



Please enjoy our new cleaner presentation of *Board to Board*. If someone is replacing you in your current position, please forward this copy to your replacement and explain that this is a monthly publication from the state board to the branch boards. It contains up-to-date information, some of which should be shared with your branch members and some information is just for branch leaders. You and your members can always find the newest *Board to Board*, as well as a link to archived issues, on our website [HERE](#).

PS: Thanks to Sandi Gabe's hard work, this revised version of *Board to Board* is also easier for the editor to produce.

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As Sandi Sees It

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

TAKING STOCK

When you have a team that is creative, tenacious, and compassionate, you can accomplish just about anything! I feel fortunate that the 2022-2023 leadership team is full of rock stars who worked tirelessly to address our four aggressive objectives to assist branches in achieving their goals.

<p>Strengthen Connections</p> <p>We created peer groups to provide forums for people in similar positions to share and learn from each other.</p> <p>We held 19 webinars on varied topics.</p>	<p>Build Membership</p> <p>While we didn't meet our goal of adding members to our roster, we stemmed the tide on membership reduction that had been as high as 15% during the pandemic. This year we saw a modest decline of 3%.</p>
<p>Branch Sustainability</p>	<p>Launch a New State Program</p>

We helped numerous branches navigate the decision of whether and how to merge or disband.

The AskUsFirst program was widely used to find answers to those not-so-easy-to-solve problems.

Gov Trek was solidified as a state project with 50 young women participants.

IT'S TIME TO PASS THE TORCH

It's with great appreciation that we say good-bye to several leadership team members who complete their terms at the end of June: Roli Wendorf – CFO, Kathi Harper – Director of Public Policy, Carol Holzgrafe – Director of Branch Support, Janice Lee, Director of Programs, and Marlene Cain- Speech Trek Program Director. Each of them has contributed their strengths in unique ways to the success of the organization. We're fortunate that some of them will be continuing to lend their expertise to state committees.

Next month we'll highlight the leadership team.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

After a hiatus of several years, Committee Day will be back in person on August 19th in San Jose. With 93% of communication being nonverbal, meeting in person has several benefits over virtual meetings. You really do get to understand a person better when you're sitting next to them. It's great for building trust and camaraderie. The informal conversations that occur over meals and between meetings add dimension to the conversation and some of the most important connections are made this way.

This is why Committee Day will be special this year. You'll want to be there!

- Have a little time to share? We have opportunities on committees for you!
- Have a lot of time to share? We have opportunities on committees for you!

It's easy to get involved by reading the committee descriptions and submitting an application. Click [HERE](#) to get started.

Thank you to the branch leaders who have dedicated time to do the hard work of inspiring your branch members and communities to get involved. You're why we're here

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

Karen Vanderwerken, AAUW Fund Committee chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

JOIN OUR CALIFORNIA FUND COMMITTEE TEAM!

We are seeking branch members to join us in making a difference in AAUW Fund at the state level. Click [HERE](#) to learn about the general responsibilities for the Fund Committee members and [HERE](#) for the application which is due by July 1st.

Reminder to use the AAUW Fund transmittal form on the state [website](#) or on the [national website](#). Make sure your member and branch donations get credited to your branch by using the forms provided!

Let us know if your branch is not receiving regular donation reports from National.

Please be sure to update your Fund contact information on the Hub and on your Branch Officer Report (BOR) to state. Don't miss out on important communications!

What I need to know: The state AAUW Fund Committee is seeking members for next year.

What I need to do: Use the correct forms to submit Fund donations. Update the contact information for your Fund coordinator in both the state Branch Officer Report (BOR) and the national Community Hub.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the information about volunteering on the state Fund Committee.

BRANCH SUPPORT [TOP](#)

Carol Holzgrafe and Sharyn Siebert, Directors, Branch Support co-chairs branch@aauw-ca.org

HOW WE LEARNED TO LOVE COMMITTEES

Sharyn and Carol have been your Branch Support directors for an entire year now and have learned a few things. Here are some of those things (plus some hints for you):

- People on the state board, **advised by their committees**, do affect how AAUW California determines policy and operates.

Hint: You should consider joining a committee so you, too, can have your voice heard – Committee Day will be in person this year (travel expenses are reimbursed as outlined in AAUW California Policies and Procedures).

- We met “movers and shakers” on the state board with terrific ideas and energy. For example, the brand new Gov Trek Program Director and her team rolled out the program so effectively that our branches needed to do nothing except recruit participants and facilitators. This program has the promising goal of helping shape future leaders and public servants.
- Our Branch Support Committee helped identify struggling branches so we could give them the help and ideas they needed to succeed. We couldn't have done it without them.

Nothing gets accomplished if members like you do not step up to the next level. After all, you are part of a statewide and national organization with impact at these levels. Think of the pride we all feel when an AAUW-supported bill is passed in Sacramento or Washington DC (with the help of their Public Policy committees)!

