



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 2025

## April Branch Meeting

April 21, 2025

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Sun Lakes United Methodist Church  
9248 Riggs Road

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Becky Henderson, Principal of San Marcos Elementary School

Our last meeting before summer will include:

- Induction of officers
- Introduction of committee chairs
- 2025-2026 budget presentation
- Highlights of 2024-2025 year to date
- March meeting round table wrap up
- Announcement of new activities - Happy Hour and Movie Interest Group

Happy Hour April 17!



Announcing the launch of our monthly Happy Hour in April!

Join SEV members  
4:30-6:00 pm on  
Thursday, April 17,  
at the Grill on the Green in Ironwood,  
550 W Champagne Drive, Sun Lakes.

Members are invited to enjoy a relaxing social with each other and invited guests during this *Dutch Treat* gathering where food and drinks will be at happy hours prices.

Please wear your AAUW name tag and plan to have a fun time together.

## Civic Engagement Beyond Voting



If you are not familiar with this organization, please go to their website, [cebv.us](http://cebv.us). You will be amazed at the amount of information that is there!

They keep track of all the bills that are going through the State Legislature, and they provide information about many of them. They recommend that people use the Request to Speak link on the [azleg.gov](http://azleg.gov) website. If you are not familiar with Request to Speak, CEBV will train you how to use it. You can sign up for the virtual training at <https://www.cebv.us/rts.html>.

This is the best and easiest way to let your representatives know how you feel about a certain bill. Sign up, get trained and Request to Speak!

Vice-President of Public Policy

## New! Movie Interest Group



The AAUW-SEV Branch is planning on starting a new interest group for watching and discussing movies.

We will try to find a date that isn't close to another interest group activity. Tentatively, the plan is to vote on a movie to see the week before, watch the movie in the early afternoon, and then discuss the movie over coffee and/or dessert at a nearby coffee shop or restaurant.

(The discussion is optional. If you just want to see the movie, that is all right.) We will probably start in May.

Looking forward to seeing you at the movies!

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## Legislative Day 2025



We had 5 members from SEV attend Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 11. The day included a presentation by a DACA recipient who spoke of her own experiences and her fear for her undocumented mother.

Her presentation was emotional as well as informative.

Two individual presenters briefed us about several bills currently being considered by the State Legislature and primarily related to public education, women's rights, LGBTQ+, and immigration.

The Arizona Republic journalist described her experience covering the Capitol. She addressed the value of local newspapers and also took questions about the current treatment of the media.

The panel of legislators addressed the attacks on public education and other issues as they took questions from the group.

We strongly encourage members to attend this informative day next year. While we were limited to 6 attendees this year, next year could be different.

**Have you ever been to the Capitol?  
Plan on attending next year!**

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## Membership News

Just a reminder that the National Board of AAUW, after receiving much feedback from members, approved a modest change in dues. The increase will be \$2 each year for the next two years. Beginning April 1, 2025 the National dues will increase to \$74 for a total of \$105 due on your renewal date.

Your National member dues help fund member services such as:

### **Administrative Support:**

Assist with dues processing, Community Hub management, 990N filings, branding materials, and toolkits (e.g., DEI Toolkit, College/University Member Toolkit).

### **Website Support:**

Update and manage ~500 branch and state websites and provide ongoing Site Resources support.

### **Member Trainings:**

Hold regular virtual member gatherings and training programs.

### **Member Engagement:**

Organize member-led groups and committees like Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, and national committees.

### **Speaker Engagement:**

Offer National speakers for branch meetings and state conventions.

### **Real-Time Support:**

Connect Team provides daily assistance and semi-weekly "Office Hours" for member leaders.

- **And more!**

Vice-President of Membership

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## **Calendar of Events 2024-2025**

### **BOARD MEETINGS:**

April 9, 2025

May 14, 2025

### **BRANCH MEETINGS:**

April 21, 2025 Induction of Officers

### **EVENTS:**

April 17, 2025 - Happy Hour

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**SEV  
BranchSpecial  
Interest**

**SEV Website Changes**

New password for member's only page:



# Groups

Oco\*tillo\$2025

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## Bridge Group

Mon., Apr. 7

It meets on the first Monday of the month at the Poolside in Oakwood. This is fun, not competitive, bridge.

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## Mahjong Group

You don't have to know how to play. We will teach you.

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## Afternoon Book Club

Mon., Apr. 14 - 1:30 pm

Book: *The Women*  
by Kristin Hannah

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## Great Decisions

Wed., Apr. 23 - 3:00 pm

Location: TBD  
Topic: U.S.-China Relations

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## Evening Book Club

Tues., Apr. 29 - 6:00 pm

Book: *Miss Benson's Beetle*  
By: Rachel Joyce

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## Dinner Group

Wed., Apr. 30 - 5:30 pm  
Manuel's - Chandler

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## Lunch Bunch

Next Meeting: May

The directory has been removed. Please use your paper directory.

Website updates are applied monthly. We hope you will visit it often.

## AAUW SEV Website





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