



Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

From Pat's Desk...

April has some important dates to remember. April 22 is the beginning of the voting period for our AAUW-CA Elections and it will run through May 12. This year our own Dianne Owens is running for Director and I hope that our members will support her by voting! She has a video about her candidacy and has emailed everyone a web link. You can also find it by going to the AAUW CA website and looking under the nomination and voting tab. Our AAUW national elections voting period begins online April 17 and runs online through June 15 (Paper ballots may be requested April 3-May 4 and must be mailed by May 29th).

April is also the beginning of our membership renewal period. You can renew your branch membership by paying for national, state, and branch dues online by logging in to the AAUW website with your membership number and going to the membership services database (MSD) and selecting the tab that says renew my membership. These dues remain at a total of \$86 and our membership needs to be renewed before June 30. If you prefer to pay by check, please mail your checks to our branch treasurer, Mary Beth Parks, 3980 Pinehurst Drive, Lompoc, 93436. I hope that all of you will renew your membership as early as possible.

Pat Grijalva, President

News and Events

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee, Dianne Owens, Kati and Jenelle, are pleased to present the following officers for 2017-18.

President: Patricia Grijalva
Program VP: Dianne Owens
Membership VP: Elena
AAUW Fund VP: Kati
Treasurer: Mary Beth
Secretary: Jenelle

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the May 11 meeting. Officers and Interest Chairs will give a short report on their activities for the year and the officers will be installed after the election.

Dianne Owens. AAUW CA Director

Dianne is a candidate for AAUW CA Director and she just learned that she will be elected as a Director unless someone else comes forward soon. There are three Director Positions open that match exactly the number running for office. Will there still be an election? As soon as I find out, I will let you know. If so, voting will take place from April 22 to May 12.

And here is the You Tube link to her campaign video! Thanks for watching!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sv5grn-7REc>

AAUW Fund

The Lompoc-Vandenberg branch was well-represented at the recent Interbranch Council-sponsored Fellows Luncheon. Held at the Santa Maria Country Club on Saturday, February 25, the theme was "Leadership for Women, by Women." The featured keynote speaker was Aileen Rizo who holds a Master's in Educational Technology and a second Master's in Mathematics Education.

Aileen related her experiences with Fresno's County Office of Education that led to her lawsuit claiming gender and wage discrimination. The AAUW Fund's Legal Advocacy monies have helped

AAUW Fund (Continued)

Aileen in her legal battle which has culminated in a hearing at San Francisco's Federal District court. Bay Area AAUW members were present to offer in both sign-holding and hand-holding.

Previously interviewed by Maria Shriver of NBC, garnering national attention, Aileen and her personal testimony supported the Fair Pay Act passed by the California Legislature. The Act has become the strongest equal pay bill in the nation.

Aileen is waiting for the panel of judges' decision, and when asked by an attendee if she would take her case to the U.S. Supreme Court if that became necessary to win, she made eye contact with her husband and daughters and gulped, "Yes."

All the current and retired teachers at the luncheon know how crucial salary steps are, with short-term and long-term consequences. Others remember being asked about past salary amounts, sometimes on job applications, sometimes in a personal interview. We were immediately sympathetic to Aileen's issues. She and her family received a standing ovation.

I was fortunate enough to meet and chat with Sharon Westafer, the California Director for AAUW Fund, who regularly sends me e-mail reports on donations. She makes herself readily available to handle any questions or issues that may arise at the branch and state levels regarding AAUW Fund.

In addition, Sharon provided brief remarks to the larger general group of Central and South Coast branch members in attendance, as did Donna Mertens, CA President, and Susan Pease, Tech Trek Camp Director at UCSB.

Like many women, AAUW members give for social impact and I am extremely proud of our branch as a small part of Aileen's struggle for pay fairness.

Remember, any day is a good day to donate to the AAUW Fund!

Kati, AAUW Fund Vice President

Membership

Did you know that your National membership dues help support critical AAUW programs that level the playing field for women and girls, such as:

- **New AAUW research on the effect of student debt** on women and their careers, especially in light of the gender pay gap
- **AAUW Work Smart and AAUW Start Smart salary negotiation workshops** that will train hundreds of thousands of women to ask for the paychecks they deserve
- **Activities to encourage girls to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math**
- **AAUW's advocacy efforts** that demand policies that will break down the barriers holding back all girls and women
- **Preventing discrimination** to ensure that schools maintain an equitable climate for students in every respect, including access to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields; opportunities for career and technical education; safety from sexual violence; support for pregnant and parenting students; resources for athletics; and fighting against single-sex education.

