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Are you looking for a way to help a new branch leader learn about their position? Or maybe you are accepting a new leadership role and want to see how other branches handle your upcoming responsibility. Reading other branches' newsletters can give you new ideas for your branch to adopt or adapt or share with members. Learning how others have accomplished something similar may give you an idea to build upon. To receive copies of branch newsletters, just send a request to webteam@aauw-ca.org.

Quick Links

[Committee News](#)

- [AAUW Fund](#)
- [Annual Event](#)
- [Branch Support](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

- [Finance](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Nominations and Elections](#)
- [Program](#)
- [Public Policy](#)

[Project News](#)

- [Gov Trek](#)
- [Speech Trek](#)
- [Tech Trek](#)

AS SANDI SEES IT...

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

TIME TO SAY YES!

It's that time of the year when we start planning for our next fiscal year. June 30th is right around the corner and it's time to say yes to:

- Volunteer at the branch level. Whether it's an hour a week or an hour a day, your branch can use your talents to expand our mission.
- Volunteer on a state committee. Let your local experience shine and learn new things. Watch for the call for volunteers later this month.
- Vote in the national and state election. Make your voice heard.
- Renew your membership. Make it a twofer and grab a friend to join you.

Assist your members to renew their membership. Host a renewal party!

AAUW ACADEMY AAUWARDS A SUCCESS

More than 200 people from 88 branches attended the *Academy AAUWards* in April. If you were not able to attend you can watch the festivities on our website [HERE](#).

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

I received several emails from branch members and leaders about the Data Validation and Oral History Project recently rolled out by AAUW National. The state presidents received an update on the project on May 1st. Here's a [LINK](#) to the updated FAQs. I'm sending them this way since they are not yet loaded on the national website.

Committee News

AAUW FUND

[Top](#)

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

STATE NAMED HONOREE ANNOUNCED!

It's a true honor to present Sharon Westafer with the [2023 State Named Gift Honoree award!](#)

She is an active member of the Long Beach and Stockton branches, and the Los Angeles County IBC. Additionally, she is the secretary of the California Online Branch.

What I need to know: Sharon Westafer received the 2023 State Named Gift Honoree award for her years of dedicated services in many leadership roles.

She has held most branch positions in leadership roles, but also shows up to stuff student bags for Tech Trek! Sharon has proven leadership skills in many areas of her branches: president, Fund director, treasurer, and secretary.

What I need to do: Be sure you are receiving your Fund donation reports from National. Contact the Fund Committee if you have not received them or they need correction.

Of note, 122 Named Honoree nominations were requested from branches to honor your key members. Great support!

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, please share the news of Sharon Westafer's prestigious award.

You should be receiving regular branch Fund donation reports. Let us know if you aren't getting these or if corrections are necessary.

And remember to vote: AAUW California and AAUW National elections are in progress now.

ANNUAL EVENT

[Top](#)

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

AAUW CALIFORNIA MEMBERS ROCKED THE RED CARPET!

More than 200 members joined the *Academy AAUWards* event on April 22nd to hear 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, as well as to meet our Equity Champion, former State Senator (and the actress playing Zelda on *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*), Sheila Keuhl. Many awards were given, red-carpet interviews with state leaders were held, and even the commercials had star

What I need to know: The AAUW *Academy AAUWards* event was a box office hit featuring empowering speakers, interviews with state leaders, awards, and informal after-parties for mingling.

What I need to do: If you were unable to attend, watch the recording of the event [HERE](#) to familiarize yourself with AAUW's activities.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, and provide the link to the recording for members who

quality! Afterward, some members joined Zoom after-parties to continue the fun and socialize. It was a star-studded way to celebrate AAUW branches in California!

Thank you to the huge cast who produced the *AAUWards* show and to all the members who participated in viewing it! See you again next year!

had to miss the party!

BRANCH SUPPORT

[Top](#)

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

ASK US FIRST AND YOU DID!

Our *Help Wanted* workshop generated a huge amount of helpful information. Click [HERE](#) to see both the presentation that can be downloaded (handy to have if you missed the workshop or want a review), as well as the document summarizing the many ideas that the participants shared in their breakout rooms.

NOTE: We keep pointing you all to the AAUW California website — because there is a plethora of help contained therein. You can find lots of help and fascinating ideas in [archived editions of the Board to Board](#). Start your search on the home page of the website by clicking on the Board to Board's "Read More" button to see the current and archived editions.

