

The



OCTOBER 2021

EQUITY FOR ALL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIVE CITIES PISMO BEACH, CA, BRANCH

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OUR MISSION:

Advancing gender equity through research, education, and advocacy.

Waves

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



October already. I can’t believe how quickly this year is going by. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered to work the voting precinct to help us with our budget. We are solvent for this year but have decided not to do a fall bingo due to uncertainties from COVID. Time will tell for the spring.

In the meantime, I hope you received your directory to see when we will meet in person and when we will have zoom meetings. Last year was a quiet one as far as activities and this year is starting the same way. If you wish to share any ideas for our meetings or activities, please call either Liz Wineman, Mary Matakovich, or me.

Also, Pam Zirion is always looking for possible fund raisers with the imposed restrictions. Hoping that this year brings us together at least in spirit. Trust that things will get better, and remember that we have many choices and possibilities as we move forward.

~Susan Brazil

“The willingness to show up changes us. It makes us a little braver each time.” Bernese Brown

Our theme this year is **“Hope, Trust, Possibilities.”**

**Hope:** feeling of expectation and desire for certain things to happen. Feeling of trust.

**Trust:** firm belief in reliability, truth, ability or strength of someone or something.

**Possibilities:** thing that may happen or be the case. *“There is always the possibility that..... (fill in the blank)*

AAUW MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE:

Many, but not all, of 2021/2022 AAUW meetings will be on Zoom. Please check monthly. For computer assistance on Zoom meetings, please contact Pam Zirion

**OCTOBER BOARD MEETING**  
 Monday, Oct. 4  
 @ 6:30 PM  
 Zoom

**OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING**  
 Monday, Oct. 18  
 @ 6:30 PM  
 Zoom

**NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING**  
 Monday, Nov. 1  
 @ 6:30 PM  
 1 Zoom

**NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING**  
 Monday, Nov. 15  
 @ 6:30 PM  
 Zoom

**DECEMBER BOARD MEETING**  
 Monday, Dec. 6  
 @ 6:30 PM  
 Zoom

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY GATHERING**  
 Monday, Dec. 20  
 @ 6:30 PM  
 AG Women’s Club

## OCTOBER MEETING

## PRECINCT THANKS



### October General Meeting Program

Let's welcome **Ann Havlik**, past Co-President of the SLO County League of Women Voters, as our Guest Speaker at our October 18<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting. Her mother served 50 years in the League, and Ann is following in her footsteps. Today, Ann is the Chair of the County League's Nominating Committee.

Ann graduated from UCSB in History. She then completed a Dental Hygiene Program and was a practicing Registered Dental Hygienist in SLO and San Francisco. Over the years, she has served in a number of Boards including: being a founding member of the Rush Ranch Educational Council of Solace Farmlands and Open Space Foundation, President of the CA Straw Arts Guild, and Chair of the Oral Health Coalition of SLO, which is a coalition working towards a more unified and consistent level of oral health care for young children.

We anticipate an interesting overview by Ann of the SLO League's history with its current commitments in our County. Join us on **October 18, at 6:30 PM via Zoom.** ~Mary Matakovich

A HUGE thanks goes out to the 15 Branch members and friends who staffed the Recall Election Precinct.

Not only did you serve your community but the conversations and camaraderie that occurred throughout the day was wonderful.

This fundraising activity is not only a benefit to our treasury but a great opportunity to catch up with fellow members. Should we do this again next June for the Primary?

Thanks,  
Linda Lidberg  
(Precinct Lead)

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

## NAMED GIFT HONOREE NOMINATIONS

The AAUW 5 Cities-Pismo Beach Branch wishes a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following members:

- Beth Hutton.....2
- Gayle Turner.....7
- Kathy Cohon.....10
- Linda Kime.....10
- Susie Wedell.....21
- Rose Ann Steiner.....22

Happy Birthday!!!



Annually we have an opportunity to recognize a member for her outstanding service to our branch through her efforts and commitment. This is the highest honor that AAUW can give a member by naming a gift for her, which is a contribution of \$750 to our national organization.

Please nominate a member and write a brief description as to your rationale for nominating her. Send your nomination to Mary Matakovich by November 1.

Our process is to have past Honorees vote for the Named Honoree. The member with the most votes will be recommended to AAUW National in December. At our Annual meeting in May, we will recognize our Named Gift Honoree. Looking forward to recognizing a member for this honor.

