**SEPTEMBER 2025 AAUW-OAK RIDGE NEWSLETTER**

**Welcome to an event-filled AAUW-Oak Ridge 2025-2026 New Year!**

**Program:** We begin our efforts with an appropriate September program featuring education. Former Memphis University President, Dr. Shirley Raines, will speak on Monday, September 22 at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Oak Ridge Public Library. Topic: Upward to University President. With discouraging statistics about our youth’s educational preparedness and the dismantling of the U.S. Dept of Education, Dr. Raines’ observations on the status of our U.S. education system, especially higher education, are highly relevant. Come and bring your friends to this meeting. Questions/discussions encouraged.

**Membership:** Twenty-one (21) individuals have joined our group. Many of these are also state and national members. Four (4) are Lifetime Members, meaning that they have paid their dues for 50 years. We regrettably acknowledge that former active member Missy Bowen had moved to be near her daughter near Chattanooga.

**RSCC Scholarships:** Six (6) members are to be congratulated as they rejoined and made donations to our Local Education Fund (LED). The total of these donations will allow us to award one (1) additional RSCC scholarship. Thank you for your generous donations.

**Status of Our Organization:** AAUW-Oak Ridge has fewer members, but remains financially solvent. We have monies for operations, RSCC scholarships, and a national donation honoring a valuable member. Currently, our Bylaws are being reviewed by AAUW-TN for consistency with National and State AAUW. Please encourage others to join us.

**Food for Thought:** Have you ever noticed that all instruments searching for intelligent life are pointed away from Earth? --Mayme