

**BYLAWS:****Restated Bylaws on Agenda at 2007 AAUW California Convention**

Rita Wustner &amp; Donna Lilly, AAUW CA Presidents

The AAUW California Board of Directors recommends that delegates to the 2007 state convention vote to accept the proposed new bylaws that were mailed to every member in February 2007. Additional copies will be included in the convention registration packet.

In October 2006, the board appointed an ad hoc bylaws committee to work with AAUW CA's attorney to develop bylaws that would greatly increase participation by the membership, streamline the governance of AAUW CA and bring our bylaws more in conformance with California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law. If approved, new bylaws will take effect July 1, 2008, giving time for implementation.

The board wishes to thank the ad hoc bylaws committee chair Karen Manelis, committee members Carla Pancheco and Sharon Schuster, advisor Jo Harberson and AAUW California attorney Jill England for their hard work and dedication.

**Each member gets a vote.** In place of the old-fashioned, unwieldy system of electing and credentialing delegates and voting power based on the size of the branch, the board is pleased to offer a vote to every AAUW CA member in good standing. All members in good standing will vote either at convention or by mail ballot.

**Smaller, streamlined board.** As voting members, we will elect a smaller board of sixteen directors statewide, replacing the present board which is too large by today's standards.

**Dues money saved can be used for program, membership or services to branches.** The smaller board will allow decisions to be made more quickly. The decrease in the size of the board and the costs for meetings will result in monetary savings which can be transferred to program, membership and direct services to the branches.

**Advocacy, program, support of Educational Foundation/Legal Advocacy Fund, membership recruitment and retention will continue as before.**

Advisory committees made up of a director as chair

*Bylaws continued on next page*

**PUBLIC POLICY:****AAUW California Biennial Public Policy Action Priorities 2007-09**

Caroline Wood, AAUW CA Director of Public Policy

Legislative activism has a long history in AAUW. Members first lobbied for women's suffrage in 1892 and have continued to be responsive to critical issues of the times.

The AAUW Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls, through advocacy, education and research and complements the Association Public Policy program.

AAUW California's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and strong member support.

**Equity:**

Recognizing that equity for all women and girls requires an application of legal definition, AAUW California supports:

- Constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals
- Legislation that addresses current inequities in compensation and benefits for all working women
- Vigorous enforcement of California Title V and Federal Title IX statutes on gender equity

**Education:**

Believing that public education and lifelong learning are the foundations of a democratic society, AAUW California supports:

- Equitable funding for quality public education in preschool through secondary schools that supports all students of any culture, race, ethnicity, special needs or sexual orientation
- Opposition to the use of public funds for school vouchers
- Continuing educational research and reform that improves student achievement
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for long-term success in the work force and the community
- Medically accurate health curriculum, including comprehensive sex education

*Action Priorities continued on next page*

**On the Agenda  
at Convention!**

## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND:

**Equity is Still an Issue****Rozanne Child, AAUW CA LAF Vice President**

The Legal Advocacy Fund is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. LAF was established by visionary AAUW members from the Ithaca, New York Branch who put the American Association of University Women's mission into action. Throughout the past 25 years LAF has assisted more than 100 plaintiffs and provided \$1.3 million dollars in support of cases affecting equity in education for women and girls.

California continues to support several litigants in their cases for justice. On January 19<sup>th</sup> of this year the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund plaintiff Michael Burch was awarded \$725,000 in his sex discrimination suit settlement with UC Davis. Burch claims that Davis barred female participation in the wrestling program and they terminated his contract after he showed support for the female wrestlers in 2001. It is a bittersweet victory, though, as Burch is never allowed to teach in any UC school again. AAUW also supports the female wrestlers in a separate Title IX suit against UC Davis. Arezou Payvandi and the female wrestlers are still awaiting trial. Arezou shared her story recently at a joint Southeast-Los Angeles District LAF Fundraiser on January 27 at Kellogg West on the Cal Poly Pomona Campus. Arezou said it was so hard to give up wrestling but she stayed at Davis and graduated. She said, "I must stay and fight for the women and girls coming up; it is my dream that the wrestling program will be restored at Davis."

Dr. Janet Conney received a 2.95 million dollar settlement from the Los Angeles District Appellate Court in a 3-0 judgment and verdict, yet she has not received a penny because UCLA is appealing her case to the California Supreme Court. Dr. Conney's case has been going on for six years.

California can be proud of its commitment to LAF. Branches throughout the state have had wonderful LAF Fundraisers, programs and speakers to raise awareness and money for LAF. As I travel to various branches and talk to members I see that LAF is alive and well in California. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of you who have made a contribution to LAF. While EF opens the doors of opportunity for women and girls, LAF keeps the doors open because equity is still an issue.

At convention this year you will have an opportunity to meet and hear Lisa Maatz, Interim Director of the

Legal Advocacy Fund. Lisa is coming from Association to share her knowledge, expertise and passion for AAUW. Dr. Janet Conney, President of the Garden Grove Branch and current LAF litigant, will speak at the EF LAF Luncheon Gala to share her incredible story. In closing, I look forward to seeing you in your hats and gloves at the closing EF-LAF Luncheon on Sunday afternoon.

