



Feather Vane – SUMMER, 2020

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

Our Branch Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through education and networking within our diverse community.



Council Chat Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader

July 2, 2020

Well, we, and the world around us, are starting the new (fiscal/academic) year with a bang! So much going on around us--everyone wanting to be out and about, getting back to “normal”, socializing with friends, shopping, etc. I know I’m taking precautions seriously and hope you all are too.

Having said that, our Executive Committee did meet in person on June 11 (plus Zoom) for the first time in months. Jeanine Rounds was kind enough to host ten of us in her spacious back yard with plenty of room to “social distance”. It was great to see everyone and have the kind of chit chat and personal interaction you miss on a Zoom meeting. This was our annual planning meeting with Sandy Davini submitting our projected budget (to be adopted at the September Branch meeting) and new officers were announced: Treasurer–Sandy Davini; Secretary–Nancy Johnston; Bylaws–Artis Buerki; Communications–Janet Theiss; Membership–Lee Jones; Projects–Martha Bunce; Programs–Gwyn Baker; and Members-at Large – Barbara Alves, Carol Clark, Gretchen Cupp, Kathy Nehl, Joann Nixon, Jeanine Rounds, Joan Young, and Linda Zall. I am honored to be returning for the second year as your Executive Council Leader.

Of course, one of the hot topics discussed was how do we proceed as an organization from here on out. Do we meet in person – with social distancing – or Zoom – or ??? These are discussions that will soon take place as there are many things we have to consider and we’re trying to get a little creative! We want to involve our membership as much as possible, keeping in mind health considerations, but still reach out to our members and maintain that camaraderie that is so important to us. Our September Branch meeting on September 19 is still scheduled with the opportunity to meet and talk with our six Tech Trek girls and our two scholarship recipients, Tessa Chartock and Brisa Barriga.

Please take note of our new Branch mission statement (top of this page)! Hopefully this encompasses what our organization is about and is more relevant.

It is unusual to have this extra “edition” of the Feather Vane newsletter as we usually don’t ramp up again until September, but all things considered it was felt that it was important to reach out to our members and let them know that we are active and working together to maintain a vibrant organization.

Executive Council Meeting is FRIDAY, August 14, 1 pm via Zoom. Contact Liz Skelly (635-0821) to be added to the Zoom list. All members are welcome.



AAUW CA

Public Policy Action Priorities, 2019 – 2021

Public Policy Brochure

To achieve economic security for all women, AAUW CA advocates:

- Pay equity, fairness in compensation and benefits, and economic justice.
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, through vigorous enforcement of employment anti-discrimination statutes, including age discrimination.
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including public pension viability, and protecting Social Security from privatization or reduction in benefits.
- Programs that provide all women with education, including financial literacy, training, and support for success in the work force.
- Strengthening programs that encourage career development and earning potential, including career and technical education, access to post-secondary education, job training for welfare recipients and training for incarcerated women.
- Policies that support work-life balance, including medical leave, family leave, quality and affordable child and dependent care.

To support a strong system of high quality public education, AAUW CA advocates:

- Vigorous enforcement of federal Title IX (Education Amendments of 1972) and all other federal and California civil rights laws pertaining to education.
- Adequate and equitable funding for high quality public education for all students, including preschoolers.

- Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education and fields of study, including sexual health education and athletics.
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education, and for charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools.
- Support for and adequate funding that gives women and other disadvantaged populations access to higher education, including two-year degree programs and vocational training.

To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW CA advocates:

- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care, and comprehensive family planning services.
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, human trafficking, hate crimes and gun violence, in homes, schools, workplaces and communities.
- Strengthening California programs, including affordable housing, that improve the lives of women, children and families living at or below the poverty level.
- Support for United Nations programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.
- Freedom in definition of self-identity and family, and guarantee of civil rights for all forms of self-identity and all family structures.
- Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights for all. Continued support for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.



MEMBERSHIP

Lee Jones, Membership Leader

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH MANY NEW MEMBERS:

(2019-20) Linda Zall, Jennifer Jones, Kathy Nehl, Preet Didbal (shown w/Lee Jones, membership leader); (2018-19) Grace Espindola, Karen Kam, Camille Green, Nancy Johnston. Also (2018-19) not shown: Katy Coladarci, Manjit Jhutti; (2017-18) Marie Lavoie, Bal Dhillon, Melissa Ha, and Gwyn Baker.



OUTREACH





SERVICE



INTEREST SECTIONS - All branch members are welcome to participate.



ADVOCACY & ACTION

To receive advocacy and action alerts by email, contact Martha Bunce, 743-0306, or email buncehall@yahoo.com.



BOOK CLUBS

Book Explorers normally meets at 10 am the third Friday of the month. Contact is Paulette Almeida, 415-5588.

