



President's Report

It's time for us to pause. Stand back and take a deep breath.

In the last 6 weeks, 3 members were diagnosed with cancer and are summoning their considerable strength as each faces this terrible disease. We stand with each of you and are sending hugs and strength. Two of these members serve on the board. Dulcie (Sinn) is stepping down as VP of Programs to focus her energies where they need to be currently.

I wanted to share that lives in our community continue to be positively impacted by the work of our branch. At Speech Trek 2023 last month, 3 courageous high school students learned to use their voices. Each delivered an original speech to a judges' panel comprised of community leaders answering this important question: "What can communities, organizations and individuals of all ages do to protect and expand voting rights?" Many thanks to Mischa (Dalcerra) and Jenelle (Osborne), co-chairs of Speech Trek 2023, along with committee members: Sonia (Sandoval), Samantha (Scroggin), Janet (Blevins), and hKatie (Brenna) who made it happen. Along the way, over 300 students from 2 high schools heard from AAUW's members in their classrooms about the work/mission and the importance of learning to use their voice. Read more about Speech Trek in the newsletter and in the media channels who will be reporting on the event.

Speaking of impact, a giant thank-you to Leslie (Sevier) for putting on huge sidewalk book sale over two days at Chapter 2 Bookstore last month to raise funds for the AAUW scholarships awarded to high school senior girls going onto 4-year

President's Report (continued)...

colleges with an interest in STEM disciplines. See the picture below under Scholarship! I got a chance to work the sale on Friday with Cathy (Rudolph) whom I had not yet had the pleasure of meeting. It was great to get to know Cathy and I look forward to having the opportunity of meeting each member at an upcoming program or just perhaps an informal coffee get together (just email or text!).

A very warm welcome to our newest branch members: Kay Duffy-Taylor, Tracy Beard, and Virginia Souza, as well as returning member Barbara McReynolds!! Check out the new member spotlight section of the newsletter to learn about Kay, Tracy, and Virginia!

As we celebrate National Women's History Month this month, its important to recognize the achievements of the past but also the challenges which we face to improve the lives of females. Lives of women continue to be improved by the legislation advocacy work of AAUW in the state and in the nation. ***Locally, I hope you all can join me at City Hall on March 21 at 6:30 pm when AAUW will receive a city proclamation recognizing Equal Pay Day and Women's History Month. There will be a community reception at 6:15pm with coffee and deserts hosted by AAUW (volunteers, please) in recognition of the significance of these two events.*** On April 1, there will be a Women in Leadership conference at Allan Hancock College (AHC) in Santa Maria. AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg has been invited by the Santa Barbara Commission for Women to be a panelist at this event. Look for a separate flyer on the event soon!

Lastly, Janet (Blevins) volunteered to be on the Nomination Committee for next year's board; I'll ask 2 others to join her. Please consider a position on the board or on a committee so that we can continue our work in the community, the state, and the nation at this critical time. And if you are looking for inspiration, check out the article in this month's newsletter from AAUW member and former LUSD School Board Member, Steve Straight, on why he joined AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg.

Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President



Branch News

New Logo! Get your permanent AAUW badge!

Want to be the coolest kid on the block? Order an AAUW name badge with the brand spanking newly released logo (see the top of the newsletter). Order online:

<https://aauw.source4.com/b2c/ProductInfo.asp?Category=8541&itm=131042>

Branch News (Continued)

Where are they now?

An example of the local impact by AAUW in the community comes from Karla Pantigua, who attended the Speech Trek 2023 contest. Karla is a Tech Trek Alumnus, winner of Speech Trek 2019 and a featured speaker about the importance of the COVID vaccine at the Lompoc Valley Community Health Organization's "Vaccinate Lompoc" program, a collaboration with AAUW (to see Karla's video go to <https://www.facebook.com/healthylompoc/videos/325608155641422/>). She shared with us how important these AAUW programs were in shaping her life and fostering her pursuit of nursing as a career path. This June, Karla will graduate from AHC and transfer to a 4-year university.



Notice of 2024 Dues and Changes

AAUW National is raising the dues to \$72 (from \$67) effective for joins/renewals which occur after 4/1/23 (in accordance with the three-year increase implemented by the AAUW Board of Directors in October 2020).

The State dues will be unchanged in 2024, remaining at \$20.

Locally, our branch board discussed and will recommend a small increase in the branch dues effective in June to \$23 (from \$20). If approved by 2/3 of our membership present at our annual meeting, this would mean member dues would total \$115 (National, State and branch).

