

Brief History of Visalia-Sequoia Branch

- 1926** Sequoias Branch Founded May 18 with 42 Charter Members at home of Zoe Frank Lemberson.
- 1927** College Loan Fund started by sponsoring an Eastern marionette company and the Los Angeles Philharmonic programs.
- 1937** Co-sponsored first Community Forum. Forum continued until 1948.
- 1942** Founded "Hospitality House" for Visalia Servicemen.
- 1944** Purchases lot for Clubhouse (funds from Rummage Sales and other community events).
- 1949** First scholarship given to C.O.S. graduate.
- 1950** Clubhouse completed. Scholarship program begun.
- 1952** Sponsored first Side-Walk Art Show, became inspiration for Tulare County Art League. Leased Clubhouse to the county for 5 years due to earthquake destruction of county library.
- 1954-55** Probably first Home Tour sponsored by Branch to raise funds for Educational Foundation Programs. Branch regains use of Clubhouse.
- 1956-57** Sponsored 4 community plays, became inspiration for Visalia Players.
- 1965-66** First branch AAUW Book Fair. Has been an annual or bi-annual fundraiser.
- 1973-74** Clubhouse sold to City of Visalia for Senior Center.
- 1974-75** Established an "observer corps" of local councils, boards and commissions. Co-sponsored safety pamphlet, "Lady Beware."
- 1975-76** Began Reading is Fundamental Program (RIF). Received AAUW Research and Projects Grant for work in developing a Rape Crisis Service. Member receives AAUW grant to produce a legislative guide.
- 1976-77** Street Sign Study begins. Results in enhancement. Received award from State Division for highest Educational Foundation contribution per capita.
- 1978-79** Public Television comes to the Valley. The concept had been supported since 1959. The first "Showcase Designer Tour" fundraiser.
- 1979-80** Branch receives AAUW grant for addressing both Rape Crisis and Battered Women Issues. Animal Control Officer hired by city as a result of branch study. Sequoia Branch becomes Visalia-Sequoia Branch. First Math/Science Workshop for Girls was sponsored by AAUW.
- 1981-82** Record year for new membership. Money Talks Topic results in 5 community investment clubs. Branch member joins AAUW delegation to U.N.
- 1983-84** Receives State AAUW membership retention award. Begins a National AAUW Research and Projects Endowment. "Great Decisions" study program established. Sponsored Girl's Math/Science Conference.
- 1984-85** Voter Registration drive receives recognition.

1985-86 Research and Projects Endowment completed. Sponsored second Math! Science Conference. Branch member becomes first City Council Woman. Branch celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

1986-87 State Senator Vuich and California State Division AAUW President visit branch. Mayor declares AAUW week and helps branch honor first Council Woman.

1987-88 Branch Chairwoman appointed to California State Division Women's Issues Chair. Branch totals of contributions to the National AAUW Educational Foundation exceeds \$36,000.

1990-91 Certified financial planner advised members of financial aspects; book fair earns \$5,000 for ten scholarships; 125 attend March Women's History Vintage Clothing Fashion Show.

1991-92 Round Table on gender equity. Congressman Cal Dooley addressed Inter branch Luncheon. Several members attended the IFUW Convention in Palo Alto.

1992-93 Book Sale combined with Dudley Home Tour raised over \$8,000 for local scholarships. We held a Science Math Conference for middle school girls and teachers.

1993-94 Held strategic planning meeting to evaluate branch programs and activities relevant to the changing needs of today' s women. Earned Association 5-star recognition. Assisted with State Conference in Fresno.

1994-95 Achieved 5-star status at both State and Association levels. President and President-Elect attended State Convention in San Jose and National Convention in Orlando. Increased membership by 18%.

1995-96 Celebrated our 70th birthday with tributes to past presidents and prior accomplishments. Hosted Interbranch luncheons with EF recipient, La Juanda Denney, as featured speaker. Awarded Association 5-star recognition for third year in a row.

1996-97 Successful LAF Litigant, Kay Austin, speaker at November meeting Awarded 5-star for fourth year in a row.

1997-98 Completed Annie Mitchell EF Endowment. Awarded first annual middle school Teacher Gender Equity Award. Sponsored middle school girl to attend State AAUW Math/ Science/Computer Tech Trek Camp at Stanford University. Fifth year awarded 5-star recognition.

1998-99 Held highly successful teen conference, "An Income of Her Own." Earned 6 Stars for first time. Purchased \$300 set at the Fox Theater. Sent record 8 members to Leadership Training Day in Fresno. Sent three girls to Tech Trek Camp. Raised over \$4,000 for local scholarships at annna1 Bock Fair.

1999-00 Second year awarded 6 Stars. Earned \$16,000 from two book sales fur scholarships. Social Security Return Educational Forum held.

2000-01 Earned 5-Star status for either year in a row. Held record book sales. Awarded \$12,500 in scholarships. Held 75 Anniversary party at the renovated Fox Theater. Sent four girls to Tech Trek.

2001-02 Earned "Gold" award in new 21st Century Recognition Program. Colleen Briner-Schmidt an Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation award recipient was featured speaker. Had first co-presidents who attended first Western Regional Conference in Reno. Sent four girls to Tech Trek and 11 to Expanding Your Horizons at C.O.S. Raised \$23,400 from 2 book sales and awarded 15 scholarships. For the first time we awarded a scholarship to a senior at each of our high schools.

2002-03 Two book sales earned \$17,000 to be used for local scholarships. Sent 5 girls to Tech Trek and 25 girls to Expanding Your Horizons.

2003-04 A year of outstanding programs, book sales and scholarship recipients. Continued tradition of sponsoring 5 Tech Trek girls. Recognized at national convention for exceeding our EF/LAF goals.

2005-06 The programs dealt with local issues. Dedicated members focused on high local rate of teenage pregnancy. Almost \$20,000 was grossed from the book sales enabling scholarships to go to an outstanding field of recipients. Five junior high girls were funded to attend Tech Trek.

2006-07 Contributed over \$1500 for EF, sponsored 6 girls to Tech Trek and 50 to Expanding Your Horizons, sponsored high school Speech Trek; made \$22,000 in book sales, gave \$15,000 in COS scholarships to 8 recipients; sponsored Money Wi\$e Women's Forum.

2007-08 Sponsored 8 girls to attend Tech Trek and 75 elementary school girls to Expanding Your Horizons. Two book sales earned \$33,000 enabling the branch to give \$32,500 in COS scholarships to 12 recipients.