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2025/2026 Executive BoardPresident

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

Branch Number: 0130

**Presidents' Report**

Happy New Year! I am hoping that you had a restful and rejuvenating holiday season whether you stayed close to home or journeyed to far flung sites in different time zones! Wherever you spent the holidays, please come out and share your favorite travel experience and how it shaped your view of women in the world at the "Where in the World" brunch potluck and meeting on Saturday Jan. 10th from 11am-1pm at the Valley of the Flowers Church of Christ, details in this month's newsletter.

A great benefit of travel is examining our assumptions and learning how others view the world. AAUW California is continuing its series called The Four Pivots, Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves. Here is the link to register: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/event/the-four-pivots-session-two/> What caught my attention was the First Pivot: Awareness - From lens to mirror. What does that mean? In brief, to change from external observation to inward reflection, self-awareness, accountability and growth. The start of 2026 is a great time to think about what impact you want to make in your family, work, and community.

Speaking of community, every newsletter has suggestions for events and groups to join. Also mark your calendar for an exciting InterBranch Council (IBC) meeting on 2/7/26 at the Mission Club, flyer with details in newsletter. My colleague and friend Dianne Owens, who is AAUW National Board Chair has this great quote in her signature block "Amid adversity, remember that positive outcomes are easier to see with your head up," from Christopher Novak's "Conquering Adversity". So, let's march into 2026 with our head up, our shoulder pads and helmet on, and let's get in the game!



Dinah Lockhart: President

Programs

AAUW  **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL LUNCHEON

RESEARCH. EDUCATION. ADVOCACY.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026 | 11:30 AM



FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST:

GLORIA L. BLACKWELL

AAUW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TICKETS: \$35 @ THE MISSION CLUB 4300 CLUB HOUSE ROAD
NEAR VANDENBERG VILLAGE

INCLUDES SANDWICH BAR, SALAD, DESSERT, & BEVERAGE

PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026, TO
TERRY @ TLFORSS@HOTMAIL.COM OR 651-247-3885.
SEND CHECKS MADE OUT TO AAUW LOMPOC VANDENBERG
(NOTE "IBC LUNCHEON" IN MEMO LINE) TO: PO BOX 2523,
LOMPOC, CA 93438 ~ ATTENTION TERRY FORSS

Meet AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell in person at the Mission Club on February 7, 2026!!



We're thrilled to announce a can't-miss event! Join us at the Interbranch Council Luncheon on February 7, 2026, at the Mission Club in Lompoc to hear directly from AAUW National Chief Executive Officer, Gloria Blackwell, as our keynote speaker. As a champion of gender equity and an influential leader with a distinguished track record in expanding educational and leadership opportunities for women and girls, Gloria brings a wealth of experience and vision to AAUW. At the luncheon, where she will unveil an exciting new collaboration between AAUW and the League of Women Voters, designed to ignite voter engagement and activism in our communities and nation! Enjoy a delicious sandwich bar lunch (vegetarian and vegan options available – please specify with RSVP), plus beverage and dessert, all for just \$35. RSVP to Terry Forss and Dinah **by January 28**, and bring your check (payable to AAUW Lompoc-Vandenberg, "IBC luncheon" in the memo) to the 'Where in the World' luncheon on January 10 at Valley of the Flowers Church (11–1), or mail it to PO Box 2523 Lompoc, CA 93438, Attention: Terry Forss. Don't miss this unique opportunity to be part of something big—reserve your spot today!

Learn more about our CEO through this link:

<https://www.aauw.org/about/leadership/gloria-l-blackwell/>

Where in the World: Feminism through a World Lens

Jan 10th: 11:00 am, Valley of the Flower United Church of Christ: 3346 Constellation Road.

Please join us with a potluck brunch and share stories and travels from around the world.

Everyone is encouraged to display and show something of interest for an opportunity to learn. Kari Rosson will be our guest speaker with a presentation on her trip to Guatemala whereas she visited several women owned entrepreneur businesses.



Here are a few shots from our holiday party where music and fun reigned supreme and the holidays were made brighter for Lompoc through the generous donations to the Food Bank.



