



**AAUW Pendleton Branch
May Membership Meeting**

Program: “StirrUp Hope Therapeutic Riding ”

Speaker: Morgan Matteson



Wednesday, May 1

7:00 p.m.

Vert Club Room

Bring donations to the BMCC Student Pantry to the meeting!

June 2024 Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 1, 11:00 am, Location TBA

Picnic, Program on geology, and Program ideas for next year

**AAUW Pendleton Branch
Leadership Team 2023–2024**

Co-Presidents

Susan Doyle 969-7660
Mary Davis 969-9669

Communications Vice President

Joan Deroko 310-9175

Co-Finance Vice Presidents

Marlene Krout 276-7596
Dues, Kate Mace 276-1006

Membership Vice President

Sue Petersen 276-4569

Co-Program Vice-Presidents

Kate Ely 278-1997
Blanche Hill 360-649-4337

Co-Recording Secretaries

Kathy Ward 276-0308
Beth Condon 276-7187

Appointed Leaders:

BMCC Liaison

Marie Hall 379-5250

AAUW Funds

Jill Heffner 278-4791

Grapefruit

Karen King 278-2151

Newsletter & Directory Editor

Susan Doyle 969-7660

Public Policy

Regina Braker 663-6148

STEM

Miriam Munck 278-5805

Website

Marty King 276-8210

AAUW Association website

aauw.org

AAUW of Oregon website

aauw-or.aauw.net

AAUW Pendleton website

pendleton-or.aauw.net

Co-President's Message

By Susan Doyle

The membership meeting on May 1 is the last scheduled program of the branch year. During the business meeting following the program, we will have our annual election. In June we will have a picnic, hear an informal talk, and discuss ideas for programs for next year. This has been an eventful year, and you can read about it in Karen King's Northeast District Report in this newsletter.

Notes & Announcements

May Dinner Divas: Dinner before the membership meeting May 1 at Mazatlan Mexican Restaurant, 1408 SW Court Ave, 5:00 pm.

May Membership Meeting, May 1: Morgan Matteson will present a slide program and tell us about StirrUp Hope Therapeutic Riding Center and the Equine Assisted Services they offer.

May Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 5:00 p.m., at Kate Ely's home, 612 NW Carden Ave.

May Lunch Bunch: Thursday, May 16, at the Long Branch in Weston. Meet at Heritage Station at 11:30 am to carpool.

Slate of Officers for 2024-25

To be voted on at the May 1 Branch Meeting

Co-President: Susan Doyle (one year)

Communications V P: Delanne Ferguson (two years)

Welcome New Members

Michele "Mitz" Bradford

541-970-4139

michele.bradford1@icloud.com

Robin Klotz

503-740-8262

rllkrn2@icloud.com

**AAUW PENDLETON
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 2024 @ Vert Club Room**

Call to Order: Co- President Mary Davis called the meeting to order @,8:10 pm.

Members present: 16

Minutes: March 2 minutes approved as distributed.

Reports:

Finance VP Accounts and budget: Marlene Krout

Savings acct funds: \$4,816.03, Checking acct funds: \$2,189.04

Received a thank you note from BMCC for our support and a note of thanks from scholarship recipient Tia Williams.

Finance VP Dues: Kate Mace

Members should be receiving an email reminding everyone that it is time to pay dues. We can either pay online or send a check and updated form to Kate Mace.

Program VP: Kate Ely/Blanche Hill, No report. May program will feature StirrUp Hope Therapeutic Riding.

Membership VP: Sue Petersen

Sue introduced two new members. Michele “Mitz” Bradford and Robin Klotz.

Communications VP: Joan Deroko, No report

Appointed positions:

Nominating committee: Delanne Ferguson has accepted the nomination for Communications VP and Susan Doyle agreed to take one more year as Co-president. Next year all other officer positions will be open.

Public policy: Regina informed the membership about the policy changes that the state AAUW is proposing. She has submitted to the state the recommendations and questions that were brought up at the March board meeting.

Continuing business:

Blue Mountain Foundation (BMF): Marlene informed membership that the foundation has selected four women that meet our criteria. Three of them were recipients from last year. Our committee and the Waldmans will meet to select the recipients for this year. Their recommendation is then sent to BMF for approval.

