

## A Message from the Presidents

“Believing in the power of committed volunteers, our goal is that AAUW California remain a strong and vital organization. We are committed to a state leadership network that stimulates member growth and empowers members through a communication network that enhances relationships among members, branches, AAUW California and the Association.”

These words were written when we made the decision to run for the AAUW California presidency as a team of two. They still ring true. Your 2007-2008 board of directors and all the committee members met the middle weekend of July in Oakland. We worked to develop a team spirit focused on mission-based programming and to develop a transition into a new statewide board structure.



Rita Wustner

We need a plan to transition from the old to the new bylaws that will result in a board of 16 ready to lead our organization on July 1, 2008. The board has developed a plan that hinges on amending our current bylaws. This amendment will empower the Nominating Committee to operate under the provisions of the proposed amendment and to seek candidates for the 16 director positions. They will propose a slate of candidates for directors to the membership at least 30 days prior to the convention as is required by our current bylaws.



Donna Lilly

AAUW CA Board of Directors approved the transition amendment to the current 2006-2008 AAUW CA bylaws in July. A copy of this proposed amendment along with a letter from Karen Manelis, AAUW CA Bylaws Chair, was mailed to all branch presidents in August 2007. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the proposed amendment, request one from the AAUW CA office at [office@aauw-](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org)

[ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org) or ask your branch president for a copy. The proposal will be published again in the pre-convention *CA Perspective*.

This amendment is the only bylaws amendment that will come before the delegates to the 2008 convention. The

AAUW CA board was advised by the AAUW parliamentarian and bylaws chair that amendments to the bylaws adopted in April 2007 cannot be considered at the April 2008 convention because these bylaws do not take effect until July 1, 2008.

The single amendment to the current bylaws will be presented at the opening business session of the convention Friday night, April 4, 2008, and if approved, the members attending will elect 16 new directors on Saturday, April 5, 2008. If the delegates do not approve the amendment, the election of the directors will be held after the new bylaws take effect in July 2008 making the transition much more difficult. The board endorses this plan and urges members to vote in favor at convention 2008.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### 2008 AAUW California Convention

*It's All About THE MISSION*

**April 4-6, 2008**

An AAUW LEADER  
Focuses on THE MISSION:

**L Leadership**  
**E Education**  
**A Advocacy**  
**D Diversity**  
**E Equity**  
**R Research**

Doubletree Hotel  
Sonoma Wine Country  
Rohnert Park, CA

## AAUW Members Approve Historic Changes at 2007 Convention

**Cathy Burciaga**

*San Diego Branch Delegation Leader & Past President*

This year's national convention in Phoenix, Arizona was all about taking action .....and was probably the most pivotal convention in AAUW's recent history. Amid the usual swirl of workshops, plenary sessions and ceremonies, was the sense that something critical was about to happen. The first clue was a workshop on Day 1 entitled "*An Urgent Call to Members: Strategic Process for AAUW's Future*", followed on Day 2 by the stunning announcement that there would be "no more business as usual" if we are to survive!

After 125 years, AAUW is in trouble. Following huge gains for women during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, AAUW may have lost its focus. We are attempting to do too much with too little, and have not updated our operating model in fifty years. As an organization, we continue to lose membership, our fiscal health is in critical condition, and there are serious questions about the relevance and culture of the organization in today's world.

The good news is that the message was delivered just in time for the organization to act. And act it has! Over a year ago, serious strategic planning was launched at the national level. Nothing was overlooked in an effort to identify a focused direction, be constructive, and strive for a "Phoenix Rising" scenario for AAUW's future.

At the convention, delegates from all over the country rallied to make sweeping changes to AAUW's organizational structure. As a result, AAUW and the Educational Foundation will combine most of their assets and activities to form a new streamlined, mission-driven 501(c)(3) organization with a single set of elected and appointed officers based in Washington, DC. This is a modern corporate structure and a radical departure from the current structure. Californians **Jenny Shumar** (Regional Director), **Kathleen Cha** (Association Director at Large), and **Alicia Hetman** (EF Director at Large) were elected to the new board of directors that will oversee the transition through 2009.

Another key change will provide for voting between conventions by mail or electronic balloting. This "one member, one vote" amendment will give all members a voice in the decision-making. In another vote, delegates elected to help protect our fiscal status by withdrawing AAUW's membership in the International Federation of University Women. Sadly, this is due solely to the non-negotiable \$1 million annual membership fee that AAUW

can no longer afford. As a courtesy, the provision for international reciprocity will continue.

Despite the work we have ahead of us, the Phoenix convention also took ample time to celebrate the past year's considerable achievements. Seventeen founding leaders were honored, including five Californians who have shown an impressive commitment to the mission of AAUW. And despite dwindling overall membership, AAUW California won the top prize for recruiting the highest percentage of paid new members. California also took top honors for total giving to the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Foundation at gala events held on consecutive nights. A number of individual members were recognized for their outstanding support of the Educational Foundation.

