



Valley View

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As we have already entered the peak holiday time, I want to express my gratitude for the AAUW local, state and national membership and the work we do together to focus unity and equality for all. It has been a gratifying experience working on the board as both your President, and before, that your Program Officer. Since this is the last months before the end of my participation in that regard, I want to thank you for your various forms of encouragement and support. I intend to continue being an active member of our AAUW Ukiah and look forward to enjoying your company when we gather at Programs, Events, Forums, Fundraisers and so on.

Although it has been traditional to have a holiday party that also raises funds for our ongoing chapter's expenses and for our important scholarship program as well, last year it was decided to not have a holiday party since it is so popular a time for all organizations to ask for donations, but instead have a fundraiser in February to meet these needs. That month is not only after the main holiday drives, but since Valentine's Day falls in February, we can ride on the wave of open heartedness. We will be focusing in the upcoming board meetings on creating a form for raising these necessary funds and for celebrating Spirit.

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Our next Board Meeting is now set on the second Monday of each month (December 11) and I want to remind you that each of you are encouraged to choose a time to attend one of these meetings. Contact Sharon (sharonjeanmarshall@gmail.com) to let her know your intentions to attend and to have it confirmed.

For anyone who has an interest in a Board position and wants more information, it is especially important to come to a board meeting as soon as possible since positions are changed at our Spring Dinner in May. Sign-up sheets for being part of a committee are available at the dinner – though you can be part of any present committee by calling the Chair of that committee at any time.

Please read the articles that follow to learn the dates and particulars of this year's Candidate Forum and Women's History Gala and the follow-ups on our College Club. There will be more information about April and May events in the next newsletter.

Another warm welcome to our new members, we are all so happy you decided to join us. I heartily suggest becoming part of a committee to get to know other members in a productive and fun way... or perhaps even creating a new committee to serve your particular interests. We have had walking groups, dining groups, and movie clubs in the past. Just write something about a potential committee and send it to Sharon to put in the newsletter. Also, again, come to a board meeting to experience board members and what that aspect of participation entails.

One more thing, you can expect phone calls from Janet Chaniot, who has taken on being the Chairperson of our Phone Tree, to elicit your help for programs and events from time to time...often to help with aspects of hospitality such as refreshments and setting up, or to help with phone calls.

Again, please respond to questions or requests I communicate via this monthly column. We are all working together in our various ways to support the missions of AAUW, and I need your input to be in tune with AAUW Ukiah's needs, and in particular, your needs and expectations.

Wishing you all a fortunate and inspirational holiday season, warmly,

Sulin

A FINAL SCORECARD FOR THE 2023 CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

September 14, 2023 was a tense day in Sacramento: The last day for each House to pass bills that could be sent on to the governor. After at least nine months of writing, researching, amending, and lobbying, the legislative session drew to a close. This left us one final month—until October 14, 2023—to lobby Governor Newsom’s office to get our bills signed into law.

So how did AAUW California’s priority legislation fare? Pretty well, overall! Of our 40 pieces of priority legislation, 19 were signed into law, 3 were vetoed, and 18 were transitioned into two-year bills (meaning they will be raised again in 2024). Twenty-two pieces of our priority legislation made it to the governor’s desk. With 19 out of those 22 pieces of legislation signed into law, we achieved an 86.3% success rate.

One of our highest priority level bills (level A), which we co-sponsored, was signed into law: AB1394. This bill seeks to help child sex abuse survivors remove their images from social media platforms, holding big tech accountable for design features that knowingly, recklessly or negligently facilitate, aid or abet child exploitation.

Two of our second-tier priority level bills (level B) were also signed into law: AB 1071 and AB1078. AB 1071 encourages school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to provide teen dating violence prevention (TDV) education to all pupils in grades 7-12.

AB 1078 requires instruction in social sciences to include a study of the role and contributions of people of all genders, Latino Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, and other ethnic cultural, religious, and socioeconomic status groups. AB 1078 is particularly important to advancing our ongoing School Board Project, as we work to identify and promote school board candidates who share AAUW’s values and who respect the laws that require adherence to the State Board of Education’s academic standards, including keeping historically accurate and inclusive books and lessons in the curricula.

