



Year End Report FY 2023-24



**AAUW Capital Branch
Year End Report FY 2023-24**

Submitted by: Patricia Cuocco, President FY 2023-34

AAUW Capital Branch enjoyed a successful year in 2023-24. We experienced excellent programs aligning with the AAUW mission and fostering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and cooperation with other branches and AAUW Nevada. We were the host Branch for the AAUW Nevada Convention and our co-Presidents participated in the AAUW Nevada Council. We raised funds for our scholarships through Pecan Sales and a Non-Event Fundraiser, and we finished the fiscal year in the black. Our interest groups -- such as book clubs -- were well-attended, as were informal social gatherings. We elected a new Board in April; they were installed in May and started their terms on July 1, 2024.

BUDGET/TREASURER REPORT (Betsy Strohl, Treasurer)

Please see the attached report from Treasurer, Betsy Strohl, Appendix A.

PECAN FUNDRAISER (Kathy Steinle, Chair)

The annual AAUW Capital Branch Pecan Fundraiser had a total profit of \$5,502 during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

A total of 58 cases of Schermer Pecans from Georgia were sold. The pecans were again \$12/bag, no matter the type (plain halves, caramel clusters, milk chocolate covered, dark chocolate covered, and glazed cinnamon). Members sold and purchased over half of the inventory while sales were again conducted at the annual Carson High School Holiday Craft Fair; although the pecans had not yet arrived in time for the Craft Fair, many customers placed orders and purchased pecans that were delivered to them in the following weeks.

NON-EVENT FUNDRAISER (JoAnne Carpenter, Co-President)

Concurrent with Saint Patrick's Day celebrations, we invited members to relax, celebrate, and contribute to the Branch. We raised \$4000.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION (DEI) (Kathy Steinle, Chair)

We have had a lot of great DEI topics, programs, and discussions during our 2023-2024 Capital Branch year.

DEI programs (organized by Iris Blaisdell and Alice Meyer) included: Dale Bennett from the Washoe (aka Washo) Tribe who talked about her book, *Together We Endured, a Washo Memoir of Foster Homes and Family*; the HR Director of the Washoe tribe, Sheila Crawford, who presented a cultural orientation slide show about the tribe; and additionally we had Nevada Supreme Court Justice Patricia Lee, who shared with us her personal story and the many obstacles she overcame to become who she is today.

Our Capital Branch Newsletter had DEI articles about how we can better understand, advocate for, and fight discrimination against people with chronic illnesses, including the *Spoon Theory*, which helps us understand how people with chronic illnesses think about everyday tasks that people without chronic illnesses may not think about. We also had an article about the *Ring Theory* (or ‘How not to say the wrong thing’) and how it can be applied to many situations, including times of crisis, loss, and grief, but also dealing with disabilities and chronic illnesses. The term “queer” was defined and discussed in another monthly DEI article, and Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging were the topics of one of the final newsletter DEI articles.

There were also lots of recommendations for DEI events, books, movies, and shows that were shared through the monthly Capital Branch Newsletter, including a local powwow; an indigenous art exhibit that honored the career of Ben Aleck, lifelong educator and enrolled member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; an immersive art installation termed Afrofuturism about space and Black Americans; a book by the indigenous author Tommy Orange titled *There There*; the book *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* from the point-of-view of a nine-year-old autistic boy; a book about the strong Black American woman Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian; a Netflix documentary called *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*; a YouTube documentary *The North Face Presents: Walking Two Worlds* about a women-led fight to protect the Arctic and reclaim Indigenous identity; a PBS documentary *The West* about the turbulent history of Native American lands; an epic Western crime drama film directed by Martin Scorsese *Killers of the Flower Moon*; an event called *Carson City Murals and Music Festival* featuring artists from around the world; and also instructions on how to view new art by diverse artists using the Chrome browser.

Many Capital Branch members were able to reflect and grow through these thought-provoking programs, workshops, and newsletter articles, striving to better understand ourselves and others, therefore contributing to a more empathetic society.

