

Aronos Research Club 2025 Activities

We have been very busy this year with many activities and special events. Most exciting is that our membership has grown and our recognition within the community has expanded. We enter our 111th year with enthusiasm and more ambitious goals to achieve.

Our activities have been assigned to appropriate Committees that focus on specific areas of interest. Committees will contribute in the preparation of our annual reports to the California Federation of Women's Clubs and work to sustain our Club in achieving our mission.

Civic Engagement and Outreach (Chair Dennis Wiebe)

Aronos Research Club Veterans' Christmas Tree in Courthouse Square (3rd place) Pam Overholtzer

Building Bridges Debates 3 debates Ann Leonard

Coffee with a Cop Dennis Wiebe

Transitional Age Youth Program - Sonora Aronos and Area B Clubs donated generously to the 2 homes purchased in downtown Sonora for youth recently aged out of foster care. - Elena & Cathie

Holiday Giving - Club raised money to give to local food bank during this time of need. Our donations over \$1000, were matched by Sonora Area Foundation. Well over \$1000 raised! Participated in Salvation Army Bell Ringing Diane, Ann and Shelly

Health and Wellness Chair Jeri Cates and Shelly Stewart

Contra/Barn Dances (monthly) Sue and Wayne We joined the National Dance Group. Received Certification from Blue Zones Projects as an organization that promotes a healthy community environment

Completed History Mystery Walks for the community - 10 walks (Spring) to historic downtown buildings and 9 (Fall) to historic churches and cemeteries. Pam and Shelly

Stretching and Relaxation Classes Mondays and Wednesdays 9 to 10 am

Annie Moore and Jeri Cates

Salsa Dance in the Summer! Dianne and Jim

Planning series of 5 classes dealing with Aging Issues. To be offered this winter and spring to be announced January

Communications and Public Relations Chair Michelle Dean

Newsletter - monthly Pam Overholtzer

Website - aronosresearchclub.com Started 2025 Managed by Shelly, Michelle and Cathie

Facebook and Instagram - Cathie and Michelle

Subscribed to Zeffy, a free program, for nonprofits. Enables us to sell tickets and collect donations on line. We are still learning the capabilities of this new tool.

Printed numerous articles in local papers, magazines and Chamber of Commerce- Elena Linehan

Club Bylaws and Standing Rules updated and on website

Celebrated 110 years of Service to Sonora by the Aronos Research Club!

Arts and Culture Chair Laurie Livingston

Christmas Crafting Workshop with Tuolumne County Arts (beginning of Christmas Town Sonora)

Crafts on Wheels Project for Meals on Wheels Chris Halley and Team *Joint community project with grant funding*

Valentine Cards to Seniors - Elena

Provided \$500 Grant to Gold County Music Day Camp for students grades 5 to 8 to attend summer music camp - Della May

Gunpowder Man Presentation - free of charge to community. Told the story of a young Chinese woman who worked in railroad construction in 1882. - Donna

Jazz @ 8 Holiday Concert featuring local high school students and our CFWC award winner Jasmine Hwang and her sister. This is our thank you to the Community for their support throughout the year. We served delicious soup, bread and cookies to over 30 attendees - donation given to Jazz @ 8

Pop Hudson Sing Event - Club members led by Elena participated in the Community Christmas Carol singing at Courthouse Square. We sang God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Five local student musicians honored with \$500 scholarships from CFWC.

Education and Libraries (Scholarship - Diane Dotson)

Fall Bunco Game Fundraiser in honor of Dianne Aveni. Funds raised for ACTS teacher stipend program. Elena

Spring Tea Fundraiser for Scholarships. Partnered with Sonora School of Sewing and Apparel Construction and students modeled their clothing. Models included a 5 year old modeling chef hat and our city Mayor modeling the outfit she made. Joyce

Awarded \$200 to Cassina High School to help with their Holiday Boutique (2025)

Completed our lecture series on Industries of Tuolumne County and started series on Vietnam

Awarded \$500 scholarships to a nursing student admitted to Modesto Jr College and fire science student at Columbia College.

Regained administrative responsibility of William and Doris Morris Scholarship which was the intent of our late Aronos member- Doris Morris. This scholarship is to awarded to a Sonora High School student.

Two \$100 stipends were awarded to local elementary teachers to assist with classroom needs.

Page Turner Bookclub continues and will regroup in the Spring Roy

Our Little Free Library continues to be stocked with good books and utilized by our community
Presentation given to the Tuolumne County Historical Society on the History of the Aronos Research Club. Shelly

Grants and Sponsorship - Joyce Axtel-Drush and Chris Halley

We are fortunate to have support of our local businesses for grants and sponsorship. Their gifts have funded our scholarship and grant projects as well as repair of our historic Aronos Clubhouse. These are too numerous to list here, but well over 100 donors.

The larger grants include Black Oak Casino, Chicken Ranch, Sonora Area Foundation, Adventist Health, Sierra Pacific and Blue Zones Projects

Domestic and Sexual Violence and Prevention Chair Cathie

International Day of Giving - Members donated gift cards to local Center for Nonviolent Community to help with food and other needs. This was at the request of the Agency.

Historic Clubhouse Improvement & Maintenance House Committee - Shelly and Dennis

Driveway extended for safety - Sierra Pacific Grant
Iron barrier at sidewalk painted dark green by Garrett
Yard Maintenance by Corey, Val Myrick and team
Fence south side completed by neighbor at no cost to Club
Inside building painted - Garrett and Team
New valences built and installed repurposed 1936 curtains- Roy Stoltenberg, Cynthia Doyle, Peggy Debeley and Shelly
Rental calendar, contracts now on website to help streamline rental process.

Membership

Cindy Sanders spoke in March about maintaining and increasing membership.
We continue to try to build our membership. Current members 36 with approximately 50 Friends of Aronos who support our Clubhouse and Club activities.
Three club members attended the CFWC State Conference in San Jose.
We are building our social media network in an attempt to increase membership and club activities.

Leadership (Board)

We continue to work toward the goal of **sustainability** by strengthening leadership and engagement. All Board positions have been filled, with members stepping into leadership roles, and committees are now established and being actively developed.

Our leadership plan encourages members to participate in areas they enjoy. Smaller committee meetings foster open, friendly discussion and allow members' ideas to be heard. For example, a retired local nurse recently joined both the Club and the Scholarship Committee, which awards nursing scholarships—demonstrating how connection strengthens both the club and the community.

The President or First Vice President attends committee meetings as needed to provide guidance. Committee Chairs bring ideas and requests to the Board for approval, funding, or potential grants. Through active committees, we aim to expand participation, broaden membership, and increase service.

Our club's strength depends on active, engaged, and supportive members—the foundation of our historic organization.

submitted by

Shelly Stewart, President

