

10th Annual Speech Trek Contest and February Branch Meeting Saturday 2/18/2017 by Liz Jordan



Southgate Library Community Room
6132 66th Avenue
9 a.m. to Noon

- February Branch Meeting and open to the public
- Members and public: please register on our website for free on Eventbrite

Please join the Speech Trek Committee of AAUW Sacramento in welcoming approximately ten students from the Elk Grove Unified School District to compete at the annual Speech Trek Contest developed by AAUW CA in 2006.

The Committee has given nine informational workshops in district high schools, and is now receiving applications and rough drafts from aspiring contestants in all nine schools. We look forward to hearing what these young people think about the issues surrounding the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which dates back to 1923 and was most recently part of the political life of the United States during late from 1978-1982. It has been proposed in each new Congress since it missed passage by three states in 1982. This year, however, there is renewed energy for its passage and these young students have been researching and writing about the possibilities of its passage.

- First Place \$500; Second Place \$250; Third Place \$100; 4th Place \$50
- All students are video-recorded
- Our winning speech is submitted to AAUW CA Speech Trek for the Semi-finals, which is judged by diverse judges viewing the speeches on You-Tube.
- AAUW CA invites the top three speakers to deliver their speeches at the Annual meeting where 1st Place wins \$1,500, 2nd Place wins \$1,000 and 3rd Place takes home \$500.

Speech Trek is a Mission-Based program that is part of our educational outreach efforts. For more information, please contact

- Shari Beck: gsbeck@surewest.net; 916.451.5143; Mob.916.806.0180
- Liz Jordan, lizjord@msn.com; 916.354.9608; Mob.916.768.7044
- Ann Arneill, ann@arneill-py.sacramento.ca.us, 916.737.0131

Thoughts on the Women’s March by Ruth Burgess



AAUW Sacramento Members Represent!

The weather was predicted to be rainy and overcast, but there was no rain nor overcast skies to dampen the joy and enthusiasm of the thousands of women and their families and friends marching from Southside Park to the west steps of the state capitol.

I didn’t know what to expect, but from the time we began at the light rail station when two women gave us free tickets because they had accidentally bought extra ones, to the fellow riders crammed into all the rail cars, there was a spirit of fun and optimism. There were people of all sizes, shapes, ages, gender and ethnic background joining together for the simple act of voicing their opinions. We met adolescent girls from Grass Valley whose aunt had knitted them their pink kitten hats to energetic seniors who had not marched before.

Despite the fact that there were thousands of people gathering in the park, I never heard a cross word heard about anything the whole day. When strollers or wheelchairs needed to be moved through the crowd, everyone politely stepped out of the way and provided a pathway for people to get to another area to meet friends. Along the route to the capitol, there were

people with signs standing on the sidewalks to offer their support. Chants and roars started up with one person or a group, and spread up the street in a mood that spoke of unity. We even had a juggling couple who provided entertainment along the way.

There were too many signs to capture all the clever thoughts, sayings and opinions, but for the most part, they were focused on the positive. They touched on every topic from belief in America’s kindness and generosity to issues of reproductive rights and human rights. Some that remain with me include: “Love Trumps Hate”, “Make America Kind Again” and “Long Live Ruth Bader Ginsberg.” There were women who proudly called themselves “Nasty Women”, along with groups who identified with the LGBT community and Latinas with signs in Spanish.

Following comments from a number of elected officials, it was the voice of a child that sticks with me. An eleven-year old girl named Kennedy received recognition from the national Women’s March committee as one of the youth honorees. Hearing this little girl put into the simplest of terms what the march was about was touching and inspiring. She said that from the time she was a little girl, her parents and teachers taught her to be kind to others and not say mean things to hurt other people’s feelings. It upset her to hear the things being said in the presidential election. She said she was determined to be the change that she wished to see in the future.

I came away from the march with a positive feeling about people not wanting to be complacent about the issues that affect the health and well-being of all people. This march was just the first step in continuing to voice the view that we hold values that are worth fighting to preserve.

Funds Updates by Donna Holmes and Marty McKnew

It is time to say Thank You to all members who donated to Funds in 2016. Additionally, we are especially grateful to Ruth Burgess and Nancy Lawrence for designing and implementing the past-presidents 5-year pledge to complete our 100th Anniversary R & P Grant. These 17 dedicated women donated in excess of \$13,000 in 2016! In alphabetical order:

Lisa Beauchamp	Marilyn Orrick
Paula Boghosian	Cherril Peabody
Jean Bonar	Gail Reed
Ruth Burgess	Mary Schneider
Jane Cooley	Hedda Smithson
Nancy Lawrence	Linda Whitney
Carolyn Martin	Mary Williams
Marty McKnew	Gloria Yost
Patricia Morgan	

In addition to these 17 ladies, many more members also donated to Funds in 2016 and we appreciate their support of all Funds programs. In alphabetical order:

