



From Pam...

First, I'd like to thank Lucy Thoms-Harrington, Program VP, for the extraordinary webinar event "The ChangeMakers" — Nevertheless she (Lucy) persisted! Not only did the honorable Ms. Dolores Huerta speak live during the event, but she also wrote a personal email afterwards to Lucy expressing her gratitude for being part of the event and related such positive comments regarding the amazing Simmons Sisters! She is looking forward to next year's "ChangeMakers" event. It was also an honor to have CA Senator Monique Limón as our other keynote speaker. It is great to know we are being represented by one who is supportive of our AAUW goals and values — Equity for ALL! The Simmons Sisters, who sang their original song based on the theme "The ChangeMakers", are extraordinary and represent the best of young ChangeMakers! Thanks to Branch members who assisted in the success of the program and to all who attended. Bravo!

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend the live webinar, the link to view the program will soon be available on our Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW Branch's website. Also, the February IBC (virtual) Luncheon webinar is accessible for viewing! And, while clicking on those links, it will be a great time to register for the April 22 environmental program, which just happens to be Earth Day! (See Programs below).

So now, of utmost importance for April, the AAUW Election, with voting beginning April 7, 2021. The AAUW National Board supports eliminating the education requirement for membership, as do I, for numerous good reasons. Are we going to move forward or fall backwards? AAUW membership has dropped drastically nationally, including California, and indeed our own Branch. Are we

From Pam...(Continued)

going to acknowledge that, historically, women of color have not had the equal opportunities to achieve that associate or higher degree? Do we want to appeal to younger people and gain their membership, or stick to a rule that is perceived as “elitist”? Do we want to be able to obtain funding, which we would be more likely to receive if we didn’t exclude people based on a degree requirement? Are we going to acknowledge that the degree requirement robs our organization of many like-minded and very bright people who are supportive activists — just because they don’t have a degree? Included in this issue of Scattered Seeds are some talking points from National. When Jane Winter, Communications from National, recently called, she mentioned the extremely low voter turn-out nationally for our AAUW elections — only around 4,000. That really surprised me! She mentioned that it is usually those with negative feelings about the issue who vote in larger numbers, and we need all of our members to vote to obtain fair representation of views on issues. Each vote matters and all members will receive the email link. AAUW members in California make up 25% of members - our votes count, our voices matter!

Keep safe! As the Covid-19 vaccines are rolling out rapidly, we will all have the opportunity soon! Looking forward to the day when we can again meet in person - SAFELY!

Pam Buchanan, President

**Membership Matters**

I am pleased to welcome two new members to our branch:

- Dale Webdale, San Francisco, CA; Ph. 805-280-5095; Email: dale@webdale.net
- Tonya Troup Spurlock, Lompoc, CA; Ph. 912-492-2946; Email: ttspurlock@outlook.com

Both joined through the national website after one of our programs.

I want to remind you that it is time again to renew our dues. This year, national dues are \$62, State are \$20, and Branch are also \$20, for a total of \$102. Our Treasurer, Leslie Sevier, received a message from National asking us to send an email invoice to members and she will do that sometime in April. Please look for the email and use the link in that email to renew your membership. An alternate way to renew is to send a check for \$102 to Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch AAUW, PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438. Leslie will update your membership through her link.

Hope everyone is doing well and that many of you have been able to get your vaccine!

Pat Grijalva, Membership Chair

News and Events

Proposed AAUW Bylaws Amendment

Between April 7th and May 17th, all AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on an important bylaws amendment that will eliminate the degree requirement for membership. The AAUW Board of Directors and the AAUW Governance Committee give the following rationale for the proposed the amendment:

“AAUW’s mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This is simply the right thing to do.”

Our branch board strongly endorses the amendment. On April 1st, AAUW National held a “Town Hall” that provided an opportunity to bring questions and comments to what was an open and productive discussion (the recording is available on aauw.org). Over the next few weeks, we also plan to present responses to frequently asked questions. Here is one to start us off.

QUESTION: AAUW has been this way for a long time. Why do we need to change now?

- Our continued relevance will be enhanced by eliminating barriers that limit who can participate in our mission of advancing equity for women and girls.
- Staying relevant is crucial to AAUW’s survival. We will have access to more funding from corporate and foundation funders, which is critical. Many will not fund organizations that have barriers to participation in the work of the organization.
- Membership dues only fund a small portion of our work. Our self-imposed degree requirement actually discriminates against women and girls, even if it once was a well-intentioned incentive to specific achievement.

Bottom line, If the degree requirement is eliminated, membership in AAUW will be based on support for our mission to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy, not on whether someone individually has had the opportunity, time or money to attend college.

I hope you will take the time to carefully consider this significant amendment. You can learn more about the proposed bylaws change by clicking [HERE](#).

