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October 2022

It's that time of year. How do YOU eat candy corn?*

White end first? (31%) Whole shebang at once? (52%) Yellow end first? (17%)



But, really, is there a wrong way?

Dear <<First Name>>,
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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A lot of things happen at the stroke of midnight. One is a visit from a certain raven who "quoths" a lot. Another is that the California legislative session ends and bills must be signed or vetoed by the governor. At midnight on September 30th, 25 of the 36 bills supported by AAUW California became law. 70%! That might have caused your heart to drop on a high school math exam, but it is a real triumph for our hardworking Public Policy



Committee and all of you who quothed “Nevermore!” to inequalities. Take a look at the new laws supporting economic security, equal access to public education, and social and racial justice [HERE](#). Even Poe would have agreed that 70% success is not for the birds.



In the categories of “What You Do Matters” and “Pass Me the Kleenex®,” read on. . . One of our board members visited a Beach Cities Branch awards event. At the meeting’s start, a newcomer came into the room and sat at a far table. One by one, the award recipients shared touching stories of their AAUW journeys as scholarship students or Tech Trek campers. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house. At the end, the woman revealed that she had walked in on the wrong meeting. She was so affected that she joined on the spot AND made a \$1000 donation to the scholarship fund. Oh my. Let the warm and fuzzy feelings commence.



This is “splooting,” when squirrels and other critters sprawl out and stay immobile to cool themselves in extreme heat. What a fun word (though sadly not yet recognized by Merriam-Webster). It’s possible you did a little splooting yourself in that record-breaking heatwave. But we digress. The real topic of this paragraph is the news that AAUW squirreled away \$6 million in 2022-23 to fund women pursuing academic work or leading innovative community projects. That’s a lot of nuts. Learn more about the 2023-24 AAUW Fellowships and Grants Program [HERE](#). The application period opens in November. The fall temperatures should allow you to stand upright by then.



Things to Do



Yes, yes, we know “The Handmaid’s Tale” is back. But binge-watching AAUW webinars is just

as good and doesn't require rewatching seasons one through four to catch up.

Settle in to watch these upcoming webinars:



Instant Noodles? Nope, It's Instagram!

10/11 7 pm Impress your friends, family, and 8-year-olds with your new hashtagging abilities. Register [HERE](#).

AAUW Fund Events

10/15 10 am Show me the money! Where does your AAUW Fund donation go? Attend one or all to hear fellow and grant recipients explain their award-winning work in their own words. Register [HERE](#).

10/22 10 am

10/23 1 pm

11/12 10 am

Sneak Peek For November:

AAUW California Statewide DEI Chat

11/3 6 pm An intimate conversation with national leaders about strengthening our commitment to DEI. Learn what they are doing. Learn what you can do. Register [HERE](#).

Want more women in political power? Learn about the new state program Gov Trek!

11/16 7 pm Get your branch involved in this four-session virtual program designed to expose junior and senior high school girls to careers in public service. We need them! Register [HERE](#) to learn all about it.



Remember the series "Mad Men" about the inner workings of Madison Avenue and the martini lunch? You must. It ran for seven seasons. We're looking for mad women! AAUW California is on the hunt to engage like-minded, woman-owned advertising agencies that might help raise our visibility and increase membership. Know someone who does that? Contact Marsha Swails at membership@aauw-ca.org. We are okay with replacing the martinis with mango/banana/chai tea smoothies. Also. . . boba.



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Check out the snazzy logo for the launch of Gov Trek, the statewide AAUW California program to expose high school girls to careers in public service. Did we hear you say, "Hooray, we need them!" or was that your order at Panda Express? Either way, YOU can participate in a fun way. Gov Trek needs volunteers to facilitate the Zoom breakout rooms, which basically means listening to young women who can probably think faster than you can. Find out more [HERE](#). The first woman president thanks you.



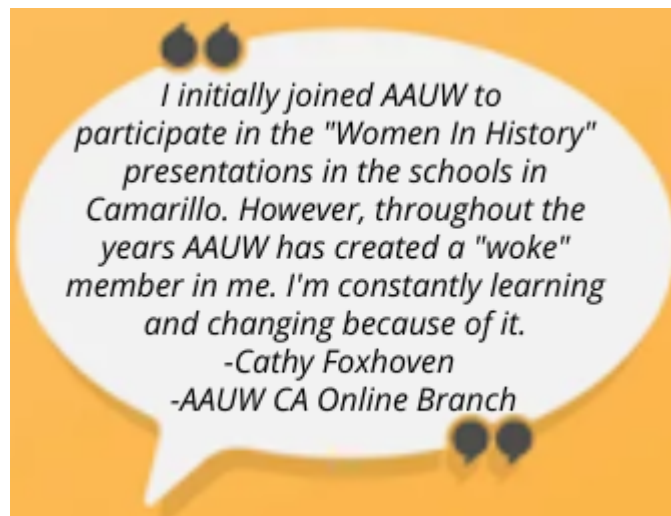
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***Yes, there was actually a survey. Thank you, National Confectioners Association.**

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Leaning into Leadership

Last month we asked you to tell us why you became a leader in your branch.
And some of you did!
Here's another one:



Did you forget? Feel free to send one or two (no more!) sentences to cc@aauw-ca.org and answer the question:

Becoming a leader: why'd ya do it?



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

[AAUW.org](https://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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