



May 2017

This is an important time in our AAUW calendar as we approach the end of the fiscal year. The beginning of the year brings new opportunities for officers to engage with our branches and an opportunity to rekindle our energy while the retiring officers pass on their expertise. Please share the information in this edition with those who are assuming new responsibilities in your branch.

### REFLECTIONS FROM DONNA...

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

I have been asking everyone to think about stepping up and serving on a state committee, but I haven't given anyone a reason to do that. I want to use my article this month to explain the benefits of serving on a state committee.

Your first question would probably be, "**How much time does it take?**" Most of the committee work is done via conference call or email. In July each year, there is a state meeting that we call Leadership Weekend. It involves one day that we invite all the those who have been appointed as a committee members. This is the only time that most committees meet face to face. Also, the state will pay for one night's lodging, transportation and meals to attend the meeting.

You may also want to know, "**How much work is involved?**" That is a little harder to answer because it really depends on the committee. The Public Policy committee meets a second time each year in March to go over state bills that further the AAUW mission and decide which ones to sponsor, support or oppose. A lot of the committee work involves making phone calls or sending emails to branch leaders regarding the business of the committee. Most of the time we are sending out information, but sometimes we need to get information from the branches.

Your final question might be "**What's in it for me?**" We are all busy women and we don't need to be wasting our time. So, I would answer that question by saying that you will meet women from all over the state who are passionate about AAUW. You will learn from each other. You will find out what other leaders are doing to solve issues facing their branches. When I served on my first committee (Communications), I was assigned the task of helping my assigned branches set up a website. Now this was long before Site Resources, but we had an easy program to work with. I really felt like I was helping my assigned branches move into new technology. But when I joined the committee, I didn't know much about setting up a website. Another committee member helped me get up to speed and I really felt like I was helping. Recently, I asked Eve Toles from the Victor Valley Branch what she got out of serving on a state committee. Here is what she said, "I am very glad that I served on a state committee this year. I am more engaged seeing how our organization fulfills AAUW's mission and I work with a wonderful team. It felt great to be able to contribute and even to learn some new tricks."

I hope this gives you something to think about. We would love to have you join one of our committees. Here is a link to the website for the [vita form](#). I hope to see you in July.

### **TECH TREK IS COMING BACK – OR IS IT?**

In 2013, AAUW National opened a pilot project for Tech Trek to be offered in other states. At that time, they trademarked the name “Tech Trek” and opened five camps in the first year. Each subsequent year, National added more camps until they had 11 camps nationwide. In 2015, the ten California camps moved under the National’s Tech Trek umbrella. It was still a “pilot project”. California still had responsibilities for the California camps, but National designated the structure, staffing and curriculum for the camps in every state. They also handled all the camp deposits and payments. Branch deposits for Tech Trek were counted as deposits to “Fund”. In 2017, National received the results of a two-year study on how they were allocating their resources and the National board decided that many changes needed to be made. One of those changes was to move management of the Tech Trek camps back to their states or other “organizing entity”. So, that explains part of the title for this article, “Tech Trek is Coming Back”. Tech Trek is a National program now. That is not changing. They own the name (Tech Trek), they have adopted a logo and other trademarks. They control the curriculum.

AAUW California is being asked to take responsibility for implementing and validating compliance with the AAUW Tech Trek Toolkit. The state is also responsible for monitoring the curriculum and reporting compliance with AAUW guidelines. So in essence, Tech Trek isn’t coming back to California in the same way it left. We can still have the camps if we are willing to accept National control. The state board has to make a decision by the end of July. We are trying to look at all the options while considering the California branches at the same time.

The AAUW California board would be interested in your comments and concerns. Please send them to [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org) by June 1, 2017. Please include “Tech Trek” in the subject line. I look forward to hearing from you about this important decision.

### **FINANCE**

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

**Committee Members Needed.** Would you like to know more about how AAUW California manages its investments and spends our members’ dues money? Then join the Finance Committee. We need two or more branch members to join the committee in FY 2017-2018. Membership on this committee requires participating in six to eight teleconferences per year, possibly completing some homework (coordination with branches), and attending our Leadership Day on July 15, 2017 in Sacramento. More information about duties and the application may be found [HERE](#).

**Insurance.** Due to circumstances beyond our control, we may experience a \$4,000 to \$6,000 increase in insurance coverage for next fiscal year. Coverage has not yet been finalized so I am unable to give you a precise amount. To approximate the cost for next year, please multiply your February 2017 headcount from National by \$3.63.

