

THE SPHERE

Welcome to the Sphere Newsletter, the monthly e-blast sent to every member of the San Diego organization for a quick read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Scholarship Luncheon
June 15, 2024
11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Casa De Reyes
2754 Calhoun Street
San Diego, CA 92110

Join us to celebrate our scholarship winners and bring the 2023-2024 year to a close.

Please make your check for \$45 out to AAUW San Diego, and mail by 6/8/24 to: Sherry Eberling at 256 L Street, Chula Vista, CA 91911

Menu

Chicken Enchiladas Surtas Roasted chicken wrapped in corn tortillas with crema Mexicana, poblano sauce & beans.	Chili Colorado Tender roasted/simmered pork shoulder in smoky chili sauce, includes rice & beans	Tostada Salad Shredded lettuce, jalapeno ranch, beans, rice, cotija cheese, pico de gallo and tortilla chips
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Dessert: Churros with chocolate drizzle | **Choice of:** Lemonade, iced tea, coffee, or water



Heather Ferbert speaks during an AAUW-San Diego program in 2023.

Ferbert to speak at scholarship event

Heather Ferbert, chief deputy city attorney for San Diego, will speak on "How to Run for Office" at our annual Scholarship Luncheon on June 15.

Ferbert, who is currently a candidate for city attorney, has defended women's rights, opened emergency homeless shelters, protected our parks and waterways, and stopped million-dollar real estate fraud scams. She leads the City's legal team that advises the City Council and ensures officials follow the law. Previously, Ferbert was an attorney for the Housing Commission and other public agencies.

In a recent email, she said, "Women are the backbone of America. We have raised children, taken care of the home, and have been a support system for all to lean on. But we are so much more. We are attorneys, scientists, doctors, policy makers, construction workers, pilots—the list goes on."

She said, "When women are elected, they legislate with everyone in mind, focusing on critical issues facing society today."

However, she cited, only 39.7 percent of municipal officeholders in California cities with more than 10,000 people are women, fewer than 5 percent of the state legislators elected over California's history have been women, and California has never elected a woman governor.

"Electing women at the local level not only builds the bench for the future, those women focus on local policies to protect our children, seniors, and vulnerable people in our neighborhoods and schools," Ferbert said.

Ferbert is a graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law. She is active in the Lawyers Club of San Diego, the Women's Bar Association, and is an adjunct professor at the San Diego School of Law. She trains new lawyers, hoping to inspire them to careers in public interest and to be engaged members of the legal community.

She lives in the Normal Heights neighborhood with her husband, Andrew, and their daughter.

The Scholarship Luncheon at Casa de Reyes will celebrate our 2024 scholarship awardees. Members and guests are asked to RSVP by June 8. See the graphic above for details.

Two students chosen for 2024 scholarships

Two outstanding women were selected for our 2024 scholarship awards and will be honored at our Scholarship Luncheon on June 15.

Anastasia Egoudine has been a student at San Diego Miramar College, majoring in mechanical engineering. She has a 4.0 GPA and is on the Dean's List. She is a high-achieving woman with numerous activities: treasurer of SD Mesa College's Engineering Club, secretary of SD Miramar College's Society of Women Engineers, Honors Robotics Club, Mesa's Engineering Workshop, Supply Chain Experience, NASA/CASEC Microcomputer & Robotics Internship. She has also joined the campus Running Club.

Anastasia's volunteer activities include math tutoring on campus and other campus seasonal events.

