

## President's Message

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President, Rose-Linda Baldwin; Co-Presidents-elect/ Programs, Phyllis Driver and Bari Gerbig; Secretary, Barbara LeFevre, CU Relations, Anne Loy; Treasurer, Patty McGrew; Membership/ Diversity, Oladayo Bello; Bylaws/ Policies, Judy Poulson; Public Relations, Janet Murray; Public Policy, Linda Murawski; Website, Cindy Serbin; Newsletter, Sherry Scott

Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

The last two weeks of this extraordinary year have certainly topped the unusual happenings that have occurred throughout the past months.

First, our state and local counties became known as the worst hot spots in the country for uncontrollable growth in the pandemic. Not good news for us.

But then, second, our weather gave us a very pretty gift for the holidays. It didn't matter if you viewed the lovely snow from inside or actually got outside to feel the cold; this was an experience to actually enjoy after dealing with so much unpleasantness from the continuing pandemic and political upheaval.

Let us be glad 2020 is drawing to a close and welcome a new year that will hopefully bring better news for all.

Let us continue to use our newly learned skills for fostering AAUW's mission in 2021.

### Annual Business Meeting

January 9, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

Dr. Joanne Logan, Guest Speaker\*

**“Global Warming: Can You Hear The Warning?”**

\*See her bio on page 2

### A New Look: AAUW 2021 Colors

AAUW updated its look with a new graphics design. This included a new color palette and website. These colors should now be used in all AAUW communications.



### Check Out AAUW's New Website

#### 2021 Priority Issues

##### **Removing Bias From Education**

Startling inequalities persist in American education. Gender, economics, race and ethnicity should not limit our opportunities.

##### **Fighting for Fair Pay and Economic Equity**

It's time to close the pay gap and for the work world to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion so we can all thrive.

##### **Advancing Women in Leadership**

Women make up more than half of college graduates and half of the labor force. But we're still not represented at the upper levels. We need equal representation.



Established in 1888 as First Branch in Tennessee

## January 9, 2021 Branch Meeting

### Annual Business Meeting

#### Proposed Bylaws Change Vote

*This meeting will be held via Zoom, and the link for joining it will be sent via email before the date. If you have questions or need help accessing Zoom, please contact Rose-Linda Baldwin or Sherry Scott.*

Below are the proposed Bylaw amendments to provide for electronic meetings that will be voted on at the January business meeting.

Article IX, Section 6. Electronic Meetings. When circumstances prevent a physical meeting of the **Affiliate Membership**, an electronic meeting may be held. For business to be conducted, i.e. decisions made, at the electronic meeting, certain conditions must be met: 1) the meeting must provide for simultaneous aural communication of the participants; and 2) the technology used for the meeting must be available to all participants.

Article X, Section 8. Electronic Meetings. When circumstances prevent a physical meeting of the **Board of Directors**, an electronic meeting may be held. For business to be conducted, i.e. decisions made, at the electronic meeting certain conditions must be met: 1) the meeting must provide for simultaneous aural communication of the participants; and 2) the technology used for the meeting must be available to all participants.

Article XI, Section 5. Electronic Meetings. When circumstances prevent a physical meeting of the **Executive Committee**, an electronic meeting may be held. For business to be conducted, i.e. decisions made, at the electronic meeting, certain conditions must be met: 1) the meeting must provide for simultaneous aural communication of the participants; and 2) the technology used for the meeting must be available to all participants.

### “Global Warming: Can You Hear The Warning?”

#### Dr. Joanne Logan, Guest Speaker



Joanne Logan hails from Boston, Massachusetts, so forgive her Yankee accent. She studied soil science at the University of Connecticut, followed by a three-year stint as a soil scientist in Peace Corps Ecuador. She earned her advanced degrees in Applied Climatology from the Agency for International Development

(USAID) in the University of Nebraska, followed by a two-year assignment for the US Dominican Republic. Since 1987, she has been a faculty member at the University of Tennessee, where she currently directs and teaches in the undergraduate program in Environmental and Soil Sciences. For many years, she taught the only Climate Change related course at UT; although, there are more of them now.

In 2007, she attended Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project training in Nashville, providing her access to his amazing set of slides and the most recent data and reports related to climate change science. It is a subset of these that she will be presenting to this group.

Her research expertise includes climate change signals in rainfall and temperature patterns, impacts on crops and food security, as well as regenerative agriculture and its role in combatting climate change.

