

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



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April 2026

Congrats to the 2026 Art Contest Winners! Click [HERE](#) to see this year's winners as well as other past winners.

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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 calendar stops for no one! April is often one of the busiest months for AAUW branches as we anticipate the beginning of the bulk of our membership renewals, our annual meetings, and new leaders joining our boards. This is no different at the State level!

Please plan to attend, and encourage your branch members to attend, our 7th Virtual Annual Event, *Cultivating a Sustainable Future*. Please click [HERE](#) to register. We will be hosting a short town hall focusing on best practices for membership recruitment and retention, along with highlighting our own branch and statewide successes. We are encouraging branch members to host watch parties, gathering a few members in their homes to watch together, and to take a picture of the group to send to the [webteam](#). The photo will then be shared during the event! Some branches are even offering prizes to the best watch party in their midst. Have some fun with it!

There is an upcoming AAUW National webinar, *It's My Vote: From Issues that Matter to Actions that Count*, being held on Tuesday, April 14th at 4 pm PT, that sounds really interesting and will offer concrete ideas to engage current members and prospective community members. You can register [HERE](#) and be sure to encourage branch members, especially those interested in policy and advocacy, to join you.

One particular passion of mine as a long-time member of AAUW (33 years now!), is the [Legacy Circle](#). AAUW obviously means a lot to me, and I want to do my part to ensure it continues its important work of advancing equity for all women and girls after I am gone. We have over 140 Legacy Circle members in California, the most of any state, but we also have 8000+ members who are not. We used to offer receptions to honor those Legacy Circle members at conventions. Since many states, like California, have moved to virtual events, this special recognition has been more difficult to provide. National now has specific Legacy Circle "swag" items that can be ordered to honor the members in your branch. Contact Tobi Balma (aauw.tobi@gmail.com) if you are in the South, or me (charminme@yahoo.com) if you're in the North, if you are interested in learning more about providing special recognition for your branch Legacy Circle members. And please consider joining the Circle yourself: remember that a branch gaining a member counts towards its Development star in the Five-Star Program!

As always, thank you for all that you do to guide our branches in the important mission work as we all dream of a world where women and girls have equity with men and boys!

Co-Presidents - Elect Chat

Sigrid Moranz and Sharyn Siebert, Co-Presidents - Elect, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT?

The incoming team of AAUW California officers is planning new events and projects for FY 2026-2027. If you want to be involved in shaping our organization for the next two years, look for the now-posted [AAUW California Committee application](#). Without all of you, we cannot accomplish any of the goals we have to make our next two years more inclusive and expansive. Plan to attend the Annual Event on April 18th to hear about **UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS** you can take part in!

For current committee members, we have made it easier for you to renew your commitment to your efforts on behalf of AAUW California by just having you note your continued membership in your current committee. If desirous of joining a new committee, you will need to complete the full application.

How do you want to help AAUW California continue to be the leading organization working on equity for women and girls, as we have done since 1881?

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

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

TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUPPORTERS

Now that you have submitted names for the State Named Gift Honoree and selected your branch Named Gift Honorees, it is also possible to recognize **donors** who have **donated** to the AAUW Fund. [Download the certificate](#), fill it in with the appropriate information, and use it to thank your donors. Present them at your branch's annual meeting or whatever meeting you think is appropriate.

Want more information? Attend the next Fund Peer Group meeting, and we will go into more information.

You won't be able to give them diamonds but you can give them the appreciation of the members and the thanks of the women and girls and programs we have supported.

The next Fund Peer Group will be on Tuesday, April 28th at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be Member Certificates and What We Have Learned

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP [TOP](#)

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

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

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR NEW JOB IS ALL ABOUT?

Join us for New Leaders Orientation Sessions 1 and 2. This is for all officers of a branch.

Branch Development has created a New Leaders Orientation program to help you get a good start as an incoming branch officer on July 1, 2026. We will cover the philosophy of leadership, as well as the nuts and bolts of what to expect in your new office and the resources available to you. Please join us for **Session 1** on **Tuesday, May 12th, at 7 pm** for an informative Zoom session. **Session 2** (because we have so much to cover) will be on **Tuesday, June 9th, at 7 pm**. Register for the May session below.

It is always better to be prepared than to play catch-up.

FIVE STAR AND STRATEGIC PLAN [TOP](#)

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

APRIL – TAXES ARE DUE, AND NATIONAL RENEWAL STARTS ITS NEW YEAR!

On March 26, 2026, Katrina Sun Breese sent out the *Membership Matters* for April 2026. Click [HERE](#) if you no longer have your copy. This is a must-have message! Contained in this message:

1. National dues increase of \$2 to \$76 effective 4/1/26.
2. Annual Branch Survey is now called AAUW Branch & Affiliate Annual Report and it launches 4/16/26 instead of 4/1/26, still closing on 6/30/26. Per the email It is now an official reporting requirement. There will be a webinar on April 15th at 1 pm PT to learn all about it. Register [HERE](#).

3. Calendar of dues renewal reminders for branches who have opted in to National's program.
4. New discount codes for Shape the Future and College/University members' undergraduates and graduate students.
5. How to update the HUB with new officers.
6. 2025 Annual Report.

