

# Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

*Linking together for our mission.*



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**June 2024**

Thank you for the work you have done for your branch this year. This is the final *Board to Board* for 2023-24. Consider including the AAUW California website address, (<http://www.aauw-ca.org/>) and the password (aauwca) in your branch directory. This will encourage members to make better use of the website. Remember, everyone can find the *Board to Board* on the home page of the AAUW California website so when you say to yourself “I remember reading it in the B2B but I can’t find my copy,” you will know where to find it and its archive.

## Quick Links

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### As Sandi Sees It

**Sandi Gabe**, President, AAUW California, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)

#### IT STARTED WITH AN INVITATION

As I sit here for the 24th time trying to think of something clever and meaningful to write, I'm struck by how much my life has changed over the 15 years since I joined AAUW. My AAUW story is not unique. Like many members, I discovered AAUW when I moved to a new community. A potential friend who has become a lifelong friend invited me to join a meeting. Since I'd never heard of AAUW, I was skeptical. Through that introduction, AAUW became a lifeline to engaging in Mariposa. Becoming involved in branch leadership seemed like a natural extension of the work I did professionally. When I went to my first interbranch meeting, I was again invited to take on the small state role of Leader on Loan Coordinator. I was hooked. One thing led to another, and I was encouraged again and again to share my passions with AAUW California. AAUW became the constant in my life while my family grew, my employment changed, and when I retired.

I'm thankful for those who encouraged me along the way and who embraced my desire for the organization to gain more visibility. I appreciate those who joined me in the journey to expand our impact and I'm grateful for the new friendships I've gained along the way. I'm proud of the work we do to engage women and girls to be their best selves.

Here's the bottom line...It started with an invitation.

As you go through your day, think about how easy it would be to extend a hand and invite someone to experience AAUW. Be inviting, and the rest will take care of itself.

## **NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

### **Officer Updates Needed by June 30th!**

If you have the responsibility for updating your officers on the [Community Hub](#), log in and go to MY AFFILIATIONS, and click the button next to your affiliate name. Choose MANAGE ROSTER then COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT to update officers by following the step-by-step screen instructions. Remember, you also have to update the California Branch Officer Reporting system.

### **Promoting College/University Memberships**

If you have difficulty accessing the CU Membership Toolkit, access the [Governance and Tools](#) page under Membership on the national AAUW website and click on the link to College/University Member Toolkit.

### **Branch Website Updates**

Hold on to your hats! We are making progress. Testing on the new branch website layout started on Friday. Rollout will begin "soon!" Branch leaders should watch their emails for updates.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT! RECORD YOUR NEWLY ELECTED BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS**

*Julika Barrett, AAUW California Office Manager, [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org)*

### **Attention all current (FY 2023-24) branch presidents:**

Please note that two databases need to be updated as AAUW National and AAUW California do not currently share this information. Please enter your branch officers into the two databases by July 1st.

1. **AAUW National** - Use the Community HUB
2. **AAUW California** - Enter information into the Branch Officer Report (BOR). Each current branch president received an email (on May 30th) with a link and login instructions for entering their branch officer information. If the current president cannot enter next year's branch officers, the president needs to contact [webteam@aauw-ca.org](mailto:webteam@aauw-ca.org) and provide the name and email of the person who can complete the task. Each user access (ID and password) is unique and should not be shared with others. The information entered about the new year's officers is used to:

- Maintain accurate mailing lists for state and branch-specific positions allowing us to contact your officers with information related to their branch role.
- Maintain the state directory which includes branch leaders.

Remember to:

\*REVIEW\*  
\*UPDATE\*  
\*VERIFY\*

Your actions mean that branch leaders will receive timely and pertinent information. Keep your membership in the know.

## Committee News

### AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

*Karen Vanderwerken, AAUW Fund Committee chair, [aauwfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfund@aauw-ca.org).*

#### ANNOUNCING NEW FUND DIRECTOR

AAUW California is transitioning leadership positions effective July 1st. The new Fund Director will be Deanna Arthur, an active member of the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch. Deanna has served as branch Fund VP in local branches for several years and recently chaired the state Nominations and Elections Committee.

Thanks to all the California branch Fund VPs who worked to make this another successful year in getting Greatest Needs Fund donations.

