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August 2022

Welcome to our new and returning AAUW branch leaders! The monthly Board to Board (B2B) newsletter is your “must read” and “don’t delete” newsletter filled with timely and important information that will help make your AAUW leadership experience meaningful. Not all branch board members receive the B2B. To see which of your board members receive it, you can click [HERE](#), enter the password (aauwca,) and then scroll down to your branch. The branch officers listed in the state directory are the only ones on the B2B mailing list for the 2022-23 term. We suggest that you forward this to other key people who might want to see this information.

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AS SANDI SEES IT...

Sandi Gabe, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

More than sixty magnificent women gathered on Saturday, July 30th in a virtual meeting to scheme, plan, and strategize how to link together to meet our mission. Committee breakout rooms were full of creativity as the teams outlined their goals for the year in these four broad categories:

1. Build Membership - Use a laser focus to develop resources to help branches build membership.
2. Branch Sustainability - Assist branches struggling with leadership needs.
3. Strengthen Connections - Strengthen connections among the state, the branches, and national AAUW.
4. Launch a New State Project - Involve membership with an exciting new opportunity to engage.

Watch for quarterly updates on our progress.

The new AAUW year wouldn't be complete without shiny new things to grab your attention! Here are a few we can share now:

The Board to Board has a new look and features. In addition to updating our banner image with (most) members of the leadership team, we added quick links so you can jump to your favorite section easily and a **B2B Bonus** section with **Quick Tips for Things to Try**, which will be expanded in the coming months. Don't jump too often or you may miss something key.

Get ready to participate in a peer group. Have you wanted to connect with other branch leaders who hold similar positions? Are you interested in having focused discussions on your operational topic? It's coming! Committees will be forming peer groups around key branch positions to provide an opportunity to link our branches together and link to the state.

Wonder what the AAUW California board does? Join us! Observe a leadership team meeting to hear how the work gets done. The meeting schedule is posted on the AAUW California Calendar. Contact me if you want to attend a session. **Warning:** Please be aware we're pretty fun and it's an addicting experience. We are not responsible if you are inspired to run for office next year or join a committee.

Committee News

AAUW FUND

Karen Vanderwerken, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

RECORD NUMBER OF CALIFORNIA FELLOWS AND GRANTEES

AAUW awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants this year to 320 recipients. 49 of these are in California.

There will be four Zoom meetings featuring many of these recipients as speakers. You will hear fascinating stories of their research and have an opportunity to schedule some of them as speakers for your branch.

Registration will start in September for meetings on the following dates:

- Oct 15
- Oct 22
- Oct 23
- Nov 12

This is your chance to see where your AAUW Fund dollars go!

What I need to know: AAUW Fund will hold four events to showcase the recipients of AAUW-sponsored grants and their interesting work.

What I need to do: Register for the events.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share these impressive statistics about grant funding and the Fund event dates. Encourage your members to attend and be inspired by the impact of their Fund donation dollars.

BRANCH SUPPORT

Carol Holzgrafe and Sharyn Siebert, Directors, Branch Support Committee Co-Chairs, branch@aauw-ca.org

WHERE TO BEGIN?

As new board members begin their positions in AAUW California branches, we as Branch Support co-chairs, want to provide easy steps to help you. Our main mission this year is to be your lifeline. There is a plethora of information already available to support your work as a branch leader, so let's not try to reinvent the wheel.

1. Use the websites, both [National](#) and [State](#). Take a few minutes to click around on the various links. You will be surprised at how much is available.

What I need to know: The state Branch Support Committee has many resources to help branch leaders and additional support is planned.

What I need to do: Consult the national and state websites for existing resources. Contact Branch Support for help with branch management or to share information and ideas.

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

2. On the [AAUW California](#) website check under Branch Tools at the top of the Home page. The password for most things is "aauwca" (make a note of this). It doesn't hurt to check out the list of helpful [webinars](#) (at the top of the Home page) either.
 3. On the [National](#) website visit the "[Governance and Tools](#)" section under Membership for key tools and help for key topics such as the Community Hub, State and, Branch Tools, DEI, Advocacy and, bylaws toolkits.
 4. Contact us with questions, problems or needs, or to send us your ideas. That is why we are here.
 5. Does your branch need to be refreshed? Our committee will be collecting information to share about successful programs, interest and action groups, and fundraising ideas from branches across the state. Look for them in the coming months.
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COMMUNICATIONS

Dawn Johnson, Director, Communications Committee Chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

WHAT DOES COMMCOMM HAVE UP ITS SLEEVE?