**Nominations are due to me by November 1.** ~ Mary Matakovich



## MILESTONES



### 1920s

- In 1920, LWV was established by **Carrie Chapman Catt**, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, in tandem with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote.
- LWV mission was to provide educational opportunities for voters about issues and policies and provide encouragement for voting and involvement in politics.
- **Eleanor Roosevelt** joined LWV and served as VP of Legislative Affairs.
- In 1928, LWV sponsored the first "Meet the Candidates" forum on radio.

### 1930s

- LWV advocated for social security, food and drug acts and the merit system for selection government employees.

### 1940s

- LWV advocated for establishment of the **United Nations** and American participation; the League has an official observer status with the UN and is a special consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

### 1950s

- LWV supported formation of two-year community colleges and opposed tactics used during the **McCarthy hearings**.

### 1960s

- LWV supported **civil rights** as well as voting rights for citizens of Washington, DC.
- In 1962, LWV of **San Luis Obispo** was recognized as a full-fledged League by LWVUS and LWVC.

### 1970s

- LWV supported the E.R.A. and abolishment of the **Electoral College** and advocated for environmental issues. Men were admitted as members.
- In 1976, LWV won an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Broadcasting for sponsoring the first presidential debate since the Nixon/Kennedy debates in 1960.

### 1980s

- LWV sponsored the **Presidential Debates** of 1980 and 1984.
- Since 1982, the LWV has endorsed **Voters' Rights Act Amendments**.

### 2000s

- In 2017, the LWV argued in the Supreme Court case *Gill v. Whitford* that **partisan gerrymandering** violates the first amendment and equal protection clause of the US Constitution.
- In 2018, the LWV voted to reduce the age of membership to 16 and suspend dues for students for 2 years. Associate memberships are offered to those under the age of 16.
- 2020 marks the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the LWV and the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment; plans are underway for the LWV's transition to the next 100 years.

*Empowering Voters – Defending Democracy*

THE LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
NON-PARTISAN PARTY ANIMALS SINCE 1920

Courtesy of lwv.org

## Percentages of Women in Elective Office

Year	U.S. Congress	Statewide Elective	State Legislatures	Year	U.S. Congress	Statewide Elective	State Legislatures
1971	3%	7%	N/A	2001	13.6%	27.6%	22.4%
1973	3%	8%	N/A	2003	13.6%	26.0%	22.4%
1975	4%	10%	8%	2005	15.0%	25.7%	22.4%
1977	4%	10%	9%	2007	16.1%	24.1%	23.5%
1979	3%	11%	10%	2009	16.8%	22.6%	24.3%
1981	4%	11%	12%	2011	16.8%	22.1%	23.7%
1983	4%	11%	13%	2012	16.8%	23.4%	23.7%
1985	5%	14%	15%	2013	18.5%	23.0%	24.2%
1987	5%	14%	16%	2014	18.7%	23.0%	24.3%
1989	5%	14%	16%	2015	19.4%	24.8%	24.6%
1991	6%	18%	18%	2016	19.6%	24.1%	24.5%
1993	10.1%	22.2%	20.5%	2017	19.6%	22.8%	25.1%
1995	10.3%	25.9%	20.6%	2018	20.6%	23.8%	25.4%
1997	11.0%	25.4%	21.6%	2019	23.7%	29.3%	28.9%
1999	12.1%	27.6%	22.4%	2020	23.6%	28.9%	29.3%
				2021	26.7%	30.6%	31.0%

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## The Waves

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

**Vol. 43, No.2 – October 2021**

**President:**

*Susan Brazil*

**Treasurer:** *Linda Lidberg*

**Secretary:** *Pat Mulethaler*

**Parliamentarian:** *Rose Ann Steiner*

**AAUW Funds:** *Mary Matakovich*

**Public Policy & Scholarship:**

*Jean Burns Slater*

**Membership:**

*Laurie King*

**Fundraising:**

*Pam Zirion & Kathy Cohon*

**Program Committee:**

*Mary Matakovich & Liz Wineman*

**Communication / Publicity:**

*Linda Lidberg, Website  
Priscilla Alquist, Outreach*

**Newsletter Editor:** *Gayle Turner*

**IBC Representative:** *Linda Lidberg*

Newsletter deadline is the **20<sup>th</sup>** of the month. Photos are welcome.

**AAUW 5 Cities Website:**

<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.

# WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 2021

## RUTGERS CENTER FOR AMERICAN WOMEN AND POLITICS

### FEDERAL

#### Vice President - Kamala Harris (D)

Kamala Harris became the first woman to hold the office of Vice President on January 20, 2021. She is also the first woman of color, the first Black person, and the first South Asian person elected to this office. Previously, Vice President Harris served in the U.S. Senate as well as California's Attorney General.

#### Cabinet and Cabinet-level Positions

**11** Fact sheet: [High-Level Presidential Appointments](#)  
Numbers only include women appointees who have been confirmed.

#### U.S. Supreme Court

**3** Fact sheet: [Women on the U.S. Supreme Court](#)

### CONGRESS

**143** 26.7% of 535 seats  
Fact sheet: [Women in the U.S. Congress 2021](#)

#### U.S. Senate

**24** 24% of 100 seats [16 D / 8 R]  
Fact sheet: [Women in the U.S. Senate 2021](#)

#### U.S. House

**119** 27.4% of 435 seats [88 D / 31 R]  
Fact sheet: [Women in the U.S. House 2021](#)

### STATEWIDE EXECUTIVE

**95** 30.6 % of 310 seats  
Fact Sheet: [Women in Statewide Elective Executive Office 2021](#)

#### Governors

**8** 16% of 50  
[5 D / 3 R]

#### Lt. Governors

**19** 44.2% of 43  
[12 D / 7 R]

#### Other Statewide Elected Officials

**68** 30.9% of 217  
[35 D / 31 R / 2 NP]

### STATE LEGISLATURE

**2,287** [1,510 D / 756 R / 13 NP / 6 I / 2 P] 31% of 7,383 seats  
Fact Sheet: [Women in State Legislatures 2021](#)

#### State Senate

**560** 28.4% of 1,972 seats  
[362 D / 185 R / 13 NP]

#### State House / Assembly

**1,727** 31.9% of 5,411 seats  
[1,148 D / 571 R / 6 I / 2 Prg]

### LOCAL

#### Mayors, ≥30,000

**407** 25.1% of 1,621 seats  
Fact Sheet: [Women Mayors in U.S. Cities 2021](#)

#### Mayors, 100 largest cities

**32** 32% of 100 seats  
Fact Sheet: [Women in Elective Office 2021](#)

#### Municipal Officeholders, Cities ≥ 10,000

**30.5%** Of 28,624 seats  
Fact Sheet: [Women in Municipal Offices, Cities >10,000](#)

## SPOTLIGHT IN THE LIMELIGHT... ANDI PORTNEY



Have you ever wondered who arranged and detailed our silent auction items? What masterful mind and fingers moved around those gift baskets, the art and donated clothing items to gain maximum exposure and value? Our AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Branch has benefited from the expertise of Andi Portney, a truly experienced retail buyer from May Company and Macy's Department stores. This talented woman joined our AAUW Branch because her daughter was a recipient of an AAUW Scholarship in 2009. After Andi learned of our community work, she joined our Branch and dove right in to share her talents, giving back to the community through participation in our Branch.

A California girl through and through, being raised in the San Fernando Valley, in a neighborhood sprinkled with famous Hollywood stars and people in the entertainment industry, she learned the value of a strong work ethic while working in her parents' engraving business. "Go the extra mile" set her standard. After graduating from college at Cal State

Northridge with a degree in child development, she realized that her position as a manager of a gift shop was more lucrative than a first year's teacher salary. So, the switch from teaching to retail was made.

While volunteering to serve on a Board of Directors for a nonprofit organization, she met her husband, Jeff. After five years of working for May Company, which included managing the crystal, china, linens, and then advancing into the Executive Offices as a buyer, they were married and moved to the Bay area. Andi began to work in Macy's corporate buying offices in Union Square, San Francisco. She and Jeff stayed in San Francisco for three years. Once they talked about starting their family and needed to consider child care, they decided a general change in life style was appropriate. Jeff transferred with PG&E to Diablo Canyon and Andi gave up working to raise their daughter. They moved to the Central Coast in 1990 and settled in. Andi served as a parent volunteer and on the Advisory Board for Wilshire Hospice, while contributing in other ways to the community.

Once their daughter was in sixth grade, Andi began working for a private label vitamin company, serving as an independent contractor, organizing and arranging vitamin distribution around the world. Clients contacted her and she was responsible for matching the client requests with the production of the vitamins. Her goal was to provide the best possible product, customized and properly distributed. She never met a client or a manufacturer in person but she has invitations to visit around the world, based on her positive relations contacts. Now that she has retired after 18 years in this business, she may do this.

