



Board to Board

A Communication from the

AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

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May 2022

We are now approaching 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.

FROM DIANNE'S DESK...

Dianne Owens, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

LET'S END 2021-22 STRONG

AAUW 2021-22 is ending soon, but there is still time to finish with a BANG!

Our Annual Event was held April 30th. If you missed it, you can find the recording [HERE](#). Our keynote speakers, AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell, former AAUW staff member Lisa Maatz, and Dancing Rocket Scientist Jasmine Sadler were inspirational and motivated us to continue our work. Congresswoman Jackie Speier was presented with our 2022 Equity Champion Award. She shared her work in Congress supporting equity for women and girls. There was universal agreement that *AAUWLand Adventures* were a highlight. Small groups met in breakout rooms to discuss important issues. We heard the top three Speech Trek finalists and learned the new topic for 2022-23. Mary Isaac (Dr. Mimi) was awarded the State Named Gift Honoree for her leadership with Tech Trek's Virtual Camp in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

- Please VOTE in the AAUW National Election. Voting ends May 16th. Click [HERE](#) for information about voting in the AAUW National Election. For our AAUW California Election voting ends May 15th. Click [HERE](#) for information about voting in the AAUW California Election. You should have received an electronic or paper ballot.

Need help? Contact our office at office@aauw-ca.org or call 916-389-0220. Your vote is important!

- Let's grow our membership this coming year. If all of us reach out to one new member or a member who dropped during the two years of COVID-19, we can double our California AAUW membership in 2022-23. We can do it!

WHAT IS NEW IN WASHINGTON?

The new member data management program, *Community Hub*, has had a rocky rollout and staff have been working hard to solve the issues and bring more resources to the states and branches.

Click [HERE](#) for tutorials and written instructions that will help. Thanks for being patient and understanding.

Still have questions? Please send an email to [Ask us First](#).

Be bold, brave and brilliant!

Dianne

AAUW FUND

Lynne Batchelor, Secretary, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

The AAUW Fund Committee is proud to announce that the 2022 State Named Gift Honoree is Mary Isaac, aka “Dr. Mimi” to the Tech Trek community. She was nominated for this honor by Randa Blanding from our Communications Committee. Randa introduced Mary at the Annual Meeting by saying, “This year’s California Named Gift Honoree has only been an AAUW member for a few years. She saw a need and stepped in with her passion, organizing and directing skills, and created a team that implemented a virtual Tech Trek for the past two years and again this year. She has been the impetus for hundreds of changed young women, who will in turn, because of this experience, have positive repercussions on many others.”

Congratulations Dr. Mimi on this well-deserved honor.

Congratulations as well to all of the Branch Named Gift Honoree winners. Thank you so much for everything you do for your branches. If you contributed \$100 or more and have not received a certificate, notify your branch Fund chair who can download it from our website [HERE](#).

Congratulations to the top 10 branches for total contributions: San Francisco Inc, Marin Inc, San Jose, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, La Mesa-El Cajon, Hayward-Castro Valley Inc, Long Beach Inc, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Inc., and Sacramento. This year we are honoring the top 11 in per capita contributions because the difference between 10th and 11th place was less than a dollar per member. Congratulations to the top 11 branches in per capita contributions: San Francisco Inc, Berkeley, Marin Inc, Haywood-Castro Valley Inc, La Palma-Cerritos, Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista, San Fernando Valley, West Contra Costa, Cabrillo-Diego, Long Beach Inc, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Inc.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the AAUW Fund. We raised nearly half a million dollars in California.

What I need to know: The State Named Gift Honoree is Mary Isaac.

What I need to do: Make sure members donating \$100 or more receive a certificate.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members may be interested to know about the State Named Gift Honoree and if your branch was one of the top branches for total contributions or per capita contributions.

ANNUAL EVENT

Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner, meetings@aauw-ca.org

ADVENTURES GALORE IN AAUWLAND!

