



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



## The Branch

October 2020  
Vol 71, Issue 4

### October Branch Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 2020  
10:00 a.m

Join us on Zoom

Just let your caller know that you plan to attend and you will receive a link by email the morning of the meeting.

### Election 2020: What you Should Know

Kelly Sanders and Nancy Kay from the League of Women Voters will update us on Ranked Choice Voting. They will also answer your questions about voting in the pandemic era and how you can learn more about the propositions on our ballot.



Kelly Sanders was born and raised in Humboldt County. She graduated from Humboldt State University with a B.S. in Business Administration.

Kelly has been employed by the Humboldt County Office of Elections since 2005, and she was elected County Clerk, Recorder & Registrar of Voters in 2014. She is currently serving her second term.

Kelly received her Credential as a Registered Election Official from the California Association of Clerks & Elections Officials and The Election Center of Houston, Texas 2009.

She currently serves as Parliamentarian for the County Records Association and as a Humboldt Election Transparency Project Board Member.



Nancy Kay has lived in Humboldt County since 1998. She was lucky enough to spend her high school years in California and subsequently make California her permanent home. She received her BA in Business Economics from Sonoma State and her MA in Public Administration from USC.

She is a past president of our branch and the Humboldt Chapter of League of Women Voters. In addition to all of these activities, she works as a forensic economist.



## President's Message

Members:

I enjoyed seeing you virtually at our membership meeting on Saturday September 12, 2020. We had some time to socialize before the speakers. I miss having coffee with my AAUW friends before the meeting. Since the air quality has gotten so bad in the last several days, I have been hesitant to take my usual morning walk. Seeing you on Saturday was the high point of my week.

I wanted to remind everyone that our December gala to raise money for our reentry scholarships will be similar to what we have done for Tech Trek in the past. We will send a mailing to all members asking for a donation. I hope you will consider a donation in the amount you normally spend at our gala or more if possible. We would like to be able to continue giving scholarships in the next year.

I want to thank Alex Stillman and Connie Stewart for our program in September. Also, thank you to Connie for hosting the program on Zoom. In addition, a thank you to Rose Weaver who managed the question and answer portion of the meeting. Rollin Richmond has been busy writing articles for AAUW, thank you, Rollin.

We have a new secretary, Sharon Ferrett. Thank you, Sharon for helping us out! A thank you to Nancy Dean for our membership book. A special thank you to Shelley Mitchell who keeps us all up to date and well informed with our monthly newsletter.

See you October 3 for our membership meeting. We will have social time and a short business meeting 9:30 to 10 and our speaker will present at 10am. I look forward to hearing from Kelly Sanders, Humboldt County's Clerk, Recorder and Registrar of Voters.

Mary Lou Lowry, Branch President



## **The 2020 Election: Responsibilities and Opportunities**

**Nancy Mahr, AAUW CA Public Policy  
Committee**

### **Committee**

*Responsibility:* Vote and help others vote.

First you have to register. You can check your registration status online at the CA Secretary of State's website.

Then you have to vote. All registered voters in California will receive a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot in early October. You have choices for using that ballot:

1) Complete it and mail it in – if you do this, mail early. Ballots must be postmarked by Nov 3. They have 17 days after that date to reach the Registrar's office, but the postmark must be by Nov 3. If you put it in a mailbox on Nov 3 it will not be postmarked in time. Be early!

2) Complete the ballot and drop it in an official drop box. Your Registrar of Voters will post locations of drop boxes. The Registrar regularly collects the ballots from the boxes.

3) Take your completed ballot to a Vote Center and hand it in.

You don't have to use the VBM ballot. You can vote in person and just hand in your unused ballot at a Vote Center.

*Opportunity:* Candidates - Black women and other women of color

This election gives all of us an opportunity to expand our thinking and vision by making a conscious commitment to AAUW's work for racial justice and societal change.

The coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted Black Americans. We are seeing a call to address police brutality. In the face of these historic challenges, a record number of Black women are running for Congress, determined to work for change.

The Center of Women and Politics (CAWP) reports that black women are nearly 8% of the U.S. population, but 4.3% of Congress – only 22 out of 435 Representatives and 1 out of 100 Senators. They are underrepresented in statewide executive's jobs and among mayors and city councils.

This November, in addition to federal, state and county elections, local elections are on the ballot – cities, school districts, and water districts. There may be black women or women of other ethnicities on the ballot in your area. You can support women of color who are running for office in your community, state and nation. Be aware. Create an environment of inclusion. Make an effort to meet and talk with these candidates. Commend them for stepping up. Listen to their stories and their goals. Ensure they are included in election discussions and activities.

AAUW has a long tradition of advocating for positive societal change and political activism. Change is underway, and AAUW can be a part of that.

· Read our statement on racism on the AAUW website

PLEASE NOTE:

You will soon have the opportunity to contribute to AAUW CA's Public Policy Priorities for 2021-23. All members will soon be receiving an online survey asking for your input. Please complete it by the deadline, October 15, so we can begin revising it for a member vote in April, 2021.



