

# **April 2020 Newsletter**

Visit our Websiteamador-ca.aauw.net

#### **Dear AAUW Amador Branch Members-**

#### Message from Stephanie Young, Leadership Committee Chair

I hope you are all doing well sheltered in place. Like everyone else, I miss interacting with others. I don't think any of us realizes how important human interaction and activities are to our morale until we can't go about our normal lives. I hope you have all found something to be joyous about. Be well and stay safe.

As you know, we had to cancel/postpone our spring programs and fundraising events because of the pandemic. We may have to delay all activities until the fall.

I am in the process of setting up a virtual Leadership Committee meeting via Zoom. More details on that later.

#### **Planning Update**

About half our members attended one or more of our planning forums in February/March and had a lot of great comments and ideas. A compilation of those thoughts is in the attached document below. If any of you have additional thoughts to contribute, please contact me.

Issues where there was general agreement:

- 1. Scholarships: You want to continue giving them. The priority is Tech Trek, with Re-entry and Upper Division/Graduate not far behind.
- 2. Reality check: if we are going to give scholarships we need a big fundraiser to do so

Some members are tired of doing the Home Tour, but no new ideas came forth about what to substitute for it

If we don't want to give any scholarships, then we can probably get by with several smaller fundraisers.

- 3. Most want to narrow the focus of what we do.
- 4. How do we program and better serve the various constituencies in our branch. Several helpful suggestions are noted.
- 5. Programming: We want to be known for producing interesting educational public forums. Keeping Libations and Conversations is a must; and we will try to use it as a member generation tool and as an idea factory for larger programming events.
- 6. Projects: Several projects were suggested. We need to choose one or maybe two; we can rotate our projects every couple of years.

### Other thoughts:

Our membership has been dwindling over the past few years. Four years ago we had 92 members. We now have 65, most of which can be attributed to members moving away and illness. However, there are a number who stepped back for different reasons and we are planning on polling recent non-renewals to understand why they left the branch.

Click here to read the full summary report.

#### **DONATE Button on our Website**

We are very excited to share the news that we have added a DONATE button to our homepage to accept contributions to our Scholarship Fund. This Fund supports all of our scholarship programs- community college, upper division, re-entry and Tech Trek.

These contributions are more important this year than any other because we do not have a Home Tour in April 2020. As you know, Home Tour proceeds support our scholarship programs. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

When you go our website <u>amador-ca.aauw.net</u> and click on the DONATE button, you will be taken the homepage for the Amador Community Foundation -ACF- because this where our scholarship fund is housed. On the ACF homepage there is a green button that says GIVE NOW, click on it and you'll get to the donation page. AAUW Scholarship Fund is listed in the drop down menu the third from the top.

We'd like to thank and acknowledge Kathleen Harmon, Executive Director of the AMador Community Foundation, for her assistance in getting this project accomplished.

#### **Tech Trek**

Tech Trek Meet & Greet pizza party that had been scheduled for April 15 has been postponed because of the coronavirus. We will send information about the new date as soon as it can be scheduled.

### **All April Meetings are Postponed**

In keeping with Governor Gavin Newsom's "stay home" order and Amador County Health Officer, Rita Kerr's "Stay at Home" order all events, programs and Interest Group meetings in April will not meet and have been postponed.

#### **Membership News**

Please join us in welcoming our two new members.

Terrie Houseman 17900 Red Mule Road Fiddletown CA 95629 296-3502 terrie.houseman@gmail.com

Bonnie Toy P.O.Box 69 10923 Fiddletown Rd Fiddletown CA 95629 245-6772 bonnie@toyland.org

## Happy Birthday to our members celebrating birthdays in April!

Sandy Campbell Renee Day Jacque Fletcher Kelli Garcia Floy Goulart Andrea Sexton Anna Williams

#### **Sunshine Cards Sent in March**

Mel Welsh



Join us via <u>Zoom.com</u> for the Creative Writing Workshop with award winning writer, Ellen Snortland.

## **CLICK to REGISTER**

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46

