

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



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November 2025

It has been about six months since the 2025-26 Branch Officer Report (BOR) was completed. There have likely been numerous revisions and additions to officers during this period. The BOR information is used to create email distribution groups for sending important messages to branches and to maintain an online directory of state and branch leaders. If there have been changes to the BOR in your branch, please send an email to webteam@aauw-ca.org. To check the listing for your branch, click [HERE](#), enter the password (aauwca), and then click on State Directory of Branch Leaders. Then enter your branch name. The list will be in alphabetical order.

It is also important that the branch president, treasurer, and/or membership chair keep the national database ("the Hub") up to date.

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Peer Group Meetings

All members are welcome to attend any peer group meeting. The peer group email announcement is sent to the branch chair(s) of the relevant committee and the branch president. Example: For the Public Policy Peer Group meeting, the email announcement will be sent to all branch public policy chair(s) and branch presidents.

Charmen's Chat

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

The recent *Mission in Action* from National contained a wealth of valuable information. I want to highlight the upcoming webinar on Wednesday, November 19th, at 4 pm (PST) titled "*Member*

Recruitment Best Practices." Sr. Director of Institutional Advancement, Katrina Son Breese, will host a panel of branch member leaders to discuss practices that have worked for them. This might be a wonderful source of inspiration for you and your branches! You can register [HERE](#).

All branch presidents and Fund chairs should have received an email on October 27th from Tremayne Parquet at AAUW National regarding an alert about unsolicited GoFundMe donation pages being created for AAUW branches without their knowledge or permission. These can be problematic in several ways. Namely, they can confuse donors, and there is no branch oversight. AAUW is recommending that we search to see if our branches are on the list and then take steps to either claim the page (for your branch's use) or delete it. Please contact GoFundMe to follow their procedures for this. Refer back to Tremayne's email for the GoFundMe list link.

Our nomination form for the AAUW California Board of Directors is now open! We are specifically seeking someone with web services skills to manage the website, among other tasks, as well as someone with knowledge of the AAUW Fund and a passion for it. You can find all the details [HERE](#) and also see more information below in the Nominations and Elections section. Serving on the board is a fantastic way to learn more about AAUW, help provide tools and guidance to our branches, and meet some really special people!

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

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

We are working on getting videos from the California-based fellows and hope to have them available on the website soon. A listing and brief description of the current students will be up shortly as well. If you missed the last peer group session, click [HERE](#) to watch a recording. The topic was about requesting a Fund recipient to be a speaker for your branch or IBC meeting.

Helpful reminder: National prefers to receive monies via online, but if you need to send in checks, always make a copy of the checks and the remittance form before sending them to AAUW. This way, if a check goes missing or isn't deposited, you have a record. Please let me know if you are having any issue with this.

The next Fund Peer Group will be on Tuesday, November 18th at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be the Legacy Circle.

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP [TOP](#)

Sigrid Moranz, Co-President-Elect, Leadership, branch-development@aauw-ca.org

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

Volunteers First (VF) Implementation

Please join us for joyful sharing. Peggy Shippen will lead a group chat on implementing Volunteers First. Peggy has been having VF chats with Oregon AAUW leaders. The Oregon NW District Director

said about their meeting, “Thank you for coming and sharing your wealth of knowledge about volunteers. We all came away with new information!”

For a more meaningful experience, please click [HERE](#) to watch the Volunteers First videos before the meeting.

Branch Activity of the Year Awards Announcement

This program provides branches an opportunity to showcase, be recognized, and share their finest activity.

Patricia Souza will explain all about the 2026 Branch Activity of the Year Awards and how you can enter your branch’s best meetings into the contest. For more information about our past winners, please click [HERE](#).

FIVE STAR AND STRATEGIC PLAN [TOP](#)

Donna Holmes, Director, Strategic Plan Consultant, strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org

Our first peer group meeting on Five-Star was held on October 14th and featured Amy Hom on Public Policy and Donna Holmes on Advancement. If you missed the meeting, the link to the recording & slides is [HERE](#).

A change for both areas includes a new Public Policy Fund #4514. To quote the National Membership email sent 10/30/25: “This new fund fuels advocacy initiatives across key issues like pay equity, student debt, Title IX, and increased mobilization of our Action Network. “A branch donation to this Fund or Fund #4513 (Defend Higher Education) completes one of the three requirements needed for the Advancement star. Donations to the old Public Policy Fund #4337 will continue to count for this year only.