JUST WHEN YOU NEED IT. After providing you with all of the above, we will also offer another Zoom event on June 27th at 7:00 pm. It will be for incoming and potential leadership team members to learn more about their new jobs from state leaders. Register [HERE](#).

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- THIS JUST IN: How many of your former Tech Trekkers are now doing environmental/climate/food research or studies? How many are doing medical research — especially in cancer? This is a useful fact to mention when asking organizations for Tech Trek funding. It will answer their question, "How does giving money to Tech Trek help the community at large?"

What I need to know: The summary of ideas for branch structure, leadership recruitment, and member engagement from the *Help Wanted* workshop is now posted on the website. There will be a webinar on June 27th for continuing and incoming branch leaders to learn more about their jobs.

What I need to do: Review the list to get new ideas and also check archived editions of the Board to Board for suggestions. Encourage your current and incoming branch leaders to register for the webinar.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

[Top](#)

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

PLEASE STAND BY FOR A SHORT COMMERCIAL BREAK.

If you attended the glam *Academy AAUWards*, you likely enjoyed the splashy video commercials that were shown between segments. They cleverly "sold" AAUW actions that members could take, such as renewing their membership, joining Legacy Circle, voting, and stepping up to a branch leadership position.

What I need to know: Video "commercials" encouraging actions to support AAUW are available on the website.

What I need to do: Consider showing the "commercials" at a branch event, posting them on social media or embedding them on your branch website. Instructions are provided.

They are now available for you to show at branch events, post to your social media, or embed on your website! You'll find them on the AAUW California YouTube channel [HERE](#). To embed them on your website, follow these easy directions from Site Resources [HERE](#).

(Note that the VOTE commercial should be shared before elections close on May 13th for California and May 15th for National.)

Outgoing presidents: the new BOR (Branch Officer Report) tool will be ready for you on June 5th.

It's in the testing phase so we can get the kinks out before you use it to enter your incoming branch leaders and their contact information. Be sure to register [HERE](#) for the training webinar on May 22nd at 7 pm to learn how easy it is. You'll like it! For extra help, you may register [HERE](#) for follow-up Office Hours on June 8th at 5 pm.

And now...back to our regular programming.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Pass this on to your webmaster! If your branch uses National's Site Resources to maintain your website, check out its [website](#) packed with tutorials, tips, and resources to help you use their service effectively. Note that some of the services described on the website might be on hiatus right now, but there are still helpful resources.

Register for the important training webinar to learn to use the updated Branch Officer Report (BOR) tool to enter your incoming branch leaders.

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

[Top](#)

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

UPCOMING AAUW CALIFORNIA CONVERSATIONS CENTERING ON DEI!

We know the work of a DEI coordinator/chair can be rewarding, but exhausting and hard! Creating spaces to be in community with peers actively committed to elevating conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion can be inspiring, reinvigorating, and generative. We want to support you in this work! Join us on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6 pm for our 2nd *Let's Talk DEI*, where DEI coordinators/chairs will have the opportunity to speak about their current branch activity, learn about what's occurring in other branches, and explore available resources to expand your DEI toolkit. To register, email diversity@aauw-ca.org. We hope to be in community with you!

Not a DEI coordinator/chair? Not to worry, because we're inclusive and have something for every member! Our last *DEI Statewide Chat* for this year will be held on Thursday, June 1st at 7 pm. The AAUW California DEI Committee will provide you with an overview of resources focused on

What I need to know: The DEI Committee will host a Zoom meeting for branch DEI coordinators/chairs on May 23rd and a *DEI Statewide Chat* for all members on June 1st. Both will explore activities and resources to support DEI work.

What I need to do: Be sure your DEI coordinator/chair is aware of both meetings.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the information and registration link for members to join the June 1st *DEI Statewide Chat* exploring DEI topics and resources.

diversity, equity, and inclusion to support your learning and development in this work. Register [HERE](#).

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Did you know May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month? PBS curated a list of documentaries and films to shine a light on the experiences of the AAPI community. Click [HERE](#) to take a look!_

FINANCE

[Top](#)

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WEBINAR IS BACK!

It is now May, and we are happy to report that as far as we know, all elements of the membership renewal system on the HUB for 2023-2024 are now in place. The latest message from Katrina Sun Breese at National was sent on April 24th, indicating that the updated system for bulk processing of memberships and donations is also in place now. The instructions for how to process them are available [HERE](#).

