

INTRODUCING AAUW'S SANTA CLARITA VALLEY BRANCH

History

The Santa Clarita Valley Branch of AAUW was organized on July 22, 1968 – almost 20 years before Santa Clarita became a city. Initially, 40 vibrant, dynamic women joined and today the membership has more than doubled, with six Charter Members still active. The Santa Clarita Valley is located 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles and includes the communities of Valencia, Newhall, Stevenson Ranch, Canyon Country, Castaic, Saugus, Agua Dulce, Acton and Val Verde.

Contributions

Throughout the years, the SCV AAUW branch has contributed significantly to the community and to women's causes by -

- Partnering with the College of the Canyons (COC), to initiate the Women's Conference, College Night and Career Day
- Sponsoring political "Candidates' Discussion" nights
- Contributing to the establishment of the local Food Pantry
- Nurturing the docent program at the Placerita Nature Center
- Encouraging higher education for women by awarding scholarships to COC
- 1999-2010 Conducted Math/Science/Workshops Conference for 7&8th grade girls

Activities

SCV AAUW members begin the year in September with a Membership Brunch, followed by Program meetings in October, November, January and February. December's activities include a Holiday Gathering, and the April ventures include the Women In History presentation and the Tech Trek awards. In May, the branch celebrates the Installation of new officers.

The Santa Clarita Valley branch of AAUW welcomes all those with an AA or bachelor's degree. One may be as active as one chooses, but stimulating friendships and ways of making a difference are guaranteed.

ABOUT AAUW

AAUW's Mission

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Advocating for Women and Girls

Equity is the legal right of all women and girls. AAUW frames and fosters factual, in-depth, objective dialogue among legislators and change makers that results in political, institutional and legal support for women's equity in all areas of life and work.

Diversity Statement

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, disability, or class.

Standing Rule No. 6

Branch yearbooks, directories or rosters of members shall not be given to agencies or organizations outside of AAUW. No member shall use or allow anyone to use the yearbook for purposes of political mailing or advertising.

Membership

As a member of AAUW, you are a part of the most active and diverse organization for women. Founded in 1881, when a pioneer group of 65 graduates of eight colleges met in Boston to unite alumnae of institutions of higher learning in "practical educational work," the organization has grown to more than 200,000 members nationally. California ranks first among the states with a membership of about 20,000 in 175 branches. AAUW offers action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership and friendships. Working together, members use their education to benefit themselves and society.

Public Policy

AAUW's advocacy work builds upon a century of responsible public participation at the local, state, national, and international levels. The member-endorsed Public Policy Program illuminates and advances AAUW's mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. AAUW conducts comprehensive advocacy to pursue its public policy priorities, developing and implementing coordinated legislative and grassroots strategies to break through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

AAUW Funds

AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing \$4.5 million in funding for more than 250 fellowships, grants, and special awards to outstanding women in the 2008-09 academic year. Due to the generous contributions of AAUW members across the U.S., a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities — breaking down barriers so all women have a fair chance.

Legal Advocacy Fund

LAF - was established in 1981 and works to end sex discrimination in the workplace and in higher education, through community and campus outreach programs, a resource library and online advocacy tools, and various research reports. In collaboration with the Public Policy and Government Relations department, LAF seeks amicus curiae opportunities in workplace sex discrimination cases. LAF also provides support to workplace sex discrimination cases that have the potential to make a difference for all women.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Women in History

The WOMEN IN HISTORY program has been an integral part of the education of our public elementary and middle school children since 1987. Beginning in March, in partnership with individual PTAs, members perform five or six costumed dramatizations of influential women in history - some famous, some forgotten in time. As one of our most popular programs, over 225 women participate each year, bringing knowledge and respect for the accomplishments of these historical role models. Every April, a presentation is also made for the seniors of the Santa Clarita Valley as a culmination of the program.

Tech Trek

TECH TREK is a California AAUW activity that offers 7th grade girls a one-week residential math, science, and technology summer camp on a university campus. It provides a fun and supportive environment for girls to explore and expand their interests in these areas, with hands-on activities, projects, and field trips led by experienced teachers and guest presenters. AAUW programs like Tech Trek Science Camp for Girls are changing the status quo across the country. Connecting young women with like minded peers and mentors has a powerful effect on the lives and career choices of future generations. In fact survey results of girls who had participated show that AAUW Tech Trek had been the most influential personal or academic experience of their middle school years. An overwhelming 96% of our Tech Trek girls are currently enrolled in college, and all credit Tech Trek for encouraging interest and increasing confidence in their ability to succeed in math and science areas.

STEM STARS

The STEMS STARS program provides opportunities for former Tech Trek girls that will encourage them to continue taking math and science classes, while providing the branch contact and follow-up with our campers all the way through high school. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and form personal contacts with women working in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields and to become aware of the qualifications needed to be hired. The girls, from 8th through 12th grade, will attend several field trips and excursions throughout the year to expose them to different STEM careers and educational requirements.