



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



October 2025

October General Meeting



**Make Plans to Attend Our First
Meeting
of the Fall!**

Date: October 20, 2025

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Location: Poolside at Ironoaks

We are excited to kick-off another year of AAUW SEV branch business and fun. We are planning an evening packed with information about the coming year. Light appetizers will be available.

Happy Hour Fun!

Our members enjoyed the September happy hour at Ironwood's Grill on the Green. Branch



happy hours are held the third Thursday of each month, 4:30-6:00 pm. Members and anyone interested in joining AAUW are invited to join us.

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

Next Happy Hour:
October 16

Important Election Coming Up!

Zeyna Pruzhanovsky, one of our SEV Branch members, wants to inform the Branch that there is an election for the Chandler Unified School District Bond and Override coming up. Yes, Sun Lakes residents do vote in the CUSD elections. The election is mail-in only. *Ballots will be mailed on October 8, and must be returned by October 28, via mail only.* Be sure to watch your mail for this important ballot!

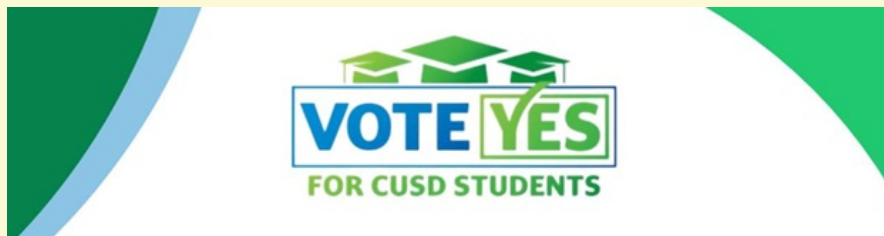
For more information go to:

<https://www.yesforchandlerstudents.com/>

Or the Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=yes for chandler students](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=yes+for+chandler+students)

Ellie King
Vice-President of Public Policy



Membership News

Welcome to new member, Beverly Bowers!

Remember to invite friends who might be interested in joining AAUW SEV to a meeting or a Happy Hour!

Members are the best recruiters.



Fall Forum 2025

The 2025 Fall Forum is hosted by our branch and is being held at Sun Lakes - Cottonwood. We encourage all SEV Branch members to attend.

Registration is open!

[Click Here](#) to complete your registration.



**HANDS OFF
OUR HISTORY
AND
OUR FUTURE!**

**Saturday
Nov 1, 2025
8:00 – 3:00**

**Cottonwood
County Club,
Sun Lakes**

Speakers

- Dr Mary Rothschild
- Dr Melanie Sturgeon
- Bonnie Boyce-Wilson
- Legislative Panel with Rep Nancy Gutierrez, advocate Brandi Coon, Rep Jill Willoughby (invited), and others

Program

- 8:00 Doors Open
- 8:30 Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 Meeting and Presentations
- 12:00 Buffet Lunch
- 3:00 Conclusion

REGISTRATION: Open: September 1-October 24. \$45.00 via Zelle or check. Register online at www.aaumarizona.org (or through link above)


VENUE: Cottonwood Country Club, 25630 S Brentwood Drive, Sun Lakes, AZ, 480-895-3550.
Website: www.sunlakesofarizona.com/cc_cottonwood.php

AAUW National News

Pay Gap Data Shows Women Falling Behind; AAUW Steps Up with Solutions

The following is excerpted from the September 9, 2025 news release issued by AAUW:

AAUW is disappointed to see the newly released U.S. Census Bureau data showing that the gender pay gap has widened for the second consecutive year. In 2024, all women working full-time, year-round were paid 81 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal workers) were



paid 76 cents for every dollar paid to men. In annual income, women were paid \$57,520, compared to \$71,090 paid to men. This is not a minor fluctuation but a statistically significant setback that underscores a troubling trend: women working full time are falling further behind.

"For the second year in a row, Census data shows the gender pay gap is widening — proof that inequities in the workplace are not going away on their own," says AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell. "Yet instead of addressing this crisis, this Administration is doing the opposite: systematically dismantling the very protections meant to ensure workplace equity. Women are being told, in no uncertain terms, that their rights and opportunities are expendable."

AAUW emphasized that while individual women cannot negotiate away systemic disparities, the organization is supporting individual women with the tools and resources they need to help negotiate their salaries for higher pay. Through its economic empowerment salary negotiation trainings, women learn strategies to strengthen their position when seeking fair pay and benefits. AAUW Start Smart is specifically designed for college women entering the job market, teaching effective salary negotiation techniques to boost confidence and negotiation skills.

To read the full release, go to AAUW's national website:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/pay-gap-data-shows-women-falling-behind-aauw-steps-up-with-solutions/>

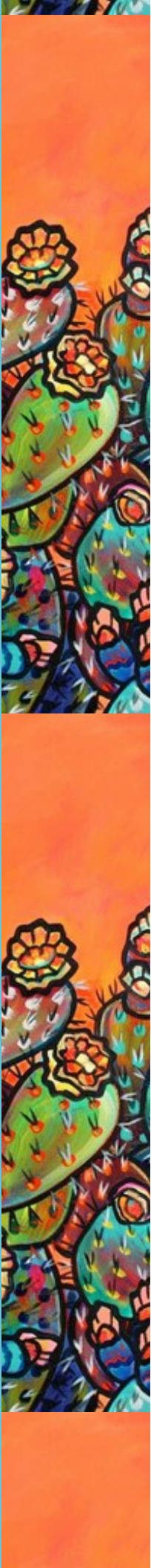
Calendar of Events

BOARD MEETINGS:

October 8, 2025
November 12, 2025
December 10, 2025
January 14, 2026
February 11, 2026
March 11, 2026
April 8, 2026
May 13, 2026
June 10, 2026

BRANCH MEETINGS:

October 20, 2025 - Welcome Back - Poolside Oakwood
November 17, 2025
January 19, 2026
February 16, 2026
March 16, 2026



April 20, 2026

Happy Hours:

October 16, 2025

November 20, 2025

December 18, 2025

January 15, 2026

February 19, 2026

March 19, 2026

April 16, 2026

May 21, 2026

June 18, 2026

EVENTS:

November 1, 2025 - Fall Forum

December 13, 2025 - Holiday Funds Luncheon

March 13, 2026 - Scholarship Fundraiser

SEV Branch Special Interest Groups

Movie Group

Thurs., Oct. 2,
early afternoon

Movie and theater to be determined.

Bridge Group

Mon., Oct. 6

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

Lunch Bunch

Thurs., Oct. 9 - 11:30 am

Born and Bred, Chandler

Afternoon

Book Club

Mon., Oct. 13 - 1:30 pm

Book: *The Frozen River*
by Ariel Lawhon

Happy Hour
Thurs., Oct. 16
4:30-6:00 pm

Location: Grill on the Green at Ironwood
No reservation required

Great Decisions
Wed., Oct. 22, 3:00 pm

Location to be determined
Topic: U.S., India, and China Relationships

Evening Book Club
Tues., Oct. 28 - 6:00 pm

Location: Grill on the Green
Book: *Killers of a Certain Age*
By Deanna Raybourn

Dinner Group
Last week in Oct., details to come

Mahjong Group

Need a new leader.

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

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