Congratulations to members of the Southwest Section for the great work that you have done this past year. Branches continue to raise the bar of excellent in the implementation of programs and projects.

National: The Southwest Section made a contribution of $1,000.00 to the National Leaf Project, had 100% contribution to the National EBOLA Project, and contributed to the Nigerian School for Girls

Sectional: Contributed to the St. John’s Back-Pack give-away in September, provided lunch for Habitat for Humanity, participated in the Girls in Technology Conference at El Camino College Compton Center, prepared Homegoing Resolution for members of the Southwest Section, Participated in Black Expo in Oakland, California, coordinated the publication of the Southwest Section Newsletter and hosted a Southwest Section Retreat.

The 47th the Sectional Conference was hosted by the Inland Empire Branch at the Ontario Airport Hotel & Conference Center on February 5-6 in Ontario, California. We experienced an exciting and motivational conference. The Sectional Scholarship of $1,000.00 was awarded and the Woman of the Year, Mrs. Sheryl Garner Hunter was selected. At Founders Day we acknowledge our Founders and those women of the National Association of University Women whose shoulders we stand on. The membership campaign, “Operation 300” was initiated. We were able to close the year with 212 members. The Sectional Community Service Project consisted of over 1500 items being donated to the Foothill Family Shelter which houses homeless adults and children for a period of up to 120 days. Over 40 members from the Southwest Section attended the 70th National Convention in St. Louis at The Arch, St. Louis, Missouri. The Southwest Section won the Pearl Level Achievement Award for 5,000-9,999 Volunteer Hours, 3rd place in New Branches Chartered 2014-2016 and Certificate of Achievement for First Sectional Director Report Submission 2016.
Clara Frost, Lay Member

It is an honor to be of service to the National Association of University Women, Southwest Section. As Lay Member, my goal has been and continues to be that of service to the NAUW, while working closely with our Sectional Director, Dr. Essie French-Preston.

2016 was very eventful year, having attended the National Convention in St. Louis, MO and serving as a member of the National Necrology program. My work continued throughout the year as I participated in the following activities:

- Prepared and submitted Sectional and National Lay Member reports
- Prepared amended Southwest Section Bylaw, Article XV Section and distributed to executive board members
- Continue to work with Fannie Love in creating a program brochure

- Recruited members to volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity Service Project, May 21, 2016
  - Served on Necrology Committee
- Attended and presented for Southwest Sectional retreat at the El Camino College Center, September 24, 2016
- Participated in SCLA Branch’s annual holiday outreach activity: “Joy in a Bag.” Branch members (7) and young girls (4) from the Leadership Academy visited the Vermont Care Center convalescent home; shared gift bags and sang Christmas carols to the residents, December 10, 2016.
- Prepared certificates for Helen Ricks and members who participated in the Backpack Giveaway with St. John’s United Methodist Church.

In addition to the above tasks, there were numerous in-person meetings and telephone conferences with Dr. French-Preston, Branch Presidents, and committee members for planning and preparation of the 2016 sectional retreat and 2017 sectional conference.

✓ **November 20, 2016 – February 2, 2017**:
1. Sectional Scholarship
   a. Emailed applications and letters to presidents.
   b. Responded to emails
   c. Scheduled interviews and notified committee members of date and location.
   d. Contacted 2-applicant to schedule interview
   e. Interviewed candidate and finalized selection
   f. Prepared Scholarship Program
2. Founders’ Day
   a. Prepared and submitted Founders’ Day program template for review
   b. Responded to emails
   c. Made adjustments/corrections to program as needed
   d. Finalized and printed programs for Founders’ Day
3. Provided feedback and templates to vendor for procurement of plaques.
4. Prepared and submitted Sectional reports.

I am privileged to serve with such honorable women as my NAUW Sisters. “Thank you,” Dr. Essie French-Preston, Madams Presidents, Officers and Members for your continued support and inspiration.

