

March 2025 Volume 46 - Number 7

editor: jbslater2006@gmail.com

# President's Message

#### Jean Burns Slater

Our local Branch may not feel the influence that AAUW National wields, but we are supported by strong women influencers . Read the AAUW National Press Release February 13, 2025.

AAUW Strongly Opposes Linda McMahon's Nomination for U.S. Secretary of Education *McMahon Is an Unqualified Nominee Who Puts Students' Rights at Risk* 

Washington, D.C. – Today's confirmation hearing for Linda McMahon solidifies AAUW's belief that she is unsuitable for the position of U.S. Secretary of Education. The U.S. Department of Education is responsible for upholding civil rights and ensuring equal educational opportunities.

"The Secretary of Education should be focused on strengthening civil rights protections, not undermining them," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. "McMahon's support for private school vouchers would strip critical federal funding from public schools, her failure to commit to the SAVE student loan repayment plan threatens to saddle millions of borrowers with a lifetime of debt, and her disregard for the vital work of the Office for Civil Rights puts the safety and well-being of student survivors of gender-based harassment, discrimination, and violence at risk."

High-quality education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to economic prosperity, college and career readiness, and gender equality. The U.S. Department of Education plays a critical role in ensuring opportunity for all through enforcement of federal civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Department also plays a critical role in expanding access to higher education through college affordability programs and federal financial aid programs to make college more affordable, especially for low-income students and women of color, who are disproportionately saddled with higher amounts of student loan debt.

"America is at an inflection point," continues Blackwell. "AAUW calls on the Senate to reject McMahon's nomination and demand a leader who will uphold the mission of the Department of Education: to expand opportunity, protect civil rights, and invest in students' success. Anything less would be a betrayal of our nation's commitment to educational equity and opportunity for all."

#### **March Events**

# March Birthdays

6:30 p.m. Board Meeting: Zoom Pat Muhlethaler
11:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch: Sunset Thai Pismo Beach Susan Gray
11:30 p.m. Daytime Page Turners: Patti Melsheimer's home Susan Opava
6:30 p.m. Night Readers: Linda Kime's home Maureen Kelly
10:00 a.m. General Branch Meeting: Mesa Dunes Club House: Women in History
12:30 p.m. Let's Talk Travel: Location TBD
12:30 p.m. Finessing Femmes Bridge: Norma Stewart's Clubhouse

- 19 6:30 p.m. Scholarship: Priscilla Alquist's home
- 20 Newsletter Deadline

### **April Preview**

- 3 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- 4 11:30 am Daytime Page Turners
- 7 6:30 pm Board Meeting: Zoom
- 20 Newsletter Deadline
- 28 6:30 pm General Meeting: Tech Trek/Scholarship

#### March 15, Saturday 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park Club House

Topic: Women in History

# MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATING COMMITTEE ALERT

It is time to recruit, elect, and support new Branch officers for the 2025-2026 year. Contact Susan Brazil regarding your interest or suggestions for the offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer. We cannot function without these officers. We need you! Susan Brazil: 209-747-6663.

# MARCH BOARD MEETING

The March Board meeting will be held Monday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you or your committee have an action item to place on the agenda, forward it to Jean Burns Slater, <u>ibslater2006@gmail.com</u>, by March 1 for it to be considered at this meeting.

# MARCH 15, SATURDAY GENERAL MEETING 10 A.M. Women in History



Step back in time and meet the famous women who have helped make America the country of freedom during times of strife and prosperity. You will meet women from U. S. history, hear their stories, and learn about our country's struggles and achievements. Step back in time and feel the pulse of America. The meeting will be at Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park Club House at 10:00 a.m., when our historical women are expected to arrive. Welcome them warmly. **Location:** Mesa Dunes Mobile Home Park: Club House 765 Mesa View Dr., Arroyo Grande. Top of the hill.



# Spotlight on Sharon McConnell

Imagine your ancestors, immigrating from Germany to Russia at the invitation from Catherine the Great, the reigning empress of Russia, who came to power after overthrowing her husband, Peter III. Catherine the Great knew that German farmers with hard working spirits were highly prized and the German colonists developed a community in Russia near the Volga River. But then World War I was on the horizon and the family, at the invitation of Southern Pacific Rail, immigrated to Fresno California.

