

Adelante

AAUW
Poway-Penasquitos (CA) Branch

AAUW Poway-Penasquitos Branch

IN THIS ISSUE

Don't miss these
November events & announcements:

- **November 10:** Explore San Diego Botanic Garden with Happy Healthy Hikers
- **November 12:** General Meeting: League of Women Voters presents *"Democracy in America"*
- **November 15:** The Travel Group visits Lorna's Italian Kitchen
- **November 19:** Join in the fun with the Games Group

President's Message by Karen McGurk and Honorine Nocon

Happy Fall! Thoughts turn once again to elections, as we will be voting on Proposition 50 in the November 4 Special Election. The League of Women Voters has created a short video explaining the Pros and Cons of Prop 50 that you may find helpful. For more information go to: <https://bit.ly/LWVprop50>.

Save the Date: The Interbranch Council (IBC) will be holding the Annual All-Branch Luncheon at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club on Saturday, January 24, 2026, 10:30 a.m. This is a good opportunity to make new friends, bid on enticing silent auction items, and learn about what the other local branches are doing. The guest speaker will be Dr. Ellen Neufelt, President of CSU San Marcos. I was able to attend this event last year and found it to be a stimulating, fun-filled opportunity to meet other like-minded women. Let's make a strong Poway-Peñasquitos showing in support of our collective mission. (see flyer)

Despite the turmoil and angst we are experiencing as a nation, I am thankful to live in the United States of America. I am grateful for each of you and all you do to make us such a successful organization. Honorine and I wish you a Thanksgiving Holiday filled with lots of good food, friends, and family! We have so many reasons to be grateful. Hope to see you all at the November 12th General Meeting!

November 12 General Meeting: "Democracy in America"

by Kathy Moore and Ellen Dillon, Programs Co-chairs

We are privileged to have Jeanne Weidner, the League of Women Voters Speaker Bureau Chair (and our own AAUW affiliate member), scheduled to speak at the General Meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. She will be accompanied by two of her colleagues, Mary Hanson and Ellen Carr. They will lead a discussion on "Democracy in America: Understanding and Responding to Challenges." Informed and active citizens are democracy's greatest assets.

In keeping with the League's long history of level-headed, nonpartisan information they are offering a new presentation outlining the unique challenges currently facing our democracy. During this non-election year, they believe this is an important moment in the history of our country for people to understand:

- how democracy and the balance of power work,
- how fundamental rights are impacted by executive orders and actions,
- how current litigation is an important arena for resolving disagreement, and
- what advocacy can and should be done by citizens and voters.

Please join us at 1 p.m. for social time, with **the presentation beginning at 1:30 p.m.** Snacks and drinks will be provided by the Games Group. The meeting will be held at the RB Eastview Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way, San Diego, 92128.

This meeting is open to the community so please feel free to invite family and friends. Be sure to RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com by Monday, November 10 if you plan to attend.



Finance Report and Fundraising by Michelle Blasberg

Our Fall Campaign is off and running! Thank you to those of you who have already sent in your donations.

FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT: The Fundraising Account Balance as of October 1 was \$15,882.

OPERATING ACCOUNT: The Operating Account Balance as of October 1 was \$4,512.

We are continuing our excellent programs while reducing our costs wherever possible. Many thanks to our Programs Committee for their ongoing, creative efforts and to our interest groups for providing wonderful food at our meetings so we can keep our monthly expenses as low as possible. Our membership is now at 120 annual members and six Honorary Members.

First Ladies in History by Joie Nolasco

The first lady role is really difficult. It has no job description.

You have to create it for yourself. -Hillary Clinton

A first lady's role is much more of a 24-hour job than anyone would guess. Now that I realize what they've had to put up with, I have new respect and admiration for every one of them. -Betty Ford

The First Ladies Exhibit at the National Museum of American History explores the unofficial but important position of First Lady and the ways that different women have shaped the role to make their own contributions to the presidential administrations and the nation. [The First Ladies | National Museum of American History](#) (photo: Martha Washington's gown on display in the First Ladies' Gallery) Joie's interest in the First Ladies was sparked by a visit to the **National First Ladies Library & Museum** at 205 S. Market Ave., Canton, Ohio 44702. Be sure to delve into the museum's website, which is full of fascinating information: <https://firstladies.org/>



Starting with Martha Washington even the title of the role was unknown, going from Mrs. President, Ladyship, and many other terms before finally settling on First Lady.