- One more thing we learned: our AAUW California Office Manager, Julika Barrett, can help with almost any question. **She is terrific!**

Each committee works on different issues—choose the one that interests you the most. You can find descriptions of all the committees [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to complete the application by July 1st. If you aren't ready for that, help your branch president with the local Interbranch Council (IBC). If your area doesn't have one, write to AskUsFirst@aauw-ca.org and we will tell you how to gather nearby branches into a group that can have a bigger effect on your members and local community.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Above all, get involved! You will be invigorated, you will make a difference, and you will be proud of yourself.

What I need to know: Working on state committees is rewarding and effective.

What I need to do: Read the descriptions of the state committees and consider applying to serve next year.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, encourage your members to learn about volunteer opportunities on all the state committees.

COMMUNICATION [TOP](#)

Dawn Johnson, Director, Communication Committee chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES!

#1 - The new Branch Officer Report (BOR) system has been tested and retested and is now available. Current presidents should check for an email explaining how to submit the names of next year's incoming leaders. This is critical so that we can send relevant communications to the right people.

You'll notice a position called "Technology Coordinator." That can be anyone who helps with your branch's technology such as managing your database and mailing lists, hosting your Zoom meetings, or using software of any kind, such as to create flyers, etc. We would like them to be involved in our Technology Peer Group for informal sharing.

If you were not able to attend the helpful training demonstration for the BOR, click [HERE](#) to view the recording. And remember that you can register [HERE](#) for extra help at BOR office hours on June 13th at 5:00 pm.

#2 – Check out the great new map feature on the all-important [Join Us!](#) membership page on our website. Potential members will be able to enter their address or zip code and the closest branch will pop up for them to join. Give it a whirl!

#3 – The Communications Committee (affectionately known as *CommComm*) is seeking team members! Lots of them for lots of different roles! Take a look at all the things you could do [HERE](#) and apply [HERE](#) by July 1st.

What I need to know: The new Branch Officer Report (BOR) is now live. The Communications Committee is seeking members for next year.

What I need to do: Watch for an email with instructions on how to use the new BOR system. Review the recorded training demonstration.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, provide your members with the links to learn about state committees and encourage them to apply.

FINANCE [TOP](#)

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

WRAPPING UP

The AAUW financial year FY23 is coming to an end on June 30th. For many branches, this will bring

a transition to new leadership. Outgoing finance officers, it is a good idea for you to create a transition document to help the incoming officer, and also transfer all financial data, including information such as bank and credit card accounts, past records, tax filing information and past paperwork, past budgets, and monthly reports, etc.

This is also a time when many renewals are being processed. We had great attendance at our May 24th webinar *Making the Most of Membership Renewals*. Just the Q&A part of the webinar went on for over an hour. For those who missed the webinar or would like to review the information, you can watch the recording and download the slides [HERE](#). There is a good chance that your questions have already been answered there.

Finally, this is a time of transition for finance leadership at the state level as well. My term as CFO is coming to an end. I have enjoyed working with all of you in the past four years. I wish you a very happy summer and a successful FY24! You will be in good hands with Kathy Ford, who is taking over as CFO from July 1st.

What I need to know: The indepth webinar training for processing renewals is posted on the website. The state will have a new CFO next year.

What I need to do: Ask your finance officer to compile a file of useful information if a new officer is taking over. Be sure your finance and membership officers are aware of the recording of the renewals processing webinar on the website.

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

MEMBERSHIP [TOP](#)

Marsha Swails, Director, Membership Committee chair, members@aauw-ca.org

WHY WE CARE. LET'S GROW!

Some say it was the pandemic. Some say members are old. Some say members are burned out. We determined that it was time to put some data behind the reasons why people did not renew their memberships since February of 2022. We created a [survey](#) with a few questions exploring their reasons for initially joining, the things they enjoyed about their branches, the roles they filled, and levels of satisfaction. We also asked about the things that discouraged them. It seemed important to leave the door open and we asked if we could contact them for upcoming events as well as to renew their membership in the future. The data will be interesting and I will be sure to share it with branch leaders. I want to ask you to follow up with these members if they indicate they would be open to rejoining at a future time.

Sending a handwritten note to those who did not renew might be the most tangible expression of care a branch could extend. Every member is part of the unique tapestry that defines your branch. We definitely are stronger together.

If your finance and membership officers missed the in depth explanation of processing membership renewals in the webinar *Making the Most of Membership Renewals*, let them know the recording is posted on the website [HERE](#).

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Get the name and addresses of members who have not renewed for 2023 by June 30th . Provide greeting cards that say “You are missed” at a branch meeting. Ask attendees to sign the cards and then mail them to the former members.

What I need to know: The Membership Committee will conduct a survey in June of non-renewing members to better understand their reasons and to invite them to return. Branches will be notified of members who indicate an interest in rejoining.

What I need to do: Review the survey so you'll know what questions were asked. Reach out to members who expressed interest in joining again.

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

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

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

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

Old: This old-timer is coming to the end of my term on the board, and thus the end of my stewardship of the state Public Policy Committee. It has been my privilege and honor to serve in this capacity for the past five years, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of branch leadership in facilitating your branches' participation in our many public policy projects over the years. It is also my pleasure to introduce you to your new Public Policy leaders, Amy Hom (Los Altos-Mountain View Branch) and Melissa Maceyko (Long Beach Branch) who will serve as co-chairs for 2023-25. Trust me, you are in great hands!

