



AAUW  
Oak Ridge Tennessee Branch

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*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 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=blkremFFdTZMaUJqNm9jSEdkZz09>

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*

Once again, we are able to offer our September General Meeting via Zoom.com. I hope each one of you can join us by using the information printed in the AAUW Newsletter. We thank member Stella Schramm for our Zoom usage and her able assistance.

You should know that your Board meets monthly via Zoom to discuss AAUW-Oak Ridge operations. Due to the continuation of the pandemic, the Board recommends that our General Meetings be via Zoom. As conditions change, this recommendation will be revisited.

We offer congratulations to our Public Policy Committee and the AAUW-TN Public Policy Committee who have been instrumental in legislation being passed (TN Temporary Relief for Needy Families) to release pent-up funds for the poor. Phone calls, letters, and personal contacts reaped results.

To fund our Local Education/Scholarship Programs, AAUW is selling Christmas items at The Ferrell Shoppe. We appreciate Barbara Ferrell and her sales associates for allowing us this opportunity.

Did you know that we have a branch website? You can access it by entering into your address

box: <http://oakridge-tn.aauw.net> or you can google: Oak Ridge AAUW. Check it out sometime. Also, we have an organization archive, which is kept by our historian. Several albums exist of information from our 1951 founding to the present.

You may know of others who wish to join with us in promoting “equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.” We welcome new members, both women and men.

—*Mayme*

### **NATIONAL AAUW PROGRAMS**

As you know, our Branch annually honors an active member with a \$500 donation to National AAUW. Last year that person was Kay (Carolynne R.) Moss. This year’s recipient will be decided in May 2022. Perhaps you wonder to what program(s) is it possible to donate. National AAUW has five major program funds:

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund gives AAUW the mobility to rapidly respond to new and emerging challenges or opportunities facing women and girls.

Economic Security Fund ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women’s retirement security and quality of life.

Education and Training Fund addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

Leadership Fund supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

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**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.

**National AAUW Programs** (continued from page 2)

Governance and Sustainability Fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future by implementing best practices in organizational functioning and inclusion and by diversifying revenue.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RUTH SMILEY who has become a 50-year member. 50-year members do not pay annual national membership dues, but do pay local and state dues. Many 50-year members donate to AAUW at various levels.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAY MOSS who is the recipient of our \$500 grant to National AAUW. Kay is our program chairperson. She locates and secures individuals to speak at our General Meetings. This has been no easy task of late as speakers must be willing to make their presentations via Zoom. Thank you, Kay.

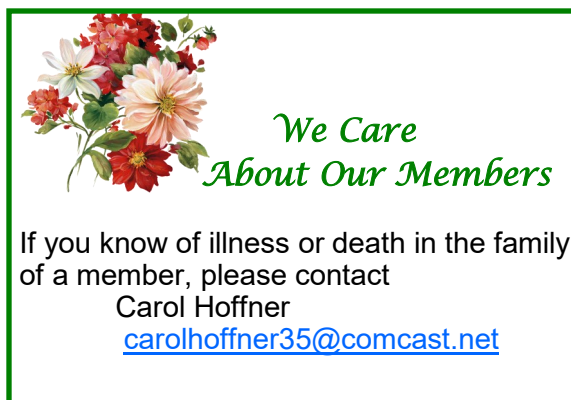
KUDOS TO MISSY BOWEN who is our new Treasurer. Missy has worked diligently with Virginia and Charles Jones to learn our accounting system. Some of you may remember Missy's mother, Evelyn Ellingson, who was a very active AAUW member for many years.

APPRECIATION GOES TO VIRGINIA AND CHARLES JONES who worked together for the past two years as our Treasurers. As you recall, Virginia set up a Gift Shop so that we can continue to give local RSCC scholarships. She also sent membership renewal letters to make it easier for members to rejoin annually. Virginia and Charles are valued AAUW members.

