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February 2024

This is a reminder that the Board to Board (B2B) goes to the branch officers who are listed on the Branch Officers Report (BOR). That might leave some of your board members not receiving this important monthly document. There are two ways anyone can read this information. First, it is posted on our website on the front page within a day or two after it is sent out. Or, second, anyone wanting to receive the B2B in their inbox can send an email to webteam@aauw-ca.org asking to be included as a B2B Subscriber (Non-Branch Officer).

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As Sandi Sees It

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

The AAUW California Board of Directors came together with one powerful voice, voting unanimously to champion inclusion by supporting open membership for AAUW.

Now, it's your turn to join the movement and help us act during the AAUW national election from April 3rd to May 15th. Let's broaden our appeal and remove the degree requirement so everyone who's got our back can officially join our chorus!

We understand you might have questions. Here's how you can dive deeper:

1. Keep your eyes on your inbox! In February, AAUW California will send you more information about open membership.
2. Watch the webinar [Living our Vision of Equity for All](#) which discusses dropping the degree requirement.
3. Ready to take action? Visit the [Open Up AAUW](#) website for details and add your name to the endorsement list. Let's show the world we're united and ready for change!

Together, we're rewriting the future of AAUW-more inclusive, more powerful, and more united than ever before.

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

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

GREATEST NEEDS DONATIONS EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Congratulations to branch members, leaders, and fund chairs!

Preliminary California donations to the Greatest Needs Fund for 2023 (the total of all AAUW donations) is \$512,514 which is \$65,000 above our projected amount! The final report will be in March.

Named Gift Honorees

The deadline for submitting a suggested nominee for the State Named Gift Honoree is March 1st. Click [HERE](#) for the form.

The deadline for submitting Branch Named Gift Honoree nominations is March 31st. Click [HERE](#) for the form.

Our upcoming Fund Peer Group meeting is on Thursday, February 8th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Your support of the AAUW mission with generous donations matters! Thanks to each of you.

What I need to know: Donations to the Greatest Need Fund for 2023 have exceeded the projected goal.

What I need to do: Note the deadlines for submitting nominees for the State and Branch Named Gift Honorees and start considering suitable candidates.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the good news that Fund donations are exceeding expectations and extend appreciation to all who donated.

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

Sharyn Siebert, Director, Branch Support branch@aauw-ca.org

Sigrid Moranz, Director, Leadership, leader-dev@aauw-ca.org

Marsha Swails, Director, Membership, membership@aauw-ca.org

STILL SEARCHING FOR LEADERS IN YOUR BRANCH?

Where and how are you looking for those unicorns? All branch members are invited to join us for an interactive conversation on how to best approach this issue. It's a fresh new approach to an age-old problem.

Join us for the Branch Development Peer Group meeting on Tuesday, February 27th, at 7:00 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. You will then receive the link to participate in this first-of-three interactive online learning sessions. The three-part series is titled, "Touching the Heart of Our Volunteers."

In this first session, our guest facilitator, Barry Altland, will lead us in an interactive discussion focusing on the needs and desires of volunteers as “key” to keeping their passion-fires burning and inspiring potential future leaders.

Barry Altland is the author of the acclaimed book, *Engaging the Head, Heart and Hands of a Volunteer*. Barry has extensive experience as a volunteer and executive leader in a variety of non-profit organizations. He has applied his unique experience to craft “leadership guidance for all phases of the Volunteer Engagement Cycle: Attraction, Discovery, Engagement, Sustainment and Redirection.” We hope you can join your peers for an immersive learning conversation of ideas and successes.

If you are interested in reading Barry’s easy-to-read and enlightening book from which the session will pull concepts, you may purchase it on Amazon.

If the peer group missed any of the past Branch Development Peer Group meetings, remember that our sessions are recorded. They can be accessed via "AAUW California Peer Groups" in the "Branch Tools" menu [HERE](#).

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Be sure to submit your Branch Activity of the Year nominee before March 1st. Click [HERE](#) for more information and instructions.

What I need to know: The next Branch Development Peer Group meeting on February 27th will feature an interactive session with the author of a book that offers a novel approach to cultivating volunteers.

