



Thousand Oaks Branch, Inc.

Volume 53, Issue 9

Summer 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **Bonnie Shubb**

As I turn the reins over to **Sharon Dyer**, this Summer Oak Twig contains my last President's Message. Generally, AAUW is rather idle during the summer months. Except for planning our spectacular Fall Membership Breakfast, our budget, and an outline of our mission-based programs for the coming year, we are usually rather quiet. Unfortunately, we cannot be quiet this year. There are several issues in our State and in our local community which require our involvement if we are serious about our mission. When questioned at the California State Convention, AAUW CEO, **Kimberly Churches** responded: "We are non-partisan, but we are **not** issues-neutral." That's why on Tuesday, June 5, I hope to be speaking in support of CA Senate Bill 54 at the Thousand Oaks City Council Meeting, where they are expected to vote whether or not to follow the State's law for Thousand Oaks to be a sanctuary city. AAUW CA's public policy promotes programs that address human rights and women's and girls' issues. This Senate Bill does just that. It curtails use of state and local resources from engaging in deportations and creates safe spaces, including schools, health facilities, and courthouses. The City Council meeting starts at 6pm and we hope to fill the seats with like-minded Thousand Oaks residents. Please attend if you can.

Kim Churches' statement is also why we continue to attend our local school board meetings—to ensure that we have the opportunity to express our opinions on the values that we find important in the education of our local children in the public schools. Unfortunately, at the last school board

meeting, that opportunity was not available...poor governance by the school board majority and behavior determined illegal by the District Attorney's Office.

I also wrote a letter on behalf of AAUW supporting Senate Bill 826 – requiring public companies to have at least one woman on their corporate boards. It had been stuck in committee and we were asked to write to our lobbyist immediately. (President's message continued on Page 2.)



SAVE THE DATES – SUMMER 2018 CALENDAR

June 2, July 7, and August 4 – Coffee and Chat

9:00AM - Stella's Café' in Newbury Park

June 4 - Public Policy Planning Meeting –

Contact Peggy Buckles for information

VOTE ** VOTE **** VOTE **** VOTE**

June 5 - T.O. City Council Meeting – See

President's Message for information

June 6 – "Out and In" Potluck Dinner Board

Meeting 6:30PM - All outgoing, ongoing, and new board members should attend. Contact Bonnie Shubb or Sharon Dyer for location.

June 21 - Evening Book Group 7:00PM

Contact Sharon Dyer for location confirmation

June 25 - Daytime Book Group 9:30AM

Thousand Oaks Library - Contact Joan Udani

July 12 – Unity Book Group 6:30PM

July 14 – Board Retreat – All new board members to attend. If you are not a board member for 2018-19 and would like to have a say in the planning for the year, contact Sharon Dyer for location and other information. (This replaces the July Board Meeting)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

AAUW has spent a year offering many, many programs of importance to our community. Subjects included: Children's banned books (some banned due to their illustrations), a program and a Tea for Women's History, a live performance of an undocumented young man trying to succeed in legally staying in the only home he knew—the United States, and a financial empowerment seminar geared toward a college-aged audience, but applicable to all. There was also a brunch and a lunch--both with dynamic speakers—one the leader of AAUW and the other a recipient of one of our AAUW funds grants or fellowships.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members. There are so many enthusiastic AAUW supporters who work behind the scenes, preparing for our many programs and other events. There are others who support our mission both within and outside of AAUW. There are also members who don't spend time volunteering, but quietly donate to AAUW Funds and/or Tech Trek. And there are those who just spread the word about AAUW, and that results in increasing our membership.

Attending our special interest groups may not seem to be working toward our mission, but these groups serve an important role in connecting our members. All types of members are needed and appreciated.

It has been my pleasure serving you as President this year and representing this wonderful organization in the community.

Best Regards,
Bonnie



DUES ARE DUE!!!!

AAUW operates on a fiscal year starting July 1 through June 30 of the next year. Please renew your membership via the online process on the www.aauw.org website before July 15. While you are doing that, verify that the information they have about you is correct and that you are listed as a Thousand Oaks Branch member. Make any changes necessary. We will be matching our records against AAUW National's records and we will change our records accordingly on July 30. Our 2018-19 Membership Directory will be based on that information. Contact **Bonnie Shubb** for assistance with any questions or issues you encounter in this process.

The new membership amount is as follows:

National Dues (if you are not a Life Member):
\$59 (National dues increased \$10 this year)
California State Dues: \$20
Thousand Oaks Branch Dues: \$21



AAUW National Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Deadline to Vote for the following three AAUW National By-Law Amendments is June 9.

The AAUW National Board has proposed three bylaws amendments to be voted on by members. Members may vote electronically starting April 25, 2018 through June 9, 2018, or request paper ballots starting April 16, 2018. Too late for paper ballots, but just call 800-326-2289 for your member number and pin number and they will help you vote online.

