



June 2023

Move over, Shakespeare.



Dear <<First Name>>,

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

Things to Know

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Last month, we threw out the juicy challenge to sum up your AAUW experience in a six-word story. You flew to your keyboards (we almost said “typewriters,” but AAUW is too *au courant* to make that blunder. Ditto the word “quill.”) Below are some of your inspired compositions. The Bard may not be top dog anymore.

- Had a friend; agreed to join
- Loving my newfound sisterhood: Thanks, AAUW!

- How'd I become treasurer in perpetuity?
- Gone six years, still newsletter editor
- Joined in honor of my mom
- Joined to advance mission: mission accomplished
- Where is my nametag? Who knows?
- Feisty Feminist Foxhoven Found Fabulous Friendships!
- AAUW eased transition to new community
- Said "Yes" and joined 3 committees
- No nametag yet, but was president
- My good friends, all AAUW buddies

And, yes, we know - one of you can't count.

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Road trip! Your state leaders are packing their p.j.s and parental permission slips and heading off to a university to pretend to be Tech Trek campers for a weekend. That's right - even sleeping in dorms, eating in the cafeteria, wearing flip flops to the shower, and flagrantly disregarding the "No Cell Phone" rule. In between, they'll be learning how AAUW California works and hammering out goals for next year. Homesickness will not be an acceptable excuse for any camper leaving before the strategic plan is done.

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Summer is coming. If you were busy rummaging in your drawers for expired sunblock and the threadbare beach towel imprinted with smiling octopi, you might have missed the brilliant speeches by the three Speech Trek finalists at our April *Academy AAUWards* event. Spend 15 inspiring minutes and watch the recordings [HERE](#). Now just think of what next year's contestants will do. They will BRING IT with this doozy of a topic for 2023-2024:

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?

If your branch doesn't already participate in Speech Trek, please prepare a 5-6 minute

compelling speech asking them to. ChatGPT is not allowed.

Things to Do



Admit it. You like people. You like people who are fun. You like people who get things done. If you also like to be bossy just a little bit, you were born to be on a committee! Luckily, AAUW California has several that need movers and shakers like you. No matter what your interests and skills are, there's likely a state committee that will fit you. We'll even treat you to a planning day on August 19th in San Jose. Take a look [HERE](#) and apply [HERE](#) by July 1st. Full disclosure: the pay is lousy.



There are 43 synonyms for the word "renew." Luckily, we don't mean "resuscitate." We mean "send us money." It's time to renew your AAUW membership. The annual dues are about 30¢ a day, which can likely be found in the cracks of your couch cushions among the Snickerdoodle crumbs and pulverized M&M's®. Renew online at the Community Hub, send a check to your branch, or ship a pallet of gold ingots. We don't have to tell you what the rewards of membership are.



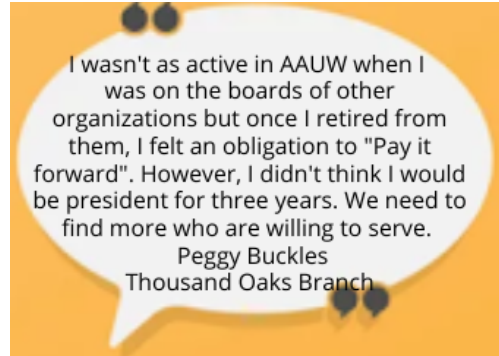
Did the coronation of King Charles inspire your branch? If you stepped up to be an officer, we hope your installation involved a five-pound jewel-encrusted crown, Katy Perry, and branch members wearing hats resembling helicopters. If not, you'll still get heaps of attention and help with your job by joining a state peer group with people who hold a similar branch position. These are informal meetings that will be arranged by our committee chairs as a forum to share and learn from each other. When you see an invitation to join, do it! We're not making you wait as long as Charles did to get cracking.

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!

We're wrapping up this feature with these final words:



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

[AAUW.org](https://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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