



May 2023

Will you go to the prom with us?



Dear <<First Name>>, Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick and informal read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Things to Know

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The origin of the phrase “dressed to the nines” is steeped in controversy (what isn’t?), but is likely from a 1719 Scottish epistle:

*The bonny Lines therein thou sent me,
How to the nines they did content me.*



The AAUW California stars of the *Academy AAUWards* celebration dressed to the nines for their big moments celebrating our year. They gave and accepted awards, sailed through red carpet interviews, rocked out to videos and songs, raptly watched presentations, got tingly listening to speakers, and mingled at after-parties—all in bejeweled attire (an adjective we never

thought we'd use in an AAUW publication). The Zoom attendees had the same razzle dazzle experience, but they were likely only dressed to the fives. :-) If you didn't come because you couldn't find the right outfit, you can watch the recording of the whole shebang or just clips of special moments, like the Speech Trek finalists or the smashing Tech Trek video [HERE](#). No need to dress up.



Oscar night includes an award for Best Song. This year it was [Naatu Naatu](#). If you've heard it before, raise your hand. If you plan to sing along, please leave the room. Our *Academy AAUWards* show also featured the Best Song category with five nominees. The theme was unmistakably AAUW.

- [We are Family - Sister Sledge](#)
- [Respect - Aretha Franklin](#)
- [I am Woman - Helen Reddy](#)
- [Man, I Feel like a Woman - Shania Twain](#)
- [Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - Cindy Lauper](#)

The audience chose the winner in a People's Choice poll. Which one would you vote for? Want to know which song won? You'll have to watch the *AAUWards* recording [HERE](#). Sneaky, huh? Okay, here's a hint: it's announced in the last 10 minutes. You're welcome.



How did our new signature state program, Gov Trek, do?

A picture is worth a thousand words.



Pre & Post-Program Assessment

Rated 4 or 5 out of 5

Pre-Program	Post-Program	https://youtu.be/U0yIf9Tkgu4
29%	86%	How would you rate your understanding of possible careers in public service or elected office?
81%	90%	How would you rate your interest in pursuing a career in public service?
	95%	Would recommend Gov Trek to other girls

'Nuff said.



Things to Do

In case the picture isn't obvious, it's time to vote in both the state and national elections. Deadlines are looming: May 13th for California; May 15th for National. In California, our nominated slate for the board of directors was uncontested, so no vote is required. Don't say we didn't make it easy! But we do need your vote to approve the 2023-2025 [Public Policy Priorities](#). This isn't just a fancy alliterative phrase (although we do love such things); this charter will drive our advocacy efforts and public policy programs. Words matter, and the committee has spent much time getting these right.



April was National Poetry Month. We missed it. Just like the Senate missed passing the resolution to advance the ERA. But that's another story. This one is about poetry. Or, should we say, stories. Six-word stories. They're a little like poems, evoking emotions and imagination. But they also make the reader guess about the story behind those six words. Like this:



- Head on a pillow, not sleeping
- Not quite what I was planning
- Family portrait: everyone smiles but me

Let's write some six-word stories about AAUW. Our offerings:

- Got a nametag, then was president
- Joined AAUW. Found people I liked

What's your six-word story about AAUW? Submit it to cc@aauw-ca.org.

Can't find your car keys? Your phone? Your high school yearbook? We can make one search easier. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is hosting the third *Statewide DEI Chat* focusing on where you can find all sorts of resources to expand learning about DEI and how to bring it home to your branch. Plan on joining us



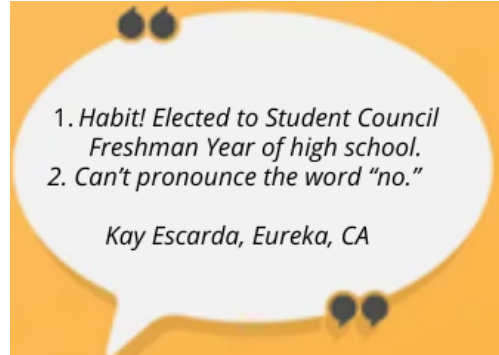
on Thursday, June 1st, at 7:00 pm. Register [HERE](#). After the webinar, maybe we'll help you search for the contact lens you dropped in 1994.

Leaning into Leadership

We have been asking you to tell us why you became a leader in your branch (or anywhere).

And some of you did!

Here's another one:



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW.org

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.

www.aauw-ca.org



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