

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, 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>

January 2020

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 27, 11:30 am
Oak Ridge Senior Center, 1405 Oak Ridge Turnpike

“Eating to Save Lives: Nutritional Strategies for the New Year” will be the program topic presented by Mendy Cobb, Clinical Dietician, University of Tennessee Medical Center, at the AAUW meeting on Monday, January 27. The meeting will be held at the new Senior Center located just west of the Oak Ridge Civic Center/Library. There is parking in front of the Senior Center. **Please note that this is a change from our regular meeting place.**

The meeting will begin at 11:30 with lunch of soup, sandwiches, and desserts, catered by the Soup Kitchen. Cost of lunch is \$8.50. If you have not been contacted by the telephone committee by noon on Thursday, January 23, please call or email Mary Uziel, 483-1043, maryuziel@comcast.net. Members may add or cancel reservations up to Sunday evening, January 26. If you are not able to attend and your reservation is not cancelled, please reimburse the AAUW treasurer for the cost of your lunch. Those attending who want to bring a sack lunch or not have lunch are asked to make a reservation to ensure adequate seating. Ms. Cobb's presentation will begin at 12:00 noon.

Members may bring donations of items that cannot be purchased with food stamps, such as paper products, personal care items, and cleaning supplies. These are given to ADFAC (Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties). Also, cash donations to buy food items for RSCC students who find it difficult to buy enough food and pay for their education will be accepted and given to the Roane State Pantry program.



Mendy Cobb

Mendy Cobb, a graduate of Auburn University, works for the Center for Transplant Services at UT, evaluating patients for transplant listing and coaching those who have received transplants.

Mendy was recognized by her peers with the Exceptional People Award at the UT Medical Center in 2016. She was given the Outstanding Dietitian of the year Award of the Knoxville Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for 2007-2008.



President's Message

Our 2020 year begins with our General Meeting at the Oak Ridge Senior Center. The topic is nutrition, especially for seniors. After our meal and program, staff have agreed to lead a tour of the new building for those interested. Come and learn about what you should be eating and what the Senior Center has to offer.

The December Holiday Tea was not well attended; however, the ORHS Resonance Chorus provided lovely music. Donations were generous. Those absent missed a beautiful holiday event.

Your Board decided to assist the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont in its application to the National AAUW Community Action Grant Program for support for local young women to attend its science-based summer programs. No funds are involved, but support of the program and assistance in submitting and encouraging grant approval is entailed.

Our public policy people are working hard now that the TN legislature is in session. The AAUW-TN Public Policy Committee holds bi-monthly telephone conference calls with Branches across the state and plans conversations with the legislators about issues of interest, such as women's equal pay. Many thanks go to our Branch members involved—Virginia and Charles Jones, Kay Moss, Mary Uziel, Anne Garcia, and others.

You often receive e-mails informing you of events of interest around town. Those are simply FYI, as our Newsletter cannot possibly include every event of interest in a timely manner. I look forward to seeing you on at the Senior Center on January 27th.

—*Mayme Roberson Crowell*



Public Policy Committee:

Anne Garcia
Kay Moss
Virginia Jones, Chair

If you would like to work with this committee, please contact one of the members.

The AAUW Tennessee Public Policy Committee, chaired by Peggy Swann, is focused this year on an effort to get a bill passed similar to the Alabama Clarke-Figures Equal Pay Act, which was enacted June 19, 2019. For discussion of bill see:

<https://ogletree.com/insights/2019-08-30/alabamas-new-pay-equity-law-takes-effect-september-1-2019/> (To access this link and the ones below, place the cursor over the web address, right click, and select open hyperlink.)

The secret to its passing in Alabama seems to be support for it by the NFIB, an organization of small businesses. <https://www.nfib.com/>

The State Public Policy Committee will sponsor a Day on the Hill, Wednesday, March 11, to meet probably with members of the Employees Affairs subcommittee members and sponsors of bills AAUW would like to see passed.

Peggy Swann would like the names of branch members who will attend the Day on the Hill so she can let them know about the logistics for the day and sign them up for meeting with legislators. Please let Virginia Jones, Oak Ridge Branch Public Policy Chair (cavjones@bellsouth.net, 483-8944) know if you would like to go.

Virginia Jones and Kay Moss presented letters supporting passage of a bill similar to the Alabama law to Gov. Bill Lee and Lt. Gov. Randy McNally who spoke at the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge meeting on Thursday, January 9. Copies also of a study about poverty.

<https://iwpr.org/publications/impact-equal-pay-poverty-economy/>

According to this study, providing equal pay for women would cut the poverty rate in half for all working women—from 8.0 % to 3.8 %.

Branch members are encouraged to read this study so they will be informed about the advantages of paying women equally.

—*Virginia Jones, Public Policy Chair*

100 A CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th and final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment. Thus, after a 72 year struggle, women won the right to vote! In 2020 we celebrate this historic achievement and honor the courageous suffragists who made it possible.

Human Rights Rally

Saturday, January 18

The rally commemorates both Martin Luther King Day and the Women's March in Washington, DC.

Anderson County Democratic Women, organizers of the event, report these plans.

We will begin at the Unitarian Church in the sanctuary at 2 pm for a program of music and speakers, followed by a march to First Presbyterian Church for refreshments and socializing.

AAUW Oak Ridge Branch is one of the sponsoring organizations for this event.



The **Lunch Bunch** gets together on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the fellowship. Next lunch:

February 10, Burchfield's Restaurant in the Doubletree Hotel.

—**Connie Battle, Chair**

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The **Book Discussion Group** meets at 3:00 pm on the third Friday of each month (no meeting in December) in the parlor at Commonwealth Senior Living, 360 Laboratory Road. New members are welcomed.

January 17, Book to be reviewed is *9 Presidents Who Screwed Up America*, by Brian McClanahan

February 21, Book to be determined

Mark Your Calendar

January 17: 3:00 pm, Book Group, Commonwealth Senior Living Parlor

January 18: 2:00 pm, Human Rights Rally, Unitarian Church

January 27: 11:30 am, Branch General Meeting, Oak Ridge Senior Center

February 10: 10:00 am, Branch Board Meeting, RSCC Goeff Building

February 10: 11:30 am, Lunch Bunch, Burchfields

February 21: 3:00 pm, Book Group, Commonwealth Senior Living Parlor

February 24: 11:30 am, Branch General Meeting, Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church

—**Ruth Johnson Smiley**
Newsletter Editor
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