



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>

August—September 2021

**AAUW General Meeting on Zoom
Monday, September 27, 12:30 pm**

To enter **Zoom** meeting, click on the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84026923055?pwd=blkremFFdTZMaUJqNmozB29jSEdkZz09>

If you log into Zoom first, you should enter the meeting ID, 840 2692 3055, and passcode, 387520.

**Overview of Oak Ridge Housing Authority's Programs
and the Future of Affordable Housing**

Presented by

Maria Catron

Executive Director, Oak Ridge Housing Authority



Maria Catron

Ms. Catron will provide an overview of the Oak Ridge Housing Authority's programs along with the future of affordable housing due to the impact Covid-19 and the current housing market in our area.

Over the past 18 years Maria Catron has served in a variety of roles in the public housing/affordable housing industry. Her experience ranges from multi-family and commercial redevelopment to community programs and services involving self-sufficiency and homeownership. Most recently, Catron joined the Oak Ridge Housing Authority in the fall of 2019 as the Executive Director.

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Mayme Crowell

President's Message

It's an AAUW New Year but it seems we still have the pandemic with us. I trust that each of you are vaccinated. Your Board has decided not to have in-person meetings this calendar year. What we will do in 2022 will be decided later. Meanwhile, please join us on fourth Mondays at noon for excellent programs on Zoom.com. We cannot meet to elect officers so I continue to appoint officers and/or delete positions. Of necessity, our Branch is operating on a skeletal basis.

What a difficult time this has been for all of us. We have missed seeing one another and being with our families and friends. I was only able to see my third great grandchild after he was eleven months old. Many of you have similar stories. My hope is that all of you remain healthy in body, mind, and spirit. We will get through this tough time.

You should be aware that we have a new treasurer, Missy Bowen. We profusely thank Virginia and Charles Jones for their excellent work as treasurer for the past two years. You may recall that Virginia established a gift store so that we could continue to offer our local scholarships. She also mailed membership renewal notices to help maintain our Branch.

Please give Virginia and Charles your appreciation when you see them. Fortunately, Virginia remains as Public Policy Chairperson.

Regrettably Jean Hiser has been very ill. Maggie Slankas will be our new College/University Chairperson. I'm certain that Jean will appreciate your phone calls and visits. Juanita Barnes will no longer head our phone tree. Please thank her for her work. You may not receive phone calls about programs this year, but your Newsletter will contain all necessary information.

A prospective new member is moving from Washington across country to Tennessee. She learned about us from our website. Have you looked at our website lately?

<https://oakridge-tn.aauw.net> If you notice any necessary revisions, please contact me. Keeping our website up-to-date is important.

—Mayme

Branch Program (continued from page 1)

Catron has served on several local, regional, and state boards focused on affordable housing and community service. Currently, she is serving as Treasurer for the Tennessee Affordable Housing Coalition (TNAHC) and Senior Vice-President/Incoming President for the Tennessee Association for housing and Redevelopment Authorities (THARA). Locally, Ms. Catron has become involved with the Oak Ridge community through Leadership Oak Ridge 2020 and board service with The Rotary Club of Oak Ridge, Altrusa, and the United Way of Anderson County.

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



The big news is that the TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) in the amount of 738 million dollars was finally released this year in Tennessee. Needy families can apply for assistance in paying for child care, transportation, and other support services. This was a major goal for AAUW, which lobbied for releasing the funds which were not being distributed.

See <https://www.stl.news/tennessee-governor-reforming-tanf-strengthens-families/452747/>.

The Oak Ridge Public Policy Committee sent informative articles to legislators—including Martha Moore Hobson’s article with the topic “I’m not poor, why should I care?”

AAUW members still need to talk to their legislators to let them know what AAUW supports in the way of improving the lot of women and families in Tennessee. Views, opposite to ours, are voiced by many to the members of the legislature. We would like them to represent us, of course.

Virginia Jones, Public Policy Chair

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Mayme Crowell

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Carol Hoffner

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