In addition, the board discussed and will recommend that branch dues for honorary lifetime members (50 year membership in AAUW) be waived in recognition for their long standing support of AAUW. Finally, the board discussed and will recommend that branch dues be waived for undergraduate students and graduate students members in order to encourage their involvement in the branch.

Our branch by laws require a 30 day notice to members prior to the final vote by the membership on the amount of dues and membership type benefits (such as the waiving of branch dues for honorary lifetime members and student members). Approval requires 2/3 of the membership present at the annual meeting (May or June). Please let us know if you have any thoughts or concerns with respect to the recommendations prior to May 5.

Programs

Earth Day Program

In recognition of Earth Day, the April 17th program will feature Meredith Hendricks, Executive Director of the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County. Ms. Hendricks will offer an educational slide presentation explaining the work of the Land Trust in preserving area agricultural lands. The program will be held at the Grossman Gallery, with a brief business meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation.

**Join us for An Earth Day
Program
Monday, April 17
7:00p.m
Grossman Gallery
Lompoc Public Library**



*Join the conversation with
Land Trust of Santa Barbara County
Director Meredith Hendricks.
Meredith will share her extensive background in
protecting and expanding public lands, and some of the
challenges faced locally.*

Programs (Continued)

IBC luncheon a success!

Despite the rain, the Interbranch Council (IBC) lunch at the Craft House at Corque was a success. We joined the Santa Maria Branch and Santa Barbara/Goleta Branch in hosting the event featuring keynote speaker, and AAUW fellow, Nancy Morales (pictured right) who is a PhD student in Feminist Studies at UCSB. Members from the 5 cities branch and the San Luis Obispo branch joined us as well as guests and dignitaries from the SB Commission for Women and the Santa Maria League of Women Voters. Thanks to Pat (Grijalva) and Dianne Owens for their work on the IBC and to our branch members who were able to attend this terrific event.



AAUW Funds

The Lompoc Vandenberg branch of AAUW donated more than \$4000 for the 2022 year. Approximately 25 members donated. We will honor \$100 Plus donors at the installation meeting in the Spring, where we will also announce our Named Gift recipients for this year.

Marell Brooks, VP AAUWFunds



Scholarship Committee



Thank you to Leslie Sevier for holding the gigantic Book Sale at her Chapter 2 bookstore raising funds for AAUW scholarships!

Scholarship applications from local seniors are due March 15. If you are interested in being on the review committee, let Julie Schneringer know.

Julie Schneringer, Scholarship Committee Chair

Speech Trek

Congratulations to our 2023 Speech Trek winner, Josue Robles, a sophomore at LHS! The event was held on Thursday, February 16 at City Hall. This year's topic inspired lively and courageous speeches from all of the participants. In addition to our Branch level prize of \$300, Josue's video recording of his speech will be entered into the State competition. Our branch 2nd place winner was Adrian Guzmna (\$150), a junior at LHS, and our 3rd place winner (\$100) was Matthias Taylor, a senior at LHS. The State Finalists videos will be showcased at the AAUW California Annual Event on Saturday April 22, 2023. Much appreciation to all the mentors, volunteers, organizers, and judges (Tina Conley, Lillian Street and Janene Scully) for the successful event.



Left to right: Mayor and Speech Trek Co-Chair Janelle Osborne addressing Speech Trek 2023 contestants: Matthias Taylor, Adrian Guzman, and Josue Robles

Speech Trek 2023 Judges (left to right) Tina Canley, Janene Scully and Lillian Street with contestants Matthias Taylor, Adrian Guzman, and Josue Robles



Tech Trek

This year will be a challenge since all applications will be completed on line. I will keep you posted on how this works out. I sent out nomination papers to the middle school math, science and technology teachers in January. We had 12 girls nominated from VMS and 5 from LVMS. I met with the VMS girls and explained the program along with last year's campers who shared their experiences. I gave them an authorization to participate in Tech Trek form for their parents to sign. I will meet the LVMS girls next week.

Once I know how many parent permission forms are returned, I can input their names on the computer program where the parents will fill out the application. So, things are moving along a little slower than in years past. The good news is we have enough funds to send 5 girls to camp this year without any additional fundraising.

Thanks again for your continued support,

Wynn Clevenger

Public Policy

On Black History Month, it's inspiring to be reminded of early pioneers—but we must also remember that Black women make history every day.

I can't think of a better illustration of that than AAUW's Fellows and Grantees. Our alumnae include everyone from Barbara Smith, who helped establish Black women's studies in the 1970s, to Claudine Gay, who will become the first Black president of Harvard University this year. Visit our [website](#) and social media posts to meet trailblazing Black women from every era.

