



TRI CITY DISPATCH

Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach

October 2025

October General Meeting Program Introducing New Members to Our Branch Tech Trek Students Panel Discussion

We encourage everyone to bring a friend to our October meeting. We will be telling about AAUW as a national and state organization and introducing the focus and unique interest groups of our local branch. Guests will be treated to lunch and, those who join at the meeting, will receive half off the national dues.

One of our special projects is the sponsorship of middle school students to the Tech Trek summer program. Each year our branch sponsors as many as six students for this amazing opportunity. Our Westminster Branch sent three girls this summer to Whittier College. Sofi Dam, Xiara Alvarez, and Eymar Yazgae will be participating in a panel discussion at the October meeting talking about their experiences at Tech Trek. You'll hear about the exciting science projects as well as how they enjoyed making new friends and living the dorm life.

Tech Trek is an AAUW sponsored STEM enrichment program that started at Stanford University in 1998 as a weeklong summer camp. It offers girls entering 8th grade a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the world of science, technology, engineering, and math, and possibly imagine a future for themselves in the field. The students spend the entire week living in the dorms on a college campus and participating in hands-on science lessons.



General Meeting

**Saturday,
October 18, 2025**

Center for Spiritual Living

7641 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach

Social

10:00-10:15 a.m.

Tech Trek speakers:

Business Meeting

Box Lunch

1:015 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

\$25.00 payment due by October 8

Mail check to: AAUW: WM-FV-HB
c/o Kathi Rand
306 Coral Reef #53
Huntington Beach, 92648

NEW! ** OR **

Pay by Zelle:
aauw.wmfvhb@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles must be in by

October 16

Send to Cheryl Kelly

cherylkelly48@gmail.com

*I'm new at this and would greatly
appreciate your timely submissions!*

October President's Message

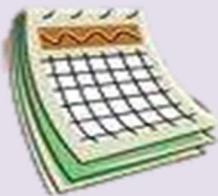
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

The calendar says it is Fall but in Southern California we have a tendency to have lingering summer weather. Many of you may be from other areas of the country and have seen thousands of trees turn brilliant colors; here we get excited if we see one or two turn the colors of autumn!

Lisa and I, and several other members, are continuing to encourage new membership and are investigating new, extended ideas on fundraising. Meanwhile, we invite your friends to attend our events to experience our thrust toward equality for women and girls, especially in the technology field.

We welcome you to our next meeting when you will meet our wonderful Tech Trek girls from this summer. They will be asked a few questions about their lives and their experiences at Whittier College. They are always a delight. Lisa had the pleasure of attending the full week of Tech Trek again and is looking forward to sharing this years' experience.

Janet Riness and Lisa Swanson



October

- 2 Happy Hikers 10:00 am
- 6 Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 14 Quest 10:00 am
- 15 Travel Group 3:00 pm
- 18 General Meeting 10:00 am
- 27 Book Review 6:45 pm

November

- 13 Quest
- 15 General Meeting

Membership Matters

Our October meeting is specifically designed to introduce AAUW to prospective members, so reach out to those around you who might be interested. Let us know you are bringing a guest – they will receive a free lunch!

We'll talk about the national and state organizations of AAUW as well as the interest groups and philanthropic interests of our local branch. AND we will hear from this year's Tech Trek camp attendees – our mission in action!

Women who sign up at the meeting will get a 50% reduction in national dues.

National AAUW dues (less 50%)	\$37.00
California AAUW dues	\$30.00
WM-FV-HB Branch dues	\$18.00
TOTAL	\$85.00

Thank You from our Tech Trek Students

Thank You Westminster

Hello, my name is Xiara Alvarez. Thank you Westminster for having sponsored my attendance at AAUW Tech Trek stem camp on the 15th to the 21st. I was in seventh grade at Warner Middle School in Westminster. At camp I was very excited to learn about anatomy. I was inspired by my JC Sam since she was fun. Tech has made me more aware of different body parts. My Tech Trek experience has inspired me to study animal anatomy so that I can become a veterinarian. Thank you for having given me this unique experience and opportunity. Sincerely, Xiara Alvarez

