

## President's Message

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Change is in the air now that Autumn temperatures are finally here.

During our Strategic Planning Workshop on October 19, we delved into the challenges our Branch is facing and looking for solutions to them for the future.

Retention and growth of membership, communication and connections between members as well as meeting structure were all targeted as items that need addressing by the Branch.

While we are continuing with our General Meetings' programs and our Special Interest Groups, an opportunity to enact some structural changes to our Branch leadership is coming. Look for the announcements of these Bylaws changes to be voted upon at our Business Meeting in January.

We are still looking for volunteers to form our Nominating Committee. This is a great opportunity to be of important service to the Branch. It requires only a limited time commitment. Let me know if you would like to serve.

Here's hoping all of us have an enjoyable Fall and a great year ending, staying safe and well.

Rose-Linda

### November 6 General Meeting

Bearden Library – 10:00 am

Alan C. Lowe, Speaker

Executive Director of the American Museum of  
Science and Energy in Oak Ridge

## Happy Holidays

2022

### Membership Renewal

This is your final reminder to renew your membership for 2021-22. Please go-online to renew or send your check to Patty McGrew, Treasurer.

We value your membership and really want you to continue as a member of AAUW-Knoxville!



Best Wishes and Good Cheer to You and Your Families and Friends as You Celebrate in Your Traditional Style with Hopes of Being Together.

2021 has been a stressful year for our Branch and our members. Yet, we demonstrated our strength and resourcefulness to adapt.

Let's look to 2022 to show our creativity and imagination to improve our efforts on behalf of women and girls by bringing new energy and action to AAUW-Knoxville.

# AAUW

## Knoxville (TN) Branch

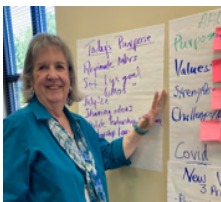
Established in 1888 as First Branch in Tennessee

## Our Members

President **Rose-Linda Baldwin** presented Certificates of Appreciation to **Judy Poulson** (Bylaws & Policy Sheets), **Barbara Mintz** (Treasurer) and **Judy Arnold-Rogers** (Secretary) at the September 25 meeting



## Scenes from the Strategic Planning Workshop



*Bari Gerbig, Barbara LeFevre, Barbara Mintz, Rose-Linda Baldwin, Sherry Scott (Facilitator), Patty McGrew, Judy Poulson, Janet Murray & Linda Murawski – Hard at Work!*

## College and University Activities

2021 NCCWSL Winners spoke during our September 25 meeting. They recounted their experiences during the summer NCCWSL conference in Maryland. **Bari Gerbig** moderated the panel discussion, and the women freely shared their thoughts.

*(l-r) Jessi Lie, Dr. Joan Heminway UTK AAUW Liaison, Sreya Kumpatla, Anne Loy and Sarah Mingo*



They were very excited about what they learned and shared with the Conference speakers and other attendees.

Among their thoughts were specific strategies to address anti-racism; understanding the importance of financial literacy for working women; reflecting on how they lead; recognizing the value of mentors; sharing thoughts of being women-of-color in the mainly White UTK enrollment; Jessie and Sreya, both engineering majors, spoke on the importance of STEM while Sarah focused on her path in education.

Overall, they appreciated the Conference as a “safe place,” fun, entertaining, validating and worthwhile. They have plans for going to graduate school and putting their leadership skills into action

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

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

## Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

### Dinner With Friends

**December 8:** 11:30 am; One-Pot Meals; at Susan Partridge's home

Contact **Sherry Scott**, Chair at [sherrybscott@gmail.com](mailto:sherrybscott@gmail.com)

### Evening Book Discussion

**November 15:** 6:00 pm; *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams; Cindy Serbin Lead at Bearden Library

**December 20:** 6:00 pm; *Stories From Suffragette City* by Fiona Davis; Rachele Joy Lead at Bearden Library

Contact **Janet Murray**, Chair, at [janetmurray45@yahoo.com](mailto:janetmurray45@yahoo.com)

### Contemporary Literature

**November 19:** 11:00 am; Susan Partridge Host, Reviewer TBD

**December 17:** 11:00 am; Rachele Joy Host, Sherry Scott Reviewer

Contact **Judy Poulson**, Chair, at [jpoulson319@comcast.net](mailto:jpoulson319@comcast.net)

Susan Partridge's "Chocolate Beet Cake" won as Best Surprise Ingredient at Dinner with Friends.



