

WAVES

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OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here's to the end of a challenging year, but one that we survived with grace. With Unity, Community, and Communications as our theme, we were able to support each other and continue to meet our goals.

Scholarships were given to 5 deserving students, books were delivered to schools for distribution to appreciative students, and we communicated with legislatures and media regarding women's issues. Many, many thanks to the board and several members for their time given in support our branch.

Please plan on attending our May meeting so we can share special time together. Your board has agreed to continue to serve next year. We hope that it will be a year of trust, hope, and possibilities. Hoping you are able to share special times with families and friends...

~ Love and Peace, Susan Brazil

LOOKING AHEAD

GENERAL MEETING ☆ SUNDAY, MAY 16 ☆ 11:30 AM

PLEASE NOTE: The May Board Meeting will be held on ZOOM. For Zoom help, contact Pam Zirion.

May 3
Monday @ 6:30 PM
 BOARD Meeting

May 16
Sunday @ 11:30 AM
 GENERAL Meeting
 Bag Lunch & Social
 Installation of Officers

GET OUT of the HOUSE! Sunday, May 16th at 11:30 AM

Our May meeting will be at the **DANA Adobe & Cultural Center** in Nipomo.

Pack a lunch and bring a chair. We will gather outside for 2021-22 officer installation and socializing, while observing COVID19 protocol.

The Adobe and Cultural Center will be open to visitors until 3 pm.

Look for more detailed directions closer to May 16th.



APRIL 19th ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The highlight of our Annual Meeting was the introduction and auto-bios of our five 2021 Scholarship winners!. We were treated to hearing directly from this amazing, poised, and exceptional group of young ladies. (See detailed bios on pages 3 & 4)

The Marilyn Corey Scholarship was awarded to **Kathryn Bozanich**, who graduated from AGHS last December. She attended the 2016 Tech Trek, which inspired her interest in Marine Biology.

April Crouch will graduate from AGHS and is interested in studying Political Science and Psychology at UC Berkeley.

Also from AGHS, **Erika Graciliano** is setting her sights on medicine. She is planning to study Biology at UCLA.

Meia Schram of New Tech HS also plans to study at UCLA. She hopes to enter into pediatric medicine after studying Bio-Psychology.

Graduating from New Tech HS is **Marie Foster**. She plans to attend the Verto study-abroad program this fall, emphasizing Bioengineering & Environmental Studies.

Our branch meeting continued with the announcement of the Named Gift Honorees. **Kathi Pettersen** was introduced by Pam Zurion. Gaye Peltzman introduced **Susan Opava**. Congratulations to both honorees!

A unanimous vote followed the reading of the Slate of Officers for 2021/2022, which will remain the same as the past year: President **Susan Brazil**/Secretary **Pat Muhlethaler**/Treasurer **Linda Lidberg**. Thank you, ladies!



A motion was presented to increase our AAUW branch dues to \$105. Members voted and the motion passed.

We were reminded that National issues can be voted on until May 17. Most members received an email with a link to the website (connect@aauw.org). Please see page 8.

Our final General Meeting of the year will be held at **11:30 on Sunday, May 16** at the Dana Adobe. Please bring a bag lunch and chair. Water will be provided.

FUNDRAISING

This past year we haven't done any fundraising due to COVID. It's been a rough year for many of us as well as local businesses.

But the outlook is better than before. So, we will work on it for next year. In the meantime...

We have to decide what direction to go for fundraising for 2021-2022 plus get members together to analyze what is the best approach for the future.

Bingo? Silent Auction? Drive thru dinners? Percentages at Restaurants?

All of these and more are options, but we need help.

We will be sending out a Zoom invitation to all and those who would like to join in the conversation are welcome.

Hopefully you can help our Branch raise monies for the future of Tech Trek, RIF & Scholarships.

