



Valley View

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Again Dear Members,

I hope your Thanksgiving time went as well as possible considering what seems to be a steady flow of unexpected happenings. Somehow, I find much to be grateful for despite the various kinds of complications that arise. Perhaps we can agree on that.

I am happy to say that the Scholarship Fundraising efforts were quite successful thanks to the efforts of our Scholarship committee leaders Katie Gibbs and Mary Ann Villwock and to your generosity. We will be able to grant three Scholarships to women and girls returning to college; we will be sending four or five girls to STEM camp; and we will be offering accolades again this year.

Our first Program Brunch created by Rocio and Janet was also very successful. It was well attended, very informative, inspiring and entertaining and the food was said to be beautifully presented, plentiful and delicious. We all can look forward to another wonderful program in February.

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And now some breaking news. This year, right after the holidays, AAUW will announce a fun and exciting fundraising project. Yes, can you imagine fundraising as being fun and exciting? Here's the idea:

AAUW will run a competition to find a Mascot of the Year. Residents of Mendocino County can enter their furry loveable pet (for a small fee) to become our Mascot. Friends, family, neighbors, co-workers can vote for your loved one (by supporting your pet with their votes (by buying voting tickets)).

The winner will receive a professional painting of their pet, a professional photo as well, which we will use in our newsletters and for publicity, the title and honor of becoming AAUW's official mascot. The winner will be announced in newspapers around the county.

The three finalists will be presented at a celebration event in "person" for last-minute voting, refreshments and treats, of course. Imagine all the social status and love your pet will receive! And appreciate how all the worthy programs we sponsor will benefit. Stay tuned for more information about this project, and if you are interested in being a member of the Mascot Project Committee, please e-mail me ASAP.

Lastly, I would like to remind you to look again at the page in your yearbook about Participation Suggestions. Only one or two members at a time are invited to attend a board meeting once a year—the dates are announced in the newsletters and on our website. Please let me know which one you would like to attend. We would really welcome your input as we develop our events and policies. The Board Meetings are actually enjoyable—come and see.

Also, we will be needing members to help with the programs and you can e-mail Rocio to volunteer help with, for example, refreshments, or being on a phone tree, or with writing newspaper articles. Don't forget that we are now on Facebook. If you want to post something just run it by one of the board members and we will facilitate it. Again, I would be happy to hear what you have to say about this first-time unique fundraising project. Call or e-mail me, please, at 462-5747 or sulinbell@gmail.com

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WANT MORE WOMEN IN POLITICAL POWER? REGISTER TODAY!

Learn about *Gov Trek*, the new AAUW program! Men still vastly outnumber women in the halls of power. Let's close that gender gap! The *Gov Trek* launch webinar is on November 16 at 7:00 p.m.

This webinar will explain how AAUW branches can offer the new, free, virtual statewide program developed by AAUW California for high school girls in their junior and senior years. The purpose is to expose them to careers in public service and elected office.

Starting in January and conducted through five virtual two-hour sessions, the activities will be engaging, interactive, and inspirational. See how your branch can participate!

Gov Trek 2023 Volunteers Needed! Be a part of it! Learn how you can help us close the gender gap in politics. Interested? Call Val Muchowski at 234-9000.

Val Muchowski
Public Policy Chair

FALL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

While it started a little slow, our membership rose to the occasion and made our scholarship drive a great success! A huge THANK YOU to all of you who contributed. We raised \$1,865 to go directly to our Returning Student Scholarship Fund ensuring that we will be able to give three scholarships again early next year.

Our dynamic duo of Katie Gibbs and Mary Ann Villwock did a fantastic job with the fundraiser and will now be focusing on the work of selecting our scholarship recipients in conjunction with the College. Members are welcome to join Katie and Mary Ann in choosing the best candidates. Several of you have done so in the past. In early Spring the college asks who will participate in order to set them up with the computer system. We each study all the students and pick five or six as we will choose three plus at least two alternates. We then meet around a computer to compare our choices together and choose the winners. Please reach out to Katie (katieg@pacific.net) if you would like to be a part of the selection process.

Stay warm and healthy and enjoy your holidays.

Ky Mayers
Treasurer

AAUW BOOKMARKERS

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.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, December 12. Arrival time: Noon. This is a "Bring Your Own Lunch " meeting. Anyone interested in attending needs to e-mail Sharon at sharonjeanmarshall@gmail.com for the location. Please note there is space for two non-board members at each meeting.

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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