

# Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

*Standing together for equity*



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## March 2026

The AAUW California MailChimp database contains about 7,000 subscribed branch members. Additionally, 811 members have unsubscribed, and 236 members have an email address issue that prevents further emails from being sent to them. So about 1,000 members do not receive any emails sent to our “all California members” list.

Members can tell if they’re subscribed by checking to see if they’ve been receiving the *California Compass* on the 10th of every month. If not, and they’d like to get back on the AAUW CA mailing list, they need to send an email to [webteam@aauw-ca.org](mailto:webteam@aauw-ca.org) and request to be resubscribed. The member will then receive the following email:

Subject: Re-subscribing to the AAUW California mailing list

Please click on the following link: xxxxxxxx, add the email address, and the first and last name, and click 'Subscribe'. (That automatically adds the person to the database)

More information:

- If you forward your email to someone, please delete the unsubscribe link because if the person receiving your forwarded email clicks the unsubscribe link, **your** account will be unsubscribed.
- Remember when you click unsubscribe, it removes you from receiving any further emails from AAUW California. Of course, only the person who is unsubscribed can re-subscribe themselves.

**Please include this information in your branch newsletters.**

## Quick Links

### Committee News

- [AAUW Fund](#)
- [Branch Development](#)
  - [Membership and Leadership](#)
  - [Five Star and Strategic Plan](#)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)
- [Nominations and Elections](#)
- [Public Policy](#)

### Program News

- [Tech Trek](#)

## 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](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)

### SPRING ORGANIZING STARTS NOW!

Every month seems to get busier and busier, which tells me that we are involved in great things! I am so thankful for our State Leadership Team and all the support they have been providing branches and for all of you, for the work you have been doing to sustain and grow your branches. This is the theme of our **7th Virtual Annual Event on April 18, 2026: A Sustainable Future**. We will be welcoming Katrina Sun Breese, AAUW Senior Director of Institutional Advancement, to help us explore some successful resources and activities to help our branches grow and become more viable. We will also celebrate some of the achievements of the past year. Please help us encourage members to form watch parties. We will ask each party to take a selfie, send it in that morning, and we will share the photos during the event! Some branches are even offering a prize to the best watch party!

Our third session about *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* by Dr. Shawn Ginwright will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, March 18th, at 7 pm. We will be exploring Pivot 3: From Problems to Possibility. Please join us- although helpful, it's not necessary that you attended the first two sessions. You can register [HERE](#).

Some reminders:

1. All mandatory branch bylaws updates (for the first seven articles) are due to National by June 30, 2026. Please send yours to Marty McKnew at [governance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:governance@aauw-ca.org) for review and she will pass them on to the D.C. office.
2. The Annual Branch Survey will be sent out the first week of April and is due by June 30, 2026. It is mandatory and helps National align their resources with what branches need, as well as determines which and how many stars your branch has earned in the Five-Star Program. We are aiming for a 100% return rate this year and hoping all branches will earn at least one star!

Hoping everyone has a wonderful March as we near the final quarter of our AAUW year!

## Committee News

### AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

**Deanna Arthur**, AAUW Fund Committee chair, [aauwfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfund@aauw-ca.org)

### DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR YOUR BRANCH MEMBERS

Please fill out the form to honor your [Branch Named Gift Honorees](#). Please submit the form by March 31st.

The next Fund Peer Group will be on Tuesday, April 28th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The

topic will be: **Finishing our duties for the fiscal year.**

## **BRANCH DEVELOPMENT**[TOP](#)

### **MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP**[TOP](#)

*Sigrid Moranz, Director, Co-President-Elect, 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)*

#### **BE PREPARED! HAVE A PLAN!**

Planning ahead for your Branch Officer Structure and Election is key to the success and sustainability of your branch.

Join us for our Branch Development Peer Group Meeting on Tuesday, March 10th, 7 pm for some ideas and discussion of how to build a successful team. Some of the topics we will be discussing are:

- Review your Bylaws and Policies and Procedures
- Do you have job descriptions including time commitment estimates?
- Is job sharing good for your branch?
- Are you familiar with how to use the HUB and BOR to enter officers?
- Have you considered staggered elections or term limits?
- How the Strategic Plan and the Five-Star Program can be a guide to succession planning

We will be discussing these and other topics to help you with creating a successful board of officers. Bring all your best ideas to share with other branches.

Planning a realistic board structure and nominations and election can take the stress out of filling these positions.