Sharon McConnell knows her story and shares it well. Sharon's parents were born in Fresno, after following this line of immigration from Germany to Russia to the United States. Her dad worked for Valley Motor Lines shipping agricultural equipment and her mom worked for Occidental Petroleum. The family was transferred to Reno during the War with Sharon's dad driving munitions to Vallejo over the dangerous Sierra's Donner Pass when his employees were unable to drive. Next the family moved to Manteca where there was a housing shortage after World War II and lived in a motel for months. Finally, they settled into a small bungalow, raising Sharon and her younger brother.

Sharon's family valued education, resulting in her selection as valedictorian of her high school class and her success at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1961 as an honor student with a degree in history. She gained her teaching credential, but was not enamored with this career and switched to secretarial school and began working on the UC Berkeley campus in the research area, producing drafting illustrations, as well as transcribing detailed equations for manuscripts.

After developing an interest in risk management, she moved into working with the self-insured claims of the UC Berkely system, acquiring paralegal knowledge. Her accomplishments include earning the Associate in Risk Management designation from the Insurance Institute of America and a management title.

Sharon married a UC Berkely graduate after meeting him at an alumni gathering at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. Jack was a civil engineer and they made their home in the Oakland/Berkeley area, surviving the Loma Prieta earthquake (1989) and the Oakland Hills fire (1991).

She retired in 2000, after having lived in the Berkeley/Oakland area during her work tenure. Sharon and her husband, Jack, spent vacation time in Santa Barabara at the famous Miramar Hotel (blue roof hotel along highway 101) and decided to move to the Central Coast. In 2005 Santa Maria became their home and continues to be her home after her husband passed away ten years ago. Her family connections include her brother in the Sacramento area, also a Cal graduate and his five daughters, all of whom live in the San Franciso Bay area except for one who is in the Seattle area.

Her hobbies include reading and working in glass, for which she has extensive knowledge. She has skills in traditional stained glass and fusing, owning her own kiln. The concentration and puzzlement of glass work keeps her alert and engaged. She dapples in watercolor and the artistic side of Sharon shines beyond her background in detailed manuscript work.

She travels and recently enjoyed a Mediterranean cruise. She also attends a regular movie group.

Her Philosophy of Life: Survive the unexpected challenges of aging. Exercise, control your diet, and pursue your creative side. Keep your head straight and stay engaged. Sharon adds a lively spirit to our Branch and we are fortunate to share her passions and knowledge.

# JANUARY GENERAL MEETING REPORT

#### January 25, Saturday: Kor Kitchen: An Afghan Success

#### Topic: Guest Speaker Sophia Zekria

Our Branch welcomed members from the San Luis Obispo AAUW Branch to learn about Sophia Zekria's journey as a refugee to the United States from Afghanistan. Sophia's husband worked in security for the American Army and when the Army left Afghanistan, the family went into hiding. It took them two years to get to the United States with the assistance of Church World Services. They moved to San Luis Obispo through the SLO for Home organization that provided a home, found jobs for her husband, and a school scholarship for her five-year-old daughter. Sophia has opened a restaurant specializing in Afghani dishes. She is a private chef and a caterer as well. Her restaurant in San Luis Obispo is KOR Kitchen where she is open one day per week but also can provide cooking classes and will be offering her food specialties at Thursday night Farmers Market in SLO. Sophia believes that "We all belong and are stronger together."



