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Branch Website:

<https://lompocvandenberga.ca.aauw.net/>

Co-Presidents' Report

It happened but it's not done...yet! The Washington Post reported on 1/17/25 " President Biden President Joe Biden ***declared Friday morning that the Equal Rights Amendment is the law of the land, using his bully pulpit to try to push forward the amendment, first proposed more than a century ago, that would enshrine sex equality in the U.S. Constitution.***

"I have supported the Equal Rights Amendment for more than 50 years, and I have long been clear that no one should be discriminated against based on their sex. We, as a nation, must affirm and protect women's full equality once and for all," Biden said in a statement, adding that "it is long past time to recognize the will of the American people."

Last month, more than 120 House Democrats signed a letter asking him to urge the nation's archivist to recognize the ratification of the amendment by publishing it.

The amendment has not been added to the Constitution because not enough states ratified it in time to meet a deadline mandated by Congress. If the archivist publishes the amendment, legal challenges would undoubtedly question its validity, even though it has met all constitutional requirements....."

Thanks to your membership, AAUW's work at the state level continues to positively impact the lives of women and girls in CA. Check out the bill tracker tool to see just how impactful and successful our work is and has been doing to move the needle legislatively.

Click on the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JLvpR56LgEhUpnBXcq84S82TPGn3tRuhLG49yfINFG8/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

2025-2026 Branch Officers

We are looking for a few good people (lifted from the Marine motto which calls for a few good men :-0) to be on the nominating committee for the 2025-2026 board officers. Interested in being on this important committee or interested in elevating the lives of women and girls in our community and our branch by holding a position on the Lompoc-Vanderberg branch board? Contact Lucy or Kay by 15 February.

There are also opportunities to serve at the AAUW CA level. The deadline to apply is **1 March**.

For further information and apply see the attached link:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2025-aauw-california-nomination-election-process/>

Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President

Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-President

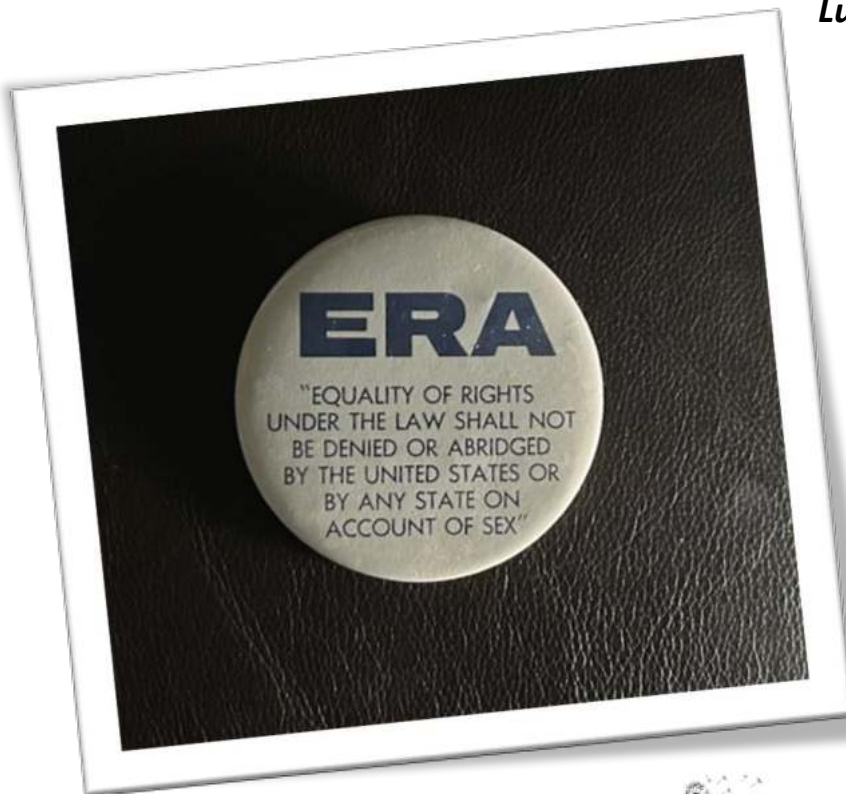


Photo - Virginia Wolf's (Lucy's aunt) ERA button from the March on Washington in 1972 for passage of the ERA. Yes, 1972!



Programs

Thanks to all that attended the fun and fascinating “Where in the World through a Feminist Lens Program” last month. The stories that were shared from all parts of the world, including the US, were fantastic! If you weren’t able to attend...we missed you!

Program Committee Members Needed for 2025!

This is a perfect time to get involved with AAUW and help plan and participate in upcoming events for 2025! Upcoming events include: Presentations on Reproductive Rights, Women in STEM, and Speech Trek 2025 (The Last Rodeo!) among others. Planning will be kicking into high gear NOW, and we welcome your input. If you have a concept for an AAUW group activity, let me know.

Dinah Lockhart: Programs VP



Membership

If your renewal is up, you should have received an email from the American Association of University Women with the subject line: AAUW: It’s Time to Renew Your Membership! You can renew at the links below - or in your AAUW renewal reminder email. You can also write a check and we will be happy to do the rest for you.