The proposed bylaws will appear in the spring AAUW Outlook magazine and voter PINs will be emailed to members and mailed with the spring AAUW Outlook magazine to members without registered email addresses. Questions about the bylaw proposals can be found at www.aauw.org by clicking on 2018 National Bylaws Amend VOTE 2018 FAQ.

Our AAUW Thousand Oaks board briefly discussed the three proposals at the April board meeting and decided to send a brief summary out to members

Proposal # 1 – Staggered terms of office for AAUW Board of Directors on a 3 year rotation.

A staggered term is a procedure whereby members of the national board will be elected at three year intervals, thereby allowing for a portion of the board to turn over rather than the entire board. This is considered a best practice for nonprofit boards. The individual terms of office will be increased from two years to three years. This proposed bylaw also allows for additional changes to the number and naming of officers and directors. See the website for more detail.

Proposal # 2 – Membership requirement for AAUW Board of Directors

Currently, only *individual* members of AAUW may serve as an officer or director of AAUW. This proposed bylaw would allow up to five non-members of AAUW to serve as directors, with a minimum of ten directors being individual AAUW members. The rationale for this proposed change is to open the AAUW board to people who may not be members of AAUW but could bring a wealth of experience to our organization. As an equity-seeking organization AAUW needs to welcome those who are not currently members of AAUW but can make a contribution to by their professional experiences, geographic location and other diverse views. See website for more detail.

Proposal # 3 – Degree Requirement for membership in AAUW

Over the history of AAUW, membership requirements have changed. Founding members sought to remove barriers to getting an education by women, as it was uncommon for women to have degrees at that time. Today, non-degreed women work in every industry and field. So it is important for AAUW to recognize the power of welcoming anyone who supports our mission, as is common practice with mission-based non-profits. Eliminating the membership requirement will promote a more inclusive and diverse membership. Also, widening membership will enable AAUW to seek new funding from corporations. Adoption of this bylaw will eliminate all the eligibility requirements of the current bylaws and replace them with the following sentence: AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PAYS ANNUAL DUES TO AAUW AND SUPPORTS ITS MISSION SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER WITH ALL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AAUW MEMBERSHIP. See website for more detail.

The AAUW Thousand Oaks board has not taken a position on any of these recommendations. The board urges all members to read and vote on these proposed bylaws amendments. Voting will open on April 25 and close on June 9, 2018. Click www.aauw.org for voting information.

UPDATE ON THE VOTING:

AAUW Members have received their on-line ballot concerning the three proposed amendments to the AAUW National bylaws. Please check your inbox for the email which has the needed pin number and member ID number. If you can't find it, call 800-326-2289 to get the information you need. Don't wait until the last day. Voting ends on June 9, but don't delay in casting your vote.

OUR BRANCH ELECTIONS

Branch elections took place at our Annual Meeting on May 5, and the following officers were elected:

Sharon Dyer, President
Betty Stapleford, Vice President
Nathalie Gossett, Secretary
Bonnie Shubb, Treasurer

Rounding out the Board of Directors, we are happy to have elected two newer members: **Sarah Hart**, (returning to Thousand Oaks from years ago) as Membership Director and brand new member, **Peggy Buckles**, Public Policy Director. **Sally Hibbitts** will return as our Branch Tech Trek Director. **Margaret Tennant** joins our Board and will be a co-partner producing the Oak Twig. We are seeking her co-editor. Would you like to do that? Other returning Board members include **Linda Pochter**, **Bev Khoshnevisan** and **Vera King**. We are still recruiting for someone to take on Programs Director and Funds Director. We are also looking for committee members to support the board directors. Let Sharon Dyer know if you are interested in any kind of Branch position or responsibility.

Public Policy Opportunities

Submitted by Peggy Buckles

Conejo Valley High School has asked for Bakers and Servers for their graduation on June 7th at 2:00 pm again this year. If you would like to help, contact Peggy Buckles, already at work as Public Policy Director, at yourmom12345@aol.com.

Ana Alvarez needs tutors for the Park Oaks Outreach program she runs at Bridges Charter School campus on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30. The program begins on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 and benefits mainly Latino families but you need not speak Spanish. This is an ongoing commitment. Contact Ana Alvarez at aalvarez@conejousd.org or 805-495-7058 ext. 111 if you are interested.

Unity Book Group Next Meeting July 12

(Planned delay due to month of Ramadan)

The Unity Book Club is an AAUW Community Outreach effort, connecting our members with those of the Islamic Center of the Conejo Valley. Our discussions are interesting and timely....plus there's always a lot of laughter! The purpose is to discover our commonalities as well as to rejoice in our differences, while reading enjoyable books which have commonly shared themes. This group is open to all members and is very casual. If you haven't joined us yet, please do so! **Shoshana Brower** will be leading the discussion and the meeting will be at the home of **Bonnie Shubb**. Please RSVP to **Sally Hibbitts**.

We will be discussing *The Radium Girls*--The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore.