Sophia Zekria

**AAUW Audience** 

San Luis Obispo Guests

# FEBRUARY REPORT GENERAL MEETING

#### February 22, Saturday: Project 2025 and AAUW Public Policy Priorities

Branch members watched a webinar created in October 2024 by AAUW California's Public Policy Directors Amy Hom and Missy Maceyko. The presentation was in a Power Point format with voice explanation to present the four Pillars of AAUW Public Policy and how Project 2025 would impact those pillars. The presentation covered a brief overview of where Project 2025 came from, what the Heritage Foundation is, and what the project is broadly attempting to do. The presenters addressed specific parts of the project that would impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities, such as education, Title IX, reproductive health, and gender equity. Pillars of AAUW Public Policy are:

- Economic security for all women
- Equal access to quality public education for all students
- Social and racial justice for all members of society
- Increased representation of women in leadership roles

#### Five guests joined our members and all received a handout created in February 2025 by

AAUW California that stated "that there is a concerted effort by a number of coalitions in the federal government to make Project 2025 become reality." The audience recognized that many of the Project 2025 recommendations were already in place.

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February General Meeting: Project 2025 and AAUW Public Policy Priorities

# LUNCH BUNCH, MARCH 6, THURSDAY @ 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch will be meeting at a different restaurant in March. <u>Sunset Thai is</u> located at 561-5 Cities Drive in Cal Fresh center in Pismo Beach. It is to the left of Cal Fresh. The food is quite good, especially the papaya salad and the location is convenient. Consider carpooling and send your RSVP to Carole Dempsey at <u>medipharmix@aol.com</u>.



Rosa's Lunch in February.

# **FRIENDSHIP OUTREACH**

Priscilla Alquist reports that there is lots of news from our Branch members this month. She would appreciate a call for future news so that she can stay up to date.

- Jonica Bushman, one of our newer members who lives in Nipomo, is an active member of the Progressive Women's Forum, located in Trilogy. They are putting on a forum for International Women's Day on March 8 with the theme Accelerate Action. An AAUW Branch member will represent us.
- Long-time member Lisa Walker, who left our Branch a few years ago, is soon to be a grandma in June. She can hardly wait to hold and play with her grandson-to-be!!!
- Jean Slater took her granddaughter to Bali over the New Year lucky girl!
- **Patti Melsheimer's** granddaughters are braving the cold winter storms of New York City this year as they share an apartment. There is photo evidence that these California girls occasionally forget to bundle up when they go out and end up looking like frozen icicles!
- **Gaye Peltzman's** husband, Ed, fell at the Women's Center in AG one very dark night recently after a meeting. The ER at AG Hospital took good care of him and he is recuperating well at home. The City of AG took immediate action and you will find much improved lighting in the parking area now at night. That is a hard way to get City improvements made!
- **Priscilla Alquist** fell at home, which eventually brought her vertigo back. Luckily her favorite P.T. Vestibular therapist is still in practice in Templeton and she is almost cured. Let her know if you ever need her contact info.
- Linda Lidberg fell as well and broke her wrist. It will definitely slow up her sewing but at least it's her left wrist. Having a hand out of commission is no fun at all!
- **Pat Muhlethaler** is staying close to home these days. Fortunately, her daughter Dawn lives close by and takes her to her doctor's appointments. She's excited about a new laser eye procedure that will take the place of eye shots for glaucoma. Plus, daughter Gayle will be coming from out-of-state for a visit soon.
- Olivia Larson left our Branch several years ago, and many of you may remember her as a very active member of several small groups, such as Cooking Together and Sewing. Her husband, Jerry, recently passed away. She'd love to hear from you. You can call or text Priscilla for her contact information.
- Have a good safe month ahead and watch where you put your feet!

Priscilla Alquist Sunshine

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# LET'S TALK TRAVEL

A spring excursion is planned for April-and you are welcome to join. If interested, please notify Mary Weeks: <u>marylee35@aol.com</u> by April 1 to set up a car pool. People will make their own reservations. Details on the hotel selection will be shared with anyone planning on joining this activity.

