



From Pat...

February was a busy month. We started with our international night with a delightful presentation by Elena on parts of Italy that are near her original home. We also enjoyed a great potluck Italian-themed dinner and some wonderful fellowship. We had the Inter-Branch Council Fellows Luncheon at the Santa Maria Inn on the 22nd and there were 14 total from our branch or guests who attended. Our speaker is pursuing her PhD at UCSB in environmental studies intertwined with social justice. She talked about her research project focusing on the impact of water and temperature in urban areas as well as work she has done in India. Our Speech Trek winner impressed all the attendees with her speech—we hope she is able to place in the state competition and give it again at convention!

Speaking of convention, it is coming up April 17-19th at the Westin San Francisco Airport. I am planning on attending and along with some wonderful speakers and workshops, there is a hands on session called “Days for Girls” in which personal hygiene kits will be assembled. The Citrus Heights-American River Branch and other participating branches will be spearheading this project by providing sewn bags and pads. Supplies needed are girls' underwear--specifically, girls' undies that are 100% cotton sizes 10, 12, 14 or 16 in brief, hipsters or bikini styles (no boys shorts or thongs). Darker colors, floral, geometric are best. No faces or eyes. White undies and washcloths are often included in packages. These can be dyed a darker color. We will also need small travel-sized soaps. If you want to send any of these supplies I will be happy to take them with me.

In March we celebrate International Women's Day on the 8th, Women's History Month with our Brunch on the 21st, and Equal Pay Day on the 31st (yes, it is now in March rather than April). I hope that you ring in spring celebrating these events!

Pat, President

AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch Speech Trek 01/31/2020

Olivia, a senior at Dunn High School, won first place and \$250 in the third annual AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch Speech Trek contest held at Lompoc City Council Chambers on January 31, 2020. Yazmin (LHS) took 2nd place - \$150, and Edgar (LHS) placed 3rd and received \$100.

The YouTube video of Olivia's speech will automatically be submitted to AAUW CA to be judged at the state level.

High school students from the mid-Santa Barbara County area (Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang and Santa Ynez) were invited to participate in the AAUW statewide competition. In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, seven students presented meaningful speeches on the topic: "Are men and women truly equal today, or are the Suffragettes of 1920 still suffering in 2020?" The other participants were: Bella (Maple High), whose speech included an original poem, Victoria (LHS), Joseph (Cabrillo High) and Tori (Cabrillo High).

The students presented their speeches to the public and to a panel of community leaders who served as judges.

The Mayor of Lompoc presented the awards and certificates of participation to the students. CoastHills Credit Union was the gold-level sponsor for the total of \$500 in cash awards. Additionally, The Bookstore and Lompoc Foursquare Church were gold-level sponsors this year, contributing \$500 each to make the contest possible, along with AAUW member donations and multiple fundraisers.

Many thanks to all those who donated, participated in the fundraisers, served on the committee, mentored students and helped with the workshops and the contest. Special thanks go to our community volunteers: Sonia (Speech Trek Committee, fundraisers, workshops and contest refreshments), Mike (Speech Trek Committee, fundraisers, mentoring, workshops and school contacts) and Mayra (moderating, mentoring and workshops).

Pam, Speech Trek Coordinator

AAUW Fund

Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

Economic Security Fund (4449)

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.

How to Support AAUW's Mission

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting AAUW's critical work! When supporting the following funds, you give AAUW the ability to carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future.

Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be sent to the address below or made online at www.aauw.org/contribute.

P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045 | 800.326.2289 | connect@aauw.org | www.aauw.org

Marell, AAUW Fund Chair

AAUW Scholarship Committee Report

Your local scholarship committee wishes to thank you for your support in continuing our local scholarships to Cabrillo and Lompoc high schools for a girl graduating in the senior class who has been accepted at a four-year college.

At present, Kristin from Cabrillo is attending Cal State at Long Beach and Logan is attending UC Berkeley.

Scholarship applications were dispersed to Cabrillo and Lompoc high schools last September for the Fall of semester of 2020 and are to be collected for review by the Scholarship Committee on March 15th.

Our present bank balance at Union Bank in Lompoc is \$1,345.85 which leaves \$654.00 to be raised in order to pay for two \$1,000 scholarships in September of 2020 upon verification of student enrollment.

GOOD NEWS! With the help of Molly, LONGORIA WINES has agreed to host this year's Wine Tasting on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 at 1:30 pm. Located at 415 E Chestnut Avenue in Lompoc, LONGORIA offers both an indoor and an outdoor venue and can accommodate up to 28. Four wines will be offered for tasting, followed by an auction of one bottle of each of the wines tasted.