At Your Service
47th Sectional Conference, 2016 Photos and Highlights

Sheryl Garner Hunter – Woman of the year

Necrology (Our Carnations)

Sandra Smith - South Bay Branch

Marilyn James Miller – Inland Empire Branch

Martha Stewart – Santa Monica Branch
We purchased notebooks and file folders for the annual St. Michael’s Backpack event. We also volunteered our time on the day of the event to pass out the school supplies to the neighborhood children of Watts.

We participated in “Gift of Love” which is a Thanksgiving project to feed families during the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Beach Cities partnered with Faithful Central to provide toys and clothing to children who have parents that are incarcerated. We shopped, helped with the gift wrapping and participated in the distribution of the gifts.

On a weekly basis, members of Beach Cities help with a tutoring program called MORE, (My Own Realization of Education) to assist our youth in reading, writing and math skills.

Our greatest accomplishment this year, was giving out our first $1000 scholarship to a beautiful young lady who maintains a 4.0 GPA. She is attending San Diego State College with the hopes of going into the Medical Field.

Dr. Rhonda Jefferson, President
CULVER CITY STARS!
Celebrating our 30th Anniversary 1985/86 to 2016/17

Founding President Ann Hill Started the Culver City Branch in 1984

On July 15, 1984 Sectional Director Grace Robinson and five other ladies met at Ann Hill’s home to witness the birth of the Culver City Branch. During Culver City’s 1985-1986 fiscal year is when Culver City begin to fulfill the mission to serve and the Branch set its agenda. As the membership begin to grow, Evelyn Gladney-Wright was installed as the Corresponding Secretary and Mary Ann Smith was our Second Vice President. Culver City is proud to say these two ladies are still with the Culver Branch today. Evelyn Wright our National President and Mary Ann Smith as Culver City’s Corresponding Secretary. Culver City is extremely proud to have these ladies as members over the past 30 years!!
Culver City’s 2016 Woman of the Year, Matteal Kirby. Matteal has been nominated Culver City Woman of the year 3 times! Matteal has been a NAUW member for over 20 years. Matteal is our immediate Past Scholarship Chairperson which she served as the chair for over 10 years. Matteal’s passion is NAUW and that’s why she is Culver City Woman of the year for a 3rd time!

Culver City members President Carolyn Williams and members Dr. Virginia Hathaway and Josie Marie Grant participated in the Angel Tree project during the holidays with the United Methodist Church. The members were there to present Culver City’s donation to the Angel Tree Project.

Culver City members end the 2016 year with a Holiday Gathering at Tony P’s in Marina Del Rey.

President Evelyn Wright celebrates Culver City 30th Anniversary with our Social Media Prop. #NAUW; promoting technology at all levels!
September - Tupperware Fundraiser  
October- Prospective New Member Lunch  
Empowering Your Girls Lead Academy  
Angel Bin Project  
November – Viejas trip and Empowering Young Girls Lead Academy workshop  
December – Made gift bags of toiletries for convalescent home and Branch Christmas Celebration  

Erika Lampkin, Branch President
Inglewood Branch on the Move!

May 21, 2016, Inglewood joined with fellow NAUW of our 10 Branches for volunteerism with Habitat for Humanity. Two beautiful homes were being built and South West Section of NAUW served the hard workers lunch.

The Inglewood Branch conducted four new members under the direction of our Branch President Lois LaBeaud and 1st Vice President Cynthia Williams. Kimberly Majors-Taylor, Zandra Palmer, Marilyn Smith and Elmeaner Reeves were inducted in June 2016.

July 2016 in St. Louis, MO, several of our sisters attended the National Convention. A great time was had by all; learning updates, attending workshops and fellowship with fellow NAUW sisters.

October 8, 2016, Breast Cancer awareness Presentation by our 2nd Vice President, Meka Brown. Important information was distributed, activities were played for awareness effort, prizes were given and an interesting dialogue took place that was led by our very own RN, Dr. Linsday Williams. Branch members support a Breast Cancer Foundation, Susan Komen with monetary donations totaling $50.00

Prior to the Thanksgiving break for students at Franklin D. Parent, our Branch support a family of youth children and presented them with a $100.00 Visa Cards from Ralph’s Super Market. The family families were selected by the recommendation of the School Counselor as those having difficulty providing little more than the basic needs. The Branch President, Lois LaBeaud and members, Sandra Chefney and Donna Wilson met with the family to bestow upon them a blessing.

