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November 2022

**It's Election Day.
You know what to do.**



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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AAUW California is suffering from FOMO (Google it), so we'd like to point out that WE are having elections too! In spring, you'll have a chance to vote for a president-elect, a CFO, and four members to the board of directors. Of course, we need some candidates' names with little boxes for you to put your X in. One of those precious little boxes could be next to YOUR name. We're sure you are so charged up with election fever today that you'll consider running for a state office

(or slyly nominating someone else). Learn more [HERE](#) or contact nominating@aauw-ca.org. You don't need to kiss any babies, although that sounds delightful.



AAUW California got an email with balloons floating all over it! Colorful animated balloons that burst gloriously from the footer to the header. Wonder who sent it? YouTube! It was to congratulate us on reaching the milestone of 100 subscribers to our YouTube channel. Okay, okay, we know 100 isn't quite the data pinnacle that Facebook has reached with its 2.9 billion users, but YouTube sure thought it was special. It means that 100 people have looked at our video content and signed up to see more. Why not make it 101? Just go [HERE](#) and click on "Subscribe." What will YouTube send us if we reach 500 subscribers? An email with animated camels? Who knows? Feel free to send us your thoughts at cc@aauw-ca.org. Meanwhile, add your name as a subscriber and maybe we'll find out.



The "season of giving" is fast approaching. There's no shame in giving the first gift to yourself. How about saving on your taxes by donating to your favorite organization? Not as cozy as moose-decorated p.j.s or as extravagant as an indoor putting green, but don't look a gift horse in the mouth. If you're 70 ½ or older and don't itemize, you may reduce your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Donation from your retirement fund to a qualified 501(c)(3) and even count it as part of your Required Minimum Distribution. Conveniently, we have two suggestions: donate to [AAUW Fund](#) or to Tech Trek via [AAUW CA SPF](#). Just be sure the donation is paid directly from the IRA to the charity. Small print: Check with your tax advisor. Get the p.j.s too. Horses have bad breath.

Things to Do

Are you dreading the Thanksgiving dinner table conversation? The only safe topics these days are seasonal allergy statistics, the future of rodeo clowning, and overweight dogs. Give thanks to us. We're offering you the fourth and final AAUW Fund Event on Saturday, November 11th, at 10 am. Register [HERE](#) to hear 11 fascinating AAUW fellows and grant recipients tell about their 11 fascinating studies/projects, giving you 11 fascinating topics to bring up while passing the not-so-fascinating green bean casserole. Your dinner companions will be struck dumb by your intriguing tidbits about the impact of natural disasters on female rural farmers, the promise of food security with an African rice strain, river water chemistry in arid regions, and other sparkling conversation starters. You're welcome.



PPP. We dare you to say those letters out loud in a second grade classroom. Oh, the giggling! But, in our grownup world, PPP stands for Public Policy Priorities and they're a lot more serious. Every two years, we ask you to wipe that smile off your face and tell us what social and political issues you want us to focus our advocacy efforts on. Economic security for women? High quality public education? Social justice? Shopping carts that don't wobble? (Just seeing if you're awake.) Please complete this short (really!) [survey](#) by November 11th to tell us what YOU think is important. We'll listen to you. Unlike your children or spouse.



Last November, President Biden had a colonoscopy. You may find that riveting and be grateful that we told you about it, but that's not actually the important part. Here's the important part: While he was anesthetized, Vice President Kamala Harris held presidential power. That means there was a woman in charge for an hour and a half. Out of the 2,160,000 hours in our country's 246 years, a ninety-minute stint is a little disappointing, right? Enter Gov Trek, our new virtual program to get high school girls jazzed about careers in elected office and public service. With interactive activities, conversations with



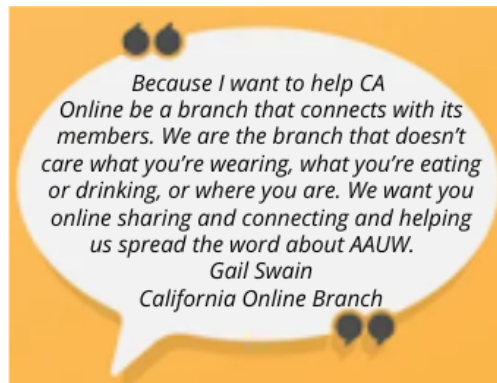
women in the field, a campaign contest, and more, we're sure to fire up some girl who will someday be in charge of our country. Learn what it's all about at the [kickoff webinar](#) on November 16th. Your branch can participate by promoting Gov Trek to your schools and community; YOU can participate as a [volunteer](#). A colonoscopy shouldn't be the ticket to presidential power.

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Leaning into Leadership

We have been asking you to tell us why you became a leader in your branch (or anywhere).

**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

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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