Also highlighted in the meeting was that one activity can count in more than one area. For example, for all of you who ran a public policy program this month to educate voters, that counted as one requirement for a Public Policy star and one of the four needed programs for the Programming star, a two-for-one deal!

Successful branches develop a checklist of the Five-Star criteria, one member keeps track, and the branch's progress is included in newsletters and meetings – share and succeed!

The next Branch Development Peer Group will be on Tuesday, November 11th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be “Implementing Volunteers First” and the “Branch Activity of the Year Award”.

COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

Michelle Baer, Director, Communication Committee chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

GETTING THE COBWEBS OUT: GIVE YOUR BRANCH WEBSITE A SEASONAL SWEEP

If your branch has a website, regularly reviewing the website content is one of the most straightforward ways to protect credibility and keep viewers engaged. Over time, the relevance of the content changes: events pass, leadership changes, dates and statistics go stale, and links break. This process is important because even small inaccuracies can erode trust in the website and reduce its usefulness to members and potential members.

Start with a list or catalog of pages. Then review the content on each one, checking accuracy (facts, dates, names), timeliness (events, deadlines, program statuses), and relevance (is this still helpful?). Also, verify any links, as links to outside websites are prone to breaking over time.

In terms of frequency, ideally, review the key pages (such as the homepage, upcoming events, donate/join, contact us) more frequently, and review the other content annually. A best practice is to assign each important page an owner so that updates are not “everyone’s job” (and therefore no one’s job). One might even choose to track revisions and next review dates in a simple spreadsheet.

A modest, recurring review cycle can keep your website accurate and trustworthy, more of a dependable, up-to-date resource than a static brochure.

The Communications Committee is in the process of reviewing the aauw-ca.org website. We pride ourselves on it being a valuable resource for branch officers, members, and non-members alike. I welcome any feedback or needed corrections you may discover on our pages. Please send feedback to communications@aauw-ca.org and corrections to webteam@aauw-ca.org. Thank you!

The Peer Group Meetings Are Returning

I am pleased to announce that the Communications/Technology Peer Group meetings have been set up, once again hosted by Sandi Gabe:

- Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 7 pm
 - Topic: Stump Session: Questions That Keep Us Thinking
 - Click [HERE](#) to register.
- Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7 pm
 - Topic TBD
 - Click [HERE](#) to register.
- Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 7 pm
 - Topic TBD
 - Click [HERE](#) to register.

These sessions are for you! Click [HERE](#) to complete a short questionnaire and share your interests. Please complete the questionnaire by Saturday, November 15th.

The next Communication Peer Group will be on Thursday, December 4th at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be Stump Session: Questions That Keep Us Thinking.

FINANCE [TOP](#)

Renee MacArthur, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee chair, cfo@aauw-ca.org

The deadline has passed for requesting National to file your branch’s annual federal 990 form. If National is not filing the 990 form for your branch, the finance officer needs to do it by November 15th. All branches must file California’s form 199 tax reporting form by November 15th. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Email cfo@aauw-ca.org with any questions.

The next Finance Peer Group will be on Thursday, November 20th at 7 pm. Watch for your Peer Group invitation soon, which will include further details.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS [TOP](#)

Gail Swain, Nominations and Election chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

You may be wondering what a director does on the State Board. We embrace, promote, and execute the mission of AAUW California, which is, "AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education, and resources which support education and equity for all women and girls." As you know, each year we have directors whose terms expire. This year we need to elect a new board secretary, four two-year directors, and one one-year director. Watch this space to learn more about the job of state director.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

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

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - SOME BIG WINS AND TOUGH LOSSES

Legislative Agenda

October 13th was the final day for Governor Newsom to sign the bills on his desk. Of the fourteen bills on AAUW California's Legislative Agenda which made it to his desk, the Governor signed 11 and vetoed 3, including two of our A priority bills - SB 771, sponsored by AAUW California, and SB 418. While it is disappointing that our A level support bills did not do better, we are celebrating the 11 B and C level support bills that were signed, alongside the resounding failure of three of the bills that we made it a priority to oppose. See our article on the outcome of the Legislative Agenda [HERE](#), and see the November issue of [Public Policy News](#) for the Leg Agenda Scorecard.

School Board Project

The School Board Project will host a Half-Day Virtual Symposium on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 9 am-noon via Zoom. Save the date!

