**Branch Activity of the Year Award – 2022**

**Title IX at 50: You Need It As Much As Ever  (a ZOOM webinar)**

Petaluma Branch

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This webinar on Title IX covered progress toward equity over the past 50 years, why the law remains important today, and what needs to be done to ensure that the law remains effective. The program was scheduled early in the year to prepare for the 50th anniversary of Title IX in June 2022 with the idea that it would be followed by additional Title IX related programs and activities. Title IX “Facts” were featured in our monthly newsletter starting in September to lead up to the program. The webinar format allowed us to engage non-local speakers who are experts on Title IX and to share the program more widely than an in-person meeting. A small team met a few times over several months for planning and publicity. Over 350 views of the webinar have been recorded. As follow-up to the webinar, a branch group christened “Title Niners” formed to take action related to Title IX. The specific tasks adopted are:

1. Create a Directory of Title IX Coordinators for local schools to facilitate cooperation and communication on Title IX issues
2. Establish regular contact with elected officials through postcard writing and social media and “in-person” meetings
3. Reach out to student groups at local colleges to educate students about their rights
4. Demonstrate support for women’s sports by attending local sporting events.

By law, Title IX requires the equity for which AAUW advocates, specifically opening opportunities for women and girls. The continued focus on Title IX over many months has made branch members more aware of Title IX and the significance of the upcoming anniversary and provided avenues to bring this information to our friends and the general public. A recording of the webinar is on the AAUW website: [aauwpetaluma.com](https://www.aauwpetaluma.com/).