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2025/2026 Executive BoardPresident

Dinah Lockhart

lockhartdinah@yahoo.comVP Programs

All Board Members

VP Co-Membership

Kay Duffy Taylor

kduffy5721@aol.com

Leslie Sevier

bookstor@verizon.netSecretary

Marell Brooks

maryellenbrooks84@gmail.comCo - Treasurers

Terry Forss

tforss@hotmail.com

Jan Keller

jkeller2002@msn.comVP AAUW Funds

Alice Down

rf.amdown@comcast.net**Branch Website:**<https://lompocvandenberga.aauw.net/>**Branch Number: 0130****Presidents' Report**

What does a recipe for spaghetti and a successful career in STEM have in common? A July 2025 California AAUW presentation by civil engineer Eileen Velez-Vega to Tech Trek campers got me thinking about cooking. YouTube link is here: [Velez-Vega Civil Engineer](#)

After all, we sometimes learn how to cook from mentors, books, and now social media. It takes the right ingredients, in the proper sequence, time, skill, practice, sometimes luck, and hopefully the whole thing comes out right on time! Ms. Velez-Vega earned a bachelor of science and a masters degree in civil engineering. She credited her successful career to “the power of perseverance and managing the unexpected”. Although the number of women in STEM careers (science, technology, engineering, math) are still low (26% of all STEM workers and 16% of engineers are women*), Latinas are only 2-3% of the STEM workforce, according to Ms. Velez-Vega. She credits internships during her time in high school and college that introduced her to professionals with STEM careers, and experiences outside her native Puerto Rico. These “key ingredients” to her career building included attending Space camp in 10th grade, a trip to Washington, DC, and in college interning at the Walt Disney World College Program in Orlando and the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. From early exposure to teachers, mentors, maintaining interest in class work, interesting extra-curricular activities (Ms. Velez-Vega was a folkloric dancer in school), internships and after school jobs, graduation, and then her first professional position. During her presentation, Ms. Velez-Vega mentions that the Space camp scholarship application period is September-November 2025: <https://www.rocketcenter.com/Scholarships> and <https://endeavourscholarship.org/>

In this month's Scattered Seeds, Wyn's article highlights the positive life changing experiences of several young Lompoc women at UCSB's Tech Trek, and Barbara shares the excitement of new students she saw at the 'Hancock Hello' event at Hancock's Lompoc Campus on August 5th. You're invited to attend and volunteer at AAUW's Education Townhall on August 21 in Lompoc. We will have a literature table and you will meet students, parents, teachers, and community members who all want our students to thrive and achieve their full potential. But what if you're not all that into STEM? AAUW has a 'big tent' that includes everyone interested in higher education, continuing career development, and helping women and young girls reach their dreams. A recipe for everyone!

*U.S. Department of Labor

Dinah Lockhart: President



Programs

Overflowing with Gratitude

You may have already read a bit about this in the *Lompoc Vision*, but just in case you missed it—or if you're up for a longer version with a little more heart—I'm putting it all down here, thanks to Lucy, who gave me the green light to write to my heart's content.

Recently, we had the true pleasure of welcoming a group of young women from across the country to our city. Their stop in Lompoc was highly anticipated and lovingly prepared for by a dedicated group of community members who went above and beyond to ensure the team's visit was memorable. The efforts of Dinah, Kay, and Lucy to pull together all the moving parts weren't just helpful—they were remarkable. On behalf of all of us at the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center, THANK YOU for your organization, your generosity, and your attention to every detail (especially the ones that often get overlooked).

A special thank you goes to the dream team behind the Welcome Bags—an idea that turned into something truly meaningful. Huge thanks to Barbara Bolton, Dinah Lockhart, Janet Blevins, Lucy Thoms-Harrington, and Carolyn Malkow for filling those bags with homemade goodies and thoughtful treats. The riders were thrilled to receive them and, after a long ride from Arroyo Grande, they truly appreciated the warm welcome and well-earned reward.

Swag Bags were also gifted to the riders, and they were a big hit—generating lots of “oohs” and “aahs” as the riders discovered all the surprises inside. These bags came together thanks to the generosity of Kay Duffy Taylor, Dinah Lockhart, Lucy Thoms-Harrington, and Barbara LeFebvre (one of our RCC Board members). Several local businesses also contributed, making the bags even more fun and special.

For those unfamiliar with Pedal the Pacific (PTP) and their connection to Lompoc, let me share a bit of context. Since 2017, different groups of young women—ranging in age from 18 to well-seasoned—have

cycled from Seattle, Washington to San Diego to raise awareness about the devastating crime of sex trafficking. That includes the trafficking happening right here in our own backyard.

