

## Walk-to-Lunch Interest Group Coming to An End by Cherril Peabody



Our 2016-17 AAUW year is winding down, and I want to give a status report and start getting ideas for the next program year, which begins in July. I just learned that one of our popular interest groups is coming to an end: Walk to Lunch. They started off the year with 23 members and ended the last three months with two walkers. That's a shame, but it is evident that group members' interests and priorities have changed, and there is no sense continuing with so little participation. A big thank you is due to Susan Potter for her seven years of leading this group! Are there other groups that are having a hard time and may be feeling their time is up?

What about next year? I'd like to start planning now for some new groups. What about a political action group that meets to discuss current issues and to compose and send letters and postcards to political leaders advocating for issues of concern to women? Also, there were a couple other good ideas last year that maybe didn't receive enough publicity. One idea was for a group that would attend film screenings of the Metropolitan Opera together. Another was for a group that would play chamber music together. I know we have musicians and opera buffs among our members. Maybe you can think of a specific mission-based project that you think we could manage as an interest group. Please let me know ([capeabody@comcast.net](mailto:capeabody@comcast.net)) if you are interested in any of these ideas or if you have another one you think might be popular.

## Funds Update: Here are Our Named Branch Honorees by Donna Holmes and Marty McKnew

On Saturday, May 13, we had the opportunity to publicly recognize our Named Branch Gift Honorees. Three of these wonderful ladies have done and do so much for the branch but their names and accomplishments are not well known. The fourth honoree is known and vocal but no less deserving. Only two could make the meeting, but all were enthusiastically received. Thank you to our committee and members who submitted the following honorees:

### **Sharon Anderson – Membership Treasurer Extraordinaire**

Since the 2009-2010 branch year Sharon has processed our dues payments, sorted and notified all the other directors and chairs of monies donated in their areas, and published and maintained the membership directory. As Funds Directors, we have witnessed first-hand her excellent work. After she sends us a spreadsheet she upon request will also supply mailing and return address labels for our thank you letters. A branch member submitted Sharon's

nomination, and we were stunned to note she had not been previously recognized. Please keep reminding your Funds Directors of members who have gone the extra mile.

### **Jean Bonar – Past President and continuous branch supporter**

Jean supplied us with a perfect paragraph that we read at the meeting and is repeated here: “When I joined AAUW in 1973, I found it to be a place where I could learn, grow, and contribute to important issues, and it has been a strong presence in my life ever since that time. Even before I became involved, my mother was an active AAUW member. I can remember her enthusiasm about AAUW activities and her dedication to the various offices she held throughout the years, including the presidency of the Marin branch. Now, the establishment of a Research and Projects grant in the name of our branch is an exciting possibility, and I was energized when Nancy Lawrence and Ruth Burgess challenged us with this project at a Past President’s meeting. I am happy that I was able to contribute to the fund and help make this grant a reality.”

### **Nancy McCabe – President 2015 – 2017**

Nancy was possibly the least senior member to step up to leading our branch and do such a fine job. Nancy was asked to be President-Elect during Cherril Peabody’s presidency and then continued as president for two years, a three-year commitment! During a time when it has been so hard to find members willing to join the board at all, this was truly wonderful. Additionally, Nancy leapt in to take a very active role in moving our branch to collaborate with others and introduce Sacramento, once again, to our presence and mission. One example is our participation in Take Back the Night, with Nancy downtown heading our table and marching. Another is revising our Mission Statement to more clearly and concisely reflect the branch. Thank you, Nancy; you are a hard act to follow!

### **Angela Scarlett – Communications Director, Happy Hour Coordinator, Newsletter Team, Webmaster, Facebook, Twitter and Eventbrite, plus she works full-time!**

Angela is amazing! Another member put her name forward and, once again, Marty and I smacked our heads! Besides all she does, like Sharon, she is often invisible to our members except for the results. She has taught and tutored many of us on computers. For example, thanks to Angela I know how to update our website — no simple task. Angela was instrumental in working with the AAUW National web team in our current website’s development, and her work has saved the branch considerable amounts of money. She willingly finds time to work with others to improve branch communication, including standardizing e-blasts, use of Survey Monkey, and simplifying production of the newsletter. An example on the newsletter is that all information had to be into our previous newsletter editor by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month. Now our deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> with the ability to make changes until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This allows the newsletter to have far more timely content. We cannot thank Angela enough!

