

AAUW Poway Penasquitos Branch

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Don't miss these June events & announcements

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President's Message by Michelle Blasberg

Welcome to June

Here we are at the last month of the AAUW fiscal year. The branch will wind down at the end of this month until September, but don't worry, there are many other reasons to appreciate June. June appears to be a busy month of celebrations; not only does it honor Fathers (June 18), it is LGBTQ+ Pride month, National African-American Music Appreciation month, Alzheimers and Brain Awareness month, and Black Lives Matter month to name just a few month-long honorees. There are full week honorees to remember; Learning Disability Week (June 19), Refugee Week (June 20) Deaf/Blind Awareness Week (June 18), and National Boys and Girls Club Week (June 18). There are singular day celebrations also, for example, National Go Barefoot Day (June 1), World Environment Day (June 5), World Ocean Day (June 8), and World Rainforest Day (June 22). So no matter what you think about the beginning of June Gloom, realize that there are many ways to celebrate this 6th month of the year.

Cover to Cover 2023

Cover to Cover 2023 was a great success with four wonderful authors who shared their stories. We enjoyed good food and great community with each other. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a success. We are looking for a Chair-person to organize next year's

Cover to Cover, so if you want to be part of a great team, please reach out to me for information.

Did you receive a Yellow Card in the Mail?

AAUW National has heard you. Based on feedback given to AAUW-CA, and AAUW-CA communication with AAUW National, California residents will not receive any further communication regarding the Data Validation and Oral History Project. If you are interested in participating you can still do so, but if not there will be no further communication.

There have been many questions regarding those postcards. The postcards are part of the Data Validation and Oral History Project recently rolled out by AAUW National. Short answer to the question is, no, you do not need to participate. It is up to you to respond or just discard the postcards if you do not want to respond. AAUW-CA sent information regarding the project to the Branch Board and in that email there was a link to FAQs provided by National. The FAQs are attached to the Adelante below for your review.

Renewals – Reminder

The renewal process continues. For members who joined prior to 2022, the renewal period is July 1 through June 30. For the new members who joined after March of 2022, your renewal date is 12 months after your initial membership date. The dues amount includes membership to AAUW National, AAUW-CA, and Branch dues. This year the total amount will be **\$115.00**.

June Branch Meeting

Please join us on Saturday, June 10 for an end of year brunch at the home of Michelle Blasberg. Bring your sun hat and come enjoy good food and great company.

General Meeting on June 10 by Karen McGurk

Please mark your calendars for our branch's next monthly meeting on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. You won't want to miss this one! We're having a brunch meeting at Michelle Blasberg's lovely home, 12509 Montero Court in Rancho Bernardo. The topic will be on the AAUW program Gov Trek. We are fortunate to have



Shauna Ruyle, the California State Director for Gov Trek, with us to discuss this exciting new program. In addition, our Tech Trek and Speech Trek teams and will provide program updates. Finally, we'll install our officers for the coming 2023-2024 fiscal year. Please RSVP to <u>aauwboard@gmail.com</u>. This is a members-only meeting.

Membership by Harriet Gerza

It's that renewal time again as our 2022-23 year is ending soon. It'll be easier this year because you are already in the new system. The membership year is July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. **Regular member dues are: \$ 115.00** (\$72 National, \$20 State, \$23 Branch). Follow the instructions below.

Instructions for online renewal:

- Log on to <u>www.AAUW.org</u>, click Log in
- Log in (remember your password?); if you haven't already signed into the new AAUW.org website, you will need to create a new password
- Select the Renew button on the Personal Snapshot page
- Review the Personal Information list, and if needed update as required
- Select National membership or Lifetime membership
- Select "YES" to add state and branch dues to your renewal
- Scroll thru the drop-down list to find our branch CA0159 Poway-Penasquitos Branch (even though it's alphabetical, Poway-Penasquitos is further down the list, not in order)
- Select "YES" or "No" whether you'd like to donate to AAUW Need Fund
- If yes, enter payment information and complete your renewal
- You are now renewed!

Please renew online before June 30, 2023.

*For Lifetime members, you must renew your state and branch dues each year **For those of you who recently joined AAUW, your renewal will be based on your join date so disregard this for now and we'll send a reminder when your year is over.

If you have any questions, contact Harriet at <u>Harriet.gerza@gmail.com</u> or 858-775-3314.

