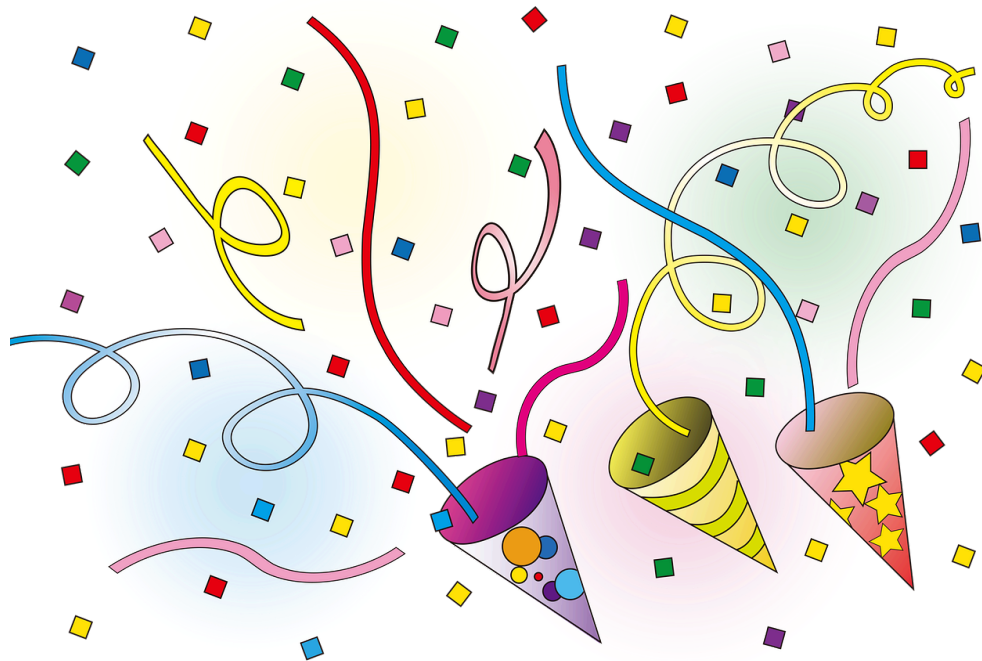




May 2025

May has 124 commemorative days.*



**That's 124 excuses to have a party.
You're welcome.**

Dear Randa,
Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick and informal read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Things to Know

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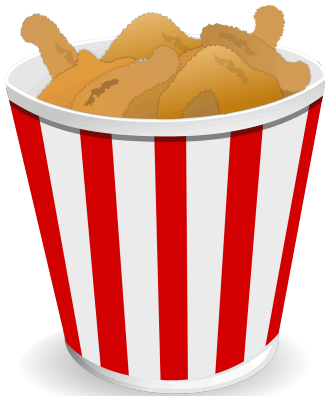
No, no, we said “pivot,” not “pirouette.” The 125+ members who attended the April 26th Annual Event, *Pivoting 4 Our Future*, did not show up in tutus. They did show up with curious minds to learn how small pivots can make meaningful changes in AAUW. We explored possibilities with esteemed speakers, interactive breakout rooms, and recognition of forward-thinking people and branches. The volunteers who contributed to this inspiring day were not “en pointe,” but they were “on point.” Watch the video [HERE](#) to see how AAUW California is staying on its toes.



On Lobby Days, April 8th and 9th, 197 AAUW supporters did NOT visit hotel lobbies with dangerously hung crystal chandeliers à la *Phantom of the Opera* and ponderous tufted couches that require a construction crane to get out of. That’s the problem with homonyms. Lobby also means “to advocate” and that’s just what those 197 members did. They entered the halls of power in Sacramento in person or on Zoom to tell the AAUW story and ask for support for the [bills](#) we are championing this year. They reached 78% of all legislative offices! Our Public Policy team and our AAUW members rock. They deserve a

drink at the carved mahogany bar. If you are disappointed that this article wasn't actually about hotel lobbies, [HERE'S](#) a bunch of pictures of fancy ones.

