

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



[View in browser.](#)

Many people have asked if they can use the Zoom background that is used by the panelists on AAUW webinars. The simple answer is yes. Click [HERE](#). That will take you to Logos on the AAUW California website. There you will discover other items you may want to include on your branch website or your branch newsletter. To install the background, download it to your computer. While on Zoom, click on the carrot next to Video, click *Choose video filter*, click on *Virtual backgrounds*, click the +, then *Add image*, select the background you just downloaded. You have done it!

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Charmen's Chat

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

IN LORE, APRIL IS KNOWN TO BRING SHOWERS, BUT IT ALSO BRINGS LOTS OF NEWS!

We hope you will join us on Zoom on Saturday, April 26th, for our Annual Event, *Pivoting 4 Our Future!* We will be exploring ways to sustain our branches and organization as well as celebrating and honoring members, branches, Speech Trek winners, and our DEI Champion! Two keynote speakers and opportunities to extend the learning in breakout rooms will round out our event! Find out more information [HERE](#), or simply register [HERE](#).

A notice was sent to all members that the AAUW California Board of Directors has placed a dues increase on the ballot this month. Despite cutting costs, we find ourselves limited in how much more we can offer branches and members in terms of support and resources. We discussed this at length and reviewed the value that we feel the state organization brings to you. We hope you will agree it is worth an extra 83 cents a month and vote yes!

I want to recognize the generosity of our members who have sent in gift cards to support our members who were affected by the fires in the Los Angeles area earlier this year. Over \$1,700 worth

of gift cards have been donated so far, which won't build a house but hopefully will help those members feel supported as they rebuild their lives.

AAUW has announced two new targeted funds we can give to now-- the Public Policy Fund (4337) and the Defend Higher Education Fund (4513). You can find these [HERE](#).

Finally, I need to acknowledge that I blew it in the last B2B. I spelled Jeannette Rankin's name wrong in the trivia questions.

Feel free to reach out any time with ideas, concerns, or branch brags! And, happy Spring! See you on April 26th for the Annual Event!

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

Deanna Arthur, AAUW Fund Committee chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

CHANGES? POSITIVITY? OPPORTUNITY?

The Annual Event is upon us. Please attend and listen to see what the directors have done this year. The Fund will name the 10 Top Branches in Giving. The Fund will also announce the State Named Gift Honoree. Come and see who wins the prestigious honor this year.

I want to thank the current members of the committee for an amazing job and for their support, and I would love to see some new faces. The committee application will be out soon.

I also want to thank the Fund directors from each branch and every member who made a donation.

The Fund Committee will be getting a much earlier start next year. Stay tuned for more information. The Fund Committee is here to help. Please email your questions or suggestions to aauwfund@aauw-ca.org.

What I need to know: Results for Fund donations & State Named Gift Honoree to be announced at the Annual Event.

What I need to do: Nothing at this time.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members will want to know.

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

Sigrid Moranz, Director, Leadership, branch-development@aauw-ca.org

Rebecca Gomez, Director, Membership, branch-development@aauw-ca.org

LOOKING FOR A LEADER?

Begin by building your membership! The March Branch Development Peer Group Meeting discussed numerous strategies and examples to recruit new members within your community. If you weren't able to attend, please review the video of the meeting [HERE](#). The meeting handout *Member Recruitment Strategies* is available [HERE](#)

Next Branch Development Peer Group Meeting:

Our next Branch Development Peer Group Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 20th, at 7 pm. We will

be presenting *Volunteers First: Part 2*. Be sure to join us! Click [HERE](#) to register for the May meeting.

Although there are numerous strategies, you are encouraged to take a look at what might work for your branch and build on your plans!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Develop a quick 30-second pitch on the value of AAUW membership for your branch members to use when recruiting.

What I need to know: Peer group meeting videos on membership recruitment are available.

