



# Board to Board

A Communication from the

AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

April 2017

**You have received this eNewsletter because you are serving your branch or the state organization in a leadership role. Thank you for everything you do! Please share all or any part of this newsletter with your members and others especially any new branch leaders.**

## REFLECTIONS FROM DONNA...

*Donna Mertens, President, AAUW CA, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)*

April brings beautiful flowers and a chance to fight for equal pay. I hope many of you have planned events to bring awareness of the lack of equal pay for women. Equal Pay Day marks how much longer women need to work to earn on average what men earned last year. When we focus specifically on African American or Hispanic women, they have to work even longer to earn the same amount on average as men. This is one of the times we have each year to draw attention to what AAUW stands and fights for.

This is also the time to ask each of you to think about stepping up to state service by joining a committee. We have only received a few vitae for 2017-18. Committee appointments are for one year. So, if you are currently working on a committee or would like to join one, please fill out a vitae and submit it to the office. The vitae form can be found [HERE](#). Currently, the state board is heavily weighted toward Southern California. I would really like to see a more even distribution. One way to make that happen is to have committee representatives on the Nomination & Election Committee from all over the state. Please consider volunteering or asking someone in your branch or IBC to volunteer for this committee for 2017-18.

Last month I told you that the National board was voting on the question of a dues increase on June 13<sup>th</sup>. If passed, the effective date of the increase will be July 1, 2018. That will give us time to prepare our members. Please feel free to let the National board know of your concerns before June by sending an email to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

In my column last month, I explained that Tech Trek management is coming back to California. As more information becomes available, we find that National is not releasing control of Tech Trek so much as allowing the states to provide the management of the program. The AAUW California state board will be reviewing all the complicated issues at its meeting in April.

Our state Public Policy Committee is hard at work reviewing and identifying bills to follow in the new legislative session. Please think about ramping up the public policy program in your branches. There is so much we can do to protect women's rights in these tumultuous times.

Also, consider lobbying your local legislators. If you need guidance, please contact [Charmen Goehring](#), chair of the Lobbying and Advocacy subcommittee.

Remember that talking about AAUW and our issues is the best way to raise awareness of the challenges that women face. Let people know who we are and what we stand for so we can keep AAUW moving forward.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**Sandi Gabe**, Director, Communications Committee Chair, [Communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:Communications@aauw-ca.org)

Are you looking for something on the website and can't find it? Here are a couple of tips:

1. You can search by clicking on the magnifying glass at the top of the home page or use the search bar we added in the middle of the home page.
2. There are two menus near the top of the page.
  - o If you are a state or branch leader, you'll find most of what you need in the top menu under AAUW CA Business, Branch Support or Programs & Education.
  - o Potential members and supporters will learn about us and how to join in the lower menu under Find Us, Join Us, Support Us and Advocacy. Because AAUW Fund also has an external focus, you'll find it there.

AAUW of California

HOME AAUW CA BUSINESS BRANCH SUPPORT PROGRAMS & EDUCATION CALENDAR CONTACT US

News About Us Find Us Join Us Support Us Advocacy

**EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA**

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

Search this website ... **New search bar**

## FINANCE

**Patricia (Pat) Ferrer**, Director, AAUW California Chief Financial Officer, [cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org)

**Membership Renewal.** Branch members will start renewing their membership soon. If your branch has not signed up for the Membership Payment Program (MPP), you will need to mail your state dues checks to our office in Sacramento: AAUW California, 1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Please disregard any instructions from National to mail your check to my home address in Long Beach. The system automatically defaults to the state CFO's home address as most states do not have their own office. In addition, our office

manager (Kim) and I request that you mail your state membership **no more than twice a month and preferably only once a month**. Also, please mail us only **ONE Check** for each deposit. DO NOT have your branch members prepare 3 checks, one for National, one for State, and one for Branch dues.

**Membership Payment Program (MPP).** The Finance Committee thanks all of the branches that enrolled in the online Membership Payment Program this year. You helped us exceed our strategic plan goal! For those not signed up, please consider this program. It can save those involved in the membership renewal process many hours of work and can be tailored to fit the needs of the branch. Some advantages include payment of dues online using a credit card; system can email out dues renewal notices upon request; members' payments are automatically divided between branch, CA and National and securely deposited via electronic transfer allowing branches to write one check for National and state dues rather than one to National and one to state. Why does AAUW CA like this process? It significantly reduces the amount of time the office manager needs to spend processing the deposits, allowing her to do tasks with more value to the organization.

