



Valley View

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It is exciting to anticipate the first program of the year created by our new Program Director, Rocio Ortega, assisted by the outgoing Director Janet Chaniot. Rocio has incorporated some of the ideas from the discussions at the Spring and Fall Dinners about varying the times, places and contents of the programs and has come up with a Brunch meeting featuring representatives of Women in the Arts. See the information that follows for more details. The way things are coming together it looks like the program will be both entertaining and delicious! If you haven't yet sent your RSVP to Janet Chaniot please do so right away so we can reserve a seat for you and prepare the appropriate amount of food.

I want to remind you all to check out the Membership Participation page in the yearbook to see the many options to enjoy your membership in our local chapter. Any of you who have not received your yearbook can pick it up on Kyle's front porch or at program meetings. There are about 10 members who have not yet sent their yearly dues, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

With respect to the Mendocino College AAUW student club, we have learned that establishing this club will require several more essential steps. With recent continued support and assistance from the representatives of Mendocino College Student Services, we are hopeful that success is forthcoming. In the interim, we were informed that the November 1, 2022, college event will not include participation of its student clubs. Stay tuned for further Mendocino College updates!

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The board is planning a unique fundraising idea for December and January that will be heartwarming and will inspire participation, not only for AAUW members but perhaps for many of Mendocino County residents in general. I am just planting a seed now for your imagination. You will receive the details in an e-mail, on our website, in the December Newsletter, in the local newspapers and on Facebook in the following weeks.

Hoping you all have a healthy and happy Thanksgiving holiday. Despite these challenging times, I have discovered there is always much to appreciate when I take the time to look through that lens.

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WHEN WOMEN VOTE, THEY CHANGE THE CONVERSATION!

AAUW California supports the passage of Propositions 1 and 28 on the November ballot in California.

Proposition 1: The decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn *Roe v. Wade* dealt a serious blow to the rights of women to make their own decision about their bodies. This spurred many state legislatures to act to ban abortion, some with no exceptions for rape, incest, or endangering the life of the mother. Abortion bans in other states have already taken effect. Yet polls in many states show a majority in support of protecting the rights of women to choose to have abortions. Currently women are coming from other states to obtain abortions in California. An Abortion Access website is being formed in our state to enable and assist out-of-state women with travel arrangements, housing, medical appointments and other matters.

Proposition 28: In the context of AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities in support of Education, AAUW CA supports Proposition 28, The Arts and Music in Schools – Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. Studies on educational achievement prove that arts and music education improve student learning. Music education has been shown to improve cognitive development and spatial reasoning while the dramatic arts improve reading comprehension. Arts and music education has also been shown to improve school attendance and individual self-confidence and motivation to learn, particularly among poor and other at-risk students. Yet these programs are usually the first cut when school budgets are reduced. Prop 28 would provide a minimum source of annual funding coming from the state General Fund to K-12 public schools to supplement arts education programs. School districts would be held accountable to use the funds for hiring certificated employees and purchasing supplies and materials.

Read the full propositions on the Secretary of State website, www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures

Become informed, and Vote on November 8, 2022!!

Val Muchowski
Public Policy Chair

2021-22 Legislative Session Closes with Big Wins for AAUW California AAUW California Public Policy Committee

At the stroke of midnight on September 30, 2022, the 2021-22 legislative session officially came to a close as it marked the Governor's deadline for signing or vetoing bills. The AAUW 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 seven of our eight top priority bills. The following is a brief synopsis, by each pillar of our Public Policy Priorities:

Economic Security for All Women

Eight of our bills were signed by the Governor, one was vetoed, and one 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 two-year bill, which is why it remained on this year's agenda. This bill originally sought a one-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 two-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 two years of waivers in the budget, so we still consider it a win!

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

Six of these bills were signed by the Governor, one was vetoed, one was approved by the legislature (no signature required) and two died in the legislature. Of particular note under this pillar are three 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

Eight of these bills were signed by the Governor, one was vetoed, one was incorporated by the Governor into an Executive Order, one was approved by and 2 died in the legislature. We saw success on all four 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.

Val Muchowski
Public Policy Chair

AAUW Bookmarkers**November**

Please NOTE calendar changes from our regular schedule

Wednesday, November 9, at 2 p.m.

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks, novel inspired by the journey of the 15th century Sarajevo Haggadah

December

Wednesday, December 14, at 2 p.m.

The Colony by Audrey Magee, a painter and a linguist on a tiny island off Ireland...

New members welcome, meetings are at the home of Katie Gibbs, 4561 Eastside Calpella Road, Ukiah, telephone (707) 228-6143.

Please note that *Valley View* advertising is available to local businesses for \$25/year starting this month. Just scan or send a business card and a check to Kyle Mayers at P. O. Box 1626, Ukiah, CA 9482



Wil Gonzalez, AIFD



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