**Annual Financial Report.** It is almost the end of our AAUW fiscal year. Each branch and IBC has reporting responsibilities to AAUW California. AAUW California requests that you complete your Annual Financial Report using the link [HERE](#) by July 31, 2017. Please contact our office manager at [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org) for assistance.

**Tax Return Filings.** Your branch and IBC must also file an income tax return to both the IRS and Franchise Tax Board (FTB) no later than November 15, 2017, if your FYE ends 30 June. Every year, National offers to file your return if branch income is \$50,000 or less. However, I found that due to human error in past years, some branches' returns were NOT filed by National. Filing your own 990-N is very easy and doing it yourself eliminates the possibility that human error will strike your branch and its taxes will not be filed. (And, if not filed for 3 years, your branch loses its nonprofit status.) Here's the [LINK](#) to the "post card" form for the IRS. Your branch must file its own FTB submission. Neither National nor AAUW California can do it for you. If branch income is under \$50,000, it can file using this [LINK](#) for the "post card". If your branch has income over \$50,000, it must file an IRS form 990 EZ or 990 and an FTB Form 199.

Please contact me, Patricia (Pat) Ferrer, at [cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org) if you need assistance on the matters above or any other financial matter.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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

If you haven't had an opportunity to attend a Leadership Day, consider attending one of the two upcoming events. **May 5th will be in Riverside, 10am-2:30pm** and **May 20th in Santa Barbara from 10am-3pm**. All the information is on the website at this [LINK](#) so register now!

### SPEECH TREK

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

**Nikhita Gopisetty**, Morgan Hill Branch, won 1st place in the State Finals at the Annual Meeting on April 22nd. **Sarah Murphy**, Roseville-South Placer, was second and **Sabrina Sy**, Alhambra-San Gabriel, won third place. You can see the finalists' speeches [HERE](#). It was also announced that **Marlene Cain**, Speech Trek Coordinator of Big Bear Valley Branch, will be the new AAUW California Speech Trek Coordinator.

### AAUW FUND

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

If your branch President, Treasurer and/or Fund VP hasn't received your branch first quarter donation report, it will be arriving soon via email. Be sure to check the figures as sometimes donations may be credited to the wrong branch or a donation you're sure was made doesn't show on the report. Contact Sharon Westafer if you find errors or have questions.

The information contained in the donation reports is confidential and is sent to branches so they can reconcile their figures with those from National. The information shouldn't be shared or published in branch newsletters. Many branches are pleasantly surprised to discover donations made directly to National from branch members, which increase the totals credited to branches. Tech Trek donations will continue to be credited to total branch giving until the program is transferred back to the state. Once the transition occurs, only donations made directly to National will count, however most members wish their Tech Trek donations to go to a specific camp in California. In that case, donations will be sent to the camp treasurers rather than to National and the money will be handled by the Special Projects Fund.

Thank you for your support of AAUW and the AAUW Fund!

## STATE PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

The State Projects Oversight Committee (SPOC) awarded the Auburn Branch a grant of \$500 to help them implement a new project, *Electrifying Art: A Maker Project*. The branch gave the workshop to 40 Girl Scouts, ages 5 to 7, and the girls created art using electrical circuits made of Play Doh, batteries, buzzers and LED lights. The Auburn Branch helped encourage STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with their new project. SPOC will be giving up to two \$500 grants again next year. We hope that branches will start planning now for projects that will advance our mission of breaking through barriers for women and girls.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

**Sandi Gabe**, Director, Communications Committee Chair, [Sandi.Gabe@hotmail.com](mailto:Sandi.Gabe@hotmail.com)

### Changes to the Branch Officer Report for Next Year

Before the end of the fiscal year, you'll be asked to update the Branch Officer Report, a database that AAUW California uses to track branch officers and state committee participants. The database is used to populate our broadcast email lists and the state directory, so it's important to update the branch positions before you leave office.

We conducted a survey earlier this year to determine if we should update the position listing to more closely align with current branch positions. In response we've added eight new positions for you to choose from. See the table below for the details.

We've also added a new option for branch leaders to **Receive all Communications**. Choosing this option in addition to the most appropriate position will allow you to receive all communications.

A personal link will be sent to each Branch President in mid-May. The deadline for updating the record is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note that this is a separate process from the AAUW National process.