## From AAUW's National Office

With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of over 200,000 Americans to COVID-19. Along with those lost to the pandemic, we also grieve the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We hold her memory as an inspiration to continue her life's work: fighting for gender equity and representation everywhere. For now, to honor her, the most important thing you can do is vote. While Election Day is just six weeks away, adapted voting processes this election year means that every day is Election Day. To mark National Voter Registration Day tomorrow, we ask you to make a plan to vote. With a critical election year taking place during a pandemic, our democracy needs you to work to motivate your community. Before you head to the polls or mail that ballot, help us reach as many eligible voters as possible with three easy Get Out the Vote (GOTV) actions:

1. [Make your own plan to vote](#)
2. Use our [GOTV Social Media Toolkit](#) to share what you learned.
3. Call five friends & family to ask them to commit to vote.

Studies show that voters who make a plan, including figuring out how and where to vote, are more likely to follow through. With so many traditional voter registration opportunities on pause, every effort online will help.

Elected and appointed officials routinely make decisions about issues that directly impact all of us. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care to access to education, our lives are on the line—and our vote is our voice.

Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate—honor Justice Ginsburg by motivating voters in your community today!

[Take Action Here](#)

## 2020 California Propositions

	Title on Ballot	Topic of Vote	AAUW rec.	League of Women Voters
14	Stem Cell Research Institute Bond Initiative,	\$5.5 Billion for Stem Cell Research	Support	Neutral
15	Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative	Assess large commercial properties over \$3 M at current market value	Support	Support
16	Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment	Reinstates consideration of race, ethnicity and country of origin as considerations for school admittance and government employment	Support	Support
17	Voting Rights Restoration for Persons on Parole Amendment	Allows people on parole to vote once their prison sentence is complete	Support	Support
18	Primary Voting for 17-Year-Olds Amendment,	Allows 17 yr olds to register and vote in primary if they will be 18 by the general election	Support	Support
19	Property Tax Transfers, Exemptions, and Revenue for Wildfire Agencies and Counties Amendment	The ballot measure would change the rules for tax assessment transfers.	No position	Oppose
20	Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative	The ballot initiative would amend several criminal sentencing and supervision laws that were passed between 2011 and 2016	No position	Oppose

## 2020 California Propositions

	Title on Ballot	Topic of Vote	AAUW rec.	League of Women Voters
21	Local Rent Control Initiative	allow local governments to enact rent control on housing that was first occupied over 15 years ago, with an exception for landlords who own no more than two homes with distinct titles or subdivided interests.	Support	Neutral
22	App-Based Drivers as Contractors and Labor Policies Initiative	Proposition 22 would consider app-based drivers to be independent contractors and not employees or agents. Therefore, the ballot measure would override <a href="#">Assembly Bill 5 (AB 5)</a> , signed in September 2019, on the question of whether app-based drivers are employees or independent contractors	No position	No position
23	Dialysis Clinic Requirements Initiative	Requires at least one licensed physician on site during treatment at outpatient kidney dialysis clinics;	No position	Neutral
24	Consumer Personal Information Law and Agency Initiative	expand the state's consumer data privacy laws	No position	Oppose



### She Persists

by Sharon Ferrett

The legacy of the notorious RBG will indeed persist. Her fight for justice was a lifelong passion. Her landmark cases for equal justice for women touched all of us. All of our lives are better because of her. You all know her story and the legacy she has left. What is interesting to me are the personal stories that each of us have.

I was in my late 20's when I came to Humboldt State for the job of Dean of Extended Education. I had already been an associate professor and associate Dean of Academic Affairs, but I was told that I was going to start at the lowest pay rate allowed for the position because, "That's a lot of money for a single woman to make."

My mother's story shocked my daughters. Mom graduated at the top of her class from business school and worked her way up to a top secretarial position at Pontiac Motors in Michigan where she met my dad. They bought a house, two lots surrounding it and a new car. They were doing great. Then the Great Depression hit and my dad lost his job, but my mom made enough money to cover the mortgages. They were frugal and with part time work, they knew they could hang on. When my mom got pregnant, she hid it as long as possible, but when her boss found out he said, "You are so valuable to the company, but you simply cannot work here when you're expecting or with a baby at home." Women were routinely fired for being pregnant. My parents lost everything.

This is how I ended up being raised on a farm. Later my older sister was a nurse and said that the orderlies with high school educations, at best, made more than the nurses. These

stories are not unusual.

What are your stories? Share them with your daughters, granddaughters and young women in your life. We all must persist. Equal justice must endure. It is now more fragile than ever.



## U.S. Army Battalion – All Women, All Black

The best mail service in Europe during WW II  
*Formally recognized in 2019*

Major Charity Adams quietly made history as the first African-American commanding officer in the Women's Army Corps (WACs) to be deployed to a theater of war, in January 1945, age 26.

Following her “secret” orders, she became leader of the *Six Triple Eight* (6-888) battalion of Black women put in charge of mail delivery to U.S. forces all over Europe, an experimental pass-fail test for whether or not women could do such a huge and dangerous job.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower wanted an Army that reflected the racial background of the United States. “We are giving Negro troops equal status in the military field,” he told reporters in 1942. Plans to deploy a large unit of Black servicewomen wasn't seriously considered again until late 1944. The entire military was not officially desegregated until 1948.

