

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The Southwestern Southwest Sectional Newsletter

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Index

Beach Cities Branch Charter/Induction 6

Branch News 3-6

45th Sectional Conference Info 3

Empowering Girls to Lead 5

Grape Street elementary School Project 5

Habitat for Humanity Program 7

Heart Health Awareness Month 3

Lay Member Report 2

Leimert Park Book Fair 4

Membership Tea 2

Meeting dates, times places 8

National Convention Publicity 8

Rites of Passage Program 4

Sectional Director's Message 1

Spotlight on Youth 4

Toys for Tots 3

Evelyn Wright Sectional Director's Message



Greetings to each of you beautiful ladies!

Let me begin by thanking you for your trust in electing me as Southwest Sectional Director. This has been a rewarding year; one of challenges, all of which were overcome. As a part of the National Association of University Women, we are committed to servicing the needs of our communities. Our visionary founders, Mary Church Terrell, Dr. Sara Brown, Dr. Nancy Fairfax Brown and Mary Cromwell saw the need for women to support each other as they gave back.

The branches of the Southwest Section are involved in many activities which foster education, scholarship, national and international projects. I am proud to review the activities of the branches. The Culver City Branch has garnered scholarship funds annually with their Jazz Scholarship Luncheon which also featured the ATL All-Stars Team LA Cheerleaders and Miss Leroya Sanford, comedienne. The Inglewood Branch shines with their Red Dress Day partnership with Inglewood Unified School District. The Inland Empire held its first Scholarship Luncheon featuring Barbara Morrison. The Los Angeles Branch continually shines with huge annual scholarship donations. The Santa Monica Branch continues to provide tutoring for male and female students of Virginia Road Elementary School. Our South Bay Branch features talented youth in their signature "Spotlight on Youth" luncheon. Community leaders from all walks of life are honored in the South Central LA Branches Carrie Ayers Haynes Hall of Fame luncheon. Most recently the West Coast Cities Branch participated in the "Get Out the Vote" before the presidential election. They helped to raise awareness of the vote and signed up 10 new individuals to the voting process. Members of each branch joined West Coast Cities at USC for a rematch of the historic Wiley College vs. USC debate depicted in the film "The Great Debaters". Our newly chartered Beach Cities Branch, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Rhonda Jefferson, spent the Christmas Holidays packing goodie baskets for needy families. They continue to plan for the coming year. The Southwest Section as you can see is doing GREAT THINGS! Our latest sectional project is a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. NAUW members are committing to building as well as serving lunch to those many workers answering the call. We too are dedicated to helping provide affordable housing to those who need it. Our founders would be proud.

I encourage you to keep an eye on the great Southwest Section. We are small but mighty! Whether you are a member or considering becoming a member, you will be delighted with what you see!

Evelyn L. Wright

Center photo standing: Dr. Judy Washington, Georgia Ghee, Sylvia Walker, Kenya Dennis; seated Sectional Director Evelyn Wright and Dr. Essie French-Preston



Dr. Essie French-Preston Lay Member Message 2010-2014



My tenure began during the Centennial Year celebration and has remained one of the top highpoints of my service to the National Association of University Women. As Southwest Section Lay Member it has been my privilege to coordinate four Masters' Degree Scholarship Awards and four Founders' Day Programs.

Thank you to the past sectional directors, the current sectional director and members for the outstanding work that you have accomplished over the past four years. My accomplishments with the full cooperation, participation and dedication of all members of NAUW were as follows. 1) The initial contact with Dr. Rhonda Jefferson who served as a luncheon speaker for the West Coast Cities Hall of Fame and was so impressed with the organization that she recruited 9 ladies which resulted in the chartering of the Beach Cities Branch. 2) The update and distribution of current Sectional bylaws that have been provided to Southwest Section members at each conference. Members were also able to obtain an online copy of the bylaws from branch presidents. 3) The charge to host Founders Day - as a part of the two day Sectional Conference with a majority vote at the 43th Sectional Conference. This change enables more NAUW women to attend the Founders Day Luncheon without an added cost. 4) Co-host to the Women Conference held at Compton Community College with more than 250 women in attendance. 5) Hosting the Youth Conference at Compton Community College where 100 youth participated in workshops on financial aid and how to succeed in College. There were college students representing eight historical black colleges and three California State Universities to talk with students in attendance. 6) Attendance and participation in National Conference where the Southwest Section was represented with outstanding leaders Dr. Judith Washington, Evelyn Wright and Dr. French Preston. 7) We continue to set the standards high for our noble organization and commit ourselves to grow in numbers, programs and projects. We are ready for a new season greater than the season that we have seen. Respectfully, **Dr. Essie French Preston**

