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The Board to Board (B2B) is our monthly e-newsletter from the AAUW California Board of Directors to branch boards and leaders. We ask you to click on the links for more information and to share appropriate items with your branch members, especially in your newsletter. The branch officers listed in the state directory are the only ones on the B2B mailing list. To see which of your board members receive the monthly B2B please click [HERE](#), enter the password (aauwca) then scroll down to your branch. Help us keep all California AAUW members in the know.

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AS SANDI SEES IT...

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

TAKE A STAND AND VOTE

It's AAUW election season and this is your opportunity to let AAUW National and AAUW California know what you think. We don't always have an opportunity to share our opinion. My philosophy is that when asked - make a decision! The only wrong decision is not casting a vote.

[AAUW National Election](#) - voting begins on April 4th and ends on May 15th at 2 pm PT

- Candidates for the Board of Directors
- Bylaws Revision
- Public Policy Priorities Additions

[AAUW California Election](#) - voting begins on April 22nd and ends on May 13th at midnight PT

- Public Policy Priorities

TAKE A SEAT AND ENJOY

Pull up your chair for the *Academy AAUWards* on April 22nd. If you've ever wondered what the AAUW California Leadership Team accomplishes, this is an excellent opportunity to witness firsthand the passion and excitement that the team has for all things AAUW. From the red carpet to the after-parties, you'll learn about our important projects and have an opportunity to virtually mingle with other AAUW members and catch up. We have a special day planned for you! Click [HERE](#) to register for this red carpet event.

Committee News

AAUW FUND

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

2022 FINAL DONATION REPORTS ARE IN!

Thanks to you, we finished the year with \$506,133.75 total from both member and branch donations!!

But you say our previously reported working total was higher. Why? During the final review, we found a planned estate gift from the sale of a member's home posted in our regular donations. This has been corrected.

Speaking of legacy giving, you don't need to be well off to become a Legacy Circle member. There is no minimum requirement. It's a planned donation from your estate payable to AAUW. An example might be a full or partial beneficiary from a life insurance policy or annuity.

The joy of knowing your gift will sustain AAUW programs is your legacy. For more information, contact: Judy Horan at queenjah@pacbell.net or Charmin Goehring at charminme@yahoo.com.

Remember to register for the [California Annual Event](#) where you will find out who the State Named Gift Honoree is!

What I need to know: California's donations to AAUW Fund totaled a little over \$506,000, slightly lower than previously reported due to a posting error which has been corrected.

What I need to do: Remind your members of the ease and advantages of becoming a Legacy Circle member.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members will be interested in the significant financial donation our state makes to AAUW Fund.

ANNUAL EVENT

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Charmin Goehring, Meetings Planner, meetings@aauw-ca.org

CAN YOU FEEL THE EXCITEMENT? MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE ACADEMY AAUWARDS COMING ON APRIL 22nd ON YOUR ZOOM SCREEN!

In addition to our two amazing keynote speakers, AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell and Puerto Rico's Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Public Works, Eileen M. Velez Vega, we will have presentations of awards. Come see who the winners are in categories such as Named Gift, BAY (Branch Activity of the Year) Award, Equity Champion, Speech Trek top three finalists and winner, Gov Trek team winner, and the Fund categories of Top Branch Contributions and Per Capita Contributions. There will be Red Carpet interviews, exciting videos, and glittering after-parties! It will be a festive time to celebrate AAUW branches in California!

Get ready for a fun-filled event worthy of a Hollywood red carpet. Join us on Saturday, April 22nd, at 9 am by clicking

What I need to know: The AAUW California Annual Event, scheduled for April 22nd, promises to be a fun and interesting event with speakers, awards, interviews with state leaders, and after-parties!

What I need to do: Register to attend and encourage others to do so too.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should attend to learn about activities at the state level.

[HERE](#) to register. We will celebrate AAUW California and our fantastic branches and members!

BRANCH SUPPORT

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

HALF WAY THERE – WHAT’S THE NEWS FROM BRANCH SUPPORT?

