October 2018

Volume 69, Issue 2



The Branch



Humboldt Branch AAUW

October Branch Meeting

Saturday, October 6, 2018 Sequoia Conference Center, 901 Myrtle Ave. Eureka

9:30 a.m. Registration, Social and Catered Breakfast Cost: \$20 (Beverage only: \$6.00)

Program: Artisan, Authentic, Responsibly Produced:

How Are We Creating a National Market for our Local Products?

Alanna Powell, Executive Director Humboldt Made

Humboldt Made is a nonprofit organization that was created in 2010 to spur the growth of a diverse array of makers and producers. The idea was to bring entrepreneurs together, identify their common strengths and weaknesses, and through networking and collaboration, overcome obstacles and achieve great things together. Creating brand awareness and increased sales beyond Humboldt's borders was key, the end result being a sustainable, local economy.

If your caller has not reached you by Tuesday, October 2, please call Maggie Gordon at 442-4643 or email her at pma3022@sbcglobal.net.

It is our Branch policy that if you make a reservation, you will be expected to pay for your meal whether you attend or not.

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The Humboldt Branch of AAUW publishes The *Branch* eight times each year

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<u>AAUW's Mission</u>

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

AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day educational, social, economic, and political.

President's Message AAUW:

AAUW Bylaw Proposals: Turnout for these elections is notoriously small. The National average was about 5%. Member turnout in California for this election was 30%! Hurray for us! Here are the results from the National AAUW June election:

Proposal #1 – Staggered terms of office for the AAUW Board of Directors. PASSED

Proposal #2 – Including up to 5 non-AAUW members on the Board of Directors. FAILED

Proposal #3 – Eliminating the degree requirement for membership. FAILED

AAUW Strategic Plan: The AAUW Strategic Plan is created through an inclusive process involving the AAUW Board of Directors and staff. The goals, indicators of success, and strategies reflect an integrated approach to fulfilling our mission, vision, and value promise. As AAUW continues to move forward in a changing world, so have our Strategic Plan and our Vision Statement.

AAUW California:

AAUW Governance: In September each member of AAUW California received a legal notice regarding a hearing with the State of California to reclassify our status from a *mutual benefit* to a *public benefit* corporation. This hearing, scheduled for September 24, was the next step in the process to obtain the re-classification. We were unable to obtain a unanimous pro vote from the full membership, as required by California Corporate Regulations, to make the change to a public benefit corporation. This original misclassification error could have been resolved easily (and more economically) had our membership voted to correct it. Perhaps it was simply that members did not fully understand the difference. The State of California defines the difference as follows:

Public benefit corporations must be formed for public or charitable purposes and may not be organized for the private gain of any person. A public benefit corporation cannot distribute "profits," gains or dividends to any person. Mutual benefit corporations are organized most often for the benefit of their own members. They may not be formed exclusively for charitable purposes. So, due to an error in our incorporation, and the subsequent misunderstanding of some AAUW California members, more fees (from our dues) are paid to attorneys and legal proceedings. Too bad, right?

New California Laws: The Equal Pay Act of 2018 and a new law, the Fair Pay Act which will go into effect in January of 2019, together prohibit employers from seeking salary history information from an applicant and prohibit the employer from using such information in determining salary, even if voluntarily disclosed. This is especially important in the fight for pay equity. Many women have been historically underpaid, and when applying for a new job, they routinely have been asked about their pay histories. When these pay histories are disclosed, employers naturally offer ;

President's Message (continued) pay that is commensurate with these unequal pay histories. Thus the wage disparity continues. These new California laws may finally address this cycle. This is a huge step in the right direction!

Note: Employers *may* ask about the applicant's salary expectations. It should be noted that the law applies only to an applicant for employment and does not apply to current employees, whose salary history can be considered. However, it is important to note that an employer may not pay any of its employees—including current employees—less than it pays employees of a different gender, race or ethnicity for substantially similar work.

AAUW Humboldt Branch:

As we progress through the Fall our year members are gearing up for our Branch's community service projects. Members are beginning to organize our book drive, Tech Trek, and HSU Re-entry Women's Scholarships. We ARE a service organization - a public benefit corporation! Let us leave our mark on our community.

REMINDER: PLEASE TAKE PHOTOS AT YOUR INTEREST GROUP GATHERINGS. We would like to share them amongst ourselves, and post some to our website. Simply email them to me, and I will insure that they are shared.

See you all on October 6th!

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Geo Bee Update

Submitted by Ellie Gayner

A Great Big Thank You to the Members Who Attended the September Meeting! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. When the little map-covered box was opened, and your donations fell out, it came to a total of \$143.80. The cost for a school to obtain the materials for a school bee is \$120, but if they get in an early registration, there's a 25% discount. So, you can do the math and realize this covers one school, and depending on if it gets that discount, leaves a pretty good to good amount toward funding a second school. So far, for this year, your Branch is committed to supporting the GeoBees at Alice Birney and Washington Schools in Eureka, Zane Middle School in Eureka, South Bay Elementary and South Bay Middle Schools (in Eureka but its own District); Blue Lake K-8, McKinleyville Middle School, awaiting word from Winship Middle School, Eureka; Ferndale K-8, Hydesville K-8, and Hoopa Valley Elementary K-8, Toddy Thomas (5-8) and Fortuna Middle School (5-8) both in Fortuna. The Arcata School District made a commitment years ago that any school with

any grades 4-8 will have the funding for the bee materials annually.