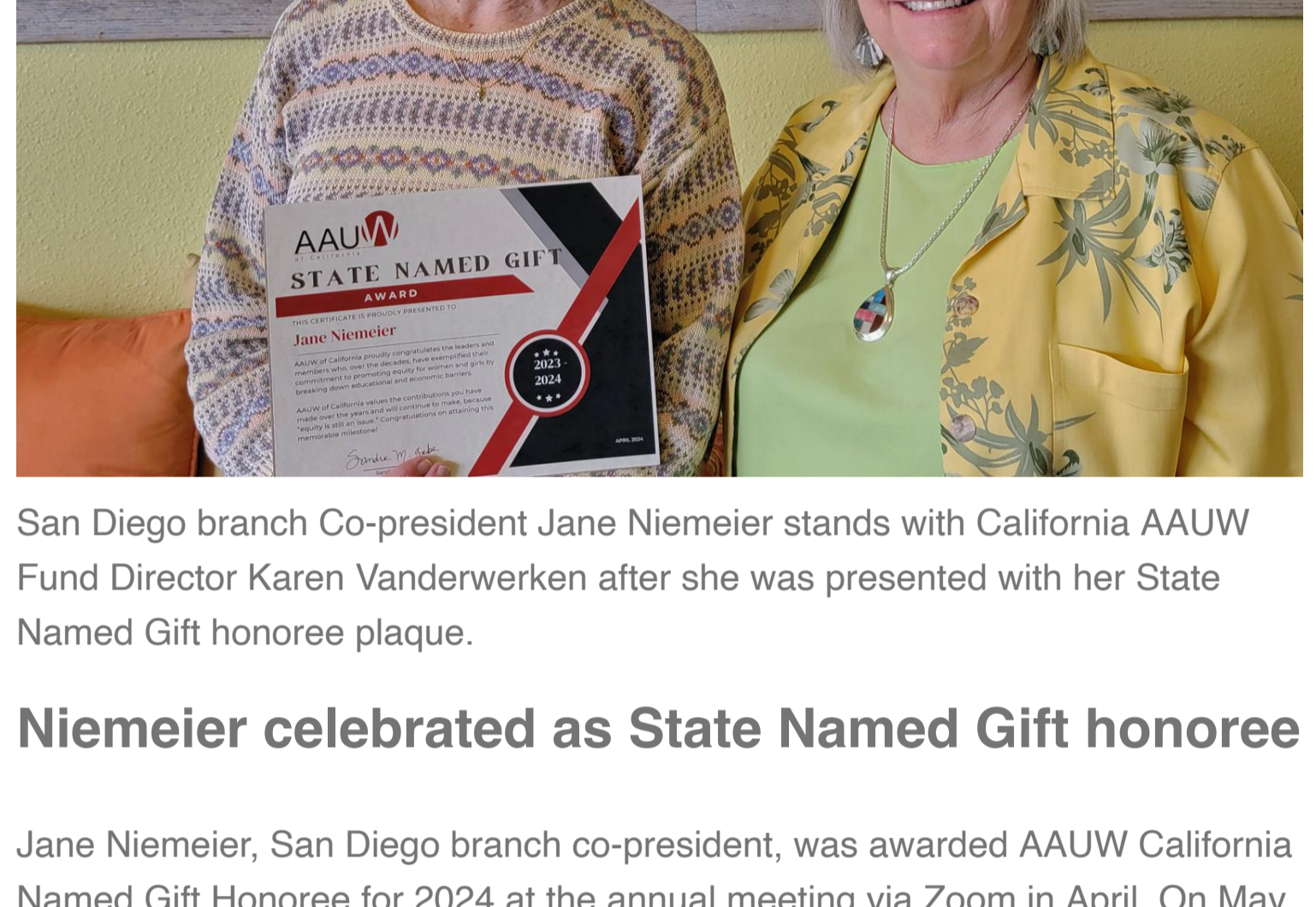
Noteworthy is that her interest in engineering surfaced when Anastasia was in the eighth grade. Anastasia has been able to intern in both engineering and biotech, which she recognizes is valuable to build contacts for future opportunities. One such service opportunity was to mentor Girl Scouts who wished to earn an engineering badge. Her interest is in seeing young minds engaged and guiding them by encouraging and empowering the next generation of women in STEM. This deepened her commitment to foster inclusivity in engineering as well as highlighted the impact of mentorship and community outreach.

Samantha Terauds is a junior with a 3.9 GPA at California State University San Marcos. She looks forward to being part of the solution to reduce and eliminate social disparities. In the U-RISE program at UCSD this summer (for students planning doctoral studies in the future), she has been introduced to many opportunities in the NIH (National Institutes of Health) for training, research, and educational excellence). Samantha recognizes the influence that minoritized scientists have had on her through the U-RISE experiences.

Participation in this program has opened many new concepts and insights to growing possibilities for her future. The TRIO SSS program has also offered her networking, educational strategies, and financial considerations that lead to better choices.

Samantha is an active board member of the Addiction Awareness Initiative and the North County LGBTQ Resource Center.

Finally, Samantha has been hired as a research intern in applied physiology and has already presented the project's findings to the university's Research Symposium.



San Diego branch Co-president Jane Niemeier stands with California AAUW Fund Director Karen Vanderwerken after she was presented with her State Named Gift honoree plaque.

Niemeier celebrated as State Named Gift honoree

Jane Niemeier, San Diego branch co-president, was awarded AAUW California Named Gift Honoree for 2024 at the annual meeting via Zoom in April. On May 16, at a small gathering at Jo's Diner in San Diego, one of Jane's favorite eating spots, three AAUW women celebrated in person with Jane to present her Named Gift Honoree plaque.

Karen Vanderwerken, AAUW California director and chair of AAUW Fund for California, joined Donna Lilly, co-president of San Diego branch, and Lynne Batchelor, secretary of San Diego branch, to celebrate and present Jane with her award.