June Tech Trek Update

Submitted by Sally Hibbitts

Our branch will be sending eleven very lucky 7th-grade girls, from local public schools, to our AAUW Tech Trek Summer (STEM) Camp this July. The girls are all very excited and pleased that they were selected for this opportunity, which our Branch is supporting at \$900 per camper.

The girls and their parents recently had a brief orientation meeting with camp staff, including Camarillo AAUW member, Susan Pease. They were able to get many of their questions answered and learned a little of what to expect. (See separate photo.)

We are planning on having a late June Meet-up with the girls and want to establish our Tech Trek Alumni group as well. The Alumni group will act as a support system for these girls as they venture forward into high school. It will connect current campers with those who have completed camp already. **We are in need of a house where we can all gather...in fact, it would be great if we could even have a pool party! The date is Sunday, June 24**

Please contact **Sally Hibbitts** immediately if you could possibly volunteer your home (and pool) for these terrific girls to celebrate Tech Trek!

As always, our branch Tech Trek Fund continues to seek donations for this highly worthwhile program. Named gift scholarships are available at a minimum donation of \$1000, but smaller donations are always needed too! You may always send checks payable to "AAUW CA SPF" directly to our post office box, #4223, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. Mark on the memo line: "For Thousand Oaks Tech Trek". Make an immediate impact on a girl's life for the better with this direct gift! Thank you very much.

Below are our 2018 Tech Trek Campers and parents group together after attending a brief orientation. Parents and girls are equally excited for this awesome opportunity! (One girl had to leave early.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Submitted by Sharon Dyer

Special Interest Groups – Participation in these activities is a member benefit. Guests may attend two meetings with a member and must be dues paying members by the third meeting of that particular group.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Coffee and Chat will meet Saturday, June 2 at 9:00 A.M. Just show up at Stella's Café in Newbury Park.

The **Evening Book group** will meet on Thursday, June 21 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of **Audrey Giuffrida**. We will be discussing the books we want to read next year. Please contact **Sharon Dyer** for information.

The **Daytime Book group** will meet on Monday, June 25 at 9:30 A.M. at the Thousand Oaks library. We will discuss books to read next year. For information contact **Joan Udani**

If you are interested in attending the next **Movie Group** outing please contact **Shel Magnuson** at the shelgolf@aol.com to be added to her email list.

Museums and Gardens Group has a new leader, **Linda Pochter**. She does not have a trip planned at this time, but if you have any ideas for future trip locations and plan to attend them, please contact her. Also, please contact Linda if you would be like to be added to the interest group list.

The **Exploring Religions of the World through the Eyes of Women** interest group will probably not be meeting again until the Fall. If you are interested in being contacted about upcoming meetings, send an email to wendyhof@gmail.com or **Jeanette Hosek**, Co-chair/Women in Religion

Global Awareness & Action for Girls (GAAG) - an email group. If you are interested in a book project for South African children, or any other international project, contact **Jeanette Hosek** to explore the options. jhosek@roadrunner.com

The **Happy Hikers Group** is currently inactive and looking for leadership. If you are interested please call **Sharon Dyer**.

If you have an idea for a new Special Interest Group, please let Sharon know as well.

**AAUW THOUSAND OAKS MEMORIAL FUND**

Memorial contributions are a thoughtful and caring way to remember members, friends of AAUW and family members by giving a monetary gift to AAUW in their name.

The branch will acknowledge your gift and send a note to the family. The gift amount remains confidential between you and AAUW. All donations to AAUW Funds are tax deductible. Some giving options are listed below:

AAUW FUNDS: Funds that benefit women and girls e.g. Legal Advocacy Fund, Ed Foundation, Tech Savvy, Start Smart, Young Women's Task Force, etc.

TECH TREK: Thousand Oaks branch scholarships that send local seventh grade girls to STEM camp at UCSB during the summer.

MOORPARK COLLEGE: Scholarships for graduating Moorpark College women students to further their education and complete a four- year college degree.

OTHER LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS: The branch supports local scholarships for graduating high school students from under-represented groups when funds are available.

For information about AAUW FUNDS, please email Jeanette Hosek at jhosek@roadrunner.com

For information about TECH TREK, please email Sally Hibbitts, at sjhibbitts@aol.com

For information about Moorpark College, please email Deanna Frank at docatomus@yahoo.com

To: AAUW Thousand Oaks, P.O. Box 4223, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

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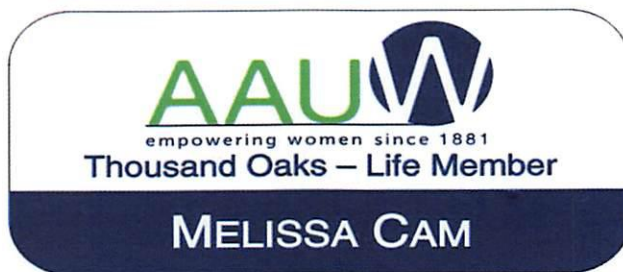
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