



## **Announcing Nominees for AAUW-Tennessee President Elect- 2022-2023 and Finance Officer - 2022-2024**

The AAUW-TENNESSEE Nominating Committee (Sue Byrd, Martin; Ayne Cantrell, Murfreesboro; Julia High, Nashville) is pleased to nominate Nancy James (Murfreesboro Branch) as candidate for AAUW-TENNESSEE PRESIDENT-ELECT for 2022-2023 and Karen Coleman (Maryville Branch) as candidate for AAUW-TENNESSEE FINANCE OFFICER for 2022-2024.

The election for president-elect and finance officer will be held at the organization's annual business meeting, part of the AAW-TN Summer Leadership Conference scheduled for June 11, 2022, at which time members may nominate other AAUW-TN Branch members for the positions with their permission.

**Nancy James** retired after 33 years as Director of the MTSU Child Care Lab. She earned her Bachelor and Master's degree at MTSU. She is the current president of the American Association of University Women – Murfreesboro Branch and has actively served on the Public Policy Committee. She has also served in other professional organizations such as the Tennessee Education Association (and MTSU Education Association), Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education (Rutherford Association for Children's Early Education), Advance Rutherford (a women's consortium organization), and the Rutherford Coalition Against Child Abuse. She chaired the MTSU President's Commission on the Status of Women for 5 years.



Nancy was a 2016 Athena Award nominee. She has received the TEA 2017 Susan B. Anthony Award, 2017 MTSU Trailblazer Award for Women, MTSU Disabled Student Services Appreciation Award, and the 2017 MTSU Outstanding Public Service Award. She has been a Red Cross Instructor for 10 years. She actively advocates for women through her church outreach by being a representative of the Housing, Health, and Human Services Alliance of Rutherford County which connects individuals and families with supportive services for housing, healthcare, and economic self-sufficiency. Outreach also includes supporting the Domestic Violence Shelter and Doors of Hope for women who have been in rehab or incarcerated. Nancy resides in Wilson County with her husband, David, and younger son, Brandon, who is an Aerospace major at MTSU. Her older son, Preston, graduated and is employed at MTSU, and resides in Murfreesboro with his wife, Erin Hartsfield. Her next goal is to enjoy retirement and to fill it with purpose.

**Karen Coleman** has been a member of the AAUW Maryville Branch since moving to East Tennessee in 2010 from her home state of West Virginia. She is currently serving as president of the AAUW Maryville Branch. Karen joined the Coraopolis/Sewickley, PA branch in 1977 and served as branch president as well as one term on the local school board. She moved to Hurricane, WV in 1993 and was recruited to organize an Expanding Your Horizons event for high school girls at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. She served as a branch president for the AAUW Charleston, WV branch and then became the AAUW-WV State President.



After joining the Maryville Branch, she co-chaired in the position of president for the Branch. Karen was appointed to the national AAUW Membership Committee for the term of July 2014 to June 2016 and then co-chaired that committee for the next 2 years. The Membership Committee assisted staff, branches, and states in marketing and implementing the programs of the Membership Department for the National Organization. Karen retired from the US Department of Agriculture in 2008 and came to Blount County with her husband Chet, who drives a school bus for Blount County Schools.

# Leadership Meeting

Our State Leadership Meeting will be held virtually on  
Saturday, June 11, 2022.

## **AAUW-TN Leadership Conference Program**

- 10:00am Welcome and Introductions
  - Ann Indingaro, Co-President Elect
- 10:15am Ice Breaker
  - Vicki Armstrong, Co-President Elect
- 10:30am Public Policy
  - Lee Ann Carmack
- 10:40am Membership
  - Marti Herndon
- 12:30pm -1:30pm Lunch and Business Meeting including election of officers,
  - Michelle Willard, President, AAUW-TN
- 1:40pm Additional Business?

# AAUW-TN NCCWSL 2022 Scholarships Awarded

This year the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) will be held virtually May 24-26, 2022. AAUW-TN has awarded six scholarships to college students across the state of Tennessee to participate in the conference. In addition to the support from AAUW-TN, The Tennessee Women Project has for many years monetarily supported these scholarships. The scholarships pay for the cost of registration.