April 10 -11 Thursday, Friday

#### Thursday John Steinbeck Museum in Salinas

April 10 Museum hours Wednesday – Sunday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission: Adults \$15, Seniors \$13

## Filoli Historic House & Garden Woodside

Sixteen acres of formal gardens and a historic house museum with hikes through the lush and varied natural communities of the estate. Open every day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The California Trail is open until 4:30 p.m. The Café is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adult \$34.00 Senior (65 years and up) \$32.00

# Overnight in San Jose Hotel to be selected

#### Friday Hakone Estate and Gardens Saratoga

 April 11 A National Trust for Historic Preservation site and 100 years old, Hakone is one of the old Japanese estates, retreat, and gardens in the Western Hemisphere with eighteen acres nestled in the hills of Saratoga overlooking Silicon Valley. March to October Weekdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Weekends 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Adults (18 - 64) \$12 Seniors (65+) \$10

#### Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum San Jose

Museum Hours: Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays/Sundays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Adults (Ages 18-64): \$10.00 Seniors (Ages 65 and Older): \$8.00

#### Home

Details on the hotel selection will be shared with anyone planning on joining this activity.



# **TECH TREK**

The Lucia Mar middle school science and math teachers have completed their nominations of deserving girls for this summer's Tech Trek camp at UCSB and now the nominees are working on their applications. Using the online program, CampDoc, each girl will complete her application, answer questions, and write an essay as part of this process. Those who complete their application prior to the deadline of March 8th will be scheduled for an in-person interview on Sunday, March 16th. Our Branch Tech Trek Committee team members will

decide as to which girls are selected for camp and notify the girls, their parents, their teachers, and the State Tech Trek team.

At the February 18th Inter-branch Council meeting, plans were begun for the June 8th Ice Cream Social for the Tech Trekkers from all five SLO County Branches. This year's campers and families from Paso Robles, Atascadero, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, and Five Cities Pismo Beach will gather in Los Osos for ice cream and to meet previous campers and their parents. This gives the campers and their parents an opportunity to ask questions about the camp and hear from the previous campers and their parents how Tech Trek impacted their lives. It is always a wonderful event!

Linda Lidberg Branch Tech Trek Coordinator

We are still looking for a Tech Trek co-chair to learn the process and help select campers. Please respond to this very important request by contacting Linda Lidberg.

# SCHOLARSHIP

Members of Five Cities Pismo Beach AAUW Scholarship Corporation met February 19 and reviewed the timeline for applications and procedures for identifying students for awarding scholarships. At the Directors' meeting on March 19 scholarship finalist will be selected. Interviews of the finalist will be conducted on or prior to April 4. Recipients will be selected at the Directors' meeting on April 9. The number of scholarships and their amounts will also be decided.



Scholarships will be awarded on April 28th at the AAUW Branch meeting. A Directors' meeting will take place on May 7th. Officers will be elected and recommendations for 2025-2026 will be made.

# EAGER READERS

## **Eager Readers Book Distribution Dates**

You have heard of our Eager Readers program and probably know of our plans to provide books to educationally or economically challenged elementary students in grades 2, 4, and 6, allowing the students to Treasure Hunt for a book of their choice, possibly the first book of their own to keep.

Your help in this program is necessary for our AAUW Branch to accomplish this activity. It only takes a few hours in the morning <del>of</del> one or more of the dates listed below. You help display the books and guide the students to find the book of their choice. No prep, just show up and help young readers find a book. Exact schedules will be forthcoming, but the activity will occur typically from 8:30 to noon. Please notify Beth Hutton if you are willing to help.

Nipomo Elementary Dana Elementary Grover Beach Elementary Tuesday, March 18 Thursday, March 20 Friday, March 21



NIGHT READERS

Reading never loses its appeal and impact!

# SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT

# **Entering a New Phase in 2025**

The School Board Project is now ready to begin the next phase, which will entail monitoring school boards for compliance to California law. We hope you took a moment to complete the survey which will arrive in your inbox on February 4<sup>th</sup> to help us get a better picture of where we are following the recent elections, and where we need to focus to provide the best tools to help our branches engage at the local level. **Help monitor our local School Board. See page 13 for observation checklist.** 

# Lucia Mar USD Board of Trustees Calendar 7:00 PM 602 Orchard Street, Arroyo Grande



# **TREASURER 2024-2025 REPORT**

The AAUW Five Cities Pismo Beach Treasurer 2024-2025 Report will appear bimonthly. The April Newsletter will contain the next Treasurer's report.



