

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

National AAUW Web Site
<http://www.aauw.org>

Tennessee AAUW Web Site
<http://aauw-tn.aauw.net>

Oak Ridge AAUW Web Site
<http://oakridge-tn.aauw.net>

October 2017

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, October 23, 11:30 am

Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church, Activities Building, Room 102

“Plans for the former YWCA Oak Ridge Property and the YWCA mission to help victims of domestic violence” is the topic of the AAUW general meeting in October. Maggie McNally, Director of Anderson County Services for the YWCA in Oak Ridge and Jewel Sexton, Director of Public Relations, will give the program.

Lunch will be catered by The Soup Kitchen. Cost is \$8.00. The menu includes a choice of soups, sandwiches, and a dessert. If you have not been contacted by the telephone committee by noon on Thursday, October 19, please call Nita Barnes or Mary Uziel. Members may add or cancel reservations up to Sunday evening, October 22. If your reservation is not canceled, please reimburse the AAUW treasurer for the cost of your lunch. Thank you.

Student members are always invited but not usually bothered with a phone call because we know you are busy. Please call in your reservation if you wish to order a lunch.

Those attending are asked to bring items which cannot be purchased with food stamps such as dishwashing soap, laundry soap, and other cleaning products; toilet paper, paper towels, and personal care items, such as soap and toothbrushes to donate to ADFAC (Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties).

*October is Domestic Violence
Awareness Month*



Jewel Sexton and Maggie McNally
Photo courtesy of *The Oak Ridger*

SHADES (SHaring ADventures in Engineering and Science) is scheduled for October 28 at NIMBios 1122 Volunteer Boulevard, Claxton Education Bldg, Room 105, (on the UT campus), Knoxville 37916. SHADES is a one-day workshop for 6th and 7th grade girls. It is highly interactive, hands-on presentations on science and engineering topics in hopes of encouraging girls to study those topics in high school and college. SHADES was started as a state-wide AAUW project by Peggy Emmett when she was President of Tennessee AAUW. We received an AAUW Community Action Grant to help us publish a guide on how to set up and conduct these workshops which we did. The project has been featured at two national AAUW conventions. Volunteers are needed to help on October 28. Chaperones are needed from 8:15 to 1:30. Lunch is served.



Co-Presidents Fay Martin and Mayme Crowell

Message from Co-Presidents

Yes, domestic violence continues, as despicable as it is. Come to our general meeting on Monday, October 23rd, to find out what is being done in our area to combat domestic violence. We should all be aware of this insidious problem in our midst. Maggie McNally and Jewel Sexton will update us and explain what can be done to alleviate domestic violence. Hope to see each of you at our meeting.

Virginia Jones, our excellent public policy person, requests a special interest group to assist her in the public policy arena. So much is happening so fast about which we need to be knowledgeable that she needs additional members to help her sort out the most pressing issues and determine how best to address them. Members who have agreed to join with Virginia are her husband Charles (of course), Ann Garcia, Kay Moss, and Donna von der Lage. You too may wish to join with this group. If so, please contact Virginia.

Kudos go to Peggy Emmett for SHADES in its 35th year. Peggy began this STEM workshop for middle school girls when she was AAUW state president. She has worked diligently with the Knoxville and Oak Ridge branches for this effort annually. This year's SHADES will occur on Saturday, October 28th, at the Claxton Building, University of Tennessee, in Knoxville. Should you desire to assist in this valuable program for young girls, please contact Peggy.

Your Board is considering joining the Coalition

Steering Committee for the Febb Burn Statue to be placed in Knoxville. As you know, Febb Burn is the mother of Harry Burn, Tennessee legislator who voted for the ratification of the 19th Amendment which allows women the right to vote. Additional information about requirements for membership is being sought before any commitment is made.

