

Adelante



AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch

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Don't miss these November events & announcements

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President's Message by Michelle Blasberg

Welcome to November. It is hard to believe it will soon be the Holiday Season.

I am sure that everyone who attended the October Branch Meeting found the information presented by Jeanne informative and useful. Don't forget to vote on November 8th. Every vote counts.

There are a couple of requests that I have for the Poway Penasquitos membership.

Membership – Each one of us is the best recruiter for new members. Please take some time to share the mission and vision with friends, family, and/or co-workers to recruit new members to the branch. Harriet Gerza or Linda Johnston will be more than happy to provide any information you need.

Cover to Cover – As many of you know, Cover to Cover, our annual Author Luncheon, raises funds for Re-entry Scholarships and Speech Trek. The event is planned to be in person in 2023. Pam Meyer has done a great job chairing this event for the last number of years, but she has stepped down for 2023. We need to find a chairperson for this event. Pam has a very thorough outline of activities so no one needs to recreate the wheel. There is already a great team willing to work on this event, but we need a chairperson. I urge you to think about volunteering

for this key position. There will be a lot of support from the Cover to Cover team as well as the Branch Board. Please reach out to me or Pam Meyer directly for more information.

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 9 General Meeting with Holly Shaffner by Ellie Slade (text excerpted from <https://sdvetscoalition.org/our-board/holly-shaffner/>)

On Wednesday, November 9th the Poway Penasquitos Chapter is proud to honor San Diego's veterans by hosting Holly Shaffner, a 24-year veteran, as special guest speaker.

Holly served on active duty in the United States Coast Guard for 24 years as both enlisted and officer. She retired in 2011 and during her military career she was attached to operational, training, and staff assignments, including serving more than eight years aboard various size ships. As an Enlisted Coast Guardsman, she worked in entry level jobs and attended technical school in which she was trained to calibrate the electronics for, and fire, shipboard large caliber weapons systems.

After graduation from Officer Candidate School, she completed two tours aboard ships maneuvering a 378-foot ship in the Bering Sea, and interdicting drug traffickers and illegal migrants throughout the Caribbean. She had several staff and operational assignments and completed her career in the search and rescue field running a 24/7/365 emergency operations center.

She was fortunate to be part of several national level events including the Haitian repatriation of 1994, base security force duty and training over 200 Coast Guard Reservists after 9/11, and second in command of a seventy-four person Coast Guard anti-terrorism team, a unit that was one of the first responders to the citizens of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

After retiring from the military, Holly attended San Diego State University and received her Bachelor's degree in Public Relations. Post-graduation, she was hired to be the Director of Events and Public Relations at the Veterans



Museum at Balboa Park and then served as Military Liaison Officer at San Diego State University. She currently owns her own Public Relations Consulting business.

Holly stays busy volunteering in the local veteran community. She is the Director of Public Relations for Honor Flight San Diego, Board Member for the San Diego Veterans Coalition, Coast Guard City Advisory Committee Member, and she volunteers with several other military causes. She is also a contributing writer for San Diego Veterans Magazine. When she is not working or volunteering, she enjoys traveling, playing golf, watching baseball, and hanging out with friends.

2021-22 Legislative Session Closes with Big Wins for AAUW California by Kathi Harper, Chair AAUW California Public Policy Committee

At the stroke of midnight on September 30, the 2021-22 legislative session officially came to a close as it marked the Governor's deadline for signing or vetoing bills. AAUW's California Public Policy committee is pleased to announce that we achieved a 70% success rate on the bills on our legislative agenda, and 25 of our 36 bills are now law, including 7 of our 8 top priority bills. The following is a brief synopsis, by each pillar of our Public Policy Priorities:

Economic Security for All Women

8 of our bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, and 1 died in the legislature. The most significant bill under this pillar was AB (Assembly Bill) 92, which we co-sponsored. AB 92 was introduced in 2020, and became a 2-year bill, which is why it remained on this year's agenda. It originally sought a 1-year waiver of supplemental child-care fees for low-income families, with a request for a sliding scale to be applied thereafter. In his 2021 budget, Governor Newsom included \$120 million for 2-years' worth of waivers. The bill was then amended to request an additional year of waivers through October 2024, with a sliding scale to then be implemented. Unfortunately, the amended bill was vetoed; however, we are still proud of the work we did to get those 2 years of waivers in the budget, so we still consider it a win!