In line with our mission, the convention presented a number of inspirational speakers including one of the best, **Greg Mortenson**, an AAUW member and author of the best selling book *Three Cups of Tea*, reaffirming the importance of education for girls everywhere. Mr. Mortenson described his remarkable efforts to build schools in remote areas of Afghanistan, and closed with the African proverb, "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual. If you educate a girl, you educate a community", which was heard often throughout the convention.

With the reorganization of AAUW the questions are "Will there be a convention in 2009? Will the new organization be AAUW as we now know it? Will our name change?" Those and many other questions will be answered over the next year as a new era for our historic 125-year-old organization is launched.

*"If you educate a boy, you  
educate an individual.  
If you educate a girl, you  
educate a community."*

### Who Do You Know?

Do you know someone who would make a terrific convention keynote speaker?

Politicians, female athletes, community activists, CEOs, judges, college administrators or educators are just some of the possibilities.

Contact: Donna Erickson  
[programvp@aauw-ca.org](mailto:programvp@aauw-ca.org)

## It's All About THE MISSION

**Donna Erickson**

*AAUW CA Program Vice President*

AAUW CA's 2007 convention, having the theme "Advancing Our Leadership Legacy", earned a 'very good' rating on the evaluations that were turned in. In fact, it earned an overall 4.2 score on a 5-point scale, our highest score in recent memory.

Comments like "This is my 18th convention, it was great...This is the best convention in years...I'd give this convention an A+" were sprinkled throughout the numeric evaluations. Our number one complaint--"the workshops were too short"--will be corrected at the 2008 convention with a full 75 minutes devoted to topics of your choosing.

Yes, it was an exciting weekend. We explored 125 years of AAUW successes, enjoyed outstanding programs from Association staff and leaders on international issues, public policy and the proposed bylaws, and celebrated our contributions to EF and LAF. With new bylaws in place at both the Association and state level, the next state convention, *It's All About THE MISSION*, will focus on topics identified in the Association's new vision and mission statements.

The Vision:

*AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

The Mission:

*To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

Want to re-energize your branch? Then, mark your calendar (April 4-6, 2008), add a line item in the budget, and **send your leaders to convention!**

Deadline for Pre-Convention Issue

*California Perspective*

**December 15, 2007**

E-mail copy to:

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

## Speech Trekkers Wanted!

**Cathy Foxhoven**

*AAUW CA Speech Trek Coordinator*

We're looking for 11th and 12th grade girls **and** boys who would like an all-expense paid trip to the Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country in Rohnert Park, a trophy, a fleece jacket and \$500!

If this sounds enticing, contact Cathy Foxhoven, 650-697-6936 or [iambasque@gmail.com](mailto:iambasque@gmail.com) for more information and an electronic mailing of the newly revised Speech Trek packet.

The Speech Trek packet is full of valuable steps to having a successful Speech Trek contest in your branch or community. Don't delay in getting started! The first step is for branch presidents to appoint a Speech Trek Coordinator who should contact local high school drama and speech coaches for participants.

We're all looking forward to hearing three finalists competing for 1<sup>st</sup> place as they speak about "Education....the Gateway to Economic Security - What is Behind the Pay Gap".

### Speech Trek - Year Two

**2007-2008 Theme:**

#### What's Behind the Pay Gap?

**First Place \$500**

**Second & Third Place \$300**

Now in compliance with Title IX, AAUW-CA is calling all 11th and 12th grade girls and boys to a speech contest starting at your branch!

Contact: **Cathy Foxhoven**  
[spechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spechtrek@aauw-ca.org)

## Marketplace 2008 is Expanding

**Donna Erickson**

*AAUW CA Program Vice President*

Marketplace at the 2008 State Convention will be a grand open space strategically located near all the action. Spaces are **free** to branches and members contributing to AAUW projects. The cost for businesses is just \$50 per table.

Reserve your space for next year now. Contact **Donna Erickson**, [programvp@aauw-ca.org](mailto:programvp@aauw-ca.org).

