



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



June 2025

Summer Giving Project

AAUW Southeast Valley Branch will be collecting food items for
Meals to Grow at Matthew's Crossing Food Bank
4:30-6:00 pm
Thursday, June 19, 2025
Grill on the Green at Ironwood Golf Club

The **Meals to Grow** program provides weekend backpacks for school-age children and their families. Approximately 1,400 backpacks are distributed each week, year-round. Some of the needed food items are listed below.

Monetary donations are also welcome with checks made out to Matthew's Crossing Food Bank. Bring your items to the Branch's June 19 Happy Hour and stay to enjoy time with other AAUW members!

Most needed food items include:

- Canned Pasta (Ravioli, SpaghettiOs)
- Tuna (small cans)
- Ramen Packets
- Canned Beans (Pinto, Black)
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Mac and Cheese Cups
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, Green Beans)

Cereal
Chicken Noodle Soup (small cans)
Fruit Cups
Granola Bars
Fruit Snacks

Please note that all types of non-perishable food items will be accepted and appreciated.

Summer Happy Hours



Spending Your Summer in the Arizona Heat?

Join your fellow AAUW SEV members each month for Happy Hour. Members are invited to enjoy a relaxing social with each other and invited guests during this gathering where food and drinks will be at happy hours prices.

These pictures are from our first Happy Hour in April.

Location: Grill on the Green at Ironwood
Time: 4:30-6:00 pm

Dates:
June 19
July 17
August 21
September 18



Save Our Schools

If you attended the meeting where the Save Our Schools representatives

spoke about the waste and damage that the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA) voucher program is doing to the AZ state budget, you will be interested in the following from SOS.

"Tell your lawmakers and Gov. Hobbs that unaccountable vouchers for the rich must be reined in in **this year's budget!** Our students deserve quality resources, safe buildings, and rich academic experiences that will prepare them for a strong future. Our educators deserve pay raises and quality working conditions that benefit all teachers, staff and students. **NOW** is the time to demand true voucher reform and fund our public schools. Our **easy-to-use, one-click email tool** is preloaded with a message, but we encourage you to customize your email for maximum impact."

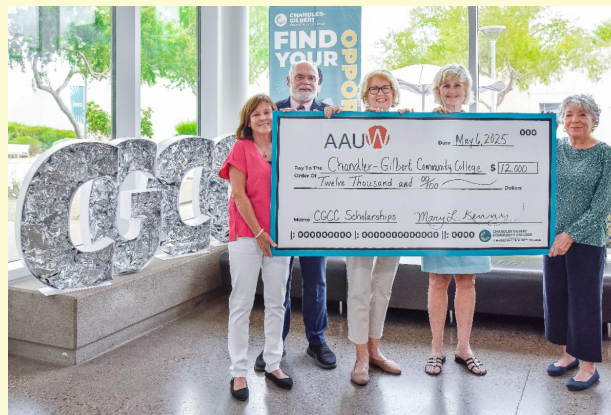
<https://sosarizona.org/email-your-lawmakers>

Some legislators are trying to attach the ESA Voucher program to Proposition 123, which will expire soon and will likely be on the November 2026 ballot. Click on the link below to let your legislators know that you want a clean Proposition 123, without attaching ESA Voucher funds.