Welcome Deanna Arthur as California's Fund Director.

Please update your branch's Fund contact information on the Hub and the California Branch Officer Report. Don't miss out on important communications.

**What I need to know:** AAUW California welcomes Deanna Arthur as the new Fund Director.

**What I need to do:** Be sure to update the state Branch Officers Report and the national Community Hub with the person who will be handling Fund for your branch.

**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](mailto:branch@aauw-ca.org)*

*Sigrid Moranz, Director, Leadership, [leader-dev@aauw-ca.org](mailto:leader-dev@aauw-ca.org)*

*Marsha Swails, Director, Membership, [membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org)*

#### NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD, MORE TOOLS!

As your branch installs new officers (and returning officers), be sure to take them on a tour of our [Branch Tools](#) on the California website. Let them know all the new and exciting things we have added this year:

- Membership Tool Kit
- Non-renewing members survey
- Branch Tools website redesign
- Leader on Loan program
- Branch Activity of the Year program
- Branch support tools and help
- Leadership Development 3-part series, "Touching the Hearts of our Volunteers" (February, April, and May Peer group meetings). Click [HERE](#) for Branch Development Peer Group videos.
- College and University support at the state level

Please thank Sharyn Siebert and Marsha Swails for their enormous contribution to the success of the Branch Development Committee. Marsha and Sharyn are leaving their director roles June 30, 2024. They have been invaluable to the committee. Thank you, Sharyn and Marsha.

**B2B Bonus:** Quick Tips for Things to Try

Click [HERE](#) to register for the August College/University Partner Peer Group Zoom meeting on August 14th at 4 pm.

**What I need to know:** The Branch Support Committee thanks its outgoing co-chairs and recommends that branch leaders explore the resources on the state website's Branch Tools page.

**What I need to do:** Take a look at the resources on the website. Consider sharing the 3-part video series on developing volunteers with other branch leaders. Be sure your C/U chair is registered for the August peer group meeting.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

*Dawn Johnson, Director, Communication Committee chair, [communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:communications@aauw-ca.org)*

### OUT WITH THE OLD; IN WITH THE NEW

Aristotle said, "Change in all things is sweet." And how sweet it will be in July when the Communications Committee welcomes its new co-chairs, Michelle Baer and Donna Holmes. As new directors and chairs, they'll bring knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to the table. Transition planning and training have been underway for quite some time to be sure they'll hit the ground running. Many experienced members of the committee are staying on board next year, so Michelle and Donna will have strong support. Your branches can expect continued service, including of course, the B2B and *California Connection*. As for Sandi and me, it has been a stimulating and rewarding experience to manage the communications to branch leaders and members. We're sure Michelle and Donna will have a meaningful experience too. Hats off and HUZDAH to these two new co-chairs.

One final reminder: Be sure to read the critical message elsewhere in this B2B regarding entering your officers for next year in the state Branch Officers Report database (BOR). It's the only way to be certain you'll receive state communications.

**What I need to know:** Michelle Baer and Donna Holmes are the new Communications Committee co-chairs.

**What I need to do:** Be sure to enter your incoming branch officers into both the state BOR and the national HUB.

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

## FINANCE [TOP](#)

*Kathy Ford, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee chair, [cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org)*

### THE END IS NEAR! OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THAT IS. ARE YOU READY?

Join us for our 6:30 pm Thursday, June 6th Finance Committee Peer Group session covering annual reports and reporting fundraiser activities. Click [HERE](#) to register if you have not already done so.

Branch finance officers have been reporting monthly and year-to-date branch financial activities to their branch boards throughout the fiscal year. The year-end reports form the basis of government reports that need to be filed in the fall, so it's important to capture the necessary information to make it easier to complete these filings accurately. This will be especially helpful if your branch will have a new finance officer in the new fiscal year. Be sure to let any newly-elected finance officers know about the peer group session so they can register too.

We will also show the results of the Finance Committee Peer Group survey that went out in April, and you can let us know what questions you want included in our next survey.

If you cannot attend, the session will be recorded and posted to the AAUW California website [HERE](#) under "Branch Tools/AAUW California Peer Groups/Finance."