**AAUW Educational Foundation turns 50 this year. Celebrate the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women. Support EF by raising funds to help women break through the academic glass ceiling.**

## Save the Date

### Legal Advocacy Fund Event

**Northern CA - February 2**  
**Southern CA - February 3**

**Dana Cox**

*AAUW CA LAF Vice President*

#### **Special Guest Speaker Michael Burch**

**Michael Burch** (*Burch v. Regents of California*), former head wrestling coach and lecturer at University of California, Davis, successfully sued for retaliation in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

#### Title IX of

#### Education Amendments of 1972

*“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal assistance.”*

Burch was vocal in his opposition to UC Davis’s decision to prohibit women wrestlers to participate on the team. Burch and the female athletes met with the athletic department to complain of sex discrimination. He went public in his support of the female wrestlers and then learned that the university would not renew his contract. This was in contrast to his highly successful record, including having been selected Coach of the Year two years in a row. In January of this year, Burch and the Board of Regents reached a settlement agreement which included a payment of \$725,000. Mark your calendar to come and hear Michael Burch’s story of his commitment and LAF’s support to speak out against the injustice of sex discrimination. (*Time and Location to be announced*)

#### **Trouble in Feather River with a Double T**

Earlier this year, the AAUW Educational Foundation board voted to adopt two new cases, both against Feather River Community College: *Jaureguito v. Feather River Community College* and *Wartluft v. Feather River Community College*. Both cases received an initial award of \$5,000, and both were filed for retaliation for complaining of sex discrimination in violation of the California Fair Housing and Employment Act.

**Jaureguito** (*Jaureguito v. Feather River Community College*), a director of the Upward Bound/Talent Search program at Feather River, claims that after informing superiors of a report of an adult sexually harassing high school-age recruits, she was met with retaliation and

harassment. This became so severe that in April of 2006, she left the college; a constructive discharge.

**Wartluft** (*Wartluft v. Feather River Community College*), a former head coach and faculty member at Feather River Community College, was offered a one-year emergency hire with a promise that it would be made into a full-time, tenure-track position. The college, then in fear of potential violation of Title IX, hired Wartluft, who subsequently expressed her concern to the department that the “college discriminated against women in the way it funded, selected, hired and compensated coaches for women’s athletics.” Wartluft worked full-time for two months without receiving full-time pay. She complained about the salary discrepancy and after meeting with the college’s human resources director, she was given a letter of termination.

Follow these two cases and remember, AAUW LAF (which is you!) will continue fighting for those who demand justice against sex discrimination in higher education.

## About the AAUW Association Web Site

The Association launches a new web site on Sunday, September 16, 9 pm, at <http://www.aauw.org>. [Note: The web address isn’t changing.] One of the goals of the redesign is to make the information you seek easier to find. If your branch web site links to the Association web site, remember to check the links after the 16<sup>th</sup> to make sure they are still correct.

The Association implemented a self-service Membership Services Database (MSD) in November 2006. If you move, log into MSD and change your address. If you change your e-mail address, log into MSD and change your e-mail address. You can change just about all of your personal information with MSD except for your name, for which you’d have to notify your branch membership VP to handle the change.

To get to MSD, go to <http://www.aauw.org>, click Member Center, click Member Services (On-Line). The first time you use MSD, you’re asked to register, meaning you’ll submit a couple of pieces of information about yourself (for example, your 5-digit zip code) and set a security question (such as your favorite color). Registration provides basic security for your record in the database. Once registered, you can print a roster of members of your branch, make a contribution to AAUW, and contact branch officers by e-mail. You’ll find an MSD User Guide at <https://svc.aauw.org/recore/docu/MemberServicesStartup.pdf>.

## About the AAUW CA Web Site

*AAUW CA Communications Committee*

Check the AAUW CA web site at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) for the very latest news about such things as the public policy bill package, AAUW CA EF luncheons, and how to run for an AAUW CA office.

While there, check for your branch listing at <http://www.aauw-ca.org/about/branches.htm>. Does your branch have a site but you're not listed? Send us its URL. Your branch doesn't have a web site? We'll create a virtual e-mail address for you. Be sure to send us the e-mail address that should receive your branch e-mail.

Of course, nothing's worse than an out-of-date web site. If you see something on our web site that needs fixing, please let us know.

Now: Where should you send web site updates, your branch URL, your designated e-mail address? Send everything to [communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:communications@aauw-ca.org).

### About . . .

#### *California Perspective* and "Snapshots"

There's no need to introduce you to *California Perspective*. Here it is!

This year you can expect to receive three issues delivered to your snail-mailbox. The fall and spring issues bring reports from the various officers of AAUW CA plus important additions - such as this paragraph!

The middle issue of *California Perspective* will be packed with pre-convention material: news about workshop topics and special events, registration forms, and other surprises.

Submit articles for *California Perspective* to: [communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:communications@aauw-ca.org).

Let your inner writer out while at convention! Submit articles for the convention daily, "Snapshots," at the convention registration table.

***Brought to you by the AAUW California  
Communications Committee!***

## Record 620 Girls Attend Tech Trek 2007

*Marie Wolbach and Nancy Andren*  
*AAUW CA Tech Trek Co-coordinators*

AAUW branches in California continue to support greater numbers of eighth grade girls at Tech Trek Science Camp. All sites were again filled in 2007. A record number of 620 students had the experience of living on a college campus for a week doing hands-on science and math.