On Saturday, April 30, 2022, AAUW California members gathered on Zoom for a virtual adventure celebrating our AAUW branches, listening to inspiring

What I need to know: Our recent Annual Event celebrated AAUW California branches as well as AAUW California.

speakers, and crowning a Speech Trek 2022 winner! We also engaged in conversation about a range of topics related to AAUW and our mission in breakout rooms, complete with tour guides (hosts). Here we were able to share our opinion with others, learn something new, and connect with AAUW friends across the state.

Many thanks to all who made our expedition possible, from the amazing speakers and presenters to our trusty breakout room guides, to the incredible web team staff who designed the Travel Itinerary, all the media, and managed the logistics of our trip. If you were unable to attend you can watch the animated annual report and the Annual Event video [HERE](#).

What I need to do: Let your branch know about any honors they received.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the link to the Annual Event.

BRANCH ACTIVITY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sandi Gabe, President-Elect, bay@aauw-ca.org

The Branch Activity of the Year awards provide an opportunity to discover and reward branches that created novel, inspirational, and reproducible programs that promote AAUW's mission and image.

This year nine branches accepted the challenge of sharing their successes. Their projects covered a variety of topics and formats – from a theater production to individual phone calls to engage members. You can find a summary of the projects on our website.

The top three projects that the committee thought best embodied the spirit of the award provided an overview of their projects at the Annual Event on April 30th.

- Petaluma - Title IX at 50: You Need It As Much As Ever (a ZOOM webinar)
- La Mesa-El Cajon - Women Who Protect and Serve: The Challenges of Working In Predominantly Male Professions
- Los Altos-Mountain View - Step Up for Pro-Choice

What I need to know: Branches were acknowledged for their excellent mission-based programs at the annual meeting.

What I need to do: View all nine submissions on our website [HERE](#).

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes. Inspire your members by sharing information about the winning submissions.

BRANCH AND MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Carol Holzgrafe, Director, branch@aauw-ca.org

COMMUNITY HUB MARCHES ON!

Formerly known as Member Services Database, this is the new and improved version of the MSD, where branch leaders keep track of their members' contacts,

What I need to know: The Community Hub is now ready for members to set-up their Personal Snapshot

renewals, and payments/donations. The “rollout” has been bumpy, but National’s team is trying mightily to perfect the system.

In case you missed the April 29th email from Katrina Sun Breese, Click [HERE](#) for the link to a “comprehensive online guide”.

- Some sections of The Community Hub are working NOW: You may renew your individual membership through your Personal Snapshot in the Community Hub; you may access training videos; and learn how to process new members, renewals, and donations for your branch or affiliate. But, first you will need to log in and create a new password. (Dual members, individuals who belong to multiple branches, must self-renew and pay all dues at once.)
- If you, as leaders, have specific questions or need live support, please don’t forget that National’s Connect team holds virtual “Office Hours” every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. EDT. The April 29th email from Ms. Breese has the [registration link](#). You can also email connect@aauw.org.

Counting down to June 30th – the deadline to submit your branch’s Five-Star Program Application

Is your branch comparing your year’s activities with the requirements of this popular program? It’s not too late to qualify – you may already have fulfilled many of the five categories:

1. Advancement (financial contributions, member retention)
2. Public Policy
3. Governance and Sustainability (do you have succession and strategic plans?)
4. Programs: (are some mission-based?)
5. Communications and External Relations (do you market your branch through Facebook, Instagram, emails, etc?)

Five-Star entries encourage the healthy branch practices of succession and community involvement while adhering to AAUW’s mission, proper use of social media, and public advocacy. It’s a fine way to boost member enthusiasm for AAUW and your branch. And who doesn’t want to do that? Click [HERE](#) for the Five-Star National Recognition Program criteria, submission details, and more.

Click [HERE](#) to download AAUW California’s Excel spreadsheet – a first-rate organizing tool.

and complete their renewal. There are training videos available. The deadline for submitting a branch application for the Five-Star Program is June 30th.

What I need to do: Help members in updating their Personal Snapshot. Decide if the branch will submit an application for the Five-Star Program.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter: Yes, the members need information and support for setting-up their Personal Snapshot and help for renewing.

Two months is plenty of time to re-read your newsletters to see how many of the 5-star entries you have already done. Try it – you may be surprised.