Our membership year runs July 1-June 30, annual dues \$86 (national \$49, state \$20, branch \$17). Please consider bringing someone to our next general meeting to have them take advantage that if a new member joins now at a public meeting, there is a discount off national dues. That would be a new member first year total of \$61.50!

During our last general meeting function, we welcomed two new members. Please add our new members to your directory:

Jane Murray Bio

I grew up in Britain where I met my husband. We came to the West Coast where we finally settled in Lompoc. We had four children, the eldest being Catherine Borgard, who introduced me to AAUW.

I was a stay at home mum until the children were older when I worked at LUSD as an aide to get work experience. Then I worked on base as an analyst. I retired in 1991 on disability.

Kari Rosson, Membership V.P.

Programs

April 24, 2017: “State of the Lompoc Unified School District 2017”

On Monday, April 24, Superintendent of Schools, Trevor McDonald and Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Education Services, Kathi Froemming will discuss the “State of the Lompoc Unified School District 2017” with us. The program will be held at the Lompoc Public Library, Grossman Gallery, 501 E. North Avenue at 7 pm. A short AAUW general meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.

Community members and prospective members are invited to attend the program. For more information, please contact Dianne Owens at dianneowens9@gmail.com or 805-733-1734.

May 11, Thursday: Annual Meeting and Installation

Please join us on May 11 for our Annual Meeting and Installation. It will be held at the home of Mary Beth. More information will be provided in the May newsletter.

Save the Dates:

April 22 AAUW CA Annual Meeting, Marriott, San Francisco Airport

April 22-May 12 AAUW CA Election by electronic vote or mail-in ballot

July 29 SBC IBC PCPA production, “Newsie the Musical”, Solvang Theaterfest

Dianne Owens, Program VP

Public Policy

Public Policy: If you go on the AAUW website to their Public Policy section, you will find copies of letters being sent from the national office to elected officials. Here is a section of a letter sent in January to the leadership in Congress regarding AAUW support for Planned Parenthood. AAUW advocacy for our priority issues merits our individual support as members. I am proud to see AAUW listed along with 130 faith-based and women/family advocacy groups.

“The more than 130 undersigned organizations stand united in support of Planned Parenthood and the millions of women, men, and young people who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers every day. We oppose any attempt to block patients from accessing the high-quality,

affordable health care that Planned Parenthood provides.

“In 2014, Planned Parenthood health centers served 2.5 million patients, providing over 4 million sexually transmitted infection (STI) tests and treatment, 360,000 breast exams, 270,000 Pap tests, and birth control for 2 million people. One in five women has visited a Planned Parenthood health center for care in her lifetime, and many rely on Planned Parenthood as their primary health care provider. These health centers play a critical role in providing access to primary and preventive care to many people for whom it would be otherwise inaccessible. Seventy-five percent of Planned Parenthood’s patients have incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and more than half of Planned Parenthood’s 650 health centers are located in rural or medically underserved areas.

“The current defunding effort is the latest phase in a long-discredited smear campaign against Planned Parenthood premised entirely upon highly edited and misleading videos which alleged wrongdoing by Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. Since the release of those deceptive videos, these allegations have been investigated extensively and rejected by multiple congressional committees and 13 different state investigations, which have found no evidence of wrongdoing. In fact, a Texas grand jury tasked with investigating Planned Parenthood instead indicted the makers of these falsified videos.

“There is no doubt that if this attack succeeds, many patients will lose access to a range of basic preventive health care services, including birth control, STI and cancer screenings, and other lifesaving care—and low-income families will be hit hardest. If Congress were to block all Medicaid patients from seeking care at Planned Parenthood health centers, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 390,000 women would lose access and up to 650,000 women could face reduced access to preventive care within a year. Many of the organizations signing this letter work on behalf of those who rely on Planned Parenthood’s compassionate, high-quality care and know how important it is that it continues to be available to those who need it.”