Andi's brother participated in professional motorcycle racing and her sister is an artist, combining yoga with art. Andi and Jeff's daughter went to UCLA and then on to Columbia University, earning a Master's degree in Public Health in the field of epidemiology and is immersed in COVID support and study. She lives in Portland Oregon and supervises a staff of 12. She has focused on COVID prevention and outbreaks in facilities that cluster people, such as convalescent homes and juvenile detention facilities. She enjoys a long-time relationship with a boyfriend who is an attorney. Andi sees this as a solid relationship, since it has survived the COVID shelter-in-place restrictions.

The greatest challenge for Andi has been providing care and support for her mother for the last 11 years, requiring 24-hour in-home care. In addition, Andi and Jeff remodeled their home and moved temporarily to Nipomo during the remodel. Andi felt like she was juggling three homes during the remodel and her mother's decline. Andi's mother recently died and she was able to settle her estate with all siblings feeling positive with the settlement.

Andi also knows how to play, as she has been playing mahjong since 2006, keeping her mind sharp. She and her husband love live concerts, celebrating the music of their youth and travel to hear in person music.

And Andi has some very sound advice, based on her life experiences: "Use the good china, don't wait!" And as Ferris Bueller said in the 1986 film, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Thank goodness Andi stopped and looked around and found our AAUW Branch!

~ Jean Burns Slater



### GREAT DECISIONS RETURNS IN PERSON

Our spirited and committed *Great Deciders* are now convening in person. On **September 27**, we met at Patti Melsheimer's home, where we discussed the **World Health Organization: COVID**. Susan Opava served as discussion leader and Marjorie Ott served as hostess for refreshments. Discussion focused on the role of *The World Health Organization*, a response to a global pandemic, limitations to influence and power, trust, justice and equity for less developed nations, and the global responsibility for a healthy world. This topic is ever changing, as we all well know.

Our next *Great Decisions* discussion on **October 25**, will be our concluding meeting, focusing on the topic of **The End of Globalization**. We will again be meeting at Patti Melsheimer's home at **7 PM**. Liz Wineman will be the discussion leader and Laurie King will serve as refreshment hostess.

This topic traces the history of globalization and the prospects for the future, in light of the supply chain interruption and shortage of transportation options when there is a world crisis.

What in the world is this world coming to????? Be part of the discussion and future solutions.

Direct questions to Priscilla Alquist or Jean Burns Slater.

#### Official AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

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

#### Independent AAUW Interest Group Contacts:

- Cooking Group..... *Anna Zucker*
  - Page Turners Book Group *Jean B. Slater*
  - Finessing Femmes.....*Rose Ann Steiner*
  - Quilters.....*Linda Lidberg*
- (These groups have become independent of AAUW in order to be inclusive of readers who are no longer members.)

### FUNDRAISING

We are still in status quo mode with no significant fundraising events scheduled for 2021-2022. We will hopefully resume Bingo in Fall of 2022.

If you have an idea for a virtual or low-key outdoor fundraiser, please send it our way. Thanks.  
~ Pam Zirion / Kathy Cohon

### SCHOLARSHIP

The 2021-2022 Board of Directors for our Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Corporation will resume their work in early October. The first order of the work will be to reevaluate scholarship requirements based on the impact of the COVID pandemic on the education of our young women. The changes in providing education and the impact on measuring student learning requires the Directors to rethink the past criteria.

In addition, decisions regarding the number and financial amount of each scholarship to be granted will also be discussed. Input from AAUW Branch members is encouraged. Please contact a member of the Board of Directors to share your ideas. The Directors look forward to hearing from members. Thank you.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Chief Executive Officer: Jean Burns Slater | Other Directors: Kathi Pettersen,                |
| Vice President: Erica Hinojosa             | Priscilla Alquist, Beth Hutton,                  |
| Secretary: Pat Muhlethaler                 | Maureen Kelly, Joan Knowlton,                    |
| Chief Financial Officer: Maurina Kusell    | Patti Melsheimer, Rose Ann Steiner, Marjorie Ott |

### TECH TREK

The State AAUW has not made a final determination about Tech Trek camps for the summer of 2022. Whether they will be virtual again like last summer or in-person residence camps is unknown at this time.

### FLOWER FAIRY

A personal note of thanks: I don't know who the flower fairy was that sent me a lovely bouquet of flowers for taking the lead inspector's job for the election (the card only said AAUW) but I can't thank that mysterious person enough. The bouquet is full of happy flowers that brighten up my home. THANK YOU!

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