**The next Branch Development Peer Group will be on Tuesday, March 10th at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be: Planning for your Branch Officer Board and Elections**

## **FIVE STAR AND STRATEGIC PLAN**[TOP](#)

*Donna Holmes, Director, Strategic Plan Consultant, [strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org](mailto:strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org)*

### **DEMYSTIFYING THE ADVANCEMENT STAR**

The only star that my branch has met every time and easily is the Advancement Star so it wasn't on my radar. Looking over the statistics I discovered it seems to be the most difficult star for most branches to achieve. So, let's break it down:

There are six items listed and three must be completed to achieve the star.

1. Raise \$30 per member from 7/1/25 – 6/30/26 for these National Funds: Greatest Needs (9110), Defend Higher Education (4513) & Public Policy (4514). It has to be one of these three funds except that for 2025 the old Public Policy (4337) also counted. For more detail on what these Funds cover click [HERE](#). The branch Finance & Fund officers receive monthly year-to-date reports showing who donated, how much, and to what fund.
2. Increase the number of members who donate. Take that same report and count the individual members and work to get at least ONE more, the dollar amount may be as small as

- \$1. With only 20% of membership donating, increasing this number would have a significant impact.
3. Make a *branch* contribution to Defend Higher Education or Public Policy Funds (no minimum).
  4. Increase contributions to the Greatest Needs, Defend Higher Education and/or Public Policy Funds by 15% over 7/1/24 – 6/30/25. So, if your branch only contributed \$100 last fiscal year doing \$115 this fiscal year satisfies the criterion.
  5. Retain at least 80% of your membership. If you had 50 members last year in the February 1 count and you have 40 members this year, you made it! They don't have to be the same people.
  6. Recruit at least one Legacy Circle member from your branch in FY26. If you don't know if you have one, you can check with Charmin Goehring at [charminme@yahoo.com](mailto:charminme@yahoo.com) for Northern California or Tobi Balma at [auw.tobi@gmail.com](mailto:auw.tobi@gmail.com) for Southern California. These ladies are also able to help you sign up!

(NOTE: These first four items all support each other, double dipping is encouraged!)

California has about 8,000 members, multiply that by \$30 and it totals \$240,000. Well, California donated over \$500,000 so I imagine most branches have achieved this goal and not realized it!

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion [TOP](#)

*Charmin Goehring, President, [statepresident@auw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@auw-ca.org)*

### DJT MIGHT THINK HE ENDED DEI BUT WE ARE MOVING FORWARD!

I hope that you will all join us on Thursday, March 12th, for our long awaited first Branch DEI Coordinator's peer group meeting. We will review the current DEI Strategic Plan, make plans for the rest of the year and beyond, as well as share ideas, concerns, questions, and successes.

Come ready to share!

**The next DEI Peer Group will be on Thursday, March 12th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be: Updating Strategic Plan and sharing ideas.**

## NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS [TOP](#)

*Gail Swain, Nominations and Election chair, [nominating@auw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@auw-ca.org)*

The deadline for submitting an application for any State Board position is March 14th. Any additional candidates are welcome. At this time the only position with no candidates is the Board Secretary (a two-year position). Get all the details [HERE](#). The AAUW California voting period will begin on April 18, 2026 and will close on May 08, 2026.

## PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

*Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, [publicpolicy@auw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@auw-ca.org)*

### GEARING UP FOR THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS

#### Protect Voting, Oppose the SAVE America Act - Three Steps to Take Action in March

##### STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education

- On February 11, 2026, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the SAVE America Act, a new and newly dangerous voter suppression bill. Now it's up to the Senate to stop this bill. The SAVE America Act creates unnecessary hurdles and opens the door to mass disenfranchisement, disproportionately harming people of color, voters with disabilities, older

adults, and women - especially those whose names have changed due to marriage or divorce. Read more about the SAVE Act from the ACLU [HERE](#), the Brennan Center [HERE](#), and the Center for American Progress [HERE](#).

## **STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection**

- Share what you have learned! Share the articles linked above on social media. Repost from [AAUW CA Public Policy](#) or create your own post on your preferred platform. You can use the description in step 1 as your caption.
- Tell AT LEAST TWO other people that you know about the SAVE Act. Talking to people you know and sharing on social media is a great way to help get the word out!