Oveta Culp Hobby made a firmly worded announcement that “Black women would be posted overseas to do the important wartime jobs that they'd been trained for, not to be anybody's companion.”

Today, Lena King, at 97 one of the few surviving *Six Triple Eight* members said, “We were never made to feel like anything we'd done was special ... We just went home to our families.” Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams finished graduate school and went on to be a college dean, before her death in 2002. In 2019 the Army awarded the battalion the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

*The New York Times*

Contributed by Jean Guthrie



The documentary takes a look at the history, and current activism against voter suppression; barriers to voting that most people don't even know is a threat to their basic rights as citizens of the United States.

[Click Here to Watch](#)

C



# Julie Kelly, Au.D.

North Coast Audiology, Inc.

ACCEPT ALL  
INSURANCES  
ALL AGES

TAKING CARE OF HUMBOLDT'S  
HEARING CONCERNS  
for OVER 40 YEARS

**(707) 443-4503**

1930 Myrtle Ave, EUREKA



Julie Kelly



ANDERSON, LUCAS, SOMERVILLE & BORGES, LLP  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

KEITH D. BORGES, C.P.A.

1338 Main Street (707) 725-4483 • (707) 725-4442  
Fortuna, CA 95540 FAX (707) 725-6340 • (707) 725-9749  
E-mail: keith@alsb.com Toll Free: 800-794-1643  
www.alsb.com

## Central Office THE COPY CENTER

Digital Printing Services  
...and more!

### DIGITAL PRINTING & COPIES

BLACK & WHITE  FULL COLOR COPIES

We create and/or copy:

Newsletters - Flyers - Business Cards - Post Cards  
Invitations - Certificates - NCR Forms - Envelopes  
Mailing Labels - Menus - Brochures - Price Lists  
T-Shirt Transfers - Depositions - Legal Documents  
and Much More!

**326 I St. + Eureka, CA**  
**707-444-3044**

**BINDING - FOLDING - CUTTING - LAMINATING - MAIL  
BOX RENTALS - UPS SHIPPING - SECRETARIAL SERVICES  
COMPUTER STATION & FAX SERVICE**

Quality & Service  
is our  
#1 Priority!



centralofficecopycenter@gmail.com

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED  
SINCE 1985

NOW IN TWO LOCATIONS!



**SHAHER'S  
ACE**  
The helpful place.  
**HARDWARE**

CORNER OF HARRIS &  
HARRISON STREETS

LUMBER & FENCING • POWER TOOLS  
FURNITURE • LAWN • GIFTS • HOME  
IMPROVEMENT • GRILLS • MOWERS  
SPORTING GOODS • PAINT STUDIO  
GARDEN CENTER + MORE!

**HARRIS ST.**

NEW STORE!  
2520 Harris St., Eureka  
707-798-6041

**SHAHER'S**

ORIGINAL LOCATION  
Henderson Center, Eureka  
707-442-5734

discover what you

**LOVE**

We LOVE irresistible  
products. From  
innovative skin care to  
on-trend cosmetics,  
Mary Kay offers  
products women love,  
and I can help you find  
your new favorites!

Contact me  
to discover more.

Name Dorann Wolf

Independent Beauty Consultant

www.marykay.com/dwolf

Phone Number 707-616-4760 - cell

MARY KAY



# GALE & NIELSEN

Attorneys at Law

*Call to schedule your free consultation*

Serving you in the areas of

*Estate Planning • Medi-Cal Planning • Conservatorship • Probate*

*Trust Administration • Civil Litigation • Business*

2850 Harris Street  
Eureka, CA 95503

**(707) 269-0167**

[www.galenielson.com](http://www.galenielson.com)



We love doing  
business with you!

- EUREKA
- FORTUNA
- ARCATA
- HENDERSON  
CENTER

[www.redwoodcapitalbank.com](http://www.redwoodcapitalbank.com)

MEMBER FDIC

## COAST CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

# Experience the Credit Union Difference



Member Owned • Lower Fees & Higher Interest Rates on Deposits  
Complete Online & Mobile Banking Solutions  
One-Stop Shop for All Your Financial Needs • Committed to Community

**For People. Not Profit. That's the credit union difference.**

[coastccu.org](http://coastccu.org)  
445-8801



*Belonging Never Felt Better®*

**Coast Central**   
Credit Union

Thank you, members, for your support during the pandemic.

Mary Lou Lowry, President



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

<http://humboldt-ca.aauw.net>

"Like" us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/aauwHumboldt](http://www.facebook.com/aauwHumboldt)

Editor:

Shelley Mitchell

[shelleydmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:shelleydmitchell@gmail.com)

Submissions welcome: deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

**Mission. To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**

**Vision. Equity for all.**

**Values. Nonpartisan. Fact-based.**

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.

Editor's Note: *The Branch* is a primarily emailed publication. An email publication looks different than a printed newsletter. It is meant to be viewed on a screen (computer, phone, tablet) and while it is printable, The best way to print it is to save it as a pdf file and then print that. Please let me know if you have problems viewing or printing it and I will try to work with Constant Contact to resolve them. Shelley