Rabid Readers normally meets at 10 am the third Friday of the month. Contact is Marilyn Elliott, 673-2840, or Pat Jones, 674-0114. **Watch for emails from Pat about next meeting.**



BRIDGE As our AAUW bridge group has gotten older we have morphed into more of a community bridge group. We now play at the Marysville Art Club twice a month. Anyone interested in playing should contact me for further information. **Contact is Jan Wallace, 743-1060.**



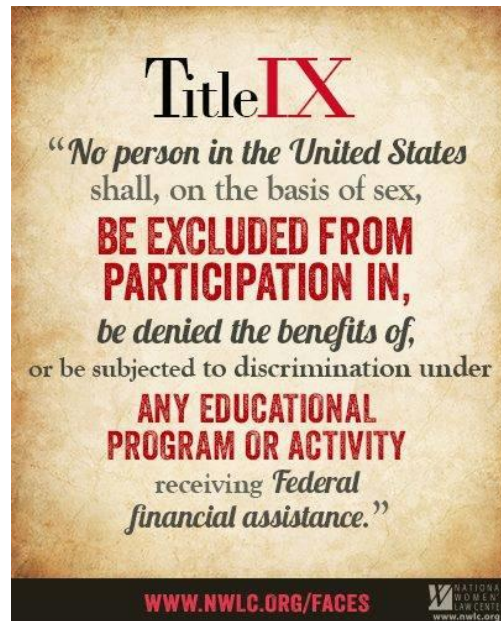
MOVIES **The movie group has been discontinued.** Information about first-run movies, classics, and opera playing at the Yuba City Cinemark can be found on Cinemark.com, Fandango.com, and Fathomevents.com.



TALKING ON PAPER Writing group normally meets the first Tuesday morning of each month, at 10 am. Contact is Joan Young, 713-1279. **Meeting by email until further notice.**



TRAVELING GOURMET Traveling Gourmet normally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. **Contact Carol Clark, 301-2164 or Joan Young, 713-1279 to find out about next outing.**



Title IX was enacted 48 years ago, on June 23, 1972, prohibiting sex discrimination in any education program or activity that receives federal funds. **Now it is being weakened.**

ADVOCACY & ACTION

By Martha Bunce, Public Policy/Advocacy & Action chair.

On August 14, 2020, all schools and colleges will have to implement harmful rules designed to weaken Title IX, reversing important protections for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault. Locally, all k-12 and Yuba College students are affected. It will be harder for victims to come forward and get the help they need, because:

- * Sexual harassment is redefined in an inappropriate way that is narrower and more stringent.
- * Schools can subject victims to drawn-out investigations; coerce victims into participating in mediation with their assailant; and allow victims to be cross-examined in live proceedings. All these are not actions consistent with civil laws such as Title IX.
- * Schools can ignore victim complaints if the harassment occurred at the wrong place — outside of a campus-controlled building or activity such as an away game — or was reported to anyone, such as a teacher, or coach instead of one of the two designated persons to be named by the schools.

Title IX, the landmark civil rights law, was enacted on June 23, 1972, prohibiting sex discrimination in any education program or activity that receives federal funds.

The new rules reverse policies that were put in place to make it more likely that survivors report sexual

misconduct. They stack the deck against survivors (students already at risk), making it too onerous for many to come forward. In short, the rules are antithetical to the fundamental promise of Title IX: that all students deserve access to an education free from sex discrimination.

Please join AAUW Marysville-Yuba City in demanding the new rules be rescinded. Contact your Representative and Senator. Protect our children.

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**Secretary's Report - AAUW
Executive Council Meeting
June 11, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.**

By Nancy Johnston, Secretary

The Executive Council met on June 11, 10 am, at the home of Jeanine Rounds. Those in attendance were: Liz Skelly, Executive Council Leader; Gwyn Baker, By-Laws; Sandy Davini, Treasurer; Lee Jones, Membership; Janet Theiss, Communications; Jeanine Rounds, Secretary.

Members at Large present were: Artis Buerki, Martha Bunce, Joann Nixon, Kathy Nehl, Linda Zall, Carol Clark, and Nancy Johnston.

Call to Order, 10:05 a.m. Nancy Johnston was appointed to take minutes.

Information/Action Items:

May14 minutes were approved by all, with the addition of Nancy Johnston as Co-Chair on the Tech Trek Committee.

Kathy Nehl and Linda Zall were appointed Members at Large. Artis Buerki made the motion, Sandy Davini seconded, motion passed.

The next EC meeting will be on Friday, **August 14th**, 1pm. We need to determine if our Program meeting for September at The Refuge is still on, and if not, let The Refuge know.

Reports from Executive Council

EC Leader's Report: Liz Skelly - Position changes within the Executive Council EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020 - Barbara Solheim will no longer be the lead for Programs or Co-Chair of the STEM committee. She'll return to being a regular branch member. Joan Young will no longer be the Project Lead, she'll be a Member at Large of the Executive Council. Gwyn Baker was previously appointed to the Executive Council as Lead for By Laws last spring. Today she was

appointed the new Lead for Programs, taking Barbara Solheim's vacated position. Artis Buerki was appointed the Lead for By Laws. Martha Bunce was appointed Project Lead, taking the position vacated by Joan Young. Jeanine Rounds has completed her term and will become a Member at Large of the EC. She and has turned the Secretary's job over to Nancy Johnston. Sandy Davini made a motion that Martha and Artis be appointed to the Executive Council, and Joann Nixon seconded; motion passed.