Well, we held our [Help Wanted workshop](#) recently during which members gathered to offer struggling branches ideas for identifying leaders. We discussed a different format (three elected positions rather than the usual full elected board), how to ask and get the answer you want (“Yes, I will”), and how to help reluctant branch members understand the dire effects of dissolving their branch with statements like this: “Think about this: there will be no more local scholarships, no more Tech Trek for local girls, no more valuable community involvement, no easy friendships with branch members.” This does get their attention. Our new motto should be, “Pare down and make it easier.” Adding something fresh is good too.

The entire list of branch-saving ideas from each of the five breakout rooms is being collated and will be posted on our webinar page [HERE](#) soon.

Sharyn and I also want to thank our intrepid Branch Support Committee for adding their suggestions and to Sigrid Moranz, Suman Ganapathy, and Gail Swain who led breakout rooms with aplomb.

Up next is a Town Hall to be held in a month or two – before the start of the next fiscal year. Your incoming branch board can ask questions and gather information needed to carry out their functions. They will also learn how to develop future leadership team members.

To Do: First, watch the earlier webinar [You’re in Charge. Now What? What Boards Need to Know](#). from September 2021. You can find this and many other enlightening webinars on our home page. Go to aauw-ca.org and look under “Webinars” at the very top of the page. Good viewing!

Need program ideas? Most branches send campers to Tech Trek. Do you have a general membership meeting when recent campers come to share their fabulous experiences? And in this 25th anniversary year, are you asking past Tech Trekkers how that experience informed their life choices? Have you asked those same women, who are now old enough to have completed their degrees, to join the branch that had such an effect on their lives – and help change the lives of future young women?

What I need to know: The *Help Wanted workshop* was an interactive opportunity for branches to share ideas for attracting and developing new leaders. A second Town Hall is planned to share tips on how to prepare new leaders to do their jobs.

What I need to do: Watch for an announcement that the list of ideas from the *Help Wanted workshop* have been posted.

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

Are other “interest groups” asked to chair a program, even just to talk about the books their book group chose and why? Gov Trek just concluded. How about holding watch parties to share the students’ campaign videos posted [HERE](#) or, at least, to view Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi’s opening remarks for this now-annual project of AAUW California? What a coup for us to be able to have such a distinguished Californian prepare that video.

Hint: Thinking outside the box, and ‘leaning in’ to our strengths as the premier women’s organization working on equity nationally should be part of our DNA.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Check out a myriad of other leadership tools at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/leadership-resources/> to glean a nugget or two to help your branch stay vibrant!

COMMUNICATIONS

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

WHY OUR BOR IS NOT BORING

The state BOR is the Branch Officers' Report, the critical collection of all your branch officers’ and leaders’ names, positions, and contact information. It’s used for all our communications to you. We don’t share National’s database of branch leaders, so we must collect it separately.

We have been hard at work behind the scenes replacing the aging BOR system with a NEW and IMPROVED version! It can do even fancier things than before, so we’re sure you’ll love it. The new system is on target and will be launched on June 1st.

Of course, we’ll all have to go back to school to learn how to use it. Instructions will be forthcoming but mark your calendars now for the training for outgoing branch presidents responsible for updating the BOR which will take place on Monday, May 22nd, at 7 pm via Zoom. Register [HERE](#). We will also be offering a support call on June 8th from 5-7 pm in the event you need help with the system. Register [HERE](#) for this session.

ANOTHER NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN!

Our social media team is planning a new campaign to help with member recruitment. We will post inspiring personal quotes from members about what they get out of being in AAUW. Tap your members for contributions! Have them send the following to lisabarney@gmail.com:

- A clear photo of their face
- Their full name
- Their branch(es)
- The year they joined

What I need to know: There will be a new tool for branch presidents to submit the names and contact information for their branch’s incoming leaders to the state. This is a critical report.

What I need to do: Register for the training and the support call session.

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

- Their answers to:
 - Why did you join AAUW?
 - What is your favorite part of being an AAUW member?

