



AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

August/September 2008

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 38 Issue 1

Darci Fersch, Program VP

Preparation is the Key to an Informed Voter! Saturday, September 6, 2008

Before every statewide election, the League of Women Voters of California analyzes the propositions on the ballot and prepares a nonpartisan, unbiased analysis of each ballot measure, which includes the pros, and cons of each measure on the ballot. This year is an important election year. To start a new year of programs for the AAUW Long Beach Branch, we are fortunate to have the League of Women Voters of California present its analysis of each ballot measure through a panel discussion of the pros and cons of these propositions on Saturday, September 6, 2008.

The League of Women Voters is an organization of women and men who want to make a difference in the political future of our communities, state, and country. They are a diversified, nonpartisan, political group with a long-standing tradition of educating voters.

Please join us for what we know will be a very informative meeting on how each of us can make a difference!

Start the new AAUW Long Beach Branch year by attending this informative meeting on Saturday, September 6, 2008, at A Cake Shoppe & Tea Room, 10900 Los Alamitos Blvd. Los Alamitos, CA 90720.



AAUW's Mission Statement: *Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

AAUW's Value Promise: *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

Branch News

Mary Orr, Courtesy Chair

COURTESY

Mary Orr, our Courtesy Chair, fell and broke her shoulder. As a result, she wasn't able to file her column this month.

Birthday greetings to all August and September honorees.

Oh, it's a long, long while from May to December

But the days grow short when you reach September

When the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame

One hasn't got time for the waiting game
K. Weill, M. Anderson

LACIC meetings are the 4th Monday of alternating months. Contact Linda Patten for more information.

Please come to the LACIC Presidents & Friends meeting on Saturday, September 20, 8:45 – 11:30 a.m., at the Carson Community Center. All are welcome, and AAUW CA's new leaders will tell us about their projects and plans. See Marion Smith's article for more info.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Planned Monthly Branch Meetings

- 9/6 Lunch at A Cake Shoppe and Tea Room
Speaker: League of Women Voters
- 10/4 Lunch at Bay Shore Congregational Community Church
Bronwyn Chambers, EF Fellow, Speaker
- 11/1 Lunch, Long Beach Yacht Club
Financial Preparedness Speaker
- 12/6 Wassail, Location: TBA
- 1/3 Lunch, Location TBA
Chris Lytle, Manager Director, Port of Long Beach, Speaker
- 2/2 Lunch, Leisure World
Speaker will be from one of the local philanthropic organizations we support
- 3/2 Lunch, Location: TBA
Dr. Caroline Heldman, author of "Rethinking Madame President, Speaker"
- 4/2* Dinner, Assistance League Headquarters
International Relations Speaker
- 5/2 Afternoon Membership Garden Party
Location: TBA
- 6/6 Lunch, Old Ranch Country Club
Installation of New Officers

All meetings except 4/2 are on the first Saturday of the month

*4/2—Thursday evening meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

All are held on the third Monday of October, January, March, and May and start at 6:30 PM. All meetings will be held at St. Luke's in the Youth Room

Dates: 10/20, 1/19, 3/16, 5/18 (Joint meeting with old and new boards)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All are held on the third Monday of the month and start at 6:30 PM at Linda Patten's home in Cerritos, CA

Dates: 9/15; 11/17; 12/15; 2/16; 4/20

AAUW-LONG BEACH WEBSITE: <http://www.aauw-longbeach.org>
Webmaster: – Marion D. Smith email her at mariondsmith@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was my privilege to attend and be inspired by the many women at the AAUW State Convention. There were many informative meetings, including one designed to educate the incoming presidents. At that meeting, we were presented with AAUW's Value Promise: **By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.**

Linda Hallman, the new Executive Director of AAUW, was present at the convention and gave a videotaped introduction of the upcoming changes we will be seeing. Our logo has been modified, we will be known as AAUW, (no longer The American Association of University Women) and this year there will be an evaluation on the structure of the Association itself! The proposal will merge the 501(c)(4) "social welfare" (lobbying) organization into the Education Foundation 501(c)(3) "charity" association. If you are interested in the details, planning process, and archive, they can be found at the www.aauw.org website. You may provide input at their website by August 30, 2008. If you do not have internet access please contact me as soon as possible. Additionally, it was announced that we members will have access to the AAUW-CA publication *Perspectives* through their website only. If you do not have internet access at home, please explore obtaining access at your local public library.

