**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE BRANCH**

**1 JUNE 2020 – 1 JUNE 2021**

**Membership**

42 members as of June 11, 2020 to 39 members as of May 31, 2021, including two (2) life members (one of whom is not a local member), seven (7) 50-year members, and one (1) student member, and three (3) new members. Two (2) dedicated members died during his time.

**Branch Meetings**

The Covid-19 pandemic required cancellation of two (2) general meetings in 2020. In 2021 five (5) general meetings occurred via Zoom. No December Holiday Reception took place, but a Zoom program occurred.

Topics included Nature-Inspired Machine Learning, Acting Against Global Warming, History of Scarboro Community Center, Block Scheduling at Oak Ridge High School, Update on AAUW Public Policy, and Oak Ridge Public Library Presentation and Tour

**Study/Interest Groups**

The Book Group and Lunch Bunch did not meet during the COVID pandemic.

**Communications**

Published somewhat altered Yearbook and nine (9) Newsletters which were 85% e-mailed.

Publicized meetings, projects, awards, and public policy issues in Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge Today, and Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Hosted numerous community and former resident visitors attending programs via Zoom.

Telephoned members in advance of Zoom General Meeting using a Telephone Committee.

Held open Board Meetings via Zoom to conduct business.

Mailed Newsletters to members without e-mail.

Maintained Branch website, [www.aauw-oakridge.org](http://www.aauw-oakridge.org) courtesy of AAUW’s national website.

Published several letters on relevant issues to the Editors of local newspapers.

**Educational Opportunities Fund**

Gave $500 National Grant named in honor of Carolynne (Kay) R. Moss.

Stressed donating to the Educational Opportunities Fund and Local Education Fund.

Gave three (3) $25 donations to National Greatest Needs Fund in memories of current members, Alice Noggle and Norma Woy, and former member and president, Cyndy Bailes.

**Community Service**

Collected in-kind donations of necessities not covered by USDA food stamps for Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties (ADFAC) Crisis Cupboard.

Emphasized Women’s History Month in March Newsletter.

Members served on various community boards and city/county boards, committees, and task forces.

**Projects Supporting Education**

Awarded one (1) Roane State Community College (RSCC) scholarship for the 2020 Spring Term to April Heatherly, majoring in Nursing and living in Campbell County.

Gave collected donations to the RSCC Food for Education Program.

Donated six (6) books re. women’s rights and American history to the Oak Ridge High School (ORHS) Media Center.

Maintained contacts with local Girls, Inc.

Endorsed an AAUW Community Action Grant application of the Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and stated Branch’s willingness to assist in locating underserved girls to attend this educational opportunity. Pandemic canceled this effort.

**Public Policy**

Continued an active Public Policy Committee which did research, wrote letters, e-mailed all members, and made relevant contacts. Virginia Jones and her local committee collaborated with both AAUW State and National Public Policy groups. Major concerns were Paycheck Fairness and Domestic Violence. Branch joined forces with the League of Women Voters in working to have fair voting districts now that 2020 census requires redistricting.

**Supporting State and National AAUW**

Officers kept in contact with AAUW State and National Leaders.

Member Peggy Emmett (when able) served as one of the AAUW Governance Gurus available to assist branches and states with Bylaws and Policy Sheets.

**Financial Information**

Worked within greatly reduced annual operating budget of $1,045.00, which was a $300 reduction from the previous year.

Opened temporary AAUW Gift Store to earn monies for Local Education Fund (LEF) by selling White House Christmas ornaments and other items. With generous startup funds, a profit of $509.43 was obtained.

Received designated donations of $350 with 2020-21 membership dues. These included donations of $70.00 for LEF Scholarships and $280 for National Greatest Needs Fund.

Maintained an active local checking account and had around $3,000 in CD savings

**2021-2022 Plans**

Being quarantined since March 2020, our future plans are sketchy. Remarkably, our members have rejoined. The May General Meeting was offered dually--in person and on Zoom. Later this summer we hope to plan our programs for next year and to publish our 2021-22 Yearbook. An August Board Meeting is planned. No doubt annual activities and events will continue whenever possible.

Mayme Roberson Crowell, President crowellmr@comcast.net