



# Board to Board

A Communication from the

AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

## November 2017

This is the beginning of the busy holiday season including many branch celebrations. It is also the beginning of setting up your new board for next year. There is much helpful information in this Board to Board as well as in the AAUW website. For new leaders have you ever wondered why some words in the articles are highlighted? The highlighted words (words you can click on) are links to the AAUW California or AAUW National website where additional information can be found.

## REFLECTIONS FROM DONNA...

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

As president, I am always looking into the future. I look to the future of AAUW as a national organization and we are searching for a new direction. The future of our state organization is also searching for where we fit in. This coming year we will have six vacancies on the board. That is half of the governing board. There are vacancies for five directors and one secretary. This year the current board developed a mission statement for the state: *AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education, and resources.* We will need all those vacancies filled in order to fulfill our mission.

Our branches are the core of AAUW and it is their leadership that keeps us from faltering. So, I am asking each of you to consider running for those vacant positions. We have not had a contested election for several years and with six openings, I am concerned that we won't have enough people to fill the vacancies. Most of the people reading this are already branch leaders and I'm sure you are already planning your own succession. Help us move in to 2018-19 with a fully "elected" board. Contact Donna Lilly at [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org) or check out the state website for [election information](#). Help us keep AAUW California moving forward.

Donna Mertens

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## AAUW FUND

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

## INSPIRING FUND LUNCHEONS AND DONATION REMINDERS

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the AAUW Fund luncheons! It was a great opportunity to meet some of the women who are supported by generous donations from members. A total of two hundred and seventy-five AAUW members and guests heard sixteen fellowship and grant recipients speak at the three Fund luncheons in October.

When sending your Fund donations, remember we have several unfinished [California endowments](#). Once they're completed, the interest from them will go toward supporting the studies and projects of fellowship and grant recipients. Please keep in mind that it is against AAUW policy to raise money for, or contribute to, other organizations such as libraries or other groups, unless doing so as an individual.

Third quarter branch donation reports will be arriving soon and will be sent to branch presidents and Fund chairs. Be sure to contact me if you notice any discrepancies or have questions.

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## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY (C/U) COMMITTEE

*Tina Byrne, C/U Committee Chair, [aauwtina@gmail.com](mailto:aauwtina@gmail.com)*

### STARTSMART. CLOSING THE GENDER PAY GAP, ONE SALARY NEGOTIATION AT A TIME.

Become a certified [StartSmart](#) AAUW salary negotiation facilitator! AAUW depends on people like you to help empower thousands of women annually to negotiate their salaries. Join the team of skilled facilitators today to further your leadership development, gain public speaking experience, and sharpen your own negotiation skills and expertise. AAUW will provide you with the tools, resources, and other materials to help you become a successful salary negotiation facilitator.

Explore the possibilities [online](#) on the AAUW National site.

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## COMMUNICATION

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

### HAVE WE BEEN SPOOFED?

Yes, recently AAUW California was spoofed. With spoofing, the "bad guys" make it appear that emails were sent by AAUW when in fact, someone other than us actually sent them.

How does this happen?

The most common scenario is that they search an infected system for email addresses, then send emails to all the addresses they find--but they make it appear that the emails came from one of the addresses they found. So someone who received an email from AAUW California has an infected computer which is generating the emails.

Help stop the spread!

1. Change your password regularly
2. Use an anti-virus program
3. Use a spam filter
4. Delete suspicious emails before opening

## **FIRE TOUCHES AAUW MEMBERS**

California has experienced a devastating wildfire season that has impacted members across the state. Our thoughts go out to members, leaders and families impacted. While branches are not able to fundraise for non AAUW events or causes, individuals may make personal donations. The Sacramento Bee published a helpful article: [Where Northern California fire victims can find resources - and how you can support them](#). The Napa branch newsletter also highlighted that the [NapaValley Community Foundation](#) is a community foundation that accepts funds to be used in the Napa community.

## **AAUW CALIFORNIA OFFICE WELCOMES DESTYNEE HILL**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Destynee Hill will join AAUW California as our new administrative assistant! A Howard University International Business Pre-Law graduate with experience as an intern with the US Senate and nonprofit experience with the Aquarium of the Bay in San Francisco, Destynee brings knowledge and enthusiasm to AAUW California. Destynee also shares her ballet experience by teaching ballet classes to young children. She can be reached at [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org).

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## **FINANCE**

*Pat Ferrer, CFO, [cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org)*

### **IT'S NOW OR NEVER**

It's NOW. November 15 is the due date to file your Federal and State income tax submissions. If your branch's income is \$50,000 or less (this means all income (or deposits, not deposits less expenses), you can file the simple on-line post card submission. If your branch income is greater than \$50,000, you must file using a more complex submission. For more information see the [financial deadlines](#) on our website.

