

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

LAGUNA BEACH (CA) BRANCH

AAUW's MISSION. The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation's leading organization advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Its national membership of 170,000 is open to people of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and level of physical ability. For over 138 years, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. Our commitment to our mission is reflected in all aspects. AAUW has published hundreds of research reports, from an 1885 paper disproving the prevailing myth that college impairs woman's fertility to, most recently, a study documenting the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment. We have supported the academic achievements of many thousands of women scholars, from scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, to astronaut Judith Resnick, the second woman to travel in space.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM. Implicit in each of our principles is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these principles. We work to increase the number of underrepresented populations, including women, in policy and other decision-making positions. AAUW is committed to working in partnership with diverse allies and coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

AAUW EDUCATIONAL & TRAINING FUND addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at levels free from sex discrimination. This Fund provides fellowships and grants to applicants for American, international, Selected Professions, Community Action and Career Development, Research and Projects Grants, Public Policy, STEM, Tech Trek.

ECONOMIC SECURITY FUND ensures livelihoods for women through achieving equality for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life. The Fund includes the Legal Advocacy Fund that combats sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace through community and campus outreach programs, resource library, and online advocacy.

MEMBERSHIP IN AAUW OFFERS:

- **Personal and Professional Growth.** AAUW members know that education does not end with college, and they understand that knowledge is power. AAUW helps people develop and refine their leadership skills. Members can expand their knowledge and enjoy intellectual stimulation by studying, discussing, and acting on issues such as: promoting educational and gender equity for women and girls, reproductive health care, diversity, and topics in community life, cultural interests, education, and international affairs.

- **Community Leadership.** Skilled, educated individuals are needed to get important things done in our communities. AAUW members participate in projects and public forums on local issues. Members help school children to develop English language skills. AAUW encourages members to join those in the public arena and to support each other in community action programs.

- **Friendship.** In our fast-paced, often impersonal society, quality friendships are more important than ever. AAUW offers its members a chance to enjoy a support system of dynamic, educated people throughout the state, nation and world.

WHO CAN JOIN?

A graduate holding an associate or equivalent, bachelor's, or higher degree from an accredited educational institution or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at qualified universities of the U.S. shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AAUW has over 160,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 500 college/university partners. AAUW California has over 13,000 members in 135 branches including 5 in Orange County. Chartered in 1967, AAUW Laguna Beach (CA) Branch has a membership of 158.

WHEN & WHERE DO MEMBERS MEET?

Monthly meetings and events are usually held weekday evenings, and Saturday or Sunday afternoons (currently via Zoom). Programs encompass the diverse interests and issues of AAUW and its members, e.g., speakers on international affairs, educational equity and diversity issues, panel discussions on community and women's issues, and participation in cultural interests.

LITERARY FESTIVAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

The annual *Literary Laguna Beach Festival of Women Authors* fundraising event began in 1987. Our nonprofit AAUW Laguna Beach Foundation, a 501-c-3 organization, administers the event proceeds.

Beneficiaries of our fundraising included women in graduate study and research and other programs through the AAUW FUND, elementary school tutoring, middle school girls to attend the AAUW Tech Trek Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) camps, scholarships for high school graduating college-bound girls, and for re-entry college women. Funds also support college women at LCAD and OCC to attend the annual AAUW sponsored National Conference of College Women Students Leaders (NCCWSL).

INTEREST GROUPS

Small groups, usually held in members' homes, are great ways to meet others who share common interests and concerns. Meeting schedules are listed in the online newsletter *Newsblast* and on the website www.lagunabeach-ca.aauw.net. Other groups may be formed as requested. [Note: until further notice, all groups meet via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic.]

- **AFTERNOON BOOKS** meets at 1:00pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month except August and December.
- **EVENING BOOKS** meets at 7:00pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month, except August and December.
- **MOVIE GROUP** meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month after viewing a previously selected film on Netflix.
- **POETRY APPRECIATION & WRITERS** meets at 2:00pm six times during the year on the 2nd Monday of the month.
- **TUESDAY BOOKS@1:30** meets at 1:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month except December.

- **VESPER LIBRIS BOOKS** meets at 6:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month except December.

HOW CAN I JOIN?

It is easy for graduates of different higher educational accredited institutions to become AAUW members by completing membership application forms obtained from the following contacts listed below. Currently enrolled college/university undergraduate students may join as Associates at half-dues.

CONTACT:

Membership Information:

- aauwlbemails@gmail.com
- www.lagunabeach-ca.aauw.net

MISSION STATEMENT: *AAUW Laguna Beach (CA) Branch shall further AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*



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