Jane is an active member of the La Mesa-EI Cajon branch and a dual member of San Diego branch. She serves as the San Diego County Interbranch Council liaison. In addition to being San Diego branch co-president, she is treasurer of the La Mesa-EI Cajon branch. She has served in most La Mesa-EI Cajon branch positions, including president, treasurer, and program chair.

In 2014, Jane served as AAUW California State Convention chair. Jane was co-president of AAUW California with Cathy Foxhoven 2018-2020. She was the 2021-2023 State Nominating Committee chair. Currently, Jane serves on the AAUW California Special Project Fund (SPF) responsible for financial duties for Tech Trek Camp for Girls in California and student scholarship funds for branches engaged with SPF.

The San Diego branch thanks and celebrates Jane for her many years of supporting women's rights through legislation, leadership, and financial donations.

--Compiled by Donna Lilly



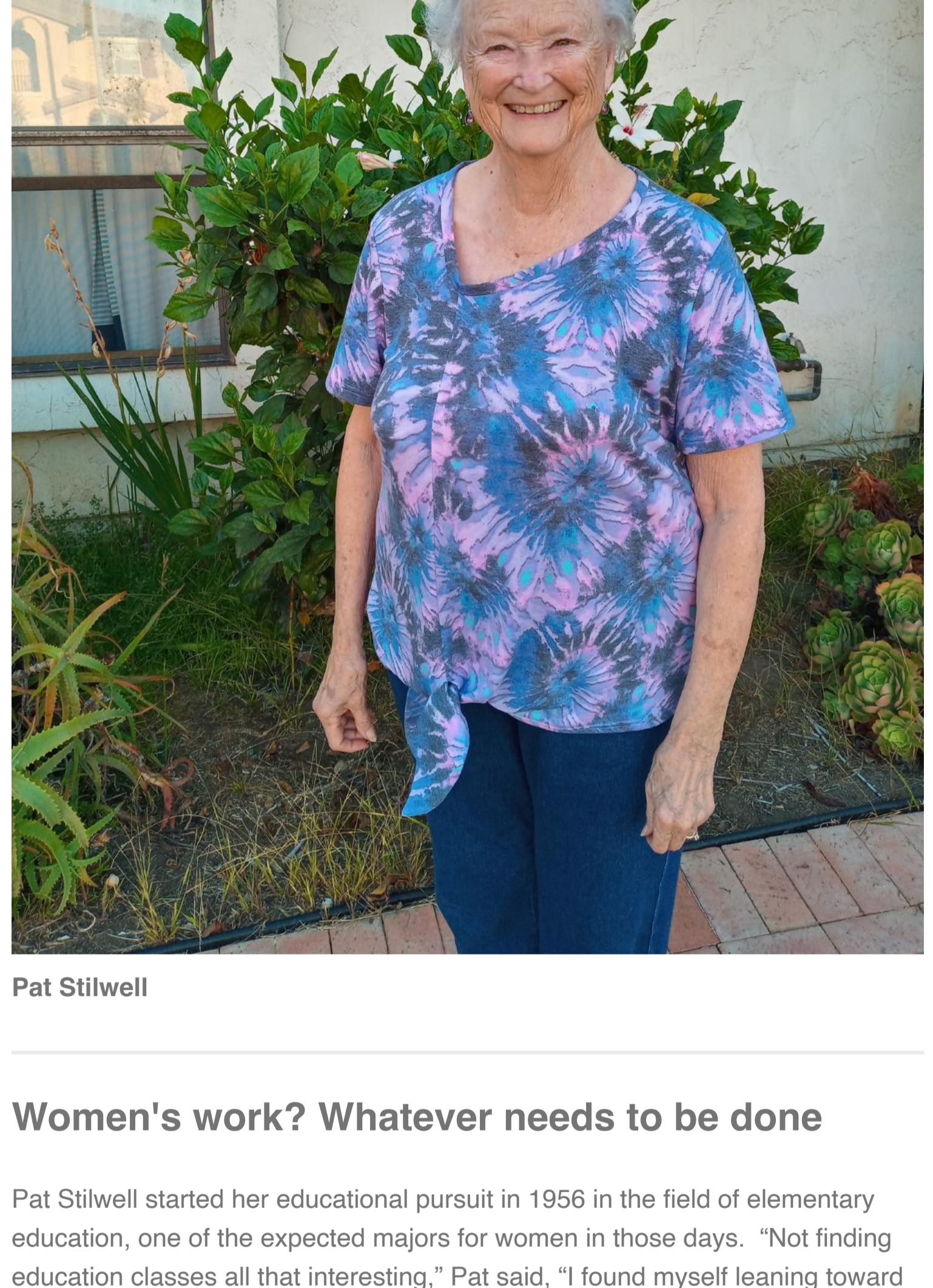
Branch adds fourth student to Tech Trek camp

Our branch will send a fourth selectee to Tech Trek camp this month. Natalie Tran, 13, attends De Portola Middle School. Her interests include coding, animation, and her elective class Gateway to Tech. Natalie said her goal is "to be a best version of me that I can be." She loves listening to music and listens to a couple of hours of music daily.