After discussion of EC responsibilities, officers agreed to following assignments for 20-21: EC Leader-Liz Skelly; Secretary-Nancy Johnston; Treasurer-Sandra Davini; Bylaws Leader-Artis Buerki; Communications Leader-Janet Theiss; Membership Leader-Lee Jones; Program Leader-Gwyn Baker; Projects Leader-Martha Bunce. Members-at-Large: Barbara Alves, Carol Clark, Gretchen Cupp, Kathy Nehl, Joann Nixon, Joan Young, Linda Zall, Jeanine Rounds.

Correspondences: Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report/Proposed 20-21 Budget: Sandra Davini: Prioritizing the line items in the budget: Top Priority is STEM, TECH TREK, and GARDEN TOUR. Lower Priority is Convention, Donations, and Chamber of Commerce. Martha Bunce made a motion to remove Chamber from our budget, Lee Jones seconded, motion passed. Martha also made a motion to adopt the prioritization, Sandy seconded, motion passed. Martha made a motion to adopt the budget as Sandy presented, minus Chamber, Carol Clark seconded, motion passed. Executive Council unanimously approved adding Elizabeth (Liz) Skelly as a signatory on AAUW Umpqua bank account. Liz will be added to the current signatories, Martha Bunce, Sandra Davini, Barbara Solheim. Nancy Johnston will prepare minutes and a letter to Umpqua Bank.

Public Policy, Advocacy: Martha Bunce will send all members an email saying that she will forward state and national alerts unless they respond negatively to her. Artis will post the same alerts on our website.

Membership: Lee Jones reported we lost 12 members, and gained 19 new members, since some period of time. We gained 4 new members last year. Our total as of Feb 2020 was 86 members. 39 have paid their membership dues as of 6/11/20. Liz will send a letter to all unpaid members encouraging them to pay their dues. The drawing for a year's free membership was held and Jeanine Rounds won.

Bylaws: Gwyn Baker passed all information she had to Artis Buerki, the new Lead.

Communications: Committee Chairs need to contact their members and confirm that they will stay on the committee this coming year. The information needs to be to Janet Theiss by **August 1st** for the Roster. The AAUW

Marysville/Yuba City branch roster will be out early fall for 2020-2021 year.

August 17th is the deadline for articles to appear in the September 2020 Feather Vane.

Programs: Gwyn Baker - **August 15th** is the deadline to determine if the Program for September is still on. There will be an EC meeting on **August 14th** to determine this. Gwyn will confirm the October Program League of Women Voters speaker is available. Since STEM is now in January and not March, the projected Program order also needs to change. Additionally, there was a lot of discussion around the pandemic, and if we could get Dr. Luu to come to a Program meeting to speak. Gwyn is following up with Dr. Luu, and the other speakers. The Program committee will meet in the near future to define the programs for the coming year, based on Gwyn's findings.

Projects: Martha Bunce

STEM conference. Nothing to report

GARDEN TOUR: Nothing to report

TECH TREK: Carol Clark reported the State Tech Trek organization is looking for something to honor the 2020 Tech Trek girls. They've tallied the survey results, and are working on logistics to ensure that they can actually follow through on them. They don't want to offer the girls options to consider if they're not going to be able to deliver. To that end, they are talking with individuals who might be able to participate and who have tech experience to see what online options are possible. And, they are trying to figure out the costs associated with each so they can send the proposals to AAUW CA. Within this framework, they are

evaluating classes for support and confidence building for the girls.

TEAM OF EXTRAORDINARY MINDS: Joann Nixon is notifying the TEM girls and hopes to have them present for the September meeting.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Liz Skelly reported the Yuba College girls that won the scholarship were notified at the end of May. Liz will write something for the Feather Vane and invite the girls to our September meeting. She'd like to invite them to future meetings so we can see how they have progressed over time.

Other Reports: Interbranch—Janet Theiss – no report; Historian—Karen Tuttle: no report; Sunshine—Gretchen Cupp: no report; Coalition Drawing – Kathy Nehl, Linda Zall will take the Lead on this project. The date for the coalition luncheon is **Saturday, December 12th**;

Other Business: **Future Agenda Items:** Liz Skelly to add Budget Review to the agenda so it's reviewed at every meeting. Respectfully submitted, Nancy Johnston

Editor's Note: Please contract Executive Council Secretary for the final approved minutes after the next Executive Council meeting. Meeting notes may have been slightly edited to fit in space available in this Feather Vane.

Feather Vane Staff
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_____ Yuba College Book Fund (Make check payable to **AAUW**) _____ \$ _____

_____ Local Branch Operations /helps fund local activities (Make check payable to **AAUW**) _____ \$ _____

_____ AAUW Educational and Training Fund (Make check payable to **AAUW/ Note ET-4450 on memo line**) _____ \$ _____

_____ Legal Advocacy Fund (make check payable to **AAUW/note "LAF" on memo line**) _____ \$ _____



empowering women since 1881

FEATHER VANE

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