Membership

Membership Renewal & Annual Dues

AAUW National dues are \$74.00 and are 100% tax deductible. The CA State dues are \$30.00. Local branch dues remain at \$23.00. In summary, the total is \$127.00.

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.

Don't let your membership lapse as you will no longer get the newsletter!



Kay Duffy Taylor: Co-Membership VP
Leslie Sevier: Co-Membership VP



Treasurer Report

Help! Your branch needs help with the treasurer's position. There is not a lot of work, just organization with handling the position of Treasurer. You don't have to do all the work, just intern as a Co-Treasurer and see if the position is for you. Who doesn't like handling money?? You would be fulfilling a great service! Please contact Jan Keller at (805) 291-9777 or Terry Forss at (651) 247-3885 to volunteer. Thank you in advance.



Terry Forss, Jan Keller: Co-Treasurers



Public Policy

AAUW California Public Policy Committee Announces School Board Symposium **By Kathi Harper, Chair AAUW Public Policy School Board Project**

In *The Once and Future King*, T.H. White wrote: “You may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honor trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn... That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you.”

In 1881, a small group of female college graduates demonstrated that they understood the importance of learning to women’s ability to advance in the world, when they banded together in what would become the American Association of University Women to encourage more women to pursue higher education.

Almost one hundred years later, Congress demonstrated that they understood the importance of equal access to learning when they added Title IX to the U.S. Education Codes in 1972, prohibiting discrimination in educational opportunities on the basis of sex; and again, when they established the U.S. Department of Education on May 4, 1980, with a mission to strengthen the Federal commitment to assuring access to equal educational opportunity for every individual.

Now, fifty-five years later, it does indeed seem the world is being “devastated by lunatics.” In 2016 Title IX protections against sexual harassment were eviscerated in the first Trump administration. Attempts by the new administration in 2020 to reverse those changes, and to provide additional protections for our LGBTQ+ and pregnant students were [thrown out by a Federal court](#). In 2022, Florida passed [the Stop WOKE Act](#) restricting classroom discussions of race, gender and sexual orientation and banned 2300 books in just the 2024-25 school year alone [followed by 23 other states](#). This spawned the “Moms for Liberty” movement, whose goal is to install school board members across the United States whose values include banning books, censoring curriculum and enacting policies harmful to our LGBTQ+ students.

And it gets worse. In his inaugural address in January 2025, [the President declared](#) “As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders: male and female.” In February he sent a “[Dear Colleague](#)” letter to all school districts making federal funding contingent on eliminating race-based considerations from [all policy decisions](#). To date eight universities have capitulated to the current administration’s lawsuits or threats to withhold grants by agreeing to curtail or eliminate DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) programs and policies under an Alice-in-Wonderland [definition of discrimination](#). And the latest blow: in late November of 2025, the

Trump administration took a major new step to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education (ED). After deep staff cuts, ED announced six “partnerships” on November 18 that shift the day-to-day work of key education programs to other federal agencies, despite Congress creating ED to centralize federal education expertise and protect students’ civil rights.

Is your hair on fire yet?! I know ours (AAUW California Public Policy Committee) is. That’s why the School Board Project is more important, more relevant, and more urgent than ever. We are doing everything we can to empower you, our members, to make a difference at the grass roots level to fight to save the value of learning in your local school districts, by speaking up for our values at school board meetings and supporting school board candidates who share those values. **If you’re ready to fight back, please join us for a half day of our own learning, on Saturday January 31, 2026 9:00am to 12:30pm PT, for our symposium “AAUW School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy.”**

In just 3 1/2 short hours you will learn:

- How the federal government’s restrictive laws impact California’s protective laws
- How to effectively advocate for AAUW values with your local school board members
- Why advocating on behalf of LGBTQ+ students is a crucial AAUW priority
- How to support progressive school board members in conservative districts
- How to respond to parents’ concerns with accurate information
- How to form and sustain valuable coalitions in your district with like-minded organizations
- How to identify, recruit and support school board candidates whose values reflect AAUW California’s Public Policy Priorities

Don’t just be on fire, be fired-up! Join us for a day of learning, by [registering HERE](#).

