



Valley View

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

On so many levels, the heat is on. Personally, I feel the need to re-commit to the values and the actions supporting them more than ever. Looking forward to our annual Spring Dinner on Tuesday, May 16 and to enjoying the good food and inspiring views at Rivino Winery once again this year, we can also renew our memberships. At the dinner we will discuss together the possibilities for individual participation in further securing our ability to continue work together on our goals of assisting in the education of local women and girls. Expanding the view wider, we will look at the support given by the State and National organizations and their goals for future political action. We will also review AAUW's creative programs to help the local chapters thrive and survive.

As you continue to read this newsletter you will learn more about this year's successful Accolades Program and the selection of the next recipients of Mendocino Scholarships. Several of you have come forth to suggest women you know who are on the staff of the College who might help us in developing the proposed on-campus Student AAUW Ukiah club. Thank you, your help is essential.

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We will be beginning to work on next year's Yearbook, and Kyle and I are inspired to renovate the form and content. Any one of you who would like to join us in brainstorming a new format will be greatly appreciated. It will not require many in-person meetings as we can do most of this via internet communication. Let us know if you would like to have some fun with this and could direct some of your creative energy to this project sometime in late summer.

Please remember to send in your entrée selection for the May Dinner ASAP since I need to tell the chef by May 8.

Warmly (Yikes 90's in April)

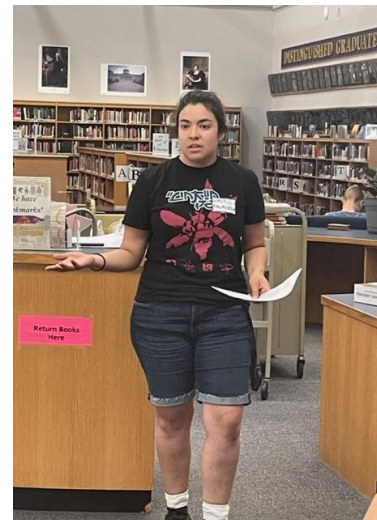
Sulin Bell
President

ACCOLADES AWARDS PRESENTATION

Once again, our 2023 Accolades Presentation on April 26 – the second one to be held in the Ukiah High School Library – was a source of pride and enjoyment.

Our UUSD teachers/partners Jessica Lee and Gretel Palmerin (in the photo to the right) worked for weeks to organize and solicit nominations. Beverley Spence introduced our program by highlighting the AAUW mission and our local commitment to education.

Gretel, our AAUW member who is a former Tech Trek student and recipient of our branch Evelyn Broaddus scholarship, praised the teachers who nominated these 11th and 12th grade girls to be honored for their efforts and achievements, often in the face of daunting hardship. Gretel then introduced each teacher who in turn spoke about her student. Each girl received an Accolades for Excellence certificate and a \$100 check.



Yissell Carrillo was nominated by leadership and community service teacher Beth Howson for her service to others and her academic excellence. Yissell is a Dance Commissioner; treasurer of the Fashion Club; and works with the Ukiah City ACES program. As the first in her family to attend college, she is currently the only Latina in AP calculus and AP environmental science.

Jade Rodriguez, nominated by career specialist teacher Yanira Muniz, is president of the Fashion Club and is a ‘determined and committed individual’. From a single-mom household, Jade successfully balances a part-time job while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.



Arlena Franco “embodies resilience, commitment, and perseverance” says her English teacher Kathryn Fried. Despite suffering an extreme loss within her family this year, Arlena consistently seeks help and stays committed to her advanced classes. She is a “lifelong learner.” Arlena headed for a Ukiah High track meet immediately following the presentation.

Sayra Adame Valdovinos is an English learner in her first year at Ukiah High who has not let the situation of leaving her family in Mexico stop her from achieving her academic goals. Sayra appreciates her opportunities and takes advantage of all resources, according to her freshman advisor Scarlette Frausto. She gets straight As and always assists others around her who are facing similar obstacles.



Payton Slotte, who unfortunately could not attend the ceremony because of a last-minute calculus test, was nominated by Spanish teacher Ollie Prax-Lodge because of her strength of character and persistence. Despite health and other challenges this year, she has not missed a beat in her academic pursuits. Payton “is quite amazing and I am lucky to have her as a Student” says her proud teacher.

These girls are all going places – and we are happy to applaud them on their way.

2023 – 2025 PROPOSED PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES (PPP)

The AAUW California Public Policy Program establishes policy directives to guide our members, inform our legislative priorities, and serve our mission. Every two years we re-assess these directives to determine if updates need to be made in light of an ever-changing cultural and legislative landscape. Members are invited and encouraged to make suggestions through a statewide survey, which was conducted in Fall of 2022, and resulted in comments from over 466 of our members. The AAUW California Public Policy Committee has reviewed all submitted comments and has incorporated several changes in the proposed 2023-25 PPP for the next two-year period of July 2023 through June 2025.

The proposed changes were presented to and adopted by the AAUW California Board of Directors and will be put to a vote by the membership April 22-May 13, 2023 as required by our bylaws. Thanks to all who submitted comments.

The AAUW California Public Policy Program establishes policy directives that will guide our members, inform our legislative priorities, serve our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, and are consistent with our values of achieving fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society. Toward that end, AAUW California advocates policies that promote, enhance and ensure:

Economic Security for All Women, including:

- Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of workplace anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students, including:

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Removal of barriers for girls to access instruction in STEM fields
- Civics instruction in all CA high schools
- Access to diverse staff and curriculum that represents historically accurate information
- Funding adequate to support a strong infrastructure, and equitable access to resources, including technology
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic and charter schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

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Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society, including:

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including violence against historically marginalized groups, and support for policies that reduce or prevent gun violence
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of gender identity and expression, and all family structures
- Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns

Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles, including:

- Proportional appointment to publicly-held corporate boards
- Access to leadership skills training
- Access to programs that promote participation in public service careers

FOR THE STATE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

This month has certainly kept the Public Policy Committee on our toes! As a result, AAUW California members now have 30 bills that are being advocated for in the state legislature. Members visited 57 legislative offices to advocate for the top three of those bills during Lobby Days. We will also have the chance to vote on 11 proposed changes that have been made to the Public Policy Priorities. Our Bill Tracker chart has been posted on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website and can be viewed there.

Thanks to the 120 members from 56 branches who participated in Lobby Days. If you were a Team Leader, please be sure to get your Report Back form to the Public Policy Committee ASAP if you haven't done so already.

Finally, the committee wants to thank all the members who took the time to weigh in on updates to our Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. The committee has reviewed all 466 comments and agreed on 11 modifications based on members' input. Not all suggestions were incorporated for a variety of reasons. Our three main criteria for edits were:

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Is it within our mission?

Does it address a new issue germane to current circumstances?

Would adding it inform the public as to an important AAUW California position, provide guidance for the Public Policy Committee on forming our Legislative Agenda, and/or provide guidance to our membership in shaping their branches' public policy positions and programs?

Many suggestions did not meet one or more of these criteria and were therefore not incorporated. The Board of Directors has approved the suggested changes and it is now up to members to vote yes or no.

Val Muchowski
Ukiah Public Policy

AAUW BOOKMARKERS

Our book for May is *The Wager*, a tale of shipwreck, mutiny and murder, by David Grann.

The meeting will be at 4561 Eastside Calpella Road at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24.

Newcomers are welcome; call Katie Gibbs for directions, 707-228-6143.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on May 9 at 11:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending needs to e-mail Sharon at sharonjeanmarshall@gmail.com for the location still to be determined.

"Strong encouragement to my kids has been the key to their education."



Licorice – Official Mascot 2023