~ Pam Zirion & Kathy Cohon

MAY BIRTHDAYS

The AAUW Five Cities - Pismo Beach Branch is delighted to wish a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to members:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Lauren Manning..... | 6 |
| Carol McBirnie..... | 18 |
| Linda Keetch..... | 29 |



SCHOLARSHIP



The Scholarship Corporation, led by Kathi Pettersen, was tasked this year with choosing five highly-qualified, local high school senior girls from a pool of eligible young women, to each receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

KATHRYN BOZANICH, a senior at AGHS, has been selected by the Scholarship Corp. as the 2021 recipient of the \$1500 Scholarship *In Honor of Exceptional Member Marilyn Corey*. Kathryn exemplifies the characteristics Marilyn prized most during her many years on Scholarship.

She has a strong academic drive. At the age of 9, on a field trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, her mind became set that her future was to "have a role in the enormous ecosystem of the ocean." Her current plan is to enter Scripts in San Diego, to do research in the area of Marine Biology and earn a graduate degree that would help her achieve her goal of "saving the world!"

Kathryn says the Tech Trek Scholarship she received in 2016 from our Branch was a "revolutionary experience" for her, as it showed how women can take their place in STEM careers and make a difference. Two years later, she supported Tech Trek by becoming a counselor, giving back to the institution that had given her the confidence and drive she has today.

With a grade point of 4.515, she has followed her own unique path, devoting all 4 years in high school to the Robotics Team, as she believes underwater welding a useful tool in her future. As a senior, she is President of the Robotics Team as well as Head Welder, a surprising new "hobby" for her.

We expect the world will be a better place for her dedication to improving and protecting the ocean's ecosystems!

APRIL CROUCH, a senior at AGHS, has been selected by the Scholarship Corp. as the 2021 recipient of a \$1500 Scholarship.

April is an outstanding student, with a GPA of 4.6 and a strong academic background of AP classes. Her AP test scores earned her an AP Scholar of Distinction award. She is currently enrolled in 5 more AP classes, in addition to the prestigious AP Capstone honors and research program. April is currently doing research on what motivates youth to vote. Her career goal is to earn a PhD in the field of Psychology, combined with Political Science, at the University of California Berkeley. With this degree, April intends to work for a non-profit to encourage young people to vote.

April was given the AP Civic Scholar Award for participation and success in the Dosomething.org & College Board joint program entitled "Civic Knowledge & Action Project." Her work, as President of the Young Progressives on campus, was to orchestrate voter registration drives that registered or pre-registered hundreds of new young voters. She also organized them to initiate a school-wide walkout related to gun violence.

As you can see, April has strong leadership abilities and was chosen to represent AGHS at Girls State last year, which she described as her most positive experience in high school. In the future, we want to encourage April in her goals of "combating real threats to our planet and democracy" as well as "fighting for the marginalized in our society."

Our choice for the AAUW Scholarship from New Tech High is **MARIE FOSTER**. Marie is an outstanding young woman in many ways, but her desire to major in Bioengineering and specifically engineering circular economies, a fairly new field, sets her apart!

Marie is ready to be an innovator and help change the direction of America's consumerism... to become a more sustainable economy! Her experiences with design and experimentation as a member of New Tech's Robotics Team, and being impacted by the different environment and lifestyle in Germany, where she spent her freshman year, energized and inspired her. Her achievement of getting a National Honor Society chapter started at New Tech, shows Marie's leadership, collaboration skills and ability to accomplish her goals!

Marie is a scholar! Her GPA was 4.6 and not only did she graduate early this past December, but she had also successfully completed 50 college credits!

She has been accepted into the Verto Education Honors Program (affiliated with UC San Diego) where she will spend her freshman year studying in several foreign countries. At the end of the year, she indicated an interest in going to UC San Diego.

Marie is a very forward-looking young woman. As she follows her dreams "to leave the world better, cleaner, and healthier"...there is no doubt that Marie will make an impact on our world!

(continued on page 4)



It is with pleasure that we choose **ERIKA GRACILIANO** to be the recipient of our AVID scholarship.

As an administrator at Arroyo Grande High School states, Erika "is resilient beyond measure and her commitment to her education, despite every reason to fail, has been unwavering. She has endured more hardships than most in her 17 years and yet ... she's determined to go to college to rise above the cards she's been dealt."

