



Los Angeles County Interbranch Council (LACIC) News

September/October 2018

Volume 38 Number 1

Mid-term elections are right around the corner and LACIC is pleased to announce the opening program speaker for our 2018 – 2019 term:

NANCY MAHR

AAUW-CA Director & Public Policy Co-Chair

Palos Verdes Peninsula Branch Member

Join us as Nancy provides a non-partisan overview of the state initiatives with open discussion on AAUW's perspective.

JOIN US!

LACIC – Sunday, September 9, 2018

2:00 – 4:00pm

PIH (formerly Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital)

12401 Washington Blvd., Whittier, Lower Level, Conference Rm. F

Whittier, CA

Please encourage all branch members to attend.

The LACIC refreshment plan:

Bring your own drink. Individuals are invited to bring snacks to share.

Message from the Chair

Hello –

It's a pleasure to welcome AAUW branch leaders and members to LACIC's 2018 – 2019 term. I hope you enjoyed a restful summer vacation and are refreshed and prepared to dive into a new season of mission-based projects and activities.

I am particularly excited to be working this year with my Co-Chair Sharon Westafer. Sharon's service on the AAUW-CA Board of Directors, as Fund Chair and as a longtime Long Beach branch leader will bring talents, skills and a fresh perspective to LACIC. She's been a wonderfully supportive member of our Steering Committee, and already I'm enjoying the collaborative environment.

Sharon's reputation for great leadership precedes her; but let me just say that having served on the Board with her during the 2014 – 2016 term, in addition to her branch leadership, knowledge and experience, I learned to really value her judgment and integrity.

So let's get started!

September 2018 begins another year for opportunities to take ***ACTION to improve the lives of women and girls!*** As we support gender equity in our communities with the variety of AAUW programs, projects and activities, keep in mind that we can make a difference by raising our voices to legislators: **subscribe to AAUW's Two-Minute Activist.** Last year, our colleagues sent over 200,000 messages to members of Congress: How's that for great AAUW action on behalf of gender equity?! (And seriously, it takes no more than 2 minutes.)

And guess what? AAUW has taken Activist to a new level – it's now available on your cell! Check it out online at: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/two-minute-activist-mobile/>

As we prepare to serve you – the 14 LA County

branches – please know that we value your input and feedback. If you have a program or topic that you feel will benefit the group, please don't hesitate to contact Sharon or myself.

Beginning Sunday, September 9, 2018, I hope we will see you and your branch members at LACIC meetings! Please make sure that your general membership is aware of our programs and encourage your members to attend and participate. We welcome your input and feedback!

Warm Regards,

Susan Negrete, Chair



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LOS ANGELES INTERBRANCH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MAY 20, 2018

A meeting of the Los Angeles County Interbranch Council (LACIC) was held at PIH, 12401 Washington Boulevard, Whittier, CA, on May 20, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome. LACIC Chair Susan Negrete called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Susan asked all to be sure to sign-in.

Branch Introductions and LACIC Action Card.

Susan referred everyone to the LACIC Action Card including citing today's speaker, Judy Milestone, AAUW-Beach Cities, PVP, speaking on Student Debt.



Susan referred all to the AAUW Research Paper: "*Deeper in Debt...*" <https://www.aauw.org/files/2013/02/graduating-to-a-pay-gap-the-earnings-of-women-and-men-one-year-after-college-graduation.pdf>. And see the print article: "*2018 Student Loan Debt Statistics*" <https://studentloanhero.com/student-loan-debt-statistics/>

Self-introductions of those in attendance was conducted:

Present, Kathleen Doty, Alhambra-San Gabriel; Lucille Wright, Ruth Currie, East San Gabriel Valley; Cathy Zitnick, Anna Torres, Neda Fabris, Glendale; Kaye Kidwell, Greater Whittier Area; Rozanne Child, Greater Whittier/Alhambra-San Gabriel; Harriet Moses, Tobi Balma, La Palma-Cerritos; Sharon Westafer, Daphne Ching-Jackson, Long Beach; Susan Negrete, Kay Odgers, Palos Verdes Peninsula/Torrance; Ginny Hatfield, San Fernando Valley.

Program: "Happy Graduation and Welcome to Student Debt!"

Susan introduced speaker Judy Milestone, a member of Beach Cities and Palos Verdes Peninsula Branches. Judy's career at the university level extends over 25 years of experience giving her a unique perspective for today's topic. From 2009 to present she has been a lecturer at the UCLA Department of Communications Studies. She served as the Vice-Chair of the Smith College Board of Trustees from 2003-2010.

Judy stated college debt is a big problem with an estimated \$1.3 million in debt for students. Women represent 56% of college students and carry two-thirds of the debt. Women are 5% more likely to take on debt than men. Women can find colleges but are disadvantaged. Women take on more debt upfront than their male siblings. However with com-

munity colleges there are new opportunities to help female students. Women are offered help by non-profits, public and private colleges. Financial literacy is a factor for women. When offered scholarships and financial aid they tend to get in over their head as they are enticed to take the money with promises of jobs. Complicating this debt issue, women face the reality of a significant pay gap to address their student debt. Depending on the type of debt, there may be loan forgiveness in certain professions, in some cases, a portion of the loan is forgiven.

Judy cited that in the current economy student aid is being reduced by public sources, making it harder to get public money. The current administration is backing off of for-profit colleges. There are also Pell grants available that may be helpful to certain people and populations.

There some states that are beginning to go to free tuition, which Judy cited as "great"! More students need to know about this. More thought is needed to address the re-payment process for the cost of going to college and how one can realistically repay. Judy also posed the question: "Is college the right investment?" She cautioned against an approach where we are deciding who should or shouldn't attend college. She cited the great need for women leaders in public life to find viable solutions to this issue because women have a certain view on these issues that men may not. College debt is a huge social problem and it tends to hurt women more.