—Fay Martin
Mayme Crowell

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

NEW PUBLIC POLICY GROUP

At the October 9, Board Meeting, it was decided to have a Public Policy Group to consider the many issues before us and to decide which ones our branch would like to emphasize in letters and visits to our members of Congress, and letters to the editor.

The vote on the budget and tax cut bill passed recently by the House will likely be voted on the week of October 17, and so the Public Policy Chair will go ahead and compose a letter for the Senators to be reviewed by the new Policy Group which currently consists of Anne Garcia, Virginia Jones, Kay Moss, and Donna von der Lage.. **An example of an issue someone might want to “own” is having Tennessee join the other states where voter registration is automatic.**

Any other members interested in participating may call Virginia at 483-8944 or write to her at cavjones@bellsouth.net

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COALITION

The Board voted to lend AAUW, Oak Ridge Branch's name to the Women's Suffrage Coalition. See this link <http://archive.knoxnews.com/news/local/burn-only-son-of-tenn-legislator-who-cast-deciding-vote-for-womens-suffrage-dies-3b884035-bc94-571d--392197361.html>.

This means we will have a basket for donations at each meeting to help fund the statue of Harry Burn and his mother, Febb Burn, and we will send notices to our members from the Suffrage Coalition. Members may remember the talk Wanda Sobieski gave at a general meeting about the project. Mary Ann Reeves will be our Liason for the Coalition.

Backpack Full of Cash— A Documentary

Backpack Full of Cash addresses students as being the carriers of cash to their schools, whether they be charter, voucher, or public. 600 billion dollars a year is spent to educate children in the U.S., a fact near and dear to proponents of privatizing. Filmed during the 2013-2014 school year in Nashville, New Orleans, Philadelphia and other cities, the feature-length documentary narrated by Matt Damon concentrates on how privatization is devastating public school funding.

Director Sarah Mondale, a former public school teacher now associated with Stone Lantern Films and documentary Producer Vera Aronow from Turnstone Productions have resourced a case for revitalizing our public schools. They cameo Union City, New Jersey, Public Schools as a highly successful system where poor students are getting a quality education without vouchers or charters. They contrast this system with several other public education systems which are starved of resources. They can do little more than hang in the balance, a precarious position for one of the last democratic institutions in this country. And they deliver a cautionary narrative of how funding cuts and privatization have devastating effects on the children who must rely on those public schools.

The Knoxville LWV has decided to have three showings of this film in November, during National Education Week. Although the venues are still being arranged, each will take place in the early evening at 6:30 p.m. so that a greater number of people may attend the free showing. This documentary is non-partisan and amazingly informative about how privatization is increasing inequality in our country. It is a must see for anyone interested in school choice.

Welcome to New Member—

Mary Ann Reeves
1905 Walnut Cove
Knoxville, TN 37932

maryannreeves1@att.net

B.S. Univ. of Tenn. Elec. Engineering
M.E., Univ. of Tenn., Engineering



October 20: Book Group, 3:00 pm at Greenfield Senior Living parlor, *Undiplomatic Murder*, M. Truman

October 23: Branch General Meeting, 11:30 am, Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church, Activities Building, Room 102

October 25: Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Swifty's Atomic Bar and Restaurant

October 28: SHADES, Claxton Education Building, UT, Knoxville

Upcoming Events

November 15: Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, I Hop (change to 3rd Wednesday)

November 17: Book Group, 3:00 pm at Greenfield Senior Living parlor, *Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women*, C. Thimmesch

December 10: Green Tea and Reception, 3-5 pm, Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church, Activities Building, Room 102

March 2018: Women's History Month

March 16-17, 2018: AAUW State Board Meeting, AAUW Tennessee Convention and Annual Business Meeting, hosted by Murfreesboro Branch (time and place TBA)

April 10, 2018: Equal Pay Day

Note: No branch meeting in November; Book Group and Lunch Bunch will not meet in December.

Ruth Johnson Smiley
Newsletter Editor
smileyrcj@gmail.com