



# TRI CITY DISPATCH

Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach  
September 2025

## **CASA ORANGE COUNTY: A VOICE FOR FOSTER YOUTH**

On September 20 our guest speaker will be Norma Mendoza. Norma started her time at CASA as an intern under the Recruitment Team in 2019. Upon graduating from Chapman University in 2020, she was brought on staff as the Volunteer Recruitment Associate. In 2021, she became the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator and the Lead for CASA OC's Diversity Committee. Norma then moved into the Diversity Recruitment Coordinator role in 2022, bringing with her an awareness of the need for youth in foster care to feel a sense of belonging. Today, Norma is the Volunteer Recruitment Manager at CASA OC.

Founded in 1985 by the Junior League of Orange County, CASA OC (Court Appointed Special Advocates of Orange County) is a privately funded nonprofit and proud member of the National CASA/GAL Association. Its mission is to provide "a powerful voice and meaningful connection" for children who've experienced abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Since inception, CASA OC has trained over 4,000 volunteers who've devoted more than 1.8 million hours supporting more than 9,000 foster youth.

More than 2,900 children and youth in Orange County are under dependency court jurisdiction at any given time, and there are currently around 194 kids on CASA's waitlist awaiting volunteer advocates. CASA volunteers focus on ensuring each child's best interests are represented—whether in school, health, or placement decisions.

CASA volunteers gather critical information, visit youth twice monthly, interface with courts and care teams, and make treatment recommendations. Outcomes for youth engaged with CASA are strong: in fiscal 2022, 92% graduated high school or received equivalent credentials; 71% improved behavior at home; 76% showed increased future motivation.

## **General Meeting**

**September 20, 2025**

**Center for Spiritual Living  
7641 Talbert Avenue  
Huntington Beach**

### **Social**

**10:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

### **Presentation**

**10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

### **Followed by**

**Business Meeting and Lunch**

### **Menu:**

**Turkey/avocado sandwich,  
salad, fruit cup, cookie,  
beverage**

**Vegetarian option by request**

**\$25.00 check due by  
September 14**

**AAUW: WM-FV-HB**

**c/o Kathi Rand**

**306 Coral Reef Dr. #53  
Huntington Beach, 92648**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 4 Quest 10:30 a.m.
- 8 Board Meeting 5 p.m.
- 9 Happy Hikers 10 a.m.
- 17 Travel Group 3 p.m.
- 20 General Meeting 10 a.m.
- 25 Book Review 7:15 p.m.
- 26 Music & Dance 7:30 p.m.

### October

- 6 Board Meeting 7 p.m.
- 14 Quest
- 18 General Meeting

## BOARD MEETING

*The board consists of all officers and committee chairs. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend.*  
The August 2025 Board of Directors meeting was held on ZOOM.

Finance Officer's Report

### July General Fund

Beginning Balance \$ 19,613.52

Ending Balance \$ 20,011.52

### July Fund Account

Beginning Balance \$ 15,190.80

Ending Balance \$ 15,190.80

**Website:** [wm-fv-aauw@weebly.com](http://wm-fv-aauw@weebly.com)

## BRANCH EMAIL ADDRESSES

**Membership inquiries and new members**  
[sandraguerrero@me.com](mailto:sandraguerrero@me.com)

**Update member contact information**  
[ralphkaj@aol.com](mailto:ralphkaj@aol.com)

**Programs**  
[carolkanode@me.com](mailto:carolkanode@me.com)

**Website problems, comments, corrections**  
[jenjimmyrick@gmail.com](mailto:jenjimmyrick@gmail.com)

**Click on the above links to email**

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles must be in no later than  
October 10, noon.

Send to Jeanne Smith  
[dandjsmith@earthlink.net](mailto:dandjsmith@earthlink.net)



**Presidents' Message**

**"Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures"  
Henry David Thoreau**

**Dear Members,**

**Lisa and I are your new co-presidents and we welcome you all to this brand new year of AAUW. The board members are revved up with exciting and informative speakers, the interest groups are ready with golf, new books to read and review, and Quest has field trips for everyone to enjoy.**

**We will be hearing from the three young girls who experienced Tech Trek this summer in a panel discussion format. They will be sharing the activities they participated in and what they learned. These girls are always a delight.**

**Besides our fundraisers to finance the Tech Trek girls, we enjoy our social time at meetings and groups. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, September 20 with a speaker from CASA. We encourage you to bring a friend who could be a new member for our branch. We welcome new members as we continue to grow.**

**Sincerely,**

**Janet Riness and Lisa Swanson, co-presidents**

**NEW DIRECTORIES**

**The new AAUW membership directories for 2025-2026 will be coming out in September. They will be available online, but I will also have a limited number of copies to hand out at the September luncheon. Please check over your entries from last year's directory to see if I need to make any corrections or additions. You can e-mail me at [ralphkaj@aol.com](mailto:ralphkaj@aol.com) for any changes. Many thanks, Ann Kajdasz**



### QUEST

Thursday, September 4 10:30 a.m.