She also serves as an associate state climatologist, and is the current chair of the local group of the Sierra Club, where she is an environmental and social activist, with an emphasis on the climate crisis.



[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

[knoxville-tn.aauw.net](http://knoxville-tn.aauw.net)

[facebook.com/aauwknoxville](https://facebook.com/aauwknoxville)

## College and University Activity

Congratulations to **Sarah Mingo, UTK, Sreya Kumpatla, UTK and Lily Winebarger, Maryville College**, who have received a Scholarship from AAUW-TN to attend the 2021 NCCWSL conference in College Park, Maryland in May 2021. The scholarships were funded by AAUW-TN, The Tennessee Women Project, and AAUW-Nashville Branch.

Traditionally, two NCCWSL scholarships are awarded annually as support for the winners to attend the AAUW NCCWSL conference in College Park, Maryland. However, since no awards were given in 2020, the funds were given to three winners for 2021.



**Sreya Kumpatla**

Sreya is a Sophomore majoring in Aerospace Engineering at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is an Engineering Ambassador for Tickle College of Engineering, Treasurer and Head of Finance Committee of TEDxUTK, Elementary School Outreach Chair and Outreach Chair for the Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

Sreya was nominated by UTK, College/University Partners.

In her own words:

*I think that the work that AAUW and NCCWSL do – the resources they provide, the experiences they create, and the connections that they encourage – will help me in recognizing the most pressing issues that female college students face and better develop my communication and leadership skills to truly lead my community here at UTK.*



**Sarah Mingo**

Sarah is a Junior majoring in Elementary Education at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is the Clearance Brown Theater Lead House Manager, Communications Chair of Black Educators of Tomorrow, a member of Black History Planning Committee, and a volunteer at Idyllwilde Elementary School.

Sarah was nominated by UTK, College/University Partners.

In her own words:

*I expect to benefit from attending NCCWSL in many ways, the first being learning how to advocate for myself and gain inspiration to continue on and break down barriers for women of color in leadership. I feel in my times of uncertainty to know other women have led a path and are cheering me on to go further, gives me so much strength in hard times.*

***Congratulations Sreya and Sarah – We look forward to meeting you.***



Established in 1888 as First Branch in Tennessee

## Voting 2020

### Who Did Not Vote?

I know, I know...you are sick of the 2020 election and the data that goes with it. But now that it is over (It is over, isn't it?) some interesting facts have emerged. NPR and the Medill School of Journalism commissioned an external organization to conduct a survey of US adults who did not vote.

### So, Who Did Not Vote And Why?

More Americans voted in 2020 than any other presidential election in 120 years. About 67% of eligible voters cast their ballots this year, but that means a third did not. That amounts to about 80 million people. Nonvoters have several reasons for not voting according to the survey.

### Nonvoter's reasons for not voting include:

- Not being registered to vote (29%)
- Not being interested in politics (23%)
- Not liking the candidates (20%)
- A feeling their vote would not have made a difference (16%)
- Being undecided for whom to vote (10%)

They feel disengaged, disaffected, and do not believe politics can make a difference in their lives. They are more likely to be Latino, younger, make less money and have lower levels of education than voters.

Nonvoters also mostly shunned news of the presidential election. They were far less likely to have watched the debates or conventions. Fewer than a third watched the presidential debates, compared to two-thirds of voters.

### What Would Motivate Them To Vote?

Not much, it seems. Asked what they think would encourage people to vote, the top answer was:

- None or Nothing (35%).

### They Suggested These Motivators:

- Cleaning up government (27%)
- Having more candidates to choose from (20%)
- Being automatically registered to vote (16%) (*I am not sure what this meant in the survey.*)\*
- Making Election Day a national holiday (15%).

### Incidentally

- Making Election Day a national holiday was the top answer for voters (42%).

Voter education is more important than ever. Just because the 2020 election is past does not mean our work is done. Clearly, as AAUW members, our work in voter education is ahead of us in 2021 and beyond.

*Linda Murawski, Public Policy*

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2020/12/15/945031391/poll-despite-record-turnout-80-million-americans-didnt-vote-heres-why>

*\*Ed. Note: Some states automatically include voter registration with driver's licenses.*



[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

[knoxville-tn.aauw.net](http://knoxville-tn.aauw.net)

[facebook.com/aauwknoxville](https://facebook.com/aauwknoxville)