There's nothing BORing about Communications!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

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

REFLECTING ON OUR LEARNING: JABEID IN PRACTICE

Thank you to all who joined us on March 27th for the AAUW California DEI Committee's second DEI Statewide Chat on *Justice, Accessibility, Belonging, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity*. We had 62 participants, 44 California branches represented, and branch leaders representing public policy, membership, communications, Tech Trek, and DEI, to name a few. If you were unable to attend the session, not to worry, the AAUW California website not only has the presentation and recording available, you can also access the discussion summary by clicking [HERE](#).

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Lata Murti who engaged participants in practical approaches to implementing these concepts in our branches and throughout AAUW. Together, we explored what access looks like in our community spaces, the difference between belonging and inclusion, cultural humility, leveraging data to explore community demographics and representation within our branches, and why Dr. Murti leads these conversations with Justice and ends with Diversity. Lastly, we hope those of you who attended remember Dr. Murti's birthday wish that you take the learning, try it and apply it, and circle back with your experiences. Dr. Murti can be reached at: latamurti@gmail.com.

We appreciate your participation in this important conversation and look forward to seeing you at the next one!

Eager to engage in more conversations around DEI? We received an invitation to attend *Anti Racism – Let's Own It!* presented by Edwina Sessions, AAUW New Jersey, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The session will be held on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 at 4 pm (PST). Click [HERE](#) to join the live-streaming Zoom session.

FINANCE

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ON HUB

It is April, the time for membership renewals to officially

What I need to know: The recent statewide DEI chat on the concepts of JABEID (*Justice, Accessibility, Belonging, Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity*) was well attended and very interactive.

What I need to do: Review the recording of the webinar as well as the detailed summary of all the ideas brought forth by the attendees. Consider sharing them both as a program for your branch.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members would benefit from the concepts presented and consider how to apply them to their branch and daily lives.

What I need to know: National has slightly delayed kicking off the renewal process. AAUW California

begin...but wait a minute, don't be too fast! In the March issue of Membership Matters, sent by National on March 31st, they are asking branches to wait on processing renewals until we all receive further instructions from them, expected in the coming week.

We do know that the new membership renewal rates have gone into effect as of April 1st. All renewals processed now will be charged the new national membership dues of \$72, out of which \$69 is tax deductible. State dues continue at \$20, but are not tax deductible. Your new branch dues for 2023-2024 will also be reflected in the Hub if you sent in the information by March 13th.

AAUW California is planning to hold a webinar called, *Making the Most of Membership Renewals* on Wednesday, **May 3rd, at 4:00 pm Pacific Time**. By that time, we expect that renewals on the Hub will be working well. Through the webinar, we hope to provide a convenient forum for you to learn all about renewals on the Hub and get your many questions answered. Sandi Gabe is leading the effort and we are inviting Angela Cooper from National. They will be supported by Carol McMillan and me from the Finance Committee.

Do register for the webinar [HERE](#). We will be covering issues such as:

- For new and renewing members, when does the dues increase kick in? If someone joined in April last year, what will their national dues be on renewal?
- How do grace periods work? What happens if you renew after the grace period has expired?
- How can my branch sign up for automatic renewal reminders?
- Can branch members pay national, state and branch dues together?
- Since all memberships don't expire at the same time, how do I know who has to renew?
- How do I take advantage of Shape the Future discounts?
- How do I make sure lifetime members have paid their state and branch dues?

We hope you will join us! You can register [HERE](#). Have a happy April.

will host a webinar to explain the renewal process on the Hub and address typical questions.

What I need to do: Register for the webinar.

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

MEMBERS WHO THANK! LET'S GROW!