What I need to do: Consider developing a 30-second pitch and sharing it with your branch.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, every member is responsible for recruiting members.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY [TOP](#)

Susan Bangasser, College/University Committee chair, cu@aauw-ca.org

UPDATE ON NCCWSL 2025 – MAY 28th-30th

Below is an update from NASPA, which is now running NCCWSL, sent to Susan Bangasser.

“Following up with some additional information. We have been working to get the best answer for you – and unfortunately, we are unable to offer an on-campus housing option the night before due to capacity constraints with the UMD campus. We are currently working on providing hotel options for attendees to opt into – but want to ensure that students who are under 21 can check in, so the same issues that occurred last year do not repeat themselves. As soon as that information is available, I will email you directly.

“As for the tour and additional conference activities, we have heard this feedback and will take it into consideration with the planning committee. We anticipate announcing the full conference schedule in late April.

“We appreciate your patience and understanding as we transition this event to NASPA and work to provide the best conference for college student women.”

Thanks,
Whitney

Whitney P. O’Regan, Ed.D. (*she/her*)
Director of Prevention & Safety Initiatives
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

Contact Susan Bangasser at Sbangasser1@gmail.com or go to the [AAUW National](#) site for more information and any updates on NCCWSL.

What I need to know: NCCWSL timeline.

What I need to do: Share with college affiliates, student members and College/University chairs.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, the deadline is coming soon.

COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

Michelle Baer and Donna Holmes, Directors, Communication Committee Co-chairs,
communications@aauw-ca.org.

VOTING IS MORE THAN A RIGHT, IT IS A PRIVILEGE!

April is the month AAUW National (April 14th – May 13th) and AAUW California (April 26th- May 16th) kick off voting on various issues, bylaws, and board positions. Public Policy, Governance, and the nominating chair have been sending information since January and asking for input and candidates.

Now comes the time for members to make their voices heard when accepting, rejecting, or selecting ballot initiatives and candidates. We have a contested election for AAUW California Director positions, whereby you may select two choices from four candidates (read the candidate bios [HERE](#)), a [dues increase measure](#), and proposed [Public Policy Priorities](#), making your vote even more important.

All members with email addresses will receive their ballots electronically, and those without will receive their ballots in the US Mail to be returned by the closing dates.

Why bring this up? While a repairman was working near us, we were discussing an election result we were not happy about and the repairman said: “You are so lucky here, there will be another election at a scheduled time and you may work for a better outcome; in Moscow nothing has changed in 25 years with no end in sight!”

What I need to know: Election dates and issues.

What I need to do: Educate yourself to be an informed voter.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, every vote counts, let’s have a record-breaking turnout!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION [TOP](#)

Lata Murti, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, diversity@aauw-ca.org

IT’S SPRING SURVEY TIME!

During our April DEI Peer Group Meeting, we will discuss a draft of the Spring 2025 Branch DEI Survey before it is distributed to the branch DEI coordinators. The survey will be based on our Fall 2024 Branch Survey so that results from both can be compared as we prepare for AAUW California’s future in line with the [AAUW California DEI Strategic Plan](#).

Don’t miss this important virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 16th, at 7 pm. Any AAUW member is welcome to participate. Click [HERE](#) to register.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Take the [Social Change Ecosystem Quiz](#) to see what role you tend to play in social justice organizations like AAUW. Have your branch members take it too! You will have an opportunity to discuss the results during our AAUW California Annual Event on Saturday, April 26th.

What I need to know: All members are invited to the April 16th DEI meeting.

What I need to do: Register to participate. Share the Quiz with your branch.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, DEI needs everyone’s support!

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS [TOP](#)

Elaine Johnson, Nominations and Election chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

WE HAVE A STRONG SET OF CANDIDATES READY TO LEAD AAUW CALIFORNIA

This is to clarify that we have eleven board members. Six are continuing for the second year of their terms. That leaves five board positions to be filled. Co-presidents are allowed per our policies but co-directors are not allowed.