Bowers Museum

Join us for a visit to Bowers Museum. We will see the exhibit titled "World of Terracotta Warriors: New Archeological Discoveries in Shaanxi in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". Our visit will be docent led and features 110 newly found treasures, which are making their North American debut at the Bowers.

Since our tour is in the afternoon, we will be meeting at the nearby Polly's for lunch/brunch at 10:30 a.m. More particulars are to follow. We will know the exact cost when we know how many people will be attending.

If you would like to attend, please contact Maxine Boyett or Connie Nelson.

Maxine Boyett, 714-546-5839, [butsynjim@aol.com](mailto:butsynjim@aol.com)

Connie Nelson, 714-540-4902,  
[contnel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:contnel@sbcglobal.net)

### BOOK REVIEW

September 25

The book for September is

This is Happiness

by Niall Williams

Hostess: Barbara Smith

Co-Hostess: Contact Barbara with what you are bringing

Leader: Terri Elders

7:15 Social

7:30 Meeting

7352 Emerson

Westminster

RSVP to Barbara by Saturday,  
September 20

714-897-9013 or [basmith10@verizon.net](mailto:basmith10@verizon.net)

Looking ahead: The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

### Music & Dance/Theater

ANNIE at the intimate Rose Theater in Westminster Friday, September 26 7:30 p.m.

Bursting with heart, humor, and unforgettable melodies, Annie returns to the stage in a fresh and uplifting new production at the Rose Center Theater. This beloved Broadway classic is the perfect night out for families.

RSVP to Barbara Smith by Friday Sept 12 if you would like to attend.  
[basmith10@verizon.net](mailto:basmith10@verizon.net)

Tickets \$25 including extra fee



**HAPPY HIKERS**

**September 9                      10:00 a.m.  
Cove State Park**

After our summer break, we will be exploring the tide pools and renovated cottages in Crystal Cove. Note the date change as Quest has a tour the first Thursday of the month. We will meet in the parking lot at Los Trancos at 10 a.m. and afterward have lunch in the Beachcomber Café. Please let me know if you are coming and if you need a ride at [ralphkaj@aol.com](mailto:ralphkaj@aol.com). See you there! Ann

**Travel Group Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 17 3 p.m.**

**Linda Mac Donell  
19255 Seabrook Lane  
Huntington Beach,  
714-969-6719**

**We will gather for travel information  
and to brainstorm fun themed  
meetings for the 2025-26 year.**

**I hope members new and old will join  
us.**

**Rita Collins, 714-840-3642**

**HAPPY HIKERS**

**The Happy Hikers meet the first Thursday  
morning of each month. The hikes average  
4 miles and are of easy to moderate  
difficulty. I describe the current hike in  
the newsletter so people can determine if  
they want to come. Please feel free to  
contact me if you are interested. We  
always welcome new members!**

**[ralphkaj@aol.com](mailto:ralphkaj@aol.com)    Ann Kajdasz**

**QUEST SAVE THE DATE**

**Put it on your calendar for Tuesday, October  
14 we will be touring the Golden West new  
STEM building at 10 a.m.**

**Afterwards we will have lunch in the school  
café.**

**More information to come!**



### **SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU NOTES**

Scholarship Committee would like to share with you the following Thank You Notes received from three of our well-deserving 2025 scholarship recipients:

**Hello AAUW!**

**I am happy to hear from you! Forgive me for the delayed response, but I would love to share my gratitude and plans with you! My name is Samantha, but everyone calls me Sam, and students at work call me Ms. Sam. I am a part-time Instructional Assistant in a local school district, and will be a full-time student at CSULB this fall. I am a Liberal Studies for Elementary Education major, and hope to become a third grade teacher, which has always been my dream. I will use the funds to cover tuition and textbook costs at school. This type of support means a lot to me because one of the barriers I have struggled with the most in higher education is the cost. Next year, one way I am working toward completing my degree is working more hours to cover the costs. Your scholarship is not only going to help me to pay for school, but it will also help me to succeed as it removes some stress from my shoulders. Thank you so much for your contribution to my success!**

**Sincerely, Samantha Sarmiento**

**Dear Eleanor and AAUW:**

**My name is Quynhvy Hoang, and I was one of the recipients of the AAUW scholarships. I want to thank you for selecting me as a recipient for the award. I am truly grateful for your support. It was a pleasure meeting you all at the awards ceremony. I enjoyed learning about the club, and the impactful things you guys have done to support students who are aiming for higher education. I am a nursing student who recently graduated from GWC with an associate's degree in nursing. I am continuing my education this upcoming fall to complete my bachelor's degree. This scholarship will play a significant role in helping me to pursue my educational goals. I plan to use this fund to help pay for school and necessary supplies such as scrubs and textbooks. Thank you again for your generosity and support!**

**Sincerely, Quynhvy Hoang**

**Hello AAUW Club!**

**I hope you are doing well! I would like to express my appreciation to AAUW, as a scholarship recipient. This scholarship will help me tremendously as I embark on my nursing career as I prepare to take the NCLEX. I have now enrolled in a bridge program to obtain my BSN. Pursuing higher education has always been a dream of mine and will make me a more well-rounded and capable nurse. I am so incredibly grateful for the support and hope to be able to one day provide a future student the same opportunity that AAUW has given me!**