Dear AAUW Westminster

Thank you so much for this opportunity to go to Tech Trek. I've enjoyed my time at camp and made many new friends. I learned lots of new things. From dissecting a cow eye, touching a sheep brain, to making a Goldberg machine with friends. I really enjoyed all guest speakers that told us about their careers in stem, which inspired me a lot. I am truly grateful for you sending me! Sincerely, Sofi Dam from Warner Middle School

Dear Westminster AAUW Branch,

I would like to thank you guys for this awesome Tech Trek camp. This was such an experience not many people could have. I appreciate you guys for all that you've done and paid off for. A few things I loved this week were the cadaver lab we went to as a field trip, my neuroscience core class, and finally, the scavenger hunt. After all, everything was truly great and I feel so honored! Thanks. Eymar Yazgar

Finance Officer's Report

August General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$20,011.52
Ending Balance	\$20,111.52

August Fund Account

Beginning Balance	\$15,190.80
Ending Balance	\$15,165.80

BRANCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Membership inquiries and new member
sandraquerero@me.com

Update member contact information
ralphkaj@aol.com

Programs

carolkanode@me.com

Newsletter submissions:

cherylkelly48@gmail.com



On September 8, our Board met with Sigrid Moranz (in green), Leader on Loan from AAUW CA. Sigrid provided a wealth of information for Membership Engagement and available resources.

L to R: Eleanor Demler, Donna Kratter, Ann Kajdasz, Sandi Guerrero, Phyllis Sakioka, Janet Riness, Lisa Swanson (kneeling), Cheryl Kelly, Kathi Rand (standing), Sigrid Moranz.

INTEREST GROUPS

QUEST

GOLDENWEST COLLEGE TOUR OCTOBER 14, 2025 - 10:00am

We will be having a guided tour of Goldenwest College and its new science and mathematics center. Jennifer Mower, the Director for College Foundation & Community Relations, has kindly arranged for us to visit the buildings and have lunch afterward in the college café.

We will meet at 9:45am on the Quad in front of the Student Services Center. The tour starts at 10:00am. Jennifer will arrange parking passes for our group.

Please let me know if you will be attending and if you are staying for lunch at ralphkaj@aol.com. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our ties to Goldenwest and see the facilities our scholarship winners are enjoying. So please join us for an informative and interesting tour and a delicious lunch!

Ann Kajdasz

SAVE THE DATE:

**November 13
Quest to Heritage Museum**

Private tour of the Heritage Museum of Orange County Historic Kellogg House

Watch for more information!

SAVE THE DATE:

**December 5 – 10:00 a.m.
Museum of the Republic of
Vietnam**

10561 Gardent Grove Blvd., Garden Grove

The curator will lead a tour, including material and artifacts that relate to women in the history of the Republic of Vietnam during the Saigon Diaspora.

Lunch following at a Vietnamese restaurant TBD nearby.

INTEREST GROUPS

TRAVEL GROUP

Date: October 15th

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Rita Collins

16872 Phelps Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
Phone: 714 840.3642 H

Or 714 310.1036 cell

Email: ritarisk@aol.com

Come join us for information on traveling near and far!

It is fun to see everyone and share travel tips.

All AAUW members are invited.

On September 17th we planned our activities for the year.

OCTOBER BOOK REVIEW

October 27, 2025

6:45 pm Social

7:00 pm Meeting

The book for October is
The Dictionary of Lost Words
by Pip Williams

Hostess: Barbara Smith
7352 Emerson
Westminster

Let Barbara know what you are bringing

Leader: TBD

RSVP to Barbara by
Saturday, October 25, 2025
714-897-9013 or basmith10@verizon.net

HAPPY HIKERS

October 2, 2025 Crystal Cove State Park 10:00am

Hi all - since I had to cancel the September hike, we will be trying Crystal Cove again in October. We will be exploring the tide pools and renovated cottages on this lovely beach walk. We will meet at 10:00am in the parking lot at Los Trancos off Pacific Coast Highway. There is a charge for parking so you may want to carpool. Afterwards, we will have lunch at the Beachcomber Café. Please let me know if you are coming and if you need a ride at ralphkaj@aol.com. See you there!