MEMBERSHIP (Rita Osborne and Mary Wilson – Co-Chairs)

Member Count

Member count was 68 at beginning of year, 69 at end of the year . Six new members during year (Patty Almond, Kim Neiman, Nancy Caddigan, Tami Ruf, Susan Paslov, and Cherie Hong), five non renewals (Jill Doremus--terminal illness; Neill Noble--moved to IL; Melissa Perales--no response; Jill Heatherton-involved in other activities; Nancy Stiles--moved to TX; Cara Tirado--no response).

Membership Survey

We received 26 responses out of 68 members (38% participated).

- WNC Library space was comfortable, and members appreciated having the Zoom option
- Meetings/programs address current issues important to members
- Most attended interest groups are the two book groups

Participated in **WNC's Benefits and Wellness Fair 8/23/2023**.

No recruitment from this, so we suggest discontinuing.

Processed **membership renewals** and **new members** (also with Betsy Strohl, Treasurer). We have received 23 renewals for memberships expiring 5/30, 6/29, and including one 9/29. Currently sending renewal reminders encouraging the use of the online renewal system and offering help if needed, otherwise mail a check to Betsy or give to me during one of the interest group meetings. We have seven Honorary and Lifetime members. We have 11 members with expiration dates later than 6/29 (one has already renewed).

Misc.

Updated name tags with new AAUW logo.

Monthly meetings and board meetings check-in attendance (in person and on Zoom).

Emailing to members include meeting notices, minutes, and other interest items.

Chaired Membership luncheon and Scholarship luncheon along with co-membership VP, President, and Scholarship Chair (scholarship luncheon).

PROGRAMS (Iris Blaisdell and Alice Meyers, Co-Chairs)

Overview of Capital Branch Programs for 2023-2024

October: Our speaker was Dale Bennett from the Washoe Tribe, who resides in Markleeville, CA. She discussed her life history which included being a foster child from a Native family in white-only homes. This led her to being very active in the foster care community herself, where she has supported over 50 foster children. Now in her 70s, she still is volunteering as a foster parent. Dale recently was encouraged to write a book about her experiences. Its title is *Together We Endured, A Washo Memoir of Foster Homes and Family*. Three copies of the book were purchased and passed among Capital Branch members to be read before the meeting.

November: The Capital Branch hosted Chas Macquarie, a representative of the Carson City Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby. He spoke about the goals of the Citizens' Climate Lobby and about electrification in Nevada. Chas also guided us through a PowerPoint presentation on how a house could be electrified using solar and battery storage, even down to charging an electric car. Unfortunately, we all had to use Zoom as Mr. Macquarie was in Oakland expecting the birth of a grandchild.

December: The Capital Branch celebrated Christmas at the house of one of the members. A joyous time was had by all, including a musical presentation by some of the members. One member facilitated the delivery of charitable Christmas donations for children to Angel Tree.

January: Tia Smith, Policy Counsel, from ACLU Las Vegas was the presenter via Zoom. She gave a very informative presentation about how the overturning of Roe vs. Wade affected Nevada and what the state of reproductive rights is in Nevada. Fortunately, everything sounded positive as far as Nevada is concerned. Her talk gave a lot of the history of the subject.

February: In conjunction with AAUW Nevada, the Capital Branch presented Justice Patricia Lee, the newest Supreme Court Justice in Nevada. Justice Lee is not only a woman in a traditionally male role, but also the product of an African American father and a native Korean mother. She discussed her life history from being an immigrant child on public assistance, a product of a divorced mother without a job, to graduating from USC and meeting Rosa Parks who encouraged her to go to law school. Justice Lee took the advice and graduated from George Washington Law School, always finding opportunities to advocate for the rights of the oppressed and underrepresented. Eventually she landed her first full-time job at a Las Vegas law firm, which was all male and all white. Not only is her story inspiring, but she also proved to be an excellent presenter.

Dr. Dalpe, president of Western Nevada College (where we hold our meetings) came to visit us, and we were glad to be able to thank him in person for his support.

March: The Branch hosted Sheila Crawford, HR Director for the Washo Tribe and a graduate of the Haskell Indian Nations University in 2006. She joined us via Zoom as she had a bad cold and there was snow on the ground. She used a PowerPoint that described the history of the tribe and some of the indignities that members had been subjected to. Sheila also described the political organization of the tribe today and some of the land rights problems they have in our area as there are various levels of tribal land ownership, which makes things quite confusing.