Over the last several months, the Membership Committee has spent a lot of time discussing how we can become a culture of recognition and rewards. Soon branches will elect

What I need to know: Recognizing and thanking members is key to branch success. There are ideas for rewards in the Membership Committee's January webinar and on our website.

new officers for the coming year as some current officers step down. What a perfect time to thank the members who have served in various positions. That simple act of thanking one another is a powerful motivator to stay involved and to encourage others to step up. I did some research about how AAUW has recognized members over the years. I went to the AAUW National site, Google, and even eBay. I found pins, patches, and plenty of ideas. Our January webinar *Growing AAUW California* has a wonderful section discussing ideas for recognition, including links to websites that might inspire you. You can watch the recording [HERE](#). Also, on the AAUW California website, go to the [Branch Marketplace](#). Two branches sell pins -- Years of Service (Redlands), and Past-President, (Napa County). Additionally, we hope to offer a new generic AAUW California pin sometime this summer. These could be given to officers, new members, camp volunteers, or any other good reason. Their simplicity will make them so versatile. Eventually, we'd like to create pins for years of service at Tech Trek or our other projects. Recently I received a request for a button that would simply say, "Ask me about AAUW." What a great idea!!

The generosity of spirit is a gift we can give to each other. It doesn't matter if your branch has 20 members or 200. We all belong to a dynamic organization that celebrates the lives of women and girls!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- When you install your new branch officers, center the program around a theme like "Bloom where you are planted." Flowers and herbs have meanings. Pick a small plant at your local nursery that would suit each of your new officers. One of the best meetings I have attended did this. Be creative! Let's BLOOM – I mean GROW!

What I need to do: Consider possible rewards for your members and officers—what would they be and what would they be for?

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

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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

OUR ELECTION IS APPROACHING!

Although we will not need to vote for new board members this spring (due to the uncontested election), we do need to approve the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-2025. The election will open April 22nd and run through May 13th. Each member with an email address on file will receive an email on April 22nd with a link to their ballot. Members without email have been sent a paper ballot. All ballots must be returned by May 13th to be counted!

If you do not receive an email with your link, first check your spam folder. It will be coming from siteadmin@aauw-ca.org via SurveyMonkey

<member@surveymonkeyuser.com>. You can also search your inbox- the subject will be 2023 AAUW California

What I need to know: Although this year's election is uncontested, members will be asked to approve the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-2025. These are critical to our advocacy efforts.

What I need to do: Encourage members to review the Public Policy Priorities and vote.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter: Yes, share the voting process and instructions with your members.

Election Ballot. If you still cannot find it, email webteam@aauw-ca.org for assistance.

Be sure to check out the proposed Public Policy Priorities [HERE](#) and get ready to vote!

PUBLIC POLICY

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

FOR THE STATE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE, MARCH DEFINITELY ROARED IN LIKE A LION!

This month has certainly kept the Public Policy Committee on our toes! As a result, AAUW California members now have 30 bills that are being advocated for in the state legislature. Members visited 57 legislative offices to advocate for the top three of those bills during Lobby Days. We will also have the chance to vote on 11 proposed changes that have been made to the Public Policy Priorities.

Our Bill Tracker chart has been posted on the Public Policy page of the AAUW California website and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Thanks to the 120 members from 56 branches who participated in Lobby Days. If you were a Team Leader, please be sure to get your Report Back form to the Public Policy Committee ASAP if you haven't done so already.

Finally, the committee wants to thank all the members who took the time to weigh in on updates to our Public Policy Priorities for 2023-25. The committee has reviewed all 466 comments and agreed on 11 modifications based on members' input. Not all suggestions were incorporated for a variety of reasons. Our three main criteria for edits were:

1. Is it within our mission?
2. Does it address a new issue germane to current circumstances?
3. Would adding it inform the public as to an important AAUW California position, provide guidance for the Public Policy Committee on forming our Legislative Agenda, and/or provide guidance to our membership in shaping their branches' public policy positions and programs?

Many suggestions did not meet one or more of these criteria and were therefore not incorporated. The Board of Directors has approved the suggested changes and it is now up to members to vote yes or no. Click [HERE](#) to view the proposed changes.

What I need to know: Public Policy conducted a successful Lobby Days event with 120 members participating. The committee has worked diligently to prepare carefully considered Public Policy Priorities for the membership to consider approving in an upcoming vote.

What I need to do: Encourage your members to review the 11 proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities, which will guide our legislative advocacy efforts for 2023-2025.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should understand the thoughtful process that underpins the suggested revisions to the Public Policy Priorities and be encouraged to review and vote on them.