What I need to do: Be sure the appropriate people in your branch attend.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, all members of the branch are invited to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

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

HELP, I CAN'T FIND IT!

Our website is a vast repository of resources. We know sometimes it’s hard to find what you’re looking for.

We’re always working on making it easier. Recently, we reorganized the webinar recordings (and their predecessors, the PowerPoint presentations). Previously they were listed by year, often with titles that were delightfully clever, but gave no hint about the topic. They have been reorganized into a table that is searchable and sortable in several ways: by subject area, title, host, etc. The listings now include a brief description of the content and, of course, links to the actual presentations. In addition, we went behind the scenes and added multiple tag words, such as “strategic planning” or “fundraising” or “taxes” to each presentation. Now they are more likely to be displayed if you do a global search on the main website (the magnifying glass) by using keywords like those.

The webinar table has been moved to the newly designed [Branch Tools](#) page, which now also boasts a similar new sortable and searchable table for the [Leadership Resources](#) materials.

Go forth and find!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

UPDATE: The handsome sample Membership Recruitment Flier for marketing your branch is now in two forms: a fillable pdf to which you can simply add your branch name/contact info AND a new, fully customizable template that you can modify to your heart's content (requires a free account with [Canva](#)). Find them both in the Forms and Template section on the [Branch Tools](#) page.

What I need to know: Webinars and PowerPoint presentations have been consolidated into one sortable and searchable table and moved to the Branch Tools page on the website.

What I need to do: Share this with other branch leaders and project chairs so they can locate useful resources.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should be aware of what resources are available on the website.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION [TOP](#)

Charmen Goehring, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, diversity@aauw-ca.org

LIVING OUR MISSION OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

To collect data for the DEI Strategic Plan, branch coordinators continue to work on completing an informal environmental scan of their own branches. This can be done either by the branch coordinator or with a group of members. The National DEI toolkit has the tools to examine our current progress in the areas of recruitment, retention, programming, leadership development, communication, and planning and decision-making. You can find the prompts [HERE](#). Please feel free to reach out to Charmen with questions and plan to send a summary of your branch environmental scan results by the end of February to diversity@aauw-ca.org.

Our next DEI Peer Group chat will be Tuesday, February 20th, at 5:30 pm and Lata and Carmen will lead us in scenarios and discussion about inclusive branch practices. We hope you will join us in examining how we are doing in our branches and setting goals to help us move forward to a more inclusive organization. Please click [HERE](#) to join the chat.

What I need to know: National's DEI toolkit has tools for branch coordinators to conduct a scan of their branch's progress in several aspects of the DEI mission.

What I need to do: Assist your DEI coordinator with the scan and send a summary of results by February 29th to Charmen at diversity@aauw-ca.org.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this information is for branch leaders only. When your branch has completed its assessment, you may consider sharing it with members.

FINANCE [TOP](#)

Kathy Ford, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee chair, cfo@aauw-ca.org

WHAT'S ALL THE HUB ABOUT?

It's all about your membership and making sure those wonderful branch members, new and continuing, are registered and recorded with dues paid.

Our next Finance Peer Group meeting will be on Thursday, March 7th, 6:30-8 pm. The email to register for the session will be sent in February. Once you register, you will receive the Zoom link to attend. If you cannot attend, the meeting will be recorded.

Be sure to check out “How to Account for Membership Dues” in the [Branch Finance](#) section on our website – especially the link to the [AAUW Community Hub](#). There’s a lot of useful information to help you better understand the process. Then, bring your questions and experiences to the March 7th peer group session and learn more about the ins and outs of processing membership dues. Your participation makes the session better for all your peers – and you get to ask your questions if you’re there. Remember – March 7th at 6:30 pm.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

We have an important update about 1099s for Tech Trek campers. The CPA firm for AAUW California SPF provided their professional opinion that since donations for Tech Trek are given to run the Tech Trek camps, and not given directly to the campers, it is not necessary to issue 1099s to the campers. Tech Trek is a state project, and each branch participates based on the state program. However, individual branches are responsible for following all tax regulations based on the specifics of their own Tech Trek funding. A branch, especially one that is a 501(c)(3) that does not simply pass through donor checks to SPF, should consider having their processes evaluated by a tax professional.