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**Action Priorities** *continued from previous page:*

**Societal Change:**

Promoting the social, economic, and physical well-being of all individuals, AAUW California supports:

- Right to determine one's reproductive life, including the right to privacy and access to quality family planning services
- Access to health care and the expansion of patient rights
- Greater availability and access to quality, affordable family care giving services
- Respect for diversity and the rejection of all forms of discrimination
- Access to decent, affordable housing
- Promotion of safe, healthy work environments free from sexual harassment and intimidation
- Freedom from violence and fear in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities

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**Bylaws** *continued from previous page:*

and California members as committee members will continue to carry out the functions of program, membership, EF/LAF, communications, branch liaison, bylaws and public policy.

**Directors will elect officers:** president, vice-president, chief financial officer and secretary. The executive committee will consist of the elected officers and act between board meetings much as it does now. Directors will serve on the finance and administrative committees. They will serve a term of two years with a possibility of re-election for two additional terms. Eight directors will be elected each year, assuring continuity on the board.

Our challenge is to maintain the commitment to our mission while changing our structure into a forward-looking model. The manner and method of how we do business has an impact when individuals decide to join us or not join us.

Come to the state convention on April 27-29 in Ontario and help AAUW California make a fresh start by adopting the new proposed bylaws.

## PUBLIC POLICY:

## Presentation before the California Commission on the Status of Women, October 19, 2006

Donna Lilly & Rita Wustner, AAUW CA Presidents

We are Co-Presidents of the American Association of University Women in California. There are three key issues facing women and families in our state that have a significant impact on quality of life. These issues are support of public education, community care licensing and access to healthcare.

Education is the key to economic security. For 85 years members of AAUW CA have worked throughout the state for public education. In today's world, workforce issues have garnered a great deal of attention. How do we train California youth to meet the needs of California employers? In ten years, 70% of our current teacher work force will retire. Of newly credentialed teachers, 40% leave teaching within five years of employment. Therefore we urge you to support teacher education.

Many areas of California are experiencing remarkable growth. One such area is the Central Valley. Women and girls in the Central Valley need your attention and support for significant investment in education at community college level and university level.

AAUW has supported childcare and services to seniors for many years. To ensure that working Californians can focus on their jobs, they need to know their children and frail family members are in well-run facilities. Currently, care facilities are inspected every five years unless there are complaints. In the last legislative term, a bill was introduced that would have required inspections every two years. The bill failed to pass. We urge you to support legislation to allocate funds for biennial inspections.

The final issue we raise today, access to healthcare, is the gravest challenge we face not only in California but also in the entire nation. The current system diverts a significant portion of each dollar spent on healthcare away from providers to insurance companies. Providers are going bankrupt or closing their doors. Our California counties are unable to balance their budget due to healthcare costs. The State of California is struggling to pay for healthcare for state employees. Private corporations are also struggling to provide healthcare. An additional burden to providers is the

many Californians without healthcare insurance.

California can lead the way to solving this economic dilemma. We urge you to support California Senator Sheila Kuehl's efforts to pass affordable universal healthcare.

## Tech Trekkers, Then and Now

The Ontario-Upland-Rancho Cucamonga (OUR) Branch of AAUW CA introduced its Tech Trek campers at its membership brunch in the fall. In addition to the four Tech Trek 2006 campers, members and guests got to hear from Lisette Farve, the branch's charter camper (1999), who is now studying for a biology degree at Claremont McKenna College. The branch teams with Las Damas Latinas to send girls to Tech Trek at UC Santa Barbara.

Does your branch have a story about Tech Trek? Please send that story to:

[communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:communications@aauw-ca.org)

## About AAUW CA E-Mailing Lists

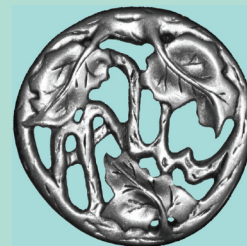
If you are a branch officer, and/or if you are an AAUW CA board member, you have no doubt received e-mail addressed to one or more AAUW CA e-mailing lists. The lists were set up with information received for the 2006-07 AAUW CA directory.

While we hope the lists are accurate, if your e-mail address changes and needs to be updated on the list, or if you find you are on a mailing list to which you want to be unsubscribed, please follow the link at the bottom of such an e-mail. For example, to modify your information on the AAUW CA EF list, go to <http://www.aauw-ca.org/mailman/listinfo/aauwca-ef-list> and follow directions listed there. Please do not send an address change or unsubscribe notice to the mailing list itself.

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 Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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We will bring a basket to benefit the EF Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.  
 We will bring a basket to benefit LAF California Litigants.  
 We will bring 2 baskets to benefit both funds.

Basket Theme \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Basket Theme \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form to:  
 AAUW California • PO Box 160067 • Sacramento, CA 95816-0067

To ensure that there is adequate space for baskets at the EF/LAF silent auction, please let us know you are going to participate. AAUW Branches from the throughout the state are encouraged to participate.



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Email articles, with author's name, branch, position, email, address and phone number to: [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org)  
 Advertisements for branch EF/LAF fundraisers will be accepted and included on a space-available basis.

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