The cost is \$30.00 - the same as in previous years. Snacks and bottled water will be available.

This is our major source of revenue to pay for local scholarships and we hope you will continue to give your support and place the date on your calendar: SEPTEMBER 20th!

Again, thank you all for your past support,

Joyce, Local Scholarship Chair

Membership

Last month, we welcomed a new member: Terry F. Read on to find out more about her:

Terry was raised in Richfield, Minnesota. She earned her undergraduate degree from Minnesota State University - Mankato in 1970, majoring in Health and Physical Education and Biology. After teaching one year in St. Johnsbury, Vermont and one year in Neptune, New Jersey, Terry returned to graduate school at the University of Minnesota, with emphasis on clinical/mental health, focusing on comprehensive community support services. She completed her Masters in 1974. After a few years of working in community residential mental health services, she and her husband decided to provide their own small, residential homes to serve persons who were dually diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental illness. After 28 years they retired to Cape Coral, Florida for 12 years before deciding to join their two children and their spouses who have resided in the LA area for ten years. Plus, the Florida politics drove them crazy!! Terry and her husband love wine, so here they are!

We currently have 91 members in our Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch. Any **new** member joining our branch after March 15 is eligible to pay the full amount of dues (\$99.00), which will cover his/her dues for the remainder of the current year AND the following fiscal year.

Virtual events

AAUW has launched a convening series that will mark the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote. The virtual programs will spotlight the work you and others are doing on behalf of AAUW to ensure women and girls everywhere have equal opportunities to learn, lead and earn the salaries they deserve. Listen to the recording of the inaugural webinar at

<https://www.aauw.org/event/2020/01/2020-vision-the-gender-agenda/>

Barbara, Membership VP

Branch Programs**Women's History Month Celebration**

California Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson will be the keynote speaker at AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch's Women's History Month celebration on March 21, 2020. The event, themed "100 Years of Progress: From the Voting Booth to the Boardroom", will begin at 10 a.m. at the Sage Restaurant located at 4300 Clubhouse Road in Vandenberg Village. The cost for brunch is \$25.00.

Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to RSVP by March 14, 2020, by calling Pam or emailing lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net. Checks can be mailed to: Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW, PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438.

Save the Dates:

April 22, 2020 Earth Day/Environmental Program, Lompoc Library Grossman Gallery
General Meeting at 6:30 pm, Program begins at 7:00 pm

May 22, 2020 Installation of Officers

Pam, Program VP



**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION
with Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson**



**100 YEARS OF PROGRESS:
FROM THE VOTING BOOTH TO THE BOARDROOM**

MARCH 21, 2020 @10 AM

Sage Restaurant - Mission Club

4300 Clubhouse Rd, Lompoc Brunch \$25.00 - RSVP by
3/14/20

For reservations, call 805-588-2916 or
email lompocvandenberg-ca@aauw.net

Mail checks to: AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg
P.O. Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438

AAUW Public Policy News

January 2020

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is proud to announce its gender policy agenda, which outlines our priority issues for the 2020 election season. As a non-partisan organization, AAUW does not endorse specific candidates, but throughout our 140-year history, we have been a staunch advocate for policies that improve the lives of girls, women and their families. Here's what AAUW would like to see implemented to advance gender equality in education and the workplace.

Economic Security

1. Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Federal: pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Pay Equity for All Act and the Fair Pay Act.

State and local: states should identify holes in existing laws and work to fill those gaps.

Municipalities should enact salary-history bans and require wage-data collection.

2. Implement Paid Leave and Paid Sick Days

Federal: pass the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act and the Healthy Families Act.

State and local: states should establish paid leave programs or insurance laws for illness and care giving.

Municipalities should pass legislation providing protections to municipal workers if the state will not act.

3. Stop Harassment in the Workplace. Instituting robust protections against sexual, racial and other forms of harassment in employment will lead to great economic security for women.

Federal: pass the BE HEARD in the Workplace Act, the EMPOWER Act, and the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.

State: ban mandatory arbitration and nondisclosure agreements as a condition of employment, expand the workers covered by anti-harassment laws, and codify strong anti-retaliation policies.

4. Raise the Minimum Wage and Eliminate the Tipped Minimum Wage

Federal: pass the Raise Wage Act of 2019.

State: pass legislation to raise the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour and eliminate the tipped minimum wage.

Repeal any laws preempting localities from raising the minimum wage above the state level.

5. Close the Retirement Gap. Because of such factors as the gender pay gap and time away from work for care giving responsibilities, women lose out on hundreds of thousands of dollars in earnings, making it difficult for them to accumulate savings.

