**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE BRANCH**

**1 JUNE 2021 – 1 JULY 2022**

**Membership**

The 33 members in 2021-22 renewed their memberships for 2022-23, including two (2) life members (one of whom is not a local member) and seven (7) 50-year members.

**Branch Meetings**

The Covid-19 pandemic required cancellation of all in-person general meetings. However, six (6) general meetings occurred via Zoom. No December Holiday Reception took place, but a Zoom Social occurred. AAUW-OR hosted numerous community and former residents attending programs via Zoom. Upon their requests, Knoxville and Maryville members were added to the notifications of Zoom programs.

Program topics included native-plant gardening, TN public policy issues, science of climate change, ARC for the handicapped, investigative journalism, Girl’s Inc, and national newspaper publishing.

**Study/Interest Groups**

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

**Communications**

Published shorter, altered Yearbook and eight (8) Newsletters which were 85% emailed.Publicized meetings, projects, awards, and public policy issues in the Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge Today, and Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Emailed members in advance of Zoom General Meetings.

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 Letters to Editors on relevant issues in local newspapers.

**National AAUW Funds**

Gave $500 National Grant named in honor of Ruth Johnson Smiley. She chose the Education and Training Fund.

Stressed donating to the National AAUW Funds (NAF) and the Local Education Project (LEP).

Gave $25 donations to National Greatest Needs Fund in memories of current/past members.

**Community Service**

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

Emphasized Women’s History Month in March Newsletter.

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

Two (2) members signed up college students and new residents for registrations to vote.

One (1) member was a local poll worker.

Provided relevant programs to community members who wished to join Zoom sessions.

**Projects Supporting Education**

Awarded two (2) local Roane State Community College (RSCC) Scholarships. Worked with RSCC Health Sciences Department to award future scholarships.

Gave collected donations to the RSCC Food for Education Program.

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

Maintained contact with local Girls, Inc. and hosted Director for Zoom program presentation.

Nominated Maya Weaver, student at Tennessee State University, for National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Conference was held via Zoom in June 2022. AAUW-TN chose several women, Maya being one, and paid their registration fees. Oak Ridge was to pay travel and lodging but did not do so, as Conference was held via Zoom.

**Public Policy**

Continued an active Public Policy Committee which did research, wrote letters, emailed members, and made relevant contacts. Virginia Jones and her local committee collaborated with both AAUW-TN and National Public Policy groups. Major emphases, in addition to Paycheck Fairness and Domestic Violence, were Women’s Rights and Homelessness.

Joined forces with the League of Women Voters in working to have fair voting districts now that 2020 census is being used for redistricting.

**Supporting State and National AAUW**

Officers kept in contact with AAUW State and National Leaders.

President participated via Zoom in two AAUW-TN meetings and related relevant information to local members.

Member Peggy Emmett (when able) served as one of the AAUW Governance Gurus, assisting with Bylaws and Policies.

**Financial Information**

Worked within an annual operating budget of $1,045.00, which was the same amount as the two previous years.

Kept local dues at $9.00.

Continued operating an AAUW Gift Store to earn monies for Local Education Projects (LEP) by selling White House Christmas ornaments and other items. This effort was in conjunction with the local Jackson Square Ferrell Shoppe. A profit of $369.03 was obtained.

Received designated donations throughout the year and along with the 2022-2023 membership dues. These included donations of $203.00 for the National AAUW Funds (NAF), $484.00 for the Local Education Projects (LEP), $67.00 for the National Greatest Needs Fund, and $112.00 for Local Operations.

Maintained an active local checking account and kept approximately $2,300 in CD savings.

**2021-2022 Plans**

Being either quarantined or masked since March 2020, our future plans are sketchy. Remarkably, our members continue to rejoin, as they are committed to working to assure women’s educations. Later this summer we will plan Zoom programs for next year will publish our 2022-23 Yearbook. An August Board Meeting is planned. We hope to be able to meet in person early in 2023.

Mayme Roberson Crowell, President crowellmr@comcast.net