The Center and AAUW have partnered since 2021 to support the Lompoc leg of their journey, and our relationship with the PTP leadership team has only grown stronger. In fact, this relationship has led to the Center receiving a \$5,000 grant to support our efforts in north county, specifically Lompoc. These funds help us educate the community, provide prevention programming, and meet the immediate needs of trafficking survivors—many of whom require a uniquely compassionate and trust-building approach. PTP's support helps us continue this critical work. And none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of AAUW.

While not everyone chose to support this year's visit—some citing misalignment with city policies—we were deeply honored to have the team recognized by Congressman Salud Carbajal, Senator Monique Limón, Assemblymember Gregg Hart, and 3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann.

This event would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors: the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women, C4 Lompoc, Kingdom Causes, Inc., Charles Walker Insurance, the Allan Hancock College Foundation, Hilton Garden Inn, Camins 2 Dreams, and Rob Glasgow—who gave the team a phenomenal tour of La Purisima Mission State Historic Park.

One of the most meaningful parts of the entire experience was witnessing the warmth with which the riders were received. With a rider seated at each table, AAUW members engaged, asked questions, shared stories, and cheered these young women on. The riders spoke about being filled up with your goodness and left Lompoc deeply appreciative of your support.

I also want to acknowledge Dinah for her inspiring presentation at the event, where she spoke with conviction about AAUW's mission and reminded us why we must continue pressing forward. As she said, this work isn't finished—and we can't take our foot off the pedal just yet. As a local agency supporting survivors of sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking, we rely on community support. Your commitment isn't just encouraging—it's essential.

Before I close, I have to mention the Comfort Kits. Honestly, when the project team floated the idea, I never imagined it would actually come together—but wow, did it ever. Huge thanks to all of you who donated and, yes, made Jeff Bezos a little richer in the process. The Amazon Wish List method worked beautifully, and now that the packages have stopped arriving, it feels a bit like Christmas is over. But truly—thank you. The kits are already being distributed, and according to our advocates, they're the best out there.

Small acts of kindness matter. Showing up for each other matters. And recognizing one another's efforts makes all the difference.

To every single one of you who showed up in a meaningful way—thank you. You helped make Pedal the Pacific 2025's visit to Lompoc not just impactful, but unforgettable.



Ann McCarty: Executive Director North County Rape Crisis & Child Protection Center

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! Those who purchased tickets and are attending, this is a reminder that 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.

Dual Language with Live Interpretation in Person and via Zoom
Post Event Viewing on TAP TV Channel 23

Let's Talk about Education in Lompoc

Measure M, TK-12, College and Career Pathways, Challenges & Priorities

Town Hall Meeting

DeWees Center
1120 West Ocean Ave
Lompoc,

Sponsored by



90 minute Discussion

Free &
Open to
the Public

Gift Card Drawing for
Attendees!!

Thursday
Aug 21

Speakers:



Clara A. Finneran, Ed.D.
Lompoc Unified School District
Superintendent



Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.
Allan Hancock College
Superintendent/President



6:00pm Reception:
Meet LUSD School Board
Trustees, AHC Lompoc
Trustees, and Community
Partners

6:30 - 8:00pm: Discussion

Ask Your Questions via Zoom Registration



SCAN HERE

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, 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), Allan Hancock president, and Future for Lompoc Youth. 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. Many thanks to the hard-working committee: Terry, Pam, Barbara, Janet, Mary and Lucy. We could use a few other folks to join the committee or volunteer at the event. Please contact either Kay, or Dinah for more details.

Dinah Lockhart: President

Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-Membership

**The Passing of Anne Les**

Anne was a AAUW branch president 1980-1981. AAUW was a big part of her life. There will be a mass for her with a reception following, on August 30, 2025 at 11am at St. Charles Boromeo Church in Livermore. Anne was 90 years old and went peacefully in her sleep on June 29, 2025. If you are interested in attending the mass, please contact Audrey Horning at audrey@homingcpa.com



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% tax

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.



Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-Membership VP

Leslie Sevier: Co-Membership VP



Treasurer Report

According to our Branch bylaws (Article XIII. Section 3), the annual budget shall be reviewed by the board of directors, published in the branch newsletter, and adopted by the membership no later than October. At the August 7th meeting, the board reviewed the following proposed budget. The current plan is to have the budget voted on by the membership at the September meeting.