There have been 57 First Ladies and not all of them have been spouses of the presidents. For example, Rose Cleveland, Grover Cleveland's sister, served as First Lady until he got married while in office. Also, John Tyler and Woodrow Wilson each had two First Ladies, as their wives died while they were in office, and they remarried. Finally, First Ladies do NOT receive a salary for the many jobs they do! Would you want this job?

Their lives mirror the nation's political and social growth, and the museum has organized the First Ladies into six categories based on the type of work they undertook. Here are just a few of the ladies listed in each category:

- Director of Social Affairs: Martha Washington, Dolley Madison, Julia Tyler, Sarah Polk.
- Symbols of Strength: Eliza Johnson, Lucretia Garfield, Barbara and Laura Bush.
- Policy Advocates: Abigail Adams and Hillary Clinton. Note: Not all first ladies were successful in their efforts, for example, Abigail Fillmore urged Millard to veto the Fugitive Slave Bill or risk losing the northern Whig Party base.
- Social Reformer: Eleanor Roosevelt, Lady Bird Johnson, Betty Ford, Michelle Obama.
- Keeper of "The People's House": Edith Roosevelt, Jacqueline Kennedy, Pat Nixon, Melania Trump.
- Presidential Partner: Ida McKinley, Bess Truman, Frances Cleveland, Mamie Eisenhower.

Speech Trek 2026 by Marie Dye

Our branch is hosting a speech contest for all California high school students on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Pacific Highlands Ranch Library. The contest will start at 10 a.m. <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/pacific-highlands-ranch-library>

The topic is **Artificial Intelligence – What does the Future look like?** Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three contestants. The contest is open to the first 10 contestants.

Do you know a high schooler who may be interested? Contact us at aauwboard@gmail.com for more information.



AAUW P-P Learns about Artificial Intelligence

from Janice
Heather

On October 8, 2025, over 40 branch members listened to AI Instructor and consultant Eamen Hameed explain the basics of Artificial Intelligence, its current and future uses, and the potential impacts on our world. Our Great Decisions interest group provided refreshments while the speaker gave everyone food for thought!



Happy Healthy Hikers to Visit San Diego Botanic Garden by Mary Alice Rudelich

On October 5, several Happy, Healthy Hikers walked at Mission Bay for the cure of ALS and to honor Michelle Blasberg's husband, Phil. It was a wonderful experience to see all the people committed to conquering the disease.

On November 10 we will be venturing out to the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas at 300 Quail Gardens Drive. We will meet at the Rancho Bernardo Library Parking Lot at 9:15 a.m. for a carpool. Hikers will participate in the docent-led butterfly walk at 10 a.m. Cost for entry to the gardens is \$15 for seniors. Please RSVP to mary.rudelich@aol.com.

Happy Healthy Hikers at Mission Bay & Annie's Canyon



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-

ca.aauw.net

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

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

Co-Presidents: Karen
McGurk & Honorine
Nocon

Programs/1st Vice

Presidents: Kathy
Moore, Ellen Dillon

Membership/2nd Vice

President: Pam Ames

Secretary: Debby
Dutilly

Treasurer: Michelle
Blasberg

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Grape Expectations: Revisiting One of Our Faves! by Diana
Glod and Cathy Burciaga

In the wake of the infamous 2007 Witch Creek Fire, the Perrin Family planted their first grapevines and soon began producing wines of exceptional quality. They were inspired to name it Speckle Rock by the speckled granite boulders left standing after the fire that help create ideal soil conditions for wine grapes. Their wines have since won numerous awards. <https://www.specklerockvineyards.com/>

You're invited to join us on Friday, November 21, from 3-5 p.m. at Speckle Rock Vineyards and Tasting Room, 16138 Highland Valley Road, Escondido, for a glass of deliciousness shared with old and new friends. Important: Please RSVP to Cathy at cburciaga@san.rr.com or (858) 449-5096. Feel free to bring a friend and snacks to share. Carpools are forming.



"Born from the Ashes, Raised on the Vine."

Travel Group to Visit Lorna's Italian Kitchen by Pam Ames

On Saturday, November 15, the Travel Group will visit Lorna's Italian Kitchen at 3945 Governor Drive. Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. There will be a carpool leaving at 11 a.m. from the Park & Ride at Scripps Poway Parkway next to Yanni's. Check out their menu at <https://www.lornasitaliankitchen.com>. As always, everyone is welcome!

Please RSVP to Pam Ames at pamames123@gmail.com.



