

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Linking together for our mission.



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April 2024

Looking for inspiration? Well, look no further! Click [HERE](#) to learn about 57 amazing AAUW members, fellows, and award winners who have pioneered advances for gender equity. Presented in eleven categories, this is a perfect resource from which to highlight these trailblazing women, past and present, to share with your members.

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As Sandi Sees It

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

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

AAUW election season begins in April and extends through May! Do your part and cast your ballot.

AAUW California Election

Since we do not have more candidates for the Board of Directors than there are open seats, our election is uncontested, and no vote is necessary. The incoming board will be introduced at the [Annual Event](#) on April 27th.

AAUW National Election

Cast your ballot from April 3rd to noon on May 15th.

How to Vote

On April 3rd members with an email address on file with AAUW National received a ballot via secure email. The sender's name is **AAUW** (with the email address vote@simplyvoting.com). The subject line is **AAUW Election 2024**. Suggest that your members search by the subject "AAUW Election 2024" if they did not receive it. The email contains their unique Elector ID and Password to

vote. Voters will receive regular reminders if they have not yet voted. Voters without a valid email address on file with AAUW National will be mailed a paper ballot.

Key Issue on the Ballot

AAUW members are being asked to consider a proposed national bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The amendment was proposed to fully open membership to anyone who supports AAUW's work. The intent is to align our practices with our mission for equity. The AAUW California Board of Directors voted unanimously to support a Yes vote on the amendment. See the [FAQs](#) posted on the AAUW California website. They address some of the questions our members have posed in the interest of educating themselves about the proposal.

The AAUW bylaws state that an affirmative (yes) vote of two-thirds of the eligible votes cast are required to amend the bylaws. Voting to 'abstain' does not count as a vote for or against.

If passed, changes to the bylaws will be effective immediately and will impact branch and state bylaws. A new bylaws template for affiliates will be available immediately after the vote.

BACK TO SCHOOL AT AAUW'S ANNUAL EVENT

Find out what's happening in the hallways of AAUW California. Join the state leadership team for a campus tour, classroom visits, rah-rah assemblies, and awards to star pupils. Learn what AAUW California is doing for your branch. View the winning Speech Trek and Gov Trek videos. Learn who was awarded Branch Activity of the Year and State Named Gift Honoree. Then choose an elective for extra study in breakout rooms. Warning: there may be pop quizzes! Pack a snack and meet us in the principal's office.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, April 27th

Time: 9 am - 12 noon via Zoom

Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

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

KUDOS TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR BRANCH FUND CHAIRS!

- Many of you attended some or all four of our Fund Peer Group Zoom events and connected with other branches.
- 49 branches sent in Named Gift nominations honoring your members.
- Many of you held one of 35 events showcasing our Fund Fellows or Grantees and helping further the Greatest Needs Fund.

We are grateful for your time and donations!

What I need to know: Branch Fund chairs were very active in their peer group and took advantage of the resources and speakers offered.

What I need to do: Congratulate your Fund chair for contributing to Fund’s financial success and for exposing your branch to the programs and people it supports. .

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

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

DOES YOUR BRANCH HAVE A COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNER SCHOOL? SHOULD YOU REACH OUT TO YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TO EXPLORE A RELATIONSHIP?

C/U Partnership Peer Group

If you have an existing College/University partner school in your branch’s local community or you would like to develop a C/U relationship with one, then learn more by joining the newly created C/U Partnership Peer Group, headed by retired professor Susan Bangasser. The inaugural Peer Group meeting will be on Thursday, May 9th, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register for this session.

C/U Partnership Web Page-Check it out [HERE](#)

We are excited about an informative new web page dedicated to all things C/U. Here you will find information for branch C/U chairs, college C/U reps, and students about everything from joining AAUW as a C/U Partner school to enrolling in NCCWSL for the 2024 conference May 30th to June 1st.

College and University Partner schools are a great place to recruit new members among the faculty and staff. They already qualify! Invite potential new members from C/U school faculties to your next branch meeting. Highlight these schools in your newsletter.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Consider inviting a “Leader on Loan” presenter to your incoming board retreat or board training session. It could even be free if done by Zoom! It is easy to make a request. Just click [HERE](#) to learn more and to make a request for someone for an upcoming meeting.

What I need to know: The C/U program has ramped up with a newly launched peer group and redesigned web pages.

What I need to do: Encourage your C/U chair to register for the first peer group meeting.

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

WHO NEEDS TWITTER (OR EVEN X)?

Our social media team is hoppin’ (is it too late for bunny references?). One of the strong recommendations from our marketing consultants last year was to create more of our own posts focused on AAUW California and its branches instead of borrowing content from other organizations or National. That has been a campaign all year, with our homegrown Facebook and

Instagram posts commemorating branch anniversaries and events, AAUW California webinars, California Grant and Fellowship recipients, and our programs such as Gov Trek, and more. Over the next two months, look for great-looking posts promoting our *Back to School* Annual Event, our campaign to approve open membership, and a new feature called *Stories From Our Members* with their heartwarming AAUW “moments,” which we hope will attract new members to your branches.

