



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

The Prickly Pear Newsletter



April 2024

April Branch Meeting

Our last general meeting will be an important one. Please make sure to attend. We will induct our 2024-2025 AAUW SEV Board members.

Our guest speaker, Misti Gustafson, is the supervisor of the city of Chandler/Neighborhood resources. She will share with us how the programs she supervises provide direct support to the homeless in our community.

Monday, April 15

5:30 - 7:00 pm

**United Methodist Church
9248 E. Riggs Road
Lindsay Hall**

5:30-5:40 - Social Time
5:40-6:10 - Branch
Business
6:10-7:00 - Speaker

2024-2025 Board Members

Induction will be held during the April General Meeting

Co-President Sr.: Mary Kenny
Co-President Jr.: Open
Board Secretary: Sunshine Tourtillott
Vice-President of Finance: Diane Freeberg
Vice-President of Programs: Penny Rings
Vice-President of Public Policy: Ellie King
Vice-President of Membership: Corrine Gresen
Vice-President of Communications: Nancy Hooke
Advisor: Beth Zdeblick moves into this position

Nature Vs Nurture? No, it's Bias

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields will account for some of the fastest growing — and highest paying — jobs of the future. Yet girls and women are still not on par with boys and men in preparing for or entering into these fields.

Gender bias in school remains a significant barrier to girls' progress in STEM. Starting in early childhood, teachers and parents provide explicit and implicit messages that boys and men are "better" at math and science — although there is no evidence for that.

Girls have fewer role models in the STEM fields and fewer examples in media and popular culture. This reinforces stereotypes of these specialties as masculine. One study estimates that if girls had the same number of women inventor role models that boys have of male inventors, the gender gap in innovation could be cut in half.

A number of studies find that bias against women is the biggest obstacle keeping college women away from pursuing STEM degrees. Men vastly outnumber women majoring in many areas of math, science and technology. So it's no surprise that women make up only 28% of the STEM workforce.

A typical STEM worker earns two-thirds more than those employed in other fields. Giving women equal opportunities to pursue — and thrive in — STEM careers helps narrow the gender pay gap and enhance women's

economic security. What's more, greater diversity also helps to banish biases, ensure a more talented STEM workforce and lead to a fuller range of the products and services that workforce produces.

Source: The Two Minute Activist

[Read more here.](#)



Are Your Interests Being Met?

What's happening in the Legislature? Included are AAUW's comments and support or opposition to bills.

3/18/24 2:00 PM - Senate Elections, SHR 1 *HB2405- Voter registrations; recorder; inactive status COMMENT:** Permits the county recorders to place a person's voter registration information in inactive status and provide the person with notice of the action, if the County Recorder believes the person provided fraudulent or incorrect voter registration information. Too much discretion here- open to abuse. **OPPOSE.** Passed Senate Elections, awaiting hearing in Rules.

*****HCR2032 - Voting centers; precinct voting COMMENT:** Unnecessary ballot referral, deliberately bypassing the Governor makes changes that will impact voters in vulnerable communities and populations. Forbids the use of voting centers and early voting locations in certain circumstances and eliminates most same day registration. **OPPOSE.** Passed, up in Rules 3/25. Recall, there is no public comment in Rules Committee.

3/21/24 9:00 AM - Senate Judiciary, SHR 1 HB2076- Domestic violence; definition; animal abuse COMMENT: Appears to be a good bill that deals with a tactic commonly utilized by abusers to terrify and intimidate their human victims. **SUPPORT.** Passed, awaiting hearing in Rules.

*****HB2310 - Grooming; classification COMMENT:** Bill is overbroad, vague, and will criminalize sex education and other legitimate activity, as well as educators, librarians, and others. There are already many statutes which make it a crime to lure minors into sexual activity, and to sexually violate them. Police and Prosecutors have the tools they require, they need to use them. **OPPOSE.** Passed, awaiting hearing in Rules.

Ellie Watland

Vice-President Public Policy

SEV BranchSpecial Interest Groups

Bridge Group Mon. April 1

It meets on the first Monday of the month at the Poolside in Oakwood. This is fun, not competitive, bridge. Please RSVP by the Friday before the meeting.

Afternoon Book Club Mon. April 8 - 1:00 pm

Cynthia Cantor's house
Book: *Little and Often*
by Trent Prezler

Dinner Group Thurs. April 11 - 5:30 pm Tryst Cafe - Chandler

Great Decisions Wed. April 24 - 3:00 pm

Karen Heitman's house
Topic: Mideast Realignment

Welcome New Members

February New Members:

Mary Dellai
Kathy Wagner

March New Members:

Jill Stone

Membership Renewals

A reminder to all members: Membership is now renewed during the **month** you joined AAUW SEV. You will receive an email when it is time to renew with instructions to renew on the AAUW National Website. This process is easy and we can provide help as needed.

AAUW 2024 Proposed Membership Bylaw Change

Watch your emails for a message from AAUW National when it is time for the member vote regarding the university requirement for membership. Click the button below for more information about the proposal.

Read about the proposed
bylaw change

Evening Book Club

Tues. April 23 - 6:00 pm

Nancy Hooke's house

Book: *Dear Edward*

Lunch Bunch

Will meet in May

Southwesters

Details of day trips to come

Branch Calendar

April 13 - Spring Forum,
2nd Initiative (Education)

April 15 - Branch Meeting,
Speaker, Installation of
New Board

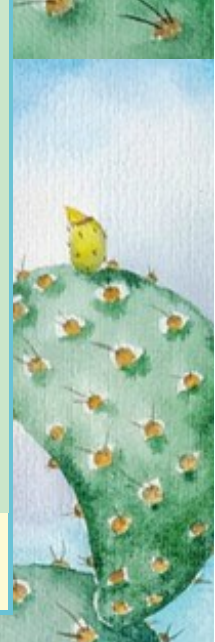
April 22 - Prickly Pear
Submissions Due

May 22 - Prickly Pear
Submissions Due

June 22 - Prickly Pear
Submissions Due

July 22 - Prickly Pear
Submissions Due





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