On line at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/>

By mail: By Check: As always, making a check payable to your AAUW branch and mailing it to: AAUW, Lompoc-Vandenberg, P.O. Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438

Have questions on renewing? Please call or email Mischa Dalcerra, Membership VP at 805.588.0645 or mischadalcerra@gmail.com.

We very much value your membership in AAUW!!!

We have **82 Total Members** (including 5 from State).

We have **1 Membership that has Expired.**

Mischa Dalcerra: Membership



AAUW Funds

Our AAUW Fund fiscal year has come to a close. Thank you to our members who contributed to the Fund. Our branch donations were below last year's. It might be good to research what these funds support so I am

including this article from the State level. [Click](#) on the link below to read about all the fellows and the work they are doing. Thank you to those who have already donated.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

IS IT REALLY 2025? What now?

The 31 recipients are listed [HERE](#). With the assistance of the communications team and Sandi Gabe, the Fund committee has posted the recipients' videos on the website. If a video has been posted, you will find it noted at the end of the recipient's information. This list reveals such a wealth of talent – watch, learn, and enjoy.

Marell Brooks: AAUW Funds VP



Speech Trek 2025:

March 6, 2025, **Speech Trek 2025 Contest**: 4:30-6:30: Lompoc Library Grossman Gallery Student recruitment is complete thanks to the awesome work of Pam Buchanan, Katie Brenna, Jenelle Osborne, Kay Duffy Taylor and Shay Allen. Thanks to this outreach over 200 high school students know about the impact and the mission of AAUW and have been given the opportunity to participate in Speech Trek. Coaching of students is underway! Read all about it on page 3 of the February edition of the Lompoc Vision (thanks, Jenelle!). Plan to come out and support these high school students who are learning how to use their voice on important issues.

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/kxlsf/oxgr/#p=2>



Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Acting Speech Trek Coordinator

TECH TREK

WE ARE BACK AT UCSB IN 2025!

There will be 1 session with 100 campers. I will request at least 4 camper slots. The new requirement for sending campers in July 13th – 19th, 2025 will be that each branch has to send volunteers to work at camp. The good news is that the volunteers can include past campers. We usually have at least one member volunteer so I am hoping that we can continue to count on member participation. The camper fee has gone up to \$1,200.00.



Because of your past support for TT, we will not need to fundraise this year. Past fundraisers will cover the cost for 2025. Thank you all for your continued support. TT has been a life changing experience for our Lompoc campers.

I will be contacting the teachers at each middle school to get recommendations for next year. We are fortunate to have supportive teachers and counselors helping with our selection process.



Wynn Clevenger, Tech Trek Chair

AAUW Interbranch Brunch

When: February 8, 2025 from 11:30 - 1:30pm

Where: Crafthouse at Corque, 420 Alisal Rd, Solvang

Price: \$40 (includes beverage, tax and tip)

There may be a seat or two left for the upcoming Interbranch Brunch with an outstanding AAUW fellow on an incredibly timely topic but you need to **act today**. RSVP to Terry Forss (tlforss@hotmail.com) today. Would love to go but need a ride? Let us know!

AAUW IBC FELLOWS LUNCHEON
Sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Interbranch Council

Saturday, February 8, 2025
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Craft House at Corque CRAFT HOUSE
420 Alisal Rd, Solvang AT CORQUE

Keynote Speaker
Mayra Puente

Assistant Professor, UCSB Education Dept.
Recipient of the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship and UCSB Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant, as well as the AAUW Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship
Research Topic: "A Platicando y Mapeando - Mixed Methods Research Study on Rural Latinx Students' College Access and Choice Processes in California's Central Coast."

Tickets: \$40
includes All-American Breakfast Menu

RSVP to Treasurer Terry Forss
tlforss@hotmail.com
Please, send checks made payable to:
AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg
PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438
Please mail checks by January 25, 2025

Lucy, Kay, Dianne, Terry and Jan
(your representatives on the IBC council)

College/University Liaison

Once again, our AAUW branch is participating in Allan Hancock College's [Week of Welcome](#). It will conclude with Bulldog Bow-WOW at the Lompoc Valley Center on Wednesday, [February 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.](#) Students can learn about student services, campus clubs, various academic, career, and technical programs, and connect with community partners.



Lompoc- Vandenberg Branch of AAUW is proud to partner with AHC and we will have a table at the [February 12th](#) event in Lompoc to share information about our mission and values. Students can join AAUW as a free student affiliate. We usually have two members at our table, if you would like to join me just let me know.

Barbara Bolton, Chair

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Join the community for the Black History month celebration at the Grossman Gallery inside the Lompoc Library from 2:00 -4pm on [Sunday 2/16](#). AAUW will have a table and would love to have you there! Let Brenda or Dinah know if you'd like to take a shift staffing the table 😊. It'll be fun!