Erika lost her mother to cancer when she was eight and her father was incarcerated for illegal drug use. From then on, she and her brother became part of the foster care system, and lived with multiple families. Eventually, she was placed with a family member, but still feels like a "guest" in their home.

Erika believes that education is the key to a better life for herself and this belief has carried her through the hard times.

In addition to maintaining a 4.06 and taking multiple advanced placement courses, she works 20 hours a week during the school year and full time in the summer.

She was accepted to multiple universities, but has chosen UCLA. She is interested in pursuing medicine and appreciates that the medical center is part of the university campus.

Although she knows the education and training to become a doctor is very difficult, she believes the hardships and chaos she has endured has prepared her for these challenges.

Erika dreams to make the world a better place and her teachers and advisors have no doubt she will do just that.



Our choice for the AAUW Scholarship from Nipomo High is **MEIA SCHRAM!**

Meia has quite a story! Meia was born in China, in an impoverished province and abandoned at a fire station! She was sent to an orphanage and at the age of two and a half, was adopted by an American family

An additional hardship for Meia...was that she was born with a cleft palate and because of this had to undergo many surgeries as a child and hours of Speech Therapy! These difficult experiences helped form Meia into a very resilient young woman...and also led her to discover what she wanted for her career:

to be a plastic surgeon - a children's maxillofacial surgeon!

Meia's GPA is 4.7, and she has been in the Top Ten of her class all 4 years of high school! She was accepted at many colleges and recently committed to UCLA. She is very excited because she loves LA! She will major in Pre-Med.

Not only is Meia a scholar, she has also been very involved in extracurricular activities She was a 2-sport athlete, a member of the Volleyball and Track and Field teams all four years of high school, and was a member of many clubs and served as a leader in several. Meia has also been a Worship Leader at her church and worked as a volunteer at a local hospital, and in a summer camp where she mentored young kids learning to play instruments.

Another one of Meia's talents is musical ability! She plays piano, flute, learned to play the ukulele for fun...and recently has taken up guitar!! It is another passion of hers!

As you can see, Meia is an outstanding young woman, with *Lots of Potential* and a very promising future!

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SPOTLIGHT ON KATHY COHON



Everywhere you look you see Kathy Cohon in person or in print. This woman is a one-person show, supported by numerous AAUW Branch members.

Kathy is an East Coast child by birth, born in Johnstown Pennsylvania, near close family, truly raised by a village. School was comfortable, as she was a good student and the school principal lived across the street. She continued this close connection with her schooling, following in her father's footsteps.

Her aspirations for college were to attend the local Catholic College where two of her Dad's cousins were teachers. Kathy was the oldest of 5 children and the only girl. Her father died when she was 11 years old, and her mother went to work, keeping close eyes on her children with her school cafeteria job. And then, in 1960, Kathy's mother sold the house, packed up the 5 children and travelled cross country by train to relocate to her sister in Hawthorne California.

The plan was for the 5 children to attend college through the California's Community College system. And it happened, as 4 of the 5 children did attend college, and the 5th has a technical career.

Kathy attended USC, supported by a 4-year scholarship, completing her teaching credential at UC Riverside. She was a classroom teacher and earned a Special Education Credential, which allowed her more job flexibility. Jobs were scarce and her move to Redondo Beach was facilitated by her Special Ed and Learning Disabilities Credential. She retired as a Special Ed/LED teacher.

In 1978, Kathy married Harvey, who was teaching in an adult training center. At that time, Kathy worked for Marilyn Corey in Hermosa Beach. When Kathy and Harvey were ready to start their family of two children, Superintendent Corey stated that Kathy was not allowed to resign. Imagine that!! Kathy then taught Mommy and Me classes for 7 years. In 1989 when Harvey's working hours were changed, the family decided it was time for a move. Kathy found a job in Santa Maria teaching Special Education/Learning Disabled classes. Next, she worked as a math aide for the Lucia Mar School District before retirement.

The Cohons' two children live in opposite parts of the country. Their son lives in New York and Kathy and Harvey make efforts to watch their two grandchildren grow, ages 7 and 4. Their daughter's family just moved from Memphis to Montana with their two children, ages 9 and 6. Kathy relishes in the grandparent privileges of hosting matching Christmas PJ parties and close personal connections with regular visits.