Please address any questions regarding the proposed budget to Terry Forss or Jan Keller, co-treasurers.

PROPOSED

LOMPOC-VANDENBERG AAUW ANNUAL BUDGET 7/1/25-6/30/26

| LINE ITEMS | BALANCE 7/1/25 | PROJECTED INCOME | PROJECTED EXPENSES | BALANCE 6/30/26 PROJECTED |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| GENERAL ACCOUNT | \$11,611.25 | | | \$11,052.00 |
| Membership 80x \$23 | \$8479.00 | \$1,840.00 | | \$10,319.00 |
| Programs | \$586.40 | | \$400.00 | \$186.40 |
| Administrative: i.e. Insurance, Office Supplies, Postal, Corp. Fees, Zoom | \$2,545.85 | | \$2,000.00 | \$545.85 |
| Interest (Admin) | | \$0.75 | | \$.75 |
| | | | | |
| SCHOLARSHIP | \$4,073.29 | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$4,073.29 |
| | | | | |
| PEDAL THE PACIFIC | \$100.00 | | \$100.00 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| FUND FOR SB | \$3,302.57 | | \$3,302.57 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| TOTALS | \$19,087.11 | \$3,840.75 | \$7,802.57 | \$15,125.29 |

Terry Forss, Jan Keller: Co-Treasurers



AAUW Funds

I was recently elected to be the Branch AAUW Funds chairperson. My goal for the year is to educate our membership about AAUW Funds and increase our donations.

I recently donated to the Funds and received an informative acknowledgement... and receipt for a tax deduction! The letter reminded me that, "For over 140 years, AAUW has been on the frontlines---defending education, fighting for equity, and standing with students. We won't stop now."

When you donate, you may select an area that your donation will directed to: AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, Defend Higher Education, or Public Policy General. In future newsletters I will go into more detail on the purposes of each of these Funds. My hope is that you will all be enlightened and persuaded into bigger and better gifts for these good causes!

Alice Down: AAUW Funds VP



College/University Liaison

Hancock Happenings

Our Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW is participating in Allan Hancock College's Week of Welcome (**Bow-WOW**) at the Lompoc Valley Center on Wednesday, **September 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Students can learn about student services, campus clubs, various academic, career, and technical programs, as well as connect with community organizations.

Our branch is proud to partner with AHC and we will have a table at the September 10th event in Lompoc to share our mission, values, and information on how students can join AAUW as a free student affiliate.

For more information, please contact Barbara Bolton.

Barbara Bolton: College Relations



TECH TREK

Our campers are back and
their thank you notes have
arrived:

Dear Lompoc AAUW,
Thank you for selecting me to go to
AAUW Tech Trek. I am very grateful
that you chose me. I got Marine
Science as my core class and really
enjoyed it. We got to work with
marine animals like different
invertebrates and bacteria. I also
enjoyed the trip to the beach and
playing in the water. Once again, I
am very thankful that you selected
me for the amazing experience.
Sincerely,
Zoe Martony

Dear Lompoc -Vandenberg Branch,
Thank you so much for supporting my Tech Trek
journey. I am so happy I was able to attend camp!
This has been such a wonderful experience.
Without you it would not have been possible.
My core class is computer science, where we learn
coding, how to make apps and more. We always
do a noncomputer activity before we go on the
computer. One activity we did was with a deck of
cards where we had to organize them by the
shape. We also learned about the MENKE
Matchbox, which is the first AI machine. It plays tic
tac toe. I had so much fun in computer science.
My favorite part was making new friends and
meeting new people. I had so much fun going to
the Moxi Museum and to the beach. I loved going
to dinner and eating new foods. I am so grateful
that you helped support me on this trip. I am
forever grateful.
Sincerely
Nayelli Arguello-Medina

Dear Lompoc Vandenberg Branch,
Thank you for sponsoring me at Tech Trek at UCSB. My
core class was Anatomy and I learned so much: the
skeletal system, all about different muscles, everything
about the human body. My favorite things at camp that
I learned was the food and teachers were awesome, and
everything about Tech Trek was all I could ask for.
Greatest love for sending me to camp. I really enjoyed
it. I'm planning on coming to UCSB someday. Again,
thank you very much for the wonderful opportunity.
Sincerely,
Rosa Vega

Dear Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch
Thank you so much for sending
me to Tech Trek! It has been such
a great experience. I learned
about coding Python and Java
script. Thank you so much for
sending me. It as beech an
amazing experience.
Sincerely,
Evelyn Miller

