



***From Pat's Desk...***

I hope that all of you enjoyed a very Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. I had a lovely gathering at my home and always enjoy sharing a meal and conversation. Please remember that we have much for which we should be thankful, and that there are those in our own state who are much less fortunate. Of the 45 Paradise AAUW members, all except for three know or think they have lost their homes. If you would like to help, you can donate gift cards to stores such as Target, JC Penney, Macy's, Kmart, CVS, Rite Aid, Safeway, Walmart, Raley's, etc. Send any gift cards to the state office:

- AAUW of California, 1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833

The office manager at the state level will send them to a contact in the Paradise branch for distribution. (We cannot use branch or state funds for this purpose).

The November elections are behind us and we saw a record number of women running for office at all levels. Congratulations to our own Jenelle Osborne on her election to Mayor of Lompoc. I admire her strength and persistence in trying to do what is good for Lompoc. On the national level, we will see, for the first time, more than 100 women from diverse backgrounds represented in the halls of Congress, bringing more power to perspectives that have been left out of decision-making for far too long. The issues of pay equity, access to quality, affordable health care and reproductive rights, and protections against sexual harassment and violence in homes, schools, workplaces and communities are just some of the issues that will be topics for our Congress. Please know that AAUW is there to make sure that issues that are important to us are not forgotten.

I hope to see you at our Holiday gathering for some fellowship and cheer. Wishing you a very Happy Holiday Season!

***Pat, President***

## News and Events

### **AAUW Speech Trek Contest - February 8, 2019**

The Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch is hosting its second annual Speech Trek competition; open to all enrolled high school students in Lompoc, Santa Ynez, Buellton and Solvang areas.

The timely topic for the Speech Trek contest is: "How can we - students, parents, faculty, our communities and organizations such as AAUW - eliminate violence aimed at our schools? What actions can we take to prevent another tragedy from taking place?"

Speech Trek committee members are hard at work scheduling information visits to high school classrooms, seeking funding and organizing volunteers for mentoring, workshops and participants for the event on February 8, 2019, at City Council Chambers.

Please contact our Speech Trek Coordinator, if you would like to participate as a student mentor or volunteer in any capacity. There is opportunity to donate snacks/waters for student workshops and the event.

Of course, donations are always appreciated - whether it is the gift of your time, materials, or cash to support the cost of the event. Coast Hills Credit Union has notified our Branch that they will cover the \$500 in divided awards for the top three placements. A generous (anonymous) community member has donated \$200, a \$50 member donation was received and Lompoc's March for Our Lives has pledged \$250. Greater funding will allow for an increased number of workshops at City Council Chambers, TAP TV, increased student outreach (posters/flyers/snacks), and the possibility of sending a student to the AAUW State Speech Trek competition in San Diego.

*Lucy and Pam*

### **AAUW Fund Contribution Opportunity at Holiday Affair**

At the annual holiday party for the Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW on Sunday, December 9, we will be collecting checks and cash toward our yearly donation to the national AAUW Fund for fiscal year 2018-2019. Please make out checks to our Branch with AAUW Fund on the memo line. If you forget your checkbook, but still wish to participate, checks may be mailed to our Treasurer. For the purpose of income tax deductions, in most cases, the deadline for 2018 charitable giving is December 31.

Remember, any day is a good day to contribute to the AAUW Fund! Thanks for your support.

*Kati, AAUW Fund VP*

## **Membership**

Dear Fellow Members,

As we look back at 2018, we thank you all for your participation and for advocating for gender equality.

Our 2018-19 branch directory is available for download at [lompocvanderberg-ca.aauw.net](http://lompocvanderberg-ca.aauw.net) under the Members Only tab.

Your membership helps make our voice heard and ensure that we create a path towards equality. We wish you a Happy Holiday Season rich with blessings and happiness.

***Raquel, Membership VP***

## **Branch Programs**

### **Holiday Social - Sunday, December 9, 2-4 pm**

Our holiday social will be at the home of Joyce. Please bring your favorite holiday appetizer, dessert, and/or favorite drink to share.

### **Save the dates:**

Friday, January 11, 2019: International Night – Greece-themed potluck and presentation by Kari.

Friday, February 8, 2019: AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch second annual Speech Trek Contest at Lompoc City Council Chambers.

***Pam, Program VP***

## **Public Policy**

AAUW California Public Policy Priorities support our mission and provide the basis for action and advocacy. This year they are reviewing our priorities and making changes to guide AAUW California in 2019-2021. The Public Policy Committee will draft new priorities which will be adopted by a vote of AAUW California members in the spring of 2019.

Your feedback is important and you are encouraged to complete the online survey. The survey lists the priorities and provides an opportunity to agree with the current statements or to offer

suggestions for changes. The deadline for completing the survey is December 10. You can take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WRTYKH5>.

**Priority Topic A:**

To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW CA advocates:

1. Pay equity, fairness in compensation, benefits, and economic justice.
2. Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes.
3. Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements, and protecting Social Security from privatization or reduction in benefits.
4. Programs that provide women with education, including financial literacy, training, and support for success in the workforce.
5. Strengthening programs that encourage career development and earning potential, including career and technical education, access to post secondary education, and welfare job training.
6. Policies that promote and support work-life balance, including child and dependent care.

**Priority Topic B:**

To support a strong system of high-quality public education, AAUW CA advocates:

1. Adequate and equitable funding for high-quality public education for all students, including preschool.
2. Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.
3. Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education, including sexual health education.
4. Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.
5. Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education, and for charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools.
6. Support for and adequate funding that gives women and disadvantaged populations access to higher education, including two-year degree programs and vocational training.

**Priority Topic C:**

To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW CA advocates:

1. Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.
2. Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, sexual harassment, human trafficking, and gun violence, in all aspects of life.
3. Increased access to quality, affordable healthcare, and family planning services.

4. Strengthening California programs, including affordable housing, that improve the lives of children in families living at or below the poverty level.
5. Support for United Nations programs that address human rights and women's and girls' issues.
6. Freedom in definition of self and family, and guarantee of civil rights for all family structures.
7. Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights for all.

### **Interest Groups**

#### **Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)**

The dine-out group is not meeting in December. We'll see everybody at the holiday gathering at Joyce's house.

***Leslie & Billye, Chairs***

#### **P.M. Book Explorers (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month)**

November 21      TBD: Contact Gail or another book club member for the current list and location.

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", "Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout" and "Wonder". If you suggest a book, please check to see if it is in paperback or available through the library.

***Gail, Chair***

#### **Roaming Readers (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Book &amp; Author</u></b>	<b><u>Host</u></b>
December 3	<i>When We Were Strangers</i> by Pamela Schoenewaldt	Myra
January 7	Reader's choice	Cathy

Remaining books: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, *An American Marriage* by Tayani Jones

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.

*Carol Ann and Cathy, Co-Chairs*

### **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 are interested in walking on the weekends, please let the group know.



### **Calendar of Events**

December 3	Roaming Readers: "When We Were Strangers" by Pamela Schoenewaldt
December 9	Holiday Social/Potluck
December 19	PM Book Explorers: TBD
January 7	Roaming Readers: Reader's Choice
January 11	International Potluck and Presentation: Greece
February 2	Healthy and Happy Me/Brunch/Program
February 8	LV Branch Speech Trek Contest at Lompoc City Council Chambers
February 9	AAUW Central Coast Fellows Luncheon at Hilton Garden Inn, Goleta

### **Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW Branch Information**

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

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

LV Branch e-mail address: [lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net](mailto:lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net)

Facebook: [Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW](https://www.facebook.com/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.