

2025-2026 New Member Orientation

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Long Beach Branch Website: longbeach-ca.aauw.net

Mailing address: P.O. Box 15023, Long Beach, CA 90815

E-mail: aauwlongbeach@gmail.com

Social Media: www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca, LinkedIn, Instagram

We are a non-partisan organization established in 1920. We support opportunities for activism and hold monthly program meetings that promote education and equity, not just for women and girls, but also for the City of Long Beach. We strongly value and encourage a diverse membership.

You've come to the right place if you hold an Associate Degree or higher (or Equivalent), are a college or university student, believe in Pay Equity, Voting Rights, a woman's choice to make health decisions about her own body, and equal rights for girls and boys, men and women.

If you are interested in joining, we welcome you to attend our monthly meetings and to contact the Membership Vice Presidents at aauwlongbeach.membership@gmail.com.

2025-26 Elected Officers

Co-Presidents	Jane Hansen & Barbara Hall
President-Elect	Open
Co-Program Vice Presidents	Erin Murphy & Celia Mejia
Co-Membership Vice Presidents	Mary Ann Takemoto & Faye Alperin
Fund Vice President	Ginny Baxter
Co-Treasurers	Darlene Daclan & Tammy Kane
Investments Vice President	Patricia Ferrer
Co-Secretaries	Cacilia Kim & Linda Westman

2025-26 Appointed Officers

Communications Director	Herlinda Chico
Financial Secretary	Ginny Baxter
Membership Treasurer	Jointly held by Co-Membership VPs & Co-Treasurers
Parliamentarian	Open
Public Policy Director	Juliet Wurr
Immediate Past Co-Presidents	Amy La & Carolyn Eggleston

AAUW Long Beach 2025-2026 Calendar

In-person ~ LBCC Liberal Arts Campus, Building 0-2 on Conant Avenue, Rooms 208-209
Zoom ~ link in is the monthly agenda

Dates, time, topics & speakers are subject to change. Check Vantage newsletter for new information.

Branch Meetings	Topic/Speaker	AAUW Strategic Plan Alignment
September 6	Today's undergrad and CSULB/LBCC Scholarship Recipients Presenter: Celia Mejia, CSULB Women's Center or Shaina Phillips, LBCC Chief Innovation Officer	"Provide direct funding for women in underserved communities"
October 4	Fighting Project 2025 and Local Policies Potential speakers: Dr. Missy Maceyko or Jodi Balma	"Empower AAUW members and supporters to sign with AAUW's mission and values."
November 1	Veterans Speakers: TBA with Denise Montoya	"Defend and promote the principles of equity, inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality in higher education and across all AAUW activities, affiliates, and participants."
December TBA	Holiday Gathering ~ Location TBA	N/A
January 10	Tech Trek (possibly with Mentoring) Speakers: TBA with Valerie Armstrong (possibly Reimagining Committee members)	"Deepen the pipeline of women in STEM through early education."
February 7	LB Commission on the Status of Women and Girls Speakers: Representatives from the Commission	"Defend and promote the principles of equity, inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality in higher education and across all AAUW activities, affiliates, and participants."
March 7	Unsung Women in History Potential Speakers: Cathy De Leon (or LBPL representative), Julie Bartolotto (or LBHS representative)	"Empower AAUW members and supporters to align with AAUW's mission and values."
April 4	A Conversation Among LB-Based Organizations That Serve Women and Girls Speakers: TBA	"Defend and promote the principles of equity, inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality in higher education and across all AAUW activities, affiliates, and participants."
May TBA	Spring Mixer Host: Charlotte Joseph	N/A
June 6	Installation of 2026-2027 Board	N/A

Philanthropic Projects and Funding

AAUW Tech Trek

- The Branch sends girls to a week-long STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) camp at a local college/university in the summer between their 7th and 8th grade years.
- The committee selects the girls from Long Beach Unified School District Title 1 middle schools
- Camperships are funded by donations from branch members, local organizations, and other supporters.

Scholarships

- Annually two (2) scholarships of \$2,500 each are awarded to California State University Long Beach students and two (2) scholarships of \$500 are given to Long Beach City College students.
- Funding is from the net income from the Author's Day event held annually each Spring. AAUW members are encouraged to attend and support the activities of Author's Day and the silent auction. Balance of funding is from funds bequeathed to the Branch by long-time member Frances Magarian, the Branch reserve fund, or donated by members and supporters.

Other Fundraising

AAUW National-Level Annual Fund solicits funds for specific programs or to the "greatest needs." Donations are usually made in November and are optional.

- Education & Training Fund - supports STEM, Title IX and Pathways to Jobs
- Economic Security Fund - Pay Equity, Title VII, Retirement Security
- Leadership Fund - Career Workplace Training

Read more about Annual Fund on the AAUW Long Beach website, <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/aauw-fund/>

Membership Dues

Annual branch dues are \$130: National - \$74, State - \$30, Long Beach Branch \$26

Students from CSULB or LBCC pay \$0 in national dues and half of the State and Branch dues. Contact the Membership VP for more information.

Payment of dues may be made using a credit card through the branch website, <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/membership/membership-form/>

Payment may also be made using Zelle or mailing a check made out to "AAUW Long Beach," P.O. Box 15023, Long Beach, CA 90815.

History*

There are three levels of AAUW: AAUW National, AAUW California and branches such as AAUW Long Beach. We are members of all three organizations and pay dues to each group.

