



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



The Branch

February 2021
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**Humboldt Branch Meeting
Saturday, February 6, 2021
9:30 social/10:00 speaker**



Fly Humboldt: Humboldt County's Air Service History and Future

Our speaker will be Gregg Foster, Executive Director of Redwood Region Economic Development Commission. Gregg was instrumental in creating Fly Humboldt, a community based group that supports and promotes air service at Arcata-Eureka Airport in the beautiful redwood region of Northern California.

More Flights! More Destinations!

Gregg Foster is an experienced Executive Director with a demonstrated history of working in the financial services industry. Twenty-five years experience in lending with specific emphasis on small business. Extensive experience in organizational management, budgeting, finance, and public policy. Fifteen years of air service development experience representing ACV on the Redwood Coast of California.



President's Message

Sharon wrote a wonderful column about community and Rollin wrote an explanation of what the retired staff and faculty community are doing regarding the roll out of the vaccinations. So, I thought I would build on the idea of community in my letter. As AAUW members, we are members of a special group of life long learners and advocates for girls and women's rights. We share these values and I am so happy to be part of this community. I miss our fellowship at our meetings. Fortunately for us, we can keep in touch

through Zoom.

As, I think of community, I think about my bigger community, Arcata, and I am saddened by the needs of the community that are not being met. We have a crisis of homelessness. So many people are living in doorways, on bridges, under bridges and on vacant property. What is my duty to this community? I don't know! I often think of the story of the Good Samaritan as I walk by these people. I am no Good Samaritan. Then there is our even larger community of the United States. Again, it saddens me to think of the fractures in that community. I hope for healing in 2021.

Our AAUW community has been so committed during this pandemic. I have many people to thank. I want to thank Connie and Alex for the wonderful programs, Rollin for his stories in the local news and keeping AAUW in the news. Thank you to everyone who

helped with the scholarship committee and again thank you to Rollin and Connie for getting the word out about our AAUW scholarships. Thank you to Shelley Mitchell for consistency in producing a great newsletter every month. Thank you to our members for helping out in these difficult times.

Mary Lou Lowry, Branch President



Building Community

by Sharon Ferrett

"We must delight in each other, make others' conditions our own, rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our community as members of the same body."

-John Winthrop, Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1630

Community can transform our lives and bring unity and peace to this country. Genuine community is inclusive where we learn from and help each other. It is difficult to understand the power strong communities if you haven't experienced neighbors helping neighbors. I was fortunate to grow up in a farming community where we depended on each other. We could not have survived harsh Michigan winters, accidents and illnesses, loss, tragedies or casualties if we didn't have close neighbors that we cared about. When a barn burned down, the community came together to help rebuild it. Neighbors worked together during thrashing season. After a long morning of back breaking work, they gathered around a long table to eat at a full noon-time meal. Breaking bread together is still central to community. Our one room schoolhouse had a solid sense of community where we looked out and helped each other. We grew up with agreed upon core values of honesty, empathy, truth, kindness, civility and respect for others.

The last few weeks have made it clear that we need to look at ways to build and restore community as the fundamental element for the vitality of American life and in fact, for democracy to endure. Our nation has become more divided, strident and even violent. We need to mend this divide. Even if people are irrational and buy into conspiracy theories, we need to talk to each other and listen. It is up to all of us to take a hard look at how we communicate with others. We simply cannot have a strong community unless people have civility and respect for each other. We need to focus on shared values and on what we are for (peace, kindness and community) and not what we're against (lies, resentments and grievances).

Community begins with a willingness to connect and care about others. Even if you disagree with ideas, the tone can be, "I know you're intelligent. I know you have integrity. I care about you." People need to be heard. This isn't easy. Our natural response is to avoid, smooth over conflict or get angry. However, we are called to be authentic and also instruments of peace. This spirit of caring and repairing divisions involves taking risks, being vulnerable and risking failure. So, start with simple steps. Talk with your neighbors and check on their health and well-being. Send a thank you note to first responders, health care workers, teachers and your elected officials. Look for the

good. Shop locally. Call up friends and family and talk about books, art, music, the weather and family. Finally, volunteer and join a service club such as Rotary whose motto ask us to reflect on these questions before we think, say or act:

The 4-Way Rotary Test

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

What we cannot do is lose hope. Our faith in humanity and the basic goodness of people can help us build bridges, solve conflicts and restore trust. That is community. Civilization depends on it.



2069? 2369? 2451? WHEN WILL THE GENDER PAY GAP BE CLOSED?

By Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These are questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we mark Equal Pay Day on March 24, perhaps there is hope that we can make progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021, given a new administration that is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have-nots. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership; and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's *The Simple Truth*, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until the year 2369 – 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988-2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worse scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! (AAUW, *The Simple Truth* 2020 update)

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding what's causing the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of *The Simple Truth* update on our National website which lays out the problem, its causes and solutions. https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth_1.8.pdf

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change and you are part of the solution with the work your branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, NCCWSL, etc., the more we chip away at the disparity. What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing, we'll share them on the web (send to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

Dues Increase

By Nancy Kay, Branch Treasurer

We received notification that AAUW National is increasing our individual dues each year for the next three years. All but \$3.00 of AAUW National dues is tax deductible.

AAUW California is not increasing their dues, and we, the Humboldt Branch, are not increasing our local dues.

The AAUW National dues increases will increase the total dues that is collected from each of you. The following is a summary of the total past and future dues payments:

Dues:	Last Year 2020-2021	This Year 2022-2023	Upcoming 2023-2024	Upcoming 2024-2025
National	\$59	\$62	\$67	\$72
California	20	20	20	20
Humboldt	26	26	26	26
TOTAL DUES	\$105	\$108	\$113	\$118

Dues (\$108) for this upcoming year (2021-2022) are **DUE MAY 1, 2021.**

Directory Update

We have a new member:
Becky MacQuarrie

COVID Vaccination Update

Thank you to Rollin Richmond for sending a letter to the county Supervisors on behalf of the HSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association about a plan to protect the health of Humboldt Residents. Below is some of the letter sent to the Supervisors and the response of Supervisor Bass.

Status of COVID Vaccine Availability in Humboldt

The retired faculty and staff organization at Humboldt State has sent a letter to the county Supervisors about the need for a clear and detailed plan to vaccinate our community. Here are some quotes from that letter:

“We are writing to you in our role as leaders of the Humboldt State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association (HSU-ERFSA). We represent the retired staff, faculty and administrators at HSU. We have been contacted by several of our members expressing grave concern about the lack of a concrete immunization plan and requesting that we contact you given your responsibility in protecting the county residents during the pandemic.”

“We are respectfully requesting that you provide a concrete community immunization plan, including providing adequate financial and health professional resources, so the elderly can know how to register and get their vaccination as soon as it is available in the county.”

Supervisor Virginia Bass responded quickly to our letter. Here is some of her email response:

“I will see what I can find out over the weekend on when we think we will be at phase 1B as well as how do we let everyone know that they will be eligible. I know when it

comes to healthcare workers they are being contacted to make appointments but for members of the public who are 65 and older I do not know the exact process yet but I will find out.

I hope this is somewhat helpful and I will work to get you better answers over the weekend.

Distribution Phases:

Phase 1A includes healthcare workers and long-term care residents.

Phase 1B includes those ages 65+, those in congregate settings (including incarcerated and homeless populations) and some essential workforce sectors.

Phase 1C includes individuals ages 50+, those age 16-64 with increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness and additional critical infrastructure workforce.

The vaccine will not be available to the general population until Phase 2, when vaccine supply is expected to have increased substantially.

Vaccine Distribution Graphic

For a detailed description of who will be prioritized in Phase 1A, 1B and 1C, go to <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>.”

Let's hope we get a clear plan soon that will help to protect elders.

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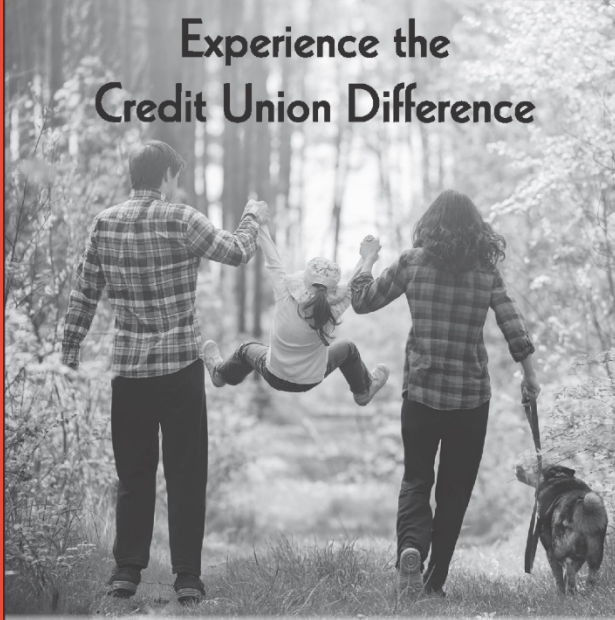
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Thank you, members, for your support during
the pandemic.

Mary Lou Lowry, President



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The Humboldt Branch of AAUW publishes The *Branch* eight times each year
<http://humboldt-ca.aauw.net>

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Submissions welcome: deadline is the 20th 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