AAUW POWAY-PENASQUITOS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2025

Date	Group	Topic	Group Leader	Meeting Details	Good to Know
Nov. 6	Great Decisions	American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking stock and looking ahead	Sally Jacobson, sjacobs4@san.rr.com Marie Dye, mdye@san.rr.com	Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Rita Murphy, 1751 Citracado Parkway in Escondido. RSVP to Rita at ritajmurphy@aol.com .	Meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. No meeting in Dec., Jan., July, and Aug. Interested in joining? Please email Marie or Sally.
Nov. 10	Happy Healthy Hikers	N/A	Mary Alice Rudelich, mary.rudelich@aol.com	We will visit the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas to participate in the docent led butterfly walk at 10 a.m. Entry fee for seniors is \$15.00. We will meet at the Rancho Bernardo Library parking lot at 9:15 a.m. to carpool. Please RSVP to Mary Alice at mary.rudelich@aol.com .	Hikes are once a month ranging from easy to moderate levels. Contact Mary Alice to be added to the distribution list.
Nov. 11	Page Turners	<i>How the Penguins Saved Veronica</i> , by Hazel Prior	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Thompson, 12202 Colony Drive in Poway. Please RSVP to Pam at pamames123@gmail.com if you are planning to attend.	Meets the second Tuesday of every month at a member's home at 1:30 p.m. Contact Pam Ames if you wish to be added to the distribution list.
Nov. 12	General Meeting	Democracy in America, presented by the League of Women Voters and branch member Jeanne Weidner	Ellen Dillon, ranger92077@yahoo.com Kathy Moore, kmooresandiego@yahoo.com	The meeting will be held at RB Eastview Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way. Social time begins and 1 p.m., and the presentation starts at 1:30 p.m. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com .	Bring friends and family!
Nov. 15	Travel Group	N/A	Pam Ames, pamames123@gmail.com	Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. at Lorna's Italian Kitchen, 3945 Governor Drive. https://www.lornasitaliankitchen.com Carpool will meet at the Park and Ride off Scripps Poway Parkway next to Yanni's. Please RSVP to Pam at pamames123@gmail.com .	Meets monthly at various local restaurants. Contact Pam Ames to be added to the distribution list. Everyone is welcome!
Nov. 19	Games Group	N/A	Harriet Gerza, harriet.gerza@gmail.com	We will meet at 7 p.m. at the home of Aresa Toukdarian, 8492 Florissant Court in Rancho Penasquitos. Please RSVP to Aresa at atoukdar@gmail.com .	Group meets once a month. Contact Harriet if you'd like to be added to the distribution list.

Nov. 20	Thursday Book Group (evening)	<i>Abundance</i> , by Klein & Derek Thompson	Ann Morgan, annmorgansd@yahoo.com Marilyn Scheininger, marilyn.scheininger@gmail.com	Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Morgan, 9185 Oviedo St in Rancho Penasquitos. Please RSVP to Ann at annmorgansd@yahoo.com .	Meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. If you want to join the discussion, please email Ann or Marilyn.
Nov. 21	Grape Expectations	N/A	Cathy Burciaga, cburciaga@san.rr.com Diana Glod, glod2cu@gmail.com	From 3-5 p.m. we will visit Speckle Rock Vineyards at 16138 Highland Valley Road in Escondido. Carpooling will be available. Please RSVP to Cathy at cburciaga@san.rr.com or text to 858-449-5096.	We meet monthly for either wine or beer tasting. Please contact Cathy or Diana to be added to the distribution list.
Nov. 24	Monday Mysteries Book Group	<i>Smilla's Sense of Snow</i> , by Peter Hoeg	Debby Dutilly (rbdeb@san.rr.com), Bobbie Felix, (bafelix1@gmail.com)	We will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Karen McGurk at 14905 Derringer Rd, Poway, 92064. Discussion leader is Cathy Burciaga. Please RSVP to Karen at kmcgurkm@sbcglobal.net .	Meets the fourth Monday of every month. Please email Pam Meyer to be added to the distribution list.

AAUW Poway-Penasquitos 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the second week of every month, on a Wednesday or a Saturday. Please check the schedule below for details. Specific information on each meeting will be in the Adelante, along with any updates or changes to the schedule.

All meetings will be held at the RB Eastview Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way, San Diego 92128, unless indicated otherwise. There is ample parking at the Center and in the surrounding neighborhood.

The following list identifies the [National Strategic Plan](#) (NSP) priority supported by each meeting:

- Pri-1 Fund Higher Education
- Pri-2 Remove Barriers to Success in Education and the Workplace
- Pri-3 Strengthen AAUW's Reach

Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 9:30-11 a.m.