Annual Holiday Celebration on December 10, 2016 at Truxton’s American Bistro, coordinated by our 2nd Vice President, Meka Brown. An “Ugly Sweater” Brunch was enjoyed by all; food, fun, fellowship, raffle gifts and White Elephant game.

Inglewood Branch concluded their 2016, on the 17th of December, visiting the Dangerfield Institute—an institute for foster placement for children that house children before they are selected by foster parents. Youth girls, ages 12-16 years were gifted by our Branch members.
Tri Cities Branch “The Innovators”

Presentations were presented at meeting by professional business women who have and continue to be successful in the world of work.

Christ 1st Baptist Church in Compton, California

Clothes and shoes were sent to Africa in collaboration with the Pan African program in Los Angeles

It is a Woman’s World too!

Presentations were presented at meeting by professional business women who have and continue to be successful in the world of work.
NAUW Southwest Section
NEWSLETTER
Inland Empire Branch

Our branch received seven blessings this program year. In the past five months, we have inducted seven remarkable ladies into the Inland Empire Branch. Further we have one lady in waiting that insists that she join us and we will be inducting her at our next general membership meeting for a total of eight new members. This is the most exciting year we have had since we were chartered in 2009. Our only regret is that they were not members when our branch hosted the 47th Southwest Sectional Conference in 2016. Since they’ve joined our branch we have had some very inspirational personal growth sessions in genealogy research, Joy the things that make us happy and a session based the book Radical Beauty by Deepak Chopra, just to name a few.

We have some exciting fundraising events planned for this year. We sure hope you will be able to join us. These events help us to support our 6 scholarship recipients. These young ladies are maintaining their grades and keeping us up to date on their progress each school year.

We will be joining the House of Ruth in their effort to end domestic violence. We will partner with them in their tutoring program for all ages and efforts to build women up in all areas of their lives. Since our branch is growing with many skill sets and talents the House of Ruth offers us an opportunity to volunteer in many different areas.

Our work continues with the CLASP program (Claremont after School Program). This is an afterschool tutoring program organized by the Claremont School District.

To support other organizations in our community the Inland Empire Branch purchased a full page ad on behalf of the NAUW to the Claremont Area Chapter of the Links February 25, 2017 event Heart Health Red Dress Fundraiser.

We continue on this journey with God leading the way.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him; And He shall direct your paths.
Los Angeles was the first Branch in the Southwest (1954)

Our History

Host Branch – February 3 & 4, 2016

48th Sectional Conference

Alyce Robinson, President, 1954

The Los Angeles Branch I honored to host the 48th annual SW Sectional Conference. We’ve worked closely with Dr. Preston, Sectional Director with the support of our Sister Branch West Coast Cities, Inland Empire and all of the Branches in the Southwest Section. One of our main focuses this year has been to increase membership. We had a membership informational meeting at our October meeting. In November, Johnetta Jones was selected as our Branch “Women of the Year.” Johnetta Jones has over 40 years of service with the LA Branch. She has chaired numerous committees; her main focus has always been on our youth programs.

November was our month to celebrate giving, thus we made a financial donation to the LA Regional Food Bank.

At our December meeting our Branch held our annual Christmas party. We had the pleasure to have Dr. Preston in attendance. While in attendance, we discussed all things pertinent to the Sectional Conference.

The Alexandria House has been selected as our Southwest Sectional Community Project. This is our second year working in partnership with the Alexandria House, a transitional housing organization which serves abused women and women with substance abuse problems.

We look forward to our continued partnership!

Terry H. Cummings, President, Los Angeles Branch
Santa Monica Branch

Members of the Santa Monic Branch attended and participated in the **NAUW 70th National Conference** in Saint Louis, Missouri.

