



May 2018

The Convention has ended and the attendees are bringing back new energy. Now we approach the end of the fiscal year and the beginning of a new year energized by a new board. 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

WOW! What a Trip

I just got back from the AAUW California State Convention in Irvine. The energy was off the charts. There were exciting plenaries and workshops as well as time to get to know each other.

The state board met before the Convention began and conducted the state's business. An important part of our meeting involved a discussion of the three bylaws changes that National has submitted for a membership vote. Each bylaws change was discussed and voted on. The bylaws change to remove the degree requirement for membership garnered the most discussion. However, after all the discussion, the board voted to support all three bylaws changes.

Please make sure all your members are aware of these changes and that they vote in the National election. Voting is currently going on and will end on June 9th. Our foremothers fought to get the vote for women and now we must honor them by taking advantage of that opportunity.

Let's continue to fight for women and girls through our advocacy and philanthropy. We will prepare our girls and women to become the superheroes of their own future.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jane Niemeier Co-President Elect, jniemeie@hotmail.com, and Cathy Foxhoven, Co-President Elect, aauffox@gmail.com

You Know You Want to be on a State Committee!

It's time again to sign up for our AAUW California State Committees. By being on a committee, you will help the state Board of Directors design and complete the strategic plan for 2018-2019.

There are numerous [committees listed on the website](#), like Branch Support, Project Oversight, and Communications to name a few. The work is interesting and helps promote our mission of breaking through barriers for women and girls.

Another plus is that you get to work with members from all over the state. You will make new friends and generate new ideas. Check out the website for more [information](#)! Submission deadline: May 15, 2018. Click [HERE](#) for a direct link to the application.

AAUW FUND

Sharon Westafer, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aaufund@aauw-ca.org

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 State Named Gift Honoree!

Jan Cook was honored as the California State Named Gift honoree at the Fund Gala on Saturday evening at the convention. Jan is a long time member of AAUW and has worked tirelessly to promote the mission of AAUW at the branch and state level. You can read more about her in the next issue of the *California Perspective*.

Congratulations to the Half Moon Bay Branch, the Sacramento Branch, the Hayward/Castro Valley Branch and the Alhambra-San Gabriel and San Jose Branches for completing endowments in 2017. Check out the AAUW California website for [unfinished endowments](#). There are just a few and we would appreciate your help in completing them.

First quarter branch donation reports will be arriving soon.

The AAUW California Fund committee wishes you all a wonderful, relaxing summer. Be sure to check out the Fund pages on the AAUW California website for forms and other information including unfinished endowments, fundraising tips and ideas and other information. The forms regarding branch giving will be updated soon. Click [HERE](#) to access the AAUW Fund page.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY (C/U) COMMITTEE

Tina Byrne, C/U Committee Chair, aauwtina@gmail.com

Give a Grad a Gift: The Perfect Graduation Gift!



Give Every Grad You Know the Gift of AAUW Membership for a year at No Cost!

Here's How

- Identify the recent grad (anyone completing an associate or undergraduate degree in the past 2 years)
- Collect their information: mailing address, phone number, email and alma mater
- Complete the online form by clicking [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) for details, the form, and a video you can play at your next branch meeting. Encourage all branch members to take advantage of this opportunity to welcome new members to AAUW.

FINANCE

Pat Ferrer, CFO, cfo@aauw-ca.org

Help us help you!

The Finance Committee will be developing its strategic plan goals for FY 2018-2019. Tentatively we have selected providing guidance on Using On-Line Banking but need at least one more goal.

The best ideas come from the people who do the work—the branch treasurers are out in the trenches doing their job. Let us know how to make that shoveling easier for you.

If you haven't done so already, please look at our Branch Treasurer's Checklist we developed as part of this year's strategic plan at the top of the Finance Deadlines on the website. Click [HERE](#) for a direct link.

GOVERNANCE

Sue Cochran, Governance Committee Chair, governance@aauw-ca.org

It is Time to Clean House

Start getting your files in order before passing them to your successor. It is important that those governing documents are up-to-date and in the branch officer files (President, Secretary, Treasurer).

The basic governing documents include: Affiliates Agreement, Articles of Incorporation (if the branch is incorporated), Branch Bylaws, Branch Policies and Procedures, Minutes of the Board and General Branch Meetings, Minutes of Committee Meetings, Tax ID Number of the Branch, Government Reporting Documents such as tax filings.

If a Branch is incorporated, all documents need to reflect the correct name the branch is operating under. In other words, the name on the Articles of Incorporation needs to be reflected in the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and all official reporting documents.

Please send questions regarding governing documents to governance@aauw-ca.org.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Cathy Foxhoven, Co-President Elect, Leadership Development Committee Chair,
leaderdev@aauw-ca.org

Don't Be Selfish! Share! Share! Share!

Calling all convention attendees to SHARE all the valuable information you received at Convention 2018. You will motivate your board and members by sharing the handouts, your insights about Kim Churches' speech, the humor of Lisa Maatz's unique perspectives and what you learned in the workshops. Convention materials can be found on the website by clicking [HERE](#).

Conventions are expensive to attend, so don't keep your knowledge to yourself. Share!

MEMBERSHIP

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

Need Members?

