



**President's Report**

It's the holidays and I am thankful for each member of Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW! Thank you for all that you do improve the lives of women and girls in our community, in the state and in the nation.

I am reminded of the words of Michelle Obama at the 2012 presidential inauguration.

"We learned about gratitude and humility, that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean...and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect."

This year, Tim and I will be celebrating Thanksgiving at home, and we would be delighted to have any members of AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg who are free on that day join us in a great day of food and what's sure to be a boatload of card games & fun. Please email me if you can join us by Thursday 11/16. [lth.terralink@gmail.com](mailto:lth.terralink@gmail.com)

***Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President***

## Programs

### **Reception for Dr. Clara Finneran, LUSD Superintendent.**

What a great turnout and terrific conversation we had last month at Merell's (Brooks) beautiful home with Dr. Clara Finneran, the new Superintendent of Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD). Dr. Finneran shared her vision for the district including the preparation for a school bond in November 2024 to address the aging facilities in our schools. We talked candidly about the role that AAUW can have to improve the lives of students across LUSD.



### ***Next Up: Get your holiday on!***

#### **Holiday Party**

Holiday Party Potluck and Extravaganza: Sunday 12/3 from 1-3pm at the wonderful home of Kari Rosson, 304 Burnham Court (thanks, Kari!!). Bring a dish or beverage to share and don that ugly Christmas sweater (you know you've got 'em!).

## **AAUW Funds**

We are nearing the end of the donation year for AAUW Funds. As of now, 15 of our members have sent in donations via the online access. Please consider making a donation by using the AAUW links listed below. If you are not comfortable doing it online, you can send me your check made out to AAUW Funds and I will send them to the national office. Here are recommendations from State.

1. **Online Donations via the Community Hub:** One of the simplest ways to contribute is directly through our Community Hub. So long as you are making donations to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund you can make use of the Renewals and Donations function to contribute. Just fill in the donation amount by member without clicking anything related to renewing to process just those contributions. If you would like to donate on behalf of your branch or to other funds, however, consider one of the other two options.
2. **Express Payment Link:** If you prefer a more direct approach, consider using an Express Payment Link. This method doesn't even require you to be logged in! Simply provide the national staff with the donor's name, donation amount, and the desired fund, and they will create an order on your behalf. Following this, you'll receive a link to finalize the transaction with your branch's preferred payment method. This method will allow you to donate on behalf of your branch, to other funds besides Greatest Needs, and for multiple people. Email [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) with 'Express Payment Link' in the subject for assistance.
3. **Contribution Report Form:** The Contribution Report Form is another viable option but not as efficient as online methods. A leader (Marell) can fill out the form, which can be [found here](#), to send in either individual checks by the donor or a check written by the branch for multiple donors. Be sure to follow the instructions associated with the Contribution Report Form and mail in donations using a *trackable* method. While we encourage branches to explore the above online options first due to potential post office delays, this method remains a suitable choice for those encountering issues with the online platforms.
4. **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** - Thinking of making a year-end contribution from your IRA? Federal law allows people aged 70 1/2 or older to make direct transfers up to \$100,000 per year per person to charitable organizations from their IRA, without the withdrawal being treated as taxable income. To start first contact your IRA custodian and follow their procedures to request a "Qualified Charitable Distribution." The check sent must be accompanied by your name and address information in order for you to receive a written acknowledgement from national. Please provide the recipient information below to your custodian, along with our Tax ID #52-6037388. Before sending, please also notify us at [planned-giving@aauw.org](mailto:planned-giving@aauw.org) so we can keep an eye out for your gift and be sure to include the amount, your name, address, the designation of your gift (for example: Greatest Needs), and the financial institution sending your gift. Please direct your check, drawn on your IRA account and made **payable to AAUW, to:**

### **AAUW**

Attn: Planned Giving— IRA Distribution  
1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005

***Marell Brooks, VP AAUWFunds***

## Govt Trek 2024: It's happening!

Our first Gov Trek committee is formed! Thanks to Kay (Duffy Taylor), Janet (Blevins), and our newest branch member, Brenda (Villa) for making the magic happen for female juniors and seniors in Lompoc. Here's to the next generation of women making change in elected and public offices and to Gov Trek for perhaps being a catalyst of the change! Know a female junior or senior in high school? Forward the flyer! Registration is open now and slots are limited.

***Find out if YOU have what it takes to run the world.***



**7 SATURDAYS OF EMPOWERMENT**

- Engage on issues that matter to YOU! Gun control? Climate change? Voting equality?
- Interact in two-hour virtual sessions.
- Hear from women changemakers in politics.
- Work in teams to create a campaign simulation. You could be a candidate, campaign manager, speechwriter or communications director, field and volunteer manager.