In November, Santa Monica Branch, in partnership with **Messiah Baptist Church**, planned and conducted the morning worship service honoring **Veterans** for their service to the country. In large numbers, veterans marched into the Sanctuary to the tune of “Onward Christian Soldiers”. Highlights of the event included greeting veterans as they arrived at the church, Presentation of Colors by the Los Angeles High School JROTC, Special “Recognition” of the oldest veteran present who was a World War II Veteran, greetings by President Yvonne Meredith, and lunch for veterans, families and members. Entertainment during lunch consisted of a music rendition by Santa Monica member, Delores Bodey.

During President Meredith’s greeting, she gave special recognition to **Sallie Gibson, the 13th NAUW Southwest Sectional Director**. Highlights from the recognition speech:

*Today we pause in the midst of our celebration to recognize and honor a member of our Santa Monica Branch, Mrs. Sallie F. Gibson. Not only do we honor her today, we also pay reverence and thank her for organizing our Branch, The Santa Monica Branch of the Southwest Section.*

**Sallie is a long time member of NAUW. She joined the Lake Charles Branch, a part of the South Central Section in Louisiana in 1957, where she taught Junior High School English and Social Studies. She remained in that branch until 1964. She left to join the staff of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to teach History, and joined NAUW at Southern University. In 1970, Sallie moved to Los Angeles, California and continued her teaching career at Centennial High School in Compton, California. She then joined South Bay Branch of NAUW. Beverly Jackson, a classmate of Sallie from Southern University sponsored her into the group. Sallie had been requested to speak to the school’s graduates on the topic “Where Do We Go From Here”.*

*Not only has Sallie been in NAUW a long time, she has been a member of many organizations. They include, The California Association of Multicultural Counselors, where Sallie served as President of the Association and sponsored the National Convention in Los Angeles 1987-89. She was also President of the State Association of Multicultural Counselors in 1989. She was president of South Bay Branch of NAUW 1990-1992 and Woman of the Year of South Bay 1992. Sallie was also been Woman of the Year for the Santa Monica Branch in 2004.*

Santa Monica Branch continued to implement their youth mentoring program. This **mentoring program** partners with **National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)** supporting High School students who are interested in careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Students in the program attend Palisades Charter High School.
South Bay on the Move!

National Convention

The South Bay delegation consisting of Linda Dickerson, Barbara Clark, Sharon Johnson, Margarette Crockett, Fannie Love, and Edna Yow had a stimulating time at the 70th National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, July 28-31, 2016. The South Bay Branch received the following recognition: Certificate of Achievement for Annual Report 2016 Submission – 2nd Place; Certificate of Achievement for Volunteer Hours for 2014-16 – Opal Level; and Certificate of Recognition for Membership – Opal Level.

10th Annual Leimert Park Village Book Fair

On August 20, 2016, South Bay members participated in the 10th Anniversary Leimert Park Village Book Fair held at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, we shared a table with California Librarians Black Caucus (CLBC). The Leimert Park Village Book Fair is the largest literary event in the Los Angeles African-American community. Its mission is to promote, encourage, and advocate literacy, education and the love of reading and features more than 150 authors, poets, artists and storytellers.

Thanksgiving Baskets

On November 12, 2016, our Rites of Passage young ladies decorated Thanksgiving baskets which were donated to two families selected to receive a turkey, canned goods and other food staples for the Thanksgiving holiday. The “Rites of Passage” is a six-month program consisting of workshops, cultural and recreational outings for young ladies in sixth through eighth grade.

Woman of the Year

On November 12, 2016, South Bay’s 2016-17 Woman of the Year was announced – Barbara Clark. Barbara has been a member since 2013 and currently serves as South Bay’s Financial Secretary and a Co-Chair of Rites of Passage.
NAUW Southwest Sectional Activities

May 21, 2016

Back-Pack Give-Away
St. John’s United Methodist Church
August 13, 2016

NAUW Southwest Sectional Retreat (October 2016)

Donation of $1,000.00 Southwest Section Leaf
AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Greetings, West Coast Cities Branch Sisters!!!

My prayer is that you all had a relaxing and rejuvenating Christmas. I, like President Barack Obama, will have to say “Good Bye” as your President. It has been a privilege and a pleasure serving you. I welcome my incumbent, Ms. Aletha McMillan, and am excited to serve on her executive board as 1st Vice President.

