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2024/2025 Executive BoardCo - Presidents

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**Co-Presidents' Report****Happy Spring!**

As we continue to move forward together, we want to take a moment to reflect on the strength and resilience of our branch and community. In the face of challenges, you've shown extraordinary dedication and passion. It is because of each of you that we continue to grow and succeed, not just as an organization, but as a collective force that makes a meaningful impact on the lives of women and girls in our community, our state and our nation.



We are on the path to something remarkable, and it's your commitment, your ideas, and your hard work that fuel our journey. This is demonstrated in our programs like Speech Trek and Tech Trek (read on!) where we prepare and inspire the next generation of leaders. It was further demonstrated when the branch received the proclamation recognizing Equal Pay Day from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the proclamation from the city of Lompoc recognizing both Equal Pay Day and Women's History month. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve. Whether we're facing new opportunities or navigating obstacles, remember that every step we take is a step forward—because we are in this together.

We welcome your leadership in key positions on our 2025-2026. By 15 April, please contact Leslie if you are interested in a board position or any of our board officers if you'd like to find out more about the position with elections planned for May.

Let's continue to inspire, to lead, and to support each other. The future is bright, and we are excited to see the heights we'll reach as we continue to work side by side.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and for everything you contribute. Keep pushing forward, because together, we are unstoppable.

With gratitude,

Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President

Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-President



Programs

Speech Trek 2025:

What a great finale of Speech Trek! 3 courageous high school students (all seniors from LHS) delivered their original speeches addressing the critical issue of climate change and its impact on women to an enthusiastic audience on 3/6/25. The panel of community leaders who served as judges (Joe White, Dean Albro, Gilda Cordova, Brenda Villa and Janene Scully) selected the award winners:

1st place \$500 gift card- Isabelle Morales

2nd place \$300 gift card- Josue Robles

3rd place \$200 gift card- Sophia Rivera

The video of Isabelle's speech was submitted to AAUW CA and will compete for additional awards against the winners from other branches participating in speech trek 2025. The awards will be revealed at the state annual meeting via webinar on 4/26. Look for the link from AAUW CA to attend.

Many thanks to committee members for making the magic happen: Pam Buchanan, Katie Brenna, Kay Duffy Taylor, Dulcie Sinn, Wynn Clevenger, Dinah Perez Lockhart, Jenelle Osborne, Robin Ghormley, Terry Forss and Shay Allen and thank you to the members who attended! Not able to attend? Here's the link to Isabelle's speech, [Speech Trek 2025 1st place speech](#)





Time Keepers Wynn Clevenger and Dulcie Sinn foreground, Judges Janene Scully, Joe White, Dean Albro in the background



Contestants are all seniors from Lompoc High (left to right) Josue Robles, Isabelle Morales and Sophia Rivera with Janelle Osborne (MC)

Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Acting Speech Trek Coordinator

Women's History Month and Equal Pay Day

March 18th was a busy and fulfilling day as we celebrated Women's History Month and Equal Pay Day. In the morning Lucy (Thoms Harrington) accepted a Proclamation acknowledging Equal Pay Day on behalf of our branch from the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors. In accepting the Proclamation, Lucy referenced the AAUW 2025 Report on the gender pay gap entitled *The Not So Simple Truth* – copies of which she left for each of the Supervisors. **Read the report here:**

https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/02/The_Not_SoSimple_Truth_Gender_Pay_Gap_2025-1.pdf

That report indicates that white women earn just 73 cents on each dollar that a man makes, Black women earn only 65 cents on each dollar and Latina and Native American women. Marell (Brooks), Tracy (Beard), and Kay (Duffy Taylor) also attended that meeting.

Locally, there was a great crowd that evening at the Lompoc City Council Meeting to celebrate the recognition of the Equal Pay Day and Women's History Month Proclamation presented to AAUW. Kay (Duffy Taylor) accepted the Proclamation. **See video here:** https://youtu.be/4_W1moh93Kc

Thank you to Lucy (Thoms Harrington), Barbara (Bolton), Pam (Buchanan), Kari (Rosson), Brenda (Villa), Dulcie (Sims), Janet (Blevins), Wynn (Clevenger), Kathy (Howard), Alice (Down), Donna (Wood), and Jan (Keller) for attending. When Kay accepted the Proclamation, she also introduced LHS Athletic Director Claudia Terrones who then introduced the 5 female student athletes in attendance. These athletes represented the sports of golf, flag football, swim, track, softball, and basketball. It was so inspiring to meet the athletes and to see how Title IX is impacting women's sports.



Membership

Did you know that you can always pay for your membership **on line**?

Click this Link: <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? 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 **80 Total Members** (including 5 from State).



Mischa Dalcerra: Membership VP

AAUW Funds

National is now sending each branch a monthly report of donations to AAUW Fund. This will make it easier to keep track of our donations as the year progresses. National sets a goal for each branch suggesting a 15% increase yearly. That means our branch should raise about \$2500 this year if we are to achieve our 'star' for fundraising. To put this in perspective, 15 years ago, when we sold churros, we would send in approx. \$5000 each year based on what we raised at the event plus individual members' donations.

Thank you to Kay Duffy who made a donation last month to get us started for 2025. Our branch number is #0130 and this needs to be on the form whenever you donate so the branch will get credit. If you have any questions, please contact me.



Marell Brooks: AAUW Funds VP

TECH TREK

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. We have 4 campers signed up!



Wynn Clevenger: Tech Trek Chair



Public Policy

Implementation of Project 2025 Our core values are under attack. **Take action now.**

As Co-Directors Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko outlined in a [webinar](#) in October 2024, the objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW California. **With federal policy pronouncements and changes continuing to take place at a head spinning pace,** it is clear that changes are underway to make Project 2025 become reality (track implementation [HERE](#)). To respond to the attack on the people and issues we care about, and to fulfill the mission of our organization, “to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research,” we will continue to compile resources to help you take action to fight back. This is a critical moment, as the changes that are being implemented may have long-lasting impacts, locally and globally.

Even as we are asking you to act, **we want to remind you that your wellbeing is important.** With an uptick in policies and enforcement actions that run counter to our core values, you may be feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, fearful, or anxious. Action is important, but [self-care is also a political act](#). Be gentle with yourself and acknowledge your efforts.

We also encourage you [to check out this guide](#) on how to read the news more strategically, to still be able to follow events while preventing burnout and protecting your mental health. You should also consider **staying connected**--with AAUW members and with those outside of AAUW who are engaged in efforts to push back. To this end, here are some examples of individuals, groups, and organizations that are pushing back in different ways:

- direct refusal to comply, [via mass resignation](#)
- showing up in person not only to protest, but also to support, including showing love for beleaguered federal workers at USAID
- initiating and sustaining [legal challenges](#)

AAUW California is building out our own action-items database, which is being released to the California Board to review in March, and which will go live for you in April. **Regardless, we will continue to provide a short list of targeted resources each month.**

Prepare for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April

by Claire Noonan, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee



Sexual assault violence prevention calls for the creation of safer communities. Addressing the root causes of this kind of violence is difficult as it involves a multipronged approach, including improving street and housing conditions, providing education, and offering support services. We should work to advance policies at workplaces and schools, discuss sexual assault and its consequences with friends and family, and prioritize prevention in our communities.

Official channels for raising awareness about sexual assault violence and creating and implementing the policies needed for prevention has a long history in the United States; however, given the current administration's attack on "DEI," much of this work is now under threat of being dismantled.

Violence awareness began officially when the [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\)](#) became law in 1984, providing the primary federal funding for domestic violence victims and their children via emergency shelters and related assistance. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), [passed by Congress in 1994](#), is comprehensive federal legislation to end violence against women. In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national [Sexual Assault Awareness Month \(SAAM\)](#), building on years of advocacy and awareness-building. In 2009, President Barack Obama [officially declared April](#) to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which presidents have proclaimed by every year since then.

As part of this wider federal push, awareness-raising and prevention efforts around sexual assault violence have been more firmly embedded in core policies and practices. For instance, the Department of Defense has been trying to create a culture to eliminate sexual assault, requiring a personal commitment from all Service members. Educational institutions have benefitted as well: the final Title IX revisions in April 2024 by President Joe Biden reflected the stronger shift to prevent assault actions on school campuses. These revisions also sought to protect more people, expanding the definition of "sex-based harassment" to include harassment based on sex characteristics, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, and pregnancy. At the state level, In September 2024 Governor Newsom signed eight bills on domestic violence. The legislation created a new victims' services fund using penalties from white-collar crimes and expanded the ability of victims to access restraining orders.

While all of this movement has been positive, by the second week of President Donald Trump's current administration, the Office of Management and Budget had ordered a freeze of all federal financial assistance in all agencies including those that oversee government programs and funding for organizations that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services, such as Health and Human

Services, Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Justice. [Multiple court orders have blocked the freezes from taking effect](#), but in some cases funds haven't been received for programs aimed at preventing sexual violence.

In addition, the current Administration has attacked the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services and the Office on Violence Against Women, who must now disclose information that may further eliminate funding and resources, such as whether grants are being used to support "removable or illegal aliens or immigrants;" to "promote gender ideology;" or to advance "illegal DEI" programs—although at the time of writing, early challenges have signaled that enforcement of these provisions and [denial of funding may be unconstitutional](#).

As individuals and non-profit organizations, we can contact our Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence.

We can also act in our local communities to reduce sexual assault violence. We can ask to improve lighting to make streets and other public spaces safer. We can make sure our city, county, and public health officials promote policies for families and children, address economic security, and provide access to safe, stable housing. We can collaborate with community-led organizations that coordinate resources and services that help with trauma, mental health and substance use, all of which lead to sexual abuse. (from [CDC-Violence Prevention](#))

Overall, we can all work to [support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence. [Click here](#) for downloadable free materials to share from the Domestic Violence Awareness Project.

What Can You Do?

contact Congressmembers and state officials to back efforts to get the money flowing to relevant organizations and programs that raise awareness of and prevent sexual assault violence;

[act in our local communities](#) to reduce sexual assault violence through improving lighting, promoting policies for families and children, address economic security, and help coordinate trauma resources

[support the organizations country-wide](#) that are on the front lines of dealing with sexual assault violence

share resources from the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project](#)

Mary Schaefer: Public Policy Chair



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.

April 17, 2025: Village Coffee Shop and Café
Vandenberg Village shopping center
3734 Constellation.

<https://www.vcscafe.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)



| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 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 help? Contact our new Chair: Leslie Sevier at bookstor@verizon.net.

Social Media Guru

Many thanks to Denise Robles who will be chairing the branch's social media accounts effective April 2nd!! Have something that would be great to post from the branch? Contact Denise at denilu29@icloud.com.

Directories!!

Many thanks to Dianne Owen for the latest hard copy of the branch directory. **Copies are available** for delivery or **pick up yours** at One Room Coffee: 113 N A St, Lompoc, from 9-10 am on Saturday April 5th. **Stop by and visit!!**

Please note there are some updates to the print copy:

Jan Keller

Email: jkeller2002@msn.com

Janet Shiers

Email: janet.shiers@yahoo.com

Phone:(805) 588-7340

Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President



Calendar of Events

April TBA Scholarships Awarded
 May TBA Annual Meeting





Spotlight!

Maureen's Obituary



Maureen Louise Tolson, 83, of Lompoc, passed away on Saturday, February 22, 2025, in ICU at Cottage Hospital with her longtime friend, Bob Forinash at her side.

Maureen was born on March 13, 1941, in San Jose, California, and adopted by Luella Langdon Murphy and Charles Arnold Murphy.

She was raised and educated in San Jose, California, where she graduated from Los Gatos High School. She worked for Lockheed and then began California State University San Jose earning a bachelor's degree in Home Education and Spanish. She worked at Westinghouse Electric and then Lockheed MSC Coyote where she met and married Air Force Major Joel Albert Tolson in 1967. She continued her education at California State University Long Beach, earning teaching credentials in Florida (1972), Maryland (1976) and a life credential in California. Her classroom teaching for twenty-eight years in the Lompoc Unified School District in Spanish and Home Economics ended with retirement in 2012.

Her husband, Joel Tolson, had passed away in 1997. Maureen earned citations of honor from the California Association FHA Hero program in home economics and continued in prominent community involvement. She held offices in Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, CalRTA, DKG Iota Nu, the Alpha Club, the AAUW, LOVARC, and the Iris Society.

She is now in the hands of God with her husband Joel, her parents-Lluella and Charles, and her beloved k9 companions, who preceded her in death.

Survivors include her brother Richard Murphy of New River, Arizona, her dear longtime friend, Dr. Bob Forinash, and Lola, her wonderful canine companion.

Maureen lived a wonderful life that was challenged by cancer which she overcame to continue her accomplishments and her love of all the people with whom she served.

Per her request, the mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 11, at 10:00 am at Queen of Angels Catholic Church. The internment with her husband at the Lompoc Cemetery will be followed by a reception at the Starbuck-Lind Event Center from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donation may be made to the American Cancer Society.

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Maureen Louise Tolson, please [click here to visit our Sympathy Store](#).





*Peg Beebe
Kay Duffy Taylor April 29th*

Recipe Corner

This is a classic: a breakfast of eggs, bacon, hash browns, and Cheddar, all in one delicious dish. Here is a tip: cook the hash browns first, for a little extra texture and flavor. You can assemble it ahead of time and bake it on Easter morning.

Easter Breakfast Casserole

Ingredients

cooking spray
1 pound bacon
8 large eggs
2 cups milk
3 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
¼ cup diced onion
¼ cup diced green bell pepper
1 (16 ounce) package frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed



Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 7x11-inch casserole dish.

Fry bacon in a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain on a paper towel-lined plate. Crumble.

Beat eggs and milk together in a large bowl; mix in cheese, bacon, onion, and green pepper. Stir in thawed hash browns. Pour mixture into prepared casserole.

Cover with aluminum foil and bake in preheated oven for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake until eggs have set, another 30 minutes.

Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW Branch Information



LV Branch Website: <http://lompocvandenbergaauw.net/>
LV Branch Mailing address: P.O. Box 2523. Lompoc, CA 93438
LV Branch e-mail address: lompocvandenbergaauw.net
Facebook: [Lompoc-Vandenberg AAUW](#)
Instagram: [@aauw_lompocvandenbergaauw](#)

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