We should also reflect on the enormous obstacles confronting Black women, then and now. AAUW research highlights how the pernicious "double impact" of racism and sexism translates into larger [pay gaps](#) and greater [student debt](#)—and the actions we must take to stop this aspect of history from repeating.

In other milestone news: This month marks the 30th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, the landmark law affording workers unpaid leave to care for themselves and others. I was honored to attend a celebratory White House event, while joining with other activists to demand the next step: paid leave for all. It's another reminder that the weight of history is in our hands.

In solidarity,



Gloria L. Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer

Janet Blevins, Public Policy

Membership:

It is a great time to grow our membership! Please spread the word amongst your network on all of the wonderful work AAUW is doing to ensure Economic Security, Education and Advocacy for women. Encourage your friends and family to TAKE ACTION and join us, partner with us, or simply donate to our AAUW Funds.

New Member Spotlight

Welcome Kay Duffy-Taylor

Photo credit Chuck Kirman / Ventura Star staff

Kay is Lompoc native, and an attorney having worked for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' legal team and practiced as a criminal defense lawyer. Welcome, Kay!

Please add Kay's email and address to your directory:

Kay Duffy-Taylor

Email: kduffy5721@aol.com

Address: 454 Saint Andrews Way, Lompoc



TRACY BEARD

Welcome to Tracy Beard!

Tracy is the CEO of the Solvang Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women. Tracy is also the President of the Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW) working to insure the implementation of key policy and legislative changes for women in business.

Membership: New Member Spotlight (Continued)**Welcome to Virginia Souza!**

Virginia is a long time AAUW member of Santa Maria and is also adding our branch as an additional affiliation. Virginia is the Co-President of the Santa Maria League of Women Voters and was a Senior Vice President, Wealth Advisor for Morgan Stanley.



Mischa Dalcerci, Membership VP

**Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch Directory 2022-2023**

Here are the **latest updates** to our 2022-23 Branch Directory:

- Charlotte Hayes has a new email address: char.w.hayes@gmail.com
- Cathy Rudolph is now at:
 - 430 South E. Street, Lompoc
805-757-1223 grammyrudolph4@gmail.com

And here are the updates from last month in case you missed them:

- **Donna Wood's** new phone number is **805-623-6332**
- **Barbara McReynolds** has renewed her membership!

409 South A Street, Lompoc
BA, Holy Names University, Speech Correction
MA, Governors State University, Communication Disorders
805-736-6352 bmcreynolds@sbceo.org or mcreynoldsbarbara@gmail.com

Didn't get your Directory yet? Please let me know at dianneowens9@gmail.com.

Dianne Owens , Directory Editor



“Leaves” of our Branch: Why I Joined AAUW

Four years ago I was getting ready to participate in the AAUW Forum for School Board Candidates. As I signed in, I noticed an application for membership. Being the smart-ass that I am, I asked if I could join, thinking I would be told that this is The American Association of University **WOMEN**. I was told that certainly I could join and I was taken aback because I had all kinds of retorts ready, including ones about Title IX.

I picked up the application and took it home and I began to think about belonging, which took me back to a memory of an event in the year of 1990 or so. My daughter, Carli, was a very good soccer player. She played on a boys youth team and made the All-Stars. At the time, there were girls’ youth teams, but Carli thought the competition was tougher in the boys’ league. Carli’s All-Star Team was to play in the District Tournament in Paso Robles. One day she came home from practice crying. When I asked her why, she told me that they wouldn’t let her play in the tournament because she was a girl. I asked the coach if this was true, and he confirmed that it was.

I got the Tournament Director’s name from the coach and called him. I asked him if it was true that Carli could not play in the tournament and he said that was so. I asked him why, and he said that they ruled that girls could not participate. When I asked him why that was, he told me that they were worried about injuries. I told him that he had my guarantee that if she played, she wouldn’t hurt anyone. He went silent for a few seconds and I asked him if he wanted to talk to me some more or if he wanted to talk to my attorney. Again, there was silence and he answered, “She can play”.

Carli was always concerned with female issues. I am not sure if that incident was the beginning, but she told me that she was going to work on gender equity and the breaking of the “glass ceiling” from then on. She went to college and graduate school studying sociology, eventually getting her Ph.D from Claremont University. Dr. Carli Straight is now the Director of Institutional Research at UCLA. She does research into the UC system’s gender, race and other social questions of equity.

As you can tell, I am the proud father of a woman who succeeded in the system despite her gender, and because of her, I want to support women’s causes, particularly those of AAUW. Carli Straight is the main reason I chose to join AAUW.