## **STEP 3: Politically-Focused**

- Tell your Senators to [Oppose the SAVE Act](#) via AAUW's Two Minute Activist platform.
- Adapt the excellent [Letter to the Editor](#) written by Martha Bunce, President of the AAUW Marysville-Yuba City Branch, to explain why the SAVE America Act is an unnecessary and harmful piece of legislation. Reflect your own voice and local context when submitting in your community's media outlets.

## **Gearing up for the Midterm Election Season - 2026 Voting and Election Resources**

AAUW California and AAUW National will be providing resources around voting rights, nonpartisan advocacy, and voter engagement throughout the year. Below are a few to get you started--stay tuned for more throughout the year!

**AAUW Voter Engagement:** [It's My Vote!](#) is AAUW's nonpartisan voter engagement effort to help branches lead meaningful, community-rooted civic education, public mobilization, and coalition building.

**Nonpartisan Advocacy in an Election Year:** New AAUW resource on nonpartisanship: [Leading with Values: A Nonpartisan Playbook for AAUW Affiliates and Branches](#). Recording (can be shared with AAUW members): [Advocacy in an Election Year Staying Nonpartisan While Taking Real Action](#)

**Voter Guides for Key Congressional Districts (CA):** The Public Policy Committee is preparing Voter Guides for closely contested congressional districts, including candidate comparisons for CA-48, 22, 45, and 13. We focus on districts where:

- the incumbent is not aligned with AAUW's values and there is a strong opportunity to replace them with a candidate who better reflects our priorities, or
- the incumbent is aligned with AAUW's values and is at risk of being unseated by an opponent whose positions conflict with our priorities.

If you believe your district is also closely contested and is not included on this list, please email [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org) with "Candidate Comparison" in the subject line and include brief information about the candidates and the competitiveness of the race.

**Plain Policy App:** Developed by the League of Women Voters San Francisco Youth Council - a talented group of high school and college students leading voter registration and education efforts across San Francisco - *PlainPolicy* is a civic technology platform designed to make laws, ballot measures, and legislation easier to understand. Using AI, it turns complex federal, state, and local

policies into clear, plain-language summaries. The *PlainPolicy* app is currently in beta testing as the team continues to refine its accuracy and strengthen the platform. We encourage AAUW members to explore the app and share feedback about your experience at [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org). We will pass your feedback along to the *PlainPolicy* team.

**Explore the tool: <https://plainpolicy.app/>**

## **Continuing the Fight for Pay Equity**

**[The \(Not So\) Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap \(2026 Update\)](#)** — AAUW’s flagship report and a major credibility-builder for your community conversations, is now available. The report provides a comprehensive view of the state of pay equity, analyzing the most recent Census data, and offers actionable steps towards achieving pay equity.

AAUW has also created [state-specific two-pagers](#) with data on the pay gap by congressional districts, which can be used for tabling events, meeting with elected officials, and educating local members. **See the California Congressional District Data [HERE](#).**

On March 11th, AAUW National will host a webinar covering key insights from the report and sharing local actions that you can take to raise awareness and advocate for equal pay. [The Fight for Pay Equity: Turning the Not So Simple Truth into Real Action](#), Wednesday, March 11th, noon to 1 pm PT

If you would like more ideas for events, media outreach, and advocacy on pay equity, please see the [branch action resource](#) or attend the [03/11 AAUW National webinar!](#)

## **Equal Pay Dates**

- **Equal Pay Day: March 26th**
- **AANHPI Women’s Equal Pay Day: April 9th**
- **LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day: June 17th**
- **Black Women’s Equal Pay Day: July 21st**
- **Moms’ Equal Pay Day: August 6th**
- **NHPI Women’s Equal Pay Day: September 15th**
- **Latina Equal Pay Day: October 8th**
- **Disabled Women’s Equal Pay Day: October 20th**
- **Native Women’s Equal Pay Day: November 19th**

Please read this excellent article written by Claire Noonan, member of the AAUW California Public Policy Committee: [Women in the Workplace - Equal Pay, Pay Equity, and Women Who Made a Difference](#).

**Human Trafficking and Prevention - AAUW California Co-sponsors Two Important Bills**

We are pleased to announce that AAUW California will be co-sponsoring two bills in 2026, AB 1766 and AB 1845. These bills are authored by Assemblymember Maggy Krell and are focused on human trafficking education and prevention.

AB [1766](#) requires the Instructional Quality Commission to consider inclusion of curriculum providing for annual, developmentally appropriate lessons for grades K-12 about how to prevent human trafficking; how to prevent exploitation for labor and services; and how to stay safe from sexually exploitative materials and deepfakes online.

