



AAUW

Lompoc-Vandenberg Inc. (CA) Branch

President's Report

Thank you for being a member and happy Spring to each of you! Can you believe how beautiful the green hills and wildflowers are? I hope that you are enjoying the weather as much as I am as we kick off April. April is an important month for our branch and for AAUW as an organization.

Our branch is celebrating 60 years of making positive change in the lives of women and girls in the community, the state, and the nation. Our branch was chartered in April 1964, and we are fortunate to have 3 of those charter members still active in our branch today. We will be celebrating these ChangeMakers soon so standby for details in the next few weeks.

At AAUW, there's an important vote coming up in April. The vote will be on two proposed amendments to the AAUW bylaws:

1. Eliminate the education requirement to join AAUW and
2. Eliminate the student membership category

Ballots will be emailed to each member from Simply Voting in the first week of April. Voting will start 4/3 and will end on 5/15 @ 9am PST.

To pass at least 5% of members must vote and a two-thirds majority of those voting must approve. AAUW National and AAUW CA endorse the changes. Here is a link to AAUW CA which covers some answers to questions on the amendment and its reasoning. <https://www.aauw-ca.org/why-aauw-california-supports-removing-the-degree-requirement-for-membership/>

President's Report (continued)

Many of you might remember that in 2021, the amendment to eliminate the education requirement failed (by 2%) to meet the two-thirds majority required to pass.

Please let your voice be heard by AAUW on these amendments by taking time to vote.

For me, the vote is significant. At the AAUW candidate forums and at AAUW community programs like Pedal the Pacific, I've been approached repeatedly by several people who said that they strongly support the gender equity work of AAUW and would like to join AAUW but they don't meet the degree requirement. The degree is the barrier. These are impressive people, committed people and strong community members. These are the considerations that will be at the top of my mind when I vote.

Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President



Branch News

2024-2025 Board and Nominating Committee

Interested in running for a position on next year's board? Elected board positions include: President, Treasurer, VP Membership, VP AAUW, Secretary and VP Programs. Please let Barbara (Bolton) bbolton826@gmail.com, Nominating Committee Chair, know by 20 April. Want to know more about the positions? Meet with the board member of interest.



Wanted: Newsletter Editor

Julie Schneringer is retiring from the newsletter editing business after 12 years (since March 2012!). It is time for a refresh. Our branch typically publishes a newsletter 9-10 times a year, doing a double issue around July and December. The officers and committee chairs do most of the work providing the articles. This is a great way for someone to contribute to the branch when you need to be able to work at your own times of the day and/or remotely, such as when traveling for work. Anyone interested can contact Julie to learn about the process and scope of the position.



Programs & Events

Programs!!

WOW!! See the article below to be published in the April edition of the Lompoc Vision which includes links to the city hall proclamations, and Title IX female student athlete recognition. The Gov Trek finale below will be covered in a future edition.

AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg Moves the Needle

The Lompoc-Vandenberg branch of the American Association of University Women, a non-partisan organization open to all genders, celebrated Women's History Month and Equal Pay Day by receiving two proclamations from the city of Lompoc on March 19, 2024, commemorating the events and AAUW's work. Before the awards AAUW hosted a community reception at City Hall.

AAUW branch president thanked the city, the city council, and the mayor for the recognition. In her remarks, AAUW branch president, Lucy Thoms-Harrington noted the intersections of AAUW's work and important events in Women's History and in the efforts to achieve equal pay. AAUW founded in 1881 was instrumental in the suffragette movement which won the right for women to vote in 1920. AAUW (and its predecessor) has a long and continuing legacy of supporting research at the post graduate level which has included such luminaries as the Dr. Marie Curie, funding the Marie Curie Radium fund in 1921. Curie went on to be the first female to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in Physics (she received 2!).

Thoms-Harrington spoke about the gender wage gap and the important work to do to close it. Females of color receive 57 – 64 cents on the dollar earned by male counterparts. AAUW's support of Title IX which prevents discrimination based on gender in education was also recognized. Outlining the importance of Title IX on enabling pathways to females in athletics, Thoms-Harrington recognized Claudia Terrones, Athletic Director at Lompoc High School (LHS), and female student athletes from LHS in attendance. Sports represented by the student athletes were from Golf, Swimming, Soft Ball, Track and Field, and Football. Terrones pointed out that of the 24 sports offered at LHS, 12 are female sports including the most recent addition of Flag Football which had its inaugural season last year. To view the event, visit AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg utube channel

<https://youtu.be/Pt8C4LpmOvE>



Mayor Jenelle Osborne presents Women History Month and Equal Pay Day city proclamations to AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg. Pictured (left to right): Brenda Villa, Kay Duffy-Taylor, Samantha Scroggins, Terry Forss, Jan Keller, Donna Woods, Jenelle Osborne, Barbara Bolton, and Lucy Thoms-Harrington. Missing Wynn Clevenger.