AAUW-PP Fund Honorees by Pamela Meyer, AAUW Fund Chair

Congratulations to our 2022-23 AAUW Fund Honorees! Our branch donated \$3,646 to the AAUW fund in 2022. For each \$750 we donate, we can choose to honor one of our own members. This year we honor Karen McGurk, Deborah Boyd, and Louise McDevitt. Karen has done an outstanding job on the program committee for our branch. Debbie has continuously given her time to the branch in many ways and is involved in Cover to Cover this year. Louise McDevitt has done a marvelous job on our website and keeps it up to date and current. We will present them with their certificates at the June 10 general meeting. We are also honoring them with a free National membership in AAUW. Looking forward to seeing you in June!

AAUW-PP Fund by Karen Vanderwerken, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

State named honoree announced! It's a true honor to present Sharon Westafer with <u>the 2023 State Named Gift</u> <u>Honoree award</u>! She is an active member of the Long Beach and Stockton branches, and the Los Angeles County IBC. Additionally, she is the secretary of the California Online Branch. She has held most branch positions in leadership roles, but also shows up to stuff student bags for Tech Trek! Sharon has proven leadership skills in many areas of her branches: president, Fund director, treasurer, and secretary.

Of note, 122 Named Honoree nominations were requested from branches to honor your key members. Great support.

Tech Trek by Heidi Dalvie, Ellen Dillon, Debbie Lewis, Poway-Penasquitos Branch Tech Trek Co-Coordinators

Our eight selected campers have just about completed all their paperwork (and there are a LOT of forms). That shows the girls have perseverance, tenacity, and commitment to camp!

We will be hosting a gathering prior to camp for all the girls with their parents on June 16 so they can meet each other in person, and we can answer any questions they may have.

More than 200 people from 88 branches attended the California *Academy AAUWards* event in April. They put together a gem of a video that demonstrates the diversity of Tech Trek. Sit back, grab your popcorn, and enjoy the show! <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea3-wTzTZM8</u>

2023 Camps

- UC San Diego in-person camp will take place June 25-30
- Virtual camp will take place July 23-28.

Volunteering

Staff volunteer applications are still being accepted until camps are fully staffed. You are welcome to apply! Available roles and the link to apply are <u>HERE</u>. Please complete your application as soon as possible; positions are filling quickly. Assignments are in process and should be completed soon.

Dorm Moms (21+ years old) are still needed at UCSD camp! So, if you have never experienced sleeping in a dorm, now's your chance!

If you need help:

- For help using CampDoc (logins, passwords, finding forms, etc.) visit <u>support.campdoc.com</u>, email <u>support@campdoc.com</u>, or call 734-636-1000.
- For technical difficulties send an email to techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

Please feel free to contact us if you'd like to learn more.

Speech Trek Update by Karen McGurk

2023 Winners: The State Speech Trek Competition was held on April 22 at the State Annual Event. Congratulations to the winners:

- 1st Place, Teddy Garcia, Camarillo Branch (https://youtu.be/7hpDQI07kGo)
- 2nd Place, Elizabeth Ma, Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch (<u>https://youtu.be/ZHI2ImNcTZ8?list=PLZ90LZOXWJ6mY_hqjptfZVFhvJ7cTPda9</u>)
- 3rd Place, Ameya Ravi, Fremont Branch (<u>https://youtu.be/_OYtLzdB2Tg?list=PLZ90LZOXWJ6mY_hqjptfZVFhvJ7cTPda9</u>)

2024 Topic: And now on to next year! Announced at the April 22 Annual Event, the 2023-2024 topic, inspired by today's headlines and AAUW California public policy, is:

If an educated population is essential to a nation's prosperity, then how can we ensure a robust public-school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?

More information about the Poway-Peñasquitos Branch 2024 competition will be available in the fall.

TTAG Tech Trek (Alumni Group) by Debbie Lewis, Ellen Dillon, and Heidi Dalvie

For our spring meeting we scheduled two young, female speakers to share their educational and professional journeys. The first speaker was a former graduate of Rancho Bernardo High School and will be starting her surgical residency at Cedars Sinai in July 2023. Our second speaker, a graduate of Poway High School, is a Mechanical Engineer.

