



What you can do this month:
**Vote in the AAUW national election by the May 15th deadline to support the change in membership requirements

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PROGRAM

Join us on Friday, May 17, for a talk by author Helen Sorensen. Her works include “Mr. Pettigrew’s Last Stand” and “Hazelborne Ladies’ Motorcycle Club”. This program is presented in cooperation with Towne Center Books and will be held at their Pleasanton location at 555 Main Street. Watch for a Friday update with more details.

Also, save the afternoon of Friday, June 7, 4 PM, for our annual branch get-together and installation of officers at the home of Marilyn Duman. Watch for details in upcoming Grapevines and Friday updates.

Looking ahead, our annual fall kickoff is scheduled for Saturday, September 21.

YOUR INCOMING BOARD FOR 2024/25

The following slate of officers and directors have been voted in by our branch. Congratulations and thanks to the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| President/Administrator - Anita Massey | Program Co-Chairs- Gwen Locke, Nancy Hudson |
| Finance - Myla Grasso | AAUW Fund - PJ Wells |
| Secretary- Sandra Bauer | Membership - Tina Amber |
| | Publicity and Public Policy - Roz Wright |
| | STEM Director - Sheryl Morgan |

ABOUT THE UPCOMING NATIONAL VOTE

AAUW members will again vote on a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The state board recently voted to support the move because they believe it will help AAUW become the inclusive organization that many of us strive to see. Our branch could join the effort to set AAUW up for success in the coming years.

Many of us have been in the situation of meeting prospective members who are interested in AAUW and share our mission of equity for women and girls. We are then faced with having to ask them about their educational attainment to see if they would qualify for membership. It is difficult to ask and can lead to embarrassment for the prospective member if they don't meet the standard and the loss for us of their passion, skills, and potential contributions.

They cannot join due to a requirement that was established 143 years ago. In the years since, members have modified membership requirements to allow members from any regionally accredited institution, male college graduates, and those holding an associate or equivalent degree. But we are missing out on potential members who may share our vision but were not able to attain a college degree because of a myriad of circumstances.

Some members object to open membership because they wonder, "What will our name be?" AAUW's name doesn't need to change at all. We have been known as AAUW since the 1920s (two separate organizations merged) and so it has historic value as well as name recognition. When we talk about the organization, we can say "I belong to AAUW and we work for equity for women and girls." The initials are less important than our wonderful mission and actions.

While AAUW is an organization that fully supports women getting a college education in the field of their choice, we need to recognize that education comes in many forms. In our professional lives, we have worked with many women and men who did not have a formal degree. This is not a measure of intelligence or ability...sometimes it is the lack of opportunity or choices made early in life that are difficult to reverse. According to the 2021 Census, just 34% of Americans aged 25 to 29 years completed four years of college. We are missing out on many voices that we need in this fight for equity.

AAUW members have never stopped advocating for education while expanding our focus on ensuring effective policies around family leave, reproductive rights, equal pay, and policies against sexual harassment and violence against women. Welcoming those without a degree will not change who we are and what we are working towards- it will enhance our efforts by including anyone who is as passionate as we are about equity for women and girls.

We need every woman and man who supports our mission – empowering women and girls – to join us in the ongoing challenge of achieving gender equity. Please vote to support this change!

(If you did not receive the email with your individual information for voting,
please check your email SPAM folder.)

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Foundation Non-Event Fundraiser

We are still accepting donations for this year's annual spa day non-event fundraiser. As of this writing, we are still short of our goal. Thanks to the 34 members have supported this project so far. We encourage those of you who haven't sent a check yet to please do so. Every donation helps!

Over the past several years, we have been able to support three applicants with your generous donations. These bright, amazing young women are completing their college degrees during their junior and senior years. They will make a difference in their chosen fields in the coming years.

For questions, please contact [Ginny](#).

Vicki-Dawn Rader and Ginny Reineking, Fundraising Co-Chairs

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW California's Public Policy Committee has selected three priority bills for 2024:

AB 2843 was authored by AAUW California and includes Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors.

AB 2326 champions something that AAUW has long supported — Title IX.

