



BRANCH LINES

Standing Together for Equity

Empowering Women Since 1881

Eleanor Stem-Allen Speech Trek Contest



Semi-Finals: February 1, 2025 - Orchard Creek Lodge, Lincoln, CA 8:00am

Finals: February 7, 2025 - Kilaga Springs Lodge, Lincoln, CA 4:00pm

RSVP Link for Feb 7th:

[Events | AAUW-RSP Branch Site](#)

Lobby Days, April 8 and 9

By Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee

In January members will be receiving information about AAUW California Lobby Days and how to sign up. Get ready to advance legislation that makes a difference! This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an in-person meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8 and a virtual meeting day over Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities. The Public Policy Committee will select the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, 2025, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Having a *team* from our branch is my goal! It may benefit our branch in the future to have our State Assembly Member and Senator know who we are. And it can certainly help the passage of bills that can improve the lives of women and girls in California. Email me if you'd like more info,



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

AAUW handbook online - update

The printed Handbook Directory has been posted in the Members Only secured section of our website @ www.aauwrosevillesouthplacer.org. To view the directory online, hover over the About Us menu item and Choose the Members tab from the drop-down menu. The password is in front of the printed Handbook Directory. It is a standard pdf file; if you want to look someone up, you can either scroll down or search by using Ctrl F and typing in either the first or last name. Please take a minute to review your own name and let us know about any updates and/or corrections.

Betty Hunt - Honorary lifetime member

I am writing to inform you that one of your members, Betty Hunt, has passed away. She passed peacefully on December 6, 2024. Services will be in Ohio on January 18th. Thank you for all of your support for Betty and for your organization. She loved being a part of it. Best, Carrie Klagemberg, daughter.

Board recap

By Schelly Jensen, Co-President

Items that the board discussed at the January board meeting include:

- A presentation from the Lincoln Community Foundation on the logistics of the bingo fundraiser we'll be hosting in August (save the date August 13)
- The Branch will be participating in the Lincoln Hills Parking Lot Sale again this year. Date has not been set yet but will be sometime in May—so start collecting your items for the sale!
- No Reservations has raised over \$8,000 so far, contributions are still being accepted.
- Our February program will be the Speech Trek finals to be held Feb 7 at Kilaga Springs in Sun City Lincoln Hills.

Nominating Committee Members Announced

By Schelly Jensen, Co-President

This year's nominating committee is composed of branch members Carolyn Garfein, Michelle Colletto and Lynda Stockwell. If you are interested in being a member of the AAUW-RSP Board of Directors next year (July 2025-June 2026) please contact one of the committee members. A list of candidates for next year's board will be published in Branch Lines in the spring.

Sierra College Committee

by Lynda Stockwell, Chair



Sierra College Student Welcome Event on Monday, February 3, 2025

Our committee will welcome the students back by hosting an AAUW-RSP booth in the cafeteria. Students receive lots of information, logo bags, planners, snacks, and a free lunch! Free AAUW student memberships will be offered.

The Associated Students are holding **Election Info Workshops** on February 4 & 5. The workshops provide students with general information regarding the ASSC 2025-26 Student Senate election process, ASSC positions and commitment/responsibilities. The campaign forums and election take place in March.

Black History Month 2025: Afro Fest: Thursday, February 20, 2025, 5 – 8pm

The third annual AfroFest is open to the whole community: connect with Black Culture through Afro Beats music, African Cuisine, vendors, and educational opportunities.

Why AAUW Public Policy Priorities Matter

by Nancy Major, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

Why do AAUW's Public Policy Priorities matter? They shape the actions that we take as an organization, socially and legally.

AAUW's mission is to advance equity for women and girls. Our Public Policy Priorities guide how we encourage active citizenship toward the goal of advancing our mission. There are four branches to our Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security, Equal Access to Quality Public Education, Social and Racial Justice, and Increased representation of Women in Leadership roles. Each of these priorities is further broken down into several action-oriented subcategories, such as enforcement of Title IX and passage of the ERA. Our 2023-25 priorities can be found at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/public-policy-priorities-ppp-revised/>.

As active participants in society we can help shape the laws and society that govern us, such as healthcare, environmental policies, sex education, curriculum and book banning, housing, childcare, voting rights, immigrants' rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence, racial and LGBTQ discrimination, and Title IX enforcement. We "advocate" or promote our mission through research, education and lobbying for legislation on the international, national, state, and local levels.