April: In advance of the Capital Branch making some decisions on scholarship funding, JW Lazzari, Executive Director of Student Services at WNC, gave an informative presentation on how students can finance their college education in different ways and what the costs are.

May: The Capital Branch celebrated their scholarship recipients for 2023 with a brunch, at which time new officers for the next year were inducted.

Meetings throughout the year usually start with a 30-minute social hour followed by a half hour business meeting and then the presentation of the speaker.

In October a field trip to the Western Nevada College's Jack Davis Astronomical Observatory -- which included a presentation about the moon and use of telescopes arranged by Thomas Herring, PhD Professor of Physics at WNC -- was available for Capital Branch members.

SCHOLARSHIPS (Patty Almond and Paula Rakestraw, Co-Chairs)

March 29, 2024 -- Nine scholarship applications were received this year – eight from Carson High School and one from Dayton High School.

April 12, 2024 -- The Committee met to select the two recipients of the 2023-2024 AAUW Scholarships. They were:

- Sophia Hong Chau Nguyen
- Alexandra Llamas-Cruz

April 17, 2024 – At the April Board Meeting, a motion was brought forth to increase the number of scholarships to three or four. The motion was defeated. However, because there were adequate funds available, the Board did vote to increase our two scholarships from \$1500 to \$2000 for this year only.

May 4, 2024 – The AAUW Capital (NV) Branch Scholarship Luncheon was held at the Governor's Mansion with the recipients attending. They were introduced and recognized for their multiple academic and community service accomplishments.

May 23, 2024 – The Carson High Scholarship Celebration was held. Patricia Almond and Mary Wilson attended. Patricia announced and recognized the recipients.

Plans:

Over the course of the Scholarship “season” the Scholarship Committee met a few times. We introduced a rubric for scoring applications which worked very well. It was observed that we might want to add a couple of other standards for next year.

Patricia Almond and Patricia Cuocco attended a Zoom meeting, along with Caroline Panches, to listen to a presentation from the Nevada Women's Fund regarding future administration of our scholarships. This subject was raised at the April Board Meeting but has been tabled for the new Board to vote on in a future meeting. Patricia, Patricia, and Caroline all feel this would be a very sound direction for our Branch to take.

The approach to the 2024-2025 scholarship program is not finalized. If the Branch votes to employ the services of the Nevada Women's Fund, there will be different duties for the Chair and Co-Chair as we build that relationship.

INFORMAL LUNCHES (STEPHANIE FACCHINI AND DEBBIE LANE, CO-CHAIRS)

The Informal Lunch Group met every month this year!! We averaged 10-12 attendees per lunch. The local restaurants alternated between Carson City and Minden/Gardnerville locations, with various hostesses/organizers.

This year there were several occasions when a guest attended who was interested in joining the Capital Branch. Recently, we picked up three new members this way!

We have made it a point at the end of lunch to see if anyone has any announcements. These luncheons have been a wonderful way for many of us to become better acquainted and enjoy a good meal. Informal lunches will continue throughout the summer.

APPENDIX A

AAUW CAPITAL BRANCH
2023 - 2024 BUDGET - DEDICATED INCOME & EXPENSES

DEDICATED
INCOME:

	\$	
Pecan Sales	5,000	
	\$	
Non-Event Fundraiser	<u>4,000</u>	
Total Revenue		\$ 9,000

DEDICATED EXPENSES

	\$	
Scholarships 2 High School @ \$1,500	3,000	
	\$	
Scholarship 1 WNC @\$1,500	1,500	
National AAUW	\$	
Fund	3,000	
	\$	
STEM Project	1,000	
Printing, delivery, craft fair fee	<u>\$ 500</u>	
Total Expense		\$ 9,000

Unused funds from 21/22	\$ 618	
	\$	
Unused Funds from 22/23	2,260	
	\$	
Unused Funds from 23/24	<u>2,763</u>	

Total Unused Dedicated Funds	\$ 5,641
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(Note: There is an excess of \$2,260 from fiscal year 22/23
and it appears about \$500 from FY 23/24
which can also be used for these dedicated projects.)