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Winner, winner, chicken dinner! The state Annual Event was one big celebration of AAUW winners. They felt the joy of riding the fastest horse in the Kentucky Derby or crossing the finish line first in a gunny sack race . . . but without the thigh chafing. And here they are:

- Nyssa Mitra from the California Online Branch grabbed first place and \$2,500 in our final **Speech Trek** contest. Listen to her compelling speech on the effects of climate change on women [HERE](#).
- The **Branch Activity of the Year (BAY)** award and a small cash prize went to the Berkeley Branch for its program on Dreamers and student immigration rights. Check our website to see complete descriptions of all the innovative submissions for 2025 [HERE](#) and 2024 [HERE](#). Borrow a terrific idea for your branch.
- Our coveted **State Named Gift Honoree** award was earned by Kathleen Doty, known as a past state president, ardent science fiction fan, and tireless supporter of AAUW causes. She didn't get any money though. Sorry, Kathleen.
- Dr. Kathryn J. Perkins, chair and associate professor of political science at California State University, Long Beach, was crowned **DEI Champion**. It was symbolic. Those crowns are heavy.

Some chicken dinner winners got a cash award; some were spotlighted in videos telling their stories; some will be memorialized on our website. All had the option of fries or coleslaw.

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Things to Do

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It's spring. You're thinking of scraping the mold off your bathing suit, and foolishly planting vegetable seeds that will likely never sprout, and voting in the AAUW California election. Oh my, how did THAT slip in there? Yes, it's our last chance to remind you to cast your ballot by May 16th to choose new members of the [board of directors](#), approve the proposed [Public Policy Priorities \(PPPs\)](#), and vote Yay or Nay on a state [dues increase](#) from \$20 to \$30 per year. Look in your email (or, oopsie, your Trash and Spam folders) for a message with the subject line *2025 AAUW California Election Ballot*. It's probably the 4,723rd email. You might want to spring clean your inbox before replanting the failed [Beaver Dam Hot Pepper](#) seeds.

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Quick! What is the value of x in $5x-6 = 3x-8$? Hmm. Not sure? Luckily, you don't need to know any of that hard math to step up and serve as our state Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for 2025-27. Whew. All you need is a good head for numbers, a basic knowledge of bookkeeping, no fear of finance software, and a shameless love of money. The job deets are [HERE](#). Our outgoing CFO, Kathy Ford, will provide training and support. For questions about the position, contact her at cfo@aauw-ca.org or Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President, at

statepresident@aauw-ca.org. This is your chance to write numbers greater than those currently in your checking account. (Spoiler: $x = -1$)

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Wait a minute. Are you yawning? If you're looking for something more stimulating than the ergonomic features of a Rubbermaid® spatula, consider joining a state AAUW committee. What do you like to do? Play with tech? Play with numbers? Play with words? Play with ideas? We have plenty of sandboxes to play in. Lend your enthusiasm, skills, and dedication to help branches across the state do the work that you believe in. Learn about the opportunities and apply [HERE](#) by May 31st. Throwing sand and hogging the buckets will not be tolerated.

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***Of particular note:**

5/2 - National No Pants Day
5/4 - Star Wars Day
5/5 - International Day of the Midwife
5/10 - National Clean Your Room Day
5/12 - National Limerick Day
5/13 - World Cocktail Day

5/15 - National Chocolate Chip Day
5/16 - Endangered Species Day
5/17 - National Learn to Swim Day
5/20 - National Rescue Dog Day
5/21 - National Memo Day
5/31 - National Smile Day

For more special days, click [HERE](#) and go buy your party hats.



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and

research, education, and advocacy.
[AAUW.org](https://aauw.org)

mission of AAUW by providing
programs, education and resources.
www.aauw-ca.org



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