Since we can only add five board members and one is reserved for CFO, that leaves four slots to be filled. Two will now be taken by the co-presidents-elect, who are running unopposed, and two will come from the four candidates running for director.

For President-Elect: three-year term 2025-2028 (one year as President-Elect and two years as President), we have two candidates, Sigrid Moranz and Sharyn Siebert, who are sharing this position. Each person will have one vote on the board.

For Chief Financial Officer (CFO): two-year term 2025-2027, we still need someone to step forward for this position. The CFO has one vote.

For Directors: two-year term 2025-2027, we have Gail Swain, Bev Van Citters, Melissa Maceyko, and Amy Hom. We can vote for two. Each has one vote.

All the candidates are experienced AAUW leaders and represent geographical regions across California. Click [HERE](#) to view the 2025 Candidates' statements.

We are also voting on an [AAUW California dues increase](#) and the proposed 2025-2027 [Public Policy Priorities](#). These are critical to our advocacy efforts.

Voting Period: April 26, 2025 – May 16, 2025

When the election period starts, each member who has an email address on file with AAUW will receive an email message containing a personal invitation to vote. There will be a link to click that will take them to their ballot. No password or code needs to be entered. Members who do not have an email address on file have received information and a ballot via postal mail.

Encourage members to review the Public Policy Priorities and vote. Please share the voting process and instructions with your branch members.

If you have additional questions, send them to: nominating@aauw-ca.org

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Every branch benefits from the leaders who are ready to assist branches in meeting their goals.

What I need to know: AAUW California's election details.

What I need to do: Encourage your members to vote.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, every member has a vote/voice.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

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

FIND WAYS TO TAKE ACTION (THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS)!

Public Policy Committee Sets AAUW California Legislative Agenda

The Public Policy Committee met over a weekend in mid-March for our most important meeting of the year, to set the Legislative Agenda for 2025. Prior to the meeting, our committee collectively evaluated over 60 bills related to AAUW's mission and Public Policy Priorities. During our two-day marathon session, we carefully considered each bill. We then voted to select and prioritize the top 25 bills, leaving room to add a few more bills that we know will be coming to us in the next few weeks.

Our three "A" priority bills are SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", AB 579 "Yaeli's Law", and SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All". All three of the "A" priority bills this year fall under the Social Justice pillar of our Public Policy Priorities.

The first "A" bill, SB 771 "Social Media Platforms Endangering Californians", is authored by Senator Henry Stern and is sponsored by AAUW California. SB 771 clarifies that a social media platform may be liable for civil penalty under existing law if and when its algorithms or AI aid or abet individual users who are engaging in already unlawful intimidation of others in online spaces. While hateful speech is problematic, it is not illegal. However, it can cross the line into illegal action. When hate speech is "brought to the doorstep" of marginalized communities, for example, if someone maliciously posts anti-immigrant messages on the virtual Facebook wall of an immigrant family, they are engaging in unlawful intimidation, terrorism, and threats. While social media platforms are not responsible for the speech of individual users, aspects of their platform, such as algorithms or AI, can be complicit in the targeting of marginalized groups, which is unlawful. Social media companies have recently intentionally turned away from providing safeguards that they previously provided for targeted vulnerable communities. They should be held accountable for that decision, in light of the real-world impacts of the proliferation of online hate and their complicity in unlawful intimidation.

The second "A" bill, to which we are taking an opposition position, is AB 579 "Yaeli's Law" authored by Assemblymember Leticia Castillo. This bill rests on the premise that denial of support for youth self-identity, including refusal to use a child's name and pronouns, or refusal to provide or allow their gender-affirming care, is not harmful and therefore should not be considered child abuse under the law, and, accordingly, not be allowed as a basis for custody or removal decisions. This is problematic. Research shows that transgender children are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness when they live in households that do not accept their gender identity. We oppose this bill because every child deserves to be protected from emotional and physical abuse, including the right to be removed from a harmful household to a more healthy environment.