What I need to know: The Finance Peer Group’s meeting on March 7th will focus on processing membership dues. SPF is not required to issue 1099s to Tech Trek campers, however, 501(c)(3) branches that do not use SPF’s services should have a professional evaluation of their processes.

What I need to do: Be sure your finance officer(s) review the branch finance materials on the website and the operations of the HUB in preparation for the March 7th meeting.

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

GOVERNANCE [TOP](#)

Dianne Owens, Governance chair, governance@aauw-ca.org

LET’S TALK ABOUT BYLAWS!

What an exciting topic for the night before Valentine’s Day! The Governance Peer Group will meet on Tuesday, February 13th, from 7 to 8 pm to discuss the mandatory bylaws changes from AAUW National as well as changes to branch bylaws, if needed.

The meeting invitation was sent out on January 31st. You must register to receive the Zoom link! You can click [HERE](#) to register.

Grab your favorite chocolate and the drink of your choice and let’s Zoom together! If you are unable to attend, the meeting will be recorded and posted in the Peer Group section of [Branch Tools](#) on the website.

What I need to know: Governance will hold a peer group meeting on February 13th to discuss how to handle the mandatory national bylaws changes as well as any branch amendments you may be considering.

What I need to do: Be sure your branch representative is informed and has the link to register.

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

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS [TOP](#)

Deanna Arthur, Nominations and Election chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION TO BE A CANDIDATE IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION

Do you have tech and web savvy? AAUW California could really use your expertise on the state board. Are you passionate about members and helping branches grow? Fill out an application!

We currently need a secretary, four 2-year directors, and one 1-year director. We have two applications posted on the website. Please fill out your application now. Please contact Deanna at nominating@aauw-ca.org for more information and answers to your questions!

Don't miss your chance to give back to your favorite organization. You will learn so much, make the best friends of your life, and be an inspiration to other members.

March 1st is the application deadline. Please go to [Nominations and Election](#) for more information and the online application.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Have a friend who is waiting to be asked to run? Let me know.

What I need to know: March 1st is the deadline to apply for a position on the state board. Some applications have been received and may be viewed on the website.

What I need to do: Don't be shy about asking suitable branch members to step up to state leadership.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members looking to take on a larger role should know what state positions are available.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

WEBSITE REFRESH

Check out the new Public Policy section of the [website](#)! It has a fresh look and feel, and updated content. We hope you will enjoy the ease of use as you explore it. Please let us know your feedback and suggestions at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT - Take Action Now!

The School Board Project cannot succeed without your participation. **Here is what we're asking you to do:**

- Attend school board meetings in your local district(s) whether you think there is a problem in your area or not.
- After attending a school board meeting, tell us what you observed by completing the School Board Project [Checklist](#)
- Speak out at school board meetings. Find a sample script [HERE](#)
- Help find qualified school board candidates to run for open seats, or to challenge regressive members. Find a sample solicitation script [HERE](#)
- Tell your SBP liaison about your activities. You can find your liaison [HERE](#). (If you can't find your liaison, contact us at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.)

- For more resources, check out the School Board Project [Toolkit](#)

If you have been going to school board meetings, we want to hear about it! Please send your completed [checklist](#) and any other updates to your [liaison](#) by February 10, 2024.

Be sure to join the next bi-monthly Public Policy Peer Group meeting **on Wednesday, February 7th at 2 pm PT** to hear an update about the School Board Project from Kathi Harper. **Find the Zoom link [HERE](#).**

Kathi will also be presenting a **webinar “School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars” on Wednesday, February 7th, at 4 pm PT** to AAUW members nationally. The webinar is intended to educate other states about AAUW California’s School Board Project. Join us for a refresher and new updates about the project. **Register [HERE](#).**

Please reach out if you have suggestions for legislation that you think our Public Policy team should consider high priority for our support! And be sure to register for Lobby Days [HERE](#) before February 15th.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

If you would like to help us to recruit college students for Lobby Days, we have detail-packed readymade fliers available in several versions. Pick what works best for you! Click [HERE](#) for two pdf versions: one with links and one with a QR code to the links instead. Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for Instagram versions.