***** Southwest Section Membership Recruitment Tea*****

On October 13, 2013 Southwest Section hosted their 2nd Annual Sectional Membership Tea at the Department of Water and Power Executive Conference Room. As was promised it was a great day for EXPECTATIONS to increase membership. Every branch had a designated speaker and several members incorporated CD/Power Point presentations to highlight activities! Several branches displayed their scrapbooks, flyers, posters and pictures to showcase their diverse activities. The welcome, orientation, presentations, and delicious goodies were enjoyed by all. Door prizes went home with Inland Empire Branch for longest distances traveled and Beach Cities Branch for largest membership in attendance center photo.



Center Photo, Yvonne Meredith, Audrey Jordan, Kim Simmonds, Michelle Ouatta, Evelyn Wright, Angie McCord, Dr. Rhonda Jefferson, Dr. Essie French Preston, Kenya Dennis

Right photo is Silvia Walker the newly elected president of Inland Empire Branch, retired teacher who taught at Grape Street and Sycamore Elementary Schools. Sylvia shared: "I am so grateful for our 16 active members. They are caring, kind, and very supportive of our branch goals. Rita Miles gave an enthusiastic presentation at the elegant Southwest Membership Tea. Rita shared our tutoring project LAUNCHING YOUNG READERS which is held on California State University San Bernardino's campus. The program is geared to elementary and high school students. Rita Miles and Sheryl Hunter lead the eight week session of the tutorial programs."

Southwest Branch News & Highlights

Culver City Branch hosts 45th Southwest Sectional Conference

“Progressive Women Remaining Relevant in a Changing Society”

The Culver City Branch is delighted to serve as your host for the 45th Southwest Sectional Conference to be held January 31st-February 1, 2014. I would like to extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you. The members of the Culver City Branch (President and Co-Chairs Hester Watkins and Herracia Brewer) and our Sectional Director Evelyn Wright have been busy planning activities that will provide you with an invigorating and exciting experience. We have planned for an entertaining Friday night event, informative workshops, and plenty of vendors to shop till you drop. This Conference will be an opportunity to fellowship with NAUW Sisters from throughout the Southwest Section. It is a chance to make new friends and reconnect with old ones.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our 45th Southwest Sectional Conference. Be sure to invite your family and friends to our Scholarship Reception Dinner and special event on Friday night or the Founder's Day Luncheon on Saturday. They might enjoy the events, see how much fun we actually do have, and want to become a part of the National Association of University Women. Remember to save the dates. Conference Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton 21333 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance, California 90503.

Submitted by Helen Ricks, President Culver City Branch,
Hester Watkins, Herracia Brewer-Co Chairs

Inglewood Branch Annual Green and White Gala Scholarship Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014—11:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Double Tree by Hilton ~ Torrance-South Bay, 21333 Hawthorne Boulevard in Torrance, CA 90503 Theme: ***“Progressive Women Redesigning Community Service in the 21st Century*** Tickets are \$55.00 per person



**Inglewood Branch
Annual Green & White Gala**



**Women's Heart Health Awareness
and Safety Month**

Inglewood Unified School District Special Projects Department in conjunction with the National Association of University Women Inglewood Branch presents ... “STRIVING FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY” on Saturday, February 22, 2014, from 8am - 12noon. Location: Inglewood High School, Sentinel Inn, 231 S. Grevillea Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301, President Judy Washington shared, “In honor of Women's Health Awareness and Safety Month please join us for a morning of health education, health screenings, informative presentations, and light refreshments.” For information contact: Monica Hernandez, the Community Liaison 310-419-2788 or Willa Snorton, NAUW Red Dress Day Coordinator 323-228-1758

Beach Cities Branch - The Act of Giving is a gift itself!

Beach Cities Branch Members participated in the **Toys for Tots Program** co sponsored by **Faithful Central** throughout the month of December and added a special twist to their gift giving. Members purchased Christmas gifts for infants to school age children. Members met one day, wrapped and identified gifts. On another day the gifts were distributed to the children whose parent is incarcerated. Beach Cities Branch is making a difference in service to build family connections.

Beach Cities Branch Members are planning an upcoming fundraising night and more information will follow shortly. Submitted by Dr. Rhonda Jefferson

South Bay Branch focuses on Youth, Literacy, Health and Community!