AB 2099 which makes it possible for the protection of providers and patients while involved as reproductive health care providers.

All of the bills fall under at least one of the Public Policy Priority pillars for AAUW/California . Watch for additional information from AAUW California or contact [Roz](#).

Roz Wright, Public Policy (incoming)

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

Women's History Month (March) was the perfect time to recap AAUW's history. [***A Journey Through Time: The Evolution of AAUW***](#) highlighted the pivotal points in AAUW's history that turned us into the organization we are today. The featured speaker was Jessica Miller, AAUW's archivist, as she discussed both larger organizational changes and individual trailblazers who shaped our current structure. Be sure to watch to learn something new about AAUW!

BOARD UPDATE

Are you a “detail person”? Interested in branch operations? Then volunteer to help update the branch Policies and Procedures to support the newly approved by-laws. Contact President [Anita Massey](#) for more information.

The incoming 2024/25 board is starting planning for next year. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of the new board members.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewal

It almost time to begin the 2024-2025 membership renewal process!

You soon should receive an email directly from AAUW National, asking you to renew your national, state and branch membership online. Please try the online renewal - it is so easy!

Dues this year will be \$117.

Questions? Contact Tina at tmamber6@gmail.com.

INNOVATION DAY RECAP

Innovation Day at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on April 13 was once again a fun and inspiring day! This year we started with Nitu Shinde’s advice on several experiments (tested and approved by her children). The selected experiments were easy and fun and illustrated some basic scientific principles.

AAUW's table was the first one as folks entered the room. We had lots of kids stop by ready to play and learn. The principle of magnetic attraction was demonstrated by magnetic “cars” that could push and pull on each other. A “how to” on making pinwheels demonstrated aerodynamics. Naomi Siu ran the fingerprinting operation.

Thanks also to Carol Kinnard, Maria Kennedy, Pam Leong, and Lara Wiedemeier for their help in making the day a success. See the Celebrations section of this newsletter for photos.

PJ Wells, AAUW Fund Director



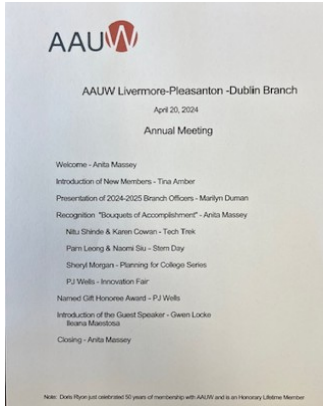
CELEBRATIONS

Innovation Day



CELEBRATIONS (continued)

Annual meeting at Vic's



Congratulations to Doris Ryan
on 50 years of AAUW membership
and becoming an honorary life member!



YOUR 2023-2024 LPD BOARD

Branch Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact [Anita Massey](#) if you would like to attend. Meetings are either in person or via Zoom (or both).

Officers:

President/Administrator - Anita Massey
Program Chair - Gwen Locke
Finance - Pam Leong
Membership - Tina Amber

Directors:

AAUW Fund - PJ Wells
Interbranch Council Liaison - Charlene Grandfield
Communications Coordinator - Marilyn Duman
Publicity - Roz Wright
Secretary - Pam Leong
STEM Director - Anita Massey

BRANCH ACTIVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Board Meeting

Branch Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome at board meetings, so please contact [Anita Massey](#) if you plan to attend.

Interest groups are open to active AAUW LPD branch members only.
Guests may attend a maximum of three times without becoming a member.

Wine Enthusiasts	May 3, 1 PM	Murieta's Well (event full)
International Lunch Group	TBD	
Monday Night Bridge	7 PM, 2 nd and 4 th Mondays	Various locations
Morning Book Group	9:30 AM, 4 th Monday	
Afternoon Book Group	1:30 PM, 2 nd Wednesday	
Mission Discussion Group	10 AM, 2 nd Thursday	
Cocktails & Conversation	5:30 PM, 1 st Thursday	May 2, 828 Bites & Brews

Newsletter edited by Myla Grasso. Articles or photos for consideration may be submitted to newsletter@aauw-lpd.org.

