
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>

August 2020

Message from the President



Mayme Crowell

Here we go again! No member appears eager to lead our AAUW Oak Ridge Branch. I do not want to see our group disband for lack of a leader; therefore, I shall once again be your President. I have asked Ruth Smiley, our Newsletter Editor, to use another picture of me. If the picture is of a younger me, perhaps members will think they have a new president!

Other officers have agreed to serve. These are Program Vice-President-Kay Moss; Membership Vice-President-Carol Hoffner; Secretary-Stella Schramm; Treasurer-Virginia Jones. With no meetings during the pandemic, these members and your President have not been voted into office. This is simply how things are done nowadays. When we begin once again to have General Meetings, we can vote and install our officers.

In June the Board sent a four-page Annual Report of the Branch Activities to the State, and I participated in a zoom.com AAUW-TN Board meeting. Treasurer Virginia Jones updated our membership information on the National Database, and I added the 2020-2021 officers. If you wish to have a copy of our 2019-2020 Annual Report, please contact me.

I hope that each one is keeping safe and healthy. Perhaps with masks and social distancing, I am hopeful that soon we can gather once again. At present, however, it looks as though January 2021 will be our next General Meeting.

In the meantime, many thanks for renewing your memberships. Even though we are unable to meet, we do continue our projects to assist in educating women and girls, which is an important component of our mission. You evidence your commitment to our mission statement with your continued memberships. Do not hesitate to contact any officer with your suggestions, concerns, and/or ideas.

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President's Message, continued from page 1

Our AAUW-OR Newsletters will continue to keep you informed and updated. Be aware that the Newsletter will be lengthier than usual with information about items you may wish to follow up on and/or check out to read further. Your Public Policy Committee will send additional items to your email. After all, this is a Presidential election year, and we strongly encourage all of our members to vote and to encourage others to vote in November.

Our Branch must be doing something right! We have learned that two members of the now defunct Columbia Branch wish to join our Branch. Cindy O'Brien Baxter and Martha Booth attended Oak Ridge High School and now live in Columbia, TN. They have been active AAUW members there. Of all the TN branches with which they could affiliate, they choose to join us. We hope that they will be in Oak Ridge at some time when they can come to a General Meeting so that we can meet them. Welcome virtually, Cindy and Martha!

I miss being with each of you as I value our friendships. I also realize that you miss each other.

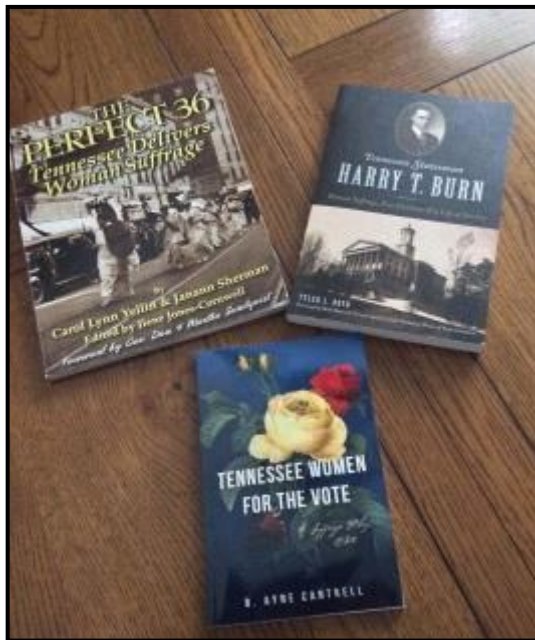
—Mayme



Febb Burn's Legacy Lives On

Febb Burn influenced her son's vote for ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, and women won the right to vote. Febb's legacy lives on in history and in her family. Febb would be proud that her great-granddaughters —CEO Cathy Allen, Vice President Sandra Boyd and co-owner Pat Cotton—now own and operate the family business, Crescent Sock Company, founded in 1902. See the news article by Allie Clouse at this link:

<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/money/business/2020/08/11/women-owners-crescent-sock-company-tennessee-descended-19th-amendment-suffrage-hero-febb-burn/5445177002/>



Books for ORHS Library

In celebration of the Nineteenth Amendment Centennial, the Oak Ridge Branch gave the following books (pictured above) to the Oak Ridge High School Library:

***Tennessee Statesman, Harry T. Burn* by Tyler Boyd**

With urging from his mother Febb Burn, Harry Burn cast the deciding vote for ratifying the amendment in the Tennessee Legislature

***Tennessee Women for the Vote*, a one-act play by B. Ayne Cantrell**

The play brings together prominent suffragists, including African Americans, in a rally.

***The Perfect 36: Tennessee Delivers Woman Suffrage*, by Carol Lynn Yellin and Janann Sherman**

Tennessee was the 36th state needed to complete ratification by a three-fourths count of all 48 states, so it was called the Perfect 36 by commentators of the day.

These books were presented to Caramia Milloway, ORHS Librarian, by Kay Moss. Reply from Milloway: "Thank you so much! These are all wonderful titles that we do not have in the library. They and AAUW are much appreciated."



The August 2020 *National Geographic* (NG) has two interesting articles: “100 Years of Women’s Suffrage: The Fight To Be Heard” and “Stopping Pandemics: What History Has Taught Us.”

August 20 marks the Centennial for women voting in national elections. The NG article features pictures of the historically responsible women who fought for the right to vote and some of their descendants. It highlights five suffragists and important events leading up to the Nineteenth Amendment, as well as events immediately afterward. This article definitely will make you want to exercise your hard-won privilege to vote.

In the midst of our current pandemic, this NG article emphasizes that we need to understand the scale of the world’s suffering from pandemics, which actually began with the Egyptians. A chart depicts fifteen pandemics to date. However, more importantly one learns how germ theory developed, when and where vaccines improved, and who were the unlikely heroes in alleviating pandemics. The article warns that the next “destroying angel” is already taking wing.

—*Mayme*



The right to vote is both a privilege and a responsibility. You may choose to vote by mail-in ballot. If you are over age 60, this is a valid reason to request a mail-in ballot.

See the following websites for requesting mail-in ballots.

Anderson County

<https://www.acelect.com/voting/absentee-voting/>

Knox County

<https://facebook.com/Knox-County-Election-Commission-104106408148/>

Roane County

<https://roaneelections.com/absentee-voting/>

State of Tennessee—Online Voting

<https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/>

—*Public Policy Committee*



Forever Stamp—Nineteenth Amendment: Women Vote

Inspired by historic photographs, the stamp art features a stylized illustration of suffragists marching in a parade or other public demonstration. The clothes they wear and the banners they bear display the official colors of the National Women’s Party (NWP)—purple, white, and gold.

Issue Date: August 22, 2020

Public Policy

Information about mail-in voting has been sent to the membership and appears in this newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to contact their Election Commission to request a mail-in ballot and return it to the Election Commission as soon as possible. This vote may be the most crucial one we will ever make. Our foremothers fought for our right to vote, and we can honor their gaining that right a hundred years ago by voting and encouraging everyone we know to vote.

An effort was made by this branch to encourage state legislators to vote to extend health care coverage for post-partum mothers to one year instead of two months through a letter to the *Tennessean* which the newspaper felt was important enough to feature on the day the new legislation was published. But this effort was to no avail. Knowing that new mothers who suffered post-partum problems such as eclampsia and depression need medical attention longer than two months after they give birth, the legislature ignored the advice of State Health officials and kept the coverage at two months. Lt. Gov. Randy McNally wrote the committee stating that budgetary concerns took precedence.

A letter was written by one of our AAUW members to the *Oak Ridger* stating that it was hard to reconcile the legislature's professed concern for human life with this decision.

The message from this committee is:

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE.

—*Virginia Jones, Chair*
Anne Garcia
Kay Moss

We Care About Our Members

If you know of illness or death in the family of a member, please contact
Carol Hoffner,
carolhoffner35@comcast.net.