**What I need to know:** The Finance Committee Peer Group is meeting on Thursday, June 6th, at 6:30 pm.

**What I need to do:** Make sure the branch finance officer is aware of the meeting.

**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](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)*

### TIME MARCHES ON

It's time to look for a new chair for the state Nominations and Elections Committee for next year. Remember it's never too early to plan for next year. Think seriously about giving back to the organization that we all care about. Please contact Charmin Goehring, incoming president, at [charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com) to learn more.

I want to thank all of you who answered my emails and didn't hang up on me when I called to ask for a minute of your time.

Please be as kind to the next chair. As we welcome the incoming board, we treasure the work that the last board accomplished.

**What I need to know:** The state board needs a new chair for the Nominations and Elections Committee for next year.

**What I need to do:** Let Charmin Goehring know of any potential candidates.

**Should I include this in my branch newsletter?** Yes, you may have a member who would be interested.

## PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

*Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org)*

### 2024 UPDATES TO TITLE IX: AN OVERVIEW OF CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

On Friday, April 19, 2024, the Biden administration released long-awaited [guidance on the application and administration of Title IX](#). The rule changes rework Trump administration guidance on the handling of campus sexual assault, providing expanded protections for survivors and

expanding Title IX protections against sex/gender-based harassment and discrimination to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as pregnant and parenting students.

In sum, the 2024 regulations clarify what sex-based discrimination is and who should be protected from sex-based discrimination under Title IX: the regulations prohibit discrimination not only on the basis of sex, but also on the basis of sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the many major changes in guidance under Title IX, including a redefinition of “sexual harassment” as “sex-based harassment.” Under this redefinition, sex-based harassment still includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, but, importantly, allows harassment to be defined as conduct that contributes to the creation of a sex-based hostile environment, more broadly. This means that unwelcome sex-based conduct can be more holistically understood as problematic, including a consideration of conduct that is not only offensive but also so severe or pervasive that it limits one’s ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity.

The 2024 guidance also reforms the process for reporting, hearing, and resolving Title IX complaints, which is an important shift, as guidance issued under the Trump administration created a reporting environment that many experts agreed was [friendlier to those accused of misconduct than to those who were victimized by misconduct](#).

Because the focus of Title IX guidance has shifted to protecting against “sex-based” forms of discrimination and harassment, it also clarifies the boundaries of pregnancy-related discrimination and expands protections to the LGBTQ+ community. Click [HERE](#) to see how both of these expansions under Title IX align with current interpretations of federal law under Title VII of the [Civil Rights Act](#) which prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sex/gender.

While the changes to Title IX guidance have been [widely supported](#) by a broad coalition of gender equity advocates, including [AAUW National](#), some states and conservative advocacy organizations have started to file lawsuits [to block the new rules](#) from going into effect, as scheduled, on August 1, 2024. Furthermore, at the time of this writing, [at least eight states](#)’ governors have issued executive orders that openly refuse to comply with the new guidance, putting their state universities at risk of losing all federal funding.

Officials who have filed suit and/or who refuse to comply with the new Title IX guidance claim that the rules conflict with their state laws, especially those aimed at the due process rights of those accused of misconduct, [LGBTQ+ material in curricula](#), and the regulation of transgender students’ access to bathrooms and sports teams. Therefore, these state officials claim that they should not have to follow the new guidance.

For a concise overview of major rule changes under the 2024 guidance, check out the coverage in *Ms. Magazine* [HERE](#). For continued updates, you can also peruse upcoming issues of [Public Policy News](#) via AAUW California throughout the summer.

### **B2B Bonus:** Quick Tips for Things to Try

Time to take action! Please help us advance one of our sponsored bills by reaching out to CA senators using Resistbot. Click [HERE](#) to “sign” the petition in support of [AB 2326](#). When you “sign,” Resistbot will prompt you, through your preferred text message system, to send a letter with the petition text to your CA State Senator. Click [HERE](#) to access talking points and [HERE](#) to access a fact

sheet for AB 2326 before signing. This bill may look familiar, as we asked you to advocate for it during Lobby Days. We thank you in advance!

**What I need to know:** The Biden administration recently released updated guidance on applying and administering Title IX.

**What I need to do:** Review the information and consider updating your members at a branch meeting.

**Should I include this in my branch newsletter?** Yes, your members may be interested in the Title IX update and suggested action in support of AB 2326.

AAUW California

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