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August 2022

**It's the dog days of summer.
We see you dozing.***



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

Things to Know

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Last month, we pinky promised that we would tell you more about the state's plans for 2022-2023. And you know what happens when you break a pinky promise. Well, we actually don't know for sure, but it may involve thunderbolts. So here's what the leadership team is fired up to work on:

- **Building Membership** with every marketing trick we can think of.
- **Strengthening connections with the branches** by offering more resources,

communication (Yay! More emails!), and just plain old good ideas.

- **Building branch sustainability** by helping with realistic solutions to finding SOMEONE to be president next year.
- **Launching a new state project** by adding a sibling to our twins Tech Trek and Speech Trek. Watch for news from your branch on Gov Trek, a three-month virtual program to excite young women about entering public service and - dare we say it - the wacky and wonderful world of politics!

There! It was worth waiting for, right? Like the next episode of a Hulu series. Or your caramel Macchiato with soy milk, two shots, and vanilla bean powder. Or the ping of your microwave. Or your luggage on the carousel. Or the refund some faceless corporation promised you. Or . . . stop us!!



We finished the Tech Trek season with all campers, Dorm Moms, laptop chargers, and shower flip flops accounted for. 94 branches sent 457 campers to dorm rooms on college campuses and 178 campers to living rooms on laptop screens. If you were a part of it, thank you. These are very smart young women. Our state leadership team members interacted with some of them in an online escape room adventure hosted by the virtual camp. The girls solved the challenges and puzzles before we could even finish reading them. It was rewarding, albeit slightly humiliating. Left to our own devices, we would still be stuck on the first screen trying to solve the puzzle with the cats and snakes. Don't ask.



Sometimes it's good to get old. Or, at least, to be in a branch that's old. Some of them have been around for more than 50 years! Most of us have deliberately stopped noticing the passage of time by then. We thought we should honor these significant anniversaries. We'd love to send them all a Costco TM sheet cake the size of an aircraft carrier, but we're settling for a splashy announcement on social media. Take a look at AAUW California's Facebook [page](#) to see

examples. If the branch has a website, we include the link. If someone drops by hoping for a piece of cake, just give them a membership application.

Things to Do

Let's not let our former state president, Dianne Owens, ride off into the sunset. For starters, it is nearly 100% certain she will fall off the horse. But let's face it. Being the prez is a tough, thankless job, and she did it for two years! The leadership team has already acknowledged her service, and you can too. Please join us in honoring her by contributing to the AAUW Fund established in her name to benefit AAUW projects. Just click [HERE](#) and log into your AAUW Community Hub account. You'll be redirected to fund #4504 in her name. Then send money. She'll like that much better than a pair of monogrammed spurs. We think.



What are we hearing? Frustrated cries for help? Are you having trouble creating or updating or renewing your membership on National's new database, the Community Hub? Do you just want to send them your money but are getting stuck doing it? Don't get mad (or a cat). Get help! Our very own president, software wrestler, and tech wiz, Sandi Gabe, held a "how to" webinar for branch leaders, and you can learn from it too! Her demonstrations walk you through the steps and help you see where things went off the rails when you tried it yourself. Go watch the August 3rd presentation [HERE](#). That's the one for you. Then renew and rejoice.



Did your TikTok channel flop? Was it your awkward dancing? We've heard about it. But no matter. You can still be a media star by appearing in the *California Connection*. If you are a leader in your branch, we want to know: *Why'd ya do it?* We're compiling personal stories for a new section "Leaning into Leadership." Send us two

(yes, two) sentences about why you volunteered to be an AAUW leader and what you get out of it. It can be amusing or tear-jerking, as long as it's simple, sincere, and short. Back away from the thesaurus! Send it to connection@aauw-ca.org with your name and branch. We don't need your bank account number. :-)



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***Wake up.**

See you next month.

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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.
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