AB [1845](#) requires postsecondary educational institutions, as part of their sexual harassment training for employees, to also include certain information related to human trafficking, and requires those institutions to ensure that each employee completes this training annually .

## WEBINARS AND EVENTS

- ***Public Education Webinar Series Presented by AAUW California and Lift Up Public Schools***  
This webinar series offers a practical, nonpartisan look at how public education governance works — and why it matters now more than ever. School boards make decisions that affect curriculum, budgets, safety policies, student well-being, equity initiatives, and community stability. Yet many voters feel unsure about how districts function or what trustees are actually responsible for. These webinars are designed to demystify the system and empower community members to engage with confidence.

Lift Up Public Schools (LUPS) is a vibrant coalition rooted in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, dedicated to championing excellent, safe, and welcoming public education for all students. Founded by two members of the AAUW California Public Policy School Board Project, LUPS shares deep roots with AAUW California and a common commitment to civic engagement, educational equity, and responsible governance.

### ***School Board Trustees: Leadership That Serves Everyone - Thursday, March 26th, 7-8:30 pm PT.***

Register [HERE](#). A strong school board trustee understands governance, not just opinions - balancing education, finance, facilities, and student well-being while making decisions that serve the entire community. This webinar breaks down what the role truly requires and how voters can evaluate whether candidates are prepared to lead responsibly.

### ***Why School Boards Matter to Everyone - Thursday, April 23rd, 7-8:30 pm PT.***

Register [HERE](#). School boards don't just govern schools - they impact housing markets, local businesses, and the future of our communities. Learn why these often-overlooked elections matter to everyone, and how school board seats frequently serve as stepping stones to higher public office.

- ***Lobby Days Training webinar: Monday, March 23rd, at 7 pm PT. THIS WEBINAR IS MANDATORY*** for all Lobby Days participants. Register [HERE](#).

## If you missed it...

- AAUW California School Board Project: *Defending the Frontline of Democracy* - Half-day Symposium. See the recording [HERE](#).
- *Lobby Days Team Leaders Training*. See the recording [HERE](#).
- AAUW National webinar: *Promoting Updates from State and National*
- *Promoting AAUW Education Values Through School Board Advocacy*. See the recording [HERE](#).
- *CCAMP Project Launch Webinar*. Find the recording [HERE](#).

The next Public Policy Peer Group will be on Friday, April 3rd at 1:30 pm. The Zoom link is made available to all peer group members. Please contact the Public Policy Co-chairs to request a link. The topic will be: Updates from State and National Program

## Program News

### TECH TREK [TOP](#)

*Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, Tech Trek Committee chair, [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)*

#### ✨*Keep the Tech Trek Spark Alive—TTAP Microfunding Now Open* ✨

The true power of Tech Trek lies in what happens after camp—when inspiration grows into confidence, leadership, and STEM pathways that carry alums through high school, college, and into their careers. Momentum is building across AAUW California: of 100+ branches that sent campers to Tech Trek, 25 already have a Tech Trek Alum Group (TTAG) or alum activities in place, and 43 more are actively developing them.

To accelerate this exciting progress, the new Tech Trek Alum Program (TTAP) Microfunding Grant Program was created to support branch-led alum initiatives. We're thrilled to report that four branches have already received grants in the program's first quarter—and we would love to see your branch get one next. Proposals are now being accepted!

These TTAP Microfunding materials are your gateway to bringing new energy and opportunity to your branch's TTAG or alum project.

[TTAP Microfunding Application Guidelines](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions for TTAP Microfunding](#)

[TTAP Micro Funding Request Form](#)

Ready to learn more about the TTAG? Visit **Explore Life After Tech Trek** on the [Tech Trek website](#) and dive into the [TTAG Toolkit](#) for practical guidance and inspiration.

We also invite you to email [techtrek-ttap@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek-ttap@aauw-ca.org) to be added to the **Tech Trek TTAG Advisors Group**—your go-to hub for advisor meetups, the latest TTAG resources, and a collaborative space to share ideas and ask questions with fellow branches. In addition, join the Branch Coordinator Peer group meeting on the third Thursday in the last month of each quarter to discuss Alum initiatives.

This exciting opportunity to connect with your alums is here NOW—don't wait to get your branch involved! *TTAP Microfunding Team*

**The Tech Trek Branch Coordinators Peer Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. They have the link for these meetings. The topic will be: Tech Trek activities relevant to branch coordinators; the final month of each quarter focuses on alum programs.**

AAUW California

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