Since the renewals are fully functional, AAUW California's webinar, "Making the Most of Membership Renewals" is back! It has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 24th, at 4:00 pm. The webinar will 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.

What I need to know: National's Community Hub is now fully functional and AAUW California will host a webinar to provide information on how the renewal process works and to address common questions.

We will cover issues such as:

What I need to do: Register for the webinar.

- 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? How do I process bulk renewals?

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

[Top](#)

MEMBERS WHO ACHIEVE! LET'S GROW! - MORGAN HILL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What can happen in a month? If one looks at the dizzying achievements of the Morgan Hill Branch, it does not take long to understand how the branch grew by 62 new members over the last two years.

- On March 12th, the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce named the branch the 2023 Non-Profit of the Year.
- Morgan Hill hosted their sold-out annual ["Wildflower Run"](#) with 1200 participants and 200 volunteers.
- They held a conference for their ["Young Women Leaders,"](#) 6th through 12th grades, to develop leadership skills and broaden social and climate awareness.
- They will host the ["Red Dress Exhibit"](#) honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in May at the local library.

What I need to know: The Morgan Hill Branch gained many new members through multiple activities and events.

What I need to do: Consider if similar activities might be possible for your branch.

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

This vibrant Five-Star Branch possesses the very spirit of our mission. I would invite every branch in California to look at their beautiful [website](#). Congratulations on their success!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- To boost visibility of your branch and mission, look for other community organizations with whom you can partner on a community event. Volunteer at things like Race for the Cure, Alzheimer's Run, or have a booth at a community fair. First of all, have fun. Brag about your branch and be sure to have information ready for potential new members.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

[Top](#)

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

OUR ELECTION IS ALMOST OVER FOR 2023!

It is the final two weeks of voting to approve the 2023-2025 Public Policy Priorities for AAUW California. The election will close on May 13th. Each member with an email address on file received an email with a link to their ballot. Members without email received a paper ballot. All ballots must be returned by May 13th to be counted!

We also want to give a hearty thanks to the following members who stepped up to run for the board and were automatically elected due to an uncontested election: President-elect Charmen Goehring, CFO Kathy Ford, and Directors Amy Hom, Melissa Maceyko, and Sigrid Moranz. Welcome to the board!

What I need to know: Voting on the state's Public Policy Priorities will continue until May 13th. All the open positions on the state board of directors were filled automatically in an uncontested election.

What I need to do: Join us in welcoming the new board members!

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, announce the names of the newly elected volunteers for the AAUW California Board of Directors and remind members to vote on the Public Policy Priorities.

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

PUBLIC POLICY

[Top](#)

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

THREE THINGS FROM PUBLIC POLICY

1. Don't forget to vote on the proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) for 2023-2025. Voting closes on May 13th. The Proposed PPPs can be found [HERE](#).
2. In case you missed the fabulous *Academy AAUWards* at the Annual Event, the Public Policy Committee was thrilled to name Sheila Kuehl as our Equity Champion for 2023. During her time as both a state assemblymember and state senator, as well as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Ms. Kuehl authored many bills addressing economic equity for women and violence against women, as well as those enhancing rights for members of the LGBTQ community. People of a certain age – which includes many of us – might remember her as Zelda on *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis*, and we all enjoyed watching a snippet from the episode where she declared herself “Most Likely to Succeed” – fortuitous indeed!
3. The bills on our 2023-24 Legislative Agenda are working their way through committee hearings. You can keep updated on their progress on our “Bill Tracker”, click [HERE](#).

What I need to know: The Public Policy Committee honored the accomplished political leader Sheila Kuehle with the Equity Champion award for 2023 at the *Academy AAUWards* event.

What I need to do: Review the recording of the event on the website if you missed the award presentation and Ms. Kuehl's speech.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, announce the winner of the Equity Champion award and remind your members to vote on the proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities.

Project News

GOV TREK

[Top](#)

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

LEADING THE WAY: HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN AAUW CALIFORNIA'S GOV TREK PROGRAM

AAUW California's Gov Trek Program is an innovative and engaging way for high school junior and senior girls to explore careers in public service and elected office. The board recently voted to recognize this program as a state program, alongside the popular Speech Trek and Tech Trek. Through a variety of activities such as speech writing, voter data analysis, guest speakers, digital campaign ad creation, and a realistic team campaign simulation competition, Gov Trek equips students with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to become informed and active citizens.

