**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

**OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE BRANCH**

**1 JULY 2024 – 30 JUNE 2025**

**Membership**

Membership dropped to 25 for 2024-2025, including one (1) life member and eight (8) 50-year members. [Membership is greatly reduced due to deaths and the increase in national dues.] One new member joined.

**Branch General Meetings**

General Meetings were moved from the First Presbyterian Church Hall to the Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium. Subsequently, increased notifications about our General Meetings were initiated. No December Holiday Reception took place. At their requests, some Knoxville and Maryville members as well as AAUW-TN officers have been added to program meeting notifications.

Monthly program topics included these presentations: Autocracy vs Democracy, Future of Oak Ridge Electrical Department, Types of City Governments, Oak Ridge Food Pantry, The Complexity of Sex and Gender, Protection of the Cedar Barons, and Oak Ridge High School Media Center. Several local citizens attended programs of interest to them. AAUW’s visibility in the community increased.

**Communications**

Published a two-page Membership Listing.

Produced nine (9) monthly Newsletters. Snail-mailed monthly Newsletters to members without email. Newsletters featured upcoming meetings, projects, scholarships, and public policy issues.

The Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge Today, and Knoxville News-Sentinel received notices of AAUW-OR programs and activities.

Emailed members reminder notices one day in advance of General Meetings.

Held open Board Meetings at Roane State Community College (RSCC) Lunchroom.

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. Many were published.

**National AAUW Funds**

Encouraged individual donations to the National AAUW Funds (NAF) and the Local Education Project (LEP).

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

**Community Service**

Donated seven (7) AAUW Oak Ridge albums to the Oak Ridge History Room at the Oak Ridge Public Library. These featured pictures and articles about our AAUW activities since 1951. Anyone may request to view these albums.

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**

Awarded two (2) local Roane State Community College (RSCC) Scholarships—both Dental Hygiene students. Collaborated with RSCC Health Sciences Department for awarding future scholarships.

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

Encouraged donations of books about 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. 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 in the past four (4) years.

Kept local dues at $9.00.

Received designated donations along with membership dues.

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

Noted donations sent directly to AAUW National by local members totaled $255.

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

**2025-2026 Plans**

Many of our members are elderly and unable to attend General Meetings. Admirably, passionate members continue to rejoin, as they are committed to working to assure girl’s and women’s educations. We plan to concentrate on encouraging new, younger members to join our group. We have been greatly encouraged by the community participation this past year. The upcoming August Board Meeting will plan operations and programs for next year.

Mayme Roberson Crowell, President crowellmr@comcast.net

June 2025