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

6 of these bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, 1 was approved by the legislature (no signature required) and 2 died in the legislature. Of particular note under this pillar are 3 of our top priority bills: AB 1968, which requires campuses to develop and post uniform guidelines for reporting sexual assault; AB 2881 which provides additional support for college students with dependent children; and AJR 23 (Assembly Joint Resolution), a Title IX 50th Anniversary Proclamation.

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

8 of these bills were signed by the Governor, 1 was vetoed, 1 was incorporated by the Governor into an Executive Order, 1 was approved by the legislature and 2 died in the legislature. We saw success on all 4 of our top priority bills in this area: AB 1666, which provides protection for those from other states seeking abortions in California, as well as for those providing services here, from the enforcement of a related civil judgment from their home state; SB (Senate Bill) 523, which requires insurance coverage for over-the-counter contraceptive products; SB 1375, which allows certified nurse-practitioners to perform some early-term abortions; and SCA (Senate Constitutional Amendment) 10. SCA 10 was introduced in the Senate as a measure to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to enshrine in the California constitution the right to an abortion and to contraception. When this measure passed in the Senate, it became Proposition 1.

To see the results of all the bills on our 2021-22 legislative agenda, check out our webpage for a full agenda summary, here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2022/10/results-of-2021-22-legislative-session.pdf/>, or to view our Bill Tracker, here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2022/10/bill-tracking.pdf/>.

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER! DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE PLEDGE TO VOTE "YES" ON PROPOSITION 1!**

Gov Trek by Shauna Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director, govtrek@aauw-ca.org WANT MORE WOMEN IN POLITICAL POWER?

Men still vastly outnumber women in the halls of power. Let's close that gender gap! Learn about the AAUW California program, Gov Trek, at the webinar for branch leaders and members on Wednesday, November 16th, at 7 p.m.

This webinar will explain how AAUW branches can offer the free, virtual statewide program developed by AAUW California for junior and senior high school girls to expose



them to careers in public service and elected office. Starting in January and conducted through four virtual two-hour sessions, the activities will be engaging, interactive, and inspirational. See how your branch can participate! Click [HERE](#) to register today!

Gov Trek 2023 Volunteers Needed! Be a part of it! Learn how you can help us close the gender gap in politics. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about what volunteers can do and submit your name.

Click [HERE](#) to see research on the paucity of women in political power positions vs. men, justifying a program geared to encouraging young women to engage more in politics.

Membership Counts! by Harriet Gerza

This year we will be holding a membership drive with a goal to add 10 new members to our branch. Our current roster is 103 strong but we did lose quite a few members during our COVID period due to relocations, family/business conflicts, and just inactivity with our branch since we haven't been meeting in person for so long. So, we are enlisting all of you to help us expand our branch. Rewards will be given to members who recruit someone to join!



Here are three action goals that we ask you to do to help us in this effort:

1. Invite one (or more) friend(s) to attend a general meeting or interest group to pique their interest to join. (make sure to send me their email address so I can follow up with them)
2. Memorize the following "elevator" sound bite to tell your friends about our branch.
3. If you belong to another organization with a similar mission statement supporting women, send me a contact email so I can send them information about our branch and invite them to our meetings/events.

"Elevator" sound bite about our branch:

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Our branch acts to promote equity and educate members and the community about significant issues affecting women and girls. Our funding projects have been to send 7th grade girls to STEM camp (Tech Trek), to provide scholarships to women reentering higher education, to sponsor a speech competition for high school students (Speech Trek), and to support our national FUND dedicated to grants, research, and legal advocacy.

For more information:

Website: <https://powayarea-ca.aauw.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWPowayPQ>

Email us: aauwboard@gmail.com; Harriet Gerza harriet.gerza@gmail.com; Linda Johnston, lindamcjohnston@yahoo.com

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) by Harriet Gerza

What is that? It's a new initiative for AAUW to emphasize how we should remember to expand our thinking about how we look at our organization. What do we look like today? Generally speaking, we are a predominately white female, over 60 group, mostly retired, ex-professionals, highly educated (duh, that's in our name), socially active and intellectually stimulated oriented group. That's been our "jam" for many years. We occasionally do outreach to other groups and are certainly interested in what's happening in the world at large but we haven't changed our demographics to reflect all our community.

So, this is the task at hand, I have been appointed as your DEI Officer. My job in the coming year is to really try to create opportunities where we can extend our reach into our community and create a more diverse branch. That means recruiting members with different backgrounds, voices about their groups and cultures and points of view. I'll be dropping articles for your consideration, working with the board to include activities to promote inclusivity and enlisting our membership to help me expand our reach into the community.



**AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
POWAY PENASQUITOS
BRANCH**

Diversity Statement

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

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, leadership, and research.