Dear Lompoc Vandenberg Branch,
 Thank you for sponsoring and giving me this opportunity. Having engineering as my core class was so fun, and it helped me know what I want to pursue in life. I coded to make back up sensors for cars, measuring the distance, and making an LED turn on. All the workshops, activities, and field trips were fun because we all worked together and learned new things. The food was probably the best food I have ever had in my life. I also had the best dorm group ever. Tech Trek made me learn and grow more in the STEM fields. I am so grateful that I got to come
 Sincerely,
 Emma Jimenez



The girls gathered together with Krysten Byork (a 2022 camper) and Katie Brenna (volunteer dorm mom for many years) to get acquainted and ask questions about camp.

Wynn Clevenger: Tech Trek Chair



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion AAUW California stands firm in its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), in line with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan, 2024-2027, and despite current political efforts to eliminate its mention and practice. As such, we continue to support AAUW California branches in their DEI efforts and to encourage them to take action in the following ways:

- Explore and discuss the resources available through the AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit.
- Adopt an Equity Lens.
- Follow the JABEID Checklist when planning programs.
- Take one or more of the AAUW California Public Policy Team's Actions to Fight Project 2025!

- Participate in AAUW DEI Peer Group Meetings. (See the calendar on the AAUW CA website.)
- Reflect on the following questions, inspired by Dr. Shawn A. Ginwright's The Four Pivots, individually and as a branch:
 - What biases have I (or we) observed in AAUW or in other organizations to which I (or we) belong?
 - How have I (or we) contributed to these biases and perpetuated them?
 - How can I (or we) heal from these biases and their impact?
 - How can my (or our) healing help others in AAUW and in our communities not experience or perpetuate these same biases?

Kari Rosson: Newsletter Editor



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

The Dine-Out group will be having an End-of-Summer afternoon **Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Party** at Billy Iverson's home. No reservations are required but if you come, please bring a bottle of wine or an appetizer to share.

Because of a couple of conflicts, we won't be meeting on the third Thursday.

The date for the party is **Wednesday, August 20th at 3:00 p.m.**

Billye's address is 38 Stanford Circle.

We hope to see you there!



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)

September 8 All the Queen's Men (S.J. Bennett)
 October 6 The Late Show (Michael Connelly)

Myra
 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



August 16 Theaterfest
 August 21 Education Town Hall
 September 3 LV Branch Board Meeting,
 Dinah's home: 3:45pm
 September 10 Hancock "Bow Wow"
 September TBA Tech Trek/Membership Drive

**Directories!!****Directory Update:**

Please update your directory for Alice Down. Her email is: rf.amdown@comcast.net (the dot was missing between f.a)

Keep Up to Date on the latest AAUW news!**Members Not Receiving Messages from AAUW**

Share this resubscribe link with members who are **NOT receiving AAUW emails**:
https://secure.everyaction.com/p/8fvkDOF_gkmwgUN5RDy1tw2





Spotlight!

Please welcome one of our new members - **Amy Wilson**. Here is a little bit about Amy:

I am originally from Kansas City, but moved to California when I was ten, first to Mission Viejo and later to Ventura. I graduated from UCSB with a degree in Sociology and Religious Studies. I received my teaching credential from UCLA and my masters in curriculum and instruction from Chapman University. I taught elementary school for LUSD for 33 years, retiring in 2023. Since retirement I have become involved with Friends of the Library, the Lompoc Museum, the Lompoc Valley Historical Society and Quilters Etc. I enjoy quilting and cross stitch and my husband and I like to travel. I'm looking forward to contributing to AAUW in whatever ways I can.



Cheyenne Rosson- August 2nd



Recipe Corner

Pepperoncini Dip

Scoop up this creamy pepperoncino dip appetizer with grilled baguette pieces or mini bell pepper halves.

Ingredients

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons brine from pepperoncini jar
1/2 cup pepperoncini peppers - stemmed, seeded, and chopped
1 cup mixed giardiniera (pickled mixed vegetables), chopped
1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper
baguette slices, ridged potato chips, and/or vegetables, for dipping



Directions

Beat cream cheese in a bowl with an electric mixer at medium speed for 30 seconds. Beat in sour cream and pepperoncini brine until mixture is smooth. Beat in pepperoncini, giardiniera, red onion, Italian seasoning, salt, and crushed red pepper until combined.

Chill, covered, to allow flavors to meld, at least 1 hour (or up to 1 week). Serve with baguette slices, potato chips, and/or vegetables for dipping.



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