**AAUW California Annual Meeting in San Mateo.** Plan on attending the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the San Mateo Marriott. The morning session will include "Table Talk," an opportunity to bring best practices or problems or questions to your AAUW California State board and fellow members and leaders for discussion or resolution. I will be there and hope to meet you that day. Space is limited and it is filling up fast!

Please contact me regarding the above topics or any financial question at [cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org).

#### **STATE PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

*Jane Niemeier, Director, State Projects Oversight Committee Chair,*  
[jniemeie@hotmail.com](mailto:jniemeie@hotmail.com)

The State Projects Oversight Committee is pleased to announce that it has awarded a \$500 grant as seed money for a new state project. The winner will be announced at the April 22nd Annual Meeting that will be held in San Mateo. If you missed the deadline to apply for the grant money, our committee will be offering up to two \$500 grants again next year. Get your branch members together and start brainstorming about new state projects!

#### **DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**

*Deanna Arthur, Director, Development and Marketing Chair,* [deannaauw@gmail.com](mailto:deannaauw@gmail.com)

To improve visibility in the community we suggest branches explore using Eventbrite for event registration and attendance tracking. Recently I attended the LA County Interbranch Council Leadership Day where two of the 25 attendees were not AAUW members and attended because it sounded interesting and they found it on Eventbrite. Give it a try for special meetings and see if it helps participation. Please let me know what happens.

Please try printing some of the [AAUW California Informational Brochures](#) if you don't have some already. Take them to Starbucks, the library or any public bulletin board. **We ARE the best kept secret – WE can change it one posting at a time.**

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*Cathy Foxhoven, Director, AAUW CA Leadership Development Chair,*  
[aauwfox@gmail.com](mailto:aauwfox@gmail.com)

Three successful Leadership Days have transpired in San Jose, Whittier and Concord. If you missed them, two more are planned in May: Riverside (May 5) and Santa Barbara (May 20th). Hope it is convenient for you in these areas. Please register [HERE](#).

## **SPEECH TREK**

**Cathy Foxhoven**, Director, AAUW CA Speech Trek Coordinator, [spechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spechtrek@aauw-ca.org)

The Speech Trek committee is proud to announce the finalists for 2016-2017. They are:

Roseville-So. Placer Branch

Sarah Murphy

Alhambra/San Gabriel Branch

Sabrina Sy

Morgan Hill Branch

Nikhita Gopisetty

Honorable Mentions were also awarded to:

4th Place

La Mesa-El Cajon

Jocelyn Tzeng

5th Place

Sacramento Branch

Kathy Le

If you would like to see the finals, sign up to attend the Annual Meeting on April 22nd [HERE](#).

## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

**Alex Bellenger**, Director, Membership Committee Co-Chair, [alexbellenger22@yahoo.com](mailto:alexbellenger22@yahoo.com) and

**Kathy Andreini**, Membership Committee Co-Chair, [kathyaauw@gmail.com](mailto:kathyaauw@gmail.com)

The time for renewals is fast approaching! Keep in mind that if members join or renew between now and June 30th, their membership will be good through June 30th, 2018. If your branch is participating in the online payment plan (MPP), then members can renew through an email they will receive. As Membership VPs, now is the time to review members' email addresses and make any corrections. Without a correct email address, members cannot vote in State and/or National elections. You should also make sure your branch redeems any free memberships by June 30th.

Prospective members can also join at a public AAUW event (i.e., [Shape the Future event](#)) for half-off National dues!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions on what you would like to see in next month's Board to Board, feel free to contact us at [membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org)!

## **AAUW FUND**

**Sharon Westafer**, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, [aaufund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aaufund@aauw-ca.org)

The AAUW Fund committee thanks and congratulates the members of AAUW California for your generous donations. Because of your commitment to AAUW and its mission, \$1,958,069.27 was donated to the AAUW Fund from AAUW California members and branches in 2016.

Congratulations to the Sunnyvale-Cupertino Branch for completion of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research and Projects grant in 2016, and to the Aldrich family for completion of the Jean Aldrich American Fellowship (Long Beach Branch) in 2016.

