

AAU



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



The Branch

May 2023
Vol 73, Issue 8

What's New at College of the Redwoods? Branch Annual Meeting Information

Date: May 6, 2023

Place: College of the Redwoods, Lake View Room

9:30 Registration, Social

10:00 Breakfast

10:30 Speaker, Dr. Keith Flamer, President CR

**Branch Annual Meeting:
Election of officers and approval of proposed budget
Announcements**

Cost: \$22.00 with food, \$5.00 Beverage only

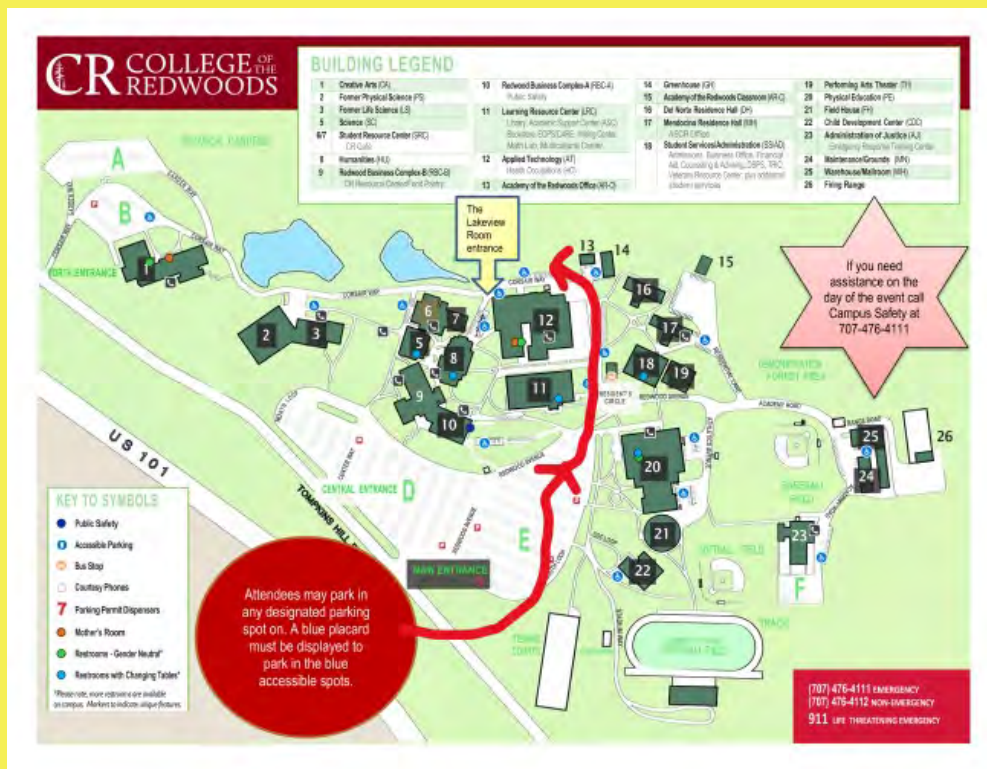
Menu: Ham Frittata, vegetarian option, Sausage links, Cinnamon rolls,
Fresh cut fruit, Yoghurt and granola, Coffee and hot tea

Please be sure to make a reservation if you're coming so we will have accurate

numbers for the food and for the table arrangements. Phone chain callers will collect reservations; they are due on Monday, May 1. Contact Maggie Augustine, if you are not contacted by a caller. It is our Branch policy that if you make a reservation and cancel after the deadline, you are expected to pay whether or not you attend. All who attend have a choice to either pay for the food option or the beverage only option.

Important Parking Information:

The Lakeview Room is on the upper part of the campus, marked #6/7 on the map included in this newsletter. Parking will be allowed without permits for our event, however, there are a limited number of spaces close to the building. There is unlimited parking in the big lot when you enter the campus, but it would be quite a walk up the hill to the building. We encourage carpooling to reduce the number of cars. We also encourage you to stop near the parking permit dispenser marked on the map and join with others so one person can drive a full car up the hill while others leave their cars in the big lower lot. Anyone who has a handicapped placard will be able to park in handicapped spaces next to the building. Please pick up people in the lower lot and take a full car up to the building. There will be an AAUW sign in front of the meeting building and one by the parking permit dispenser in the lower lot (parking permits not needed). We'll try to have a couple volunteer drivers to take people up to the building. We can make this work if we work together.