There's just no way to make this topic light-hearted. The catastrophic LA fires have touched and sobered us all. We may know someone in the affected areas, or lived through a wildfire ourselves, or just looked out our window at our glorious trees and said, "Uh-oh." Your state leadership and four AAUW branches in the LA area have been working to identify members whose homes may have been lost or smoke-damaged. We know you can't help rebuild a living room, but you can show support by sending a gift card to help fellow members meet their more immediate needs. Consider places like grocery stores, gas stations, Target®, Amazon, or all-purpose bank cards such as Visa and Mastercard®. Please do not send cash or checks. Send them to our state office to be distributed by the local branches coordinating the effort:

AAUW California PO Box 160067 Sacramento, CA 95816-0067 Mark the envelope **ATTN: LAF** (Los Angeles Fires). Now, go pack your "go bag."



# **Social Security**

Some of us are on social security; some of us are not. But all of us need to understand how social security programs work for women. AAUW National is hosting *What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security* on <u>March 25th at 1 pm ET (10 am for us</u>). Register <u>HERE</u> to learn about retirement, disability, spousal and survivor benefits, and more so you can make confident decisions. This will be useful, no matter what stage of life you're in. As for doing bird calls, it's a useless talent. But give it a go <u>HERE</u> for the link.



# AAUW-CA Public Policy Newsletter

# Summary

ERA

February 2025

AAUW applauds President Joe Biden's affirmation of the ERA as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment and remains steadfast in our fight to ensure full recognition of equality.

#### Lobby Days

Tuesday, **April 8** in Sacramento in person, and Wednesday, **April 9** via Zoom Reminder to register to participate in Lobby Days: Reminder to register for mandatory training, March 31, 7-8 P.M. Pacific Time:

#### **School Board Project**

Next phase will be monitoring School Boards for compliance with Ca. State Law. Please fill out the Feb. 3 survey to help AAUW find the best focus.

#### If You Missed It ... Find the Recording:

2024 Revision to Title IX – How they impact AAUW Values and PPPs: <u>Here</u> Reproductive Rights: Where Do We Go From Here: <u>Here</u>

# Project 2025 Is Becoming Reality – Fight Back!

The objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the PPPs of AAUW. They are being implemented with breakneck speed. There are individuals and coalitions pushing back in a number of ways.

AAUW is building our own action-items database. You can individually self educate and reach out:

- 1. Watch the Project 2025 Webinar: Here
- 2. Share what you have learned with a friend.
- 3. Write to potential swing Senators regarding your concerns (addresses lined in the state newsletter).

#### **AAUW Public Policy Priorities**

AAUW California is considering your feedback as it undergoes the biennial review and update of PPPs. Updates will be released to you for your vote this spring. AAUW National is also undergoing these processes. Proposed changes were shared with membership in January. Concerns have been expressed that AAUW National is narrowing its focus to higher education and moving away from other priorities. With all of the different issue-areas currently under attack, AAUW National has to conserve its resources . . . (and) have made the decision to put their focus on education, where they have the most expertise and the best opportunity to make and impact.

#### Podcast: Is DEI Illegal?

Missy Maceyko has recorded a recent podcast on how to understand DEI work in light of the federal attack on DEI. The episode also touches on programs and action in which you can and should continue to engage. Access on YouTube: <u>Here</u>

Summary Excerpt from "We Didn't Start the Fire" by Missy Maceyko

https://www.willingobservers.com/writing-and-publications/we-didnt-start-the-fire In the face of devastating fires in California that have galvanized local support and relief for fire victims, national leaders have used this terrible event, not to offer support, but to attack DEI. The fires demonstrate the complex problems of established cities dealing with the challenges of climate change. **DEI has been shown to lead to more innovation, higher impact ideas, and better decision making and problem solving. We need to acknowledge that DEI is one of the best tools we have for solving the problems associated with these fires.** 

In the case of the LA fires, DEI has been singled out as the primary culprit. The implication is that city leaders such as Mayor Keren Bass and Fire Chief Kristin Crowley were hired not because of merit and competence, but because one is a woman of color and the other a member of the LGBTQ community. To pin the blame on DEI is to tacitly pin the blame on only those decision makers who are not cis-gender white males. Any association of DEI with hiring is assumed to be the antithesis of meritocracy. Thus, the failures leading to the devastating fires in LA must be the fault of DEI.

