



June 2025

Farewell.



Parting is such sweet sorrow.

Dear <<First Name>>,
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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Well, loyal readers, some big news . . .

This is the final issue of the *California Connection* as you know it. Pete Seeger's lyrics, famously **sung** by the 1960s rock group, The Byrds*, reminded us of this: *To everything there is a season*. After five years and close to 60 issues, your author is riding off into the sunset, enduring saddle sores and indelicate chafing for new adventures. It has been a joyful and rewarding experience to share AAUW news (and an occasional boffola) with all of YOU, the rock stars who make AAUW happen.

*Of course, our editors would have corrected the spelling of their name.

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We always want to know how things turn out: steaks on the BBQ, SAT tests, tax audits, wayward teens. So we assume you'd like to know the results of our recent state election:

- Sigrid Moranz and Sharyn Siebert won the spot as incoming co-presidents-elect for 2025-2026, automatically followed by serving as co-presidents for 2026-2028. Their campaign strategies were brilliant; the position was uncontested.
- Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, our current powerhouse Public Policy team, won the state board director positions for 2025-2027.
- The Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) that guide our legislative advocacy efforts were approved. No one giggled over the acronym.
- The proposal to raise annual state dues from \$20 to \$30 was approved. We used to joke that \$10 was equivalent to a couple of Starbucks®

coffees, but now we're not so sure. Ordering up a [\\$42.15](#) Venti Matcha Latte, please..



Alexander Graham Bell proposed using “Ahoy!” to answer the phone. People figured he had that right since he invented it. But Thomas Edison spared us from impersonating a sea captain by brazenly suggesting that we use the word “Hello” instead. He said it was easily distinguishable from other words. That’s arguable. But the point is this: The course of events can be changed. And that’s what AAUW is doing right now. National’s new [strategic plan](#) will laser focus its work on assuring women’s access to higher education as the key to gender equity and economic security. It’s a nod to the roots of our past and a recognition of the considerable challenges of our present. Watch for activities tailored to defend higher education and say “Hello” to change.

Things to Do

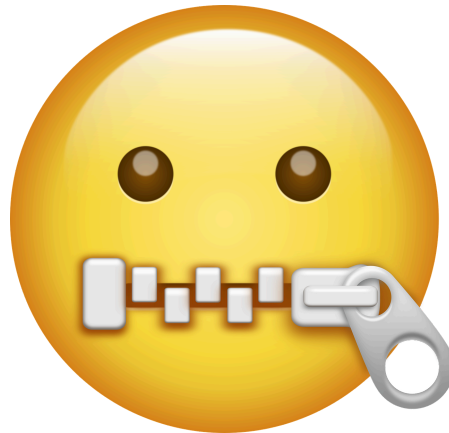


Remember the *Highlights* magazine in every pediatrician’s office in the Western Hemisphere? Remember its monthly activity, *Spot the Differences*? You can relive that office visit, minus the shot, on our website’s [HOME](#) page. Spot the

new statement we've added. Hint: It has something to do with our values. If you can't find it, you won't get a smiley face sticker.



Your branch is probably holding its year-end Annual Meeting soon. Our advice: Go. There will be food. Someone will surely have spent hours molding pistachio-encrusted meringue bars into miniature dioramas of the San Francisco skyline. There will also be friends. They will likely be provided with helpful name tags as big as hubcaps stylishly hanging from lanyards. There will also be a few speeches. Listen to them. Join your fellow members and celebrate your branch's accomplishments and the people who made them happen. There will also be opportunities to volunteer. Our advice: Do not back away from the sign-up table.



How many times have parents turned to squabbling sibs in the back seat and bellowed, "Silence is golden!" They were wrong (but that's the only time). If you have thoughts about the current actions and policies at the state and federal government levels, now is the time to speak out. . . loudly. How? Follow [AAUW California's Petitions Page on Resistbot](#) and, in a few clicks, make your position known to legislators on the hot issues that AAUW and YOU care about. Make some noise. Who cares if you have to go to your room for disobeying your parents.

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Help wanted.

We're sure you're regularly working on your bicep, quadricep, and triceratop(?) muscles.

If you'd like to exercise your writing muscles instead, consider taking a shot at authoring the *California Connection*. What better way to engage directly with the AAUW peeps you love and practice the correct use of the apostrophe*?

If interested, contact our state president, Charmen Goehring, at statepresident@aauw-ca.org. She'll be so thrilled she'll overlook any split infinitives.

*Support is available at the [Apostrophe Protection Society](#).



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
AAUW.org

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.
www.aauw-ca.org



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