Immigration Policy Changes and Community Impact: Navigating Uncertainty and Advocacy

As a first-generation immigrant, I've seen firsthand how shifts in immigration policy can impact not just families, but entire communities. The recent changes under the new administration are creating a ripple effect across the country, making it harder for immigrants to access the resources they need, while also adding layers of uncertainty and fear to an already vulnerable population.

The impact is felt deeply in Latino and immigrant communities, particularly here in California, where diversity should be our strength. But recent policy changes are challenging that strength, especially when it comes to issues like family separation, access to healthcare, and opportunities for a better future.

One of the most immediate challenges we're facing is the tightening of immigration enforcement. Policies like these breed fear, not only in immigrants but also in the community organizations that support them. When people feel that their families might be torn apart or that they might be targeted simply for seeking help, it discourages them from reaching out to vital services. And when that happens, it sets up a vicious cycle—people get more isolated, resources are harder to access, and communities grow more fragmented.

It's not just about the legal status of immigrants, though; it's also about the emotional toll these policies take. Families who have been living in the U.S. for years, contributing to the economy, are now worried about being separated. Many are afraid to speak up, and this silence further isolates them from programs that could help improve their health, education, and well-being. When community members feel like they're living under a constant cloud of uncertainty, it affects everything: their jobs, their mental health, and their sense of belonging.

The truth is, these policy changes make it even harder to build the kind of inclusive, welcoming spaces that we all need to thrive. Immigrants, particularly those from Latin American countries, have long contributed to the cultural fabric of our communities. We bring diverse perspectives, we're hard-working, and we're committed to creating a better future not only for ourselves but for everyone else. But these new policies often strip away our sense of security, undermining the very foundation of community empowerment.

So, what do we do? We continue to advocate. We keep showing up for our communities, even when the path forward feels uncertain. We work with local organizations and coalition partners to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors still have access to the resources they need. We also make sure to create spaces where immigrant voices can be heard—spaces where they can feel safe, valued, and empowered to take action.

The fight isn't easy, but it's necessary. By standing together and showing solidarity, we can push back against policies that hurt our communities. We can create systems of support that are stronger than any political shift. As we move forward, let's remember that the heart of our work in DEI is not just about policy—it's about people. And that's something no policy can take away.

Brenda Villa: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Interest Groups

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.



Dine-out, Food, Fun and Friends Group

Dine-out meets the **third Thursday** of every month at 12:30 p.m.

We kicked around the idea of having an "at-home" dine-out occasionally changing from one home to another. *We will keep you posted.*

February 20, 2025: Valle Eatery and Bar

Hilton Garden Inn

1201 North H Street, Lompoc

www.valleeatery.com



March 20, 2025: Old Town Kitchen and Bar
 319 East Ocean, Lompoc

www.oldtownkitchenlompoc.com

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Billye Iverson or Leslie Sevier.



Billye Iverson and Leslie Sevier: Co-Chairs



Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)



February 3	The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek (Kim Richardson)	Betty
March 3	Sicilian Inheritance (Jo Piazza)	Kathryn
April 7	The Bean Tree (Barbara Kingsolver)	Janet
May 5	The Women (Kristin Hannah)	Eileen
June 2	Forever Girl (Alexander McCall Smith)	Carol Ann
July 7	On Freedom (Timothy Snyder)	Gail
August 4	Camino Ghosts (John Grisham)	Judy
September 8	All the Queen's Men (S.J. Bennett)	Myra
October 6	The Late Show (Michael Connelly)	Cathy

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





Communications

Phone Tree

Want to make an impact in our branch in 2025? Please consider a role as the branch **Communications' Chair**. It should only take an hour or less every 6 weeks or so. Effort would include occasional posting on our social media channels and when needed, engaging the telephone tree committee for calls to members about upcoming events. **Interested?** Please let Kay or Lucy know before 15 February.

Many thanks to our previous chair, Samantha Scroggins, for all of her work. Samantha is stepping down from the role as she starts her new position for the School District in SM in Jan.

Kay Duffy: Co-President



Calendar of Events

- Feb 5 Board Meeting in Person and on Zoom
- February Black History Month
- Feb 8 IBC Brunch: 11:30-2:00pm: Craft House at Corque: 420 Alisal Rd, Solvang
- March Women's History month
- March 6 Speech Trek 2025 Contest: 4:30-6:30: Lompoc Library Grossman Gallery
- March 25 Equal Pay Day
- Mar TBA Women's Health (PP & Savie): Location TBD
- April TBA Women/girls in STEM*
- April TBA Scholarships Awarded
- May TBA Annual Meeting





Samantha: February 17th

Recipe Corner

Red Velvet Valentine Cookies

<https://www.instagram.com/passionatepennypincher/reel/DFdZQP3RYxi/>

Here is what you need:

1. Hershey's cookies 'n' creme hearts. (I actually used Hershey's strawberry filled chocolate candy)
2. Red velvet cake mix
3. Two eggs
4. 1/3 cup oil

Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

While the cookies are cooling, add a chocolate heart to the center of each cookie!



[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: Kari Rosson



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY

