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2024/2025 Executive Board**Co - Presidents**

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Branch Website:

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

Branch Number: 0130



Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President

Annual Meeting

We had a packed house at Marell Brooks' beautiful home last month where we voted in a new board of officers to lead our branch in 2025-2026. We met one of our two scholarship winners, Dani and congratulated our named gift awardees: Kay Duffy Taylor and Brenda Villa! Thanks to all that attended and special thanks to the outgoing board and the new board: President – Dinah Lockhart, Co-Vice President Membership- Kay Duffy Taylor and Leslie Sevier, VP AAUW Fund- Alice Down, Secretary- Marell Brooks and Co-treasurers Terry Forss and Janice Keller.



Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President
Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-President



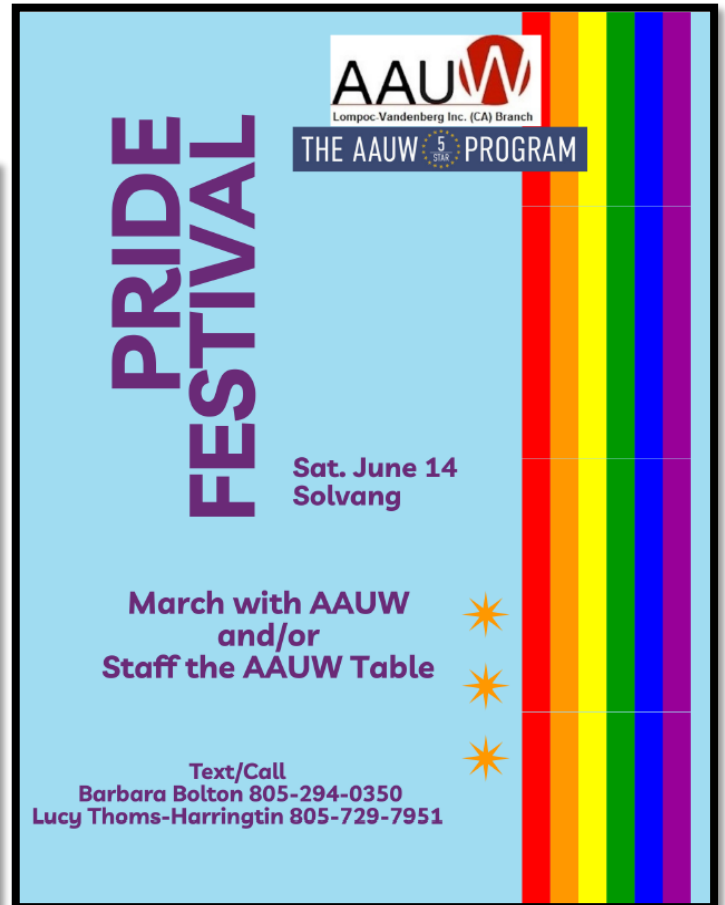
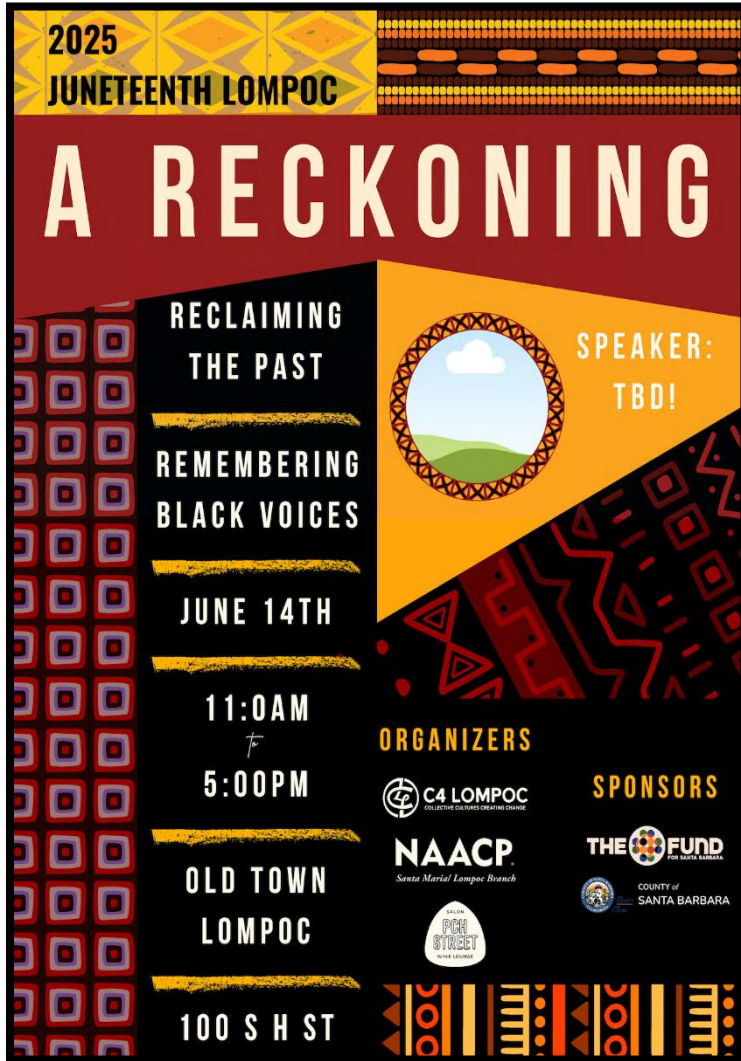
Programs

Pride Celebration

The Solvang Pride Festival will also be on **June 14, 2025**, with parade beginning at 11am and Festival from 9-3pm. Festival location is at 2nd Street and Mission Dr., with parade starting and ending at Alisa Rd and Oak St. AAUW will be staffing a table and riding in a Moke! Please see Lucy or Barbara for details on staffing and parade ride.

Juneteenth in Lompoc

AAUW will be staffing a table at this year's Juneteenth on **June 14th** from 11am to 5pm in downtown Lompoc, 100 S H Street. All AAUW members are welcome to stop by and say hi! Please contact Dinah Lockhart for more information.



Pedal the Pacific Riding into Lompoc!

Nine (9) Pedal the Pacific (PTP) bicyclists will roll into Lompoc on Tuesday **July 16, 2025**, for a 2 ½ day stay, riding out on Thursday July 17th. AAUW and the North County Rape Crisis & Child Protection Center (NCRCCPC) will host an exciting and informative evening reception on Wednesday July 16, 2025 at the Lompoc Hilton Garden Inn, 1201 N. H Street. A flyer will be emailed to AAUW members and distributed in the community with details on how to RSVP and purchase \$25 tickets for the event, which will include pizza, salad, and an opportunity to meet and encourage riders on their journey. Since 2017 the PTP has raised awareness about sex trafficking and raised funds for trafficking prevention and restoration programs. On the PTP website, two riders from PTP cohorts 2018 and 2021 credit meeting County

District Attorney Joyce Dudley and NCRCCPC Executive Director Ann McCarty, respectively, as the inspiration that led to their career trajectories in family law and social work. NCRCCPC is also working on an Amazon Wish List registry so that supporters can order items often requested by human trafficking survivors, such as toiletries, socks, etc. The plan is to help fill backpacks for NCRCCPC to distribute to survivors. We will provide details to AAUW members on how to order items on the registry when it has become available. Calling all home bakers! We will be assembling goodie baskets for the cyclists on Monday July 14 before they arrive, so if you would like to donate refreshments (seltzer water, juice, etc.), or make a sweet treat like cookies, brownies, etc. to include, please let us know, and I can pick them up! Dinah Lockhart (805-588-0775).



Celebration of Life for Alison Wales

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday **August 2, 2025** at 11am at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Fitch Hall, 2800 Harris Grade Road, Lompoc. Friends and family are invited to remember Alison and celebrate her incredible life of service to others. In addition to her work for over 35 years with the North County Rape Crisis & Child Protection Center. Alison was the 5th District Commissioner for the SB Commission of Women. She served in leadership position for the North County the League of Women Voters and a key leader and partner of AAUW in many programs including the 2023 and 2024 Non-Partisan Dual Language Candidate forums. Alison was selected as one of 5 Women of the Year awardees by US Congress member, Salud Carbahal, among other achievements. If you are able, AAUW members are welcome to bring donations of desserts to the event.

PCPA Theater Event

On **August 16, 2025** AAUW's Interbranch Council is sponsoring a Social Gathering and Show event for Something Rotten! The musical comedy is set in 1595 and follows brothers Nick and Nigel who struggle to find success in the theatrical world as they compete with the popularity of William Shakespeare! Ticket for social and show is \$45. Social only is \$15 if you choose to buy your own ticket. **Please mail your check to AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438 no later than July 25, 2025 or hand deliver to Janice Keller or Terry Forss.** Food will include appetizers, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages. All welcome! Social begins at 6:30pm, with show starting at 8pm. Please mail your check to the AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg PO Box 2523, Lompoc, CA. 93438. Attending members are asked to bring a dessert to share.



PCPA
PACIFIC
CONSERVATORY
THEATRE

**Santa Barbara County
AAUW Interbranch Council**

AAUW
empowering women since 1881

SOMETHING ROTTEN!

**SOCIAL GATHERING &
SHOW TICKET: \$45**
SOCIAL ONLY: \$15
(TICKET PURCHASED ON YOUR OWN)
FRIENDS & RELATIVES WELCOME!

**OUTDOOR PRESENTATION AT
SOLVANG FESTIVAL THEATER
420 2ND ST, SOLVANG**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

Social Gathering - 6:30 pm
Show Starts - 8 pm

Please join us for this musical comedy under the stars,
preceded by a social gathering with hearty appetizers, desserts,
and non-alcoholic beverages served in the Patron's Garden.

Education Town Hall

An Education Town hall will be held on Thursday **August 21, 2025** from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Dick DeWees community center. AAUW will be sponsoring the event, with participation by the Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD), Alan Hancock College, the Measure M Oversight Committee, student representatives, Future for Lompoc Youth. The Lompoc Chamber of Commerce is also supporting the event. Potential panelists may include LUSD superintendent, school board member(s), county superintendent, Allan Hancock president, student leaders, Measure M advisory board member(s), and elected official(s). The event will begin with a community reception from 6-6:30pm with literature tables set up for organizations that support students and their families, with the panel discussion from 6:30-8pm. The event will be dual language. More details on the event will be available soon, with a follow up planning meeting in late June. There is a great need for AAUW members to help volunteer and make this event a success. Please let Lucy, Kay, or Dinah know your availability.



Dinah Lockhart: Programs VP

Membership

Membership Renewal & Annual Dues

Thank you for being a member of AAUW and making a positive impact on the lives of girls and women in our community, state and nation.

Many of us have our annual dues coming up.

AAUW National dues are \$74 and are 100% deductible. The dues increase by AAUW CA passed, so effective 7/1/25, the dues will be \$30 (was \$20).

local branch dues remain at \$23. In summary, if you pay before 7/1, the total will be \$117. The total dues on or after 7/1 will be \$127.

If dues become a hardship please reach out! We value and appreciate your membership!!

Honorary Lifetime members pay 0; lifetime members only pay state and branch dues **by check** (see below)

How to Pay:

Payment online is through the AAUW National Site at <https://www.aauw.org/> where you will see a Renew Tab after logging in. For payment by check, please make it out to AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg, note "dues branch CA 130" in the memo line and please mail it to PO 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438.



Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President

AAUW Funds



Thank you to the many branch members who made a special contribution to AAUW Fund. We raised \$1600 to honor Lucy Thomas-Harrington after her 3-year stint in branch leadership. Lucy selected Higher Education, one of the new Funds for the donation. Congratulations, Lucy.

Also, AAUW Named Gifts for this year were announced at Installation. Awards went to Kay Duffy Taylor and to DEI programs under Brenda Villa, DEI chair.

Marell Brooks: AAUW Funds VP



TECH TREK

We are getting close to camp time...July 13-19. This makes 27 years of our branch's participation in Tech Trek, which could not have been accomplished without your passion and support.

Nine camps are set to go this summer with 782 campers and more than 300 volunteers. As you know, we are sending four campers to UCSB...2 from Lompoc Valley Middle and two from Vandenberg Middle.



Wynn Clevenger: Tech Trek Chair



Public Policy

AAUW California Mobilizes to Advance Priority Legislation

By Amy Hom, Co-chair Public Policy Committee

AAUW California advocates came out in full strength on April 8th and 9th to participate in Lobby Days 2025. A total of 197 people representing 66 branches, including our Public Policy Interns and other college students, turned out to advance our priority legislation. 84 people came to Sacramento on April 8th to meet in-person with legislative offices; 104 people held virtual meetings via Zoom on April 9th; and 9 people met with district offices. Because many offices prefer to keep their calendars open until the last minute, our committee worked furiously right up until the day of the event to schedule meetings. Meetings were requested with all 120 legislative offices, and 94 meetings were secured. In other words, we met with 78% of all legislative offices - a record for AAUW California!

Unsurprisingly there were a few hiccups, but a vast majority of the meetings went off smoothly. While most meetings were with staff, ten of the meetings were with legislators. Reports from the teams indicate that all of the meetings were courteous and cordial, including those with offices who did not agree with some of our positions. Many teams were received with enthusiasm and gratitude for AAUW's scholarships, activities, and programs such as Tech Trek. Some staffers expressed interest in joining AAUW, and one staffer generously shared information with our Public Policy Interns about a Fellowship program she participated in which ultimately led to her current job. Overall, we successfully met with 94 offices to advance our key legislation and increase awareness about AAUW and all the things we do to advance gender equity.

We asked the legislative offices to support SB 771 and SB 418, and oppose AB 579. SB 771 (Stern) "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", sponsored by AAUW California, would hold social media platforms liable if their algorithms or AI aid or abet users to intimidate and threaten marginalized groups. SB 418 (Menjivar) "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All" would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. AB 579 (Castillo) "Yaeli's Law", which we opposed, would prohibit parental denial of support for youth self-identity from being considered as child abuse and the basis for custody or removal decisions.

Our positions on SB 418 and AB 579 are protective of the rights of transgender people, meeting the challenges of the current moment. A number of the offices expressed support for our positions with empathy and personal stories about legislators' family members who are transgender.

Shortly after our Lobby Days event, we learned that AB 579 is dead. The bill was held in the Assembly Rules Committee and was not referred to a policy committee, effectively killing the bill. We quickly replaced AB 579 with AB 1098 (Fong) "Title IX and the California Sex Equity in Education Act" as our third "A" priority bill. AB 1098 would expand protections for pregnant graduate students and institute protections for pregnant undergraduate students, prohibiting postsecondary educational institutions from discriminating against a student based on their current, potential, or past pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions.

We invite you to track the progress of our top 3 bills, and all of the bills on our Legislative Agenda, by viewing the [2025 Bill Tracking Report](#). The report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you can always check back to see the latest status.

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

We have selected restaurants for the next 6 months. A couple of the choices are out of town and in that case, we will car-pool from St. Mary's Church.

We meet at 12:30 the third Thursday of every month. Reservations are not necessary unless noted.

June 19, 2025:

River Grill in Solvang: We will carpool for this one meeting at St. Mary's at 11:45 a.m.

Put on your calendars the following:

July 17: Solvang Brew We will have to go at **4:00 p.m.**, since they are not open for lunch except on the weekends.



August 21: Sushi Sake

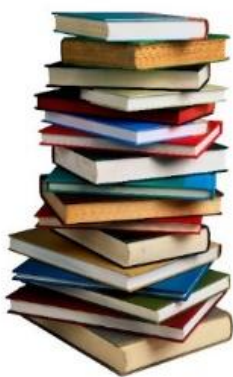
Sept. 18: Dave's Restaurant at the Village Inn. **Reservations will be required.** Contact Leslie or Billye by Tuesday September 16.

Oct. 16: Vega Vineyard. We will carpool for this one meeting at St. Mary's at 11:45 a.m.

Nov. 20: Old Town Bar and Grill

Billye Iverson and Leslie Sevier: Co-Chairs

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)



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



Calendar of Events

June 14	Pride Festival, 11am: Solvang, Alisal 7 Oak St.
June 14	Lompoc Juneteenth table: 11-5pm
July 16	Pedal the Pacific
August 16	Theaterfest
August 21	Education Town Hall



Excitement this Summer!

Join in on the fun and important work of AAUW this summer.



**Summer
Calendar
Of Events**

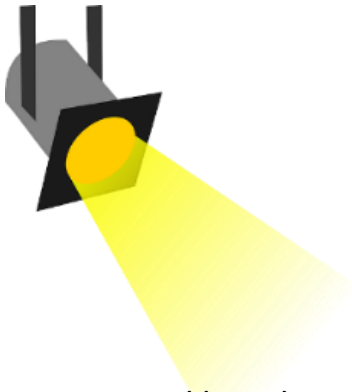
AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg

JUN 14 **PRIDE FESTIVAL**
Solvang Parade & Tabling
9-3
JUNETEENTH LOMPOC 11-5

PEDAL THE PACIFIC **JUL 16**
5pm - 9 pm

AUG 16, 21 **16 - THEATERFEST**
21 - EDUCATION TOWN HALL

**SIGN UP! JOIN A COMMITTEE!
HAVE FUN!**



Spotlight!



I am excited but also incredibly humbled to serve as President of AAUW Lompoc Vandenberg branch for 2025-26!

For those of you who don't know me, my husband and I have lived in the Lompoc Valley for 25 years. I retired in 2023 after a 30+years working in the public sector, with the last ten years as assistant director at the County of Santa Barbara's Community Services Department, Housing and Community Development (HSC) Division. Our division administered the County's affordable housing, homeless assistance, Human Services Commission, and community development programs. I have served as the AAUW's Program's co-chair for the past year.

I joined AAUW to give back to the community and help a new generation of young adults. Out-going President Lucy Thoms-Harrington's feet look small, but she leaves large shoes to fill, with her outstanding accomplishments! So, bear with me as I come up to speed quickly and ask lots of questions! What encourages me in taking on this awesome responsibility are all of you, the brilliant and capable members of AAUW! "Think globally, act locally" is how we support our young people and local community by fostering community dialogue on issues such as human trafficking; diversity, equity, and inclusion; supporting scholarships for our graduating high school seniors; holding an education town hall, and other upcoming activities.

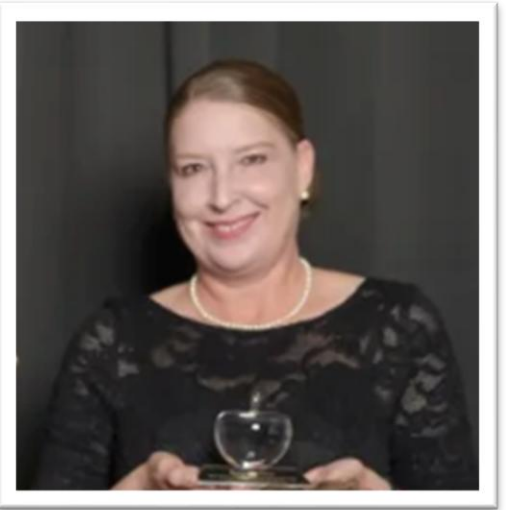
I look forward to an exciting year!

Dinah Lockhart: Incoming President
Lucy Thoms-Harrington: Co-President
Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-President





Congratulations to AAUW's own Celeste Pico! Celeste was awarded the prestigious Crystal Apple Award of Excellence by SB County Department of Education in recognition of her outstanding work as Principal of Lompoc High School.



Recipe Corner

Gazpacho Martini (Savory Summer Cocktail)

Ingredients

- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 to 1 ¼ cups sliced cucumber, about 1 regular cucumber or ½ long English cucumber (hothouse cucumber)
- 1 green bell pepper, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and roughly chopped
- 4 cups tomato juice, preferably reduced-sodium
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- ⅛ teaspoon ground chili powder
- 1-2 tablespoons gin or vodka, per glass (optional)

Skewer Garnish

- Cherry or grape tomatoes
- Cucumber chunks, about ½-inch cubes
- Green or black olives, pitted
- Basil leaves



Instructions

Make the gazpacho: In a food processor or blender, puree the onion, cucumber, bell pepper, garlic, and 1 cup of the tomato juice. You can puree until velvety smooth or leave some texture for a chunkier finished soup.

Transfer to a large bowl and add the remaining 3 cups tomato juice, vinegar, olive oil, salt, and chili powder. Cover and stash in the fridge overnight so it has time to thicken and chill.

Make the martini: To a martini glass, add $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup chilled gazpacho, then stir in 1 to 2 tablespoons gin or vodka into each glass. Start with 1 Tbsp and taste.

Make the skewers: On toothpick, thread: a cherry tomato, cucumber cube, olive and basil leaf. Add a skewer for garnish to each martini and enjoy!



Ann McCarty 16th

Myra Wapner 23rd



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