The third "A" bill is SB 418 "Ensure Equal Access to Care for All" authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar. This bill would prohibit a health plan or a health insurance provider from denying coverage or denying benefits to a person based upon their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex - including sex characteristics such as intersex traits, pregnancy, and gender identity. Access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental aspect of health equity and human rights.

SB 418 will protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, while also sending a powerful message of support to the LGBTQ+ community, affirming that their needs matter. Creating an environment where all individuals can express their identities without fear is foundational to a strong democracy.

To see the full 2025 Legislative Agenda, please go to the [Bill Tracking Report](#). This report is a living document that will be updated as the bills move through the legislative process, so you will always be able to see the latest status.

New Resource for Taking Action!

As we outlined in a [webinar](#) in October 2024, the objectives of Project 2025 directly counter the Public Policy Priorities of AAUW California. With federal policy pronouncements and changes continuing to take place at a head-spinning pace, it is clear that changes are underway to make Project 2025 become reality (track implementation [HERE](#)).

To respond to the attack on the people and issues we care about, and to fulfill the mission of our organization, “to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research,” we have continued to compile resources to help you take action to fight back. And, with the help of our amazing Public Policy Interns, we are finally able to launch an interactive [Take Action spreadsheet](#) that will provide you with action options.

This spreadsheet attempts to create a clearinghouse for ongoing resistance activity, so that you can follow and join-in based on your passions and preferences. We also highlight successful political and legal actions, to give us both hope and a blueprint for moving forward. Click on **QUICK ACTIONABLE ITEMS** if you are looking for general action resources, **LITIGATION & LEGISLATION TRACKERS** if you want to keep track of advancing legislation and/or legal challenges, and **PODCASTS** if you want to learn more and/or encounter even more “good trouble.” Click on **ISSUE AREAS** if you are looking for information and resources in a specific issue area. Please share this resource with anyone who you think will find it useful - inside or outside of AAUW California.

We will continue to ask you to take action by choosing one self-focused, one other-focused, and one political-focused item from the list below. This month the topic area is..

TAKE ACTION: PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

Self-Focused: Education

- learn more about [the SAVE Act](#) that is moving through Congress
- learn more about [California Assembly Bill \(AB\) 25](#)
- learn more about how voting rights challenges that target small or non-existent populations and issues, like SAVE and AB 25, [serve to disenfranchise many others in the process](#)

Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- tell a few people (2-10) something about the [potential impacts](#) of passage of the SAVE Act and/or AB 25
- tell a few people (2-10) something that **THEY** can do to oppose the SAVE Act, CA AB 25, and/or voting rights challenges more broadly

Politically-Focused: Outreach to Legislators (State/Federal)

- use AAUW National’s 2-minute activities platform to [voice your opposition](#) to the SAVE Act

- watch the progress of [California's AB 25](#) and reach out to representatives in CA if/when the bill is being heard to make sure the bill is actively opposed

Take Action to Help Kids Feel Safe at School

Many of our members have expressed concerns about the potential for ICE raids in our local schools. These intrusions on school grounds are already happening in some places and are having a significant detrimental impact on these families, especially for their children. Some of the ramifications have included:

- Parents not showing up at school events, fearing agents might be there
- Students don't want to come to school, fearing their parents will be taken while they're gone
- Children not learning, consumed by fear of agents coming on campus to take them away

Here are some things you should know:

- Current law (*Plyler v Doe* 1982) held that all children, even undocumented, have a constitutional right to free public education
- In 2011, DHS issued the "Sensitive Locations" policy, which prohibited raids from certain places including schools
- Although the President has attempted to revoke the order, Executive Orders and Actions cannot change statutes or regulations
- There are currently four lawsuits challenging the attempted revocation; three from churches have been successful so far, one from a school in Denver has resulted in a denial of a request for a temporary injunction
- Current law also prohibits ICE entry on campuses without a warrant
- Even if they have a warrant to enter, that does not entitle them to have access to private/protected student records