The June *Vantage* outlined our branch three-year plan to keep the Value Promise to the community, the girls and women, as well as to you, the members. Your involvement is the key to our success! We are still in need of Mailing and Publicity chairs – help us bring our message to each member and the community by volunteering. The benefits to you as a volunteer are rewarding on many levels.

I look forward to my year as president, we will work together to fulfill our goals, value promise, and mission: **AAUW advances equity for girls and women through advocacy, education, and research.** Be involved, join an interest group, a committee, sign-up to help, and most importantly, come to the meetings – the girls and women need you.

Patricia Ferrer, Editor

ALL SHOOK UP?

The recent earthquake provided a reminder that we should all be prepared for a natural disaster! Dr. Kate Hutton, Seismologist, California Institute of Technology, stated "Every earthquake relieves some stress, it's usually only a drop in the ocean. In other words, the amount of stress released by this earthquake is minuscule compared to the amount that's built up and is building up for the Big One when it happens some day in the future."

The United States Geological Survey has a website dedicated to earthquake preparedness: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/preparedness.php>. The website has links to a variety of preparedness pamphlets.

Lamis Hashem, International Relations Co-Chair

GREAT DECISIONS

By being part of our group, you will be able to make the "Great Decisions." You have a choice to be part of a group that meets either during the day or in the evening. You will receive a book that has 8 or 10 chapters on a pertinent global issue that will be discussed during the meeting. This was my first introduction to AAUW, and I am very glad I joined this group. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact me (Lamis Hashem) or Helen Sebring.

Betty Ann Brauch, Public Policy VP

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

Thank You to all of you who took the time to call your representative concerning the **Paycheck Fairness Act**. The measure passed the house (247 – 178). All Democrats voted for the bill as did 14 Republicans (Unfortunately that did not include either Rep. Rohrabacher or Rep. Royce.)

The **Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (H.R. 4137)** passed both the House (380-49) and the Senate (83-8). The 1,150 page bill brought massive overhaul as the first reauthorization of the Act in 10 years. The legislation extends additional aid benefits, forces greater accountability for colleges, and reduces the length of the Free Application for Student Aid Form from 109 pages to 2 pages. Among the bill's provisions were a number of programs that AAUW has fought for, including making Pell grants available year-around, expanding the population of qualified individuals – particularly women and minorities – in Stem fields, establishing the Patsy Mink Graduate Fellowship Program, increasing funding for campus child care, and aligning the HEA hate crimes categories with the ones used by the FBI. President Bush is expected to sign the legislation.

There will be a meeting of the Public Policy Committee at my home (13040 Del Monte Drive 45C in Leisure World) on September 10 at 1:30 pm. We will discuss the most important and interesting ballot measures. There are 12 as of July 28 but the statutory limitation can be waived if there is agreement by the governor and legislature. It isn't necessary to let me know in advance if you are planning to attend, but it would be helpful. You can reach me at (562) 431-6679 or barauch@att.net. Hope to see you – it should be an interesting discussion!

Julie Mills/Helen Sebring, Co-Secretaries

BOARD BRIEFS

The Full Board of Directors met on July 27, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rossmoor Library Community Room. Regular business was conducted. The following motions were made:

It was moved by Sharon Westafer that a committee be formed to study the administration, composition, and directions of the branch mentor program and to report their recommendations at the September Executive Board Meeting. Motion passed.

It was moved by Sharon Westafer, EF Chair, that the following activities be accepted by the Board to raise funds for EF: a bus trip to the Huntington Library, a bunco night, a self catered luncheon, sale of books, a silent auction and pin and purse sales at the Wassail. Motion passed.

Linda Patten, Tech Trek

TECH TREK UPDATE

As this is written, the girls have checked into Tech Trek for their exciting week at Whittier College! They will have field trips to JPL, San Jose Creek, and the Aquarium of the Pacific. Through the generous donations of Linda Moore, Lou Es Greene (in honor of her mother: Mrs. Rex Cabaniss) and Anne Graves, we were able to buy over 100 water bottles for the girls to re-fill and re-use, donate two \$50 grocery certificates and add \$50 to our account in the SPF fund. In addition to our branch sponsoring the seven girls, Pat Ferrer, Linda Patten, Anne Supple and Sharon Westafer will be working at Tech Trek Camp. **Please contact Anne Supple or Linda Patten for suggestions of corporate sponsors to help us fund next year's campers.**

WHAT'S NEW IN AAUW CA?