South Bay Branch Members began their highly successful six-month ***Rights of Passage Program*** for young girls. The first meeting was held on October 19, 2013 at the A. C. Bilbrew Library. Ann Bowles, Margarette Crockett, Edna L. Yow and Cassandra Noble are serving as co-chairs of the program.



Cassandra Noble has created a vigorous program to keep the young ladies active and involved with focus on building social skills, building self confidence, learning the duties of citizenship and civic pride, exploring a positive sense of adventure, developing responsibility and gaining the courage to try something new. Other activities include: completing and presenting a historically significant biographical book report; using the library regularly; reading; making their own quilt; skating on ice; making Thanksgiving baskets; and visiting Exposition Park Shuttle & Rock Exhibits. Each young lady participated in a Reader's Theater presentation "Salute to Dr. Martin Luther King" and joined the Christmas Caroling at Sun Ray Nursing Home. Several young ladies voluntarily presented additional solos to the delight of everyone present. In keeping with the spirit of Christmas they distributed warm socks and cozy lap blankets to senior residents.

Upon reflection on the experience several of the young ladies stated that this was their first experience with elderly seniors; only one in the group had prior experience with seniors in their home. Planned for next month is etiquette and table setting. Parental permission to photograph is on file for the Rites of Passage Program.



Mark your calendar for Sunday, **April 27, 2014** to attend South Bay Branch **Spotlight on Youth Program** 1:00-4:00 PM at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton; 21333 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 Tickets are \$65. Send your money to NAUW South Bay Branch, P.O. Box 47703, Los Angeles, CA 90047. To be a part of the program students from elementary - college are encouraged to take part in one of the five auditions opportunities held at Grace United Methodist Church, 4112 West Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90043 on Thursday 3/6, 3/13/ 3/20, through 3/27 from 5-6:45PM. For information contact Committee Co-Chairs A. Kimbell, E. Yow and M. Crockett 323 779-0516; you may also write to NAUW South Bay Branch P.O. Box 47703, Los Angeles, CA 90047

Hold the date Saturday, July 26, 2014 for the **Leimert Park Village Book Fair; NAUW South Bay Branch Members** invite all members and their neighbors to enjoy the largest literary event held in our local community with more than 150 authors, poets, artist and storytellers. More than 5000 have attended in previous years. NAUW will be in booth #3 at 4331 Degnan Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90008 contact B. Frierson 323 533-7403. This event is free to the public. Please **note** the month has changed from end of June to July 26, 2014.

South Central Los Angeles Branch – Making a Difference!

Members of the South Central LA Branch worked with the staff at Grape Street Elementary School in Compton, CA during their Saturday School. Carrie Ayers Haines was the champion for this school. The Saturday Program was designed to help students improve their English and Math skills in preparation for the California Standards Test. While some branch members worked with the students individually and in small groups to explain concepts and reading exercises presented, others assisted the administrators in the office. Students showed improvement from “below grade-level” to “at grade level” at the end of the school year. The branch also contributed \$700 to pay for breakfast for all of the students in the Saturday School Program and presented five \$1000 scholarships that are renewable for four years of college. Scholarships recipients for the 2012-2013 school year are Donald Malik Boone-Neal -- Tuskegee University; Raven Kidd -- San Francisco State University; Nyeelah Matthews -- Spelman College; Joi Perkins -- California State University, Sacramento; and Imogene Williams -- Smith College

The South Central LA Branch launched its “Empowering Girls to Lead Academy” for young girls 13 to 18 years old for the third academic year 2013-2014. The purpose of the program is to facilitate the development of young female leaders. The areas of emphasis were improving their self-esteem; exposing them to the basic elements of servant leadership and prominent women in history; introducing them to the technology of social networking and computer technology; and to the basics of social etiquette. The modules presented during the program were: Introduction of Program and Defined Expectations – Clara Frost-Young, Chairperson; Technology and Social Networking – Delisha Stanley; Building Servant Leaders - Joseph Harris; Holistic Health - Lena Blakeney; A Synopsis of Prominent Black Women in World History – Atty. LeGrand Clegg; “Netiquette” - Felicia Torrence; and Social Etiquette and Fine Dining - Christiana Worthams. Throughout the program, the girls were presented with books which included, *Who Moved My Cheese*, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, *Operation Beautiful*, and *50 Things Every Young Lady Should Know*. The program culminated in a fine dining experience attended by the young girls, their parents, program presenters, and branch members. Each participant received a certificate of completion of the program, a monetary scholarship commensurate with their level of participation.