When you see a post from us, don’t keep on scrolling. Click *Like* and *Share* and tell your members to do the same! Let’s all work to get the word out about AAUW's awesomeness.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Don’t have your own branch social media accounts yet? Check out our [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) training webinars. Join the party.

What I need to know: Three new social media campaigns are highlighting AAUW California activities to inform members and attract new ones.

What I need to do: Share our social media posts on your own branch platforms; encourage members to *Like* and *Share* to spread the word.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members will appreciate the reminder to follow our social media.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION [TOP](#)

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

BECOMING MORE INCLUSIVE TO STRENGTHEN AAUW

Several branch DEI coordinators completed [environmental scans](#) of their branches, taking an honest look at the diversity present, not only in their membership but in their programs and practices. This data will become the basis for the DEI strategic plan being created for AAUW California and its branches to help lead to a more inclusive present and future. We can still accept additional branch scan information. The questions for your branch to consider for the scan are listed in National’s DEI toolkit [HERE](#). Please send your results to diversity@aauw-ca.org.

A couple of shout-outs:

- To the Amador and Sacramento Branches for taking tours of the Sojourner Truth Museum during the African Marketplace in Sacramento. Members learned more about the transatlantic slave trade and how it affected Black people (spoiler alert: it wasn’t positive, no matter what they teach in Florida!).
- To the Santa Maria Branch for consulting with their DEI coordinator when questions or concerns arise around diversity and inclusion. I appreciate the state Communications Committee reaching out to me in a similar manner. It takes a village!

Our next peer group chat will be Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 5:30 pm. We hope to share preliminary work on the strategic plan with you! You can register for the meeting [HERE](#). Hope to see you this month.

What I need to know: Several branches have completed an environmental scan assessing the status of their efforts toward DEI. This will help inform a new state strategic plan.

What I need to do: There is still time to send in your branch’s environmental scan.

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

Submitted by Charmen Goehring

A CHANCE TO EMBRACE ALL

There is a proposed bylaws amendment on the National ballot that members with an email address on file with National received on April 3rd. If you do not have an email address, you will receive a paper ballot. If passed, the degree requirement for membership will be eliminated. When brought before the voters in 2021, 63% of members voted in favor of the amendment. However, it requires a 2/3 vote to pass. We know there are some strong feelings held by some members around this 143-year-old requirement. I hope we can keep the dialogue around this issue civil and respectful to allow all voices to be heard.

While AAUW's membership requirements have changed quite drastically over the past 142 years, our mission and work to improve opportunities for women and girls never wavered. Our support of higher education never stopped. We understand that having a degree is not a requirement for having a passion for women. Wanting to make our lives more equitable and fairer has not changed. And, today, not all educational paths end in a degree. Opening up AAUW to allow all gender equity advocates a seat at the table only makes us stronger.

Please join the AAUW California Board of Directors by supporting the [bylaws amendment](#) and help educate your branch members on how AAUW has changed over the years and is still the wonderful organization that we know and love. Voting will close on May 15th.

What I need to know: Members with email addresses on file with National received a ballot on April 3rd to vote in the AAUW National election. Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot in the mail. Voters are being asked to consider a bylaws amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership.

What I need to do: Alert your members to the importance of this vote and encourage them to submit their ballot.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should be aware of the important decision in this year's election and be informed of the arguments in favor of passage.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

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

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE SETS 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Public Policy Committee met virtually over a weekend in early March to select the top ("A") bills that we will advance as our 2024 Legislative Agenda.

All of the bills on the agenda fall under at least one of our four [Public Policy Priority](#) pillars; one bill - AB 2349 - falls under three.

Excitingly, our signature "A" priority bill AB 2843 "Health Care Coverage for Rape and Sexual Assault Survivors" was authored by AAUW California. The bill is sponsored by AAUW California and falls under two of our Public Policy Priorities: "Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society" and

“Economic Security for All Women.” The bill eliminates cost-sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. (See the [Lobby Days Talking Points](#) and [Bill Text](#) for more details.)

Our second “A” priority bill, AB 2326 “Title IX Oversight and Compliance Act,” is also sponsored by AAUW California. This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar “Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students” and champions something that AAUW California has long supported: Title IX enforcement. AB 2326 requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and State Universities and the President of the University of California to provide an annual report of their compliance with Title IX, with the report to be presented publicly and orally to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Higher Education Finance, a move to hold the systems, and their leaders, more publicly accountable.