California led the nation in last year's Five-Star Program with these stars: A Five-Star State: California. Five-Star branches: Citrus Heights-American River, Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek, Mid-Peninsula, Long Beach, Marin, Palos Verdes Peninsula, San Clemente-Capistrano Bay, and Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette. 4 Stars: Beach Cities, Healdsburg, and Palos Verdes Peninsula. Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek is listed as having earned 3 stars.

It's not too late to finish filling in your spreadsheet.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Elaine Johnson, Director and Janice Lee, DEI Committee Co-Chairs diversity@aauw-ca.org

AWARENESS & ACTION GET AN A+

As branch leaders, you are already proactive achievers. You probably want your branches to be the best they can be. Then get ready to increase awareness of DEI issues and launch a plan of action.

Awareness

- Explore the [DEI toolkit](#)
- Become familiar with [DEI terms & concepts](#)
- View [DEI webinars](#) & YouTube videos
- Read books that focus on DEI
- Listen to others

What I need to know: There are many DEI resources available to the branches.

Action

- Take the [Harvard Implicit Bias Tests](#)
- Discuss uncomfortable subjects
- Create guidelines for communication
- Provide feedback to DEI Committee
- Ask for assistance & program ideas
- Designate a branch DEI coordinator

What I need to do: Appoint a DEI Coordinator and notify webteam@aauw-ca.org of your appointment.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, encourage discussions about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

There is nothing to lose and so much to be gained by being aware of and acting on DEI issues. DEI is about recognizing and valuing our differences and then acting to be inclusive to all who share AAUW's mission.

The DEI Committee has made major progress in informing branches about DEI resources and support services.

FINANCE

Roli Wendorf, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee Chair, cfo@aauw-ca.org

LET'S TALK TAXES: GOVERNMENT FILINGS DEMYSTIFIED

You can do it! Join our *Let's Talk Taxes: Government Filings Demystified* webinar on May 24th at 7:00 PM to find out how. This webinar is the third in our series on branch finances and filings and teaches you how to manage your annual branch reporting. You can register for it [HERE](#) and can find recordings of the previous two webinars on treasurer responsibilities and branch accounting [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Even though all AAUW branches are tax-exempt organizations, they are still required to submit annual filings to several government organizations – the IRS, California Franchise Tax Board, and the California Attorney General's Office. In this webinar, the Finance Committee will guide you through the gamut of forms such as 990s, 199s, RRF-1, CT-TR-1, raffle reports, and answer questions. We will go over where these forms reside, your obligations, and how to fill out forms such as the new CT-TR-1. Did you know that if your branch holds raffles, it is required to file forms before and after the raffles have been held? We will go over that as well.

Register [HERE](#) for the webinar and find out all about your annual government reporting! This webinar will be useful for branch finance officers and presidents.

What I need to know: There will be a webinar for the branch treasurer regarding the required tax filing. There have been two prior webinars on treasurer responsibilities and branch accounting.

What I need to do: Ensure that the branch treasurer knows of these webinars.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this information is for branch leaders only.

GOVERNANCE

Dawn Johnson, Governance Chair, governance@aauw-ca.org

IS IT OKAY FOR OUR BRANCH TO ENDORSE A CANDIDATE?

We're approaching big midterm elections. Signs are appearing in yards, bumper stickers are on cars and Facebook is abuzz.

It's a good time to revisit AAUW's policies regarding endorsing candidates. You should also review these if you are planning a candidates' forum.

AAUW's policies regarding candidate endorsement for an elected (not appointed) office are different depending on two things: (1) whether it is a partisan or nonpartisan election and (2) whether your branch is a 501c(3) or 501c(4).

A 501c(3) branch is not allowed to endorse any candidate, whether partisan or nonpartisan. A 501c(4) may endorse a candidate in a nonpartisan contest, such

What I need to know: AAUW has clear policies regarding endorsements of candidates running for elected office depending on whether your branch is a 501c(3) or 501c(4) and whether or not the contested position is partisan or non-partisan. In general, endorsements are discouraged.