In the lead-up to the Symposium, we have been providing a series of articles on the importance of AAUW member participation in the School Board Project. Please see the third installment of the series, "[Supporting Public Education: Community-Based Coalitions](#)". And if you missed them, here are the first and second installments: "[Understand the Urgency of Branch Participation in the School Board Project](#)" and "[School Boards - The Overlooked Frontline of Democracy](#)".

Webinars and Events

- AAUW California Webinar - *Harnessing the Power of AI*. **November 1st, 10-11:30 am**. Click [HERE](#) for the video and material.
- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch Program on *Higher Education at Risk - And How You Can Help Protect It* - featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy. **Wednesday, December 3rd, 4-5 pm**. Register [HERE](#)
- AAUW California School Board Project Half Day Symposium - **Saturday, January 31st, 9 am-noon via Zoom**. SAVE THE DATE - registration link coming soon.
- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch will host a virtual event on reproductive rights featuring [Leah Litman](#), host of the popular "[Strict Scrutiny](#)" podcast, **on Thursday, January 22nd, from 1-2 pm**. SAVE THE DATE - registration link coming soon
- If you missed it... AAUW California Public Policy Webinar - *Project 2025 Impacts on AAUW Values - One Year Later: How to Stop Ongoing Implementation*. See the recording and presentation [HERE](#).

Three Steps to Take Action in November - Focus: Protect Voting Rights

STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education

- Learn more about and follow the Supreme Court case *Louisiana v. Callais*. This case will address a Louisiana-based challenge to key aspects of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in voting. Should it be overturned, the consequences will be profound for the entire nation. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell has weighed in on this case (see remarks at 1:28:24).
- Learn more about the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act. The United States House of Representatives has passed the SAVE Act (HR 22), which would require every eligible voter to provide documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote. While this sounds potentially harmless, such measures have been shown to lead to voter suppression—and disproportionately impact women. AAUW formally opposes the SAVE Act.
- Learn more about how Voting Rights have recently been challenged in California, including through AB 25 (2025), which we actively opposed.

STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- Tell at least TWO other people what you have learned about *Louisiana v. Callais*, the SAVE Act, and/or ongoing challenges to election integrity in California.

STEP 3: Politically-Focused

- Reach out to your legislators about the SAVE Act. Click HERE to access AAUW's Two-Minute Activist page, then click on "Tell the Senate: Oppose the SAVE Act".
- Reach out to your legislators to do something proactive to protect voting rights. Click HERE to access the Center for Common Ground web page to ask Congressional representatives and senators to champion passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 14), supported by AAUW.

The next Public Policy Peer Group will be on Friday, December 5th, at 1:30 pm Pacific. The Zoom link will be sent out to the Peer Group. Anyone and everyone who is interested in public policy is welcome to join! If you are not in the Peer Group and want to join us, please email the co-chairs to request the link. Can't wait to see you there. Topic: Legislative Agenda Update, Updates from State and National

Program News

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

GRATEFUL, GROWING, AND GEARED FOR 2026!

As autumn settles in and gratitude fills the air, we want to take a joyful pause to thank *you*—our incredible Tech Trek California branch volunteers, for choosing to invest both your social and real capital in our mission. For more than 25 years, your dedication has helped ignite curiosity, confidence, and courage in thousands of middle school girls discovering the power of STEM.

Every hour you give, every dollar you raise, and every encouraging word you share builds a brighter future for the next generation of scientists, engineers, coders, and dreamers. You are the heartbeat of Tech Trek—and it shows!

As we plan for 2026, we need your help to capture the full story of your branch's impact. Please take a few minutes to complete [this quick form](#) to let us know:

- How many campers your branch plans to sponsor next year—and at which camps
- What exciting things your alums are doing after camp
- How many of your branch volunteers are engaged each year (and how they shine!)

And while you're at it, please take a moment to thank your own local Tech Trek team—the coordinators, interviewers, fundraisers, and champions who make magic happen every summer. Together, we're not just running a program—**we're changing lives.**

Here's to gratitude, growth, and another great year ahead!

The next Tech Trek Peer Group will be on Thursday, November 13th at 6:30 pm. The Zoom link is made available to all branch coordinators. The topic will be Tech Trek activities relevant to branch coordinators.

AAUW California

[Unsubscribe](#)

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