NEVER again-after evaluating the use of the Annual Financial Report, it was decided that it will no longer be required. The website will be updated in a few weeks to reflect this change. Please file your taxes-after 3 years without submission, your branch will lose its nonprofit status. It is a long and costly process to reinstate.

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## GOVERNANCE

*Sue Cochran, Governance Committee Chair, [governance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:governance@aauw-ca.org)*

### INCORPORATION VOTE RESULTS

The results of the "every member" vote to return AAUW California to a public benefit corporation from its current status as a mutual benefit corporation has **failed**. The results are as follows:

Total AAUW California Membership: 11907

Total votes cast: 3160

Total yes votes: 3134

Total no votes: 26

California corporate regulations require that all votes cast for a mutual benefit corporation to change its status to an entity such as a public benefit corporation must be unanimous. Due to the 26 "no votes" the measure failed.

What is next? AAUW California's legal counsel has advised us that we can call for a re-vote. Prior to the second round of voting, AAUW California will provide additional detailed information to the membership and reach out to branch leaders to determine areas of clarification that need to be further addressed. The second vote will be scheduled after the Thanksgiving holiday.

If a second vote fails, AAUW California will then enter into a formal appeal process with the Commissioner of the Securities Division of the Corporations Division of the California Secretary of State's Office to petition for a change. If that appeal fails or is rejected, the only option open to AAUW California is to dissolve the current corporation and reform a new corporation as a public benefit corporation. As an affiliate of AAUW National, AAUW California must be aligned with AAUW as a public benefit corporation and cannot remain as a mutual benefit corporation. Both of the final two options are costly and time consuming. Since the fall of 2016, AAUW California has invested over \$10,000 and over 250 volunteer hours working to resolve this issue, which includes an initial appeal to the California Secretary of State for a reversal to a public benefit corporation. The first appeal was a different process than what will need to be followed if the second vote fails.

Questions? Please address all questions in writing to: [governance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:governance@aauw-ca.org).

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## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*Cathy Foxhoven, Co-President Elect, Leadership Development Chair, [leaderdev@aauw-ca.org](mailto:leaderdev@aauw-ca.org)*

### HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE - WE NEED YOU!

The Leadership Development Committee is creating a peer mentoring group for branch presidents. This is your opportunity to share your "best practices" while mentoring newly-

elected branch presidents. We will be communicating through email, blogs, chats, online meetings and gather for the Convention's Leadership Brunch.

If you would like to be a part of this dynamic, valuable group, please contact leaderdev@aauw-ca.org. by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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## MEMBERSHIP

*Deanna Arthur (Secretary) and Kathy Andreini, Membership Committee Co-Chairs, [membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org)*

### RECORD KEEPING MADE EASY!

Has your branch resisted signing up for the National [Membership Payment Program](#) (MPP)? Mine did. Are members/board members technophobes? Some of mine are. No problem. The MPP works for everyone. Members can still send their checks to the branch just as they always have. Or, they can pay their dues online with a credit card. Everyone's happy. Here are just some of the advantages:

1. Membership and Finance VPs **time spent in record keeping is greatly reduced.**
2. New and renewing members are **updated almost instantly** to the MSD - no waiting weeks for them to appear.
3. Finance officers can pay National **and** State dues at the same time with a branch credit/debit card - no more mailing 2 checks.
4. Branch dues are **deposited automatically** into the branch bank account and to State.
5. **Dues reminders** can be generated automatically - It's your choice when and to whom.

We could go on and on. Please feel free to contact Kathy Andreini - kathyaauw@gmail.com for more information on how happy her branch is that they are now using [MPP](#).

P.S. If you haven't already done so, be sure to check that your branch roster is correct in the Member Services Database (MSD) on the AAUW National website. Any member not renewed by November 30 will be removed. If you need help with this, you can contact Deanna (South) or Kathy (North) for help - [membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org).

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## NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

*Donna Lilly, Nominations & Elections Chair, [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)*

### VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTED SELF

Campaign as a candidate for **Secretary** or **1 of 5 Directors** for the AAUW California Board of Directors and share your leadership skills across the state in 2018-2020. Complete an [application form](#) online.

Job descriptions and duties are found in the [Policies and Procedures](#) in the Governance section on the website. You may be asked for the password [aauwca].

The strength of our organization depends on our dynamic leaders. Join the Board of Directors and help drive AAUW forward.