What I need to do: Consult AAUW National's policies specifically 300 Programs and Policy, before asking your board to endorse a candidate for any office.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this information is for branch leaders only.

as a supervisor's race. However, you must first check state and local election law to learn if such an endorsement is considered a "contribution," in which case it is disallowed. Further, this must have been a duly approved action by your board and should be represented as an endorsement by the branch board only, not AAUW in its entirety. Avoid any actions which might even appear to be providing a mailing list to the candidate.

In general, AAUW discourages candidate endorsements of any kind. It is imperative to maintain the image of being unbiased and "political but not partisan." Not everyone notices the distinction between a partisan and nonpartisan race, so most branches do not endorse anyone because of the confusion it might create in the community.

Remind your members that they are absolutely free to personally support a candidate of their choosing, just not in the name of AAUW. We do encourage our branches to hold forums for all candidates as a public service to their communities. This helps get the AAUW name out and also gives all candidates an opportunity to share their positions.

Please refer to [National's policies](#), specifically 300 PROGRAMS AND POLICY (page 76) for specifics.

MARKETING - RETIREMENT AGE RECRUITMENT

Sharyn Siebert, Director. mktg-rar@aauw-ca.org

TOOT YOUR OWN HORN—MAKE YOUR BRANCH KNOWN IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

You asked for membership recruiting tools—here is one ready to use! The AAUW California website now includes this “fill-in-the blank” tool.

As you might know, the 50th anniversary of Title IX is coming up in June. AAUW was instrumental in getting passage of this far-ranging and vital law passed.

Now the AAUW California website features a template of a proclamation your branch can use to get your governmental body to give you a “shout out” on this seminal date. All you need to do is go to the website and use the search tool at the top, input “Title IX” and it will lead you to those postings. And right there you can then scroll down to the [Title IX](#) proclamation template.

Getting publicity for your branch helps in recruiting new members, and maybe even getting donations for your branch scholarships, etc.

What I need to know: There is a Title IX proclamation template available to share with your government body so it can acknowledge this important date.

What I need to do: Request a proclamation from an appropriate government body.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, if you receive a Title IX Proclamation.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

AAUW CALIFORNIA STATE ELECTION IN PROGRESS-DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

We are pleased to present the slate of candidates for the 2022-2023 Board of Directors election. They are listed in order of receipt of their nomination form:

For 1-year terms (vote for 3)

Kathi Harper
Janice Lee
Shauna (Oenning) Ruyle
Stormy Miller Sabia

What I need to know: The AAUW California voting period began on April 23rd and will close on May 15, 2022.

What I need to do: Vote before May 15th.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, remind your members to vote.

For 2-year terms (vote for 4)

Karen Vanderwerken
Sharyn Siebert
Marsha Swails
Dawn Johnson
Lenore Gallin

For 2-year term Secretary

Tracey Clark

The election ends on May 15th. All members received either an electronic ballot or a paper ballot (if we do not have your email address on file). No late ballots will be accepted. Please click [HERE](#) for candidate statements and VOTE!

PUBLIC POLICY

Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

LOBBY WEEK WRAPPED UP, TITLE IX COMING UP

The Public Policy Committee thanks those members who attended our “Fantasyland” chat room during the Annual Event on April 30th. It’s always great to hear what’s on the minds of our members, and even greater when those concerns align with the work we are doing. The predominant themes that emerged from our discussions were child and elder care, Title IX protections for campus sexual assault survivors and transgender youth, and the erosion of protection of women’s reproductive health rights.

What I need to know: During Lobby Week 116 members from 47 branches visited 42 legislative offices to help us advocate for three important bills. The 50th Anniversary of the enactment of Title IX legislation is on June 23rd. Details on our top 3 priority bills, as well as all 33 bills we are supporting this year, can be found on our [Bill Tracker](#).

What I need to do: Ask any of your members who attended Lobby Week to share their experience with your branch.

As it turns out, the 3 top priority bills our members talked about during Lobby Week (April 11-15) were AB92 (childcare), AB1968 (campus sexual assault), and AB1666 (abortion protection). We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all 116 of our members from 47 different branches who visited 42 legislative offices to help us advocate for these important bills. Members reported that they were very well-received and that most of our representatives are very supportive of our bills.