AAUW National

News and Events (Continued)

OPEN MEMBERSHIP FAQs (Sampling of questions from branch members across the US)

1. AAUW has been this way for a long time. Why do we need to change now?
 - AAUW has adapted itself to changing times before in order to continue to be relevant.
 - Our continued relevance will be enhanced by eliminating barriers that limit who can participate in our mission of advancing equity for women and girls.
 - Many corporate and foundation funders have clearly told us they aren't willing or able, based on their own criteria, to fund organizations they believe have directly or indirectly discriminatory requirements or create barriers to participation in the work of the organization. Corporate and foundation funding is essential for national nonprofits these days. AAUW's membership dues support only a small percentage of our work.
 - As part of the country's overall reckoning with systemic racism and inequality, much of which disproportionately affects women, it is time to recognize that our self-imposed barriers to participation are actually harmful, even if these barriers once may have been understood to serve as a well-intentioned incentive to specific achievement.

2. Won't dropping the degree requirement end what is unique about our organization?
 - The uniqueness of AAUW is its breadth of programming, research, policy and advocacy, fellowships & grants, and grassroots membership. Unfortunately, AAUW is also unique in its exclusionary membership requirement, which is particularly unfortunate for an organization advocating for equity.
 - Having a degree does not make someone "like-minded"—We are like-minded in our support for advancing equity for women and girls.
 - Having a degree does not make someone a better advocate for women or a better symbol of womanpower. Think Eleanor Roosevelt, Lilly Ledbetter, Malala, Greta Thunburg.

3. Don't we need to honor the legacy of our founding mothers by retaining the degree requirement?
 - It's been 140 years since our founding back in an era when only a very few women were able to go to college or find meaningful employment after graduation. Today, women outpace men in earning degrees at all levels. Women also make up (pre-COVID) close to ½ of the total workforce in the U.S. But economic disparities and discrimination against women persist widely, despite our levels of education and participation in the workforce.
 - AAUW can and should take pride in its past and present success in helping women attain higher education. The fully endowed Fellowships and Grants Fund will allow AAUW to be a leader in this area in perpetuity. Education is important and does make a difference.

News and Events (Continued)

OPEN MEMBERSHIP FAQs (Continued)

But it alone doesn't guarantee equal treatment or opportunities for women, something our founders cared about deeply. The battle to be fought is not just about education, but about equal treatment.

4. If the degree requirement is dropped, will branch membership increase?
 - Membership levels in associations and other organizations are affected by many things. But, certainly, our degree requirement is a barrier to joining for many women, and increasingly it is seen as elitist and discriminatory.
 - A rush of younger members to join branches is unlikely due to the age of most of our current branch members. However, more women in older age ranges may be interested in joining once the barrier is removed. Fifty plus years ago, many women, particularly non-White women, did not have access to higher education. We all undoubtedly have friends in this category--women who are "just as smart", "just as interested in equality for women", not to mention "just as much fun", who can't be members because of the current degree requirement. Many of us have been embarrassed by encouraging friends to join, only to find out they aren't eligible because they don't have a degree.
 - Our degree requirement has shut out women with diverse backgrounds and perspectives – who may inject new energy into the mission. Younger women, in particular, view the fact that we have a barrier to entry that disproportionately affects women of color and women of lower economic status as contrary to our mission.
5. Since college education is more accessible now, why do we need to worry about dropping the requirement?
 - Getting a degree was a badge of honor for many of us, building our confidence and honing our intellectual skills, and also helping to prepare us for work outside the home. For some it was also a badge of honor that meant we could join AAUW, an organization that helped keep us intellectually stimulated while we were still at home raising children. But degrees are not the "badge of honor" they once were, and skyrocketing educational costs, childcare, elder care, transportation, working multiple jobs and language barriers are significant issues for women today that make it hard for women to get a degree. Also remember that, as it stands today, many women have gotten their degree only to be burdened by two-thirds of the national college debt. Cost is a barrier many of us didn't have "back then."
 - Today, there are more careers open to women - firefighters, police, pilots, entrepreneurs, artists, politicians, manufacturers, retail managers, etc. that don't require a degree. Education can come in many forms, including career technical education, on-the-job

News and Events (Continued)

OPEN MEMBERSHIP FAQs (Continued)

training. Women without degrees can certainly be just as passionate about advancing equity for women and girls as women with degrees.

6. Won't we have to change our name if we drop the degree requirement?

- First of all, we've had a variety of names during our 180-year history.
- Today, AAUW is well-respected and high profile, particularly in its advocacy and research. We would not want to lose this position of recognition. Many other organizations use only initials and didn't formally change their names when one of the original words in the name became out of favor or inappropriate. Think NAACP or YWCA. Changing our name is not the issue to focus on. Opening our membership to a broader group that will work in support of the mission is the issue.
- Also, the full name has not been applicable for a while. "American" – we have worked internationally for over 100 years. "Association" – member dues now only comprise 15-20% of revenues. "University" – in 2005, membership was extended to people with associate degrees. "W" – in 1987, membership was open to men.