Plastic recycling location in Kennewick is Waste management 2627 S. Ely Street. Directions can be found online.

New business:

Karen King announced that members will be getting an email with voting instructions and a link to vote. She encouraged everyone to vote. Check your Spam Folder for AAUW emails.

Announcements:

Next membership meeting: May 1 @ 7:00 pm in the Vert Club room.

Next board meeting: April 17, 5:00pm @ Kate Mace’s.

April 17, 6:30 pm at the Presbyterian Church. Bridget Farley will be talking about Gaza.

Meeting adjourned: @ 8:36 pm.

Kathy Ward, Co-Secretary

NORTHEAST OREGON DISTRICT REPORT—SPRING 2024

By Karen King

In October, NE Oregon district held its first district meeting since the pandemic. We met at a central location, La Grande, OR, and enjoyed lunch together as well as a presentation by Professor Miriam Munck on Prague and the Czech Republic. After the presentation, we discussed issues that affect all branches: retaining members, growing membership, and filling leadership positions.

BAKER BRANCH

Heather Rudolph, Baker branch president, reports that their membership is up a little to 30 members!

We held our board meetings on Zoom and, if weather permits, will hold the summer planning meeting outside. Wanda Raffety has a wonderful deck for meetings! Our regular branch meetings have been in-person meetings. Baker Branch meets on the 1st Monday or the second Saturday. We have also mixed our meetings' timing up a bit, depending on the topic. Some have been held during the lunch hour and some have been held at 6 pm. We wanted to explore whether lunchtime was more accessible for members than evenings, and we found that changing the times has allowed more members to attend.

Membership recruitment/retention ideas include actively inviting people we meet who might not have heard of AAUW, posting meeting notices on Facebook and in the newspaper, and having diverse topics presented by community members.

Our fundraisers have gone very well. We held a yard sale in June 2023 that brought in \$955.50 which is used to cover branch expenses for the year. We set up a scholarship for \$500 for non-traditional Baker County women. We are currently accepting applications. We will collaborate with Baker Soroptimists in their Walk for Awareness event in June, 2024. It promotes awareness of and fighting against sex trafficking.

Our programs this year included strong representation from our diverse community:

- A history of our Baker branch was the topic of our September welcome back meeting.
- In October we attended our NE OR district meeting in La Grande.
- Our November speaker was a local woman business owner, Jenny Mowe of Sweet Wife Bakery.
 - In December, we had an update from CASA and a duffle drive in which members contributed items to be included in duffle bags that are given to CASA participants.
- We had a fun meeting in January with a painting party at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, led by local artist Becky Litke.
- Our February Fundraiser was held at Copper Belt Wines and was well attended. Donations were made to AAUW Funds and to the Scholarship Fund.
- Our March meeting was with Kim Mosier and Jim Tomlinson who provided updates on the Baker Relief Nursery.
- Our April meeting was with Anne Nemeč, who gave us information on her business, Integrative Physical Therapy.

We'll wrap up the year with a planning meeting in May and end-of-year meeting/art tour at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center in June to honor local and internationally recognized artist, Gary Ernest Smith. All AAUW members are welcome to join us on June 10th to meet with Gary and tour Crossroads.

PENDLETON BRANCH

Pendleton Branch is concluding another fulfilling and productive year with a thoughtful and committed Board and a growing membership.

Programs:

Pendleton Branch provided a variety of excellent evening and Saturday programs. These offerings included Xeroscaping by a local expert, “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion”, and Hospice Care. The husband of an active AAUW member was able to share the family history of his grandmother in Pendleton during 1919 when the co-chair of the Pendleton Branch researched and provided the narration. Social Emotional Learning and the effects upon adverse childhood experiences was one of our Saturday presentations. Again, drawing upon the depth and experience of the Pendleton Branch’s membership professional expertise, another member provided a program on her recently published research on groundwater in the region and the effects of recharge. The year will wind up with a presentation by the Therapeutic Riding Center, which provides Equine Assisted Services to the community. The final membership meeting will be a picnic, an informal program, and discussion of program ideas for next year.