Federal: maintain and strengthen current Social Security benefits, including full cost-of-living adjustments, guaranteed lifetime benefits, a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits and disability and survivor benefits.

State: require employers to offer a retirement savings plan for workers or create a marketplace to facilitate plan assessments.

6. Protect Pregnant Workers. Pregnant workers are sometimes pushed out of their jobs unnecessarily, but simple reasonable accommodations could help protect their health and ensure that they could continue working to support their families

Federal: pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

State: establish protections for pregnant works so that they can access reasonable accommodations.

Education

1. Defend and Strengthen Title IX. Since the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, schools have made significant strides in providing equal access to education. But barriers still exist,

AAUW Public Policy News (Continued)

particularly for women and underrepresented populations. Elected officials must bolster the protections afforded by Title IX and faithfully implement and enforce this vital law.

Federal: pass the Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency on Campus Sexual Violence Act, the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA), the Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act, and advocate against regulatory action seeking to weaken Title IX protections and enforcement.

State: enact laws that align with the statutory provisions and intent of Title IX, making it clear and easy for schools to support students in accessing their education.

2. **Reduce Student Debt.** Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion educational debt. Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition- and debt-free options and expand loan forgiveness programs.

Federal: protect and expand the Pell Grant Program, make loan repayment and forgiveness programs more accessible to borrowers and address the costs students face beyond tuition by supporting programs like the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program.

State: enact loan repayment and forgiveness programs, increase need-based grant aid, and create "promise" programs that cover tuition and non-tuition expenses so the neediest students can succeed.

3. **Expand Opportunities for Women and Girls in STEM.** Careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are rapidly growing, but bias and discrimination inhibit women and girls from pursuing these fields. Lawmakers should help battle implicit and explicit bias by promoting programs that increase women's participation and advancement in STEM education and careers.

Federal: pass the STEM Opportunities Act.

State: establish grants and programs that encourage women and minorities to pursue STEM education and training.

Foundational Rights

1. **Expand and Protect the Right to Vote.** Voting discrimination is a threat to the very foundation of our democracy. Ensuring the right to vote is a prerequisite to establishing all the other policies AAUW advocates. Elected officials must protect and expand voting rights.

Federal: pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act.

State: establish automatic voter registration, promote early and online voting, institute voting modernization measures, support criminal re-enfranchisement and end partisan gerrymandering by creating nonpartisan redistricting procedures.

2. **Ensure Access to High-Quality Healthcare.** It is critical to women's economic security to have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare, including reproductive health care and family planning, and to have the control over such decisions. Policymakers must ensure all people have equal access to such care.

Federal: pass the Women's Health Protection Act and protect the Affordable Care Act.

State: expand access to health care, specifically reproductive health care, and states that have enacted harmful policies must roll them back.

3. **Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.** The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would guarantee constitutional equality between men and women — a concept the majority of Americans agree is necessary and that most people believe is already codified.

Federal: pass the joint resolution removing the deadline for ratification of the ERA. Toor support the language of the ERA as a new amendment.

To learn more, visit <https://www.aauw.org/article/aauws-2020-gender-policy-agenda/>

Dianne, Public Policy Chair

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

The Dine Out group will be having lunch at La Botte on March 12th at 1:15 pm. Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, March 10. We are looking forward to seeing each of you. Fun is to be had by all who attend.

Leslie & Billye, Co-Chairs

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

Please contact P.M. Book Explorers members for the book and location for February.

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. If you suggest a book, please check to see if it is in paperback or available through the library. Please feel free to contact Gail for further information.

Gail, Chair

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book & Author</u>	<u>Host</u>
March 2:	<i>The Lake House</i> (Kate Morton)	Mary

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. Questions can be directed to the co-chairs.

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 need more information, contact Marell. If you are interested in walking on the weekends, please let the group know.

Calendar of Events

March 2	Roaming Readers: "The Lake House" by Kate Morton
March 4	AAUW LV Board Meeting, 6pm at the President's house
March 8	International Women's Day
March 12	Dine Out Group at La Botte Restaurant
March 18	PM Book Explorers: TBD
March 21	Women's History Month Program
March 31	Equal Pay Day
April 6	Roaming Readers: TBD
April 9	Dine Out Group at TBD
April 15	PM Book Explorers: TBD
April 17-19	AAUW CA Convention - Location: Westin San Francisco Airport
April 22	Earth Day/Environmental Program
May 22	Installation of Officers
September 20	Scholarship Fundraiser at Longoria Winery

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

Facebook: [Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW](#)

Instagram: [@aauw_lompocvandenberg](#)

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