Steve Straight



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Celebrating Women's History Month

This month is a very special month in which we celebrate all women. We celebrate women like Abigail Adams who was an incredible trailblazer for women's voting rights. We celebrate women like Rosa Parks who helped launch the civil rights movements and ignited a deeper look at segregation laws around the country. And Betty Friedan who wrote one of the first feminists books, *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963. Betty Friedman was ground breaking in helping women explore how to find personal fulfillment outside of traditional roles. Mrs. Friedman would go on to become the leading voice and president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) all while advancing women's rights for safe access to abortion.

Let us also celebrate women from the world of sports and politics like Billie Jean King, one of the first women to participate in a glorified battle of the sexes sporting matches, winning \$100,000 after beating Bobby Riggs in 1973. There is the incomparable Nancy Pelosi who became the first female speaker of the House. She didn't stop with that historical record. Nancy Pelosi then became the first lawmaker to hold office twice and for more than 50 years. Her contemporary and fellow co-worker, Representative Maxine Waters, was and is the first woman and African American to chair the House Financial Service Committee. She has also served the public now for more than 40 years. Rep. Waters has been a staunch advocate for international peace, justice and all human rights. She has implemented many community programs that are providing educational resources and employment opportunities to the Los Angeles community. Rep. Waters wrote the Neighborhood Stabilization Program which provided state grants, local governments and non profits the means to fight foreclosure, home abandonment and restore neighborhoods.

Let us honor and celebrate Hillary Clinton for becoming the first woman to receive a presidential nomination from a major political party. Let us celebrate and honor Kamala Harris as the first woman of color to become sworn in as vice president of the United States. It was in 2003 that Harris was elected as the District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco and followed a path into politics. In 2017 She then became California's first African American to ever be elected to the Senate in U.S history.

Then there is Stacy Abrams, a woman who deserves and has earned praise and celebration for her tireless political activism throughout her community and country. In 2006 Ms. Abrams would be elected to the House of Representatives and has not stopped working to help reform the criminal justice system, to stop unfair tax increases and to expand educational resources. Stacy Abrams is a true believer for voter's rights, founding the Fair Action non profit organization designed to ensure that all people who are eligible have the right to vote. That passion for fair play politics would carry

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

her into being the first Black woman in the United States to be a major party's nominee for governor when she was selected as the Democratic candidate.

And let us also celebrate the strength and compassion of Katie Porter who's a warrior when it comes to fighting for struggling families as well as fighting to make sure corporations can't and aren't taking advantage of consumers. Katie Porter made history by being not just the first woman but the first Democrat to flip California's 45th Congressional District in Orange County, Ca. Katie Porter is never one to back away from a challenge which is why she is currently in the running for Senator Dianne Feinstein's seat for Congress.

These women from all parts of history and all across the United States are but a few we celebrate this Women's History Month. Let's continue to be inspired by women as we make this month a celebration of women from all over the world and throughout history.

Bridgette Candice Angulo, Branch Diversity and Inclusion Representative



Interest Groups

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

March 6: *The Moonflower Murders* (Anthony Horowitz) Myra Wapner

April 3: *State of Terror* (Louise Penney and Hilary Clinton) Cathy Rudolph

Roaming Readers is open to all AAUW members; we welcome anyone interested to visit a meeting. We meet at 9:00 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (on the second Monday if the first is a holiday). We meet in rotating members' homes in person and via ZOOM. For general information or to arrange a visit to a specific meeting, please call either of our chairpersons below.

Carol Ann Johnson and Cathy Rudolph, Co-Chairs



Mission Walkers Group (Weekdays) – *note the new time!*

Join the AAUW women who walk the La Purisima Mission every Monday through Friday at 8:15 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.

Interest Groups (Continued)**Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (3rd Thursday of the month)**

We are going to the Village Cafe in Vandenberg Village on March 16th at 12:30. Please let Leslie Sevier or Billye Iverson know if you plan to attend.

Leslie Sevier & Billye Iverson, Co-Chairs

**Calendar of Events**

March 1	Branch Board Meeting
March 6	Roaming Readers: <i>The Moonflower Murders</i> (Anthony Horowitz)
March 16	Dine Out Group: Village Cafe
March 21	Proclamations from Lompoc City Council
April 1	Women in Leadership Conference @ AHC Santa Maria
April 3	Roaming Readers: <i>State of Terror</i> (Louise Penney and Hilary Clinton)
April 5	Branch Board Meeting
April 17	Earth Day Program
April 20	Dine Out Group: TBD

**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 Schneringer