

February 18, 2025

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – February 18, 2025

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

H. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 44: to Recognize National Women’s History Month, March 2025

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 44 as part of the regular County Board meeting on February 18, 2025; and further recommends that the Board recognize and support Women’s History Month in March by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities; and that the County Board support school districts in their effort to commemorate Women’s History Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of women and girls.

Board Resolution No. 44 is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.
- Invite school districts to participate in professional development opportunities and access materials to build content knowledge of the subject and acquire instructional strategies to teach the topic effectively in classrooms.
- Amplify women leaders during National Women’s History Month through LACOE’s various communication channels like an online video series, LACOE’s Let Me Add to That podcast, the LACOE social media accounts as well as in in-person events such as the annual Women’s Conference.
- **Events in Los Angeles County:**
 - 34th Annual Latina History Day
Held annually during Women’s History Month in March for the past 34 years, Latina History Day recognizes and celebrates the historic and current achievements of Latinas, while embracing the rich diversity of the Latina experience <https://www.latinas.org/historyday/>.
 - Buttons have been a popular medium in displaying support for political movements and activism, such as the Women's Rights Movement. Join the Willowbrook Library as they explore the various pins used during the movement and make your own button pin <https://visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/12622722>.

- **Books for use in the elementary classroom:**

- **Marie Curie for Kids: Her Life and Scientific Discoveries, with 21 Activities and Experiments** by Amy M. O'Quinn.

Marie Curie loved reading, learning, and discovering nature as a young girl living in her native Poland. She would become one of the most famous scientists the world would ever see. Curie's revolutionary discoveries during the turn of the twentieth century created the field of atomic physics, and she was the one to coin the word *radioactivity*. Curie was the first woman to achieve the honor of winning the Nobel Prize and the first individual ever to win in separate fields of science—chemistry and physics.

- **Dolores Huerta Stands Strong: The Woman Who Demanded Justice** by Marlene Targ Brill

This book educates us about the child from a farming community who became a teacher and saw her students shoeless and hungry. As a young mother, Huerta quit her job teaching and started down the path to being one of the great female civil rights leaders in American history.

- **I am Amelia Earhart (Ordinary People Change the World)** by Brad Meltzer

Amelia Earhart refused to take no for an answer; she dared to accomplish what no one had ever succeed in before. She would become the first woman in aviation to cross the Atlantic Ocean. This biography follows her childhood, accompanies her during her first flying lessons and onward to Earhart's multi-record-breaking career as a pilot.

- **Books for use in middle and high school classrooms:**

- **This is my Story** by Eleanor Roosevelt

Eleanor Roosevelt writes about her own life rooted in a family of presidents and a silver spoon in her mouth. Roosevelt would grow from self-conscious and awkward beginnings to becoming the First Lady of the United States. She developed and acted on one of the most observant social consciousness of our time. Her efforts affected the nation and the world and propelled her to being the first woman from the United States to be appointed as a delegate to the United Nations.

- **I Am Malala The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban** by Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai was just ten years old when suddenly the Taliban forcefully seized her region. The Taliban outlawed music. They declared women weren't allowed to shop at markets and girls couldn't attend school. Brought up in a once-peaceful region in Pakistan reshaped by terrorism, Malala was taught by her family to stand up for her beliefs. Therefore, she fought for the right to go to school. This book

describes her struggle to be educated that would win her the Nobel Peace Prize, just like other great civil rights leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King but would almost take her life in the process.

Women's History Month, March, 2025

- WHEREAS,** American women have struggled throughout our history to gain rights not simply for themselves but for many other under-represented and disenfranchised groups in America; and
- WHEREAS,** women's contributions and accomplishments have largely been overlooked and consequently omitted from mainstream culture; and
- WHEREAS,** in spite of these oversights, many of which continue to exist today, women have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific and technological advancements of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. In his message he stated: *"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who build America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well;"* and
- WHEREAS,** Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week;" and
- WHEREAS,** President Ronald Reagan stated in Presidential Proclamation 4903 designating the week beginning on March 7, 1982, as Women's History Week: *"American women of every race, creed and ethnic background helped found and build our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways... As leaders in public affairs, American women not only worked to secure their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity but also were principal advocates in the abolitionist, temperance, mental health reform, industrial labor and social reform movements, as well as the modern civil rights movement;"* and
- WHEREAS,** in 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month;" and
- WHEREAS,** between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year

as Women’s History Month; and

WHEREAS, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations since 1995, designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month” to honor and celebrate the struggles and achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, LACOE is committed to valuing the experiences and accomplishments of all individuals and believes deeply that the contributions of women in history and contemporary society are central to the character of who we are, to the health of our democracy and to the well-being of our world; and

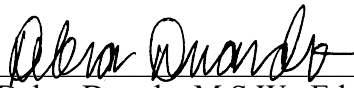
WHEREAS, this month serves as a reminder to highlight the critical role of women in the health care response to the COVID-19 crisis. Women make up almost 70 percent of the health care workforce worldwide, exposing them to a greater risk of infection. Women also make up a large share of educators who have served as frontliners; and

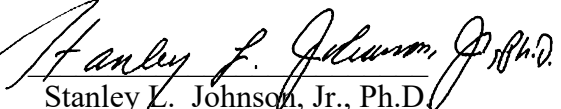
WHEREAS, at the same time, women are shouldering much of the burden at home, given school and childcare facility closures and longstanding gender inequalities in unpaid work. Women also face high risks of job and income loss and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, abuse or harassment during times of crisis and quarantine; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize and support Women’s History Month in March by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support school districts in their effort to commemorate Women’s History Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of women and girls.

ADOPTED this 18th day of February 2025, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.


Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent


Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.
Board President