Congratulations to the following University students who have been awarded AAUW-TN 2022 NCCWSL Scholarships: Nereida Djassi and Fatima Selena Ibarra (Maryville College), nominated by AAUW Maryville Branch; Asia Torry and Jordan Dodd (The University of Tennessee at Martin) nominated by AAUW Martin Branch; Avery Vantrease (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), nominated by UT Knoxville CU Partner; and Maya Weaver (Tennessee State University), nominated by Oak Ridge Branch.



Lily Linebarger, 2021 participant,  
viewing the virtual conference



Sreya Kumpatla, 2021 participant,  
viewing the virtual conference

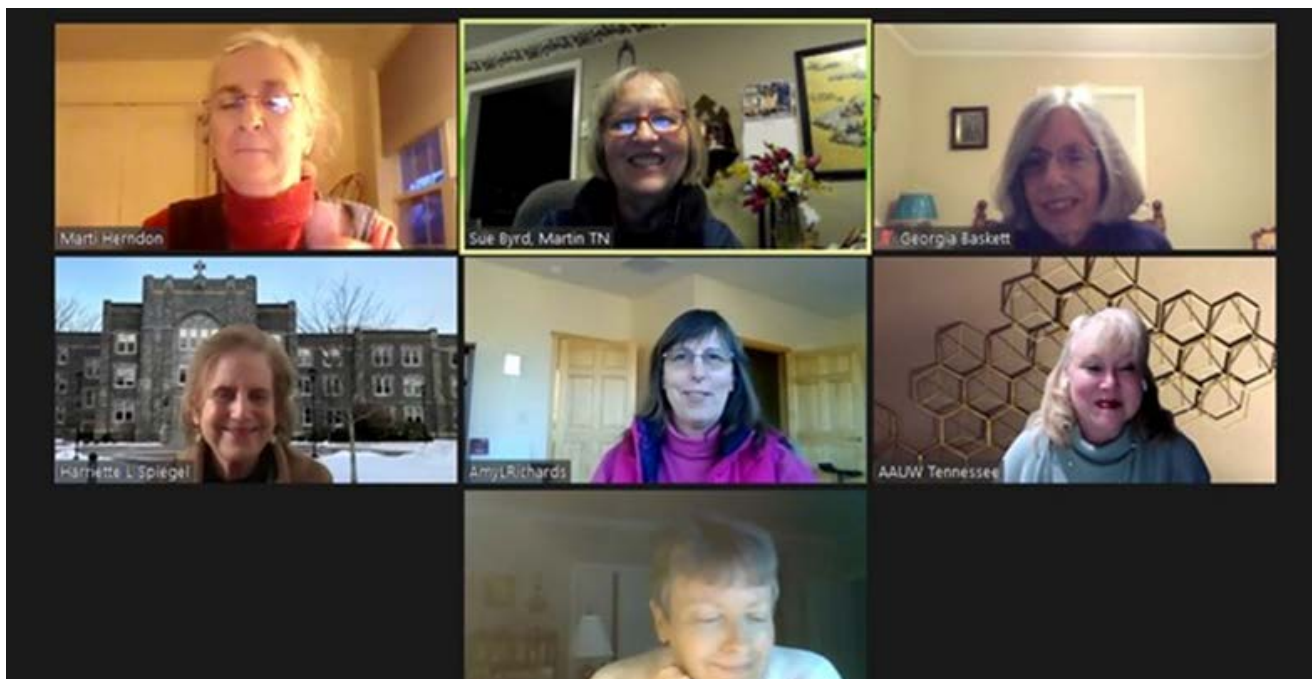
# News From the Branches

## Knoxville

The Knoxville AAUW has reached out to the Maryville and Oak Ridge Branches with the ETN Branch Leadership Initiative as a way to increase membership for all three organizations. Their recent general meeting, to have been on March 12, was a tour of the American Museum of Science & Energy (AMSE) in Oak Ridge, to which members of all three Branches were invited. Due to a springtime snow, the tour was re-scheduled for March 26. General meetings are bi-monthly, with the next one to be on May 14 with guest speaker Kirby Deal, Executive Director of Girls Inc of TN Valley. Three Interest Groups, Dinner with Friends, Evening Book Discussion, and Contemporary Literature meet regularly once or twice a month at members' homes or the Bearden Library. An informative article about Women's History Month (formerly Women's History Week!) was included in their bi-monthly newsletter, The Knoxville Voice. Starting in 2022 and continuing each year until 2025, the United States Mint will be issuing five new quarter designs featuring women we all should know about. This year's designs include Maya Angelou, Dr. Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Nina Otero-Warren and Anna May Wong.

## Martin Branch

The Martin Branch met monthly this year via zoom with a variety of speakers on topics related to the mission of AAUW. Topics included: Diversity and Inclusion and the challenges of students at UT Martin; COVID, a journey from our own member who was on a Fulbright Scholarship study during COVID; reports from two of our students who participated in NCCWSL 2021; and learning about an Agricultural student organization specifically for minorities. We had our annual book club meeting with members sharing books they had read on the topic of Alternate Feminist Perspectives. We are also proud that we have two students attending NCCWSL 2022 virtually.



## Memphis Branch

Memphis is meeting via ZOOM. Thank you, Vicki Armstrong, for setting up our Branch for these meetings!

We welcome potential members and other State members. In the fall of 2022 we will be meeting on the second Saturdays at 1pm.

Congratulations to Letha Granberry! Our member (and former AAUW State President!) has completed her Masters Degree while continuing her work as an ICU nurse during this long pandemic!