History has shown that our advocacy has made a big impact on national, state and local laws. In California alone, you can see the laws that AAUW sponsored, authored, and/or promoted, including those that were passed in the most recent session by going to [AAUW California Bill Tracking Report 2024 - Google Sheets](#). AAUW is also doing impactful work internationally, working to curtail human trafficking and promote civil and human rights for all immigrants, including through participation in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Over the next four years, there will be a lot of opportunities to use this

legislative advocacy to push back against attempts to overturn long standing human rights and civil rights protections.

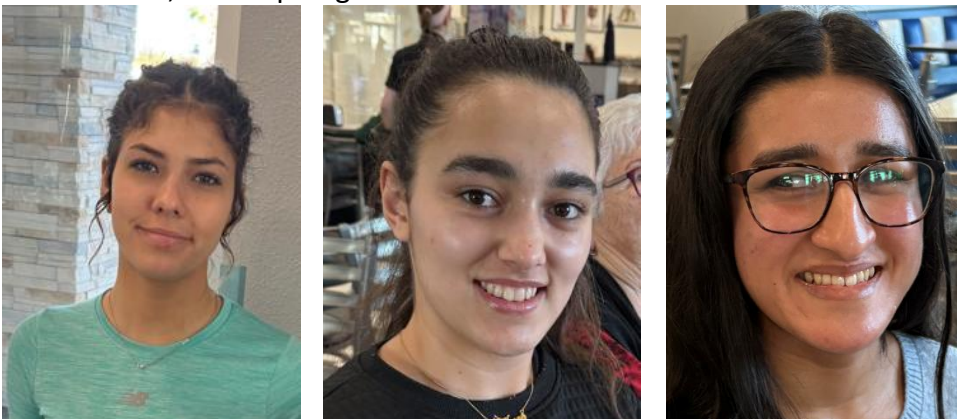
Our Public Policy Priorities also shape our efforts to push forward programs that break through educational and economic barriers for women such as speaker programs, scholarships, oversight of local school boards, leadership and salary training, STEM opportunities for students, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

Why do our Public Policy Priorities matter? They make us the most effective advocates for our collective mission to protect and expand gender equity. At the branch and individual levels, we can take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to operationalize our Public Policy Priorities, and through this work to actively promote AAUW's mission. AAUW as an organization relies on the branches to stay informed and to keep track of where our Public Policy Priorities may fall short, to form coalitions with local allies who have similar missions, and to assign branch members to focus where we can have the most impact.

Celebrating Bright Futures: Ice Cream Social with AAUW Scholarship Recipients by Michelle Colletto, President elect



Leatherby's Family Creamery was abuzz with excitement as the AAUW Roseville/South Placer Branch hosted an ice cream social for our 2024 high school scholarship recipients. On a cool January afternoon, seven of the 17 remarkable young women joined five committee members for an afternoon of sweet treats, lively conversation, and inspiring stories.



These scholarship recipients are truly a force to be reckoned with—future leaders already making their mark. Among the group were aspiring professionals with majors in biology, aerospace engineering, pre-med, nursing, psychology, biology, and one still undeclared.

The young women shared their experiences from their first semester of college. They were candid and heartfelt, talking about their challenges and successes, but what made the afternoon even more special was their excitement about connecting with each other. Many of them didn't know they had so much in common, such as their shared love of science and their determination to pursue their dreams.

These young women had plenty of questions for the six committee members, ranging from practical advice on time management and networking to reflections on navigating the world as ambitious young women. The conversations were engaging and inspiring—a true exchange of wisdom and encouragement.

By the end of the afternoon, it was unanimous: the committee walked away completely impressed with these young women. Their drive, intelligence, and optimism were contagious, and we're thrilled to be part of their journey.

The future is undeniably bright, and we can't wait to see what these exceptional young leaders accomplish next.