## **A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE:**

Please note that the AAUW California State Office no longer accepts faxes. Please use email or snail mail to send us any documents. Many of the forms you need (found on the website) can also be filled in and submitted directly online. To find forms on the website, search for “forms” in the search box, or click on the forms category on the right side of any inside page.

**Please don't staple checks.**

**FROM THE WEBTEAM:**

This time of year, and over the next few months, AAUW California receives a lot of inquiries about scholarships that may be available for college students. Since scholarships are offered by individual branches, we would like to consolidate all scholarship information in one place on the website where students can easily find it, and then pursue any scholarships they might be qualified to receive.

Please submit the following information, if applicable for your branch, online [here](#). Please include:

- Name of scholarship(s)
- Application Requirements
- Where/How to Apply
- Application Deadline
- Contact Information

**GOVERNANCE**

*Sue Cochran, AAUW CA Governance Committee Chair, [sicaauw@sonic.net](mailto:sicaauw@sonic.net)*

Branches are moving toward completing the updates of their bylaws by the June deadline. This deadline is specific to California and is an extension of the original January deadline set by National. It is important to remember that Articles I-VII define the relationship of the affiliate (branch) with National and must appear exactly as stated in the model bylaws on the AAUW California website. The articles that appear after Article VII define situations that are specific to each individual affiliate. For example, if a branch exempts 50 year members from paying local dues this would be covered in a branch specific article about dues. For purposes of clarification, it is appropriate to insert a statement after Article VII stating: “The Articles from this point forward are specific to the aforementioned affiliate: (insert name of affiliate, e.g. xyz branch).”

In addition to bylaws, branches have other documents that are vital to the governance of the branch. Each branch is required to have an Affiliate's Agreement on file with National. This agreement is basically a contract that defines the branch as an affiliate of National and the branch's agreement that it will comply with all National governance requirements. Other governance documents for a branch include Policies and Procedures which delineate the day to day operations of the branch. Unlike bylaws, Policies and Procedures do not require advance notice to amend and can be amended by a majority vote at a meeting. Branches that are incorporated also have Articles of Incorporation that are on file with the State of California. As of today, all branches in California do have an affiliate's agreement on file with National.

As June approaches and the time for branch leadership transition arrives, it is important that all branch governance documents are up to date and in order. Check to be sure that the president's files include a copy of your Affiliate's Agreement, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and Articles of Incorporation if your branch is incorporated.

Does the branch need to vote on the mandatory bylaws changes? No, according to National's legal advisor, they are considered a restatement of the bylaws and do not require a vote, even for incorporated branches. However, if there are content changes to articles specific to the

branch that appear after articles I-VII, the branch would vote on these changes. Renumbering of the bylaws articles does not require a vote.

Questions? Please feel free to contact the governance committee at [governance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:governance@aauw-ca.org).

## **AAUW CA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**Sue Miller**, [suellen-aauw@wavecable.org](mailto:suellen-aauw@wavecable.org) and

**Nancy Mahr**, [nlmahr@verizon.net](mailto:nlmahr@verizon.net), AAUW Public Policy Co-Chairs

In March 2017, the Public Policy Committee met in Sacramento with our lobbyist Shannon Smith-Crowley and AAUW California President Donna Mertens. We discussed the work of the Public Policy Committee and pending state legislation addressing issues that relate to the AAUW mission and AAUW California's public policy priorities.

In preparation for that meeting, Committee members researched individual bills. They presented their reports at the meeting. Discussion followed each bill presented. Committee members decided whether to include a given bill on our priority list and what positions to take on the bill: Support, Oppose, or Watch. Some bills were discarded as not being as vital to the mission or to our public policy priorities, thereby allowing Shannon and the organization to focus our advocacy efforts on the issues of greatest importance to AAUW.

The following areas are those that our priority bills address (in no special order):

- education, including Title IX
- employment and salary
- women's health
- trafficking
- family – child care
- discrimination
- religious disclosure (freedom from)

As the bills move through their respective state houses, we will be sending out specific bill information and, in some cases, Action Alerts requesting your help in our advocacy efforts. We will also update the public policy section of the website and provide a link to a list of our priority bills with their status.

## **COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS**

**Tina Byrne**, AAUW-CA College and University Committee Chair, [aauwgina@gmail.com](mailto:aauwgina@gmail.com)

How Many Recent College Grads Do You Know?