# LOBBY DAYS 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

# by Rhonda Skipper, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee This spring the AAUW California 2025 Lobby Days event will be held over two days: an inperson meeting day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 8 and a virtual meeting day over

Zoom on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. We encourage all AAUW California members to participate in this opportunity for advocacy that is essential to achieve our legislative priorities!

Starting in January, the Public Policy Committee will evaluate new bills introduced in the state legislature which are aligned with our <u>Public Policy Priorities</u>. In mid-March, the committee will meet to select 30-35 bills to make up AAUW California's 2025 Legislative Agenda, including the top three bills that we will advance during Lobby Days. Training materials on these three bills will be posted on the state website by March 26, 2025, and a mandatory training webinar will be held on March 31, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

# A registration form arrived in your inbox in January 2025. Be sure to complete and return the form so that you get necessary updates about Lobby Days, including your team and meeting details.

After you register, you will be assembled into teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members and matched with Assembly and Senate districts. For in-person meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with at least 3 legislative offices while for Zoom meetings, each team will be scheduled to meet with 1 to 3 legislative offices. Regardless of whether you are in-person or online, each meeting will last for 15 to 30 minutes.

Because legislators have many commitments during the busy legislative season, most Lobby Days meetings will be held with legislative staffers and it is not always possible to schedule AAUW members with their own legislators. Teams will be representing AAUW California as a bill sponsor and/or supporter, legislative offices will consider these meetings to be as important as constituent meetings.

Lobby Days 2025 is scheduled to take place just before the legislature adjourns on April 10th for Spring Recess. AAUW members are encouraged to participate in-person on April 8, 2025, and directly advocate at the State Capitol as these in-person meetings are the most effective way to advance our priority legislation. For those who are not able to come to the Capitol, there will be an opportunity to meet with legislative offices virtually via Zoom on April 9, 2025. We understand that travel incurs a cost, and we appreciate you considering the in-person option.

Lobby Days are a wonderful opportunity to meet with legislative offices and advance bills to promote gender equity and improve the lives of women and girls. We hope that you will join us in this important activity to promote our values.

# **Observation of Public School Board Meetings for Examples of Civil Behavior**

Organization/ Meeting Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Location			Observer	Security Guard Present Yes No	
NA					
Audience: Assess the tenor of the meeting, audience					
Yes	No	NA	Interrupting while someone is speaking or listening		
Yes	No	NA	Shouting or yelling from the audience		
Yes	No	NA	Being recognized by Board before speaking		
Yes	No	NA	Engaging in negative personal attacks		
Yes	No	NA	Debating the policy not the person		
Yes	No	NA	Ignoring directions given by the meeting chair		
Yes	No	NA	Using intimidating body language such as standing or moving into the personal space of another		
Yes	No	NA	Treating others in a courteous manner in person, online, or in written communication		
Board: Assess the effectiveness of each Board Member					
Yes	No	NA	Provides opportunities for public input on agenda items		
Yes	No	NA	Shouting or yelling from the podium/dais		
Yes	No	NA	Resists efforts to find solutions or a course of action		
Yes	No	NA	Open to different perspectives		
Yes	No	NA	Allows ideas to be expressed, opposed or clarified		
Yes	No	NA	Provides unscheduled public appe When? Beginning Middle End	arance opportunities for input; if so of meeting	
Yes	No	NA	Treats others in courteous manner		
Yes	No	NA	Accepting of feedback		
Yes	No	NA	Board member appeared to not er	ngage in civil behavior: Name/s	
Board Chai			<b>.</b>		
Yes	No	NA	Provided oral or written behavior d	irections for public	
Yes	No	NA	Follows meeting protocols		
Yes	No	NA	Maintains control and order of the	5	
Yes	No	NA	Uses techniques to diffuse tense s		
Yes	No	NA	Ensures respectful participation by	/ all participants	
Yes	No	NA	Sets a welcoming tone		
General Comments and Conclusions					

# **GREETINGS TO OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!**









