



AAUW Pendleton Branch Newsletter
May 2025

AAUW Pendleton Branch
May Membership Meeting

Program: “Eastern Oregon Wolves”

Speaker: Roblyn Brown,
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,
Wolf Program Coordinator



Wednesday, May 7
7:00 p.m.
Vert Club Room

June Membership Meeting
Saturday, June 7, 11:00 a.m., Community Park
“Potluck & Penchants”

AAUW Pendleton Branch Leadership Team 2023–2024

Co-Presidents

Susan Doyle 969-7660
Mary Davis 969-9669

Communications Vice President

Delanne Ferguson 278-8131

Co-Finance Vice Presidents

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

Membership Vice President

Sue Petersen 377-0752

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:

AAUW Funds

Jill Heffner 278-4791

BMCC Liaison

Marie Hall 379-5250

Co-NE District Directors

Regina Braker 663-6148
Kathleen Mace 215-2530

Grapefruit & Membership List

Karen King 278-2151

Newsletter & Directory Editor

Susan Doyle 969-7660

Public Policy

Regina Braker 663-6148

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 Corner for April

By Susan Doyle

The May membership meeting will be the last meeting of the year in the Vert Club Room. The annual election of branch officers will be held during the business meeting following the program. The slate of officers is below.

Regina Braker, Jill Heffner, Kate Mace, and Marlene Krout attended the AAUW of Oregon Conference & Annual Meeting, April 25-26, in Lebanon, OR. Read Jill's articles about their fulfilling experiences in this newsletter.

Some of you have already received an email from national reminding you to renew your membership. You will be sent the email on the anniversary of the month you joined or renewed last year. You may renew online, or you may use the form attached to the email with this newsletter to give your check to dues treasurer Kate Mace.

Spring is here at last!

Notes & Announcements

May Membership Meeting: Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. at Vert Club Room. Dinner Divas will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Great Pacific.

May Lunch Bunch: Thursday, May 15, at Mo Pho at 11:45 a.m.

May Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 21, 5:00 p.m. at Kate Mace's home.

Slate of Officers for 2025-27 To be voted on at the May Branch Meeting

Co-Presidents:

Susan Doyle
Mary Davis

Program Vice President:

Kate Ely (one year)

Membership Vice President:

Sue Petersen

Co-Finance Vice Presidents:

Marlene Krout (Branch)
Kate Mace (Dues)

Co-Secretaries:

Kathy Ward
Beth Condon

**AAUW PENDLETON
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: 4/2/2025 TIME: 7 pm PLACE: Vert Club Room

Call to Order: Co-President, Mary Davis, 8:30 pm. Present: 25, including members and guests.

Minutes from previous meeting: Approve as submitted.

Officer Reports:

Finance VP Accounts & Balance: Marlene Krout

Checking balance = \$2,776.65 Savings = \$4816.99 (0.24% interest, first quarter)

CD = \$5,238.04

We awarded \$1,500 scholarship (plus \$75 fee) to BMCC. Ken Daniels sent a thank you letter.

An invitation to the scholarship luncheon on 5/1/2025 at Pioneer Hall was announced.

Finance VP Dues: Kate Mace

Currently we have 41 members. Membership form is revised. We will be getting a notice for dues from National.

Program VP: Kate Ely

Kate E. has scheduled programs for the coming year. May's program will be on wolves.

Membership VP: Sue Petersen

Sue is working on two potential new members. She encouraged us to invite others to become members.

Communications VP: Delanne F.

Ellen Wardell & Greg helped with poster design for upcoming events, which were placed around town.

The deadline for posting in the EO was not met, as information has to be sent over a week in advance.

KUMA was not interested in promotional ads on the radio.

Appointed Positions:

Sue Waldman Fund: April 21/Zoom meeting with the committee. More information to follow in May.

Continuing Business:

Regina **raker** announced an effort to attend via Zoom Legislative sessions to support bills that align with AAUW's goals. It was a learning experience, and she will continue to work on getting branches to attend lobbying sessions remotely.

New Business:

State Conference is coming up. Keynote speaker has a master's degree in physics, and works for NASA.

Kate Mace: A documentary film *Space, Hope and Charity* may be available to stream, and also the DVD could be purchased.