Here are two things you can do:

- Urge your school boards/districts to issue a "Safe Zone" Resolution – template can be found here: [Guidance on Immigration Issues | NEA](#)
- Engage your branch members in a postcard-writing campaign to their school boards with following message:

WE STAND WITH

- Immigrant students
- LGBTQ+ youth

AAUW California Public Policy is on Bluesky

We plan to use this account to send out state-level legislative action alerts, promote Resistbot petitions, and provide real-time updates. We encourage you to create your own account, if you have not yet done so, and follow us! You can find us by clicking this [link](#) or by following us on Bluesky.

Follow [AAUW California's Petitions Page on Resistbot](#)

School Board Project Monitors & Observers Training - April 24th - Register now!

The School Board Project is now entering a new phase in which we will be encouraging members to monitor and observe their local school boards to ensure they are complying with California law. To this end, AAUW California has entered a collaboration with the [Public School Defenders Hub](#), an organization that provides resources and programs to parents, organizers, activists, and school board members to combat anti-public school extremists.

The Defenders Hub will be presenting a customized training for AAUW members on how to be an effective school board observer and monitor. The training will update you on current California laws that address book banning, curriculum censorship, and discrimination against LGBTQ+ students; what to look for in determining compliance; and how to file a complaint when you observe non-compliance. We hope you will join us for this next phase of the School Board Project.

The training is scheduled for April 24th, 6:30-8 pm. Register [HERE](#). We encourage you to pass this information along to interested members in your branch.

What I need to know: There are so many ways to take action.

What I need to do: Encourage your members to choose the ways that work for them and to jump in. No one person can do it all but together we can do it!

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes!

Program News

SPEECH TREK [TOP](#)

*Cathy Foxhoven, Speech Trek Program Director, and Speech Trek Committee chair,
spechtrek@aauw-ca.org*

THE RESULTS OF THE 12 SEMI-FINALISTS ARE IN:

So excited to share with you the semi-final results. The top three videos will be shown at the Annual Event, and then the 1st, 2nd & 3rd places will be announced.

Top three contestants moving to the Finals:

Aditya Kumar - Poway-Peñasquitos Branch

Anika Ravi - Roseville-South Placer Branch

Nyssa Mitra - California Online Branch

Honorable Mention:

Shanvi Gupta - Fremont Branch (4th pl)

Pasha Raoifi - Redlands Branch (5th pl)

Please watch our final AAUW California Speech Trek competition on April 26th at the Annual Event.

What I need to know: The videos of the final State Speech Trek winners will be shown at the Annual Event.

What I need to do: Sign up for the Annual Event to watch their speeches.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, if your branch has a finalist in this final Speech Trek competition.

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

APRIL SHOWERS BRING CAMPER SELECTIONS!

Over 1200 nominations with 1000 completed applications for nine weeks of Tech Trek camps were submitted in the last two months for approximately 800 camper spots.

95% of branches have completed their selection process with the remainder expected to finalize their choices by mid-April.

At the same time, camps are working feverishly to finalize their schedules and onboard the approximately 250 volunteer staff needed to ensure a safe and memorable experience for all.

Contact camps directly if you wish to help out during the week using the camp group address convention techtrek-xxxxx@aauw-ca.org, where xxxxx is *carson, davis, fresno, hopper, sandiego, santabarbara, sonoma, virtual, or whittier*.

The next task for most branches is planning new camper meet-and-greets with past Trekkers.

For now, catch your breath and relax, knowing the hardest part is done: choosing between MANY excellent nominees!

Back atcha in May!

What I need to know: Tech Trek camper selection will be complete this month.

What I need to do: Branches that have not completed their selections need to do so now. Volunteer to help at one of the camps.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, include the request for camp volunteers.

AAUW California

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