Kathy's hobbies include bike riding - an exceptionally avid participant; sewing and gardening, and following the weather. She believes that in a former life she was a weather person or semi-truck driver as she loves to drive. She acknowledges that she has a bit of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and can be easily distracted. Biking allows her to go at her own speed, as does reading, another passion.

Fairness, social justice, "we versus me", is a theme of Kathy's life. She is missing the competitive gene, following cooperation as a model instead.

She has always been okay by herself, able to take care of her needs, while liking people.

A quick story sets the scene for Kathy's sense of fairness. In high school Kathy was planning her schedule with auto shop as an elective. Her rationale was that mother was a widow, she was the oldest in the family of five kids and she wanted to know about cars. The counselor said, "No, you'll get dirty." Kathy's response was "Schedule me with PE next and I'll clean up." Then he said, "You'll get your clothes dirty." Kathy responded "I'll get a coverall to cover my clothes and then can change at PE." Finally, he looked at Kathy and said, "We don't have girls in auto shop."

She had watched her mother keep the family together and move from Pennsylvania to California, so the idea that she couldn't take shop because she was a girl was not fair. To this day Kathy has been influenced by the response that "she couldn't because she's a girl."

Kathy believes that she has had an easy life, coming from a blue-collar background to an educated teacher. Her mother seeped the family in culture. Kathy is spiritual but not religious, feels that her life has been blessed and believes in making lemonade out of lemons. Kathy's recent challenge has been helping her husband, Harvey, with his serious illness. Her memories of her sandcastle wedding on Redondo Beach display the creative fantasy of their relationship.

Kathy joined AAUW in 1981 where she found women with children and common goals and support for each other. Kathy has served in numerous officer roles for AAUW, organizing Herstory presentations, introducing the Cooking Together Group, fund raising bingo and bunco games and more. She is politically active and on spot for social justice. She does see herself as a "general" when running meetings or teaching adults. It gets things done, and nicely.

Kathy, what would our Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Branch do without you???

~Jean Burns Slater

On March 24 members of AAUW across California had the opportunity to be in direct contact with members of the California State Legislature. Our Public Policy Chair, **Jean Burns Slater** led a team of three AAUW California members to prepare and contact State Senator Scott Wilk from Santa Clarita, to explain and encourage passage of the legislative bills described below.

After the Lobby Day opening session, 30 teams of 3 or 4 AAUW CA members connected with individual legislators or their staff. Every effort was made for members to meet with their Assembly Member or Senator, with some teams having as many as 3 meetings during the day. In these meetings, members communicated information about AAUW CA, their branches and also the three bills which are high priority for AAUW in the current session.

- AB 92 Assembly Member Reyes **Child Care Family Fees**
- SB 62 Senator Durazo **Garment Worker Protection Act**
- AB 373 Assembly Member Min **Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse**

The results of these meetings are important in several ways. Sixty legislators or their staff now know about AAUW and our commitment to improve the lives of women and girls in California. They'll remember us when we contact them again as our bills move through the legislative process. Follow up on these three bills progress will be provided through our Public Policy articles in our newsletter.

Garment Worker Protection Act Senate Bill 62

SB 62 would expand and strengthen enforcement of wage theft liability in the garment manufacturing industry, ensuring that retailers cannot use layers of contracting to avoid responsibility under the law. By eliminating the piece rate in the garment industry while still allowing for bonus and incentive payments, this bill would ensure that workers are paid for all time spent working

Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse Senate Bill 373

Survivors of domestic violence or elder abuse, and foster youth are often the victim of coerced or fraudulent debt, with debts taken out in their name without their knowledge or consent. These debts damage individuals' credit and force them into years of debt repayment, reducing their economic stability and leaving them vulnerable to future abuse, poverty, and housing instability or homelessness.

Child Care Family Fees Assembly Bill 92

This bill will create an equitable sliding scale for family fees that will alleviate the burden on working families struggling to pay for child care and early childhood education services. By increasing the affordability of child care to working families, this bill will benefit the economic recovery of the state by helping parents remain in the workforce and achieve economic stability.

