

Branches and Clubs Committee Report- May 2023

The following is an update of branch activity since our last report to the Board. We thank committee member Louise Leck '11 for the many hours she has volunteered helping us organize historical data and assist with technology and communications.

Our committee contacted all branches to advise them that we were available to assist them in planning and supporting local events for their chapters. Four branches responded: Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Joaquin. All will be hosting activities in June, co-sponsored by our committee. Please see below.

We have also contacted all branch leaders with an invitation to the Volunteer Gratitude Luncheon at Reinhardt Alumnae House, which will be held on June 10th. The goal is to thank branches for their work this year in bringing alumnae together as well as to begin planning for the 2023-2024 year. As Co-Chairs, we encourage all officers and members of the Board of Governors for the AAMC to become involved with their local chapters, if they are not already doing so. If there is no branch in an area where a governor or officer currently resides, we can work with those individuals to connect them with other nearby alumnae and begin the dialogue about how to create a new branch. We also ask governors to be good ambassadors by helping to spread the word about alumnae events.

Contra Costa- Contact Sharon Taplin '83, Moya Stone '03

contracostamillscollegealums@gmail.com. The branch is hosting a breakfast meet-up on Saturday, June 17th, at 10:00AM at Walnut Creek Civic Park. RSVPs are required. This event is co-sponsored by the AAMC Branches and Clubs Committee.

East Bay- Contact Vicki Luibrand '75 and Kristen Caven '88 eastbaymillsbranch@gmail.com. A number of branch members attended the monthly Communi-TEA social gathering at Reinhardt Alumnae House in May. They listened to a presentation by alumna Catherine Ladnier about the experience of Mills College students imprisoned in internment camps during World War II. They are planning a number of events for the 2023-2024 year, including a Holiday Tea.

Los Angeles- Contact President Julia Almanzan '92 MillsWoman92@gmail.com or the branch email at LAMillsCollegeAlums@gmail.com

Los Angeles Mills College Alumnae branch had an open board meeting on May 20, at a restaurant in Pasadena, with 10 board members in attendance. The LA Mills Hiking Club had their second hike at O'Melveney Park in Granada Hills. Three alums hiked for nearly 4 miles and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day. The next hike will be on July 8 with the location to be announced. The next meeting will be on June 17, along with a Whiskey Tasting Party hosted at the home of Autumn Doerr '96 and co-sponsored by the AAMC Branches and Clubs Committee. The first hour will be a "meet and greet" with the LAMCA board to welcome all So-Cal alums as a great opportunity for So-Cal alums in areas without a branch to learn about how to start one, or just make connections and get involved with LAMCA. Then we'll do some whiskey tasting along with lunch. We have 20+ RSVPs so far and expect to have a great time!

Mt. Diablo- Contact Robin Moore '75 robinamoore54@gmail.com. The book club met online on May 24th to discuss that month's literary selection, *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead. The group will be reading during the month of May, and has decided to take the month of June off, as both leaders of the club will be traveling. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27th at 7:00PM. For July, they will be reading Kathryn Ma's *The Chinese Groove*. Read a review here: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/kathryn-ma/the-chinese-groove-ma/>

New York/Tri-City- Contact Annette Chan-Norris '65 achannorris@gmail.com. On May 20, some twenty alumnae gathered at the home of Eve Benesch-Goldschmidt '60 to hear about what is happening on campus and, in particular, about the Mills Institute. The Institute director, Nicole Guidotti-Hernandez, was joined by Nikole Adams, Chelsea Ekholm '13, and Debby Dittman '68. Lori Jacques, director of Alumni Relations at Northeastern, came down from Boston. Because so many had shown interest in learning about what's going on at Mills, branch leaders put together a recap of the event, which has been posted on their website (millsclubny.org) and emailed to alumnae who missed the get-together.

Puget Sound- Contact Christina Hannan '91 pugetsoundmillsclub@gmail.com. Area alumnae attended an event hosted by the Office of Institutional Advancement for Mills College at Northeastern University with the Executive Director of the Mills Institute on May 6.

Sacramento- Contact Laura Fernandez-Benge '03 AAMCSacramentoBranch@gmail.com. The branch is reviving and hosting its first event on Sunday, June 25th at 10:00AM at the home of Laura Fernandez-Benge. Light refreshments will be served. RSVPs are required. This event is co-sponsored by the AAMC Branches and Clubs Committee.

San Joaquin- Contact Shelley MacLeod '01, sanjoaquinmillsalums@gmail.com. The branch is hosting a happy hour on Friday, June 30th at 5:00PM at Octavio's Restaurant in Stockton. RSVPs are required. This event is co-sponsored by the AAMC Branches and Clubs Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Julia Almanzan and Angela Adams DeMoss, June 8, 2023