## Recapping Our 2016-17 Year and May's Branch Meeting by Donna Holmes

WOW, what a great branch year, and our May meeting provided a great recap!

Nancy McCabe announced that for the second year in a row our branch won state recognition for programs. The winning program was To Engineer is Human, put on by Linda Patterson and the Tech Trek committee and featuring our very own water engineer Anne Lynch.



Next, Nancy introduced Morgan Glover, incoming Tech Trek co-chair and currently with the California State University, Sacramento, Branch, to share with us an award from CSUS for the Start Smart program held on campus in April. Our branch supported this financially and with member participation. The award is Outstanding Civic Engagement Program/Event, and only one is given per school year.

Kathy Le, our Speech Trek Winner, presented "Is it time to pass the ERA." This is the second year she has competed, and this year she won for our branch and came in 5<sup>th</sup> place statewide!

Following up on the ERA speech, Liz Jordan gave us a wonderful and educational history of the Equal Rights Amendment and its status.

Then Pat Winkle and Shirley Wheeler, Membership Co-Directors, recognized Sandi Schoenman on achieving 50 years of membership. When Sandi joined, she was part of the recent grads group, and the branch had 1,200 members! She has been in the same book group for 45 years, served as Program Director and works with Bite of Reality, just to name some of her activities.

Donna Holmes and Marty McKnew, Funds Co-Directors, introduced the 2016 Named Branch Gift Honorees. The honorees are Sharon Anderson, Jean Bonar, Nancy McCabe and Angela Scarlett. Their stories are featured in the Funds article.

Finally, Alicia Hetman, Past President of California AAUW, installed the officers for the 2017-2018 branch year.

Presidents – Donna Holmes and Marty McKnew, Program Directors – Nancy McCabe and Deborah Dunn, Membership Directors – Linda Patterson and Sharon Norris, AAUW Fund Directors – Bonnie Penix and Kathy Asay, Finance Director – May Ruth Lynch, Secretary – Tiffany Ardisana and Nominating Committee: Shari Beck, Barbara Smith and Ruth Werner

Thank you to Nancy McCabe, Pat Winkle, Inger Lindstrom, Liz Jordan, Ruth Ann Hines, Molly Dugan and everyone who put this meeting together!

## Membership Matters by Shirley Wheeler and Pat Winkle

Please join us in welcoming our newest member:

**DIANE PREECE** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of the Pacific and a Master of Science degree in Secondary Education from the University of Southern California. She also has a Library Certification for schools. Diane is a retired high school teacher and school librarian. She is a previous AAUW member from Reno and lives in Sacramento.

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

## Rotary Club of Sacramento Supports Tech Trek by Linda Patterson



We are pleased to report that the Rotary Club of Sacramento Foundation made a \$3,600 award to the AAUW Sacramento Branch for the Tech Trek program. Although the Branch asked for \$1,800, the Rotary Club grants committee was so impressed with the Tech Trek program that they voluntarily doubled the amount. We are delighted with this generous gift and want to acknowledge a gift of \$300 from Owen, McGinty & Reinken, CPAs and the numerous contributions of our

members to support the Tech Trek program.

These gifts have made it possible for the Branch to send Anh Dang, Erika Carrasco, Teresa Lay, Mimi Young, Delaney Royer, and Raelynn Esguerra from Mitchell Middle School in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District and Will C. Wood Middle School in the Sacramento Unified School District to the Tech Trek summer camp at UC Davis scheduled for July 23-29. Four of the campers selected appear in the photo accompanying this article.

Many thanks to the members of our Tech Trek committee: Jo Reinken, Morgan Glover, Lori Franz, Monique Stovall, Jacqueline Rose, Ashley Gilreath, Tiffany Ardisana, Gloria Yost, Ruth Ann Hines and Linda Patterson. Tech Trek would not be possible if not for their efforts to recruit schools, raise funds, select and orient campers, announce progress on social media and communicate with National and State AAUW Tech Trek as well as the UC Davis camp directors to ensure our Branch continues to send young girls interested in studying science and math to this important program.