**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE BRANCH**

**1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2024**

**Membership**

Our 26 members for 2023-2024, including two (2) life members (one of whom is not a local member) and eight (8) 50-year members. [Membership was greatly reduced due to the increase in national dues.] Two new members joined.

**Branch General Meetings**

After the Covid-19 pandemic, General Meetings were back. No December Holiday Reception took place, however. Upon their requests, some Knoxville and Maryville members as well as AAUW-TN officers have been added to program meeting notifications. A January Circle of Friendship Tea occurred.

Monthly program topics included presentations for The Little Free Libraries, Oak Ridge High School Media Center, Emory Vally Center, Keystone Adult Daycare, and Homes for Newly-Released Prisoners.

**Study/Interest Groups**

The Book Group and Lunch Bunch did not meet. Perhaps they will be rejuvenated next year.

**Communications**

Published a two-page Membership Listing.

Produced nine (9) 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 General Meetings.

Held open Board Meetings to conduct business at Roane State Community College (RSCC) lunchroom.

Mailed monthly Newsletters to members without email.

Maintained Branch website, [www.aauw-oakridge.org](http://www.aauw-oakridge.org), under the auspices of AAUW National.

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

**National AAUW Funds**

Donated $500 Grant named in honor of Mayme Roberson Crowell, President, to our local Roane State Community College Scholarship Program.

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

Gave two (2) $25 donations to National Greatest Needs Fund in memories of current/past members.

**Community Service**

Donated seven (7) AAUW Oak Ridge albums to the Oak Ridge History Room at the Oak Ridge Public Library after the death of our local historian who had kept albums of our AAUW activities through the years. Anyone may now request to view them.

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/city/county boards, committees, and task forces.

**Projects Supporting Education**

Will award two (2) local Roane State Community College (RSCC) Scholarships in August 2024. Collaborated with RSCC Health Sciences Department in awarding these and future scholarships.

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

Intended 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 AAUW-National Public Policy groups. Of continuing interest was the prospect of a Mental Health Center in East Tennessee. Major emphases, in addition to Paycheck Fairness and Domestic Violence, were Women Wartime Rapes, Abortion Rights, Homelessness, and Women-Only Sports.

**Supporting State and National AAUW**

Kept in contact with AAUW State and National Leaders. Concerns arose with the lack of AAUW National Office responses about membership, finance, and public policy questions.

Participated via Zoom in two (2) AAUW-TN board meetings and related relevant information to local members.

Voted in State and National AAUW elections.

**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. Sold last items at discount prices.

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

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

Made donations to AAUW National by seven (7) local members.

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

**2024-2025 Plans**

Being either quarantined, masked, or partially homebound since March 2020, our future activities remain uncertain. Most of our members are elderly and unable to attend General Meetings. We will concentrate on encouraging new, younger members to join our group. Admirably, passionate members continue to rejoin, as they are committed to working to assure girl’s and women’s educations. The August Board Meeting will plan operations and programs for next year.

Mayme Roberson Crowell, President crowellmr@comcast.net

June 2024