Full STEAM ahead for our 2025 Tech Trek Summer

By Carol Delville & Andrea Flamenco, Committee Chairs



With the beginning of the New Year, exciting plans have been put in place for the upcoming 2025 UC Davis Tech Trek! Since last October, monthly Zoom meetings with Dr. Mary “Mimi” Isaac, the CA Director of Tech Trek and all Branch Coordinators have taken place, flurries of letters have been sent to schools and teachers. In addition, UC Davis Branch Coordinators have been meeting with Rachel Kanowsky, UC Davis Camp Director, in monthly Zoom calls. Many

people have been working tirelessly in the background to make 2025 UC Davis Tech Trek phenomenal.

Each year our circle of nominations becomes a bit wider! This year we have 5 schools represented, 7 nominating teachers and 10 nominations being sent! Warren T. Eich Middle School, Roseville City School District; Rocklin Gateway, Rocklin School District; Olympus Junior High School, Eureka School District; Glen Edwards Middle School and Twelve Bridges Middle School, Western Placer School District. Inspired by the girls we sent last year and our branch's support, we look forward to being part of an engaging, dynamic, and rewarding camp for all to experience!!

Women's rights have come a long way – Things we were not allowed to do 100 years ago

It's hard to imagine a time in this country when women didn't have some of the basic rights they have today, but it wasn't all that long ago that things were very different. Thank goodness those days are over, but the fight continues, since there are a number of ways [women still aren't treated as the equals of men](#). Of course, we've come a long way, so let's celebrate our nation's progress as we look back on these surprising things women weren't allowed to do just a century or so ago.

Vote

Today, you might mail in your ballot or cast your vote in the booth for the politician of your choice, but there was a time not all that long ago when women wouldn't have been allowed to exercise this simple right. The 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, wasn't ratified until 1920. The law was passed largely due to the efforts of ordinary women who changed the world, like the suffragettes Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. And as much as we like to believe the United States has always been a progressive country, there are many other [countries that gave women the right to vote before the U.S.](#)

Easily obtain birth control

Women today are free to use birth control if they wish, or forgo it if they don't. It's their choice. But this wasn't always the case. There was a time when birth control, or even information about birth control, was difficult for women to get.

The first birth control pill wasn't approved until 1960, so at the turn of the century, women relied on methods such as intrauterine devices and condoms, both of which were largely controlled and distributed by men. In 1916, Margaret Sanger decided to do something about that and opened the first birth-control clinic in the United States. She was arrested nine days later.

However, that didn't stop her from continuing to advocate for a woman's right to control her own reproductive decisions, and the availability of birth control that women enjoy today is largely due to Sanger's efforts. Here are more [moments that changed women's history](#) forever.

Divorce

Early in U.S. history, divorce was a tricky situation, especially if you happened to be a woman. Each state had different rules, and judges were allowed to exercise their own discretion when it came to the final decision as to whether or not a divorce would be granted.

For instance, each state had different rules about how many times a man could physically abuse his spouse before she was allowed to divorce him. And in some states, divorce wasn't legal at all. Believe it or not, South Carolina

didn't legalize divorce until 1949! So if you're a woman who has made the personal choice to end her marriage, be grateful you live in modern times.

Wear pants

It sounds crazy to us today when we see the [most inspiring women](#) of our time, but of course, there was a time when pants weren't considered suitable attire for women. In fact, it was often illegal. Many states had laws on the books in the 1800s and even the early 1900s that said women could not dress like men, which basically meant they could not wear pants.

Although the laws weren't always enforced, women who wore trousers were definitely frowned upon. It was high fashion that largely helped change society's perception. In the 1910s through the late 1920s, designers like Coco Chanel started incorporating pants into their collections, and movie stars like Marlene Dietrich wore them with style and flair. Today, women's wardrobes are filled with everything from pantsuits to blue jeans to yoga pants. Check out the stories of these [amazing women in history](#) you didn't learn about in class.

Join the military

If you're a woman who served in the military, thank you for your service. There was a time when such a thing wasn't possible. Although women have always been associated with the military in professions like nursing, they weren't allowed to be active members, and many of their positions were unpaid.

This changed in 1942, during World War II, when the Army was in such dire need of recruits that they allowed women to join and fill non-combat positions on an auxiliary basis. Eventually, the Army allowed women to formally enlist in the reserves by establishing the Women's Army Corps, or WAC, in 1948. Finally, women could gain rank, earn benefits and serve overseas.