Keith Flamer, Ph.D.

Dr. Keith Flamer has a PhD degree in Organizational Leadership and more than 25 years of distinguished service advancing the mission of public community colleges. Dr. Flamer was named President/Superintendent of College of the Redwoods in 2015. As President of College of the Redwoods, President Flamer serves as the Chief Executive Officer providing day-to-day administrative and operational leadership to a District comprised of over 400 faculty and staff members providing services to 6,000 students.

Active in the community, President Flamer currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Humboldt Area Foundation and Open Door Community Health. He previously served

as a member of the Board of the Eureka Chamber of Commerce and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods. He is a member of the Old Town Rotary Club of Eureka.

President Flamer has endeavored to broaden the reach of CR's partnerships with business, government, industry, community organizations and educational institutions to coordinate joint responses and resources that work in concert to uplift and support the economic development of the community. Dr. Flamer and Cal Poly Humboldt President Dr. Tom Jackson have formed a close partnership working collaboratively on innovative ways to jointly serve the needs of students and the community. President Flamer's career reflects his dedicated service to helping students succeed in their educational pursuits. During his 17-year tenure at College of the Redwoods, Dr. Flamer has served in various leadership roles including Vice President of Instruction and Student Development and Vice President for Student Services. Prior to coming to College of the Redwoods, President Flamer served as Assistant Vice President for Learning and Student Support Services and Executive Dean of Enrollment and Student Development at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois. President Flamer is a proud Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

As an educational leader, President Flamer believes that it is critical to embrace diversity and remain sensitive to the needs of all students. He supports the success of those who may be differently abled or who experience social, cultural and economic orientations and backgrounds different from those experienced by faculty and staff with whom these students interact. He firmly believes that diversity is strength—and that multiculturalism is something to be celebrated, promoted, and cherished.



President's Message:

My two years as Branch president are coming to an end, so this will be my last newsletter. This job has been a challenge for me, but an opportunity that I have appreciated. The best aspect has been getting to know and work with the wonderful women in our Branch. When I moved to Humboldt 10 years ago, I knew no one except one family member. AAUW Humboldt has given me a community of friends that is valuable and important in my life. AAUW is a fine organization with worthy goals, and I'm proud of the projects we accomplish and the support we give to women in our Branch, in our local community, and to all women through the State and National organizations.

I'm happy that our Branch has been able to come through the pandemic intact. We have had many new members join this year who will become active and keep our organization strong. Thanks to Karole Ely for her efforts to recruit new members and make them welcome. We have resumed in-person Branch meetings that give us a chance to meet and connect with like-minded women. We have learned from our speakers and donated generously to our projects. We gave 4 Re-entry scholarships, sent 4 girls to Tech Trek, honored 2 women for their contributions to our community, and will be giving 2 tablets to Continuation High School graduates. We should all be proud of what we have accomplished.

This newsletter is put together and distributed every month by Shelley Mitchell. It's indispensable to keep us all informed. Thanks so much, Shelley.

Many thanks to our Officers and Board members who work very hard on all our activities. I have tried to thank them by name throughout the year, so you know who they are and what they have worked on. We couldn't accomplish all these projects without their efforts. Thank you, everyone, for your support for these past two years. Let's all support our new leadership as we continue to contribute to AAUW and work toward its goals.

Member News:

The May 6 Branch Annual Meeting will include an election of officers for the 2023-2024 year. The nominating committee, Mary Lou Lowry, Sharon Ferrett, and Karole Ely, has announced the following **slate of nominees** for the Branch elected offices:

Co-Presidents: Nancy Dean and Donna Hauser

Vice President: Shannon Yodowitz

Treasurer: Katie Wright

Secretary: Becky MacQuarrie

At the May 6 meeting, the Committee will take nominations from the floor and then voting will take place.