The Communications Committee (affectionately known as CommComm when it was shortened for its first email address) will be in business ruthlessly eliminating unnecessary commas for another rewarding year with an energetic new leadership team.

Right out of the box, you'll see two changes in the B2B designed to help you do your job. First is a new navigation tool that lets you link directly to articles of interest. Second is the new section "B2B Bonus: Quick Tips to Things to Try" for committees to share some of the easy-to-do tips they've learned in the trenches. This feature will grow over time! Let us know if you have any other ideas to make the B2B more useful.

Take note, too, of our social media team's two new campaigns on Facebook and other platforms: "Meet the Leader" and "Happy Anniversary!" The former introduces you to individual state leaders with some little-known factoids about them; the latter is a splashy post celebrating branches that have reached significant anniversaries. If your branch qualifies, you'll be hearing from us.

Oh, and have you checked out the website lately? Take a look at the home page's refreshing new photo banner. Talk about appealing!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Always be sure to mention AAUW or your branch's name in the subject line of any email you send your members. They're more likely to open "Hear Local Candidates at AAUW's Election Forum" than just "Election Forum."

What I need to know: The Communications Committee is committed to helping all the other state committees execute their communications to best meet their mission of supporting branches. This month's B2B has some enhancements to make committee communications more useful.

What I need to do: Submit ideas for improving the B2B to Communications.

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Stormy Miller Sabia, Director, DEI Committee Chair, diversity@aauw-ca.org

DEI IN THE NEWS...A YEAR COMMITTED TO ENGAGING & EMPOWERING YOU!

Branch leaders, the DEI Committee is energized and eager to actively support you in your learning and personal development around diversity, equity, and inclusion. We know these words are “the buzz” in business, but we firmly believe in their meaning and alignment with the mission of AAUW. At Committee Day on July 30th, the DEI Committee met and focused our attention on several priority areas which we hope will support and inspire you in the upcoming year. We aim to:

1. Engage and build capacity among branch DEI Officers/Coordinators (and branch presidents when no officer is appointed) through recurring virtual opportunities to come together, discuss needs, concerns, and develop actionable steps that support branch development on issues of DEI.
2. Leverage national and state resources that can serve as “plug and play” opportunities for discussion and/or activities during branch events, meetings, and/or special interest groups.
3. Increase the number of DEI officers/coordinators statewide. We have 50 officers, but there’s room to grow!
4. Build our DEI web presence via the AAUW California website. We want readily available, accessible resources to save you the search and finally...
5. We aim to hold four DEI statewide chats for branch leaders and all members on topics centering on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Have a recommendation of what would support your learning and understanding? Please email, diversity@aauw-ca.org. We want to hear from you!

What I need to know: The DEI Committee has outlined several goals to bring its important work to the branch level, including developing more resources and holding statewide chats.

What I need to do: Use the Equity Lens tool in the tips section when planning branch activities.

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

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Did you know last year’s DEI committee developed a tool for you??? Check out [Using an Equity Lens](#), which will serve as a resource when planning, developing or evaluating a program, policy, or decision.

FINANCE

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

CLOSE OUT THE OLD

A new AAUW year has begun, but finance officers may not be fully done with the old one. You have probably closed your books for last year, but a couple more tasks remain.

This is a great time to get a review done of last year’s accounts. The process doesn’t have to be complicated or overly formal to be beneficial. The most useful aspect of a

What I need to know: Branch finance officers have some remaining tasks to close out the year.

What I need to do: Have last year’s accounts reviewed by a third party. Finalize your budget for the coming year.

review is to get another set of qualified eyes to take a look at your accounts and provide some feedback. This could be a past treasurer or another member of your branch, or a treasurer from another branch, say in your IBC. You can use a simple process recommended by AAUW National in [this document](#).