Val Muchowski
Public Policy Chair

CANDIDATES FOR FIRST AND SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR TO DEBATE ON DECEMBER 14

Everyone is invited to attend a Candidate Forum to become acquainted with the contenders running to represent both the First and Second Districts on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The Forum will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ukiah Civic Center located at 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah.

Mendocino County encompasses five districts, and the boundaries of the First District include Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Calpella, and Talmage. The Second District contains the City of Ukiah which is the county seat and the largest city in Mendocino County. Since First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty announced that he will not be seeking a second term, five candidates for the March 5, 2024 primary election have filed initial paperwork to launch their campaigns: Madeline Cline, Adam Gaska, and Trevor Mockel reside in Redwood Valley, and Carrie Shattuck and David Goodman live just outside the City of Ukiah.

Until recently, it appeared that Second District Supervisor Maureen “Mo” Mulheren would be an unopposed incumbent candidate. But on October 17, Jacob Brown announced that he was officially a candidate running for the position of Second District Supervisor. Mulheren, a lifelong resident of Ukiah and business owner, has served three years of her first term as Second District Supervisor. Prior to joining the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, she was on the Ukiah City Council for six years as well as a term as mayor.



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Brown now lives in the Ukiah neighborhood where he grew up. Since serving in the Marines, he has been working in manufacturing.

Though new to local area politics, Brown is set to challenge Supervisor Mulheren.

The citizens of Districts One and Two are encouraged to identify the issues of concern in their districts and to put their questions before the candidates. Each candidate will have the opportunity for a short opening and a closing statement. Questions from the audience will be submitted to the moderator on index cards, and each candidate will have equal time to answer the questions and to respond to each other. The moderator will ask as many questions as possible, but will use her discretion to choose questions of most interest to the voting public within the time framework. MWPC member, Christine Poremski Rodrigues, will serve as moderator. Campaign literature will be available on the tables in the foyer.

This Candidates Forum is co-sponsored by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) and the Ukiah branch of AAUW. MWPC has jointly hosted candidate forums on a regular basis for over 25 years with the goal of educating voters and encouraging voter involvement. MWPC experience has shown that their candidate forums generate increased voter interest and turnout.

Katarzyna Rolzinski

RETURNING WOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS – MENDOCINO COLLEGE

What a treat it was to meet Sarah Adams at our Fall Dinner and to hear her enthusiasm in describing how the receipt of our Mendocino College Scholarship for Returning Women was inspiring and helpful to her in pursuing her plans to become a nurse and practice her profession in the Laytonville Health Clinic.

In addition to Sarah, we awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two additional women in 2023. They are Brittany Evans, mother of three, who is working for an Allied Health degree with the goal of becoming an RN/midwife, and Marissa Daniel who plans to transfer to UC to pursue a Master of Social Work degree.

As you well know, our Ukiah branch embraces the AAUW emphasis on Education. We have for many years provided financial assistance to women who were unable to pursue or complete their higher education and are, after a gap of at least five years, attending Mendocino College to acquire the skills and education necessary to support themselves and their families.

Please join us again – give what you can - to help maintain this proud tradition of awarding at least three Returning Women Scholarships in the upcoming Spring 2024 scholarship cycle. Checks may be sent to AAUW-Ukiah at P.O. Box 1626, Ukiah. Please note “college scholarship” on the check.

In Sisterhood – Thank You! The Scholarship Committee

AAUW BOOKMARKERS

DECEMBER BOOK: **Beneath a Scarlet Sky**, by Mark T. Sullivan, fiction based on true story, takes place in Italian Alps during WWII **Meeting:** December 12, at 2:00 p.m. at 4561 Eastside Calpella Road, Ukiah, 707 228-6143

JANUARY BOOK: **Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America**, by Heather Cox Richardson. **Meeting:** January 16, at 2:00 p.m. at 4561 Eastside Calpella Road, Ukiah, 707 228-6143

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on December 11 at 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending needs to e-mail Sharon at sharonjeanmarshall@gmail.com for the location still to be determined.

MASCOTS

Meet Allie Bay—AAUW People’s Choice Mascot 2023-2024



Allie Bay – Official Mascot 2024

Licorice the goat was deemed the Patron Mascot since she received the highest amount in donations whereas Allie Bay was the People's Choice Mascot as she had the largest number of people voting for her.



Licorice – Official Mascot 2023