



AAUW

Oak Ridge Tennessee Branch

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>

September-October 2020

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, October 26, 12:30 pm
Virtual Meeting on ZOOM

Agenda:

- Discussion led by Mayme Crowell—how the Oak Ridge Branch functions and moves ahead during the pandemic
- Plans for Holiday Gift Shop (Gift Shop is now open and orders accepted, see pages 4 and 5)
- Other business

AAUW Oak Ridge Zoom sessions:

This same access information will be used for each AAUW Oak Ridge Zoom meeting. The Zoom connection will open five minutes in advance of meetings to give people time to get their connection and controls adjusted to their liking.

There are three ways to join one of our Zoom meetings:

1. FROM YOUR INTERNET BROWSER:

Join by direct link from your internet browser: just click or cut and paste link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84026923055>

2. FROM ZOOM WEBSITE:

If already on Zoom website, enter our meeting ID: 840 2692 3055

3. BY PHONE:

If you do not have reliable internet or prefer, you can dial in to the meeting using one of these long distance numbers:

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

When prompted, enter our meeting ID: 840 2692 3055

ONCE IN THE SESSION:

Once you test your mic (phone or computer), keep it on mute when you are not speaking - teleconferencing tends to pick up on and amplify background noises. You can use your computer space bar to 'toggle' your mic on and off. Give it a try, to see what is easy and reliable for you, once you log in. You can also message any one person or everyone using 'Chat'. AAUW members who have not used Zoom before and would like to experiment with logging in may email Stella Schramm at stellaschramm@gmail.com and suggest a day and time to try it out. The Zoom site will also let you test your connection, if you prefer to try it on your own (support.zoom.us). *(Instructions provided by Stella Schramm)*



Mayme Crowell

President's Message

GOOD NEWS! We shall have our General Meeting on October 26 at 12:30 pm on Zoom. See page 1 of this newsletter for details regarding Zoom. For those without email or those who do not wish to participate via Zoom, a meeting recording can be accessed later

Staying safe and healthy is our major priority nowadays. Currently, it looks as though we will not be able to resume our in-person General Meetings until 2021, if then. How sad! I recall my parents telling me that during the Spanish flu pandemic, they lost an entire school year. Back then, no electronics were available to ease the monotony. However, they hardly had time to be bored after working on the farm and/or keeping the household functioning. We are the fortunate ones in that we can interact electronically.

No possibility of in-person AAUW General Meetings does not mean that we cannot function. Ruth Smiley continues to produce informative, attractive Newsletters. Virginia Jones and her committee keep us informed about public policy. Kowetha Mack produced a modified 2020 Yearbook that is attached to this Newsletter. Stella Schramm is donating her Zoom account and timely communication efforts to us. Kay Moss contacts program presenters. Carol Hoffner recruits possible new members. We all celebrate the centennial of women's right to vote by watching videos, reading books, and VOTING. We connect via Zoom, texts, emails, phones, etc.

Your Board met via Zoom to discuss current activities and future plans. Our income and spending were discussed, and a Budget Committee appointed. As a fundraiser, an AAUW OR Shop, has been proposed, and a Shop Committee was formed to determine numerous details. Speakers for future General Meetings and methods for publicity were discussed.

Many of you have expressed your desires simply to get together. We have looked into the possibility of using a large room in the St. Mary's Catholic Youth Center as a gathering place. However, your Board does not approve our meeting there at this time, believing that a gathering is too risky. This does not mean that we cannot gather sometime in the future. Considering the possibility of a miracle vaccine and a lower number of COVID-19 cases, we have reserved the large room for December 7 for a Holiday Gathering. More than likely, however, we shall not meet until 2021. For the time being Zoom meetings must be our default.

There will be no 2020-2021 Yearbook. Instead, you will receive a 2020-2021 Leadership and Membership Roster. Hopefully, the same officers will remain for another year. We shall decide later on our annual future efforts, such as scholarships and donations.

I wish to welcome two new members, Cindy O'Brien Baxter and Martha Greene Boone. They come to us from the Columbia Branch, which is closing. Cindy and Martha have been active AAUW members and are valuable assets to our Branch. I understand that both women grew up in Oak Ridge.

Sadly, we have learned of long-time member Norma Woy's death in Buford, GA, on October 9th. Norma loyally supported our AAUW efforts for over sixty years. She will be greatly missed by our Branch and her friends.

We eagerly await a COVID-19 vaccine. However, I may not be among the first person in line. You will decide about your medical options. I had my annual flu shot and hope you also will be vaccinated. I read that two symptoms separate COVID-19 from the flu. COVID-19 has: 1) profound loss of taste and smell and 2) extreme difficulty breathing even when no exertion. Let's try to remain healthy and not contract either the flu or COVID-19.

—continued on page 3

President's message, continued from page 2

Remember to exercise your right to VOTE on or before November 3rd. I miss each of you and our stimulating conversations. By following scientifically-proven, sound measures, we in time will prevail against this pandemic.

—*Mayme*

**Holding Space:
How to Start and Continue
Conversations
on Race, Equity, and Inclusion**

This was the title of a second webinar presented by our National AAUW. It was led by Dr. Taharee Jackson a certified diversity trainer who assists federal agencies, corporations, and diverse organizations to achieve their goals for equity, inclusion, belonging, and organization transformation.

Dr. Jackson pointed out that she lives this dialog every day and has all her life. She is female, Asian, and black. She says we need to understand that we will be doing this work the rest of our lives. There will not be a sudden seismic change. The question is how to bring this up in your family, in your organization, in your church.