“You can do nothing without prayer and everything with it! Yes We Can!” President Barack Obama

VOLUME 7, WINTER ISSUE

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Upcoming 48th Sectional Conference News Flash
Dates: February 4th & 5th 2017
Location: Double Tree in Culver City
6165 W. Centinela Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230
During our Conference please remember to bring items for our Community Service Project for the Alexander House such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, and women’s feminine and any other hygiene products.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To Our 2017 West Coast Cities Woman of the Year
Dr. LeAndrea Fields Robinson-Cowens

Our New 2016—2018 Officers

President
Aletha McMillan

1st President
Valerie Vaultz

2nd President
Paula May

Recording Secretary
Charlio Vaultz

Corresponding Secretary
Dr. LeAndrea Fields-Robinson-Cowens

Assistant Secretary
Gail Taylor

Treasurer
Pamela Foster

Financial Secretary
Rebecca Osborne

“...We can do it now! This very moment, I mean right now! Let’s Eegin!”
President Barack Obama, Commander in Chief
WHAT'S GOING ON?

2016 Accomplishments
April Hall of Fame Scholarship Luncheon
Distribution over $4800.00 for College and Book Scholarships, Bread of Life Christian Center’s
Youth Program, Sectional and International Projects
August Relay for Life Donation and Backpack Give-Away Participation
September Back in Stride Again Business Meeting
November Veteran’s Day Celebration
November Thanksgiving Basket Donations—Helped to Feed 100 Families
October Pechanga’s Bus Trip Fundraiser
December His Sheltering Arms Toy Give-Away
December Kwanzaa Celebration Christmas Reception

WCC TEAM MEMBER’S CORNER

Committee Chairs
Executive - Aletha McMillan
Membership - Valerie Vaultz
Programs - Paula May
Finance - Pamela Foster
Bylaws - Valerie Vaultz
Scholarship - Dr. Essie French-Preston
Human & Social Relations—Dorothy Ross
International Affairs - Adele Johnson
Publicity - Charlia Vaultz
Technology - Arinn Filer/ Vanessa Haynes
Nomination - Dorothy Ross
Protocol - Julia Banks-Williams
Founder’s Day - Dr. Janice Filer
National Affairs - Gail Taylor
Necrology - Dr. LeAndrea Fields-Robinson-Cowens

Our Next Business Meeting: Sunday, February 19, 2017
Location: 20620 Leapwood Ave # K, Carson, CA 90746 @ 2:00 pm
INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION

Get Ready! Get Ready! Get Ready!

West Coast Cities Branch and Culver City Branch Co-Host
The 71st National Convention—Manhattan Beach, California in 2018!!!

Communication is the Key
Knowledge is Power,
Information is Liberating

NAHWS West Coast Cities Branch
How to Hope

It is easy to look at all that is happening around us, as well as our own personal challenges, and become discouraged but I submit to us all that THERE IS HOPE. Romans 5:3-4 enlightens us to the fact that hope is produced when tribulation, patience and experience work together in harmony. We have all endured trouble, waited patiently during our trials and gained experience by doing so. In turn, we have acquired and should, therefore, put to use this recipe for HOPE.

Hope is having expectation with confidence despite the odds. There is something to be said about those who physically see the troubles before them but continue to holdfast to the hope of what lies ahead. With that hope we endure, with that hope we persevere, with that hope we overcome and we do so with joy; knowing that victory is ours.

As women of faith, attached to a great legacy; we reflect on those who have come before us and all that they have done to propel the National Association of University Women to where it is today, while serving as an example to those who will carry on the legacy after us. In doing so, we allow the hope of the past to encourage our today and secure our future.

Hope has guided us through perilous times and brought about a fruitful gathering of women who are determined to serve those in need. With that same hope, we accept the responsibility to move swiftly towards an even brighter future. We are “Progressive Women Remaining Relevant in a Global Society”, we are NAUW!

Be encouraged and continue to hope!

Dr. Shresia D. Fontenot Kenney
Tri-Cities Branch National Chaplain Committee