And speaking of Title IX, don't forget that the 50th Anniversary of the enactment of this critical legislation is coming up on June 23rd. We urge you, and hope you will urge your members, to visit the Public Policy webpage on the AAUW California website, under "[Issues we Care About/Title IX](#)", where you will find a template for a proclamation that can be modified for your local governmental offices; as well as a recording will be posted shortly from an excellent program put on by the Santa Clara County IBC called *Title IX: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You*. Also a reminder: if your branch does any kind of Title IX event, be sure to send a description and pictures to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

Details on our top 3 priority bills, as well as all 33 bills we are supporting this year, can be found on our [Bill Tracker](#) on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website under "Legislative Advocacy."

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share information about Lobby Week, the Bill Tracker, and Title IX with your members.

SPEECH TREK

Marlene Cain, Speech Trek Program Director, spechtrek@aauw-ca.org

SPEECH TREK ANNOUNCES STATE WINNERS AND 2023 TOPIC!

"What wonderful speeches...What fabulous and talented young women..." enthused this year's judges. You can click [HERE](#) to view the top three speeches if you missed them at the Annual Event on April 30th. Congratulations Del Mar Leucadia, Fremont, and Poway-Peñasquitos! Your branches have taken the top prizes at this year's AAUW California Speech Trek competition. AAUW California congratulates the winners:

1st Place and \$1,500: Kristine Sy, Poway Peñasquitos
2nd Place and \$1,000: Rhea Jain, Fremont
3rd Place and \$500: Sanjana Kumar, Del Mar Leucadia.

Congratulations also to Sacramento and Camarillo branches, whose contestants received an Honorable Mention:

What I need to know: The top three Speech Trek winning videos are available on our website. The 2022-23 topic has been announced.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the link to the winning videos and announce the 2022-23 topic.

4th Place: Maren DeMille, Sacramento

5th Place: Danielle Graham, Camarillo

All awards will be mailed directly to the winners.

We extend sincere thanks to our ten thoughtful and dedicated judges, drawn from government, non-profit, entrepreneurial, business, and education sectors:

Semi-finals judges

- Denise Stevens, retired financial services provider
- Ellen Clarke, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce
- Judy Estrin, Consultant
- Marla Zemanek, M.ED., M.A., public speaking trainer and coach
- Quentin Panek, retired high school educator
- Susie Basanda, owner, Basanda Consulting

Finals Judges

- Dr. Elizabeth Harris, past Mayor, retired educator
- Gayle Glazer, Mediator, Los Angeles Superior Court
- Dr. Molly Mayhead, Professor Emeritus, Communications, Western Oregon University
- Paul Senft, Planning Commissioner, Toastmaster

The 2022-2023 topic announced April 30th is drawn from a key AAUW California public policy priority which states: “To guarantee equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW California advocates protection and expansion of voting rights.”

The 2022-2023 topic is: *How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?*

The 2022-2023 Toolkits are being prepared. Stay tuned to this space for Speech Trek updates.

Our April 30th, keynote speaker Lisa Maatz asked “How can we advocate in challenging times?”

We say: Empower the next generation – host Speech Trek in 2023!

TECH TREK

Karen Manelis, Tech Trek Program Director, techtrek@aauw-ca.org and **Susan Steckclair**, Tech Trek Financial Liaison, techtrek-finance@aauw-ca.org

TECH TREK 2022: FULL SPEED AHEAD!
Over 500 campers have been selected for residential

What I need to know: Over 500 campers have been selected for residential camps and almost 200 for

camps and almost 200 for virtual camps.

The CampSite platform for AAUW California Tech Trek implementation is ready for launch this month. Families will be receiving links to complete their camper's registration this week and camp directors will shortly be able to produce all reports necessary for a successful camp.

First camp (Fresno) is just 6 weeks away!

virtual camps.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, your members will find the number of Tech Trek campers interesting.

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www.AAUW-CA.org

