



**President's Report**

I had a chance to remind myself about the great work AAUW is doing at the State and local level. AAUW CA is sponsoring or supporting 30 pieces of legislation that are critical to improving the lives of females. Of the 30, 3 priority bills were selected and briefed by over 110 AAUW members from across the state to assembly members and senators on 3/21 and 3/22. How do I know? Lobby Days 2023! AAUW briefers were trained by the legislative teaming set. I was on the team lead by our own Dianne (Owens) which also included Laura Selken (Co-President of the Santa Maria Branch) which briefed Ms. Jenilee Fermin of Assemblymember Hart's office. There is important work to do and AAUW is at the forefront. What are 3 priority bills? Look for the detail provided by Janet (Blevins) in the Public Policy section of the newsletter. Lobby Day's is a really interesting experience for those of us who are not steeped in the work that goes on to sponsor/support/advocate for legislation which are vital to women and youth.



## President's Report (continued)...

Locally, there was a giant crowd at city hall on 3/21 to celebrate the recognition of Equal Pay Day and Women's History Month proclamations presented to AAUW. Thanks to Julie (Schneringer) for receiving the proclamations and to Wynn (Clevenger), Janet (Blevins), Tim (Harrington) and Celeste (Pico) for attending. There was also 3 girls' teams (1 boy's team) with their coaches and families from Lompoc High receiving recognition for winning CIF championships in their respective sports (which certainly added to the crowd size and enthusiasm!): Tennis, Basketball and Soccer. It certainly made me think of the importance of title IX which continues today. The community appreciated the reception hosted by AAUW in recognition of the proclamations and the importance of women in the community.



### President's Report (continued)...

On April 1, AAUW was invited to present at the first “Women Speak Up” Town Hall on its legislative initiatives, local programs changing lives and the progress made in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Shay Allen, NCCWSL graduate and 2022 Change Maker panelist also spoke on her journey to AHC where she earned three degrees prior to transferring to Cal Poly SLO last fall. Its exciting to also know that Shay now has a 7 month old baby, Serena who joined the family with 15 Madison! The Town Hall was organized and hosted by the Santa Barbara County Commission of Women at Allan Hancock College’s Santa Maria campus and included several women centric organizations. It was an informative day of collaboration and inspiration! Thanks to Janet (Blevins), Shay (Allen), Samantha (Scoggin) for attending and Tracy (Beard) who co-chaired the event for the SB Commission for Women along with the chair of the Commission, Alison (Wales).



Right to Left: Tracy (Beard), Janet (Blevins), Shay (Allen) and Lucy (Thoms-Harrington)

Thanks to the nominating committee of Janet (Blevins), Wynn (Clevenger) and Alice (Down), the slate of officers for the 2023-2024 board is provided in this newsletter to be voted on in May. Many thanks to those willing to serve as officers again next year!

Hope to see many of you on Monday April 17 at the Earth Day presentation by Land Trust Director and many thanks to Marell (Brooks) for organizing this program! Look for details in the program section.

*Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President*



### **2023-2024 Slate of Officers submitted by Nominating Committee**

President – Lucy Thoms-Harrington

Programs – Open

Membership VP – Mischa Dalcerci

Secretary – Alice Down

Treasurer – Leslie Sevier

AAUW Fund VP – Marell Brooks

Parliamentarian – Dianne Owens

### **2nd Notice of FY 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 2023 Community Program!**

**Monday, April 17 at 6:30pm for business meeting; program begins at 7:00p**

Grossman Gallery – Lompoc Public Library

AAUW invites the community to join an Earth Day conversation with Land Trust of Santa Barbara County Director, Meredith Hendricks. Ms. Hendricks will share her extensive background in protecting and expanding public lands, and some of the challenges faced locally. There is no charge to attend. This will be a great program to invite a friend to attend with you.

Hope to see you there!!

**Join us for An Earth Day  
Program**

**Monday, April 17**

**7:00p.m**

**Grossman Gallery**

**Lompoc Public Library**



LAND TRUST STAFF



*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.*

## Public Policy

### **AAUW California State Public Policy Committee Sets 2023-24 Legislative Agenda**

by Kathi Harper, State Public Policy Chair

The State Public Policy Committee, in conjunction with our Public Policy Advocate Kathy Von Osten (KVO), has completed their selection of the 30 bills that the committee and KVO will be working on this year. This year our bills fall into the following categories from the 3 pillars of our Public Policy Priorities:

- 8 “Economic Security” bills
- 11 “Public Education” bills
- 21 “Social Justice” bills
- 8 “reproductive justice”
- 5 “healthcare”
- 5 “freedom from violence” including sex exploitation, DV, stalking
- “gender-identity protection”
- “voting rights”

The committee then selected our top 3 priority bills, including at least 1 bill which we will co-sponsor (“A” bills). KVO will spend most of her time working on these bills, including working with the authors’ offices, attending committing hearings, and writing letters of support. These are also the 3 bills members will advocate for in their Lobby Days visits. We then selected 3 next-level bills (“B” bills), which are important but not as resource intensive. The remaining 24 bills will be handled as “C” level bills. Here is a look at our top 3 bills:

AB1394 – This is our co-sponsored bill. It would allow victims of child sexual exploitation and trafficking to sue a social media platform for between \$1 million and \$5 million if the victim can prove the platform design knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitated the use of code words for sexual predators to describe the type of child and the type of sexual activity that resulted in the act of exploitation.

SB287 - Would prohibit a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the platform knows, or should know, causes child users to: purchase fentanyl; inflict harm on themselves or others; develop an eating disorder or engage in dangerous dieting; purposely take their own lives; and/or experience addiction to the social media platform. A victim of any of these consequences can sue the platform for up to \$250,000 for each violation.

AB549 - Requires all state agencies to conduct an evaluation of all their departments to ensure the state does not discriminate against women, and report their findings every 2 years.

***Janet Blevins, Public Policy***

### **AAUW Funds**

National is sending the quarterly updates of donations from our members. These are coming from the various solicitations that we all receive online. Don't forget our branch will honor our Named Gift awardees and several branch members at the Installation meeting in May.

***Marell Brooks, VP AAUWFunds***



### **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.

***Mischa Dalcerra, VP Membership***



### **Interest Groups**

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

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***



**Interest Groups (Continued)****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.

**Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month)**

The Dine-out Group meets the third Thursday or every month at 12:30. The restaurant for the next month is decided at that time and will be announced in the newsletter.

The group will be going to the Eddie's Grill in Vandenberg Village on Constellation, Thursday, April 20.

Please contact Billye Iverson at 805-757-7165 if you would like to go. Leslie will be out of town.

***Leslie Sevier & Billye Iverson, Co-Chairs***

**Calendar of Events**

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
May 1	Roaming Readers: TBD
May 3	Branch Board Meeting
May 18	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](mailto: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**