Cindy O'Brien Baxter and Martha Boone of the Columbia Branch of AAUW are transferring their memberships to the Oak Ridge Branch since their branch has decided to disband. Rather than be members-at-large, they have chosen to transfer their membership to the branch in their home town. Cindy has been President of the Columbia Branch for a number of years. She is the daughter of Louise and Harry O'Brien. Martha lived in Oak Ridge until her family moved to California when she was two years short of graduating from Oak Ridge High School. Martha joined the AAUW in Columbia after meeting Cindy at their church and learning about AAUW. We do not have Martha's contact information as yet, but Cindy may be reached at jacklbaxt@charter.net

Is Your Perspective Inclusive?

What is perspective? Simply defined: it's your point of view, it's the way you see something. Our perspectives shape our interactions with individuals and help frame the way we value culture, talent, beliefs, and background, to name a few things. So, is your perspective inclusive?

On July 30, our National AAUW sponsored a webinar on developing perspectives. I, along with many fellow AAUW members, joined in via Zoom. The webinar featured Pamela Fuller, FranklinCovey's thought leader on Inclusion and Bias; Dr. Lisette Garcia, of the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR); and Sheila Amo, chief administrative officer at AAUW.

It was decided that perspective is how we examine and respond to a situation. How we see things, including our biases. Equality is when we give everyone the same thing (e.g., we give everyone a box). Equity is when the box

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Left; **Patricia Pierce** arrives at the Hermitage.. Right: **Yvonne Wood** and **Patricia Pierce** enjoy the recent Suffragist Tea held at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville to celebrate the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment..

Suffrage Teas

While the Boston Tea Party is often the most common story of the role that tea played in rebellious acts, tea found its way into the lives of another group interested in rebellion of unjust laws—the American women’s suffrage movement!

Five women who would become key members of the American Suffrage Movement met for tea in Waterboro, N.Y. on July 9, 1848. Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Martha Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, and their hostess, Jan Hunt. Over tea, these women expressed their views about the moral and political injustices toward women including their lack of representation in government and to the elective franchise. The tea party may have started as a simple, calm affair, but it became the launching platform for the first women’s rights convention held in Seneca Falls, N.Y., July 19-20, 1848. In a short time, the five women organized the event in Seneca Falls to address the social, civil, and religious rights of women. Over 300 men and women attended the Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls.

Tea parties continued and the suffrage movement activities gained momentum. Tea parties in homes and meetings at tea rooms offered women a place to gather to develop and strengthen plans for achieving suffrage. Tea shops offered private label teas to help fund meetings and rallies. *Equality Tea* and *Votes for Women Tea* were two popular brands in California. Tea became a central feature of California political strategy and helped California become the sixth state to grant women the vote in 1911.

Belva Vanderbilt Belmont held suffrage teas at her home in Newport. These events were held for fundraising for the suffrage movement as well as provide opportunities for women to collaborate and learn about political strategies. She commissioned her own “Votes for Women” tea sets and would often give attendees a teacup as a souvenir of her events.

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Suffrage Teas

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It is very likely that women in Tennessee and in Roane County held suffrage teas. Our local history documents that many women in Roane County were active in the suffrage movement and were involved in lobbying for the Nineteenth Amendment to be ratified by the Tennessee legislators.

To raise awareness of the Centennial Anniversary of Women Suffrage, the Southwest Point Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored a Suffrage Tea on August 18.

—*Patricia Pierce*

Is Your Perspective Inclusive

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provided is big enough for each person to be able to stand on it and see over the fence.

We must consider who and what are we losing when we are not being inclusive?

An inclusive leader is a good communicator, they are continually curious, and they understand that they may not always have the answers. They have learned to leave their egos at the door.

Strategies for cultivating a more inclusive society include recognizing our own biases, being a good active listener, and holding others in our lives accountable by being a voice of change. Always ask “Why are we the people at the table?” “Who else should be at the table?”

—*Summarized by Mary Uziel*

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