State and federally funded programs help families, but they must still pay fees. This can make subsidized care unaffordable and jeopardize employment or education. The current fee structure penalizes families, since the fees increase as income rises, forcing families to have to make choices between paying childcare family fees or other basic needs.

The Waves

...is a monthly newsletter of the
Five Cities Pismo Beach, CA,
Branch of AAUW

Vol. 42, No. 9 – May 2021

President:

Susan Brazil

Treasurer: *Linda Lidberg*

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AAUW Funds: *Mary Matakovich*

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Mary Matakovich and Liz Wineman

Communication / Publicity:

Linda Lidberg -

Email Blast & Website

Priscilla Alquist, Outreach

Newsletter Editor: *Gayle Turner*

IBC Representative: *Linda Lidberg*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 20TH
of the month. Photos are welcome.

AAUW 5 Cities Website:

[https://fivecitiespismo-beach-
ca.aauw.net](https://fivecitiespismo-beach-ca.aauw.net)

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

If you were on Zoom at our April Annual Meeting, you met our five delightful scholarship recipients. It was a very special reminder of what our branch is all about advancing the lives of young women!

Please send your **\$105** renewal fee to:

Laurie King
200 S Dolliver St. #437
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

...so we can continue this important work.

Please use the form at the back of the newsletter. Thank you! ~Laurie King



CENTRAL COAST VOICES: CLOSING THE GAP ON EQUAL PAY

KCBX Broadcast

Susan Opava, representing our local AAUW Branch, participated in this live broadcast

MAR 25, 2021

Each year, **National Equal Pay Day** reflects how far into the current year women must work to match what men earned in the previous year. Due to a gender gap in pay, it takes women an extra three months of wages to make up the difference. On average, women working full time and year-round are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man who works full time and year-round. The wage gap is even greater for most women of color.

Host Kris Kington-Barker spoke with guests from San Luis County branches of the **American Association of University of Women (AAUW)** Linda Baker, President, **AAUW Atascadero**; Lynn Janeway, President, **AAUW San Luis Obispo**; and Dr. Susan Opava, **AAUW Five Cities-Pismo Beach**; about the work they do fighting to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity and to create a more economically secure world for women and girls, as well as what we can do as a community to close the gender pay gap.

The show addresses the many ramifications of change and how today's choices will affect tomorrow's community. If you miss a show, shows are recorded and archived on KCBX's **website**, or listen to them on iTunes.

Broadcast date: 3/25/2021

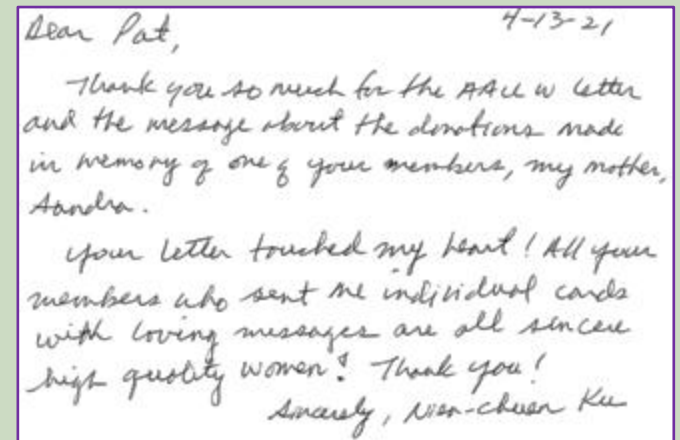
Central Coast Voices is sponsored by **ACTION for Healthy Communities** in collaboration with **KCBX** and made possible through underwriting by Joan Gellert-Sargent.

THANK YOU TO THE BRANCH

Sandra Ku's daughter, Nien-chuen Ku, recently made a donation to scholarship and sent a nice note that was really for all the members.

I am attaching it here.

Thank you,
 Maurina Kusell



INFORMATION REGARDING THE NATIONAL AAUW BY-LAWS CHANGE PROPOSAL

“The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW’s bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

This spring, AAUW members will [VOTE ON A LONG-STANDING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT](#), which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today.”

