

***From Pam...***

As the end of 2020 nears, I am reflecting on the historical and personal issues of these challenging times. Though the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2019, the impact didn't start affecting us locally until we neared March. We held the Speech Trek contest in January, and many of us felt strongly that our local first-place winner would make it to the top three in California. Indeed she did! Olivia B., her family and our AAUW members waited anxiously to see if the Annual AAUW CA Meeting and Convention would take place. Though it took place virtually, we were able to attend on Zoom and had the opportunity to hear the announcement that Olivia took first place! Plans for our March Women's History month celebration and April environmental program were scrubbed — didn't have a clue at that time about actually using Zoom for meetings and programs. With help from Kari, and her quickly learned expertise from teaching remotely, our Branch held the Installation of Officers meeting that included the ability for members to attend virtually. So we began our new fiscal year on July 1, and newly elected Program VP, Lucy, took on the monumental task of our new reality — programs and forums via Zoom. Lucy, who is a force to be reckoned with, tore into learning Zoom meetings and webinars — and now holds a doctorate degree in Zoomology (don't ask)! The August program 'Implicit Bias', featuring Eric Abrams (Chief Inclusion Officer at Stanford University), was well attended, and demonstrated the positive impact of using Zoom. We can have a program from virtually anywhere without the associated travel expenses. Then came the forums in October for the Mayor/City Council candidates, and LUSD candidates. Our Branch was able to continue providing this greater-than-50-year community service, again because of Zoom. A big congratulations to member Janet who has been elected to LUSD School Board!

From Pam...(Continued)

I'd like to say for all of our members, we encourage you to take advantage of hosting or attending Branch functions with the use of our Zoom plan. Call or send an email to me, if you would like the password, and/or any assistance with scheduling and hosting. Our Branch package does not have the 40-minute limit of the free plans. And, here's to all of us getting together safely (via Zoom) on December 4 for the general meeting and holiday get together!

A special thank you to Dianne for once again compiling our Branch directory! Just a reminder, the membership roster is constantly being updated and can be accessed on our Branch website in the Members Only section with use of our password.

Here's to 2021 and the good things that are on their way, including the inauguration of the first woman Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris! We have waited a long time for the shattering of that glass ceiling! AAUW is not a partisan organization, however we do support policies that align with our mission and goals. We will have a President and Vice President, along with other leaders, who support and advocate for equality and equity as we do! And, of course, the COVID-19 vaccine will be available sometime next year! Stay safe and keep well: "When we can be together again, we want to all be together."

Pam, President

**Programs**

December 4 from 5pm to 6pm: Grab that ugly sweater and get your holiday on at our virtual holiday party via Zoom

Lots of fun and surprises are in store at our virtual holiday celebration this year, including a live performance from a local celebrity who's bound to lift our spirits, along with an ugly Christmas sweater contest and a look back on AAUW's many accomplishments in 2020. Who's the celebrity?? Is my Christmas sweater the ugliest?? Remember all the things AAUW did in 2020... follow on question... Where'd I put my keys?? Join us to find out (except for the keys question!), as we put a bow on 2020 via Zoom.

Lucy, Program VP

Membership Matters

I looked up the meaning of membership and found that it is defined by the relationship to a group that has common ties and is regarded as an entity. The state of being a member involves mutual dealings with people who are in that group. These past few months our ability to deal with others in our group has been inhibited by the restrictions of COVID-19—we cannot meet in person, and some choose not to meet virtually. Our interest groups are sort of “on vacation”. It is hard to maintain interest, or “membership”, if we don’t have these mutual dealings. I hope that you will not lose sight of the goals of our group and won’t give up on your membership. We will get back to in-person meetings and being able to share our thoughts with our “group”, and perhaps even be able to touch one another with a handshake or a hug. I know we all look forward to rejoining familiar members and meeting new ones—I know it is on the horizon!

Please continue to practice your “membership” and stay in touch with our group!

Pat, Membership VP

Public Policy

I hope everyone had a safe, happy Thanksgiving at home. As I write this, it is the day before Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, I hope you will forgive me for copying and pasting from the CA AAUW website. Had I not needed to provide this article for this *Scattered Seeds*, I wouldn't have learned all I did from reading this. I think you, too, will find it very informative. Thank you to Kathi Harper, our California Public Policy Co-Chair, who gets to work with the California AAUW President, our own, Dianne Owens!

We all owe thanks also to our State Senator, Hannah-Beth Jackson, who has termed-out this year. She has been a true hero for women, including Mother Earth! Fortunately, we the people of State Senate District 19 were wise enough to elect Monique Limón, who will continue in the fine tradition established by HBJ.