Nominating Committee Report:

Mary Davis announced: Susan Doyle and she will continue as Co-Presidents; Marlene Krout, Finance VP Accounts; Kate Mace, Finance VP Dues; Kathy Ward and Beth Condon, Co-Secretaries; Kate Ely will continue as Program VP; Sue Petersen, Membership VP. Mary suggested mentoring members interested in serving on our board.

Announcements:

EO Forum, BMCC Library, April 8, 5:30 pm with Dr. Mark Browning: “Higher Ed in Today's Landscape.”

Lunch Bunch: April 10, Hamley's at 11:45 am.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm

Beth Condon, Co-Secretary

May 2 Program Notes

Roblyn Brown**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wolf Program Coordinator**

Roblyn is the Wolf Program Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. She graduated from The Ohio State University and then moved west as fast as she could. She has worked on carnivore and endangered species projects across the West for various NGO's, states, and the federal government. For the last 13 years, Roblyn has monitored wolves for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Currently she is the Statewide Wolf Program Coordinator. She believes the best way to help wolves in the West is to help livestock producers implement new tools and old techniques to reduce livestock vulnerability.

Donations to the BMCC Student Need's Pantry

In keeping with our mission of supporting education for girls and women, here is an opportunity to help students at BMCC who sometimes cannot afford basic supplies. BMCC has a supplies pantry that accepts donations for the students.

CAPECO provides food, but the pantry always needs donations of feminine period products, personal hygiene products, paper towels, toilet paper, and cleaning and laundry supplies.

Please bring donations to the membership meeting on Wednesday, April 2 at the Vert Club Room. Sue Petersen will take them to BMCC.

AAUW of Oregon 100th Annual Meeting & Conference

By Jill Heffner

REACH FOR THE STARS was the theme of the 2025 AAUW of OR Annual Meeting. We heard from many women who had “reached for the stars” and had succeeded in using their passion to be successful career women. None were more poignant, more astonishing, more remarkable than Charity Woodham, the featured speaker at the conference. We saw her story in the documentary *Space, Hope and Charity*.

This award-winning documentary (follows) Charity Woodrum’s remarkable journey through poverty and tragedy as she chased her dream of becoming a NASA astrophysicist. Charity was a non-traditional student, a first-generation high school graduate, married and nine months pregnant she decided to attend the University of Oregon to study physics. Three years in, she was thriving. Then what occurred was what she called “the worst day”. But with help from strong mentors, childhood friends and perfect strangers, she was able to get life back on track. She’s now a NASA astrophysicist. Charity’s story explores themes of resilience, mentorship, and the power of human connection.

Following the film, we heard Charity and Sandy Cummings, the writer/producer/director of the documentary, in a panel discussion with the audience.

Charity Woodrum has come a long way from her childhood in Canyonville, Oregon, where she found peace many nights looking up at the night sky. Her dream from early on was to for NASA one day, but it felt like a crazy goal for a kid from rural Oregon who had never met a scientist. Through devastating tragedy, Charity has kept her eyes on the sky. She earned a PhD in astrophysics from the University of AZ in 2024 and is now working as a NASA astrophysicist on the James Webb Space Telescope Team at Goddard Space Flight Center. Her research uses the Universe as a time machine to tell the story of how galaxies evolve over cosmic time.

Thank you, Pendleton AAUW, from Regina Bracher, Jill Heffner, Marlene Krout, and Kate Mace, for your financial assistance as we traveled to Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center, Lebanon, Oregon, to attend the two-day conference.

We all attended the AAUW of OR Board of Directors Meeting—Regina and Kate as Co-District Directors, and Marlene and Jill as interested audience.

But after lunch we all attended the Orientation and Self-tour of the Hoichi Kurisu Gardens, a Japanese Serenity Garden on the campus of the Santiam Health Sciences Hospital & Clinics. Oh, how I wish you all could wander the paths around a pond stocked with koi, relax on one of the many benches found in quiet, serene corners and enjoy the conifers and flowering shrubs, the azaleas and rhododendrons, the massive boulders and lichen...and let the World go by.

Dinner speaker was Rebecca Grizzle, CEO, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, another dynamic woman.