## Meeting Calendar

### November 6: Branch General Meeting

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location Bearden Library

Mr. Alan Lowe, Executive Director of the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge

### January 8: Annual Business Meeting and Officer Election

Time and Location TBA

**Alan C. Lowe** obtained his B.A. (1986) and M.A. (1988) in history at the University of Kentucky. In 1989, he joined the staff of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Los Angeles and Simi Valley, California. In 1992, he moved to the Office of Presidential Libraries at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. During part of this time, he also served as interim Director of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York.

From 2003 to 2009, Lowe served as the founding Executive Director of the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee. In 2009, he was appointed as the founding Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, in Dallas, Texas. In July 2016, Lowe was appointed as Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

Lowe began service in November 2019 as Executive Director of the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In that role, he oversees an institution devoted to telling both the stories of the Manhattan Project and of the continuing work going on in Oak Ridge today, and then using those lessons to advance a broader knowledge of science and engineering. When it opened in 2020, Lowe also became Executive Director of the K-25 History Center which was created to preserve the legacy of the K-25 gaseous diffusion plant, and to tell the broader story of the Manhattan Project and the creation of Oak Ridge.



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## May the Best Woman Win?

We already have sufficient evidence that a woman can be elected president of the United States. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by 2.9 million votes in the 2016 election, although she lost in the Electoral College vote to Donald Trump. Despite Clinton's near victory, however, it is important to consider the evidence that bias continues to affect female politicians' chances of success. As more women enter the political arena each year, voters' opinions about whether they are suited for political leadership have evolved. At the same time, expectations of women remain rooted in long-held stereotypes about their roles as caregivers and nurturers. The characteristics associated with these roles are not necessarily seen as compatible with the responsibilities of the commander in chief. To succeed in positions of leadership, women must be strong and decisive. But in doing so, they risk being penalized for violating social norms. Their very success in roles associated with men can have negative consequences, including making them seem less "likable." Research has shown that being likable is more important than any other factor to a woman's success in a political race. (Barbara Lee Family Foundation, *Turning Point*, 2011.)

Consider the following from a report on: *Education and Bias against Women in American Politics*.

- Bias against women in politics has declined over time, but 13 percent of both men and women still have doubts about most women's emotional suitability for politics.
- Older women used to be the most uncomfortable of all groups with women in politics, but that has changed.
- People of color are more likely than Whites to believe that women are less suited emotionally for politics than men.
- Family income level, generally, does not predict people's views of women in politics, although those with lower family incomes held more negative views than those with higher family income in 2002.

- Strong Republicans are more likely than strong Democrats to believe that men are better suited emotionally for politics than most women.
- People with higher levels of educational attainment have more favorable views of women in politics.
- Women can win in politics, but the playing field still is not level.

Bias against women in politics has been on the decline over the past four decades. That is a good sign for the women throwing their hats in the ring for any election. But in races as close as those of the recent past, even a small bias can make a significant difference. Education level was a consistent factor in predicting bias against women in politics in 2018, second only to political affiliation. The more educated respondents were, the less likely they were to indicate that men are better suited emotionally for politics than women. While age had been a significant predictor of bias against women in the past, the age gap in responses had narrowed to less than 3 percentage points as of 2018. These findings offer support for the common belief that education is an antidote to intolerance, at least when it takes the form of bias against women in politics. In addition, they indicate that across education levels and factors like sex, age, income, and race, bias against female politicians has declined over time. But women who run for office still start with a 13 percent deficit compared to men. The role that sexism plays in politics is shrinking, but it is still too substantial to ignore.

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

Linda Murawski, Public Policy Chair

October 2021 *National Geographic*. **The Persistence of Pay Inequity.** "For each dollar a man is paid in the US, a woman is paid less, sometimes half as much. Why haven't we closed the gap?"