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February 2023

The envelope, please?



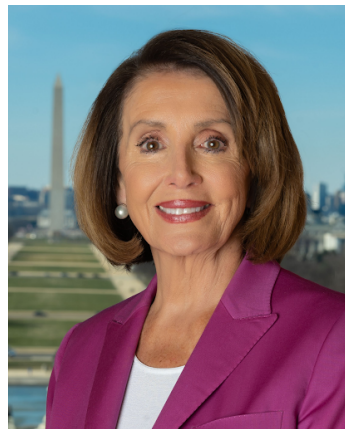
Dear <<First Name>>,
Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Things to Know

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And now, for the winner in the “Lead Actor in an AAUW Event” category, may we have the envelope, please. Drum roll. Ladies and gentlemen, the AAUWscar goes to YOU! Mark your calendar to attend the online Academy AAUWards on April 22nd. See red carpet interviews with the famous actors and directors of AAUW California, watch trailers for Speech Trek, Tech Trek, and Gov Trek, listen to people blushingly accept awards, and then mingle in our after-parties. Since all your film work has been via Zoom from your bedroom, there will be no Costume Design or Hair and Makeup awards. You’re welcome. Watch for more details and the registration link. Keep your acceptance speech short, but moving.



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Speaking of celebrities, we hate to name-drop (Nancy Pelosi), but the inaugural session of our new state program, Gov Trek, opened with a bang! Nearly 60 high school girls peeked through the doors of the halls of power (Nancy Pelosi) to explore careers in public service and elected office. Top-notch speakers shared inspirational stories and sage advice from their own careers. Students delivered stirring elevator speeches, none of which were “Second Floor: Women’s Lingerie.” Did we mention Nancy Pelosi? We said we hate to name-drop, but.....(Nancy Pelosi). Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi delivered the opening address. And, wow, what an address it was! See for yourself [HERE](#). Inspired? Ride that wave. Get active and fill out the application to run for office on our state board of directors [HERE](#)! We’ll happily drop YOUR name in future editions.



AAUW National's portion of your membership dues was previously approved to increase incrementally by \$5 to \$72 for next year. It's worth it. The branch portion of your membership dues may or may not increase. Whatever. The state portion of your membership dues will not increase. You're welcome.

Things to Do

If you can't be a [seat filler](#) at the Academy Awards (which, by the way, is an actual job offered by ZipRecruiter®), we have an opening for you here! Take a seat in the office of your local representative (either virtually or in real life) on March 21st or 22nd and deliver a stirring monologue on why they should support the bills that we care about. Sign up [HERE](#) by February 28th to enter stage right and to attend the **mandatory** rehearsal on March 20th. You won't get a gold-plated statue weighing 8.5 lbs, a gold-trimmed envelope weighing as much as a McDonald's hamburger (really, they do!), or even weak applause. The award will be of a different kind. You know what we mean.



So much talk about awards. Are you feeling insecure because the last one you got was for selling wrapping paper? You can always glorify your entire branch instead. Has your branch done

something innovative that focuses on the AAUW mission? Is it something other branches could copy (er, replicate) without building an amphitheater or hiring an expert on the environmental impact of catalytic converters? Submit an application for the Branch Activity of the Year award [HERE](#). You might be interviewed on the red carpet at the Academy AAUWards. Steam clean your dress-up clothes.

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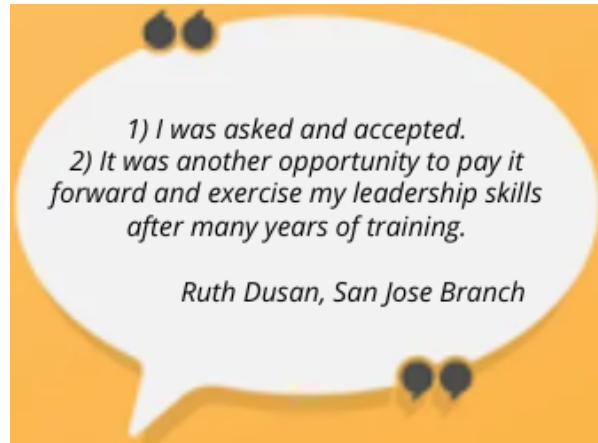
NCCWSL, NCCWSL, NCCWSL. A conference by any other name would be . . . easier to pronounce! Luckily, we only have to know what the letters stand for: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This is a signature AAUW event: an inspiring three-day, in-person experience for young college women to build leadership skills, network with peers, and learn how to pronounce impenetrable acronyms. Get the deets [HERE](#) for yourself, a student you know, or your branch leadership. Scholarships are available, so no one has to suffer from that other dreaded acronym, [FOMO](#).

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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:**



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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