What I need to know: Lots! The Public Policy pages on the website have been refreshed. The School Board Project has specific ways members can participate and will be presented nationwide in a webinar for other states. The Public Policy Peer Group will meet February 7th.

What I need to do: Lots! Visit the new Public Policy website pages. Be sure your branch representative attends the peer group meeting. Submit any suggestions for legislation that the team should support. Register for Lobby Days before February 15th. Help promote Lobby Days with college students using the available materials.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, all of the information will be of interest to members.

Program News

GOV TREK [TOP](#)

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

INTRODUCING GOV TREK 2024!

Our second annual leadership program for girls in their junior and senior years of high school is underway. We are excited to announce that nearly 60 girls from California with diverse backgrounds have enrolled in the program.

Thank you for your outstanding work in recruiting the next generation of leaders from your community. We are incredibly grateful and confident that the future is bright with the young women and girls you've galvanized.

What I need to know: Gov Trek 2024 is underway with nearly 60 participants. The team is grateful for the support of the branches.

What I need to do: If you know girls who are attending, consider reaching out and encouraging them.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should be informed of Gov Trek's launch, especially if any local girls are participating.

SPEECH TREK [TOP](#)

Lana Widman, Speech Trek Program Director, and Speech Trek Committee chair, speechtrek@aauw-ca.org

SPEECH TREK STATE COMPETITION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Submissions for the state competition are due **MARCH 15th**. Directions and information for the submission process can be found on Page 4 of the [Speech Trek Toolkit](#). Judging for the submitted videos will begin shortly after March 15th. Branch coordinators will be notified if their contestant is one of the five finalists. The winner will be announced, and the speech video showcased, at the virtual AAUW California Annual Event held on April 27th.

Planning for next year's Speech Trek program is already underway! The Speech Trek committee is in the process of drafting the topic for next year's competition, but we need your help. Join us on February 15th and share your ideas and feedback. All are welcome!

Is your branch considering having a competition next year for the first time but not sure how to start? Contact Lana Widman, Program Director, at speechtrek@aauw-ca.org. The Speech Trek Committee can help you in a few ways:

- Speak at your next branch leadership meeting
- Connect you with an experienced Speech Trek coordinator from another branch to mentor you through the process
- Give you valuable insights and new ideas in our peer group meetings

Don't forget:

Mark Thursday, February 15th, 7:00 pm, on your calendar for a group discussion of ideas for next year's topic. Click [HERE](#) to register for the Zoom meeting.

Review previous years' topics [HERE](#) in preparation for the meeting on February 15th.

What I need to know: Speech Trek finalists' videos are due March 15th. Ideas for next year's topic are welcome at the February 15th peer group meeting.

What I need to do: If your branch does not participate in Speech Trek, note the list of ways the committee can help you get started.

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

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

Love of Tech Trek, anyway! The 2024 camp season kicks off this month with branch Memos of

Understanding (MOUs) due February 16th. We are more than halfway to collecting the MOUs, but in case you lost your email with the link, click [HERE](#).

The board approved the addition of Camps Hopper at Santa Clara University and Carson at CSU Monterey Bay in northern California. Supporters are scurrying to find staff for the new camps, plus every other camp, because we ALL know volunteers are the lifeblood of every camp!

Branch members can check out roles on the [Volunteer page](#) and click the link at the top to apply. Every volunteer contributes to our social capital, and you can help us grow it by signing up today!

Staff and camper applications are starting to pour in now on the camp management software, CampDoc, so for those late getting started, check out the latest Branch Coordinator archive uploads or watch the session replays to catch up.

Let's show schools, applicants, and camps some LOVE in February!

Memoranda of Understanding were sent to branch presidents immediately after the January state board meeting at which the camps and Tech Trek budget were approved. The MOUs are to be completed by February 16th.

Remember our peer group sessions are recorded. They can be accessed via "AAUW California Peer Groups" in the "Branch Tools" menu [HERE](#).

What I need to know: MOUs are due February 16th. Two new camps were approved by the state board. Volunteers are being recruited for all camps.

What I need to do: Submit your MOU by the deadline.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, encourage members to explore volunteer options at the camps.

AAUW California

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