Martin, Maryville, Oak Ridge) retained at least 90% of their members with a total of 166 renewals.
- Six of the seven branches (Knoxville, Martin, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge) increased their membership by at least 10% and signed up a total of 35 new members.
- Five of the seven branches (Knoxville, Martin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge) increased age and/or racial diversity by 5% with a total of 22 new members age 55 or younger and 7 new non-white members.
- Murfreesboro is the most diverse branch with 13 members meeting diversity goals.
- All branches met at least one goal, and Martin and Oak Ridge met all three goals.
- Branches staged 34 mission-based programs, conducted 9 AAUW Shape the Future Events, and worked with 10 community organizations in support of women and girls.

Membership VPs reported that their most successful recruitment events were Cocktails and Convos and Open Houses at local restaurants. The greatest challenge for branch membership in upcoming years is the recruitment of new diverse members as older members become less active.

2018-2019 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY AFFILIATES

As of 06/08/2019, seven Tennessee colleges and universities are AAUW Affiliates (Maryville College, Middle Tennessee State University, Southern College of Optometry, Tennessee Tech University, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Tennessee at Martin, University of the South). This is a loss in number, previously 8 institutions (Vanderbilt University has not renewed.)

2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Goals

- Challenge branches to develop a membership retention plan and renew members 100% for FY2020 by July 31, 2019.
- Challenge branches to increase membership by 10% by September 30 with 5% of new members age 55 or younger and/or non-white.
- 10 Tennessee CU AAUW Affiliates--Get Vanderbilt University to renew its affiliate status, and recruit two more institutions of higher education.

Yours in AAUW,
B. Ayne Cantrell, Chair
AAUW-TN Membership

News from the Branches

Martin

Marti Herndon, President

During our March meeting, Martin Branch members enjoyed an enlightening presentation by Dr. Vicki Seng about her mother, Edith Victoria Griffin's experiences as part of working in Washington DC for the Navy during WWII. She was a strong, determined young woman spurred on by her parents. One highlight shared by Vicki was her mom's visit with Eleanor Roosevelt.



Knoxville

Sherry B. Scott, President

Our March 9 meeting focused on AAUW's statement that "Gun Violence is a public health issue." Knox County District Attorney General Charme P. Allen spoke on "Gun Violence" and "Opioids". Gen. Allen is an experienced and very successful criminal prosecutor for Knox County. She cited relevant state and local statistics of gun violence. Although Knox County has fortunately not seen an increase in gun violence over the past several years, we have seen the increase of another serious threat. Opioid abuse is a crisis and has caused the deaths of more than 100 Knox County residents in just one year's time. Gen. Allen finished her captivating talk by encouraging us to become aware of local legislation and make our support or opposition known to our legislators. She affirmed that grassroots support does make a difference to local lawmakers.

Our new Project Reconnect Task Force recently met with Dr. Linda Reeves, the Adult Students Success Coordinator, other staff and adult students at Pellissippi Community College. We met to understand how we can best assist these students. The Task Force consisting of Sherry Scott, Linda Murawski, Rose-Linda Baldwin and Bari Gerbig listened to several students explain the challenges they face juggling studies and family life.

Member Emma Jean Huddleston received an AAUW Honorary Life Membership. Emma Jean graduated from UT-K and made her career as public school teacher and principal. She joined AAUW in 1969 and began serving in various roles including President from 1978-1980.



*Adult students with AAUW-
Members (back 2nd left to right):
Rose-Linda Baldwin, Linda
Murawski, Bari Gerbig, Sherry Scott*

Murfreesboro

Dia Cirillo, Immediate Past President

AAUW Murfreesboro has Elected a New Board for the 2019-21 Term

Nancy James and Barbara Scales, Co-Presidents

Nancy has been director of the MTSU Child Care Lab for the past 30 years. She earned both her bachelor and master's degree at MTSU. She is an active member and has held offices on the state and/or local levels in several professional organizations such as the American Association of University Women – Murfreesboro Branch, Tennessee Education Association (MTSU Education Association), Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education (Rutherford Association for Children's Early Education), and the Rutherford Coalition Against Child Abuse. She currently chairs the MTSU President's Commission on the Status of Women and past president of Advance Rutherford.



Murfreesboro continued



Currently, Barbara Scales serves as the Director of the June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students at Middle Tennessee State University. Barbara also is the Principle Investigator for the Department of Justice Grant – Office of Violence against Women CAMPUS Grant. She is the founder and developer of MTSU's Bystander Intervention-Prevention Program – “Be the Power of One”; an awareness and education program about gender –based violence. Barbara has 19 years of social welfare and adult learning experience. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Sociology and a Master of Arts in Education and Counseling and is currently working on her Ed.D. in Learning and Leadership at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Murfreesboro continued

Jayne Brunson, Vice President for Membership

Jayne is Coordinator of Library Administration at MTSU's James E. Walker Library. She serves on the Diversity Sub-Committee of MTSU's President's Commission on the Status of Women and is the Middle Tennessee Co-Chair for the Gender Equity Committee of United Campus Workers.



Michelle Willard, Communications Officer

Michelle is an award-winning journalist who has worked for a daily and weekly newspaper. She now oversees a local independent online news site, MurfreesboroVoice.com and produces MiddleTennesseeMysteries.com, a true crime website. Michelle's full-time job is working as the marketing director of an e-commerce site specializing in digital art and computer graphics used in digital animation and video game development. She serves several nonprofits in Rutherford County, including as vice president of the Read To Succeed Board. Michelle began her career in journalism over a decade ago at The Murfreesboro Post after completing a second bachelor's degree in mass communication at MTSU



Murfreesboro continued



2019-2021 Board Induction
From left to right: Michelle Willard, Barbara Scales, Jayme Brunson. Not pictured: Nancy James

This May, the AAUW membership across the country participated in the election of national board members. Along with several other candidates, the membership elected Dia Cirillo for the 2019-21 term. To learn more about the new board, **take a look here.**

Outgoing AAUW-TN President, Dia Cirillo, Elected to the National AAUW Board



NCCWSL Scholarship News

Three students were selected for our NCCWSL Scholarships this year and have attended NCCWSL. Reminder: the Deadline for submitting nominations for AAUW-TN NCCWSL Scholarships for the 2020 NCCWSL Conference is NOVEMBER 1, 2019. So be thinking about who you may want to nominate. Be watching our web site for updated application information.

A few changes this year include:

1. Each C/U member representative (university) and each branch will be limited to nominating 2 students each for scholarship consideration.
2. Nominations must be submitted by a C/U representative, branch president, or branch representative.



College students enjoying their experience at NCCWSL 2019. Second from right Amanda Steele, UT Martin.