Topic: Highlighting Tech Trek Campers and Scholarship Awardees

Speaker: Tech Trek 2025 campers, Scholarship winners

NSP: Pri-1

Light brunch will be served.

Open to the public. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com by Thursday, September 11.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, from 1-3 p.m.

Topic: Artificial Intelligence

Speaker: Eamon Hameed

NSP: Pri-2

Snacks will be provided by the Great Decisions Group

Open to the public. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, from 1-3 p.m.

Topic: League of Women Voters – “Democracy in America”

Speaker: Jeanne Weidner

NSP: Pri-2

Snacks will be provided by the Games Group

Open to the public. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, from 6:30-8 p.m.

Annual Holiday Celebration
Potluck, games
NSP: Pri-3
PP Branch Members Only Please

Saturday, January 24, 2026, starting at 10:30 a.m.

San Diego Interbranch Council's (IBC) Annual Luncheon & Meeting
Topic: "Partnerships in Higher Education"
Speaker: Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, President, California State University at San Marcos
Location: Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, Solana Beach

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, from 1-3 p.m.

Topic: Medical Health Planning: Long-term Care, Advance Directives, DNR & more
Speaker: Susan Reynolds
NSP: Pri-2

Snacks will be provided by the Grape Expectations Group
Open to the public. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, from 1-3 p.m.

Topic: Women in History
Speaker: Joie Nolasco
NSP: Pri-3

Snacks will be provided by the Page Turners Group
Open to the public. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com

Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Topic: Forensics: The Science of Solving Crimes
Speaker: Monica McCall, Criminalist, San Diego County Sheriff's Office
NSP: Pri-3

Snacks will be provided by the Monday Murder Mystery Group
Open to the public. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com

Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cover to Cover Authors Annual Fundraiser
Location: Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, Solana Beach
NSP: Pri-1
Open to the public.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, from 1-3 p.m.

Topic: What's Happening in Libraries Today
Speaker: Adrienne Peterson, branch manager, Pacific Highlands Ranch Library
Year in Review, Installation of New Officers
NSP: Pri-3

Snacks will be provided.
Open to the public. RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com



**FRIENDS &
FAMILY
WELCOME!**

November 12, 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

“Democracy in America”

Jeanne Weidner, the League of Women Voters Speaker Bureau Chair (and our own AAUW branch member), and two of her colleagues, Mary Hanson and Ellen Carr, will lead a discussion on “Democracy in America: Understanding and Responding to Challenges.”

Social time starts at 1 p.m. Presentation starts at 1:30 p.m.

RSVP to aauwboard@gmail.com

RB Eastview Community Center, 17520 Drayton Hall Way, 92128



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

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

San Diego County InterBranch Council (SDC-IBC)

Annual All-Branch Luncheon

Saturday, January 24, 2026, 10:30 am



Lomas Santa Fe Country Club
1505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Cabrillo-Diego
Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista
Del Mar-Leucadia
Fallbrook
La Mesa-El Cajon
Poway-Peñasquitos
San Diego

The Poway-Peñasquitos and Del Mar-Leucadia branches cordially invite you to

Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Ellen Neufeldt
President, California State University San Marcos
"Partnerships in Higher Education"



Under Dr. Neufeldt's leadership, CSUSM has become a national model for student success, social mobility, and regional impact. Hear about partnerships contributing to CSUSM's remarkable growth – with donors and community leaders, as well as the major collaborative effort of CSUSM, SDSU, the City of Chula Vista, and others to create a bi-national, multi-institutional hub for higher education and innovation in South County.

join us for lunch and a good time – renewing old friendships, meeting new friends, bidding on enticing silent auction and raffle items, and hearing what branches are up to.

See you at the Club!

10:30 am Check-in, Social Time, & Silent Auction/Raffle

11:00 am Welcome Address

11:30 am Lunch

12:15 pm Speaker

Bring a friend!

Questions? Call or text Cathy at (858) 449-5096, or e-mail cburciaga@san.rr.com

RSVPs are a Must - by January 12th please!!!

☐ **Yes, (name)_____ (branch)_____ will be there.**

And, I am bringing _____ guests:_____

Select Your Entrée(s): ☐ Seared Salmon ☐ Wine Country Salad with Chicken
☐ Vegetarian Roasted Vegetable Wrap

Cost: \$50. Enclosed is my check payable to "SDC-IBC".

Tear off this reply & mail to: AAUW IBC Luncheon, PO Box 262012, San Diego, CA 92196