



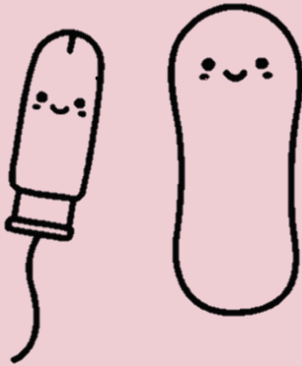
American Association of University Women
Southeast Valley (AZ) Branch
Chandler, Gilbert and the Greater Southeast Valley
southeastvalley-az.aauw.net • aauw.sev.az@gmail.com



Prickly Pear Newsletter

December 2023

January 2024 Branch Meeting



January 15, 2024
5:30-7:00 p.m.

AAUW is committed to supporting girls' and women's health initiatives, including the reduction of "period poverty" — a term that describes when financial circumstances or inadequate education hinders access to menstrual hygiene products. About 500 million people worldwide, or a fourth of all those who menstruate, are thought to experience period poverty.

AAUW Southeast Valley Branch is doing our part to help reduce period poverty at some local CUSD schools. Please join us on **Monday, January 15** for our Period Packing Event, held during our January Branch Meeting. We will pack period kits for girls attending Galveston, Hartford, San Marcos and Frye Elementary Schools and Willis and Andersen Junior High Schools.

Period product donations are greatly appreciated!

If you are so inclined, please donate from the [Amazon Wish List HERE](#)

Sponsored by



AZ Southeast
Valley Branch

PERIOD PACKING EVENT

Promoting Period Positivity

Our Branch has a grant from AAUW AZ to host this event. If you wish, please donate menstrual products

HERE

Packs benefit
CUSD Title I schools

**Sun Lakes
United Methodist
Church
in Lindsay Hall**

**Monday, January 15
at the AAUW SEV
Branch Meeting**

A sit-down
event where
all abilities
are welcome!

**Follow up from November 21
Branch Meeting**



Carol Maas, Maricopa County Deputy Registrar, presented on voter registration and awareness.

Topics related to voting in Arizona were the focus during the November presentation and included:

- Who can vote in Arizona – state and federal requirements,
- Voter registration – how and where to register, voter status, and what it means when you might be “inactive” on the voter files,
- Updating your voter registration – how and where to do it,
- How/where a voter can vote in Arizona – polls, vote centers, early ballot, mail ballot (absentee),
- Types of elections for various jurisdictions, i.e., city, school board bonds and overrides or state and federal offices.

Her PowerPoint presentation is available [HERE](#).

At our November meeting, Carol Maas, the guest speaker, informed us about the registration and voting processes and regulations applicable in Arizona.

We learned that to vote in a primary, you must be registered with a specific party. As Independents are not a party, there is no primary at which a candidate can be selected to represent Independents in a general election.

The Democrat and Republican parties are the major registered parties in Arizona, but there are also smaller parties that have met the criteria necessary to hold primaries.

The process of registering to vote can be simple or complicated. You can register easily when you renew your

driver's license. If you need to register or to correct your registered address, there are specific timelines with which you must comply.

If your ballot is sent to a previous address, it will not be forwarded to your current address. If you have chosen to vote with a mail-in ballot, you can easily track it online to see when it has been received and recorded. Signing your ballot on the outside of the return envelope makes it possible to compare and verify your signature to confirm the legitimacy of your ballot. Putting your phone number on the envelope makes it possible to contact you if there is any question regarding your signature.

Ms. Maas's wealth of knowledge on the the subject was helpful in answering numerous questions from those attending.

For more information go to www.beballotready.vote

2nd Annual Happy Hour Fashion Show



Mark your calendars for the second annual **Happy Hour Fashion Show (HHFS)** It will take place on **Friday, February 2, 2024, in the Cottonwood Ballroom.**

There will be raffle baskets, a silent auction, and a 50/50

raffle along with appetizers and a cash bar. And, of course, the wonderful fashion show displaying beautiful clothing and jewelry from Judy Wear Boutique.

This is our biggest scholarship fundraiser of the year! Last year we provided eight \$1,000 scholarships to deserving women pursuing STEM degrees/certificates, and we hope to surpass that this year.

If you are **planning on donating a basket for the raffle or a prize for the silent auction, please contact Gloria E. or Barb M.** We are accepting raffle baskets and silent auction items from now till January 20. In addition, we are contacting local businesses in hopes of getting more donations to create even more raffle baskets.

Tickets are now on sale to attend the HHFS. **Tickets are \$30 each and \$240 for a table of eight.** If you have a full table of eight, it will be a reserved table, so you needn't worry about rushing to get a table. You can purchase your ticket(s) with cash or a check made payable to AAUW-SEV. Forms to purchase tickets are available via email or at the monthly Branch meetings. **If you would like a ticket order form emailed, please contact Barb or Gloria.**

We look forward to seeing you all! Let's all help build that scholarship fund to its largest amount yet.

*Save
the
Date!* 

**February 2,
2024
Cottonwood
Ballroom**

Interest Groups

Bridge Group

Mon., Dec. 4

Poolside in
Oakwood
This is fun, not
competitive, bridge.
Please RSVP by the
Friday before the
meeting.

Book Club

Mon., Dec. 11

1:00 p.m.

Holly DeV.'s house.
There will be a
holiday lunch.
Contact Holly to
sign up. The book
will be *West with
Giraffes* by Lynda
Rutledge.

Great Decisions

The next meeting
will be Jan. 24, 2024.

Lunch Bunch

The next meeting will
be in Jan. 2024.

New Members!



Please welcome new
members to the Southeast
Valley Branch!

Lillian G.
Karen G.
Ruth H.
Mary La T.
Zeyna P.

SAD NEWS . . .

A long-time member, Pam P.,
passed away on September 17 at
her home in Sun Lakes. Pam
had been a member of AAUW
SEV since 2012. She was an
outspoken supporter of the
mission of AAUW, and she will
be missed. Betty R. will speak at
Pam's celebration of life as a
representative of AAUW SEV.

GIRLS IN STEM

Southwesters

Fri., Dec. 15

Tour of Cosanti,
Paradise Valley, with
time in the gift shop
for bells. Meet there
by 10:00 a.m.

Dinner Club

Wed., Dec. 20

5:30 p.m.

Palo Verde
Clubhouse, Sun
Lakes

Evening Book Club

Details soon.

Mahjong Group

Details to come.

ARIZONA
SCIENCE
CENTER



Never stop wondering.

Never stop imagining.™

Multiple educational programs are held throughout the year for girls in grades 4-8 to collaborate with their peers to solve engineering-design problems and connect with women in STEM careers who inspire these girls. The goal of these events is to expose girls to interesting and engaging STEM-related activities and concepts that capture their curiosity and spark their interest in learning more. Each event requires numerous volunteers.

[VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

AAUW AZ



Read the latest edition
(November 2023) of the AAUW
AZ Sun Newsletter [HERE](#).

Are you part of a SEV Interest
Group and have a photo of

your event, or do you have an idea for an article?

EMAIL YOUR IDEAS HERE

From the Editor: It has been my pleasure to be the *Prickly Pear* editor for the past year and a half. This is my last issue. Happy New Year Everyone!
Julia



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