Short answer: Lots! These are just some changes that have happened since the new bylaws and new program year began on July 1:

AAUW CA is governed by 16 directors, all elected at the April convention. The directors then elected officers, including Judy Pfeil and Gloria Taylor as co-presidents. Eight were assigned one-year terms, so that at next April's convention, we'll be electing eight directors and, thereafter, all 16 terms will be two-year terms. The board initiated a new program—Financial Literacy. One director will oversee this. In the category of advocacy, International Advocacy joins Public Policy and Educational Foundation. One director is assigned to each area of advocacy.

With the dissolution of districts, tasks that used to be handled by district directors are now added to the tasks of interbranch council chairs. As chair of Los Angeles Interbranch Council (LACIC), yours truly is trying to figure out what she's supposed to do and how she's supposed to do it. In addition, there's a new AAUW CA committee: Branch Liaison. New IBC chairs were invited to join that committee.

Long Beach Branch has two members serving on state committees: Sharon Westafer is Southern Schedule on the Educational Foundation Committee, and as mentioned above, I'm on the Branch Liaison Committee. I'm also serving as Blog Manager on the Communications Committee.

How can you find out more about all of this? I'm so glad you asked! Please come to the LACIC Presidents & Friends meeting on Saturday, September 20, 8:45 – 11:30 a.m., at the Carson Community Center. All are welcome, and AAUW CA's new leaders will tell us about their projects and plans. Cost is \$12/person for reservations received [by me] by September 13 and \$18/person thereafter. Please make your check payable to Marion D. Smith. Call for more info: 310 832 3000 or mariondsmith@gmail.com

Carolyn Magnus, LAF VP

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND UPDATE

Welcome back from the summer break. I hope all our members are returning rested and in a generous frame of mind because I will soon be asking all of you to open your hearts, minds, and wallets to support LAF.

By all reports, the current economic downturn has been particularly hard on working women, many have simply left the workforce because they cannot find jobs with adequate pay. Those who remain employed face the prospect of losing their jobs if they insist on being accorded the rights the law affords them in the workplace. Thus, this year it is particularly important that AAUW has sufficient LAF resources to be an effective advocate for women's equality.

While there have been major changes in LAF's focus, the fact remains that AAUW has a unique voice in the arena of equality for women; and that voice needs to be heard if we are to make meaningful progress in our efforts to level the playing field for women. LAF has been, and should continue to be, an effective vehicle for asserting AAUW's positions in a public forum. In September, please be unsparing in donating to LAF.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Although at the 1955 Association convention, it was voted to establish the Educational Foundation, it didn't receive tax-exempt status until 1958. 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the Educational Foundation as we know it.

Applications for fellowships and grants for the 2009-2010 year are available on line and AAUW members may now apply for all fellowship and grant opportunities. Previously, AAUW members were restricted to applying for only community action grants. Visit aauw.org/education/fga/fellowships_grants/index.cfm for more information.

The 2008-2009 fundraising year kicked off with the "Fantasy Trip." This fundraiser netted \$1,936.22 for the Educational Foundation. Thank you so much to those who participated. And thank you to Judith Kaho and Deloris Mayuga, who each donated to EF in appreciation of last year's board of directors.

Now that we've returned from our "Fantasy Trip to China and the Olympics," I hope you're rested and ready for more EF activities. The EF committee met in July and is busy planning enjoyable fundraisers.

October's branch meeting will be dedicated to EF with a self-catered luncheon. Bronwyn Chambers, last year's recipient of grant money from the Anna Stofflett Townsend International Endowment, will be the guest speaker and we plan to invite members of the Cerritos-La Palma, the San Pedro, and the Palos Verde Peninsula branches to attend.

A bus trip to the Huntington Library is also being planned for October. The tentative date is Wednesday October 8. Contact Sharon Westafer if you're interested.