- The **Proposed Budget**, included in this newsletter, will also be voted on at the May 6 Branch Annual Meeting.
- **Membership Renewal and dues** for the 2023-2024 year are coming up. Dues will be \$118. Please see the information about renewal in this newsletter.
- Has your email address, phone, or other information changed since the last directory? If so, please email updated information to Nancy Dean. It is especially important that we have your correct email address, since it is used to distribute the newsletter and other information important for members.
- The last Board Meeting of the year is scheduled for May 20 at 10:00 am on zoom. At this meeting, we will discuss suggestions for Community Action Projects and decide how to spend the money budgeted for that purpose. If you have a suggestion for a project or just want to attend the meeting, please email Rosemarie Weaver and request the zoom link.
- Please email me if you would like a zoom link for the May 6 Branch Annual Meeting.

Membership Renewals – Part 2

In the past year, National has created the AAUW Community Hub. This Hub incorporates the Member Services Database into a user-friendly environment such that members can see and manage their own account. National is still updating and refining it to provide the planned functionality for member's use and ask that we refrain from using it until they give the go-ahead. This will be happening shortly.

Last week, National officially upped the annual dues for FY24 to \$72, of which \$69 is tax deductible. This is the final \$5 raise in dues promised a few years back. Dues for AAUW California are still \$20 and our branch dues remain at \$26. The grand total is \$118 / year. If you create a personal login at AAUW and use the Community Hub to renew, you will be asked to pay the entire amount. This is what happens to your payment: National will keep their dues, send AAUW CA their dues and, in the third week of the month following your payment, will forward your branch dues to us via a credit to our checking account. We should receive an email when you renew online so we know to look for your branch dues. This has occurred once thus far when a new member transferred to our

branch, so we know that this works in isolated cases. It will be interesting to see how it works when scaled up significantly. Please remember that we will be happy to accept your check and renew your membership online. If we do the renewal, National will be paid \$92 (for itself and AAUW CA) and the branch dues remain in our account.

Beginning the week of 24 April, National will begin sending a sequence of emails reminding members that their membership is coming due. For this initial year, they have collected several months of membership renewals into three groups. The first group of emails will cover members whose memberships expire from March 2023 through July 2023. The second group will consist of members with expiring memberships in the August-September time frame, and the third group is those with memberships expiring from October through December. Each email will be personalized to the individual member. Emails will be sent every other month up to three emails total. Once you have renewed, the emails will cease.

For this big initial membership renewal push, the first group of emails will be sent in April, June, and August. For those who wish to renew online, the reminder email will include login information and steps to do so. At this point it will be okay to login and use the AAUW Community Hub. If you do not wish to renew online, the email will encourage the member to send a check to our official branch address, which is: P.O. Box 5116, Eureka, CA 95502. Once we have seen the content of these messages, we will decide what we will send as a follow-up. You should expect renewal messaging from the branch in May and July, as required.

Successive rounds for renewals later in the year will follow the same pattern. The second group will begin with June email reminders, followed by August and October reminders. The third group will receive renewal emails in August, followed by October and December reminders.

At this point, I should perhaps define some terms. You are an active member if you have paid your dues for your current membership period. For most of us, this is 1 July through 30 June. Once your membership renewal date has passed without payment, you will still be an active member, but in a three-month grace period. If you renew within this period, you remain active and your current membership period will be extended to the new year. If you renew after the grace period expires, you must rejoin AAUW and you will have a different membership period based upon your renewal date. One interesting tidbit: You can be a future member if you have managed to renew for a multiple year period. We have one such member. Her membership is good through June 2024. On 1 July, she will become an active member like the rest of us.

Katie Wright, Branch Treasurer

Please welcome our new member Denise Jones.

For your directory please note the following:
Denise Jones

Karole Ely, Membership



1906 Earthquake was no match for Alice Eastwood

The Academy of Sciences botanist risked her life to save 1,500 specimens but remains unknown

San Francisco has once again after 117 years remembered the 7.9 earthquake that struck the city at about 5 a.m. and started a massive fire that roared on for more than 3 days.

Then director of the Cal Academy of Sciences felt panic, stuffed a taxidermed bird species in each trouser pocket and fled the building on Market Street. Up on Nob Hill, botanist Alice Eastwood was calm. The 47-year-old head of the Department of Botany, ate a quick breakfast, packed a lunch, and arrived at a building whose marble staircase had crumbled and flames were tearing toward it.

So she climbed sideways, using the remaining banister and each foot between bars, one step at a time., until she reached the sixth floor, where she had gathered more than a thousand of important plant specimens. She had to find a way to get them out. The nearly 1,500 specimens and records she saved that day were about the only materials rescued from the building. She put them in her apron and passed them down 6 floors.