**Virtual** 

Join other high school junior and senior girls in a free virtual program to learn about careers in public service and elected office.

**INFORMATION SESSION (OPTIONAL)**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 7PM**

**Session Dates**  
 We'll be gathering every Saturday from February 3rd to March 16th.  
 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 March 16th from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Register today! Space is limited**

 [govtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:govtrek@aauw-ca.org)  
 [aauw-ca.org/gov-trek](http://aauw-ca.org/gov-trek)

  


**Leaves of our Branch: Welcome our newest member: Brenda Villa!****Bio from Brenda:**

“Brenda Villa's life story is one of resilience, determination, and a deep connection to her community. Born in Mexico, she migrated to the United States at the age of 12, leaving behind her familiar surroundings and embarking on a new journey in a foreign land. Despite the challenges that come with adapting to a new culture and way of life, Brenda persevered and became an integral part of the Lompoc community, where she has been residing for many years.

As a student at Lompoc High School, Brenda discovered her passion for politics and advocacy. Her commitment to her studies and her dedication to learning led her to earn an associate degree in political science from Allan Hancock College, where she gained valuable knowledge and skills that would later serve her well in her pursuit of higher education.

In 2020, Brenda graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, a testament to her unwavering determination and her belief in the transformative power of education. Her academic achievements and her passion for empowering women and promoting gender equity have led her to join AAUW, where she hopes to make a positive impact and work alongside like-minded individuals who share her vision.”

Please add Brenda’s email address in your directory: [brendavilla2495@gmail.com](mailto:brendavilla2495@gmail.com)

**Engagement and Action**

Voting is essential. Districts are newly formed. It’s important to know what district we reside in for our local elections. Many thanks to Judy (Frost) for sharing this excellent link so each of us can know our district. Follow the link, type in your address and the data will be populated for you so that you know which district you reside in for the upcoming 2024 elections.

<https://www.sbcassessor.com/ElectionDataLookup/Default.aspx>



## **Public Policy**

All members have received the email from national with a link to the inaugural copy of the new public policy newsletter, but most likely have not clicked on the link to read the information. Here is the email message and link.

Please click [HERE](#) for the inaugural copy of the Public Policy News. This newsletter will be published monthly and is the means by which we will distribute our public policy articles for inclusion in your branch newsletters. This month's article is "Advancing Gender Equity is Advancing Environmental Sustainability", and you will find a link to access a text-based copy of the article at the bottom of page 3.

I attended the AAUW webinar on Book Banning and Curricula censorship on Sept. 21, presented by an AAUW branch from SLO county. There may be a link on SLO AAUW website to view the program which was an hour long for anyone who might be interested.

***Janet Blevins, Public Policy Chair***



## **Speech Trek**

The Speech Trek 2024 committee is forming. Please contact chair Jenelle (Osborne) at <http://orijenel@gmail.com> if you'd like to join the committee and/or be a mentor to a contestant in January. Speech Trek is open to all local high school aged students of any gender. Contestants will research, prepare and deliver an original 5-6 minute speech on the following prompt: *"If an educated population is essential to a nation's prosperity, then how can we ensure a robust public school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?"*



## **Education Advocates**

Join the other AAUW women in standing up to defend against book banning. Let's make our presence felt by attending our local LUSD school board meeting. The last meetings for 2023 are Nov.14 and Dec.12 at 5:30pm and held at 1301 North A Street, Lompoc, CA. Talking points on the subject of book banning are included as a tool at the back of this Scattered Seeds edition.



## Interest Groups

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

November 6: *Lessons in Chemistry* (Bonnie Garmus) Cathy Rudolph

December 4: *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* (Christy Lefteri) Diane Lawrence

January 8: Reader's Choice

February 5: *Wish You Were Here* (Jodi Picoult) Myra Wapner

March 4: *Abraham Lincoln: And Then There Was Light* (Jon Meacham) Gail Meehan

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 Cathy Rudolph.

***Carol Ann Johnson and Cathy Rudolph, Co-Chairs***

## Interest Groups (Continued)

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

Dine-outs are planned for Thursday, November 16 and December 21. Locations are TBD. The regular attendees will be notified of the details. Contact Leslie or Billye know if you would like to join in the fun! Hope to see you there!

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



### **Mission Walkers Group (Weekdays)**

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.

### Calendar of Events

November 1	Branch Board Meeting
November 6	Roaming Readers: Lessons in Chemistry (Bonnie Garmus)
November 16	Dine Out Group: TBD
December 3	Holiday Party Potluck and Extravaganza
December 4:	Roaming Readers: The Beekeeper of Aleppo (Christy Lefteri)
December 21	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**