Programs

ChangeMakers! Celebration Recap

We received phenomenal feedback to our first ChangeMakers! Celebration of women leaders making positive change in our communities, state and nation. The March live dual-language simulcast event featured 5 ChangeMakers, all of whom were women of color: the icon of change Dolores Huerta, the CA Senate's newest powerhouse and first Latina, Monique Limôn, and the inspiring singers/song writers: the Simmons Sisters. Missed the celebration? Don't worry, it will be up on the AAUW YouTube channel soon. Many thanks to all listed on the Thank-You slide for making this event a reality. As a result, over 90 people expressed an interest in joining/supporting our branch. Here's a quote from the chat: "I'm in 8th grade at Vandenberg middle school, and I am so inspired by all the figures here tonight!! Thank you all so much for being such amazing figures and I am truly honored to be in your webinar, thank you all for being so inspirational, and someone for me to look up to!!"

Programs (Continued)

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a PowerPoint slide is displayed with the following text:

**Thank You...
Gracias...**

- The ChangeMakers! Ms. Dolores Huerta, Senator Limón, the Simmons Sisters
- Pillar of Change Sponsors/ *Patrocinadores Pilares del Cambio*
 - Allan Hancock College Foundation, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation
- Contributors of Change Sponsors / *Patrocinadores Contribuyentes del Cambio*
 - the Fund for Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women and CoastHills Federal Credit Union
- Collaborators/ *Colaboradores*
 - The Associated Student Body Government of Allan Hancock College
 - TAP TV
 - Our Professional Interpreter & ChangeMaker
- Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW Teams/ *Equipo Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW*
 - Publicity/Publicidad: Barbara Bolton, Amy Buchanan, Pam Buchanan & Elena Jones
 - Zoom Technical Production/ *Equipo de Producción Técnica*: Sarah Barthel, Hope Harrington, Tim Harrington and Lupita Rios (Allan Hancock College Student Body)

On the right side of the Zoom window, there are four video thumbnails:

- Top: Lucy Thoms-Harrington, AAUW Lomp...
- Second from top: ChangeMaker! Dolores Huerta
- Third from top: ChangeMaker! Monique Limón
- Bottom: ChangeMakers! Simmons Sisters

Next Up: Earth Day event Climate Matters! Perspectives on Climate Change Impacts on the Lompoc Valley, Thursday 22 April @ 6:30 via Zoom

Thanks to Marell Brooks, we have a terrific panel of subject matter experts who will give their perspectives on climate change. Here's the line-up:

AAUW Moderator:

- **Marell Brooks**, Former 3rd District Santa Barbara County Planning Commissioner

Panelists:

- **Garrett Wong**, Santa Barbara County, Climate Program Manager for the County Sustainability Division
- **Bill Buelow**, Program Manager, Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin
- **Rob Hazard**, Santa Barbara County Fire Marshall
- **Mark Hartwig**, Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire
- **Kari Campbell-Bohard**, local Agriculturalist.

Here's the link to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrc-igrzooG92GTZo5trXMbyc4hhLtLeEH>

Programs (Continued)



When:
April 22, 2021
6:30 P.M.



For access to the Zoom, meeting ID please register at: lompocvandenberg-ca.aauw.net



For more information, please visit www.citizensplanning.org or call 805-733-3462



916 Anacapa St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Impacts of Climate Change on the Lompoc Valley

The American Association of University Women, in collaboration with Citizens Planning Association of Santa Barbara County, will host a panel discussion on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The panel discussion, “The Impacts of Climate Change on the Lompoc Valley”, will include the following participants:

Garrett Wong, Santa Barbara County, Climate Program Manager for County Sustainability Division.

Bill Buelow, Program manager for the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin

Rob Hazard, County Fire Marshall

Mark Hartwig, Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Kari Campbell-Bohard, local Agriculturalist

The panelists will discuss the current and possible future impacts of climate change specific to the Lompoc Valley. There will be time for questions after the presentations.

Lucy Thoms-Harrington, Program VP

2021 AAUW California State Annual Meeting

Like last year, this meeting will be held via Zoom. No travel, no hotel reservations and no lunch, once again. But that means you can attend at no cost from your office, living room or kitchen!

You will learn what has been happening in California this past year and it is a lot! You will see the three Speech Trek Finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is and see the first Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us and we have a special event brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LFTDKDFrT4OReV_043fVmw



Interest Groups

Writing Group

New

Carol Ann Johnson wonders if there might be interest in forming a writing group. Members could meet once a month and discuss their creative writings for positive and constructive comments only. Contact Carol Ann if you are interested.



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 Brooks. If you are interested in walking on the weekends, please let the group know.



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.

Leslie Sevier & Billye Iverson, Co-Chairs



Interest Groups (Continued)

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. Please feel free to contact Gail Meehan for further information.

Gail Meehan, 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 Johnson and Cathy Rudolph, Co-Chairs



Calendar of Events

April 5	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
April 7	Voting begins for AAUW Election
April 17	AAUW CA Annual Meeting, via Zoom, 9:30 am
April 21	PM Book Explorers: Contact organizers
April 22	Earth Day Program: Climate Matters
May 3	Roaming Readers: Contact organizers
May 12	Branch Board Meeting via Zoom, 5:30 pm
May 19	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](#)

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 Schneringer