Keep their maiden name

Today, many women choose to keep their maiden name after they get [married](#). There was a time, though, when doing so could lead to serious repercussions. If a woman didn't take her husband's last name, it was not simply frowned upon by society—employers could actually refuse to issue her paycheck, and she could even be barred from voting. In 1976, Hawaii became the last state to officially lift the mandate that a woman take her husband's last name.

Smoke in public

In modern times, there are many restrictions on where people can [smoke](#), but back in the day, smoking was allowed pretty much anywhere and everywhere for some people. Those "some people" were men.

Although it was generally acceptable for women to smoke at home, society frowned upon them smoking in the same public spaces that men did. In 1908, New York City went as far as to pass a law prohibiting women from smoking within public establishments. The law proved wildly unpopular, and the mayor vetoed it within two weeks. This paved the way for both businesses and society to accept the fact that a woman smoking in public was no more shocking or immoral than a man smoking in public. By the 1920s, for better or worse, cigarette manufacturers began marketing cigarettes to women as "torches of freedom."

Own property if they were married

Until 1848, if you were a married woman, you couldn't own property. Anything you owned, regardless of how you came to own it, legally belonged to your husband. In 1848, the Married Women's Property Act was passed in New York state, declaring that a married woman had just as much right to own and control property as a single woman did. It was groundbreaking legislation in that it became the model for similar laws in other states in the years that followed.

However, progress was slow. While married women's property acts were finally passed in all states by 1900, society wasn't fully on board until much later. Don't forget—this was a time when women didn't yet have the right to vote

and most deferred to their husbands in most matters. It wasn't until the Prohibition era in the 1920s that women of varied socioeconomic backgrounds began to feel empowered to exercise their rights and make more decisions for themselves. Finally, a married woman could decide what she wanted to do with her property while living, as well as to whom she wished to bequeath it in death. Looking for a good read? Check out these [books by female authors](#).

Shop without an escort

Can you imagine needing to be chaperoned in public at all times—as an adult woman? That's the way it was in the 19th century. When women left the house, they were generally expected to be accompanied by a man. This began to change in the late 1800s with the advent of the department store. The first department stores were designed specifically with women in mind and provided a safe place for them to gather, socialize and, of course, spend money.

Soon, other businesses wanted to get in on the action, and many theaters and restaurants began opening their doors to unescorted women for the first time. However, for the most part, it was women from upper-income households who received the benefit of these added freedoms. It wasn't until the 1920s that chain stores began to target and cater to people of all incomes and budgets.

Work fair hours

Women have always been subjected to discrimination and endured countless indignities like sexual harassment at work. But more than a century ago, they had limited legal protections in the workplace, and their hours weren't regulated. In the state of Oregon, however, there was a law that restricted women from working more than 10 hours a day. This was challenged in a case that went all the way to the [Supreme Court](#) in 1908, *Muller v. Oregon*. The Supreme Court affirmed the previous ruling of two lower courts that Muller, the owner of a laundry business, could not force the women in his employ to work more than the 10-hour shifts permitted by law.

Sadly, the ruling was not made on the basis of equality, but on the basis that such long hours interfered with a woman's maternal duties. Nevertheless, the case had a profound effect on U.S. labor laws, as other states began to follow suit in the coming decades.

Serve on a jury

Juries are supposed to be comprised of one's peers, but in 1879, the Supreme Court affirmed that states had the legal right to limit the jury pool to males. The first state to decide that women were indeed qualified to serve as jurors was Utah, in 1898. After that, other states began to follow suit, but the progress was slow.

In 1927, there were still only 19 states that allowed women to serve as jurors. This changed in 1961 when the Supreme Court ruled that a Florida law exempting women from jury duty was unconstitutional. Regardless of your gender, this is what happens if you [ignore a jury summons](#).

Compete in a wide variety of Olympic sports

If you're a fan of athletes like the one and only Simone Biles, it might be inconceivable that there was a time when women couldn't compete in the Olympics. Women weren't allowed to do so until 1900, and at those Games, held in Paris, they accounted for less than 3% of the athletes. This was largely due to the fact that only five sports were open to them.

Slowly, more and more Olympic sports opened their arms to women, and today, the Olympic Committee works to make sure more women are given important roles and voices in leadership. So if you're a woman with Olympic dreams, go for it! Here are more [Olympic moments that changed history](#).