Alice was born in 1859. "I don't know what it was that drew me to botany," she told the *SF Chronicle*. The Cal Academy was one of the few places where she could study plants as a career. She was hired as an herbarium assistant to Mary Katherine Brandegee, the botany curator, who had just been hired as the third woman to attend medical school at UC Berkeley.

Eastwood did extensive fieldwork, designing her own rugged long skirts made of denim and corduroy. And took ambitious trips to remote areas, lugging bulky wooden specimen presses in an attempt to document California's plant life. In 1894 she joined several men scaling Mount Shasta in search of rare specimens. She joyfully remembered that "we skidded down 3 miles on gunny sacks."

Her own home was lost in the 1906 inferno. All that was left of her personal possessions were the clothes on her back and the thimble-sized lens that she used to inspect plants. She was still working at the Cal Academy when she turned 90 in 1949, while helping to plan the San Francisco Botanical Garden. She retired that year, but not really. When she died in 1953, there were 375,000 plant specimens in the herbarium, most she had collected herself. It remains one of the largest botanical collections in the U.S.

Source: P. Hartlaub, San Francisco Chronicle (Thank you Jean Guthrie for helping us re-discover heroic women.)



AAUW CA Promotes its Priorities with the Legislature and Prepares for a Vote on New Ones

By Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom and Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

If you participated in this year's Lobby Days on March 21 and 22, you know it was a whirlwind of activity. Over two jam-packed days, 120 AAUW CA members from 50 branches met with 46 Assembly offices and 23 Senate offices. Most of the meetings took place via Zoom and the majority took place without a hitch. For the first time in several years, some of our members met in

person in Sacramento.

While most meetings were conducted with legislative staff we were able this year to schedule 10 meetings with the members themselves - 6 Assemblymembers and 4 Senators. In addition, Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Chair, and Kathy Van Osten, our AAUW CA Legislative Advocate, met with the Governor's staff and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office.

We were happy to learn that our organization was known to many of the legislative staff and legislators with whom our members met. Some had spoken to branches in their districts; others were familiar with our public policy priorities and expressed alignment and support for them; and a handful were appreciative of the background we provided about our mission and programs. A sterling endorsement came from none other than Alf Brandt, Policy Consultant for Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, whose mother was an AAUW member in the 1940's in Orange County. He credits her involvement in AAUW "making me the man I am today."

The reception of our "Top 3" bills - AB 1394, SB 287 and AB 549 – was generally favorable, especially the two social media bills. Both staff and legislators could identify with the pervasive problem of having children who are or will be targeted by social media. AB 549 needed a bit more explaining, as some were unfamiliar with CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/03/bill-tracking.pdf/>.

During our Lobby Days event, we were able to get our message across to those who make our laws and to highlight AAUW, our mission, accomplishments and the benefits we bring to our communities throughout CA. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy and for those of you who participated, AAUW CA thanks you!

Adding this reminder: it's time to vote on the updates to the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. In response to input from 466 members, the state Public Policy Committee has recommended and the Board has approved 11 changes, which can be viewed here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities/>. Highlighted additions include support for: civics education, access to diverse staff and curriculum, safe infrastructure and access to technology in our schools, gun violence prevention, and a fourth pillar to support women in leadership roles. If you haven't voted yet, a reminder that voting closes May 13th, make sure you make your voice heard!

PROPOSED BUDGET

	2022-2023	2023-2024
Income		
Advertising Income	450	500
Membership Dues - Branch part only	2,470	2,470
Total Income	2,920	2,970
Expense		
AAUW Fund	65	65
Administrative Expense	200	215
Branch Courtesies	15	15
Community Action Projects	1,125	710
Conferences/Conventions	100	100
Discretionary Projects	100	100
Dues Assistance	100	100
Guest Meals	250	550
Scholarship Fundraising Expense		175
Honorees Award (History Tea)	20	20
Insurance	370	420
Membership Handbook	130	200
Membership Support	50	50
Newsletter	100	80
President's gift	70	70
Speaker Gifts	75	75
Treasurer	150	25
Total Expense	2,920	2,970
NET	-	-

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Editor:

Shelley Mitchell

shelleydmitchell@gmail.com

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.



Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.

AAUW | PO Box 5116, Eureka, CA 95503

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