



AAUW
Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

President's Report

Let's take a moment to reflect on how much the branch accomplished in 2023:

- We celebrated 25 years of Tech Trek's positive impact on the lives of 80 campers sent by our branch
- We collaborated with Lompoc Rotary to raise awareness, and to share AAUW legislative priorities, to hold social media companies accountable for their role in the recruitment of human trafficking victims
- We collaborated with the Rape Crisis Center to host the Lompoc community reception for Pedal the Pacific 2023 team of college women, who biked from Seattle to San Diego raising funds and awareness for the fight against human trafficking
- We conducted Speech Trek 2023 with 3 high school student contestants who delivered their original speeches addressing the prompt, "***How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?***"
- We participated in 2023 Lobby Day, briefing our legislative representatives to garner support for AAUW legislative priorities to improve the lives of women and girls
- We read at the book clubs, we ate at dine out, and we shared stories about our travels at Where in the World
- We hosted lunch with an amazing speaker on the exciting life of a Wildlife guide for the La Honda Steam Academy 6th grade girl science club

President's Report (Continued)

- We briefed and toured at StarBase – a DOD funded STEM program for all 5th graders in LUSD
- We briefed and received funding from the SB Commission for Women for Govt Trek 2024 student recruitment
- We were the invited speaker to share AAUW research, our local impact programs and AAUW legislative priorities at the SB County Commission for Women event Women Speak Up, a Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Community Connections Town Hall
- We hosted an Earth Day program for the community featuring the director of the SB County Land Trust
- We awarded 2 scholarships to outstanding high school females who will be attending UCLA and UC Davis in STEM majors. We made 2 branch awards to two graduates of AHC both of whom transferred to UC Berkley and CSU Channel Islands to continue their STEM educational pathways. All were Tech Trek alumni
- We hosted the new Lompoc Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Clara Finneran, to discuss the state of education at the K-12 schools in Lompoc and the priorities of her office
- We recruited students for Speech Trek 2024 and Gov Trek 2024 at the Interact Club and with Future for Lompoc Youth from Maple High School and Lompoc High School
- We briefed the Lompoc Unified School Board on AAUW priorities and local programs of high impact to students of LUSD (Tech Trek, Gov Trek, and Speech Trek)

Whew!



And now.....Happy 2024! Guess who's turning 60? It's us and we never looked so good! Profound thanks to branch **charter members**: Myra Wapner, Donna Woods and Tanya Shultz for their vision and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of women and girls in our community, state and nation, which continues today!! There's no limit to what we can do in 2024 to move the needle for girls and women. It will take all of us working together on local programs to make an impact and continue our progress. Thanks in advance for making 2024 a terrific year and a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the branch charter.

President's Report (Continued)

Jan Keller is currently our acting Treasurer through the end of the branch year (through June 30). A new Treasurer is needed for the next year and would be appreciated to help Jan for the next 6 months when Jan is traveling. Please contact a branch officer if you can help with this position.

Contact a branch officer and/or committee chair for other opportunities where you can get involved in making the magic happen for women and girls in Lompoc (and beyond!).

- Wynn Clevenger – Tech Trek
- Jenelle Osborne – Speech Trek
- Kay Duffy Taylor – Gov Trek
- Blye Iverson - Dine Out
- Marell Brooks – AAUW fund
- Janet Blevins– Public Policy
- Mischa Dalcerra – Membership
- Bridgette Angulo – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Barbara Bolton– College Relations
- Julie Schneringer – Scholarship

Please take a few minutes to read the **Tech Trek section of the newsletter** as it has really important information about recent decision taken by CA AAUW to put the UCSB camp on hiatus.

In addition, I am very sad to report that Leslie Sevier and Pat Grijalva have resigned from AAUW as a result of the decision. Our branch owes a deep debt of gratitude for their leadership of the branch in so many roles over so many years and for all that they have done for the girls and women in our community. When you see them, please thank them as well.

Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President



Tech Trek

We received a surprise letter from AAUW CA in December beginning with the following: “After careful consideration and discussion, the leaders of AAUW California and the Tech Trek program, with the knowledge of AAUW National, have determined that the UC Santa Barbara camps Blackwell and Hypatia will be on hiatus for the 2024 season. This decision was made to address concerns that have been raised regarding the camp experience.”

Concluding with: “This is a final decision, made after an extensive process of deliberation, including consultation with AAUW National.”

You can imagine what a blow this was to me and the board, after sending campers to UCSB for the past 18 years. At this point, we don't know what 2024 will look like for our branch but will discuss options at the January 21, 2024 program, Where in the World (see below under programs).