Membership:

Due to an active and creative Membership Chair, our membership numbers are slowly increasing from an all-time low. Over the last several years there were membership losses due to the death of several long-term members and non-renewal of new members in 2021. Membership now stands at 37. Retaining and recruiting members is a significant concern for the branch along with difficulties in filling leadership positions. The nominating committee has begun reaching out to less active members.

In looking for ways to be more inclusive, the Branch has “Lunch Bunch” and “Dinner Diva” gatherings where 8-12 members come together at various restaurants in Pendleton and the surrounding area for fun and inclusive conversations.

Community:

The Branch also helps to sponsor the Eastern Oregon Forum, a collaboration between four organizations and a sponsor that brings timely topics to the community four times a year at Blue Mountain Community College. This year our Branch coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to bring “Missing and Murdered Indigenous People” to an audience of 54 people.

Fundraising and Scholarship:

The annual fundraiser is selling Texas grapefruit. It is successful due to outstanding ongoing leadership and the commitment of members to sell and to support the delivery of grapefruit on the first or second Saturday of December. This project goes back many years. Members, who helped in establishing this fundraiser and who no longer live in Pendleton, continue to support it from afar. Thanks to the group effort, the sale funds contributions to AAUW Funds, branch activities, and STEM projects in local schools. In addition, AAUW sponsors an annual scholarship at BMCC for a qualified woman.

Three years ago, with the passing of longtime beloved and sustaining member, Sue Waldman, her family established the Sue Waldman Memorial Fund. With generous support from the Waldman family, four scholarships were awarded this year to women from Umatilla County who are pursuing higher education across a variety of STEM fields. This will continue to be a rewarding opportunity for the Branch well into the years ahead.

WALLOWA BRANCH

Wallowa County Branch maintained its activities as it has for the past several years. In May, branch members met to select the local recipients for the Maxine Town scholarship. We were happy that investment returns allowed for a full scholarship in addition to renewed awards for the previous recipients. Our branch bylaws were updated as required, with unanimous approval from our branch members. We hope to get together for a spring luncheon in the near future. We expect our membership and activities to remain the same for the coming year.

Program Notes for the May Membership Meeting

StirrUp Hope Therapeutic Riding



Empowering those with physical, emotional, and developmental challenges to improve their lives, discover their abilities, and “StirrUp” hope through equine assisted services.

StirrUp Hope Therapeutic Riding Center is operated by Morgan Matteson. Who benefits from Equine Assisted Services (EAS)? Everyone!! Individuals of all ages, who may or may not have special challenges. The riders range in age from 3 to 65. Participants have a variety of challenges ranging from dealing with loss, autism, anxiety, Down syndrome, multiple sclerosis, and everything in between.

Individuals with physical challenges find new freedom of mobility, strength, coordination, and balance as the gait of the horse is the same as ours. Those who struggle with cognitive and emotional challenges find self-confidence and worth and experience immediate appropriate feedback through EAS programs.

Equine Assisted Services are not limited to riding. Participants receive the “therapeutic” benefits and positive feedback from their equine partner. This includes on-the-ground activities as well.



Branch member hydrologist Kate Ely presented an outstanding program on groundwater and recharge rates in the Upper Umatilla River Basin at the April membership meeting. Jill Heffner photograph.

EOC3 Program on May 21 on Zoom

Dr. Brigit Farley will talk on “History of the Environmental Right Movement,” which may include a brief discussion of the classic book by Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*. If you are interested, please mark your calendar for Tuesday, **May 21, at 7 pm via Zoom**. See EOC3.org for more details or contact Mary Davis.

Oregon Humanities Consider This: Humans, Land, and Animals on May 22 in Pendleton

Join us at **Pendleton Center for the Arts** on **Wednesday, May 22, at 7:00 pm** for a conversation with **Bobby Fosseck, Erica Berry, and Wendy Bingham** about living in community with animals and plants. Some animals and plants are welcomed by people, and others we reject or try to eradicate. How do we decide which living things belong, and what do these decisions show about our place on the land? This is a **free**, all-ages event. To participate, **register online** at <https://www.tfaforms.com/5124074>.

See separate forwarded email with more information.

PAM SHAY WINS NATIONAL AAUW ART CONTEST

By Claudia Gray, AAUW Oregon

One of the AAUW art cards chosen by members was drawn by our very own AAUW of Oregon Program VP Pam Shay. She is one of only four artists chosen!