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## PROGRAM

*Jane Niemeier* Co-President Elect), and *Stormy Miller*, Director, Program Co-Chairs, [program@aauw-ca.org](mailto:program@aauw-ca.org)

### DUST OFF YOUR BINGO DAUBERS

Has your branch downloaded the Bingo card from the AAUW California website? Our Bingo game is a great way to encourage members to try new mission-based activities. Some of the squares will be easy to check off because you are probably already doing what they say. Others will be new to you but still easily accomplished. Here are some examples: Get 10 branch members to "Like" the AAUW California Facebook page. Use an AAUW promotional video at an event. Send 2 members to a Fund Luncheon. Please join the fun. <http://www.aauw-ca.org/branch-bingo/>

### WHERE CAN YOU FIND A BOOK CLUB AT 1 AM?

The "virtual" AAUW California Book Club started on October 15 with the discussion of the inspiring book [I Am Malala](#). Only a few people have joined so far, but the online discussion is ongoing. Read the book and add your thoughts at any time of the day or night. Here is the link: <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/18923269-i-am-malala-by-malala-yousafzai>

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## PUBLIC POLICY

*Charmen Goehring*, and *Nancy Mahr*, Directors, Public Policy Co-Chair, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)

### MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS---THEY'RE HOME NOW

During November and early December the state legislature does not meet. It is their interim period and they are mostly in their home districts.

Use the interim period to meet with your legislators in their local offices.

- Introduce yourselves and AAUW.
  - Meet the staff.
  - Tell them about our key [legislative priorities](#) - e.g., workplace equity, Title IX, access to comprehensive health care, quality public education.
  - Let them know that you will keep in touch with the office in the coming legislative session regarding our priorities.
  - Take handouts - our [Public Policy Priorities brochure](#) the AAUW [California Marketing brochure](#).
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## SPEECH TREK

*Marlene Cain, AAUW California Speech Trek Coordinator, [spechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spechtrek@aauw-ca.org)*

### LET'S HEAR WHAT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY

How can we stand up to sexism? What can individuals and organizations such as AAUW do to break down stereotypes and biases in school, at work, in the military, and in our communities? Over a dozen branches have already taken a significant step by committing to host a Speech Trek contest between now and late February 2018. This year's topic-- "How Can We Stand Up to Sexism?"-- is relevant, timely, and encourages our younger generation--high school boys and girls-- to understand and speak out on this important topic.

Join us! Speech Trek is an ideal platform to publicize your branch and to advance this mission-critical topic while giving high school youth (and future AAUW members!) an opportunity to hone research, leadership and communication skills.

Never hosted Speech Trek? No problem! The [Branch Tool Kit](#) can be found online or contact AAUW California Coordinator Marlene Cain at 909.866.2819 or [spechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:spechtrek@aauw-ca.org) and she'll walk you through how to get started and share best practices, including partnering with an organization that regularly hosts speech contests, such as [Toastmasters International](#).

How can your branch stand up to sexism? Participate in Speech Trek, which joins together your community and your branch, and begin breaking down stereotypes and biases in school, at work, in the military, and in our communities.

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## TECH TREK

*Harriet Tower, Tech Trek Financial Liaison, [techtrek-finance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-finance@aauw-ca.org)*

### WHO WILL COUNT THE MONEY?

Tech Trek's Irvine Camp urgently needs a treasurer. The qualifications for this position are

- Love of Tech Trek
- Knowledge of MS Excel
- Good communicator
- Use of email with attachments

The rewards include

- Joy in providing vital service to TT
- Membership in the TT Executive Committee

We need you and look forward to having you on our leadership team!

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

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## CA Online Branch

*Sandy Hansen, President CA Online Branch, [sandyhansenaauw@gmail.com](mailto:sandyhansenaauw@gmail.com)*

### **CA ONLINE BRANCH OPENS NOVEMBER PROGRAM TO VISITORS: AAUW 101 Q & A - AN ONLINE DISCUSSION**

Are you new to AAUW? Do you have questions about what we do? Join the CA Online Branch for its next program, Nov. 13-20. Using a private email list, we'll try to answer your questions - or point you in the direction for good answers from our "seasoned" members. Only seven days for discussion.

This first-time-ever program is open to non-members. Pre-registration is required by Nov. 12. Contact [groupsadmin@aauwcaonline.org](mailto:groupsadmin@aauwcaonline.org) and include AAUW 101 as your subject line. We'll send you info to get the discussion started.

We operate at YOUR convenience. Join us!

To learn more about what a "virtual" branch can do, check out [past programs](#) on the AAUW CA Online branch website.