Have their own passport if they were married

Until the 1920s, single women had their own [passports](#), while married women were issued joint passports with their husbands. At the time, this was reflective of the fact that society frowned upon the prospect of a woman

traveling without her spouse. More so, it was indicative of societal notions that a woman's identity was wrapped up in her husband's.

As women became more liberated, they began to challenge this, especially in cases where they wished to keep their maiden name. In one such case in 1917, a young woman named Ruth Hale successfully petitioned to get a passport issued in her maiden name. This was a watershed moment, prompting other women to petition for the same in the ensuing years. In 1937, the rules were officially changed. The struggle women endured should also be an inspiration to support more [women-owned businesses](#) today.

Current Interest Group Activities

Group Name	Leader	Meeting Day	Time
GREAT DECISIONS GROUP Great Decisions Raley's Event Center 1915 Douglas Blvd., Roseville Topic: Why is the US so interested in Greenland and the Panama Canal?	Elsie Gaura	2 nd Friday of-each month Feb 14	10:00AM
WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP Zoom meeting – turn on your computer, iPad, Kindle Fire or smartphone! Reviewing: <u>Remarkable Bright Creatures</u> by <u>Shelby Van Pe</u>	Nancy Taylor	3 rd Wednesday of each month Feb 19	10:00AM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK GROUP BOOK: <i>Harry's Trees: A Novel</i> by <i>Jon Cohen</i> HOST: Denise Hexom REVIEWER: Denise Hexom	Judy Martin	Wednesday Feb 5	6:30PM
MAH JONGG GROUP To join, contact Joyce Wade	Joyce Wade	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays Feb 6 at Barbara Gorden's Feb 20 at Fran Rice's	1:00PM
CASUAL GARDENERS GROUP Casual Gardener are going to the Sacramento State Arboretum with lunch to follow.	Diane Madden	1 st Wednesday of each month: Feb 5	10:00AM
RUMMIKUB at Sandy Haley's RSVP to Sandy Please, include your name	Sandy Haley	Monday Feb 17	11:00 AM

Current Neighborhood Group Activities

Lincoln/Loomis Neighborhood Group -- The next gathering I planned will be In February, I found the Lincoln Theater Company is showing "Noises Off" and I chose Saturday **Feb 22nd** at 3pm to attend as a group. The tickets are about \$27. If you are interested, tickets are available for purchase already. Sela Greenhouse.

Roseville Neighborhood Group. Roseville Neighborhood Group Breakfast at Timbers The 3rd Monday of every month, all members of Roseville-South Placer are invited to join the Roseville Neighborhood Group for Breakfast at Timbers 7050Del Webb Blvd. From 9:00-10:10.

Following breakfast, anyone who wants to play easy-to-learn-fun-to-play Rummikub is invited to Sandy Haley's.

For Breakfast Monday, **February 17**, RSVP to Sandy Haley by noon, Saturday, February 15. Please, include your name and indicate whether you plan to attend breakfast, Rummikub, or both.

Mark your calendars for Monday, March 17, and Monday, April 21.

Rocklin Group. Group contact is Lynda Stockwell, or Elizabeth Gonzales , The **February** Rocklin Group activity is attending the [Speech Trek Finals on Friday, Feb 7th at 4 – 5 pm](#) at Kilaga Springs in Lincoln. All Branch members are welcome to join in! **RSVP** for the **free event** on our Branch website.

*** 2025 Words of Wisdom ***

Forgiveness

When I am hurt, it can be tempting to lash out at the ones I hold responsible for my pain. I might feel that's fair and just, but I also know punishing someone who hurt me only serves to add more anger and sadness to an already wounded world. I can let the cycle of anger and hurt stop with me and choose to meet hurt with healing. When I do, forgiveness comes more easily.

Practicing self-care, I do what I can to accept and forgive myself. Freed from self-condemnation, it becomes easier to see the pain in someone who hurt me. I envision their hurt easing, and their life filled with blessings, knowing each healed heart sends healing to the world.



Linking together for our mission.

Board meeting

The next Branch Board Meeting is **February 10**. We will meet at (10 am) at Patricia Goldman's home. All members are welcome. **Please send an email to the President if you plan to attend and if you have something to add to the meeting agenda.**

For updates in real time, please visit our branch website at

aaurosevillesouthplacer.org