Mary Schaefer: Public Policy Chair



College/University Liaison

Our Lompoc-Vandenberg Branch of AAUW is proud to partner with Allan Hancock College and have a table at the Lompoc Valley Center Bulldog Bow-WOW event on Wednesday, February 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

It’s a fun opportunity to meet with students and staff and share our mission and our values. Students can join AAUW as a free student affiliate. Please let me know you would like to help with this event.

Barbara Bolton: College Liaison



[You're invited! Join AAUW on **January 15 at 2:00 pm ET** for our webinar "The Future of Higher Education."](#)

In light of the recent attacks on higher education, this important webinar provides space for leaders to discuss the future of higher education. The panel will explore not only the current reality, but also the long-term impacts and pathways forward. Panelists will provide insights from their own positions and experiences as leaders in higher education.

RSVP Here

Meet the Panelists:

- **Toby Jenkins, Ph.D.** — Professor of Leadership and Policies, University of South Carolina
- **Kimala Price, Ph.D.** — Professor and Chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, San Diego State University
- Moderated by **Gloria L. Blackwell**, CEO of AAUW

REGISTER NOW!



TECH TREK

Mary Isaac, *Tech Trek Program Director, and Tech Trek Committee chair*, techtrek@aauw-ca.org

AND SO, THE TECH TREK NEW YEAR BEGINS! ONCE AGAIN, THE TECH TREK TRAIN IS ROLLING! Thank you to all who submitted their camper requests by December 15th, and to those who forgot, we will use your branch numbers from last year for you to update in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will be sent out under a separate email to the branch presidents of record mid-January with a due date of mid-February.

In case you have not seen it already, the document [What's New in 2026](#) details some important information about the upcoming season, starting with MOUs and CampDoc going live in a few weeks.

[All documents](#) have been updated on the Tech Trek webpages to help your branch share the excitement with schools, teachers, and families; rumor is that a few new videos aimed at teachers and volunteers will be dropping this month!

Here's to another STEMazing year thanks to your branch's commitment!

The Tech Trek Branch Coordinators Peer Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. They have the link for these meetings. The topic will be: Tech Trek activities relevant to branch coordinators.

Wynn Clevenger: Tech Trek Chair



DONATE



AAUW Funds

Thank you, members who donated in the last month, and the Christmas party. Dianne Ownes won the door prize and gracefully re-donated her winnings back to the AAUW Fund. Thank you! Everyone who attended the Christmas party received a poinsettia. Again, thank you for your continued support!

Alice Down: AAUW Funds VP



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 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

Jan 15th: The Dine-Out Group meets the third Thursday of every month at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are encouraged but not necessary. Location: Suvan's on West Central. Besides having lunch, we will talk about our choice for restaurants for the next 6 months. Please join us!
 Billye Iverson 805-757-7165
 Leslie Sevier 805-291-6095



Billye Iverson and Leslie Sevier: Co-Chairs

Roaming Readers (1st Monday of the month)

January 5	Reader's Choice	
February 2	The Paris Apartment (Lucy Foley)	Kathryn
March 2	FDR Drive (James Comey)	Eileen
April 6	The One Hundred Years of Lonni and Margot (Marianne Cronin)	Myra
May 4	Maisie Dobbs (Jacqueline Winspear)	Carol Ann
June 1	The Woman in Cabin 10 (Ruth Ware)	Kathryn
July 6	The Great Alone (Kristin Hanna)	Cathy
August 3	The Searcher (Tana French)	Betty

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 Chair: Leslie Sevier at bookstor@verizon.net.

Social Media Guru

Denise Robles is chairing the branch's social media accounts. Have something that would be great to post from the branch? Contact Denise at denilu29@icloud.com.

Directories!!

Please send your updated information to Kay or Leslie as they are working on the new Directory of members!

Keep Up to Date on the latest AAUW news!**Help for 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

Are you getting AAUW National emails? Is your contact information up to date?

We're moving to a new mass email platform to better serve you! Access your AAUW personal snapshot and update your contact information and preferences.

Frequent users, click [LOG IN](#) as usual. Non-frequent users, click [LOG IN](#), then below the blue log in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click **RESET YOUR PASSWORD** to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot. Need help? Email connect@aauw.org and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.