Marell, Public Policy Chair

Interest Groups

Mission Walkers Group (Weekdays)

Join the AAUW women who walk the La Purisima Mission every Monday through Friday at 8:30 am. Just show up to enjoy the walk and great company. If you need more information, contact Marell. If you are interested in walking on the weekends, please let the group know.

Armchair Travelers (4th Thursday of the month)

A BIG thank you to Joyce and her daughter, Bettie for sharing Joyce's experience during WW II and their two trips together back to Melbourne Australia. Another thank you to Elena. She sends out reminders for our meetings through Evite.

April 27: Denise will share her trip to Japan at 7:00 p.m. Sally will host the talk at her home.

We do not have a speaker for May, so as of now we won't have a meeting again until September 28 when Maureen Tolson will share her River Cruise on the Colombia River. More information later.

Let Sally know if you would like to present your trip or if you know of anyone that would be willing to present to our group.

Sally, Chair

Dine out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (2nd Thursday of the month)

The 2nd Thursday of the month Dine-Out group will go to the new Solvang Brewery on April 13th. A reservation has been made for 12 people at 6:00 PM. Therefore, it is critical we have RSVP's.

The restaurant has salads, hamburgers and pizzas on their menu. We suggest sharing the hamburger if you order it. It's just huge.

Please RSVP to Leslie. (Note: Billye will be out of town, so please just respond to Leslie)

We hope to see you there.

Leslie & Billye, Chairs

Interest Groups (Continued)**Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>
Apr. 3	A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles (Sally Prentiss)
May 1	Molokai by Alan Brennert (Mary Vossler)
June 5	Defending Jacob by William Landay (Eileen James)
July 3	The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hamamer (Cathy Rudolph)
Aug. 7	Oregon Trail by Rinker Buck (Shirley Dunaetz)

Roaming Readers meets the first Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at a place of the host's choice. If a holiday falls on the first Monday of the month, we meet on the second Monday. Guests are always welcome. Questions can be directed to the co-chairs: Carol Ann and Cathy.

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P.M. Book Explorers (3rd Wednesday of each month)

April 19, "Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett; Location - ??; Treats - ??; Drinks - ??

May 17, "Hillbilly Elegy: ..." by J. D. Vance; Location - ??; Treats - ??; Drinks - ??

We usually meet the 3rd Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. Members whose homes are not convenient can volunteer to bring treats or beverage. The hostess will provide water and tea. Please e-mail me if you would like to volunteer treats or beverage and possible book choices. The following books have been suggested: "My Stroke of Insight", "In Dubious Battle", "Rogue Lawyer", "Just Mercy". If you suggest a book, please check to see if it is in paperback. Some of our members do not use e-books and find hardbacks would not be their first choice to purchase if the book is not available through the library. The three books listed are all available in paperback. Please feel free to contact Gail.

Gail Meehan, Chair

Interest Groups (Continued)**AAUW WOW Group —“Women Of Wine”**

WOW will meet April 25, 7:00 pm at the home of Billye Iverson. All are welcome but please RSVP. Remember to bring a bottle of pinot noir. If you have a cheese or food that pairs well for a tasting with pinot noir, please bring that also. If you are interested in learning more about wine, please come. Please RSVP.

Billye

Calendar of Events

April 3	Roaming Readers: “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles
April 13	Dine-Out Group at Solvang Brewery in Lompoc
April 17 - June 15	AAUW national elections voting period begins online
April 19	PM Book Explorers “Commonwealth” by Ann Patchett
April 22	AAUW CA Annual Meeting, Marriott, San Francisco Airport
April 22-May 12	AAUW CA Election by electronic vote or mail-in ballot
April 24	Program: State of the Lompoc Unified School District
April 25	WOW Group meeting – Pinot Noir
April 27	Armchair Travelers: Denise will share her trip to Japan
May 1	Roaming Readers: “Molokai” by Alan Brennert
May 11	Annual Meeting and Installation
May 17	PM Book Explorers “Hillbilly Elegy: ...” by J. D. Vance
June 14-17	AAUW National Convention in Washington D.C.
July 29	SBC IBC PCPA production, “Newsie the Musical”, Solvang Theaterfest

Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW Branch Information

LV Branch Website: <http://lompocvandenberg-ca.aauw.net/>

LV Branch Mailing address: P.O. Box 2523. Lompoc, CA 93438

Facebook: Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There is no barrier to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Scattered Seeds Editor: Julie