

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

LAGUNA BEACH BRANCH



What is AAUW?

AAUW's Mission. The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation's leading organization advocating equity for women and girls. Its national membership of 80,000 seeks to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. People of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and level of physical ability are invited to join.

For more than 128 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 of our work:

- **Public Policy Advocacy**
- **Community Programs**
- **Voter Education Campaign**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Conventions and Conferences**
- **International Connections**

AAUW Issues & Public Policy. AAUW's voice has long influenced legislative debate on critical social issues such as education, sex discrimination, civil rights, reproductive choice, affirmative action, Title IX, welfare reform, vocational education, pay equity, family and medical leave, and health care reform. AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.

AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund supports educational and lifelong learning opportunities that give women a chance for a lifetime of success. Some programs include: Fellowships and Grants including American and International Fellowships, Selected Professions Fellowships, and Research and Projects Grants. The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund has supported teacher fellows and research on gender equity in education since 1988.

AAUW Leadership Programs. Through Leadership programs, women and girls acquire the skills they need to succeed and assume leadership roles in their academic, professional, and personal lives. Programs include Campus Action Projects, the National Conference for College

Women Student Leaders in Washington, D.C., the Student Advisory Council, and Campaign College.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). This arm of AAUW combats sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace through community and campus outreach programs, resource library, online advocacy tools, and various research reports.

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. AAUW works in coalition with local organizations and members serve as elected or appointed officials on city commissions. 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.

When & Where Does AAUW Meet?

Monthly meetings and events are usually held in the evenings and Saturday or Sunday afternoons at various locations in members' homes and in the community.

Program development encompasses 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, public policy issues including infringement of a person's rights, and participation in cultural interests.

The annual spring *Literary Luncheon Laguna Beach Festival of Women Authors* fundraising event, begun in 1987 and first of its kind in Orange County, benefits AAUW Fellowships, Grants, and Awards, and the AAUW California Tech Trek Summer Science Camp for middle school 8th grade girls.

The annual fall *Leadership Dinner* honoring outstanding community women leaders is a fundraiser for the AAUW-LB Foundation which annually awards grants to local community nonprofit organizations that apply and address needs related to AAUW's mission of education and equity for women and girls.

Who can join?

AAUW membership is open to a graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution, a degree from a foreign institution recognized by the Int'l Federation of University Women, or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at qualified universities of the U.S. Students in undergraduate programs of qualified institutions may join as affiliates. College and universities may join as partner members.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, AAUW has 80,000 members nationwide and 500 college/university partners. AAUW California, office in Sacramento, has over 24,000 members in 165 branches including 15 Orange County branches. Chartered in 1967, AAUW Laguna Beach Branch has a current membership of 177.

Interest Groups & Committees

Small groups and committees, usually held in members' homes, are great ways to meet others who share common interests and concerns. Meeting schedules are listed in the monthly branch newsletter *Laguna Waves*. Other groups are formed as requested.

- **ART APPRECIATION** group visits museums, galleries, artists' studios, and discusses topics of mutual interest.
- **COMMUNITY** focuses on the activities within Laguna Beach, e.g., City Council, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Greenbelt, Laguna Canyon Foundation, public schools and working in coalition with other organizations on projects.
- **EDUCATIONAL EQUITY.** Members and community volunteers help El Morro Elementary School students build their English language and learning skills in an after school program — The Learning Club (TLC). Students recommended by

their teachers meet twice weekly with a volunteer for one-on-tutoring and homework help through this program.

- **EVENING BOOKS** meets in members' homes at 7:30 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month, except August and December.
- **MORNING BOOKS** meets in members' homes at 10:15 am on the 4th Friday of the month, except August and December.
- **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS** meets in members' homes at 10:15am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to discuss worldwide issues using the Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions* Study Guide and its DVD interview series with experts in their fields.
- **POETRY APPRECIATION** meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the afternoon four times during the year in members' homes.

• **PUBLIC POLICY.** At various times members are asked to write letters or respond to the online AAUW *Action Alert* regarding national and state legislative issues within AAUW public policy guidelines. Members also participate in the Great American Write-in annual event where AAUW is among the many cosponsoring organizations.

• **SALONS** feature outstanding people in the arts, philosophy, literature, travel, etc., discussing their fields of endeavor and how women and girls relate to them.

• **WINE & WHINE.** Get to know one another better and share ideas in a casual setting.

MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW Laguna Beach Branch is a unique multi-dimensional group of women in the arts, education, business, science, law, and community affairs. Together we are working to empower women and girls through education to reach their full potential.

How Can I Join?

It's easy for graduates of different educational institutions to become AAUW members by completing membership application forms obtained from any of the following contacts list below. Currently enrolled college/university students may join as Affiliates at half-dues.

Call: Membership Co-chairs Deana Pink (949) 497-9900 or Nancy Miller (949) 499-1529.

Write: AAUW Laguna Beach Branch
25291 Spindlewood
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Online: www.aauw-lagunabeach.org