**Calendar of Events**

Jan 10th: Where in the World: Feminism through a World Lens at 11:00 am, Valley of the Flower United Church of Christ: 3346 Constellation Road

Jan 19th: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March to DeWees Center: 10:00-2:00pm DeWees Center

Feb 7th: 11:30: Inter-Branch Council: General Luncheon and Meeting. Mission Club, 43 Clubhouse Road. \$35.00



January Webinars and Events

AAUW Work Smart: Know Your Value and Get Paid

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

The Future of Higher Education

Thursday, January 15, 2026 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

AAUW Start Smart

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm ET

AAUW Money Smart: Smart Foundations

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm ET

Advocacy in an Election Year: Staying Nonpartisan While Taking Real Action

Thursday, January 29, 2026 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET



Mary Schaefer Jan 31st



Recipe Corner

Winter Dinner Idea... Guaranteed To Keep You Warm & Cozy!

FRENCH ONION MAC AND CHEESE**Ingredients**

5 Tbsp. butter, divided, plus more room temperature for brushing
2 large yellow onions, thinly sliced
Kosher salt
8 oz. cavatappi or other short curly pasta
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
2 1/2 cups whole milk
1 cup grated fontina cheese
2 1/2 cups grated Gruyère
1 cup shredded sharp white cheddar
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
Pinch of cayenne pepper
1 tsp. fresh thyme leaves, plus more for garnish

Directions

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350°. Brush 4 to 6 ramekins (depending on size) or small ovenproof baking dishes with butter. Alternatively, brush one large baking dish with butter.

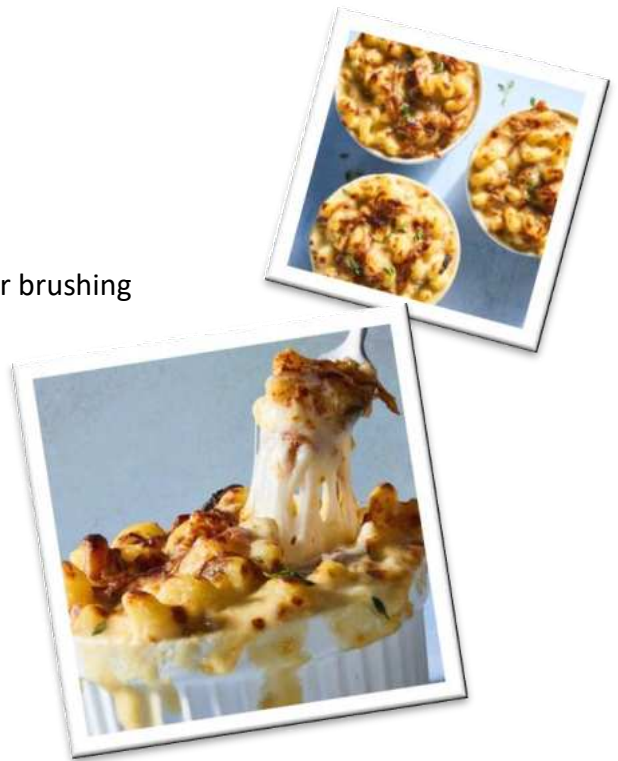
Step 2: In a large skillet, melt 3 tablespoons of the butter over medium. Add the onions and a pinch of salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until they are golden, about 30 minutes.

Step 3: Cook pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water, following package directions until al dente. Drain pasta.

Step 4: In a medium saucepan, melt the remaining 2 tablespoons butter over medium-high. Add flour and cook, stirring, 1 minute. While whisking, slowly pour in milk until combined. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to medium. Simmer, stirring, until sauce is thickened, about 6 minutes. Stir in fontina, 1 cup of the gruyere, and cheddar until cheese is melted. Remove from the heat. Stir in the pasta, caramelized onions, Dijon, thyme, and cayenne. Season with salt and pepper.

Step 5: Divide mixture among ramekins and top each ramekin with the remaining Gruyère. Bake until sauce is bubbly around the edges, about 20 minutes.

Step 6: Switch oven to broil and broil until cheese is golden, about 2 minutes. Garnish with more thyme before serving.



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