**Best, Jessica Vu**



### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**Welcome back everyone! As we begin a new year of exciting opportunities, we want to welcome our 76 members who have committed to support our national, state, and local branch of AAUW. At our October 18 meeting, we will be celebrating new and prospective members and introducing the chairs of our various interest groups. In addition, we will be as usual hearing from our students who experienced TechTrek this summer. This is a great way to showcase our amazing organization, so plan now to bring a friend who may be interested in becoming a member of our branch. Invitations to distribute to your friends will be available at our September meeting. Let's all support this effort in bringing a potential member or two to this meeting. Please contact Sandi or Cheryl for any questions regarding this reach out activity.**

**Sandi Guerrero and Cheryl Kelly co- Vice Presidents Membership**

### **Draft 2025-2026 Schedule**

**Sept 20 Court Appointed Special Advocate CASA**

**Oct 18 Tech Trek speakers and Membership Event (Invite Prospective Members, icebreaker activity)**

**Nov 15 Huntington Beach Symphony Orchestra discussion and holiday charitable giving**

**Dec off Enjoy the Holidays**

**Jan 17 Lisa Swanson My Path Towards Environmental Activism**

**Feb 21 History of the Huntington Beach Library**

**March 21 TBD AI, AAUW Fund Grant Recipient, Bolsa Chica Wetlands, or HB Art Center**

**April 18 Annual Authors Luncheon Fundraiser**

**May 16 Officer Installation and presentation by the young women who donate flowers for our meetings**



# Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach, CA

## AAUW-WM-FV-HB BUDGET 2025-2026

### General Branch Account Income

10-GW Scholarship	
20-Membership Dues - Branch - \$18	\$ 1,134.00
21-Membership Dues - CA - \$30	\$ 1,890.00
22-Membership Dues - Nat'l - \$74	\$ 4,788.00
25-New Member Lunch	
30-Program Meals	\$ 6,000.00
40-Newsletter Mailed - \$20/person	\$ 40.00
50-Misc. Income	\$ -
70-Dollar Power (all for GWC)	
95-Fundraiser/General	
80-Book Resale	\$ -
9000-General Account Reserve	
Total Income	\$ 13,852.00

### Fundraising Account Income

1000-Author's Luncheon	\$ 8,500.00
1020-Member Donation EOF	\$ -
1030-Silent Auction	\$ 2,200.00
1060-Bridge Opport. Drawing	\$ 800.00
1065-Centerpiece Drawing	\$ 300.00
1066-Jewelry	
1090-Dollar Power TT	\$ 400.00
3030-Donations TT	\$ 500.00
3040-Polly's Pies	
3060-TT Families	
9100- Funds Account Reserve	
Total Income	\$ 12,700.00

600-Board Expense	\$ 100.00
610-Convention-State	
620-Convention Nat'l	
630-Leader Training	
640-Directory Costs	
650-Newsletter	\$ 40.00
660-GW Scholarship	
670-HB Coord. Council	
680-Insurance	\$ 500.00
690-Interbranch	
700-Member Recruit. Lunch	\$ 274.00
705 Memb. Orient/Supplies	\$ 200.00
710-Member Dues-CA	\$ 1,890.00
720-Member Dues-Nat'l	\$ 4,788.00
730-President's Pin	\$ 60.00
740-Prog.Honor/Supplies	\$ -
750-Program Meals	\$ 6,000.00
755-Program Meals Deposit	\$ -
760-Sunshine/Historian	\$ -
780-Website Domain	\$ -
800-Miscellaneous	\$ -
820-Taxes	\$ -
840-Public Policy	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 13,852.00

2000-Annual Contrib.-Greatest Need	\$ -
2010-Author's Lunch Food	\$ 4,450.00
2015-Author's Lunch Deposit	\$ 500.00
2030-Author's Lunch Exp.	\$ 495.00
2040-Author's Lunch -LAF	\$ -
2045-CA Atty General Fee (Raffle Reg)	\$ 55.00
2060-EOF Luncheon	
2065-EOF Speaker Exp	
2050-CA Fund Assessment	
2070-Misc Expense	
2090-TT Scholarship	\$ 5,000.00
2091-GWC Scholarship	\$ 2,200.00
4040-Polly's Pie Exp.	\$ -
9100-Funds Account	\$ -
Total Expense	\$ 12,700.00

The budget was approved August 4 at the board meeting.





**Westminster-Fountain Valley-Huntington Beach, CA**

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: Janet Riness & Lisa Swanson  
Membership Co-VPs: Sandi Guerrero & Cheryl Kelly  
Programs Co-VPs: Phyllis Sakioka & Carol Kanode  
Fund Co-VP's: Donna Kratter & Ann Kajdasz  
Treasurer: Kathi Rand  
Membership Treasurer: Jeanne Smith  
Newsletter Editor: Jeanne Smith  
Communications: Manager Jennifer Solano  
Web Master: Jennifer Solano  
Facebook Site Manager: Jennifer Solano

Address Correction Requested

American Association of University Women  
Tri-City Dispatch  
19191 Harvard Ave Apt 330A  
Irvine, CA 92612