Gov Trek also helps provide mentorship opportunities for students to learn from experienced AAUW California

What I need to know: The Gov Trek program to expose high school girls to careers in public service has been approved as an official state project of AAUW California.

What I need to do: Recruit a volunteer to become your Gov Trek branch coordinator.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should become familiar with the new Gov Trek state project so they can help spread the word about this opportunity in your community.

members and professionals in their fields. This program gives students (and mentors) the opportunity to meet with elected officials at the local, state, and federal level.

HOW TO BECOME A GOV TREK BRANCH COORDINATOR:

1. Speak with your branch leadership to express your interest in Gov Trek participation.
2. Email your name, email address, and branch name to govtrek@aauw-ca.gov.

It's time to elevate the next generation of women leaders while networking with inspiring leaders in the AAUW community and gaining visibility for your local branch!

SPEECH TREK

[Top](#)

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

SPEECH TREK 2023 WINNERS REVEALED; 2024 TOPIC ANNOUNCED!

"Another great competition!"—Karen McGurk, Speech Trek Chair, Poway-Peñasquitos Branch.

What I need to know: The winners of the 2023 Speech Trek contest were announced at the April 22nd *Academy AAUWards*, along with the topic for the 2024 contest.

The Finals judges enthusiastically agreed, commenting that they were "blown away" by the poise and content of the three finalists' speeches.

What I need to do: Watch for information on participating in Speech Trek 2024.

Over 200 attendees at the AAUW California Annual Event on April 22nd also enjoyed the three finalists' videos broadcast throughout the day. If you missed the program, click [HERE](#) to watch. _

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the 2024 Speech Trek topic with your members. It may inspire new volunteers to conduct the contest at your branch.

Please join the Speech Trek Committee in congratulating the state winners:

1st Place: Teddy Garcia, Camarillo Branch
2nd Place: Elizabeth Ma, Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch
3rd Place: Ameya Ravi, Fremont Branch

Participating branches: thank you for your leadership! You are empowering the next generation by supporting this invaluable communication program.

And now on to next year! Announced at the April 22nd Annual Event, the 2023-2024 topic, inspired by today's headlines and AAUW California public policy, is:

If an educated population is essential to a nation's prosperity, then how can we ensure a robust public-school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?

Watch this space for Speech Trek updates, breaking news, and announcements! Questions in the meantime? Please

email spechtrek@aauw-ca.org.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Looking for a low-cost, high impact mission-based program? That's easy! Speech Trek 2024!

TECH TREK

[Top](#)

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

MAY GRAY IS WELL ON ITS WAY BUT JUNE WON'T BE GLOOMY FOR TECH TREK!

We made it through all kinds of weather and currently have nearly 800 campers registered in nine residential and virtual camps across the state and another 160 or so alternates waiting in the wings to attend!

Now to get campers to the end game! Parent Authorizations were due May 5th and all immunizations and forms need to be completed and uploaded two weeks before camp.

YES, WE STILL NEED DORM MOMS (21+ years old) at most camps, so take the plunge! Apply [HERE](#). In order to sign up, you will be asked to create an account in our camp software program, CampDoc, if you don't already have one.

May 18th at 6:30 pm is likely the last Zoom session of the year for the Tech Trek Branch Coordinator Peer Group. Sign up [HERE](#) to hear about how COVID-19 is still alive and troublesome, where we need help at the camps, and what you can do to help.

In case you missed it at the *Academy AAUWards* not so long ago, click [HERE](#) to view the gem video which demonstrates the diversity of Tech Trek.

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.

CampDoc Sign Up: <http://app.campdoc.com/register/aauw>

CampDoc Log in for current users:
<https://app.campdoc.com/!dn/login>

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- If you can't find your campers or an alumna working at a camp in CampDoc, don't panic! Click Restore Default in List Builder, then 'X' out the two conditions there, add the condition "Branch Name IS your branch," then anyone who was tagged with your branch will show up, both Providers and Participants, current or past.

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

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

What I need to know: Tech Trek camps are filling on schedule. Most camps still need Dorm Moms.

What I need to do: Be sure your branch coordinator knows the date for the final Tech Trek Branch Coordinator Peer Group meeting and that office hours for questions and help will continue. Show the fantastic video commemorating Tech Trek's 25th anniversary at a branch event.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, provide your members with the link to view the Tech Trek anniversary video and the information to volunteer as Dorm Moms.

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