

Branch/Club Committee Report
November 7, 2018

There has been much activity among the branches/clubs this fall. We have received emails stating interest in starting/adding to/reviving branches in the Sacramento, Mt. Diablo/Contra Costa, and Sacramento areas. We are in the process of being in touch with those alums, to investigate further what action can be taken. Some of these requests came before, or during, the recent Reunion. Many alums approached the chair with questions or requests.

Viji Nakka-Cammauf has just returned from a visit to the New York branch, to celebrate their 100th anniversary! Exciting news!

As stated in the last report, this year's focus will be on developing events suitable for, and appealing to, the younger alums across the country. This has lately been a group that has not attended traditional events, due to lack of interest. Kirstyne Lange will assist in this effort.

Chelsea Ekholm recently held a telephone conference meeting with alums from several areas. First off, they will be scheduling these phone meetings every four months, and will be meeting for an hour and a half. Some future agenda items will include setting of strategic goals. It was decided that branches will hold events based on interests of each group, and the consensus was to hold more casual events, which was thought to be more likely to be attended.

Other discussion items included how to get an event into the (e)ucalyptus newsletter. They were directed to Chelsea Ekholm to ask about that. Asking for dues was another topic, with a variety of options among the branches. Palo Alto, LA, and OC do ask, but others will charge based on individual events. It was also suggested that donations be requested, which are fully tax-deductible, as opposed to dues, which are not.

Strategic goals:

OC will make contact with new alumnae, and will spread the name of Mills as much as possible

LA will continue to email alumnae in the area, and contact new and current students.

Puget Sound will keep putting events together that involve more than one organizer, to spread the work among all.

Reports from areas:

LA - Susy Fineman - Board meetings will be every month, open to members. There will be a book even in January, and a student-focused event in the summer.

OC - Courtney Long - They are holding casual meetings in Newport Beach. Quarterly book club meetings, and looking forward to a holiday tea in the near future.

Marin - Linda Jaquez-Fissori and Kaila Sanford - They recently hosted a Mills faculty member for a talk; they have periodic book club meetings, the next being November 4; considering a holiday event with a cookie swap.

East Bay - Vickie Luibrand - A monthly wine club event is held, which has lasted 45 years! They are looking forward to a holiday party in partnership with the choir, a potential science based event in March, and potential art based events in the future.

Puget Sound - Trina Cook - They have a monthly happy hour, which is going strong. They look forward to their annual Salmon BBQ in August.

Portland - Julia Tucker and Carol Caughey - The club is planning a January or February winter event in place of a holiday tea.

Respectfully submitted,

The Branch/Club Committee - Marina Simenstad, Lynette Castille-Hall, Kirstyne Lange,
Lucy Seereiter, Judith James