Another consideration is the idea that college is not for everyone therefore Judy stated our educational system could develop more vocation options but this needs to start in high school. For example, there are fewer plumbers, therefore they can charge \$200 a call because of the diminishing num-



bers of plumbers. It seems that universities dictate to K-12 systems what the academic curriculum should be so that students are educated to go to college. In conclusion, Judy pointed out that there are resources on the Internet that are underutilized and recommended that they be researched. These resources can also be found on the AAUW website.

Break and refreshments from 3:15-3:30 p.m.

LACIC Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes of LACIC Meeting on March 12, 2018.

Susan asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on March 12, 2018. Hearing none it was moved and seconded that the minutes of March 12, 2018 be accepted and filed for audit.

Treasurer's Report.

In the absence of Treasurer Patricia Cuocco, Susan presented the following financial report:

Balance as of March 31, 2018 \$ 1,575.95

*April Interest (approximate) .07

*Approximate Balance as of April 30, 2018
\$ 1,576.02

No deposits or expenditures in March or April
2018

Ending Balance as of April 30, 2018
\$ 1,576.02

*Amounts are approximate because actual bank statements are in Whittier and our Treasurer is in Nevada. The difference can only be a matter of a few cents.

Treasurer's Note: Dues invoices were sent to LAC-

IC Branches. 2nd notices will be sent in May to those branches who have not sent checks. Checks will be deposited in mid-June 2018 and deposit will be reflected in the End of Year Report, which will be presented to the Board in July 2018.

2018-2019 LACIC Board Installation

Susan reported that the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee consisted of Rozanne Child, Chair, and members Deanne Arthur and Kay Odgers. Susan introduced Installing Officer Kathleen Doty, a Past President of Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch and Past AAUW CA President. Kathleen presided over the installation as follows:

Kay Odgers, Membership Ambassador - Although your duties are not specified in the LACIC Special Rules of Order, your tasks shall be as the title implies, being an ambassador for membership throughout Los Angeles County. Kathleen asked Kay if she agrees to these duties. Upon accepting Kathleen asked Kay to take two flowers.

Daphne Ching-Jackson, Recording Secretary - The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes and records of the Council. Do you agree to perform these duties, Kathleen asked. Upon agreement Daphne took two flowers as well.

Patricia Cuocco, Treasurer - Although Patricia was absent she was installed in absentia. The Treasurer shall collect the assessments of the Council, disburse monies as directed by the Council, keep a proper set of books, and file an annual report of revenues and expenditures at the close of the fiscal year with the AAUW CA CFO, with a copy to the AAUW CA Office.

Ginny Hatfield and Rozanne Child, Vice-Chairs for LACIC - The Vice Chairs shall, in the absence or disability of the Chair, assume the duties and ex-



ercise the powers of the Chair. They will prepare programs for the year's meetings with approval of the elected officers. They shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair, the Steering Committee, or the Council. They agreed to perform their duties and each took 2 flowers.

Susan Negrete and Sharon Westafer - Co-Chairs of LACIC - The Chairs shall have the usual executive powers of supervision and management of the Council and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council. Upon expressing their agreement to perform their duties each took 2 flowers.

Kathleen then stated: "*Margaret Mead, famous anthropologist, said 'I must admit that I personally measure success in terms of the contributions an individual makes to her or his fellow human beings.' To symbolize each of your contributions, and to re-dedicate yourselves, to AAUW and LACIC, I ask you each now to return one of your flowers to the vase. Look at what a successful outcome we have when everyone makes a contribution!! And, here you have it -- the 2018-2019 LACIC Officers, ready for success!!*"

Susan thanked Kathleen for a wonderful installation and expressed her excitement for the upcoming year, especially with Sharon as her Co-Chair!

Eleventh Annual West Coast Global Forum. Ginny Hatfield announced that this year's United Nations Association global forum's theme is "***Equality: The Time is Now!***" In keeping with this theme and among the honorees for the Global Citizen Award, is the American Association of University Women and Kim Churches, CEO, will be accepting the award. Other honorees are Pauline Field, Founder, 50/50 Leadership and Emmanuel Itier, Film Producer, Rotarian and Peace Activist. Ginny, who is chairing this year's luncheon, proposed that LACIC once again support the forum with a \$250 sponsorship as has been done in past years. The sponsorship entitles LACIC to an ad

and 1 luncheon reservation gratis. It was moved by Rozanne Child and seconded by Sharon Westafer and approved that:

Motion: LACIC approve a \$250 sponsorship, that includes one ad and a luncheon reservation at no cost, in support of the United Nations Association's West Coast Global Forum to be held August 29, 2018.

Ginny encouraged LACIC members to attend the luncheon from Noon to 3 p.m. The cost is \$25 for students, \$45 for 65+ and non-members \$75.

New Business and Branch Announcements

Ginny Hatfield announced that San Fernando Branch will introduce its new board and has scheduled Assembly Member Laura Friedman, representing the 43rd Assembly District, as its featured speaker on Saturday, June 16 from 2:00 -4:00 p.m.

A reminder was announced that the AAUW National vote on revisions to the AAUW bylaws is on-going until June 9th. Please vote.

Toby Balma from La Palma Cerritos Branch reminded everyone to give a grad gift to a recent grad. She also announced Whittier Tech Trek is recruiting for Dorm Moms to provide oversight. Contact her at aauw.tobi@gmail.com.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne Ching-Jackson

Daphne Ching-Jackson

Secretary