We are so proud of our Branch member, Paula Casey, whose unceasing efforts have resulted in the creation of a monument honoring 5 women and one man as "Equality Trailblazers." Their work was crucial in the effort to give women the right to vote. Famously, Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, just over 100 years ago, in 1920. The Dedication Ceremony was Mar. 27, 2022, in Memphis, Tennessee. The site of the monument overlooks the Mississippi River on the grounds of the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. You may view an article at the following link: <https://news.yahoo.com/memphis-unveils-monument-honoring-suffrage-214605087.html>

To continue this tradition, the Memphis Branch will be working to encourage all to register to vote and/or to check one's voting status.

We have recently nominated a slate of officers to serve the Memphis Branch, and will be voting on and installing them at our May meeting.



## Memphis Branch cont'd

Women's Suffrage Monument, "Equality Trailblazers,"  
Dedication, March 27, 2022



## Murfreesboro Branch

Like all Tennessee branches, the Murfreesboro Branch was hit hard by the pandemic, but it did not stop our members from finding ways to fulfill our mission to level the playing field for women and girls in our community and state and to stay connected with each other. Through the pandemic years of 2020-21, our Branch participated in the Nashville Public Library's "Ring the Bell Campaign" which celebrated the centennial of women's suffrage. We also co-sponsored to host a virtual conversation with Ms. Elaine Weiss, author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* as well as a virtual presentation, "Women and Voting: A Mandate for Elected Officials," with Dr. Mary Francis Berry for MTSU Women's History Month. Our focus was on voter accessibility and turnout. We participated with MTSU's Democracy Project to register voters on campus, collaborated with the League of Women Voters to register voters at the Murfreesboro Farmers Market for several weeks, and held a virtual town hall meeting titled "Will You Vote and Why Your Vote Counts?" We continued to advocate for equity through public policy on the state level. Our members participated virtually in "Women's Day on the Hill" and called or spoke on-line with five members of the Employee Affairs Subcommittee concerning bills that would improve employment equity. Our local branch members worked with Moms in Action to fight Tennessee's No Permit Carry Bill. Our own branch member, Lee Anne Carmack, wrote an op-ed piece on the Paycheck Fairness Act that was published in the *Tennessean* and the *Daily News Journal*. We are proud of our history of providing scholarships for nontraditional undergraduate students and under-represented graduate students at MTSU; as well as sponsoring students to attend the annual AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which we continued to do during the pandemic. We provided the opportunity for students to participate in Start Smart trainings. Our branch hosted a statewide virtual presentation of Work Smart with AAUW National. (continued)