Branch Officer Report	
Title	Comments
Receive all Communications	NEW
President	
President-Elect	
Director	NEW

Leadership Team	NEW
Steering Committee	NEW
Finance	
Program	
Membership	
AAUW Fund (EF)	Remove - Combine to AAUW Fund
AAUW Fund (LAF)	Remove - Combine to AAUW Fund
AAUW Fund	NEW
College University Coordinator	
International	
Secretary	
Newsletter Editor	
Public Policy	
Speech Trek Coordinator	
Tech Trek Coordinator	Remove "Coordinator"
Web Manager	
Communications	NEW

Marketing	NEW
Publicity	NEW
Bylaws	

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

*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*

## **PLAN FOR SUCCESSION**

As June approaches, branches are thinking about changes in board and committee positions. Public Policy is an important position in supporting the mission of AAUW. If your branch has a Public Policy Chair, encourage her/him to continue. Your current chair is familiar with the job and the issues. If you're seeking a new chair, look for a person who finds issues and legislation exciting. Ask the outgoing chair to meet with the nominee and provide information on the work in public policy. If your branch hasn't had a Public Policy Chair, now is a good time to fill the position and ensure that your branch is a part of the effort to educate and take action to promote our mission.

## **UPDATE ON LEGISLATION**

Bills are moving through the State Legislature. Be prepared to respond to Action Alerts when our priority bills reach critical points in their progress. When Alerts come to board members, please pass them on to your members.

AAUW California Public Policy Committee uses a study process and discussion in selecting bills on which to take positions. The committee narrows the possibilities to enable a manageable list for our legislative advocate. Our priority bill list can be accessed through the AAUW California website under "[Bill Tracking.](#)"

Our legislative advocate, Shannon Smith-Crowley, develops the advocacy plan for each of our priority bills. She directs our Action Alerts and also lets the Public Policy Chairs know when more branch and member action is needed, including which legislators should be contacted. Branches can be prepared to act when called upon by building some rapport with local legislative offices in advance. If they already know what AAUW is and who you are, they will be more receptive when you ask for support on a bill.

It is acceptable for an AAUW branch to support a bill not on the AAUW California list with these conditions:

- the branch requests the AAUW California Public Policy Chair(s) to review the bill for compliance with the approved AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities. This review will include the Legislative Advocate's determination that there is no potential for adverse political or other ramifications.
- if approved by the above, the branch may take a position in the name of the branch, e.g. the Alameda Branch, AAUW, and will not use AAUW CA.

## **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)

**Give a Grad a Gift** is a great way to introduce any recent college graduate, male or female, to AAUW. Members may give as many gifts as they like. Please let your members know that if they would like the recipient to also receive a free State membership, they should send the information in Step 1 to [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org). Branches wishing to also include the graduate as a branch member should contact [membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org) (we are working with National on a way to accomplish this.) This is a good method of recruitment and may help you recruit members of traditional college age to AAUW.

**Free Memberships.** Don't miss the opportunity to cash in....There may not be such a thing as a free lunch, but there are 149 free National memberships waiting to be claimed by 54 branches in California. If your branch participated in the Shape the Future membership campaign this year, then branch Membership VPs should check out page two of the monthly status report [HERE](#),

Under [Shape the Future](#), for every two new members you enroll, your branch is entitled to one free membership up to a maximum of five per year and you only have until June 30th to redeem them. Take advantage of this opportunity while you can!

#### **COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERS**

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

#### **IT IS A GREAT TIME TO ADD A COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY (C/U) CHAIR TO YOUR BOARD**

As you gather your new board members for the 2017-2018 year, remember to appoint a C/U chair and add that chair when submitting the Branch Officer Reports (BOR) to AAUW National and AAUW California. We want to make sure we know whom to stay in contact with and send information to as we help all branches recruit, retain, and work with your local campuses as C/U Partners. Did you know that the C/U Representatives from partner schools are already National members and do not pay for state membership? Invite your partner school C/U Representative to become a member of your branch.

#### **TECH TREK**

**Linda Stinebaugh**, State Project Coordinator AAUW California Tech Trek,

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

We are currently in the process of examining the Memorandum of Agreement from AAUW National related to moving Tech Trek back to the State starting with the 2018 camps. We have a meeting in May with staff from AAUW National to discuss the transition procedure and terms.

The UC Irvine camp is currently seeking a Camp Treasurer who would work with Sylvia Fath, Director of that camp, and receive guidance from Harriet. Since this work will be done from your home through email and attachments, it is not necessary to live near Irvine. The ideal candidate should have an accounting or bookkeeping background. Please send an email to [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org) if you are interested.

We will also need a Camp Director for the Whittier camp for 2018. Nicole Simmons now has two small children, and works full time. She has discovered that she just does not have enough time for it all. The camp has a strong staff who will supply plenty of support for anyone who

would be willing to step up. If you are interested, please send an email to [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org).

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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, 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, Leadership Team, Communication, Marketing, Publicity, AAUW Fund

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

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