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

National AAUW

www.aauw.org

California AAUW

www.aauw-ca.org

**PowayPenasquitos
AAUW**

[www.powayarea-](http://www.powayarea-ca.aauw.net)

www.aauw.net

[aauwboard@gmail.co](mailto:aauwboard@gmail.com)

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AAUW Poway
Penasquitos Branch is a
501(c)3 corporation

President: Michelle
Blasberg

Programs/1st Vice

Presidents: Karen
McGurk, Joie Nolasco,
Ellie Slade

Membership/2nd Vice

Presidents: Harriet
Gerza, Linda Johnston

Secretary: Joan Natoli

Treasurer: Sheila Walker

Speech Trek Returns February 4, 2023 by Karen McGurk

Attached to the newsletter is a flyer announcing the Speech Trek contest for February 4, 2023. Please share this information on social media and through your other distribution channels. The speech topic is: *"How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?"* We hope to attract students from a variety of local high schools for the contest this year, so please help spread the word! Questions? Contact Karen McGurk at aauwboard@gmail.com, and please add Speech Trek to the Subject Line.

Great Decisions – New Series Starting 2023 by Sally Robinson

Become a member of the Great Decisions discussion group and stretch your mind. Great Decisions, a service of the Foreign Policy Association (https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/), is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. We're preparing to order the briefing books, and to get the preferred bulk order discount off the usual \$35 price, we need to order during the week of October 24-31. Please contact Sally Jacobson ASAP at 858-663-7250 or sjacobs4@san.rr.com to place an order. Great Decisions meets the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcomed!

Gardens and More by Joan Natoli, Coordinator

Join us on November 4th to watch Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes, a 63-minute video featuring the first American woman garden architect/ designer. Vintage footage and current film explore her amazing gardens, many in public spaces both in New York and California. Friday, November 4 at 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the home of Joan Natoli. Yummies provided. RSVP to Joan for directions at itolanj@sbcglobal.net.

On Friday, December 2, we will tour Lightscaapes at San Diego Botanical Gardens, which is an amazing walkthrough light display with music. Drive on your own or come with the group and leave the driving to us! Buy your own tickets online for the 6:30 p.m. time. If you can't join us, get tickets for another night! <https://sdbg.org/LIGHTSCAPE/> Contact Joan with any questions at itolanj@sbcglobal.net or 559-303-2382

Grape Expectations by Janice Heather

On Friday, November 18 from 3-5 p.m. we'll visit Vineyard Grant James at 25260 E Old Julian Hwy, Ramona <https://www.vineyardgrantjames.com/>. Please RSVP to Janice Heather at janiceheather@hotmail.com.

We've visited several local wineries since we started this interest group in January 2022, and we have more planned for the fall and new year. So, please join us. These are also great events for bringing friends along with you!

Travel Group by Pam Ames

This month we'll try the Persian restaurant Grill House Cafe. After lunch we'll browse through Akshar Cash 'N' Carry Indian Market which is next door to the restaurant. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 12 at 11:30 a.m. to join in on this adventure. Grill House Cafe is located at 9494 Black Mountain Road. New members are always welcome! <https://grillhousecafe.com/>

Holiday Party December 14th – Save the Date! by Joie Nolasco and the Programs Team

To paraphrase the idiom, one woman's trash is another woman's treasure! At the holiday party this year, our program committee will sponsor a white elephant gift exchange at Michelle Blasberg's house. Feel free to bring a (wrapped) gently used object or a new purchase of no more than \$20 to exchange. Be prepared for a night of laughs as we swap and steal and enjoy great company and refreshments. More details to come.

October General Meeting with Jeanne Weidner by Marie Dye

On October 12, our AAUW branch hosted a presentation by Jeanne Weidner, who is a member of our branch and the Voter Empowerment Chair for the San Diego League of Women Voters Board of Directors. Jeanne reviewed the ballot propositions on the upcoming November 8 ballot and shared the league's analysis of what each proposition would really accomplish along with the pros and cons of each.

To find the information Jeanne presented, visit the LWV website at <https://easyvoterguide.org> or <https://lwvsandiego.org/>.



AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2022

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Nov 3	Great Decisions	Biden's agenda	Sally Jacobson, sjacobs4@san.rr.com	Meet at the home of Karen McGurk, 14905 Derringer Road in Poway. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Karen at kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net or 619-982-6562. If interested in Zoom, let Sally know.	Meets first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. except no meeting in January, August, or December
Nov 4	Gardens and More	Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes 63-minute video features the first American woman garden architect/designer. Watch vintage footage and current film of her amazing gardens, many in public spaces both in New York and California.	Joan Natoli, itolani@sbcglobal.net	10:00-11:30 a.m. Meet at the home of Joan Natoli. Yummies provided. RSVP for directions. itolani@sbcglobal.net	Friday Dec 2, we will tour Lightscapes at San Diego Botanical Gardens. This is an amazing walkthrough light display with music. Drive on your own, or come by yourself, and leave the driving to us! Buy your own tickets online for the 6:30 p.m. time. If you can't join us, get tickets for another night! Joan Natoli - itolani@sbcglobal.net or 559-303-2382
Nov 8	Page Turners	"Lightning Strike" by William Kent Krueger	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	1:30 p.m. meeting. Host is Linda Allen. RSVP to Linda at lindainpoway@yahoo.com	Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, email Pam Ames.
Nov 9	General Meeting	Women in the Military	Ellie Slade, Joie Nolasco and Karen McGurk	Holly Shaffner, Director of Public Relations for Honor Flight San Diego will be our guest presenter. Meeting is at the Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive, 6:30 p.m. social time, 7:00 program start.	Branch general meetings are usually the second Wednesday of the month in the evening with a few Saturday programs. Open to the public so invite your friends and family, all are welcome!
Nov 12	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	11:30 p.m. Grill House Cafe, 9494 Black Mountain Road.	Meets monthly at various local restaurants.

Nov 14	Games Group	N/A	Debbie Boyd, travelstardebbie@yahoo.com	Meet at the home of Harriet Gerza at 1 p.m. Harriet's address is 14227 Bernabe Court in Penasquitos. RSVP to Debbie Boyd at travelstardebbie@yahoo.com	Play board games once a month at a members' home.
Nov 16	Gov Trek	Gov Trek launch webinar presented by AAUW CA	For more information, contact Marie Dye at mdye@san.rr.com	7 p.m. Please register to attend https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HHXvPxrJSTqbRhHKg-VG5Q	
Nov 17	Evening Book Group	" <i>The Premonition</i> " by Michael Lewis	Ann Morgan, annmorgansd@yahoo.com ; Marilyn Scheininger, marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com	7 p.m. meet at the home of Mary Alice Rudelich, 17746 Bellechase Circle in Rancho Bernardo. RSVP to Mary Alice at mary.rudelich@aol.com	Group meets the fourth Thursday every month. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn.
Nov 18	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, janiceheather@hotmail.com	Vineyard Grant James, 25260 E Old Julian Hwy, Ramona https://www.vineyardgrantjames.com/ 3-5 p.m. RSVP to Janice at janiceheather@hotmail.com	We've visited a number of local wineries since we started this interest group in January of 2022, and we have more planned for the new year. So please join us. These are also great events to bring friends to.
Nov 19	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, mary.rudelich@aol.com	Sycamore Canyon walk. 16281 Sycamore Canyon Rd. 6 mile easy to moderate hike. Meet at 8:30 a.m. RSVP to Mary.Rudelich@aol.com .	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels.
Nov 28	Mystery Book Group	" <i>The Maid</i> " by Nita Prose	Pam Meyer, Pamela.me4@ gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Beth Levine. Address is 1110 Crest Road in Del Mar. RSVP to Beth at blmom@yahoo.com .	Meets fourth Monday of every month. Want to join the discussion? Email Pam Meyer

**NOVEMBER
MEETING**



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9
6:30 p.m. Social Time
7-8:30 p.m. Program

For November's program we are honored to host
Holly Shaffner,
34 year Coast Guard Veteran
Director of Public Relations for Honor Flight San Diego
San Diego Veterans Board Member

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to aauboard@gmail.com
This is an open meeting, please invite friends, family,
and veterans to join us.

Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club
16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive

SPEECH TREK COMPETITION

February 4, 2023

California high school students are invited to compete in Speech Trek, a speech competition sponsored by the American Association of University Women of California. All contestants create 5-6 minute speeches on the following public policy topic:



AAUW California
Speech Trek

How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?

INTERESTED? Contact AAUW Poway-Peñasquitos Branch at aauwboard@gmail.com for more information and to register for the event. Application deadline is January 21, 2023. The contest will be held in-person at Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library.

LOCAL PRIZES

First Place - \$1,000.00

Second Place - \$500.00

Third Place - \$250.00

Winner of the local contest participates in state semi-finals.

The top three state semi-finalists compete for more cash prizes.

Speeches from previous years can be viewed on YouTube by searching "Speech Trek."