Now for the New: I'm excited to announce that we have launched our new project, in which we'll be collaborating with *Equality California* to help ensure California schools remain free from book-banning and curriculum censorship. A survey to assess what's going on in our state was sent to all branch public policy chairs on May 1st and the results are in. We received 61 responses from 50 of our branches from across the state, representing over 200 school districts. Fourteen chairs reported that this is, or might be, an issue in their districts, with another 29 projecting that it will, or could be, an issue in the future. *Equality California* is seeking our help in recruiting qualified progressive candidates for **nonpartisan** school board positions. The purpose is to counter the effects of outside groups and money backing candidates who do not share AAUW California's values of providing all students access to diverse curriculum and materials that represent historically accurate information. Forty-seven of our survey respondents reported that they are, or might be, willing to assist in this effort, and 57 felt that their boards would, or might be, willing to endorse qualified candidates.

I am so proud of our members' willingness to engage in this important project. We are at a critical juncture in the battle for the hearts and minds of our children and young adults. So far California has chosen the path leading to greater diversity and inclusion; these results tell me that AAUW California is ready to help lead the way.

The School Board Project subcommittee is planning to present a webinar with representatives from *Equality California* to more fully explain the project and discuss next steps. Date TBD. Stay tuned.

Learn more about *Equality California* [HERE](#).

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

If your branch has not already participated in the survey, it's not too late – the more data we can gather, the better. If you'd like to be part of the solution, you can access the survey [HERE](#).

What I need to know: The Public Policy Committee will have new leadership next year and, because of the results of a branch survey, will embark on a partnership with *Equality California* to address concerning trends on local school boards.

What I need to do: You can still complete the survey to give the committee more information on your branch's interest in local school board affairs.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the information on the partnership with *Equality California*.

Program News

GOV TREK [TOP](#)

Shauna Oenning Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director and Gov Trek Committee chair, govtrek@aauw-ca.org

SEEKING SKILLS ON THE HILL!

Join the efforts to encourage young women to consider careers in public service and elected office. Apply for the Gov Trek Committee in 2023-24!

Our Gov Trek team needs you! Help provide strategic planning, guidance, and support to hold the virtual Gov Trek program statewide. Help plan, launch, and manage this three-month program aimed at encouraging high school junior and senior girls to explore a career in public service and elected office. Encourage awareness of and participation in the Gov Trek program statewide.

We're an innovative, fierce, fun team who want to take action for gender parity!! We're looking for a healthy mix of analytical, critical-thinking, creative, and project management skills - plus experience in the public sector and education is helpful. Thanks to members like you, AAUW California will continue an amazing statewide program that can impact thousands of young women.

Are you with us? Click [HERE](#) to take a look at the Gov Trek Committee positions and [APPLY TODAY](#) or at least before July 1st!

Learn more about Gov Trek [HERE](#).

What I need to know: The Gov Trek Committee that is responsible for planning and executing a program for high school girls interested in public service is seeking members for next year.

What I need to do: Plan on incorporating the Gov Trek program in your branch's plans for next year.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members may want to volunteer for this growing state program.

SPEECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

WELCOME NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR!

For the past five years, I have been honored to serve AAUW California as Speech Trek Program Director. During this time, Speech Trek has continued to bloom and evolve in every area, even during the pandemic. To date, this invaluable communication program has awarded over \$50,000 to high school students for their winning speeches on timely, mission-based, and provocative topics.

Now I am honored to introduce our new Speech Trek Program Director, Lana Widman, who will take the reins on July 1st. Lana is a member of the AAUW California Speech Trek Committee and an enthusiastic supporter of this program. Professionally, she runs a consulting business in the medical device industry, where quality, research, and audits are key attributes. Recently I interviewed Lana:

1. What do you like about Speech Trek?

I think our digital media-based society often hinders communication. Speech Trek is a unique opportunity for young women and men to develop skills that will help them in so many areas of their career and personal development.

2. What are your thoughts on the 2024 topic*?

I think it's very relevant to current events and shines a light on how politics have encroached into our schools...this topic will encourage contestants to consider the impact of education on not just their own future economic well-being but also that of the country.

3. What are you most looking forward to this year?

I'm very excited about working with the program as we rebound from the past few years of restrictions and obstacles. While the pandemic may have prevented some schools from participating or expanding their programs, it has pushed us to use technology...which will lead to a more inclusive program.

Lana, on behalf of AAUW California and the Speech Trek program, we are excited about working with you! Congratulations!

* *How can we ensure a robust public school curriculum that is accessible to all and teaches historically accurate information?*

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Update: the 2023-2024 materials are being prepared (Branch Toolkit and Student Toolkit) and will be available soon!

What I need to know: The Speech Trek program will have a new director who brings experience and enthusiasm.

What I need to do: Consider incorporating Speech Trek in your branch's plans for next year. Watch for the announcement when branch and student toolkits will be posted on the website.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members will enjoy reading the interview and learning more about the Speech Trek program and its leaders.

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

We're taking a break during the calm before the storm this month and we'll be back in July!

AAUW California

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