Alice Bauer	Shari Beck	Rosa Lee Black
Susan Bordner	Dorothy Bracchi	Sandra Cavey
Carol Doughty	Jo Anne Fortson	Lori Franz
Cheryl Fuller	Charmen Goehring	Alice Hammel
Elizabeth Hendrickson	Donna Holmes	Loretta Hom
Marlys Huez	Elizabeth Jordan	Anne Just
Virginia Kidd	Andrea Klinenberg	Margaret Leonard
Inger Lindholm	Catherine Locke	May Ruth Lynch
Susan McLearn	Elaine Moody	Vicki Nicholson
Barbara Parker	Bonnie Penix	Diane Petersen
Joan Rhee	Anne Rhodes	Betty Riley
Marianne Rorden	Patricia Saltenberger	Sandi Schoenman
Shirley Sickert	Laraine Silberstein	Karen Smith
Linda Tinker	Linda Tinsman	Virginia Uchida
Elizabeth Varadan	Frances Vitulli	Ruth Werner
Shirley Wheeler	Patricia Winkle	Sandra Winter

This month we will also be selecting our Named Branch Gift Honorees. We have received some recommendations and are always pleased when we hear of someone we should consider. So many of you do so much and no one person (or two) knows them all, your input is appreciated. In December we honored our 2015 Honorees at the Holiday Party; here is their photo.



From left to right: Kathy Asay, Hedda Smithson, Gloria Yost & Marilyn Orrick.

Cheers and Hugs, Marty & Donna

Membership Matters by Shirley Wheeler and Pat Winkle

There are no new members to introduce this month. Here is some additional information about the fifteen new members that have joined this membership year. (7/1/16 to 6/30/17)

- Seven were referred to our branch by current branch members.
- Six were previous AAUW members in other locations.
- One used the internet to find out about us.
- One used LinkedIn.
- Ten are retired.
- Three work full time.
- Two work part time.

Remember, everyone is a member of the Membership Committee. Refer a friend today!

Thoughts on the Electoral College by Eileen Heaser

Eileen Heaser from our public policy committee has assembled some facts, history and thoughts from professors and

Sacramento Bee reporting on the Electoral College. As this recent election reminds us, this institution created in the 1700s has enormous influence on both our presidential elections and the makeup of the House.

While it is not unprecedented to have a president lose the popular vote—the most recent being George W. Bush losing the popular vote in 2000—it is uncommon. All previous presidents who have lost the popular vote are: John Quincy Adams to Andrew Jackson, Rutherford B. Hayes to Samuel J. Tilden, Benjamin Harrison to Grover Cleveland and George W. Bush to Al Gore.

“Slavery played a role as the Southern Delegates attending the 1787 Constitution convention thought the south would be outnumbered (from James Madison’s Notes). A 3/5th Compromise was devised that allowed states to count each slave as 3/5 a person, thus ensuring a south majority in presidential elections.” ~ *Sacramento Bee 11/11/16 1B*



The number of electoral votes is based on each state's congressional delegation. Each state has two senators. Rural states with less population get more influence. Equal representation in the Senate is the only provision in the Constitution that **cannot be** amended.

The 1920 census showed that more people lived in urban rather than rural areas. In 1790, 95% of the population was rural. The 2010 census indicate that the rural population was less than 20%.

"By the mid-20th century, no state approximated majority rule...America at the time had some of the most unequal representation in the world. A series of Supreme Court decisions established the standard that representation means, 'one person, one vote' " ~ *Sacramento Bee circa 11/21/16 1B*

By design our political institutions still have distinctly a pro-rural bias. "In the Senate, the least populous states are now more over-represented than ever before...equaling a Republican bias. States containing just 17% of the population can theoretically elect a Senate majority. The bias also shapes the House of Representatives." ~ *Professor F. Lee*

As the Sacramento Bee noted on December 16, 2016, "there have been more than 700 proposals to abolish the Electoral College."

Signing up for E-Scrip with Save Mart by Donna Holmes



If you used the Save Mart Shares card to generate money for our branch programs you know it is no more. In its place Save Mart contracted with e-Scrip, and e-Scrip does not issue cards. Instead you need to sign up online, registering a telephone number and then enter that number when checking out at Save Mart or FoodMaxx.

The steps for registering are:

1. Go to: <http://www.escrip.com>
2. On the screen that comes up click on the 'sign up' button, left side of the screen where it says 'Make a Difference'.
3. The next screen ("Sign Up. It's Free.") asks for your zip code, and once entered it asks you to create an account.
4. Enter your name, email address, telephone number and create a password for e-Scrip.
5. This screen you select your charity – type in: American Association University Women (no OF). The choice should pop-up with 1361 Vallejo Way address – click on that one.
- 6.
1. Now comes the screen where you enter the phone number you will use at check out.
2. You also have the option to enter the credit or debit card you use for shopping. This will give our branch money from other vendors such as some restaurants
7. Review your information and click 'sign up'.
8. You are done! I did not enter credit or debit cards so the screen gave me the option of adding them at this point, as well as other ways to use the site to generate more money for our branch.

Thank you for participating! Feel free to share this with everyone not just members.