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SEPTEMBER 2021

Hi!
It's county fair time.
Is that funnel cake sugar on your lips?

Dear Randa,

Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly e-blast sent to every member from your state organization for a quick read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Things to Know



In the opinion of the fair judges (Oh look! A play on words!), the Best of Show Award will be presented to the Long Beach Branch for studying the long-term impact of its STEM Career Conference on underserved eighth-grade girls. By tracking the attendees into high school and comparing them with a similar group that did not participate, the report "*Energizing Potential*" concluded that the program, put simply, worked! Read the [whole story](#). It was worth the wait to get this inspiring report. Not so for the molding brownies in the baking competition.



Observing COVID restrictions for AAUW gatherings is like playing Whack-a-Mole on the fair midway. New guidelines pop up just like those fuzzy stuffies. Boing! There's another one! As branches begin to consider in-person events, AAUW California's advice is to research and follow your county guidelines, which may be different from place to place. Above all, stay safe and keep your head down (get it?).



It's true. The world needs more carnival barkers. But we hope the [Speech Trek](#) project gives students the public speaking skills to aim for something loftier with better pay and no contact with sword swallows. This year's contest topic is chewier than salt water taffy: *Has the United States lived up to its pledge of "liberty and justice for all"?* *Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?* Winning students will get a lot more than a stuffed panda bear the size of a Volkswagen.

Things to Do

Our webinars are back and they're better than the pig races. Get your cotton candy (if you must) and grab a seat in the grandstands.

- 9/8/21 7 PM (yep, that's today)
You're in Charge. Now What? What boards need to know and do.
- 9/30/21 7 PM
Host a Speech Trek Contest! Everything you need to know to plan and run one.



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Riding a Brahma bull for eight seconds is just not safe. You will fall off. Also, you will look wrong in your fourth-grade Halloween cowpuncher costume. Luckily, you can be spared from indignity by instead volunteering to help AAUW California for just a little more than eight seconds. We have openings on our Social Media Marketing Workgroup if you prefer Facebook to faceplants (contact Sandi Gabe at mktg-sm@aauw-ca.org). Or, you could saddle up as the Tech Trek Program Director or Tech Trek Financial Liaison (contact Dianne Owens at statepresident@aauw-ca.org). We also have to lasso eight candidates for the 2022 state election (contact Charmen Goehring at nominating@aauw-ca.org). We guarantee you will not be gored in any of these positions.



The traditional AAUW Fund Luncheons have been rechristened as Fund Events because it's too hard to pass the salt on Zoom. There will be two Saturday events on October 23rd and October 30th and one Sunday event on November 7th. The fellows and grant recipients won't have sequined cowboy hats or silver buckles large enough to impede digestion, but they will talk about their AAUW-funded projects.



[Click to Register](#)



See you next month.
Will your carnival goldfish live that long?



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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