AAUW National was established in 1881 with 1,000 branches nationwide.

AAUW California is the most active and diverse organization for women in our state, with more than 8,500 members in 108 branches, as well as nearly 2,000 members-at-large.

AAUW Long Beach currently has 120 members and a long and prestigious history beginning in 1920.

1920 – 1940:

A small group of college-educated women formed the College Women's Club of Long Beach in 1911 and became affiliated with the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the forebear of AAUW. The Branch joined with the League of Women Voters to establish a school for voters. They also created a Toy Loan Library, an Inter-Club Legislature, a city-wide Creative Arts Festival, and a Community Arts Survey. The Branch's focus on education emerged early—in the 1920s members raised money for scholarships.

1941 – 1945:

During WW II, the Branch set up a Speakers Bureau in connection with consumer research, worked with the YWCA in finding rooms for defense workers, bought War Bonds, and along with American Women's Volunteer Service, established and helped furnish and staff, a Servicewomen's Club.

1945 – 1970:

In the post-war years, AAUW-Long Beach conducted a survey of recreational facilities that resulted in supervised playgrounds, updated the Arts Survey of Long Beach, and conducted a study of juvenile problems in Lakewood, resulting in supervised recreation in Pan-American Park. Members began a Braille Transcribing Section that produced hundreds of books for blind students.

1970 – 1995:

In cooperation with other organizations, the Branch developed and presented the first Literary Women's Conferences. Among other contributions to the community, members published *Choosing Childcare: a Directory of Child Care Facilities in Long Beach*. The group successfully raised money for three named EF fellowships during these years.

1995 – 2005:

New activities: members mentored more than fifty middle- and high-school girls; supported Tech Trek scholarships; provided reading tutors for Constellation Middle School; and a Math-Science workshop for middle-school girls. Additionally, the Branch completed another named fellowship and has consistently been one of the leading California donors to the Legal Advocacy Fund.

2005-2025

Continued support of Tech Trek, conducted AAUW Work and Start Smart workshops on negotiating pay and benefits; oversaw STEM Career Conferences for LBUSD Title I middle-school girls; presented \$82,500 in scholarships to LBCC & CSULB students by 2025; created an Investment Policy to ensure the branch's financial security; and completed two more AAUW Research and Projects Endowments. Received the TALB Friend of Education Award for Community Service award; collaborated with the Women's Intercultural Network to advocate for the 2016 ratification by the LB City Council to be a CEDAW city; celebrated its own 100th anniversary in 2020; was recognized by LB Mayor Robert Garcia and the LBCC Board of Trustees for its implementation and 50-year advocacy of Title IX; was a member of the CSULB President's Commission on the Status of Women and advocated for the LB Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

*For complete history, visit longbeach-ca.aauw.net

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

Joining an interest group(s) is a great way to get to know other members on a more personal level. Make new friends while participating in fun, informative and educational activities.

Interest groups are for the benefit of AAUW members only; however, guests may attend a meeting group or interest group a maximum of three times before they are required to join.

To start a new interest group, submit a description to the Co-Presidents. They will help you move forward with your idea.

For the most current list of Interest Groups & their contact persons, visit longbeach-ca.aauw.net/Interest Groups.

Book Chat Plus normally meets the first Tuesday from 10 am-noon at Lamis' home. Members share an interesting book, film, or a recent travel experience. Contact: Lamis Hashem at 562-221-9361 / thehashemfamily@gmail.com.

Cultural Adventures & International Cuisine Group plans trips to museums and other points of interest. International Cuisine plans meals at different ethnic restaurants. For Cultural Adventures: JoAnn Kuroda at 562-429-6973 / sojoinlb@aol.com. For International Cuisine: Faye Alperin 562-659-0051 / fayalperin@gmail.com.

Great Decisions Groups are self-moderated groups that discuss issues of world importance, guided by the Great Decisions book published by the Foreign Policy Association. This publication highlights 8 thought-provoking foreign policy challenges currently facing America. The program provides materials that help members share opinions and ideas on critical global issues. Each person pays for their own copy of the Great Decisions book.

- In-person every other Friday afternoon. Contact: Deloris Mayuga at 562-708-1253.
- Zoom every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Carol Clanton at 562-882-0662 / cclanton86@icloud.com

Begins in February. The 2026 Great Decisions books will be available in January. Contact your group leader or Rita Powell at 562-685-2096 / riorita111@verizon.net

Literary Ladies Group meets to discuss and compare thoughts on a selected book, fiction or nonfiction. Each member takes a turn recommending and leading the group.

- In-person second Monday of each month, 12:15-2:15 p.m. at Grounds Café & Bakery. Contact: Sharon Westafer, 562-493-4749 / sharwest1@hotmail.com

Public Policy members prepare for our Branch's participation in state Lobby Days 2026. We meet with local and State elected representatives to understand priorities for the coming year and stay abreast of AAUW California's legislative agenda. After three bills are identified for Lobby Days, committee members research the issues. Our branch participates in Lobby Days either via Zoom or in Sacramento. Contact: Juliet Wurr at 202-716-4145 / jwurr@hotmail.com

Residential Rentals Discussion Group

We discuss topics relating to residential rentals – topics of interest/importance/concern. They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 10-11:30 a.m. at the dining room table in our homes or via ZOOM. Contact: Ellen Mathis at 562-433-6509 / epmathis@verizon.net and Joan Gustafson at 562.439-3130 / jwg221@aol.com