Unfortunately, as a result of this decision, Pat Grijalava and Leslie Savier have resigned from AAUW. Their departure leaves a giant hole in our branch...they were stellar members always willing to step up and help in any way possible, who will be deeply missed.

The branch sent a response to AAUW CA expressing our disappointment with the unilateral decision, the process which included no input from us, and the negative impact to our branch, our campers and our community. Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley, Santa Maria and our branch sent a joint letter as well. Other impacted branches are doing the same.

Wynn Clevenger

Programs

We had a wonderful holiday gathering at Kari Rosson's home complete with Santa, wonderful food and conversation, capped off by the ugly Christmas sweater contest. Though there were 5 truly worthy sweater candidates modeled by: Julie, Brenda, Pat, Kay, and Kari, at the end of the contest, the people's applause spoke volumes and Kari's snow globe-dollar tree-DIY creation took home the prize. Remember, it's never too late to start planning your ugly sweater revenge on the snow globe for next year!

Next Up **January: *Where in the World?!!* – Sunday January 21 from 1-3** at the Events Mission Valley (138 North B).

- Bring a souvenir and a quick story about one of your adventures in the USA or the world.
- Potluck snack - bring a snack item or beverages to share & your own place setting & utensils.
- Members and friends are all welcome to come and share, listen, network, and enjoy stories about the places and experiences that have impacted our lives beyond the Lompoc Valley.

Next Up **February: *AAUW Interbranch Council (Lompoc-Vandenberg, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara-Goleta) Brunch Saturday February 24 from 11:30 -2:00*** at the Craffthouse at Corque (420 Alisal Rd, Solvang) featuring author (and Santa Barbara Goleta AAUW member), Jane Honikman, and an AAUW fellow who will share her research. Stay tuned from further details on ticket price and how to make reservations.

Programs (Continued)

Next Up **March: *AAUW Speech Trek Contest Thursday March 7 at 5pm*** at Lompoc City Hall (100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc) for high school aged students of any gender. Come support the

students as each delivers an original 5-6min speech to the community and a panel of community leaders on this highly timely topic: ***“How can we ensure a robust public-school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?”*** Interested in mentoring a student contestant and/or helping with the Committee? Contact Jenelle (Osborne) orijenel@gmail.com

Virtual Gov Trek Student Campaign Simulation Competition March 16 from 10-12:30 pm

Interested in mentoring a student contestant and/or helping with the Committee? Contact Kay (Duffy Taylor) <http://kduffy5721@aol.com>



Public Policy

On Thursday, February 1, the Lompoc Vandenberg branch of AAUW and the League of Women Voters of Santa Maria/Lompoc will co-sponsor a forum for the five 3rd/4th District County Supervisor candidates.

All candidates have accepted our invitation to participate. The event will take place at the Lompoc Council Chambers and begin at 6:30 p.m. This location provides the most possibilities for community participation as it will allow for coverage by TAP TV and Zoom. The organizing committee will release more details in the coming days. We will use the standard LWV forum format and will offer pre-registration via a zoom invitation at which time audience members may suggest questions.

Marell Brooks, Forum Committee member



Membership

It is a great time to encourage your friends and colleagues to join AAUW. Now, more than ever, the important work that AAUW does needs support! If you have questions on memberships, please email Mischa Dalcerci, Membership VP at mischadalcerci@gmail.com.

Annual dues are \$115. (National \$72, State \$23, Branch \$20), and new members can join on line at: [https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/Interest Groups](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/Interest%20Groups).

Mischa Dalcerra, Membership VP



Interest Groups

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

Dine-outs are planned for the third Thursday of each month, with the next dine-out on January 18. Locations are TBD. The regular attendees will be notified of the details. Contact Billye if you would like to join in the fun! Hope to see you there!

Billye Iverson

Interest Groups (Continued)

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

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



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

January 4	Branch Board Meeting
January 8	Roaming Readers: Reader's Choice
January 18	Dine Out Group: TBD
January 21	Where in the World Brunch
February 1	AAUW & LWV County Supervisory Election Forum
February 3	Gov Trek begins
February 5	Roaming Readers: <i>Wish You Were Here</i> (Jodi Picoult)
February 7	Branch Board Meeting
February 15	Dine Out Group: TBD
February 24	IBC brunch
March 7	AAUW Speech Trek Contest
March 16	Virtual Gov Trek Student Campaign Simulation Competition

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