Two hands-on activities were provided for the girls. The first was a demonstration of water boiling in a paper cup over an open flame. The second was extracting DNA from a strawberry. The girls were engaged and learned so much, as did the adults. For our next meeting in the fall, we will welcome the 2023 Tech Trek campers to our alumni group. Parents were very appreciative of our efforts to continue to provide STEM opportunities for their daughters.

If you have any contact with females in STEM careers that would be willing either to speak with our girls or provide a tour of a facility, please email us at powaypqtechtrek@gmail.com.





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.powayareaca.aauw.net aauwboard@gmail.co m

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

Happy Healthy Hikers by Michelle Blasberg

Come join us for the end of year hike and breakfast at Mission Beach Ocean Front walk. We will be walking the Ocean Front Walk at Mission Beach on June 17 at 8:30 a.m., with a breakfast reservation at World Famous Restaurant at 9:15 a.m., then a leisurely stroll back to our car. This hike/walk always proves to be one of the most enjoyable walks as we have a great view of the Pacific Ocean and a wonderful breakfast to celebrate the halfway point.

We will meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Scripps Ranch Park and Ride (near Yanni's Bistro) to carpool to the Mission Beach parking lot. If you plan to meet us at Mission Beach, we will meet at the parking lot on the corner of W. Mission Bay Drive and Mission Blvd in Mission Beach at 8:30 a.m. to start our excursion.

Please RSVP to Michelle Blasberg at 858-774-2474 or <u>michblas09@gmail.com</u> to let her know if you will be carpooling and dining with us. Reservations will be made for breakfast based on the number of RSVPs. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Grape Expectations Heads to the Coast in June by Janice Heather

Our intrepid Grape Expectations oenophiles will finish the activity year on Friday, June 23 by trekking to Carruth Cellars Urban Winery & Tasting Room in Solana Beach. <u>https://carruthcellars.com/</u> Carruth Cellars has five tasting rooms throughout the region - with Solana Beach being the closest to us - located at 118 S. Cedros Street.

Join us as we carpool over or meet us at the tasting room at 3 p.m. But first, please RSVP to janiceheather@hotmail.com .

We've visited some beautiful and interesting wineries this year and we've tasted some nice wines. Most importantly, everyone has a good time with great companionship and conversation.



Travel Group by Pam Ames

Our lunch outing will be on Saturday, June 24 so mark your calendars! This month we'll be dining at Flavors of East Africa located at 2322 El Cajon Boulevard. For those that would like to carpool, we'll meet at 10:30 a.m. at Scripps Poway Park & Ride (next to Yanni's). Lunch is scheduled for 11 a.m. As always, everyone is welcome. Contact Pam Ames at pamames123@gmail.com to RSVP.



AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS June 2023

Date	Group	Торіс	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know	
June 1	Great Decisions	Politics in Latin America	Joan Natoli, <u>itolanj@sbcglobal.net</u>	Meet at the home of Karen McGurk, 14905 Derringer Road in Poway at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Joan Natoli at itolanj@sbcglobal.net	Meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. No meeting in December, January, July, and August	
June 10	Branch Meeting	Come hear Shauna Ruyle, the AAUW California State Director for Gov Trek speak about this new AAUW program	Karen McGurk, <u>kmcgurkrn@sbcglobal.net;</u> Ellie Slade, <u>elliehs10.4.1582@gmail.com</u> ; and Joie Nolasco, <u>joienolasco@gmail.com</u>	Meet at the home of Michelle Blasberg, 12509 Montero Court in Rancho Bernardo. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Rsvp to Michelle at <u>michblas09@gmail.com</u>		
June 13	Page Turners	"Crying in H Mart" by Michelle Zauner	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	1:30 p.m. meeting. Host is Barbara Fisher, 13217 Deron Avenue in Rancho Penasquitos. RSVP to Pam Ames at <u>pamames123@gmail.com</u>	Meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, email Pam Ames.	
June 17	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, <u>mary.rudelich@aol.com</u>	We will walk the Ocean Front Walk in Mission Beach at 8:30 a.m. followed by breakfast at World Famous Restaurant at 9:15 a.m. Carpoolers will meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Scripps Ranch Park and Ride (next to Yanni's restaurant). If you're meeting us at Mission Beach, we will be at the parking lot of W. Mission Bay Dr and Mission Blvd at 8:30 a.m. to start the walk. RSVP to Michelle Blasberg, 858- 774-2474 or michblas09@gmail.com	ranging from easy to moderate levels. 45 n u're Bay 30 VP	
June 19	Games Group	N/A	Debbie Boyd, <u>travelstardebbie@yahoo.com</u>	We will meet at 1 p.m. at the home of Joan Natoli, 12122 Royal Birkdale Row, Unit 306. Joan will provide the gate code when you RSVP to her at <u>itolanj@sbcglobal.net</u>		
June 22	Evening Book Group	"Empire of Pain" by Patrick Radden Keefe	Ann Morgan, <u>annmmorgansd@yahoo.com;</u> Marilyn Scheininger, <u>marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com</u>	7 p.m. meeting, location TBD	The group meets on the fourth Thursday every month. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn.	