We really enjoyed meeting many Membership VPs at the terrific and inspiring California Convention. We asked some of the branches that had a great influx of new members this year, "How did you do it?" Answer: Mission-based programs. So, there you have it. Easy-Peasy. Some branches told us that they send their newsletter to all National members in their area and to the e-students attending their College/University partners.

If you would like the list of National members in your area, you can find it on the National MSD (Member Services Database) or contact us with the zip codes you'd like. The Student Affiliates Roster is also on the MSD - or contact us with the college you want.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Donna Lilly, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

All Candidates Are Winners!

Congratulations to these AAUW women who were elected at the state convention to AAUW California Board of Directors. Lynne Batchelor will serve as Secretary. Sharyn Siebert, Ainsley Nies, Kathi Harper, Melanie Wade and Deanna Arthur will serve as Directors starting July 1 for the upcoming 2 years.

Newly-elected Directors' bios are posted on the state website [HERE](#).

PROGRAM

Jane Niemeier Co-President Elect), and *Stormy Miller*, Director, Program Committee Co-Chairs, program@aauw-ca.org

Twenty Branches Recognized at Convention

For the past three quarters, the Program Committee has been selecting Programs of the Quarter that feature outstanding mission-based programs. At the recent convention, the branches that were selected were recognized, and they received a certificate listing the program that was being honored.

These programs ranged from those featuring women who exemplify our mission of breaking through barriers to STEM Camps to information about passing the ERA.

Since the convention, some branches have contacted us to ask for the contact information of the branch program chairs. They want to find out how they can bring more mission-based programs to their branches! Find branch contacts in the state directory which is posted on the website [HERE](#). You will need to enter the password: aauwca.

Keep sharing your newsletters, and perhaps your branch will be honored for the fourth quarter.

PUBLIC POLICY

Charmen Goehring, and *Nancy Mahr*, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Get Ready to Advocate for Our Mission

Our bills are moving through the State Legislature. Be prepared to respond to Action Alerts when our priority bills reach critical points in their progress. Take the lead to get your members signed up for Action Alerts.

- go to aauw.org (National)
- click on Take Action on the menu bar
- click on Two-Minute Activist on the left sidebar
- scroll down the page to sign up

When you sign up on the National website, you are automatically also signed up for AAUW California. Click [HERE](#) for a direct link.

Our 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.

Your branch needs to be part of the AAUW advocacy team. Every voice helps!

SPEECH TREK

Marlene Cain, AAUW California Speech Trek Coordinator, spechtrek@aauw-ca.org

2018 Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Trek a Success

“Inspirational!” “Entertaining!” “Educational!” Such was the feedback heard at the Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial State Speech Trek Finals at the Saturday luncheon on April 28. Over 150 attendees enjoyed the highly competitive speech contest. Three contestants advanced to the Finals and captivated the audience with their unique stories as they offered their perspectives on “How Can We Stand Up to Sexism?”

There is nothing more empowering and magical than the ability to communicate to an audience!

Heartiest congratulations to the talented speakers:

- Caroline Irving, Redlands Branch - 1st Place
- Rohan Sharma, Roseville/So. Placer Branch - 2nd Place
- Chloe Johnson, Stockton Branch - 3rd Place

See the videos on the website [HERE](#).

In addition, Brett Allen, son of Eleanor Stem Allen, spoke lovingly about his mother and how she inspired excellence in all those around her.

Many thanks to the talented judges-- Lisa Maatz, Heather Miller, and Robert Sanders-- and timer/ballot counter, Steve Cain, all of whom had their work cut out for them!

The Speech Trek Committee works hard throughout the year to produce an amazing speech event for contestants and audiences alike. A warm and grateful thank-you to outgoing Treasurer, Liz Jordan, whose significant contributions to the success of the Speech Trek program the past five years cannot be measured! Liz will continue to be an important part of the Speech Trek Committee.

A big welcome to the Committee's incoming Treasurer, Donna Mertens. Congratulations, Donna - the Committee looks forward to working together!

What is the 2018-2019 topic? Watch this space for the announcement.

In the meantime, kudos to the Poway-Penasquitos Branch, who just announced that they will host Speech Trek next year--for the first time! Welcome to the Speech Trek family, Poway-Penasquitos!

Which branch will be next to empower their students? Let Marlene Cain know at 909.866.2819 or spechtrek@aauw-ca.org.

PROJECT OVERSIGHT

Diane Owens, Project Oversight Committee Chair, dianneowens9@gmail.com

“Animals & Girls—The Zoo Experience”!

AAUW California has selected AAUW Big Bear Valley for a \$500 State Project grant for their “Zoo Experience Program.” The week-long July 2018 program will expose local teenagers to zoo managerial positions, which currently are held by very few women. The students will write and post entries to a daily blog along with their own animal photography.

The Branch is collaborating with the curator of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo, the Big Bear Valley Unified School District, public officials and community members. The branch has raised over \$1600 for the project and is seeking in-kind contributions from local businesses.

AAUW California has allocated \$500 for each of the past two years to encourage branches to plan projects that can be replicated by other California branches. Last year's winner was AAUW Auburn Branch for their *Electrifying Art: A Maker Project*. Their collaboration with the Girl Scouts engaged 40 of the youngest Girl Scouts in their community.