<https://sosarizona.org/email-your-lawmakers-4>

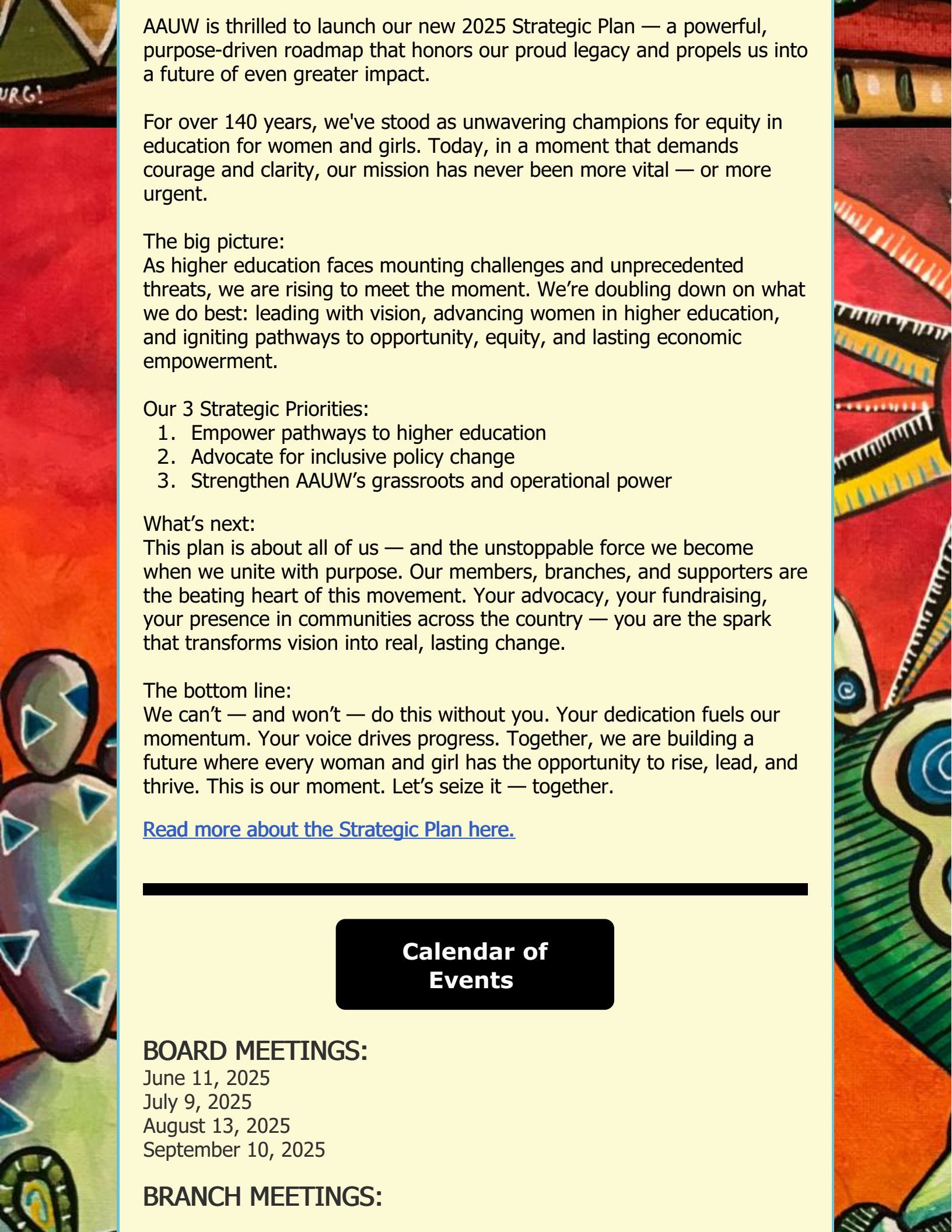
Vice-President of Public Policy

Our Fundraising Makes an Impact



Branch members - Beth Zdeblick, Penny Rings, Jill Stone and Mary Kenny - presented Paul Sanders, Senior Development Officer at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, with a symbolic check of the proceeds from the February scholarship fundraiser.

AAUW National News



AAUW is thrilled to launch our new 2025 Strategic Plan — a powerful, purpose-driven roadmap that honors our proud legacy and propels us into a future of even greater impact.

For over 140 years, we've stood as unwavering champions for equity in education for women and girls. Today, in a moment that demands courage and clarity, our mission has never been more vital — or more urgent.

The big picture:

As higher education faces mounting challenges and unprecedented threats, we are rising to meet the moment. We're doubling down on what we do best: leading with vision, advancing women in higher education, and igniting pathways to opportunity, equity, and lasting economic empowerment.

Our 3 Strategic Priorities:

1. Empower pathways to higher education
2. Advocate for inclusive policy change
3. Strengthen AAUW's grassroots and operational power

What's next:

This plan is about all of us — and the unstoppable force we become when we unite with purpose. Our members, branches, and supporters are the beating heart of this movement. Your advocacy, your fundraising, your presence in communities across the country — you are the spark that transforms vision into real, lasting change.

The bottom line:

We can't — and won't — do this without you. Your dedication fuels our momentum. Your voice drives progress. Together, we are building a future where every woman and girl has the opportunity to rise, lead, and thrive. This is our moment. Let's seize it — together.

[Read more about the Strategic Plan here.](#)

Calendar of Events

BOARD MEETINGS:

June 11, 2025

July 9, 2025

August 13, 2025

September 10, 2025

BRANCH MEETINGS:

See you in October!

EVENTS:

June 19, 2025 - Happy Hour and Summer Giving Project

July 17, 2025 - Happy Hour

August 21, 2025 - Happy Hour

September 18, 2025 - Happy Hour

SEV Branch Special Interest Groups

Bridge Group

Mon., June 2

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 to:

Movie Group

Fri., June 6

Early Afternoon

Details to come

Summer

Book Club

Mon., June 9 - 1:00 pm

Book: *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray

Lunch Bunch

Wed., June 11 - 10:30 am

First Watch - Chandler

Happy Hour

Thurs., June 19

4:30-6:00 pm

Location: Grill on the Green at Ironwood

No reservation required

Evening Book Club

Tues., June 24 - 6:00 pm

Location: Grill on the Green

Book: TBD

Dinner Group

Wed., June 25 - 5:30 pm

RigaTony's - Tempe

Afternoon

Book Club

Next Meeting in Sept.

Great Decisions

Next Meeting in Oct.

Mahjong Group

Need a new leader.

AAUW Southeast Valley | AAUW Southeast Valley | Southeast Valley, AZ 85224 US

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