Ann Kajdasz



Norma Mendoza of CASA OC shared at our September meeting how CASA volunteers provide a vital link between children in care, social workers, and the justice system.



PUBLIC POLICY

Investing in Our Democratic Future: Non-Partisan Voter Education Around Proposition 50 in California

By Sue Miller, Member AAUW California Public Policy Committee

We are currently seeing and experiencing creeping authoritarian efforts to undermine fair representation, trusted information, and democratic norms in our country. This unprecedented condition, paired with overwhelming federal encroachment, presents a significant threat to many of the things that we care about, including AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls: although California continues to maintain strong protections for women and girls, marginalized peoples, free speech, accurate history, sound science, and democratic norms, we are still subject to the laws, rules, and enforcement actions of the federal government. As such, as part of this year's GOTV campaign, AAUW California will be taking a proactive position on Proposition 50.

The approval of [Proposition 50](#) by California voters in November 2025 will approve redistricting efforts in California for the next election cycles (until maps are redrawn after the next census in 2030). With the passage of Proposition 50, we will experience a short-term loss of state democratic and people-centered control of an important aspect of democracy: redistricting. This effort will also seemingly have partisan benefits.

However, a short term loss of people-centered redistricting can also be seen as an investment in a democratic future in the long term, one in which we can have more, not less, of the will of the people recognized - all of the people, regardless of who they are. Furthermore, partisanship may be seen as a reductive label when the choice has become one of supporting authoritarianism or preserving functional democracy.

Redistricting should be in the hands of the people. Gender equity should be a consistent priority so that the dreams of a pluralistic democracy are one step closer to being realized. None of this is possible if our state is operating in a federal system in which democracy is no longer functional, listing instead toward an authoritarian system that puts troops in our streets, that censors our speech, that erases historical facts, that does not rely on sound science in decision-making, that directly endangers the wellbeing of women and girls, and that dehumanizes important and valued members of our communities.

Our goal in this campaign is to provide reliable information as a trusted resource to voters in California, and the wider public, about the potential ramifications and potential benefits of Proposition 50's passage and dispel misinformation about partisanship and redistricting in this political moment. We will also encourage and assist voters to go to the polls for this special election to vote as individuals on whether the proposed redistricting should be approved. Providing this encouragement to get out and vote and information about Proposition 50, including about potential benefits, is acting in alignment with our mission and our nonpartisan commitments, as we are advancing a pro-democracy message: we seek to support any and all efforts to preserve and advance democracy and our public policy priorities in the face of a growing authoritarian threat.

Let's all join in working together to advance our public policy priorities in moving California forward.



Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach, CA

NEW FALL FUNDRAISER ! DON'T MISS THIS

When was the last time you got something worth \$800.00 for a mere \$30.00 ? Well, that's exactly what you'll get with this raffle: An entire week at a vacation home of your choice with an \$800.00 value, for the cost of a \$30.00 raffle ticket!

The winner can use the week or give it to family or friend as a great holiday gift. You even get to choose any week you want in 2026. The more tickets you buy, the greater your chances, but even one ticket can win! (If we sell enough tickets, we might even hold two drawings!)

This is a win-win for everyone, because since there is zero overhead, every penny will go directly to our own branch's local Scholarship and Tech Trek funds equally.

It's so easy - just follow these steps:

1. Read the two vacation house descriptions below;
2. Fill out the form attached, stating how many tickets you want for each house;
3. Write a check to our AAUW Branch, totaling \$30.00 per ticket;
4. Mail form and check to Kathi Rand at 306 Coral Reef Dr., #53, HB 92648, before November 1.

The big drawing will be held at our regular November general meeting on Saturday, November 15. We'll contact you if you win, but aren't at the meeting. Let's make this fundraiser a big success. In fact, this is going to be so fun and easy, we might call it the Annual Fall Fun-raiser. Send any questions to the Fundraising Committee, by texting (714) 715-9789.