The Annual SCLA Hall of Fame Celebration and Scholarship Luncheon will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at the Double Tree by Hilton, 6161 Centinela Avenue, Culver City, CA at 12 Noon. Reservations are \$65. Proceeds will be used to scholarships.

Santa Monica Branch

21st Century Youth Mentor Program - Theme: *Comport yourself with dignity!*

Lily F. Pierre, Youth Program Coordinator of the Santa Monica Branch has launched a 21st Century Mentoring Model. The mentoring program is designed to work with NSBE High School students (interested in careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (STEM); attending Palisades Charter High School. Our 2014 theme; “Comport yourself with dignity!” began at our Annual Holiday luncheon, held in Culver City, California.

The students are meeting monthly with their mentors to go over their journal entries, and activities that relate to implementing our guiding principles; Moral Growth, Self Responsibility, Defining Life Goals, Self Discipline, and Academic Growth. Good Decision Making and Interpretation/Analysis of Information are also a part of the guiding principles.

Veterans Day Program- On November 10, 2013, Santa Monica Branch in partnership with Messiah Baptist Church presented a program honoring veterans. Approximately 40 veterans participated in the program. One of the highlights of the program was the presentation of the wreath honoring those veterans who died in battle. The wreath was carried by Martha Lovelace and Dorothy Chalmers-Scranton.



Audrey Jordan and Dr. Essie French-Preston Chartered the new Beach Cities Branch

By Billie Frierson

The National Association of University Women Southwest Sectional Director Audrey Jordan did it again! Under her leadership the new **NAUW Beach Cities Branch** was chartered on February 1, 2013, in Long Beach, California at the 44th NAUW Southwest Conference. Inductees for the Beach Cities Branch included: Keturah Baker, Joyce Foster, Rhonda Jefferson, Niema Jefferson, Angie McCord, Kim Simmonds, Dorothy Wilson, Letitia Clark-George, Michelle Ouattara, and Tanya Walters.

Unique for each of the members of the Beach Cities Branch was their charter, induction and installation of officers ceremonies which were conducted by the National President Dolores Y. Owens, National First Vice President Letisa Vereen, National Second Vice President Dr. Bettye J. Williams, Sectional Director Audrey Jordan and Lay Member Dr. Essie French Preston. Also present and participating were National Recording Secretary Christiana Worthams, National Consultant Bernice Shannon and National Position Paper Committee Chair Evelyn Wright, North Central Sectional Director Annette Burton from Chicago Branch, Illinois; and Southeast Sectional Director Jacqueline Green from Goldsboro Branch, North Carolina.



This is another jewel in Jordan's "crown of action." Jordan a native of Seattle, Washington and currently a long time resident of Upland, California began her first term by chartering the Inland Empire Branch in San Bernardino County. Last year Jordan soared in building leaders within each branch; fostering community involvement; propelling volunteer efforts; mentoring; inspiring more members to get involved with one on one tutoring; and raising thousands of dollars for scholarships. The Southwest Section brought home the National Volunteers Award for South Bay Branch Fannie Love President from the 68th National Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Audrey Jordan exemplifies the mark of a true leader by building succession plans in the organization; she has done that and more within her two terms of office: The dynamic Dr. Essie French Preston orchestrated a very successful 44th Southwest Conference with the hosting West Coast Cities Branch Members and continues as the Sectional Lay Member. The Southwest Section is united under the creative Evelyn Williams who was elected Southwest Sectional Director and is serving February 2013 – February 2015.



Beach Cities Branch Members anxiously awaited their chartering and induction ceremonies held on February 1, 2013. Photo left to right: Niema Jefferson-Herring, Michelle Ouattara, Angie McCord (front) Tanya Walters (back), Dr. Rhonda Jefferson, Kim Simmonds, Dorothy Wilson (back) Keturah Baker (front) Joyce Foster, Letitia Clark-George. Let's make our new members Welcomed!

On behalf of the National Association of University Women, Southwest Sectional Director Evelyn Wright committed continued support and volunteer hours to assist Habitat for Humanity's Projects for 2013-14. The first was a NAUW check for \$1,000 to Habitat for Humanity; the second was the Annual Adopt a Family for the Holidays Program. On December 14, 2013 was a chilly rainy Saturday morning; Sectional Director drove to Long Beach Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles Holiday Celebration Program held at Christian Life Church, 3400 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807; she was accompanied by Carolyn Williams member of Culver City Branch and Billie Frierson member of South Bay Branch. Each volunteered as a greeter at the entrance and welcomed families, staff and guest into a great holiday program and warm festivities. Each encouraged all to sign the Display "Thank YOU" card. Once inside they were greeted by Evelyn Wright with candy canes and Rene registered the families and matched them with their sponsors. All enjoyed a tasty lunch with hot cocoa and coffee that was followed with Christmas cookies.