June 23	Grape Expectations	N/A	Janice Heather, janiceheather@hotmail.com	From 3-5 p.m. we will be at Carruth Cellars Urban Winery, 1185 Cedros St in Solana Beach. RSVP to Janice Heather at janiceheather@hotmail.com	We meet monthly on a Friday afternoon for either wine or beer tasting.
June 24	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, <u>pamames123@gmail.com</u>	This month we will be dining at Flavors of East Africa, 2322 El Cajon Blvd. The carpool will meet at the Scripps Poway Park and Ride next to Yanni's at 10:30 a.m. RSVP to Pam Ames at pamames123@gmail.com	Meets monthly at various local restaurants.
June 26	Mystery Book Group	" While Justice Sleeps" by Stacey Abrams	Pam Meyer, pamela.me4@gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 at the home of Harriet Gerza, 14227 Bernabe Court, Rancho Penasquitos RSVP to Pam if able to attend. pamela.me4@gmail.com	Meets on the fourth Monday of every month. Want to join the discussion? Email Pam Meyer.

PCI Oral History Project FAQ – 5/1/2023

by Katrina Sun Breese (she/her/hers) Senior Director, Institutional Advancement

I received a yellow post card and/or e-mail about an AAUW Data Verification / Oral History Project - Is this a scam?

No, it is not a scam – AAUW is working with PCI to update member data and ask members to
participate in an Oral History Project. Post cards were received earlier than anticipated – and an
email communication was sent to all members from AAUW on April 25th. It is important to note
that if you do not receive our emails – you may be unsubscribed or in need of updating your
email address with us.

What is the Oral History Project?

- The Oral History Project is an effort to collect and memorialize the memories, experiences and impact that AAUW membership has had on the lives of our individual members across the country. These stories will be compiled into both a digital and hardcopy bound book. There is also an opportunity for members to purchase their own copy of the book, as well as other AAUW branded items, if they so choose.

How will PCI be contacting me?

 PCI will contact AAUW members directly through postcards and emails, addressed to you from Katrina Sun Breese (Senior Director of Institutional Advancement), to encourage participation.
 PCI will not conduct outbound calls to members, except to return your calls.

Why are we doing this project?

- Data Verification While you may have received our post card and recently renewed your membership, we often find that emails and phone numbers are out of date. Updating your data ensure we can stay in touch with what is happening at AAUW and important information about your membership. It is also an added value that PCI is conducting this project, at no cost to AAUW National.
 - Thus far over 1/3 of respondents have updated their contact information.
- Oral History AAUW has a long and rich history, well-documented throughout the years in our Archives. We also employ a part-time Archivist and engage the volunteer Archive Corps to organize and maintain this history. That being said – the lived experiences of every day members are not well-documented, nor shared broadly. This project will give us access to audio recordings, transcriptions of stories, and photos submitted from members who choose to participate. While conducting a project of this kind would typically be a significant investment, PCI is doing this work at no cost to AAUW.
 - Thus far over 2,000 stories have been shared

Why did AAUW choose to work with PCI?

- PCI has a long history working with hundreds of membership associations (such as Shriners International and the National Bar Association) as well as College and University Alumni Associations (such as the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Texas Women's

PCI Oral History Project FAQ – 5/1/2023

University, University of Michigan and more) and there is incredible value in embarking on a project of this kind at no cost to AAUW National.

I received a post card, so why do you need to verify my member data?

