**INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE BRANCH**

**1 JUNE 2022 – 1 JULY 2023**

**Membership**

Our 33 members are being asked to renew their memberships for 2023-2024, including two (2) life members (one of whom is not a local member) and eight (8) 50-year members.

**Branch Meetings**

After the Covid-19 pandemic, some hybrid (Zoom and in-person) General Meetings occurred. However, four (4) General Meetings were via Zoom only. No December Holiday Reception took place. Upon their requests, Knoxville and Maryville members have been added to the notifications of Zoom programs.

Monthly program topics included a NCCWSL Conference Report, School Resource Officers of Oak Ridge Police Department, Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge, Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties, and Investigative Journalism.

Along with the League of Women Voters (LWV) and several other organizations, AAUW-OR sponsored the TN Medicaid Forum in January. At the Pollard Auditorium, four (4) presenters spoke about the medical and economic issues of Tennessee’s Medicaid policies.

**Study/Interest Groups**

The Book Group and Lunch Bunch did not meet. They plan to be rejuvenated next year.

**Communications**

A Yearbook was not published. Members were asked to refer to the previous Yearbook. Seven (7) Interim Newsletters, which were 85% emailed, publicized meetings, projects, awards, and public policy issues. The Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge Today, and Knoxville News-Sentinel received notices of AAUW-OR programs and activities.

Emailed members one day in advance of Zoom and/or hybrid General Meetings.

Held open Board Meetings via Zoom to conduct business.

Mailed Interim Newsletters to members without email.

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

Submitted Letters to Editors in local newspapers on relevant public policy issues. Most were published.

**National AAUW Funds**

Plan to donate a $500 National Grant named in honor of an active, passionate member, who is yet to be announced.

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).

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

One (1) member is a local poll worker.

Provided relevant programs via Zoom to community members.

**Projects Supporting Education**

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

Gave food and monetary donations to the RSCC Food for Education Program.

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

Maintained contact with local Girls, Inc.

**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 Abortion Rights and Homelessness.

**Supporting State and National AAUW**

Officers kept in contact with AAUW State and National Leaders. Concerns arose with the lack of AAUW National Office responses about membership questions.

President participated via Zoom in two (2) 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 three previous years.

Kept local dues at $9.00.

Closed the AAUW Gift Store, which supplied monies for Local Education Projects (LEP) by selling White House Christmas ornaments.

Received designated donations throughout the year and along with membership dues.

Received generous donations to our National Education Foundation (NAF) so that an active, passionate member can be recognized.

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

**2023-2024 Plans**

Being either quarantined, masked, or partially homebound since March 2020, our future activities remain uncertain. Admirably, our members continue to rejoin, as they are committed to working to assure women’s educations. This summer we will plan programs for next year and will publish our 2023-2024 Yearbook. An August Board Meeting is planned.

Mayme Roberson Crowell, President crowellmr@comcast.net