Gov Trek Finale

March also brought the finale of the AAUW Gov Trek 2024 program where female juniors and seniors from across the state learn about what it takes to hold an elected position or serve in a public office. The objective of Gov Trek is to get more females to hold either elected or public service office where females are underrepresented. The six-week online program, offered at no cost to the participants concluded with a campaign competition simulation. Teams were judged by a panel of female subject matter experts. Lompoc High junior, Rebecca Sandoval, participated in the program as a campaign communications' manager for her team. The team went on to receive a judges' award for Campaign Flyer/Info strategy. AAUW Gov Trek committee included chair: Kay Duffy-Taylor and members Brenda Villa, Janet Blevins, and Dinah Lockhart.



Programs & Events (continued)

Rebecca Sandoval (center) Gov Trek 2024 student from Lompoc High celebrates Gov Trek Finale with committee members (left to right) Brenda Villa, Lucy Thoms-Harrington, and Kay Duffy-Taylor (chair). Missing: Dinah Lockhart and Janet Blevins

**Upcoming**

Thursday 4/4/24: Savie Health is inviting AAUW members to its Open House from 4:30 – 6:00pm (see flyer in this edition). RSVP by 4/1 to Eryn Parks, eryn.shugart@saviehealth.org.

Saturday 4/27/24: AAUW CA Annual Meeting, 9-Noon via Zoom. Register at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-annual-event-back-to-school/>

Lucy Thoms-Harrington, President

Programs & Events (continued)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR *Spring Open House*

1111 E. Ocean Ave. Ste 2
 Thursday April 4th, 2024
 Lompoc, CA 93436
 4:30-6pm
 Chance to win great prizes and
 giveaways



REFRESHMENTS, WINE, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT THE CLINIC'S EXPANDED SERVICES

RSVP by 4/1/24



Public Policy – Lobby Days

AAUW CA will be advocating with elected officials on 4/2 and 4/3 for the passage of three important bills impacting the lives of women and girls:

1. ***Assembly Bill 2843 – Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors.***
Eliminates cost-sharing including deductibles from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape.
This bill is sponsored by AAUW CA
2. ***Assembly Bill 2326 – Public Postsecondary Education: Sex Discrimination Policies***
The 2023 State Auditor’s Report found that CA State Universities handling of Title IX complaints has not adequately addressed allegations of inequity, harassment and sexual harassment and lacks a consistent method for addressing unprofessional conduct that does not rise to the level of sexual harassment. Prior State Auditor reports from 2014 found similar issues with UCs and CCs.
Bill Requires Chancellors, and University Presidents to provide an annual report in public, orally presented, on compliance of programs which are free from discrimination to include sexual harassment and therefore in compliance with Title IX.
This bill is sponsored by AAUW CA
3. ***Assembly Bill 2099: Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics***
Makes it possible for DAs to pursue felony charges (currently misdemeanor charges) for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers with the intent to commit a crime involving violence or threat of violence against them.



AAUWFunds

Each year, our branch recognizes significant work on behalf of women by awarding Named Gift Certificates. If you have a suggestion for this year's awards, please let me know. The number of awards is based on the total donations to AAUW Funds. The awards will be given at our Installation meeting.

Marell Brooks, VP AAUWFunds



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 April 18. April's dine out will be on **April 18 at 12:30 pm at the new Moma's Café** on South I street. Please call or text Billye (Iverson) or Barbara (Bolton) by April 16 to make a reservation to join in the fun. \ Hope to see you there!

Billye Iverson

**Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)**

April 1:	Oath and Honor (Liz Cheney) Judy Rarick
May 6:	Judgement Prey (John Sandford) Kathryn Johnson
June 3:	The Wind Knows My Name (Isabel Allende) Myra Wapner
July 1:	A Murder Most Royal (S.J. Bennett) Carol Ann Johnson
August 5:	Queen Charlotte (Shonda Rhimes & Julia Quinn) Eileen James
September 9:	Tom Lake (Ann Patchett) Cathy Rudolph
October 7:	Tears of the Giraffe (Alexander McCall Smith) Betty Staight
November 4:	Prequel (Rachel Maddow) Gail Meehan
December 2:	Last Devil to Die (Richard Osman) Janet Shiers
January 8:	Reader's Choice

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

April 1	Roaming Readers: Oath and Honor (Liz Cheney)
April 2-3	AAUW CA Lobby Days
April 3	Branch Board Meeting
April 4	Savie Health Open House
April 18	Dine Out Group: TBD
April 27	AAUW CA Annual Meeting
May 1	Branch Board Meeting
May 6	Roaming Readers: Judgement Prey (John Sandford)
May 16	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](#)
 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

