

# Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

*Standing together for equity*



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## Charmen's Chat

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

### NO VACATION FOR YOUR AAUW CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP TEAM!

As we move into the summer months, when most branches are taking a break, your state leadership team has been busily wrapping up the past year and beginning to plan for the upcoming membership year. We just held our annual retreat in Oakland, where we aligned the Four Pivots to our board work.

For **Pivot One** (Awareness), we did an introductory activity about the Black Panther Party before visiting the local BPP museum. Getting out of our comfort zone and confronting some ideas and biases we may have had around the BPP is a step on our journey to being more equitable as members and leaders.

For **Pivot Two** (Connection), we worked on ideas to better connect with all members, including webinar ideas, continuing with peer group meetings, and a reboot of the *California Connection*. Dawn Johnson, the clever writer behind the CC, has stepped down after five fabulous years. We realize the importance of continuing this connection, though, so a new publication will be coming this Fall.

**Pivot Three** (Vision) saw us asking ourselves, “**What would we like to do and see in AAUW California and our branches if there were no barriers?**” Then we spent time selecting ideas that would be easy to implement, a few that would require some creative thinking to execute, and a handful that would take a couple of years to fully realize. We may be reaching out for your help!

**Pivot Four** (Presence) saw us planning our committees and the annual Committee Day. We will be present (on Zoom) with our wonderful volunteers to plan activities and assistance for branches for the next year.

### We also have some great announcements:

- Renee MacArthur, from the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch, has stepped up to be our CFO. We are grateful for her as this is a mandatory and critical position.
- Director Donna Holmes ([strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org](mailto:strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org)) is moving from the Communications team to a new position as Strategic Plan Consultant. In her new role, she will work to encourage branches to adopt and align themselves with the new National Strategic Plan as well as to participate in the Five-Star Branch program.

California has 108 branches, 69 of which participated last year, with seven earning Five Stars (out of 16 branches nationwide). We hope to have 100% participation this year. As Suman Ganapathy (Morgan Hill) says, "I love the Five-Star Program because it is the best way for branches to stay mission-focused and be recognized for the impactful work we do...and make plans to improve, too." We hope you will connect with Donna and help your branch be recognized for all the great things you are doing!

**We have also launched a new task force:**

The Financial Development Task Force will be led by incoming Co-President-Elect Sharyn Siebert ([financial-taskforce@aauw-ca.org](mailto:financial-taskforce@aauw-ca.org)). This group will explore ways to secure outside funding to supplement our state dues, enabling us to hire necessary expertise in specific areas, develop new support services for branches, and potentially reintroduce in-person events that members have missed.

For those involved in program planning within your branch, please note that the 2026 AAUW California Annual Event will be held on April 18, 2026, via Zoom. Per our policies and procedures, the event will always be on the third Saturday of April, unless that is Easter weekend, then it will be held on the following Saturday. **We highly encourage you not to plan branch events on that day, unless it's a branch Watch Party.** AAUW Sacramento Branch already has that on their calendar for their April program meeting, and it is a fantastic way to be in community while also supporting our state's branches and getting inspired. We hope to hear about lots of successful and fun watch parties around the state.

Thank you to everyone reading this for stepping up into a leadership role in your branch, or maybe continuing to serve in a branch board position. Many other states look to California to see what we are doing, and you help make us inspirational for so many others. Enjoy your summer!

## Committee News

### BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

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

*Rebecca Gomez, Director, Membership, [branch-development@aauw-ca.org](mailto:branch-development@aauw-ca.org)*

#### DO YOU NEED AN EXPERT FOR YOUR NEXT BRANCH MEETING OR BOARD MEETING?

If you need advice on achieving your strategic goals for FY 2026, consider using our **Leader on Loan Program**! Invite state and branch leaders to speak to your board and/or branch members, in person or virtually, on topics such as starting a college scholarship program, joining AAUW's social media community, recruiting new members, identifying potential branch leaders, fundraising, expanding community outreach, and much more!

Please click [HERE](#) to review the program information and complete the request form.

We would also love to hear from you if you have an area of expertise that you would like to share with other branch leaders. Please contact us at [lol@aauw-ca.org](mailto:lol@aauw-ca.org).

**Submitted by Phie Dai, Leader on Loan Chair, AAUW California**

AAUW California

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