

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



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July 2024

Welcome to the abbreviated edition of the first Board to Board (B2B) for 2024-2025. Since some branches are still updating their rosters, this message is distributed to both outgoing and incoming branch leaders. Our full edition will return in August for 2024-2025 branch leaders by 2024-2025 state leaders.

Charmen's Chat

Charmen Goehring, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

STANDING TOGETHER FOR EQUITY

As I begin my 2-year term as AAUW California President during this ridiculously hot week in July, I want to thank my predecessor, Sandi Gabe, for working so hard to make sure our new leadership team members feel comfortable in their new roles by engaging in transition planning. It will certainly set us on a strong path forward!

My new leadership team and I met on the UC Davis campus at the end of June for the annual leadership retreat. We spent time getting to know each other and engaged with Sue Cochran around board responsibilities and best practices. The new team members learned about the tools that the board uses to do our work, including our Google drive and communication practices. After a busy day of learning, leadership team members had some time to recharge in their rooms, take a walk along the arboretum or join AAUW Davis president, Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt, for a tour of the Shrem Museum of Art. Three other Davis members joined us at dinner for a lovely evening of fellowship and networking. On Sunday, the leadership team members engaged in some of our own DEI work. We will be focusing on the book *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* by Dr. Shawn Ginwright over the next year as we explore the concepts of cultural humility and how becoming more aware of ourselves and others will help us sustain AAUW for the future. It was a full weekend of coming together as a team.

Our theme for the next two years is *Standing Together for Equity*, a nod to not only the important DEI work that the state board and branches are engaging in but also the need for us to be aware of the continued attacks on women's rights around the nation. As a team, we want to continue strengthening connections between our branches, the state leadership, and the national board and staff. We hope to continue assisting branches as they navigate the challenges of declining membership, possible mergers, and revitalizing their leaders. We plan to celebrate with you as you share branch successes and contributions to your communities. We want to engage in and encourage social justice actions across the board that further our mission and vision of equity for all.

One important side note: we have yet to identify a Gov Trek coordinator. We have potential committee members but no leader. If one is not identified within the next few weeks then sadly, this popular new program will have to go on hiatus. If you are interested in this important position, please contact me immediately!

I want to end with a special acknowledgement to our fabulous office manager, Julika Barrett, whose organization and skill behind the scenes is the glue of our organization. And, finally, a huge thank you to those outgoing leaders who so passionately served on our state team last year and to warmly welcome the new members to the team.

Thank you to:

Sandi Gabe-President
 Dawn Johnson-Communications
 Dianne Owens-Governance
 Shauna Ruyle-Gov Trek
 Sharyn Seibert-Branch Support
 Marsha Swails-Membership
 Karen Vanderwerken-AAUW Fund
 Lana Widman-Speech Trek

Welcome to:

Deanna Arthur-AAUW Fund
 Michelle Baer-Communications
 Beckie Gomez-Branch Development
 Donna Holmes-Communications
 Elaine Johnson-Nominations and Elections
 Marty McKnew-Governance
 Lata Murti-DEI

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