Member Spotlight

Pat Stilwell

*AAUW member since: 1971
*Fun Fact: A passionate sewer. Pat still has the Singer Featherweight sewing machine that her father gave her mother when Pat was born.



Pat Stilwell

Women's work? Whatever needs to be done

Pat Stilwell started her educational pursuit in 1956 in the field of elementary education, one of the expected majors for women in those days. "Not finding education classes all that interesting," Pat said, "I found myself leaning toward home economics (as it was called then!) and even though I have a passion for sewing, I drifted more toward foods."

She went on to earn a degree from UCLA in Foods and Nutrition, which eventually was in the field of Public Health. She did a one-year dietetic internship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor after graduation.

After college, Pat was employed by hospitals to operate the food service departments, which included food preparation and patient dietary consultation.

"My career took an unexpected and delightful turn when California State AAUW was establishing their state office, Pat said. "I interviewed and was hired as the first California State AAUW office manager where I happily worked for ten years. Best job I ever had."

In 1971, Pat joined AAUW. "To save my adult sanity!" she said. "At the time I had a four-year-old and a two-year-old at home and I needed some adult stimulation and conversation. My mother-in-law offered to pay the first year's dues to AAUW, and I accepted with the hope that I would meet other like-minded women." What began as a way to meet other women turned into working for women's equity. Pat said, "I had no idea (that) would be so consuming in the years to come." Her first branch membership was San Fernando Valley, then Sacramento, and then San Diego in 2017.

"Women in AAUW have always inspired me," Pat said. "I am in awe of their accomplishments, their leadership, and their passion for equity." She hesitates to name the women who have most inspired her for fear of leaving someone out, but women from history she would include are: Eleanor Roosevelt, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Rosa Parks, "women who dared."

To new and younger AAUW members, Pat says, "Keep defending women's rights at all levels, from the girl toddler who has had her toy taken by her big brother to a woman's right to have control over her own body."

Pat was born and grew up in Southern California until age nine, lived in the Mojave Desert until she was fourteen, then moved back to Southern California, then to Sacramento in 1973.

"In my home, growing up, I don't remember being treated differently than my brother," Pat said. "Even though I did 'women's' things, I was never prevented from doing 'men's' things. My father fixed a leaky pipe, I fixed a leaky pipe. My father did the laundry, I did the laundry. It wasn't a matter of who should do the chore but who was available to do it. My father mowed. My mother drove the tractor when baling hay. Consequently, in my married life, I was often the one who if not fixing the problem was determining how to fix it."

Pat has three children, four grandchildren, a step-granddaughter and a great-grandson. Her only sibling, her brother, lives in Tasmania, Australia.

One of Pat's passions is sewing of all kinds. She has sewn since she was ten and said that like any hobby it can take over your life. "It gives me joy (most of the time) and is a good outlet for creativity."

Member Spotlight is a monthly feature in The Sphere.

Calendar of Events

July
Branch planning meeting, **July 20**, 10:00 a.m., location TBA. All branch members are invited to present program ideas for the rest of the year; bring a snack to share.

THE SPHERE SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions to The Sphere is the 15th of the previous month. Please email submissions to Patricia Watts: pw4justice@yahoo.com

San Diego Branch Officers

Listed below are the current branch officers. As you can see, we have a number of openings. If you know anyone who would like to help our wonderful branch, just let one of our co-presidents know.

Officers	
Co-Presidents	Jane Niemeier, Donna Lilly, Anne Hoiberg
Membership	Vacant
Finance	Sherry Eberling
Public Policy	Shauna Ruyle
Secretary	Lynne Batchelor
Chairs	
Sphere Newsletter	Patricia Watts
College & University Scholarships	Donna Lilly
Tech Trek	Lillian Payne
Communications	Nanette Allen
Historian	
Tech Outreach	

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEMBER?

Become a member at an in-person event, and your national dues are cut in half! The total will be \$74 for a new member if he/she joins at any in-person meeting. Total dues for 2022-2023 are normally \$110. (Dues: national-\$69 tax deductible + \$3 for the action fund/state-\$20/and branch \$18).

AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 people standing strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice even louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

AAUW MISSION AND VALUES

OUR VALUES
Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering. Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state, and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.

OUR MISSION
Gender Equity & Economic Security
We've led the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women — and the battle continues: Women still get just 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man, and men continue to dominate the top roles and highest-paying professions.