Another task is filing tax documentation to government agencies. That's still a couple of months away, and we'll talk more about it next month. Also, you should have your budget for the current year in place now or getting close.

All the best for this fiscal year!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Volunteer to be the next CFO! Email nominating@aauw-ca.org or contact me at cfo@aauw-ca.org to learn more about the job.

MEMBERSHIP

Marsha Swails, Membership Committee Chair, members@aauw-ca.org

The girls went to Tech Trek! NOW ASK PARENTS TO JOIN!!

Another successful Tech Trek season ended last week! With both residential and virtual camps held across California this summer, we lived our mission "To empower girls and women." Many branches hold "celebration" events inviting the girls and their parents to a fall branch meeting. Emotions of pride and love for their daughters fill the room. Tears. They think - - "She can go to college! She can be an engineer! A doctor! A scientist!"

There is only one thing missing...THE ASK!

The state Membership Committee encourages all branches holding Tech Trek celebrations to create a moment in your programs to invite moms (and dads!) or other family members to join AAUW. Our goal is to recruit 100 new members from the over six hundred girls who attended this summer as well as the hundreds of girls at next year's 2023 camps. The parents of these young women are our "natural constituency." Those in the growth mindset will see this as a low-hanging fruit opportunity. Once the parent has joined, recognize them at a branch meeting. Have the daughter stand next to them. Provide swag or a certificate. Make it special! Celebrate the moment!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Create a certificate for the parent that simply says: "I'm a proud TECH TREK Mom!!"

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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

What I need to know: The parents of Tech Trek girls are a great source of new members and the Membership Committee has a goal to recruit 100 of them.

What I need to do: Use your Tech Trek celebrations to recruit the parents and honor those who join.

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

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

DO YOU LOVE AAUW???

If so, it is time to consider becoming a candidate in the upcoming AAUW California election in April 2023. This year, we will be electing three two-year term directors, a CFO, AND a president-elect!! Serving on the state board is a great experience and a way to help guide AAUW California into the future.

Our committee will be reaching out to each branch president to talk about the benefits of serving on the board, the time commitment required, and our search for diversity.

The website and nomination form will be updated shortly. Start considering members in your branch who might like to run for state office, or maybe you would make a great candidate yourself! More information will be available next month.

What I need to know: The state board election will be in April 2023; there will be five open positions. Details and the nomination form will be distributed soon.

What I need to do: Canvass your branch members for possible candidates, including yourself.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, give your branch members early notice that they could consider stepping up to a state position.

PUBLIC POLICY

Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

GET YOUR MISSION ON FOR 2022-23!

The state Public Policy Committee (PPC) has set an ambitious agenda for the year ahead. We will be planning a Voter Education campaign for November, introducing a new Title IX bill in December, revising the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25 in January, setting our Legislative Agenda for 2023-24 in February, and planning a Member Lobbying event for March.

Here's how you can help: one of our state PPC members will be contacting your branch Public Policy (PP) chair in the first weeks of August to discuss ways we can work together to carry out these important policy initiatives. Please encourage your PP chairs to answer the call, and to leave room on their calendars to help us carry out the AAUW mission of advancing equity through advocacy.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

What I need to know: The Public Policy Committee has an extensive agenda of activities planned to educate and mobilize members.

What I need to do: Advise your Public Policy chair that someone from the state committee will be in touch soon to discuss branch involvement.

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

Don't have a Public Policy Chair? Contact me, and let's see what we can do.

Project News

GOV TREK

Shauna Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director, govtrek@aauw-ca.org

COMING SOON! GOV TREK CALIFORNIA – CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN POLITICS

- Our Gov Trek program is an exciting new three-month virtual program designed to engage young

What I need to know: A new state project, Gov Trek, which is designed to expose young women to careers in public service and elected office, will be launching soon.

women in junior and senior high schools across California with the goal of increasing the number of them engaged in public service and elected office through career exploration, curriculum, activities, industry speakers, and learning to prepare campaign speeches.

- The program will be designed, administered, and delivered by AAUW California, but student participation will be managed through local branches.

What I need to do: Stay tuned for how your branch can support student participation in this experience.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Not at this time. There will be more details coming to explain the project to your members and how your branch can participate.