As preparations begin for 2008, leaders are considering another site, or a second week at a campus now used by Tech Trek. The limiting factor in expansion may be camp directors. Two AAUW members who have served as camp directors for nine years are retiring. **Karen Manelis** (CSU Fresno) and **Jo Moss** (UC San Diego) are leaving with plaudits for providing the Tech Trek experience to nearly 1800 girls at their two sites. **Kim Watkins**, who has directed the camp at Mills College for two years and increased its enrollment from 75 to 90, is also retiring. Returning directors are **Carol Holzgrafe** (Stanford U.), **Colleen Briner-Schmidt** and **Susan Pease** (UC Santa Barbara), and **Nilsa Arias** (Whittier College).

Technology instruction and experience will increase at Tech Trek 2008 because of a grant received from the Morgan Family Foundation. Laptop computers have been purchased to use at campuses that do not have computer labs open during the summer and to decrease fees for renting computer labs at other sites.

However, help is needed, and involvement in the Tech Trek program is very gratifying. Volunteers may work a few hours helping with various tasks before camps open or distributing registration packets. At the other end of the scale, members may live on the campus for a week while serving as a dorm mom or health aide for the students. If you are interested, contact Marie at [mwolbach@jps.net](mailto:mwolbach@jps.net).

*"Tech Trek is a powerful tool in motivating a 13-year-old girl to seek a higher education and set goals for dreams that are extremely attainable."*

**These powerful words are from a Tech Trek participant who, years later, still values the experience. Read what others have to say about their Tech Trek experience. See how you can become part of this phenomenon. Check out page 6**

## What the Tech Trek Experience Meant to Them

**Marie Wolbach's** files are crammed with comments from girls who participated in the Tech Trek program over the past several years and found it to be a truly life changing experience. Here are just a few.

- *Tech Trek gave me greater confidence in myself and opened my eyes to the power women could have in the field of science.*
- *Tech Trek was an amazing experience that I will cherish forever, and did give me a little nudge to seriously consider science as a career path.*
- *Spending one week in a college setting helped me know, without a doubt, that I would attend college after high school.*
- *Tech Trek helped me to realize that there are many opportunities in math and science fields for women and that I, like the professional women we met, can accomplish many things.*
- *I think middle school is the perfect age to invigorate young women into the science and math fields. Attending Tech Trek at Stanford with other girls empowered me as a female and as a student.*
- *I liked that it (Tech Trek) gave positive and smart role models for girls interested in math and science.*
- *Tech Trek helped me realize how wide the science and math fields are, and how many options I had.*
- *Tech Trek was my only strongly positive, hands-on, make-science-real-and-cool experience in all of middle school, and I credit it with saving my interest in sciences.*
- *Attending the Tech Trek Science Camp showed me how much I enjoy math and science. I believe that it has helped to shape the path that I am now following. I do not feel that I would be pursuing a degree and ultimately a career in the field of biology had I not been lucky enough to attend this camp.*
- *Tech Trek Science Camp was my first introduction into the world of science outside of the classroom. It was especially important to me because as the child of an underprivileged family, I have had very few opportunities to learn in such a hands-on fashion and with such vibrant instructors as well as students. I can still remember years later the excitement all us young girls shared as we went through Tech Trek together.*
- *Because of Tech Trek I found a love of science that is still in me and now I am a science major in school.*

## Making a Difference in a Young Girl's Life

If you've read the amazing comments about Tech Trek that campers have written even years after the experience is long behind them, you must realize how important it is that this program continue and, in fact, grow and expand. To do that, we need you. Here are just a few of the many ways, great and small, in which you can play a vital role in influencing young girls to pursue math and science careers.

### Counselors and Health Aides

These women live one week at the campus of their choice. Campus life involves lots of walking but no cooking. Living expenses are paid by Tech Trek. New friendships are a bonus.

**Counselors** (Dorm Moms) supervise 7 to 12 girls when students are not in class, help them adjust to being away from home, chaperone field trips, and assist with evening activities in the dorms.

**Health Aides** (First Aid Nurses) deal only with minor issues and refer to clinics if needed.

### Other Volunteer Opportunities

Database manager

Packet preparation

Printing & laminating name tags

Shop for paper supplies or snacks

Distribution of registration packets (Sunday)

Camp locations include:

CSU-Fresno (June 22-28)

Mills College (June 22-28)

Stanford University (July dates TBD)

UC-San Diego (July dates TBD)

UC-Santa Barbara (July 27-August 2)

Whittier College (August 3-9)

For more detailed job descriptions or to have any questions addressed, submit your request to [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org).

*Make a difference!*

*You can positively impact young girls through volunteer work in AAUW's Tech Trek program*

*Check out volunteer opportunities at: [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)*