A bunco evening is being planned for November and we'll be selling pins, coin purses and gently used books at the Wassail in December, as well as the silent auction. Contact Sharon Westafer if you have books or silent auction items to donate.

2007-08 New Members Group in Transition

The 2007-08 New Members Group has agreed to continue as a branch interest group called **Community Connections**. This past year the group concentrated on collecting and packaging personal care packets for the students at the Mary Bethune Center, the LBUSD school for homeless students. In July, members prepared and delivered 85 of these packets to the Bethune Center thanks to members' generous donations of toiletries and money to purchase needed items.

As the **Community Connections** interest group, we plan to continue this endeavor while also assessing other needs of this school and the community. Lou Es Greene, Community Representative Chairperson, has enthusiastically agreed to provide her experience and expertise to the group.

Community Connections first dinner meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2008, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at the Marie Callendar's, 12489 Seal Beach Boulevard, Seal Beach. All members are welcome and encouraged to join!

If you would like to receive meeting reminders and updates for this interest group, please contact Anne Supple at annesupple@verizon.net or call 562-665-8361.

Membership Opportunities

Fall is upon us, bringing some exciting presentations for our upcoming Branch meetings. Our first meeting in September, in which we will collaborate with the League of Women Voters, will focus on upcoming voting initiatives. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Branch members to bring guests to hear important voter information and to experience the vibrant and welcoming nature of our Branch and its members.

We will have membership packets available at all Branch meetings to give to guests and potential Branch members. Please bring your friends, family members and neighbors and help us expand our network of members.

We'd like to introduce two of our newest members to you also. Shirley Knopf is a joint member with the AAUW North Tahoe Branch, and Rita Powell is new to AAUW. Please look for them and welcome them to our Branch at upcoming meetings.

AAUW BRANCH MEETING SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2008

Social: 9:30am
Business Meeting: 10:00am
Program: 11:00am
Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Place: A Cake Shoppe & Tea Room
10900 Los Alamitos Blvd.
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
562-493-2253

Menu: Scone with lemon curd and clotted cream
Tea sandwiches
Dessert
Tea

Price: \$18.00 per person

RSVP by Saturday, August 30, 2008

Questions: JoAnn Kuroda - 562-429-6923

Those making a lunch reservation have made a financial commitment and refunds shall not be made.

RESERVATION RETURN

Send your registration and check payable to AAUW Long Beach Branch. Please mail to Bobbi Burket, PO Box 90502, Long Beach, CA 90809. (562) 599 3927

Deadline for Reservations, August 30, 2008

Member(s)

Phone (Day) _____ Evening _____

Guest(s)

Address(s)

No. of Reservations ____ Amount Enclosed _____

I would like to make ____ reservation(s) for the meeting and program only.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT: AAUW Vantage (USPS 361-850) is published monthly except in July and September by the Long Beach Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), 525 E. 7th Street #117, Long Beach 90813. Periodical postage paid at Long Beach, CA. Postmaster send address changes for AAUW Vantage to 525 E. 7th Street, #117, Long Beach, CA 90813.

INTEREST GROUPS

Public Policy, September 10, 2008 at 1:30 PM. Please contact Betty Ann Rauch 562-431-6679 for information.

Book Chat Plus please contact Jean Friedrichs, 562-598-9218.

Great Books please contact Vi Dwyer.

Community Connections will meet on Monday, September 15, 2008, at Marie Callender's, Rossmoor., at 630 PM. Contact Anne Supple for more information 562 665 8361

Literary Ladies meets the second Monday of the month at Jean Aldrich's home 1PM. Please contact Pat Ferrer at 562 597 4781 for more information.

Equity Players meet "as needed." New members always welcome. Please contact Lou Es Greene at 562-434-6477.

Antiques and Collectibles please contact Barbara Gleason, 562-421-2206, for information.

Bridge Groups. Please call first to verify, day, time, and place:

Other Wednesday Bridge	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Emily Elgin	(562) 498-0646
Friday Bridge	2 nd Friday	9:30 a.m. – noon	Cathy Cunningham	(562) 424-3166

Editor: Patricia A. Ferrer, panderoh@aol.com 562-597-4781



In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

AAUW Long Beach Branch
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Long Beach, CA 90813
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