The reasons given by National as to why we should drop the education requirement are:

- Because it is the right thing to do
- Because it is in keeping with our mission to advance gender equity
- Eliminating the degree requirement will bring AAUW membership criteria in line with its mission – to advance gender equity.
- Greater diversity can only strengthen AAUW and our ability to advance equity.
- Times have changed and society has changed. AAUW strives to meet our mission and society’s needs today.
- AAUW empowers women. How does keeping the membership requirement help you empower women?
- Just like our founding mothers, we can be role models for positive change in the world.
But we cannot have the impact we seek when our membership criteria don’t match our mission and values.
- AAUW is unique due to our breadth of programming, research, policy and advocacy, fellowships & grants, and most importantly, a grassroots membership that can be mobilized to fight for what we believe in. We should open this powerful grassroots network up to all who want to join the fight.
- Education comes in many forms. Those who do not have degrees can still be strong advocates for our mission.
- AAUW must evolve to survive.



“Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Voting opened on April 7, 2021 and close May 17, 2021 at 5:00 PM (ET)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19 guidelines, most meetings/interest groups that meet face-to-face have been CANCELLED until further notice. We encourage your groups to try online options to stay connected, such as Zoom, or by other social distancing options.

**Official AAUW
Interest Group Contacts**

- Great Decisions.....*Priscilla Alquist*
..... & *Jean Burns Slater*
- Lunch Bunch.....*Joan Knowlton*
- Night Readers
- Book Group *TBD*
- Theatre Goers *Judy Zaretska*

**Independent AAUW
Interest Group Contacts**

- Cooking Group.....*Lisa Walker*
 - Daytime Page Turners
..... *Jean Burns Slater*
 - Quilters*Linda Lidberg*
- (These groups have become independent of AAUW in order to be inclusive of readers who are no longer members)

May Baskets

by *Annette Wynne*

In other lands the children bring
May baskets for the first of spring,
And hang them on a lady's door
To say that spring is here once more;
And when the lady comes to see
What all the sound outside may be,
She's glad; That's the way
The Swedish children keep the May.
But we can do kind things and sing
And tell *our* way, the joy of spring!

GREAT DECISIONS TAKES A BREAK

After meeting regularly on Zoom, our local Great Deciders will **take a break for the month of May to reconvene on June 28 at 7:00 PM.**

At the April meeting, it will be decided if we feel comfortable meeting in person for the June 28 meeting. The June topic will be China and Arica - surely a hot topic of discussion and interest.

China has an agenda that is becoming more and more clear based on our discussions centering on the Arctic development, the global supply chain, globalization, the Uyghur reeducation camps, and slave labor accusations for cotton production of the far-west region of Xinjiang. China cannot and will not be ignored and our knowledge and discussion is critical in keeping informed and proactive in the response to China's desire to dominate.

Discussions as to what we can do in our corner of the world will also amplify our ability to "do something." Great Deciders are people of thought and action!

The DVD for each topic is available to share prior to the meeting, with Priscilla Alquist as the keeper of the shared DVD. If we decide, as Great Deciders do make decisions, to meet in person, the DVD will be shown at the June meeting.

Please direct questions to Priscilla Alquist or Jean Burns Slater. Thank you!



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AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach 2021 – 2022 Membership Renewal

Our mission and focus:
“Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.”

Welcome and thank you for joining the Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch of AAUW for another year to advance the AAUW mission, while making new acquaintances and renewing long term friendships! This year you may consider joining an additional section to meet new friends and explore new interests.

- Dues are \$105 for the 2021-2022 year. (Dual members pay \$23 for the local Branch dues only.)
- ___ Check here to order a name tag or replacement name tag and include an additional \$12.
- Make checks payable to: **AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach.**

Please return this form with your annual dues and any supplemental payments by July 1, 2021 to:

Laurie King
AAUW Membership
200 Dolliver St. #437
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| _____ | Dues \$105 |
| _____ | Dual Member \$23 |
| _____ | Name Tag \$12 |
| \$ _____ | Total |

IF YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, FILL IN YOUR NAME ONLY.

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