*AAUW Scholarship  
for Roane State Student*

AAUW's commitment to higher education begins with our annual scholarship to a non-traditional student (woman, age 25 or older) at Roane State. The scholarship is for a 3-hour course for the spring 2022 semester. The scholarship application is posted on the Roane State website. Application deadline is November 8, 2021. If you know of someone who might qualify, please encourage them to apply.

—Maggie Slankas, *Scholarship Chair*



*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](mailto:carolhoffner35@comcast.net)



## Public Policy Report You Are Needed!!

The Board would like to encourage members to participate in our public policy efforts.

To quote Thomas Jefferson, "In questions of power, then, let no more be heard in confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." (The Constitution of the United States,.. published by the Center for Constitutional Studies, copyright 2020, ISBN 078-0-88080-144-7). George Washington speaks of the people as the keepers of the Constitution.

In this newsletter, we are including contact information for city and state officials.

The email address for the entire Oak Ridge City Council is [citycouncil@oakridgetn.gov](mailto:citycouncil@oakridgetn.gov). should you want to write to our city representatives.

Phone numbers for Senators: Marsha Blackburn 202-224-3344; Bill Hagerty 202-224-4944.

## Public Policy – State

The Legiscan Monitoring Report (that will be sent in an email) lists bills the State AAUW supports and does not support.

Building legislative relationships is a goal of the State Public Policy Committee: So they are asking members of branches to . reach out to legislators and people associated with the business of the legislature. The Oak Ridge Public Policy Committee: Mayme Crowell, Anne Garcia, Virginia Jones (Chair), and Kay Moss would like to hear from you. If you have a friendly association with people in the legislature or if you are inspired to help shape the laws which will be passed, please contact our legislators. Citizen input does affect the outcome in the passage of laws.

Here are the state legislators for the Oak Ridge AAUW Branch. Oak Ridge is in two districts: 5 and 12 for the Senate.

### Senate:

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, District 5,  
<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/districtmaps/Sen0512.pdf> [lt.gov.mcnally@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:lt.gov.mcnally@capitol.tn.gov).  
615-741-6806

Sen. Ken Yager, District 12  
<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/districtmaps/Sen1212.pdf>  
615-741-1449

### House of Representatives:

Rep. Kent Calfee, District 32  
<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/House/members/h32.html>  
615-741-7658  
Rep. John Ragan, District 33  
<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/House/members/h33.html>  
615-741-4400

The **Public Policy Committee** worked this past year with a group called **TAWF** to try to get funds released by the State for help for low-income people. This was mentioned in the last newsletter, but without any background about the group. Therefore, we are including the statement below concerning this group.

—*Virginia Jones, Chair Public Policy*

To: Tennessee Allied Organizations Concerned with the Rights and Well-being of Women and Families

Topic: The formation of the Alliance: **TENNESSEE AGENDA FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES (TAWF)**

You are receiving this information because you are part of an organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of women and families. As we work through our separate organizations, the American Association of University Women Tennessee (AAUW-TN) has realized **how much more impactful we would all be if we join forces**. To that end we are forming the alliance: Tennessee Agenda for Women and Families (TAWF). Below you will find specific information about TAWF.

**Purpose of Tennessee Agenda for Women and Families (TAWF) Alliance:**

To advance economic security, protect self-determination, and support the drive to end domestic violence and sexual assault.

TAWF will be a communication and networking alliance that will support member organizations' Tennessee legislative bills that reflect our purpose.

TAWF will assist in crafting legislation, sharing timely information, and lobbying efforts, working together to develop synergies and “strength in numbers” for our specific causes.

TAWF's primary focus will be female economic security, defending self-determination and eliminating sexual assault.

TAWF will work toward creating greater awareness of like-focused bills, coordinating with member organizations to support bills, creating better communication among organizations that share TAWF's priorities.

AAUW-TN is willing to take the lead in the formation and coordination of the efforts of TAWF. We would like to get organized as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration in being a part of the important mission of TAWF.

**Ruth Johnson Smiley**  
Newsletter Editor  
smileyrcj@gmail.com