



The Branch

April 2024
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April Branch Meeting

This month we are going to continue our series on the challenges and opportunities around offshore wind energy in Humboldt County with the perspective of the industry.

RWE, is a world-leading developer of offshore wind. In late 2022 RWE successfully secured the right to develop an up to 1.6 GW project 28 miles off the coast of Humboldt County. The project has the potential to power more than 600,000 homes and is expected to be in operation by the mid-2030s. Ushering in an innovative new industry to Humboldt, the project will bring with it significant infrastructure investment, jobs and local benefits for generations to come.

We are lucky to be joined by Ciara Emery, who serves as RWE's Local Government and Stakeholder Engagement Manager. She is an alumna of Cal Poly Humboldt where she obtained her Master of Social Science in Environment and Community in conjunction with Schatz Energy Research Center. She comes to RWE from Congressman Jared Huffman's office where she served as his Field Representative in Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, and Sonoma Counties.

Saturday, April 6, 2024
Red Lion Inn, 1929 Fourth Street, Eureka

9:30 a.m. Social
10:00 a.m. Brunch
Meal Cost: \$30.00 (includes beverage)
Beverage only \$8.00
4/6/24-Breakfast burritos
Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes, Cheese, Bell pepper, onions
Sausage
Cut Fruit

Click [HERE](#) to make your reservation online by March 26. You may also contact Maggie Augustine - mag3022@gmail.com. It is our branch policy that if you make a reservation and are unable to attend, you must pay for your meal.



President's Message

Thanks to Rosemarie and Sharon for having a great tea and presentation of our honorees.

This is an important month for AAUW as the national elections start on April 3. Please go to [National Elections](#) to obtain more information. You are being asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls. Be open to others ideas and be civil in discussions about his amendment. Your vote is important, so please vote before May 15th.

Nancy Dean,
Branch President

Three Cheers for our Tea Hostesses

These strong (in many ways) women set up beautiful tables, served the food and beverages to their guests, and cleaned up afterwards. The event couldn't take place without their efforts. I heard many comments about how nice the tables looked and how pleasant the meeting was.

Many thanks to Doris Timm, Alex Stillman, Nancy Arroyo, Mary Lou Lowry, Carolyn Miller, and Winifred Creamer! Thanks also to Sharon Ferrett for leading the meeting while Nancy Dean was involved with other important work.

Rosemarie Weaver, Women's History Tea coordinator





And Our Honorees

Shoshanna Anthony of Arcata is a dancer, teacher, event creator and lover of libraries. photo below right with her nominator Alex Stallman and Tea Moderator, Sharon Ferrett

Lynn McKenna is a non-profit volunteer extraordinaire, with special skills in organizing events, creative fundraising, and recruiting other volunteers. Below (left) with her nominator Kay Escarda and Tea Moderator Sharon Ferrett



Meet our Newest Member Deborah Dukes

I have lived in Eureka for 45 years. My education was at Department of Defense schools in Germany, Okinawa, and various US states, followed by a BA in English from Doane University in Nebraska, an MA in Teaching American History from CalPoly Humboldt, and a number of teaching credentials and certifications from Mercer University and Valdosta State University in Georgia, and CalPoly Humboldt.

My career began with teaching AP English. I gradually worked my way through Adult Ed, ESL, Court and Community School, and middle school, to a self-contained elementary Special Day Class.

I am a fervent life-long environmentalist. In retirement I advocate as an active member of the Eureka

Energy Committee, the Steering Committee of 350 Humboldt, and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority Community Advisory Committee. I have gradually made my 1905 house net negative in energy use.

I have three married children who live in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (IT guy), the Bay Area (chef), and Eureka (ICU nurse), and who have given me five grandchildren.



How One Branch Has Put the School Board Project into Action

By Laurinda Ochoa, Member AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project Committee

Last year the AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch said “Yes” to the AAUW California School Board Project (SBP) call to action. In August our branch members started to attend monthly local school board meetings and witnessed attacks by local

religious and political extremists on books, curriculum, teachers, librarians and district staff.

Based on social media statements by people who want to “return schools to local control of concerned parents,” we believe our school district and adjacent districts are being targeted by groups intent on changing public education in California. As AAUW members we support our state and national public policy priorities of providing honest, equitable, and inclusive, quality public education for all students.

To implement the SBP and work toward these public policy goals, our branch has taken a three-step approach:

1. Educate our members and the public about the issues facing public education by hosting Issue Programs and, later, Candidate Forums;
2. Advocate for our public education priorities by speaking up at local Board of Education (BOE) meetings to support board decisions that are consistent with AAUW policies and values;
3. Collaborate by forming coalitions with local groups to educate the public about the importance of supporting public education and those candidates that believe in honest and equitable quality education for all.

EDUCATION:

We encourage all branches to host an SBP program by inviting local experts to speak about what is happening in your districts. Often, accurate information is not available from local media and we need to hear from people actually engaged in public education to understand the local issues. PTA, BOE members, district superintendents, librarians, teachers and informed parents can provide valuable insights.

ADVOCACY:

We hope all branches attend BOE meetings and have one speaker advocating AAUW values. Board members and school staff have voiced appreciation to AAUW members for speaking up in support of public education. Often AAUW is one of the few voices of reason and civility at these meetings. Our voices can change the tone of the public discussion.

COLLABORATION:

We’ve learned our Education and Advocacy efforts naturally lead to other people and groups being interested in working together with AAUW to protect public education. We’re now working with others in a two-county area to “Lift Up Public Education” by educating the public, advocating for public education, and demonstrating community support for our local school districts. For more information on how we organized our coalition and distributed the workload, visit our website [here](#).

We encourage other branches to support quality public education and promote critical AAUW values by taking these simple steps to build member and community support for Quality Public Education.

Remember to let your SBP liaison know when you have attended a school board meeting, and be sure to complete and submit the SB Checklist. You can find your liaison [here](#); you can find the Checklist [here](#).

A Stunning Bird and a Big New Word

Colombia's diverse ecosystems – huge mountain ranges, swamps, Caribbean beaches and Amazonian rainforests – are home to more avian species than any other country on Earth.



A professor of evolutionary biology in New Zealand went on a bird-watching vacation in Colombia, hoping to see some interesting creatures. He got more than he bargained for. The green honeycreeper is a small songbird common in forests from Mexico to Brazil. This one had very unusual plumage, shimmering green feathers on its left side, the classic color of females. The right side, however, was iridescent blue., marker of a male. The only previous report of such a honeycreeper was more than a century ago.

These are known as bilateral gynandromorphs, female on one side and male on the other. Gynandromorphism has been documented in a variety of birds, as well as in insects, crustaceans, and other organisms. This half male, half female honeycreeper is the first known to have been seen in the wild. That one a century ago was in a lab.

Thank you to The New York Times and Jean Guthrie

The Branch is published eight times a year by the Humboldt Branch of AAUW. Submissions of articles, news items and photos from members are welcome. Submit them by the 20th of each month to shelleydmitchell@gmail.com.

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April in Women's History

In 1939 DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, DC cancelled Marian Anderson's performance on the grounds of her race. When word got out, the people of DC were outraged. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt took action. First she resigned from the DAR and with Department of the Interior Director Harold L. Ickes, along with the NAACP, took the necessary steps to allow Anderson to perform at the Lincoln Memorial.

On Sunday, April 9, 1939 Marian Anderson performed to an integrated crowd of 75,000 from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Millions of listeners tuned in to hear the performance as well. This was a landmark moment in the history of civil rights on the Mall. Click [here](#) for a brief video of

this occasion