Featured speaker was Betty LaDuke, internationally renowned Ashland artist who uses her art to illuminate the resilience and humanity of the people she encountered while traveling the world, as well as the social issues they face—women who are goat herders in Rwanda, freedom fighters in Eritrea, farmworkers in Oregon, and migrants on the Mexican border.

It was a good thing we had moments of serenity on Friday, because Saturday was a go-go-go kind of day. The day began with the AAUW of Oregon Annual Business Meeting, Committee Reports, and Election of Officers. This was followed by the viewing of the documentary and discussion that I spoke about earlier.

Several plenary sessions followed. Marlene and Kate and I, along with Wanda Raffety from Baker City, and Susan Gilstrap from Wallowa County Branch, managed, whether together or individually, to cover almost all the six selections ranging from Public Policy, STEM, Women Military Veterans, to Volunteers, Prison Program for Women at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, and Women Filmmakers in Oregon.

Then it was time for Dinner and Awards Celebrations (**more on that in AAUW Funds article**). Again, we listened to dynamic women: AAUW Fellow Barbara Hudson-Hanley PhD, MPH. AAUW is the largest funder of post graduate fellowships for women (*this is one place your contributions to AAUW Funds support*). Barbara received a life-changing AAUW Fellowship just when she thought her dream would never come true. Dr. Hudson-Hanley is an Environmental and Occupational Health instructor in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences at OSU/Corvallis.

AAUW of OR Breaking Barriers Achievement Award 2025 is Deborah Arthur (Founder) and Nahlee Suvanvej (Director) of Portland State University's Higher Education in Prison Program for incarcerated women. Deborah Arthur also organized the Oregon Coalition of Higher Education in Prison, statewide group to solidify and expand higher education opportunities for incarcerated students.

The evening drew to a close. We all said good-bye to longtime friends and new friends and headed home...or somewhere else.



Susan Gilstrap, Wallowa County; Kate Mace, Pendleton; Marlene Krout, Pendleton; Jill Heffner, Pendleton; Wanda Raffety, Baker City; Regina Braker, Pendleton.

CONGRATULATIONS, PENDLETON!

By Jill Heffner

It's Saturday night at the AAUW of Awards Event at the AAUW of OR 2025 Conference & Annual Meeting in Lebanon, Oregon, and all through the dining room members are excitedly perusing the event booklet to read all about AAUW Funds branch rankings, State Named Honorees, 5-Star Branches, Donor Clubs 2024, Special Awards, Branch Named Honorees 2024, Tributes and Memorials, and Oregon-related AAUW Endowments. It was a busy night, for sure.

Congratulations to Pendleton Branch and to Pendleton Members!

Pendleton Branch ranks #7 in the state with its 2024 total donations of \$2,675 from the branch and individual members. (#1 Hillsboro-Forest Grove Branch contributed \$7,271.) Pendleton also ranks 7th with \$66.87 per capita. (#1 per capita is Yamhill County Branch where a membership of eight earns a \$164.71 per capita.)

Pendleton, we rock!

Pendleton Branch was acknowledged as receiving a 1-Star ranking in the AAUW's 5-Star program that ranks branches on their alignment with AAUW's strategic plan. (Salem-*****; Ashland, Hillsboro-Forest Grove, Online Branch-***; Albany, Grants Pass, Gresham Area-***; Eugene-Lane, Medford, Pendleton, Tillamook- *)

Individual donors of \$100.00 or more in 2024 were Julianne Sawyer (25+ years); Harriet Isom, Kate Mace, Diane Barnes (8-15 years); Jill Heffner, Marlene Krout, Karen King (4-7 years); and Regina Braker (1st year...yay!).

Twelve branches (but not Pendleton) designated 100% of their 2024 donations to Greatest Needs Fund #9110.

Pendleton's Branch Named Honorees will be announced at the next branch meeting (Kate, Marlene, Regina...shhh! Don't tell.)

Jill Heffner, Pendleton AAUW Funds Chair, was chosen by Claudia Gray, AAUW of OR Funds Chair, as her 2024 Named Honoree.

Oregon-Related AAUW Endowments include Pendleton, OR Branch. Other than Oregon State Division, the other 18 endowments are individuals.

Just so you know...Pendleton Branch is well-known throughout the state for its commitment to AAUW Funds.

Thank you for supporting AAUW Funds.