This is perfect for branch leaders looking for a way to engage members and your community. Learn more at the Gov Trek Kick-Off Webinar coming in Fall 2022. Stay tuned for more information!

SPEECH TREK

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

SPEECH TREK UPDATE:

How can communities, organizations, and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?*

Voting Timeline:

- 1776 – the birth of the United States of America
- 1870 - the 15th Amendment granted African American men the right to vote
- 1920 – the 19th amendment granted women the right to vote
- 1964 – the 24th amendment prohibited poll taxes
- 1965 – the Voting Rights Act prohibited racial discrimination
- 1971 – the 26th amendment lowered the legal age to vote from 21 to 18
- 2021 – more than 440 bills introduced in 49 states with provisions that restrict voting access**
- 2022 – January 1 – May 4: six state legislatures (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, and Oklahoma) passed nine “election interference” laws (defined as opening the door to partisan interference in elections and/or threatening the people and processes that make elections work)**
- 2023 - ?

What I need to know: The 2022-2023 Speech Trek topic has been announced. Participation MOUs are due November 18th.

What I need to do: Encourage participation by your branch. Watch for an announcement that the Speech Trek Toolkit has been posted.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members will be interested in this timely topic and may step forward to volunteer.

UPDATE ON BRANCH SPEECH TREK CONTESTS

1. Deadline for branches to submit MOU is **Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.**
2. Remember: **AAUW members may now serve as judges** (providing no conflict of interest).
3. The annual AAUW California Speech Trek Finalists’ videos will be showcased on **Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the Annual Event virtual**

- meeting..** The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be announced at the conclusion of the virtual event.
4. Watch this space for the announcement of the **2022-2023 Branch and Student Toolkits—available soon**—which will include all forms, how-to's, and topic info, including examples of expanding access and shrinking access to the ballot box.

“There are many things that are open to debate in America. But the right of all eligible citizens to vote is not one of them. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, the right from which all other rights ultimately flow,” said Attorney General Merrick Garland.

“Nearly two and a half centuries into our experiment...we have learned much about what supports a healthy democracy,” he continued.

“We know that expanding the ability of all eligible citizens to vote is the central pillar...ensuring all eligible voters can cast a vote; that all lawful votes are counted; and that every voter has access to accurate information.”

*Speech Trek 2022-2023 topic

**According to Brennan Center for Justice and its Voting Laws Roundup

TECH TREK

Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

COVID COULDN'T KEEP US DOWN!

Thanks to the phenomenal support of the camp directors, committee members, branch coordinators, schools, and the AAUW California leadership team, we have been able to deliver another successful season of Tech Trek camps in California. So many challenges and potential obstacles were thrown in our path this year, from COVID-19 to a new database, and once again you all rose to the challenge!

From the first in-person camp orientation on June 12th to the virtual camp Closing Campfire on July 29th, we successfully served 639 campers from 94 branches at eight camps (six residential, two virtual) across California, staffed by a community of 230+ volunteers, over half of whom were Tech Trek alumnae!

Per our Financial Liaison, Susan Steckclair, the camp Treasurers and Directors are now sending over requests for payments of outstanding supplies, camp fees, stipends, and travel expenses.

We want to thank our 2022 leaders: Program Director Karen Manelis, Financial Liaison Susan Steckclair, and

What I need to know: Tech Trek has wrapped up another successful year serving 639 campers. Mary Isaac has been appointed as the new overall Program Director for 2022-2023.

What I need to do: Celebrate with your branch if you participated.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the statistics above so members can see the widespread impact of this project.

Virtual Camp Director Mary Isaac. We welcome Mary Isaac to her new role as overall Program Director, in which she will lead Tech Trek into the future alongside a soon-to-be-named Financial Liaison.

Our work isn't over when the campers and staff go home and the bills are paid! Now we get to shift our focus to the committee work of improving camp operations and strengthening the community of Tech Trek advocates which includes branch members and coordinators, donors from our communities, and our Tech Trek alumnae!

Several other Tech Trek leadership changes are in the works for this year too, so keep your eyes and ears open for more on that soon!

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www.AAUW-CA.org