Above photos #1 presentation of the NAUW check Habitat Director and #2 NAUW members Frierson, Williams and Wright holding card, gift basket and a large bag full of toys to the Gonzales Family.



Above NAUW members took photo #3 with the family we sponsored: Victor and Laura Gonzales, son Victor and daughter Brianne. Photo #4 a Senior citizen selected for the Adopt a Family Habitat for Humanity Program with her granddaughter who provided transportation and our wonderful Sectional Director Evelyn Wright. It does rain sometimes in Southern California and NAUW added joy to the lives of forty selected families. Most of the families were amazed that people they did not even know could be so kind and generous.

The third Habitat for Humanity project was on December 14, 2013, a welcome to your new home activity was planned for the new owner with lunch for volunteer workers from 11am to 2pm. Southwest Section Lay Member Dr. Essie French-Preston championed this project with members of West Coast Cities Branch Members LeAndrea Fields-Robinson and Arinn Filer. On January 25, 2014 Yvonne Meredith of Santa Monica Branch accompanied Sectional Director Evelyn Wright to attend the Thrivent Builds Dedication, 2367 Atlantic Blvd., Long Beach, 90806. They were there to support the volunteer builders who with their own hand create homes for families. Members served as greeters, passed out programs and registered attendees. Don't forget to tally your volunteer hours for NAUW records: for example" eight members volunteered 4-5 volunteer hours!

BRANCH-Presidents
 Beach Cities-Dr. Rhonda Jefferson
 Culver City-Helen Ricks
 Inglewood-Dr. Judy Washington
 Inland Empire-Sylvia Walker
 Los Angeles-Georgia Ghee
 Santa Monica-Zola Jones
 South Central LA-Gwendolyn White
 South Bay - Fannie Love
 West Coast Cities- Valerie Vaultz

JOURNALIST/Publicity
 Dr. Rhonda Jefferson
 Virginia Hathaway
 Dr. Judy Washington
 Gwen Richards
 Doretha Gardner
 Merelean Wilson
 Erika Lampkin
 Billie Frierson (Chair)
 Pamela Foster

	MEETING	LOCATION	TIME
2 nd Tuesday	18119	Prairie Ave, Torrance	at 7pm
2 nd Sunday	DWP 4030	Crenshaw Blvd	at 2pm
2 nd Saturday	Warren Lane	School	at 10am
1 st Saturday	Pomona Medical Center,	1601 N. Monte Vista	Claremont at 10am
3 rd Saturday	DWP 4030	Crenshaw Blvd	at 10am
2 nd Sunday	various locations		at 2pm
2 nd Saturday	City on the Hill in Carson	on corner of Gardena/Avalon	at 10am
2 nd Saturday	150 El Segundo,	Los Angeles	at 10am
3 rd Saturday	Central Baptist Hall,	1641 Carson Street, Carson, CA	at 2pm

Get Ready Get Ready for NAUW National News:

National Convention is July 29 – August 3, 2014 in New Orleans

The Convention Hotel is the JC Marriott Hotel, located at 614 Canel St, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130 (504) 525-6500, is a distinguished New Orleans, Louisiana luxury hotel that is near the Convention Center, Harrah's Casino and in close proximity to the Business District. Merging district class & old world charm, this French Quarter hotel has recently received a beautifully redesigned lobby. Check-in: 3:00 PM and Check-out: 12:00 PM It features: Accessible guest rooms have a 32 inch wide opening, Main entrance is accessible, Pathway to registration desk is accessible, Registration desk is accessible, Route to accessible guest rooms is accessible, Fitness center entrance is accessible, Meeting spaces are all accessible, Pool entrances are all accessible, Restaurants and lounges some are accessible, and Service animals allowed for persons with disabilities. Please review your National Newsletter for more information and hold the dates.

By airplane, train, bus, and car

To meet with NAUW National President Delores Y. Owens



Southwest Sectional Members are planning to see you in New Orleans at the National Convention on July 29, 2014!

Happy New Year; may your year be full of life, love prosperity, and personal growth! Happiness is tasty.

National Association of University Women

Southwest Section

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