SB 973 Signed by the Governor!

By Kathi Harper, AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair

In 2018, AAUW co-sponsored a bill requiring companies with more than 100 employees to collect and report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing data on:

1. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex for 10 job categories;
2. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex, whose annual earnings fall within certain pay bands;

3. The total number of hours worked by each employee counted in each pay band during the reporting year.

The purpose of the bill is “to allow for designated state agencies to collect wage data to more efficiently identify wage patterns and allow for targeted enforcement of equal pay or discrimination laws.” The bill failed in 2019 and was re-introduced last year by the same author, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), and was signed by Governor Newsom on September 30th – the last day in the last hour!

Fifteen other AAUW California-supported bills were also signed by the Governor, including: improved medical care for incarcerated pregnant women (**AB732**); protection for women testifying in sexual assault cases from having their testimony of alcohol or drug use at the time of the assault used against them in a separate prosecution (**AB1927**); addition of “sexual harassment” as a form of prohibited sex discrimination in higher education (**SB493**); and expansion of the California Family Rights Act to require any employer with 5 or more employees to grant a request by an employee to take up to 12 workweeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period to bond with a new child or to care for themselves or a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner (**SB1383**).

Finally, as part of our “white allyship” posture, we are proud to have supported six bills that were enacted to address racial injustice and/or to enhance opportunities for Black women: **AB979**, requiring corporations to include a specified number of members from underrepresented communities on their boards of directors; **AB1196 and AB1506**, regulating police use of force; **AB1460**, requiring ethnic studies as a graduation requirement in CSU schools; **AB3070**, addressing discriminatory use of peremptory challenges in jury selection; and **AB3121**, establishing a task force to study and develop reparation proposals.

You can find additional information on these and all our 2019-20 bills on “Capitol Track” on our website.

Janet, Public Policy Chair


AAUW Fund

Our branch is wrapping up its annual appeal for AAUW Funds. We are still a bit shy of our goal. Last year our branch was commended for its generosity and I hope we can match that this year. We will write our check for the Greatest Needs Fund. Deadline is November 30th. Please make out your check to Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW. You should write AAUW Funds on the notation line.

We need to send our branch contribution in early December.


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.



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.




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.

**STEM
Title IX
Pathways to Jobs**

*Examples of programs include:
Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives
Fellowships and Grants
Public Policy
Research*




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.

**Pay Equity
Title VII
Retirement Security**

*Examples of programs include:
Start Smart
Work Smart
Work Smart Online
Legal Advocacy Fund*



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.

**Career
Workplace
Training**

*Examples of programs include:
Campus Action Projects
Empower
NCCWSL*

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 VP

Tech Trek

AAUW CA Tech Trek Branch Coordinator Update:

AAUW CA has determined that Tech Trek will not go dark in 2021 and will be a virtual camp season for all of CA. The design of the camp is based on a pilot camp successfully implemented in August 2020 by Mary Isaac/UCSD Camp Director.

The 2021 Virtual Camp leadership team is deep into planning for implementation of the virtual camp project, with the camper selection process kickoff scheduled for January 2021.

Two sets of information will help them determine the number of camps to provide:

- Which branches will send 2021 campers and volunteers;
- Relevant technology access needs for campers, especially those coming from Title 1 schools.

The board will discuss the virtual camp opportunity at our next meeting. I will keep you posted about our decision. I am leaning toward saving our TT funds until a reopening of camps on college campuses in 2022. Technology access could be a major factor for our Lompoc campers, and the loss of the on-campus living experience is invaluable.

As always, thank you for your continued support for Tech Trek.

Wynn, TT coordinator

Interest Groups

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

Because of the restrictions that restaurants are under due to COVID-19, formal Dine Out is canceled for now.

But please support our local restaurants by ordering take-out. There are two places to find out who is serving and what you can order. The first is the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce and the other is the Lompoc Restaurants Facebook page.

Thanks everyone.

Leslie & Billye, Co-Chairs

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

Please contact P.M. Book Explorers members for future books and locations.

We usually meet the 3rd Wednesday 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.

Gail, Chair

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

Please contact Roaming Readers members for the future books and locations.

Roaming Readers usually 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

December 4	Branch General Meeting & Holiday Party
December 7	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
December 16	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
January 4	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
January 20	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers

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

Instagram: [@aauw_lompocvandenberg](https://www.instagram.com/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

