

AAUW Lakewood Branch: Surviving and Thriving

The Lakewood Branch of AAUW has done many things to engage during the stay at home/distancing period for COVID 19:

Engagement with the ACTION Center: The Action Center foodbank and referral services has experienced a three-fold increase in demand during this period. Co-President Wakham sent an email making members aware of a significant matching fund grant request from a local business and members responded. Thrivent Financial designated \$872,000 to match donations \$1 for each \$2 donated. (Unfortunately, we have not tracked how much was collected from our members). Many members have increased their food bank donations and delivered food directly to the Center. Others have responded with donations of funds. A virtual Fundraising Event, "Where Action Matters", is taking place next week, and all members have been included in this memo from the Action Center. The dates are April 30, May 1 and 2.

Reaching Out: Several members experiencing injuries, surgeries and illnesses have received notes and emails thanks to Elnore Grow helping to keep members informed through email blasts.

Although social distancing prevented holding the April Meeting, in May Lakewood will host Patti Limerick, former State Historian, and now with the Colorado History Museum, on a Zoom Meeting. On May 14th Patti Limerick will be speaking on "What I Learned from Two Centuries of History and Two Weeks of Quarantine in 2002."

Members report finding at home projects long neglected—such as cleaning out closets and discovering crafts and scrapbook projects that were put on hold when we were all busily engaged. Others have dug up favorite recipes from their moms and grandmothers to cook comfort food. Everyone is getting out and enjoying walks and sunshine, but reporting missing the company of friends.

We have been calling around, and find that many of us are reaching out to help others in so many ways. Sending checks to favorite non-profits, hiring out-of-work young people to help with dog walking or yard chores to mention a few.

Everyone is reading more, reaching out to family and friends on a daily basis and meditating on what are the good things to come from this period in history.

Since Earth Day is April 23, do something fun such as eating a vegetarian meal, planting a tree or making masks for others.

Thanks to all our members,

Pam Lacy and Pat Wakham
Co-Presidents

Message from Pam Lacy, Co-President

“The time has come, the Walrus said to think of many things” I believe this was a favorite childhood poem or rhyme—and I am reminded that family games have increased along with watching movies and writing letters during our sequestration. I feel more child-like watching some old favorites, like “I Love Lucy” on TV and sometimes applauding as well as cringing at the messages of the 1950’s and 1960’s.

I have decided that whether a new Co-President has been identified or not in the next few months, I am going to ask 6 former Presidents or Board Members to take on the challenge for 2 months each next year and help with newsletter articles or networking. This will be unique, and will enable us to hear from members who have experience, without finding one member who has the time to commit for two years in this position. I will continue to identify someone for 2021-2022 to take on the duties of co-President—and if I cannot find two people, I will volunteer to serve for one more year.

The position of Co-president has been rewarding for me because I have been able to become more familiar with not only the Branch, the members and its goals, but I have also become familiar with AAUW National and its goals. In the coming two months Pat and I will prepare an annual report to share with all of you that enumerates what the Branch has done to promote the goals of the National Organization.

I hope that our annual Meeting scheduled for May 16th will take place as well as our Regional Conference in Fort Collins in June.