Home #1

Cozy Mountain Cabin
2 brm, 1 bath, 600 sq ft 3 twin beds upstairs;
1 double, 1 queen downstairs
Large deck with stunning woods & lake views
Large yard with 6 ft fence
Kitchen: All amenities, but no laundry
Lodge-style decor
Parking
6 Steps up from car to front door
Lake is 7 min walk away, or 1 min drive
Swimming, rowboats, peddle-boats
Many flat hiking trails
Small dogs welcome
Small town (looks like Knotts)
2 Restaurants, live music
Elevation: 7,000 ft
Location: Green Valley Lake (near Arrowhead)
1 hr, 20 min drive from HB
(Member-owned)

Home #2

Desert Mod Condo
Stunning mountain views from every window
1 brm, 1 bath, 600 sq ft
1 queen bedroom, single futon livingroom
All ground floor, no stairs
Kitchen: Brand new, all amenities, Laundry steps away
Huge pool 1 minute walk & meticulously clean
Grounds beautifully manicured
Quiet, peaceful
Mid-Mod decor, very cheerful
Large patio
Parking
Small dog welcome
Many flat hiking trails; world famous wildflowers
Small town, 5 restaurants, 2 museums
Designated dark sky community, zillions of stars
Location: Borrego Springs (head inland from
Oceanside)
3 hr drive from HB
(Member-owned)



RAFFLE FORM

STEP 1:

Print this form and write your name and number here. (If you can't print it, please text or call (714) 715-9789, and we will mail you one right away.)

Print your name

Phone

STEP 2:

Choose the vacation home(s) and fill in number of raffle tickets you want.



Number of tickets for cozy cabin _____

Number of tickets for desert condo _____

STEP 3:

Write your check totaling \$30.00 per ticket, payable to our AAUW branch. (All proceeds go only to our local Tech Trek and Scholarship Funds.)

STEP 4:

Mail check with this form before end of October to: Kathi Rand, 306 Coral Reef Dr., #53, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

STEP 5:

Find out if you're a winner at the November 15 general meeting! We'll call you with the good news, if you can't attend the meeting

(Restrictions: All minors on either property must be accompanied by a responsible adult, 30 years or older, including during pool and lake usage. Both properties are covered by homeowner's insurance. AAUW is held harmless. A small refundable security deposit will be required before use of these properties. Both homes are member-owned. You may change your chosen usage dates at any time, by contacting owner. This will not be a problem.)

Signature _____ Date _____

I agree to the terms stated above.



Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach, CA

QUEST 2025-2026

September 4	Bowers Museum Terra Cotta Warriors docent tour, breakfast preceding This is a Thursday Quest Leaders: Connie Nelson and Maxine Boyett
October 14	Golden West College tour – Stem Cell lab 10:00 Lunch at College cafe This is a Tuesday Quest Leaders: Ann Kajdasz and Gayle Douglas
November 13	Heritage House 1:00 Leaders: Kathi Rand and Linda MacDonell
December 5	Vietnamese Museum This is a Friday Quest Terri Elder and Janet Riness
January TBD	Christ Cathedral Leader: Linda MacDonell
February 12	Los Angeles Arboretum – Arcadia This is a Thursday Quest Leaders: Kathi Rand and Linda MacDonell
March 14	Goat Hill Train ride and tour This is a Saturday Quest Leaders: Beth Callaghan and Dicksie Kerns
April 18	Author's Luncheon
May 2	Mary Lou Heard Garden Tour Lunch at Woody's This is a Saturday Quest Leader: Barbara Islas
June	TBD

Quest Coordinators: Janet Riness and Barbara Islas

Members will be looking into some of these other possibilities:
Irvine Park Zoo – docent with their rescue program
OCC Planetarium – Sue McDannel
LA County Library
Old OC Courthouse – Barbara Islas

In principle and 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, or disability.

The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW is California's most active and diverse organization for women offering action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership and friendship.

Co-Presidents: Lisa Swanson & Janet Riness

Membership Co-VPs: Sandi Guerrero & Cheryl Kelly

Programs Co-VPs: Phyllis Sakioka & Carol Kanode

Fund Co-VPs: Donna Kratter & Ann Kajdasz

Treasurer: Kathi Rand

Membership Treasurer: Jeanne Smith

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Kelly

Address Correction Requested

American Association of University Women

Tri-City Dispatch

1431 Pelham Road #65K

Seal Beach, CA 90740