When the schools let me know the dates of their bees. there'll be a notice in the newsletter. They are fun to attend, and our being there lends support to the students and their teachers.



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Judge Kavanaugh's Supreme Court Hearing, AAUW Opposes Confirmation

Following Judge Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court in July, the Senate Judiciary Committee began his confirmation hearing on Tuesday. Over several days, members of the committee each had multiple opportunities to ask questions of the nominee on a broad range of topics. Throughout all four days of the hearing, Senate Democrats raised concerns regarding the lack of transparency of Judge Kavanaugh's <u>record</u>.

Records from Judge Kavanaugh's time working in the White House are currently being screened and released by a private lawyer, as the National Archive's review has not yet concluded, and some documents are being deemed confidential for the Senate Judiciary Committee. This makes it difficult for senators and public to fully understand Judge Kavanaugh's record. With respect to the examination of his existing record, Judge Kavanaugh left much unsaid. During questioning many senators asked Judge Kavanaugh about reproductive rights, but the nominee refused to clarify if he believed *Roe v. Wade* was correctly decided. He also declined to answer about his opinion on the Supreme Court's decision *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, in which AAUW signed on to an <u>amicus brief</u>. After careful review of Judge Kavanaugh's available record <u>makes it clear</u> that he would put issues central to AAUW's mission at risk, including employment and labor rights, reproductive rights and access to health care, public education, and voting rights. We <u>urge</u> senators to oppose Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation and to call for his full record be released to the American public

Department of Education Poised to Announce Rules Rolling Back Title IX Protections

The U.S. Department of Education may soon propose new rules rolling back Title IX protections for victims of sexual harassment and assault in schools. The *New York Times* <u>obtained</u> a draft copy of the potential changes, which propose, among other alterations, limiting schools' liability in sexual harassment and assault cases and changing the standard of evidence used in schools' investigations. Changes such as these would make it easier for schools to dismiss cases, harder to hold perpetrators of sexual harassment and assault accountable, and more difficult for survivors to come forward and get the protections they need. AAUW <u>urges</u> the administration not to move forward with any new regulation that would serve to weaken Title IX. <u>Take AAUW's pledge to protect Title IX</u> to receive timely reminders, tools, talking points, and resources to help you maximize your impact once the Department of Education formally kicks off the regulatory process

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GeoQuiz

1. The development of dictionaries in official languages like Xhosia, Tswana, Ndebele is taking place in which country? South Africa, China or Morocco

2. The West Bank, the Shatt al Arab, and Kashmir are all disputed regions on which continent? Europe, Asia or Africa

3. The Blue Ridge are to the Appalachians as the Dolomites are to the what? Caucasus, Apennines or Alps

4. Which West African country did NOT take its name from an ancient African kingdom? Senegal, Ghana or Benin

5. The Tarim Basin, one of the world's largest lowland areas that does not drain into an ocean is found in which country? China, Brazil or Australia

answers are on page 7

Thank you to Ellie Gayner for supplying the questions. If you have feedback on ideas for questions, please let her know.





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AAUW Humboldt Branch

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Our October Speaker



Alanna Powell comes from a long line of creative entrepreneurs, which has made her a natural fit for Humboldt Made. Her innovative background instilled within her a passion for small business development and a heart for community collaboration and connection. Years ago, this enthusiasm joined forces with the vision of former Humboldt Made (HM) director, Angeline Schwab, and Alanna's relationship with HM began—first serving as a volunteer, then as a board member, and now as Executive Director. Alanna draws inspiration from Humboldt County. Her critical understanding of the link between a place and its people has prepared her to support the unique challenges that come with the resource-rich, rural Humboldt County. Her advocacy of local business, support of

the community, and team-centered collaboration with board members is unwavering and those who work with her comment on her passion, dedication, and follow-through. Alanna and her team are dedicated stewards of Humboldt County and its industry clusters; together, with the community, they guide, nurture, and share the Humboldt Made brand within and beyond our borders.

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WOMEN IN THE U.S. ARE TYPICALLY PAID **80 CENTS** FOR EVERY DOLLAR PAID TO MEN.

AAUW Humboldt Branch

Tech Trek Update Mad City Money



From Dorothy Skjonsby When I received the notification that they needed AAUW members to come to Tech Trek and help with Mad City Money, I had no idea what that meant. I have always wanted to have the opportunity to see first hand the experiences we provide to girls from Humboldt. It was an exceptional program that was generously underwritten by one of the banks. This program is usually provided to high schools, but when the bank heard of

our group being composed of girls that are exceptional in Science and Math they agreed to provide the program.

Within the time frame of just three hours the girls were exposed first hand of what it means to follow a monthly budget that included mortgage, car payments, food, entertainment, clothing, children expenses etc. The girls were teamed up and each team was given and IPad that provided them with the information of their family group, single, married, with children etc. They had to work together to make decisions about how they would spend their monthly money.

They energy in the room could be felt as these girls went to eight stations making some real decisions about finances. Some of my favorite comments that I heard were "remember we have children we

need to provide for", "now I understand why my parents have to say no to going to Hawaii or Disneyland", "maybe we could walk or take the bus so we don't have car payments", "we need to decide together how we will spend our money".

WHAT A MARVELOUS EXPERIENCE WE ARE PROVIDING TO THESE GIRLS!



GeoQuiz Answers

- 1. South Africa
- 2. Asia
- 3. Alps
- 4. Senegal
- 5. China