Our third “A” priority bill is AB 2099, “Protecting Reproductive Health Clinics.” This bill falls under our Public Policy Priorities pillar “Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society.” The bill makes it possible for the D.A. to file a felony charge for sharing personal information or images of individuals such as reproductive health care providers or patients, with the intent of causing harm or violence against them, if the posting and subsequent action results in bodily injury. With [violence against abortion providers continuing to rise following the reversal of Roe](#), the protection of providers and patients is now more important than ever.

To see our full 2024 Legislative Agenda, please go to our [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report will continue to be updated as the bills move through the legislative process so you will always be able to see the latest status.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

This spring the Public Policy Committee will be launching a social media education and action-centered program focused on priority legislation. Sign up for Legislative Action Alerts [HERE!](#) Share the sign-up link with anyone you think may be interested. AAUW members and non-members are welcome. Copy-and-paste shareable link: <https://forms.gle/zkxQM8gByqjGymTA>

What I need to know: The Public Policy Committee has determined its 2024 legislative agenda; three bills directly related to our Public Policy Priorities emerged in the “A” priority category.

What I need to do: Be sure your Public Policy chair is aware of this information and shares it with members.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members should be aware of our legislative advocacy efforts and the specific bills we are supporting. Share the excellent Bill Tracker with them so they can follow the bills’ journeys.

Program News

GOV TREK [TOP](#)

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

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

If you joined us Saturday, March 16th, for the virtual 2024 Gov Trek Campaign Competition, you know which student campaign team won the highly-contested 2024 Gov Trek mock election

competition: Team *Vote Eliana*. This team includes four high school girls from San Ramon, two from Roseville-South, and one from Santa Cruz County. Congratulations to the members of those communities and these up-and-coming leaders!! Team members will receive internships and awards.

Say hello to all of our Gov Trek 2024 superstars.

All Gov Trek graduates will receive awards and certificates of completion. We are so proud to support their leadership aspirations! Watch the Gov Trek Finale and Campaign Competition recording and share it with your branch members [HERE](#).

To view each campaign video, click the team name.

- Grand Prize: [Vote Eliana](#)
- Best Candidate Speech: [Gov Trek Girlies](#)
- Best Campaign Management: [Melissa 4 Riverside](#)
- Best Campaign Ad & Flier: [Abby for Senate](#)
- Best Voter Outreach Plan: [Vote Delisha](#)
- People's Choice Award: [Gov Trek Girlies](#)

Come and meet the student campaign teams at the AAUW California Annual Event. We've invited some of the student team members back to speak with AAUW California branch members. Come learn about their Gov Trek experiences and future plans to rule the world!

Date: Saturday, April 27th

Time: 9 am – 12 noon

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Questions? Email govtrek@aauw-ca.org

What I need to know: The winners of the Gov Trek team competition were determined at the exciting finale event. Recordings of the team presentations can be accessed on the AAUW California website [HERE](#). Some students will join the Annual Event and share their experiences in the "Electives" breakout rooms.

What I need to do: If your branch had students participating, consider reaching out to congratulate them and possibly invite them to share their experience at a branch event.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, share the list of winners and the videos of their mock election campaigns. Members will enjoy watching the talented young women who participated in the Gov Trek program.

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

TAXES ARE DUE THIS MONTH AND TECH TREK CAMPER SELECTIONS ARE NEARLY A WRAP!

March is always a busy month for Tech Trek as we rev up plans for the summer camps across the state, but April is when the rubber meets the road. With nearly 1,400 camper applicants and over 1,200 completed applications for just under 800 committed spots, there's a lot of tough decision-making going on right now!

With the last few applications trickling in from branches and schools that started the process later, the due date is still April 15th for selections and May 3rd for family commitments to allow the many

alternates a chance if a selected camper can't make it.

Many, many thanks to Vanessa Otto (Camarillo) for stepping up as the new Program Financial Liaison and Linda Gidlund (La Mesa-El Cajon) for taking on the CampDoc Administrator role. We could still use a virtual camp director and treasurer

It truly takes a dedicated village, especially in the world of volunteer-run operations, and we are fortunate to have people with the right skill sets to take on the needed roles.

There's always room on the Tech Trek Committee for more visionaries who are excited to engage more girls in STEM studies so be sure to learn more about it and watch for the opening of the application period [HERE](#).

If you are having trouble making your MOU commitment, contact the program director or send an email to the camp director(s) at techtrek-XXXXX@aauw-ca.org where XXXXX is carson, davis, fresno, hopper, sandiego, sonoma, virtual, or whittier.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Use your Tech Trek alumnae to help you with things like forms, fliers, and translations!

What I need to know: The deadline for entering campers into the system is April 15th. MOUs are due.

What I need to do: Be sure the Tech Trek Coordinator is aware of all deadlines.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes. Encourage members to consider joining the state Tech Trek Committee.

AAUW California

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