- If you received a post card, we have your up to date mailing address however, AAUW's primary and most frequent method of communication is email and at times, we may need to reach you by phone. While you may have successfully renewed your membership, we find some details do get missed.
- As of Friday, April 28th PCI has received nearly 2,900 responses:
 - Over 2,100 stories have been collected
 - Over 300 updated their email addresses
 - Over 1,200 updated their phone numbers
 - Over 1,100 updated cell phone numbers
 - 86 updated mailing addresses

The post card asked me to respond within 5 days, why the short time frame?

- PCI adjusts staffing based on the anticipated volume of calls. While the Oral History project information gathering phase will last over the next 6 months, the peak of anticipated call volume will be at the beginning of this time frame. Updating your contact information in a timely manner means our records are as accurate and up to date as possible, and in time for important communications.

What happens if I don't respond?

- If you choose not to respond, there is no impact to your membership.

Is this a fundraiser for AAUW?

AAUW receives a small royalty of \$10 per package purchased. While a royalty is received this
does not represent a significant fundraiser for AAUW – the greater value is in the updating of
our member data and collection of stories and memories from our members, at no cost to
AAUW.

What are the prices for the apparel and book packages that I will be offered on the call?

ltem	Price	S&H	Total
Loyalty Package: Hardbound Book, Digital Publication, T-shirt, Sweatshirt, Travel Bag	\$449.98	\$39.98	\$489.96
Pride Package: Hardbound Book, Digital Publication, T-shirt, Sweatshirt	\$349.98	\$29.98	\$379.96
Value Package: Hardbound + Digital Publication	\$259.98	\$19.98	\$279.96
Hardbound Book	\$169.98	\$19.98	\$189.96
Digital Publication	\$169.98	\$0	\$169.98

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Apparel (ash grey sweatshirt & t-shirt)	\$89.98	\$12.98	\$102.96
Travel Bag	\$139.98	\$19.98	\$159.96

* State sales tax added where applicable.

The products are expensive - do I need to purchase to participate?

- No purchase is necessary to participate. While members who purchase a package are guaranteed inclusion of their story in the print edition, there is absolutely no obligation to purchase in order to share your story or update your information.

Spring is a busy season for AAUW - why is this project starting now?

Spring is definitely a busy time for AAUW members. Whether it is renewals, fundraisers, state conventions or conferences – AAUW is top of mind for many. Additionally – many are now safely gathering in person and reconnecting with old friends and fellow members. While busy – we know that it is during this time that you are reminiscing with friends about conventions of the past, recalling the time you first joined, celebrating important anniversaries and milestones, and learning so much from one another. As the project takes 1 year to complete, it will also be during this time next year that the finished product will be shared for our members to enjoy.

I was unhappy with my customer service experience - how can I share this information?

- While the National office has received inquiries about the project and shared feedback we highly encourage you to share your feedback directly with PCI. Following your call they will ask you to submit feedback through a star rating.
- PCI thus far has received limited ratings feedback directly only 19 responses as of April 28th
 2023. Of those 19 responses 12 provided a 5 star rating and 7 provided a 4 star rating.
- If for any reason you wish to cancel an order you are able to do so directly through PCI's customer service.
- To Contact PCI:
 - 1-855-454-0718 is a dedicated AAUW update line that members who did not receive a
 postcard or email can call to update their information / share a story / etc
 - 1-800-982-1590 is **PCI's Client Services phone number** that members can call for anything after their initial call (questions on the project, cancelling orders, etc)

I've been getting negative feedback from members about this project – how do we share this feedback?

- AAUW is committed to ensuring we are addressing any concerns about specific member experiences with PCI. We have the ability to flag specific customer experiences and review the audio recordings upon request.
- We also want to encourage you to complete your post-call survey from PCI, so that your experience is shared directly with them.

Is my data safe?

PCI Oral History Project FAQ - 5/1/2023

- Yes all data shared with PCI is saved on a secure site, which AAUW is able to access and utilize to update our records. They will only utilize the information shared for the purposes of AAUW's Oral History Project.
- Additionally AAUW did not sell member information to PCI. AAUW also did not pay PCI to conduct this project.
- For more information about how AAUW protects your information, please see our detailed Privacy Policy: <u>https://www.aauw.org/privacy-policy/</u>

More information about the Oral History Project can be found on our website here:

https://www.aauw.org/membership/member-data-verification-oral-history-project-faq/

Examples of Member Stories:

Alice Virginia White, PhD

I first heard about the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in 1969 when my late former husband and I moved to Dodge City, Kansas. The AAUW members there were the most highly respected women in the area, and they took me under their wing. I eventually became the president of our local AAUW group, the Kansas Division president, and even served two terms on the Emporia State University Kansas Master Teacher Selection process. Through my involvement with AAUW, I was inspired to pursue a master's degree and eventually a full ride PhD fellowship at UT Austin. I was even able to teach journalism classes while I was there. Thanks to the kindness and encouragement of the Dodge City AAUW members, I was able to achieve more than I ever thought possible.