Project News

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INAUGURAL GRADUATE CLASS OF GOV TREK WOMEN!

We are proud to introduce the class of 2023 graduates of the Gov Trek program! After an incredible journey of learning and career exploration, these talented and driven young women are ready to showcase their skills and make their mark on the world of politics. Your support of their efforts was invaluable.

From all of us at AAUW California, we are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of these amazing students. We know they will go on to do great things, and we can't wait to see all that they accomplish.

We invite you to congratulate these outstanding young women by watching and sharing the recordings of their BRILLIANT political campaign simulation videos with your branch and community. This is a tremendous achievement and a well-deserved recognition of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to gender equity in public service and elected office.

Click [HERE](#) to watch their videos and learn the results of the competition.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Thank you AAUW California branch leaders! We could not have done this without your dedication and support. You will receive student and parent contact information from the Gov Trek Committee for local branch follow-up.

What I need to know: The Gov Trek program has concluded and the participants are to be congratulated. Recordings of their final campaign simulations for the contest are posted on our website.

What I need to do: Plan to have your branch participate in Gov Trek next year by helping promote it to your student community.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should know the outcome of this new state program and will enjoy watching these talented students' campaign simulation videos.

SPEECH TREK

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

TOP SPEAKERS IN THE STATE SELECTED! FINALS UNDERWAY!

Speech Trek 2023 Semi-Finals have concluded, the judges have submitted their ballots, and the tally is complete. Please join me in congratulating the top five contestants and their respective branches:

Elizabeth Ma, Alhambra-San Gabriel
Teddy Garcia, Camarillo
Ameya Ravi, Fremont
Adrian Back, Redlands – Honorable Mention
Kyra Sharma, La Mesa-El Cajon – Honorable Mention

Elizabeth, Teddy and Ameya have advanced to the Finals and judging is underway to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Their videos will be showcased at the April 22nd virtual Annual Event and results will be announced at the end of the day. Don't miss it!

What I need to know: The Speech Trek finalists have been chosen and the winner will be selected at the Annual Event.

What I need to do: Attend the Annual Event to learn next year's topic for Speech Trek and consider participating if your branch doesn't already.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members will want to watch the finalists' polished and inspiring speeches at the Annual Event.

On behalf of the Speech Trek Committee, our sincere thanks to all of you for supporting this invaluable communication program, with your persistence, professionalism, and talent! Thank you for empowering the next generation by giving them a platform and a voice. You have shined a light on your branch and given your contestants five minutes they will remember for a lifetime!

The topic for next year's Speech Trek competition will be announced at the virtual April 22nd Annual Event.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Looking for a mission-based project? Consider Speech Trek 2024!

TECH TREK

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

NO TIPTOEING THROUGH THE TULIPS FOR TECH TREK!

After a crazy March with record rain AND snowfall for many parts of California, branches are getting close to catching up with over 1,000 completed camper applications and nearly a third already assigned to camps!

As a reminder, the due date for camper selections to be in the system is April 15th – money was due March 15th, but late is better than never!

Additionally, staff volunteer applications are still being accepted until camps are fully staffed. Available roles and the link to apply are [HERE](#). Assignments are in process and should be completed by early to mid-May.

Many camps still need Dorm Moms (21+ years old), so if you have never experienced sleeping in a dorm, now's your chance!

If your branch still needs help, Tech Trek office hours are every Friday starting at 11 am; register [HERE](#) or send an email to techtrek-campdoc@aauw-ca.org.

Distribution: This email was sent to the following distribution lists: All distribution lists.

What I need to know: Tech Trek is well on its way. The deadline for entering campers into the system is April 15th. There are still openings for camp staff volunteers and Dorm Moms.

What I need to do: Be sure your Tech Trek Branch Coordinator is aware of all deadlines. Attend the Tech Trek office hours or send an email if you need help.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should be aware of the volunteer opportunities.

To unsubscribe please send an email to webteam@aauw-ca.org and request to be removed from the distribution list.

www.AAUW-CA.org