The usual approach is to ask minority groups to express their problems and come up with the fix. We need to reshift the focus to the empowered group – white workers or men if we are dealing with sexual harassment.

Why are people **NOT** starting and continuing these conversations? People don't want to make things worse and they don't know where they fit into this dialogue. Where can a primarily white organization begin the work and where is the starting place?

The Starting Place is Professional Humility. The organization must dedicate some resources and they must be committed – make an institutional commitment to action.

How do you raise diversity, race, and equity issues without making everyone uncomfortable. You can't do this work and be non-threatening.



The right to vote is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Here are the election schedules for Anderson, Knox, and Roane Counties:

Anderson County

<https://www.acelect.com/election-schedule/>

Knox County

https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/election_schedule.php

Roane County

<https://roaneelections.com/>

YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED!!

THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.

—*Public Policy Committee*



**Celebrating
100 Years
Nineteenth
Amendment**

Racism kills people. It is not possible to make everyone comfortable. Dr. Jackson tells her clients that she is here to make everyone uncomfortable.

What is the most important thing white people can do? Disrupt racism in other white people. If a white person shares an off-color racist remark, call it out.

—*Summarized by Mary Uziel*

Treasurer's Report

After a successful membership drive, including the addition of two new members transferring their membership from the Columbia Branch which is disbanding, the only activity in our bank account has been the rolling over of a certificate of deposit which will mature in February 2022. We have another CD maturing in November which the Board decided earlier could be used to fund the named contribution to the AAUW Governance Fund. Sadly, however, we must send a memorial gift to National for Norma Woy who has passed away.

A Review of our expenses and income for 2019 and 2020 shows that our expenditures are higher than our income.

The Board has decided to improve our income by having a "Gift Shop" which will include the White House tree ornament for 2020, two commemorative ornaments for women's suffrage, the *RBG Workout Book*, as well as books from Ruth Johnson Smiley and other books of interest, such as *George Washington's Rules of Civility*, and *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote 1850-1920*. Other possible gift items include card games like Authors, women scientists, etc.

Beginning inventory for the Gift Shop will be funded with donations from Virginia Jones, Mayme Crowell, and Stella Schramm.

Kay Moss, Stella Schramm, Mayme Crowell, and Virginia Jones will constitute the Gift Shop Committee.

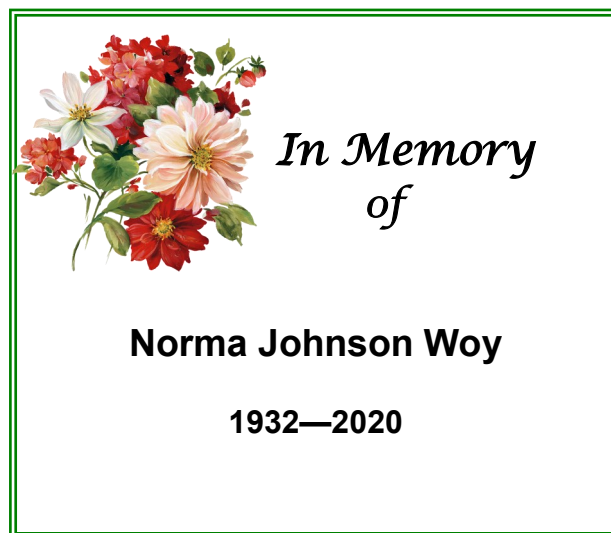
See the form on page 5 for ordering information on the commemorative ornaments and the RGB book.

—Virginia Jones, Treasurer

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.



Mark Your Calendar

October 28, 12:30 pm
Oak Ridge Branch Meeting on Zoom

November 3
Election Day

December 5
Holiday Gift Shop
Details to be announced

AAUW Oak Ridge Branch 2020-2021 National & State Leadership & Membership Roster

See document that is being transmitted along with this newsletter. Appreciation goes to Kowetha Mack for her efforts in putting together this information. This replaces the annual yearbook for this year.

AAUW Holiday Gift Shop

Order Form

	Number _____	Total Cost _____
White House Ornament, @\$35 each https://shop.whitehousehistory.org/products/official-2020-white-house-christmas-ornament	_____	\$ _____
Women's Right to Vote Ornament, @\$30 each https://www.whitehouseholidays.com/CA-Womens_Right_to_Vote_Keepsake_Ornament_-_100th_Anniversary_i7610.aspx	_____	\$ _____
Women's Right to Vote Rose Ornament, @\$25 each https://www.womensvote100.shop/product/centennial-rose-ornament/	_____	\$ _____
RBG Workout Book, @\$12 each https://www.amazon.com/RBG-Workout-How-Stays-Strong/dp/1328919129/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&hvadid=78202816811515&hvbm=be&hvdev=c&hvqmt=e&keywords=rbg+workout+book&qid=1602957172&sr=8-2&tag=mh0b-20#reader_1328919129	_____	\$ _____
Total Order Amount		\$ _____

Gift shop prices include a contribution to AAUW. See above links for photo and description of item. **To open above links place cursor over the web address, right click, and select open link.**

Items ordered may be picked up at the Holiday Gift Shop at St. Mary's Youth Center on December 5 (more information about Gift Shop will be forthcoming).

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Mail order form and check, payable to AAUW Oak Ridge, by **November 14**, to:
Virginia Jones
AAUW Oak Ridge Branch Treasurer,
103 Burgess Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830