Lynn Caterson, Esq

I joined AAUW over 50 years ago when my friend suggested I attend one of their meetings to use my brain and have some stimulation. I have held the position of general counsel in my chapter and have taken advantage of the educational training and resources offered by the organization. I have not been able to attend many of the state conferences due to my law schedule, but I have made many friends in the organization. I was recently named Woman of Distinction by my chapter and was humbled to have so many of my AAUW friends come to wish me well. My greatest professional accomplishment is becoming an attorney. I was inspired to go to law school after seeing the injustices in the county jail and wanting to make a difference. I have since become a municipal judge, a city council president, and chair of the Board of Elections. AAUW has truly changed my life and I am forever grateful for the opportunities it has given me.

Patricia Todd

My experience with AAUW began when I moved to Oregon and my husband's friend's wife invited me to a meeting. I was drawn to the group because it was a great way to meet other women and get involved in the community. What I appreciate most about being a member of AAUW is the advocacy and support they give to other women, especially young women, encouraging them to reach for their dreams. It's also a great avenue for older women to maintain social contacts and engage their minds with the different programs they have. Being a part of AAUW helped me in my career because of the educational and training resources available. I applied for a grant with a group of other women in our community to bring in small business owners and women who wanted to start businesses. We got the grant and it was a great little endeavor. I also took on leadership positions with AAUW both on the branch and state level. One woman in particular, Betty Foxley, really took me under her wing and introduced me to more things on the state level. She was a great mentor and influencer. My greatest

PCI Oral History Project FAQ - 5/1/2023

takeaway from my time with AAUW is the connections, support, and potential opportunities it offers. It showed me that there is something greater out there and that everyone can be a part of it.

Eunice Craig

I have been a member of the Association of University Women (AAUW) for over 50 years. I don't remember exactly how I got involved, but I know many members have joined because of family or friends. When I joined, the branch was already established. One of my favorite experiences was bringing Sally Ride, the first female astronaut in space, to Dover, Delaware for a conference for girls to encourage them to pursue STEM fields. My colleague and I directed the conference, which was held at Delaware State University and had over 300 girls participate. It was very successful and I was the president of the branch at the time. I was amazed by Sally Ride's journey and her inspiring speech. She donated her time and the whole state participated in the project. I still think about how today young women are still struggling to get into the sciences. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with creative and inspiring women of all fields. I have made many friendships through AAUW and it has provided me with many networking opportunities. It has been an amazing experience and I am thankful for the journey.

Adelaide Digiorgi

I first heard about the Association of University Women (AAUW) from Merri Scherman, a former president of the Westchester branch and a member of my local religious congregation. She managed to get the word out to a number of us and I decided to join after she told me she was surprised that I hadn't gotten involved with AAUW since I was so involved with the League of Women Voters. Since joining, I have been active as a member and coprogram chair, and have seen the impact of AAUW first-hand. My eldest granddaughter, who is 30 years old, recently attended a seminar at her company, Alliance Bernstein, and learned all about Lilly Ledbetter and the role AAUW played in her case. This was a very interesting conversation and it made me proud to be a part of the organization. My greatest takeaway from my experience with AAUW is the knowledge that my three granddaughters will be able to benefit from equal pay as my two grandsons. This is something that I am very grateful for.

Marion Simon

After I retired, I was introduced to the American United Women (AAUW) organization by a friend. I decided to attend a dinner to learn more about the organization and was immediately impressed. I joined AAUW and have been a member for several years. I have been able to join various groups within the organization, such as the American Foreign Policy group, which meets monthly to discuss topics such as economic security and China-America relations. I have also been able to meet and form relationships with other women in the organization. Through AAUW, I have been able to attend events such as lectures by professors from UC Irvine on the current situation of women in Iran. I have also seen the organization support women and girls in education through scholarships and other awards. Joining AAUW has been a great experience for me and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking for a way to connect with other women and to stay informed on current events.