Give Them All the Gift of Free AAUW Membership!

Last year, colleges and universities in the United States awarded roughly 1 million associate degrees, 2 million bachelor's degrees, 800,000 master's degrees, and 200,000 doctoral degrees. Can you imagine if every one of these graduating students became an AAUW member? We can, and you can help us get there.

**As an AAUW member, you can gift one year of free AAUW national membership to as many recent graduates as you like.** We all know that the future of our organization depends on today's graduates. Give a minute; gain a new community of AAUW leaders. Here's how it works:

### **Identify the recent college or university graduates in your networks.**

These recent graduates can be family, friends, neighbors, former students, friends of friends, you name it! You could even gift AAUW memberships to the entire graduating class of your

local college or university. Anyone who has graduated within the past two years is eligible to receive one free membership from an AAUW member.

### **Collect their information.**

You'll need to know the mailing address, phone number, e-mail, and alma mater for each of these future AAUW members. **Go to the AAUW National Website and fill out a [handy form!](#)**

### **PROGRAM**

*Lynne Batchelor, Director, AAUW CA Program Committee Chair, [lynneaauw@aol.com](mailto:lynneaauw@aol.com)*  
We have decided to accelerate our reading/discussion of Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way. Please remind your members that in April we will be discussing chapters 8 and 9, in May chapters 10 and 11 and in June chapter 12 and final thoughts/next steps.

As a final reminder, please send your listing of this year's programs to [Lynneaauw@aol.com](mailto:lynneaauw@aol.com) and submit your [best program of the year for recognition](#) via the website by April 7th.

### **ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS**

*Donna Mertens, President, AAUW CA, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)*  
Don't forget to vote this month. The National AAUW election starts on April 17th and ends on June 15th. There are several issues on the ballot. Details about the election can be found on the AAUW National website [HERE](#). One issue that may be important to you is the potential change in membership requirements. This bylaws amendment has been on the ballot every other year for several years and will remove the requirement for a college degree to become a member. Many of the members, including those in my branch, are worried that this would make us like every other women's organization. We wouldn't stand out any more. But, looking at it from another angle, to some people it is a barrier. Maybe it is time to change. But be sure to vote this year.

Voter PINs for the national election will be e-mailed to members and mailed with the Spring AAUW Outlook; candidate slate, bylaws proposals, Public Policy Program proposals, and resolutions published in the Spring AAUW Outlook.

At almost the same time, we will be holding the state election. AAUW California election voting begins April 22nd and ends May 12th. We currently have an uncontested slate of officers which means that they will all take office on July 1st. The [Public Policy priorities](#) will be the only item on the ballot. Please read them before the election to familiarize yourself with the proposed focus of our advocacy for the next two years. Members will receive an email or postcard if there is no email on file with instructions on how to vote.

We all know that the right to vote is an honor. This was all the more evident in the last national election in November. Voting within AAUW is just as important. We make changes for women and girls every day. Don't forget to vote!

### **AAUW NATIONAL COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES**

AAUW is looking for enthusiastic and responsible leaders to be active members of AAUW committees and task forces. Applications for a two-year term, beginning July 1, 2017, are being accepted now for appointment by the National board. Members, wishing to be re-appointed for another two-year term, must reapply. Applicants may apply for no more than two committees/task forces.

Ten committees are looking for members. Please click [HERE](#) to read about the committees and the application process. Applications will be accepted through Monday, May 1, 2017.

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**Message sent to Group(s):** AAUW Funds: EF, Finance, AAUW Funds: LAF, Membership, Newsletter Editor, President, Program, Public Policy, Secretary, Speech Trek Coordinator, Tech Trek Coordinator, Communications Committee, Financial Literacy Committee, Leadership Development Committee, Branch Support, Membership Committee, Nominating/Elections Committee, Program Committee, Public Policy Committee, SPF Board of Directors, Tech Trek Exec Council, International, Bylaws, Website Manager, AAUW CA Past Presidents, AAUW Fund Committee, Speech Trek Committee, IBC Chairs, Convention, Board, Governance Committee, Finance Committee, C/U Coordinator, State Project Oversight Committee, Blanding, Development and Marketing Committee

**Message sent to Branches(s):** NoIBC: Brandman University Virtual Branch|  
AAUW California  
<http://www.aauw-ca.org>

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