## Murfreesboro Branch (cont'd)

We could not go through the pandemic without recognizing some of our members who are not only leaders in our branch, but also in our community and beyond. Last year, we nominated 2 of our members for the Athena Award (Lee Anne Carmack) and the Athena Young Professional Award (Adelle Montebianco). They represented us well at the award ceremony which is hosted by Rutherford Cable, an organization to help women achieve personal and professional success in our community. We also spotlighted one of our long-time active members who has continued to actively support the AAUW mission here and across the state, Dr. Barbara Ayne Cantrell. (continued)



**AAUW Murfreesboro at 2021 Athena Awards**



## Murfreesboro Branch (cont'd)

We will come together again to plan events that will highlight and support women such as the Women Warriors event that will honor women veterans in our community. We will soon start planning for the return of our Equal-TEA event that will take place in the spring of 2023. At that event, we recognize students who are awarded scholarships and women leaders in our community. It is our biggest fundraiser, making it possible for us to continue our programs and scholarships. We are fortunate to have the Middle Tennessee Fund for Women and Girls (MTFWG), which is the charitable arm of our local Branch. Because of the dedication of past and current members we have a strong charitable fund that will continue to support the mission of our Branch. Thanks to Dr. Chandra Story for presiding over the MTFWG Board this year! We also plan to collaborate with local organizations/agencies to support the needs of women in our community as well as to have some great social gatherings to celebrate each other and our organization!

On behalf of the AAUW Murfreesboro Branch, we hope all our fellow AAUW Tennessee members have a successful, happy, and healthy 2022 year. We are in this together!

**Voter Registration at  
the Bans Off Our  
Bodies March in  
Murfreesboro**



## Nashville Branch

- August 2021 - Our branch spoke with Marisa Richmond, professor of history and women's and gender studies at MTSU. She is a member, and recent Past Chair, of the Metro (Nashville) Human Relations Commission, one of only two openly transgender members of the Democratic National Committee, and a Member of the Board of the Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative.
- October 2021 - We were joined by Traci Patton, Director of Administration and Community Engagement at Urban Housing Solutions. Also in October 2021, members attended the Bans Off Our Bodies march to rally for reproductive rights and abortion access in Murfreesboro.
- November 2021 - We heard from Hands on Nashville about ongoing efforts to meet the needs of the Nashville community through group service. Hands on Nashville has been an essential organization in helping Nashville rebuild after natural disasters like floods and tornadoes, in addition to the 100+ other nonprofits, schools and other civic organizations it helps to connect with eager volunteers.
- December 2021 - We hosted our annual holiday party where we also held our annual silent auction to raise operating funds for our branch.
- February 2022 - We visited the National Museum of African American Music in the new 5th and Broadway center.
- March 2022 - Loralyn Greene of Buy Nothing Project joined us to talk about Buy Nothing's mission to reduce waste and impact on the environment while building community by connecting people through hyperlocal gifting within their own neighborhood.

## Oak Ridge Branch

The Oak Ridge AAUW has had monthly Zoom meetings, with attendance ranging from 8 to 32. In March their speaker was from The Arc of Anderson County, an agency which provides support and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In April their speaker will be Jamie Satterfield, an investigative journalist. They have joined with the Knoxville and Maryville Branches to do some joint activities, such as a March 26 tour of the American Museum of Science & Energy; and sharing their monthly Newsletter on-line. Recently they have developed a "membership letter" describing the purpose and activities of AAUW, which they can give to presenters, guests, and newcomers, to increase membership outreach. The Branch provides a scholarship to a Roane State student each year and supports local NCCWSL candidates annually. Their Public Policy Committee reports regularly to encourage members to communicate with their state legislators about bills in the works. The Branch also supports a Gift Shop to provide easy acquisition of books like Ruth Smiley's Tennessee Women, AAUW branded items, and other commemorative specialties.