And much more!

Somewhere around 33% of questions I receive from branches can be answered by the April issue of *Membership Matters*. I consider it a reference document and keep it in my membership file for the whole year.

The next Branch Development Peer Group will be on Tuesday, May 12th at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be New Leaders' Orientation.

COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

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

If you visit AAUW California's [website](#) frequently, you may have noticed a subtle change a few weeks ago. What appears subtle on the front end was actually a huge advancement on the back end: the underpinnings of the website were upgraded!

The website upgrade was important because the old site was built on older technology that is no longer supported, making it harder to keep the site secure, accessible, and reliable over time. The update to a modern platform will help the website work better on phones and other devices, improve the experience for our members, and reduce the risk of future technical problems.

A huge "THANK YOU" to Sandi Gabe for her leadership and tremendous efforts to make the transition as smooth and seamless as possible for our members and other users of the site. She spent countless hours checking, cross-checking, and making updates on pages that didn't transition well. Thanks also go to the whole team for their support and contributions during this process.

One final note: if you see any website pages that look peculiar or don't function properly, please let us know. We have hundreds of pages on our site! Not all of them were hand-touched during the upgrade process. Please send a message to webteam@aauw-ca.org along with a link to the page and a description of what seems amiss to you.

The next Communications Peer Group will be on Wednesday, April 15th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be how to edit videos.

FINANCE [TOP](#)

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

ARE YOUR BRANCH DUES CHANGING?

You will need to notify AAUW National **as soon as possible** if your branch dues have changed, since the deadline was April 1st. Contact connect@aauw.org or coopera@aauw.org with the new amount of your branch dues so that the Hub can be updated with the correct amount for your members' renewals.

GOVERNANCE [TOP](#)

Marty Mcknew, Governance chair, governance@aauw-ca.org

ARE YOUR BRANCH BYLAWS UP TO DATE?

In Spring 2023, AAUW members voted overwhelmingly in favor of changes to the national bylaws. Given the nature of changes to the bylaws, all AAUW branches are required to update their bylaws with these mandated changes. Many branches in California have done so, but many have not. If your branch is in the latter category, you have until **June 30, 2026**, to remedy this.

The instructions and model bylaws can be found [HERE](#).

Your branch board can approve the required changes with a simple vote – a full vote of the branch membership is not required to implement nationally mandated changes to branch bylaws. Once you have updated the first seven articles as required, and your branch board has approved the new version, please send your bylaws to governance@aauw-ca.org. Please save your bylaws with your branch number and full name in the title – no initials, i.e. CA0007- Atascadero. AAUW California will submit them to AAUW National by the deadline.

If your other articles (beyond the first seven mandated articles) are changed, your branch membership must approve them by vote at your Annual Meeting. After approval by your membership, please send them to governance@aauw-ca.org as stated above.

Branch bylaws changed after 2023 should be OK. Check the date your bylaws were last changed and then compare the first seven articles to the model bylaws referenced above. If they match, your bylaws are all set.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS [TOP](#)

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

NO FOOLING!

The nomination process for State Board positions closed on March 14th. We have exactly six candidates! Five for board director positions (one for a one-year term, four for two-year terms), plus a secretary for a two-year term. Because we have only one candidate for each position available, there is no need to hold an election! Please take a minute to check out the candidates; they are remarkable! Click [HERE](#) to see and learn about them.

Thank you for being a hardworking, contributing member of AAUW California.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

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

LAUNCHING AAUW CALIFORNIA 2026 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

2026 Legislative Agenda and Lobby Days

March was an exceptionally busy month for the Public Policy Committee. **We developed the [AAUW California 2026 Legislative Agenda](#)**, then quickly transitioned into launching Lobby Days 2026, which is underway now through April 17th.

This year Lobby Days features a new in-district-focused approach. Over the course of three weeks, 192 members from 64 branches will meet with 96 legislative offices to advocate for three top-priority bills, including AB 1766 and AB 1845 - both co-sponsored by AAUW California - which

address human trafficking through education and prevention efforts in K-12 and higher education, respectively.

Read more about the 2026 Legislative Agenda and our three top-priority bills in this [article](#).

Human Trafficking Education and Prevention - Three Steps to Take Action in April

STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education

- Read the Public Policy Committee's article about human trafficking [HERE](#).
- Learn how the [US Department of Justice has slashed funding](#) for programs combating child sex trafficking.
- For some positive news, watch California Attorney General Bonta's press conference announcing the results of a statewide human trafficking operation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uab6LERnpsY>
- Go to the California Family Justice Network's website to [check out the page listing all the Family Justice Centers in the state](#).

STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- Share what you've learned from Public Policy's [article](#) and this Guardian [article](#) with 3-5 friends or family members.
- Meet up with 1-3 friends for coffee and watch Attorney General Bonta's press conference together [HERE](#). Then go together to visit the nearest [Family Justice Center](#).
- Share information about the bills listed below by sharing [this link](#). Ask friends, family, and organizations to join us in support.

STEP 3: Politically-Focused

- Learn about AAUW California's co-sponsored bill package related to the education and prevention of human trafficking. These are two of the three bills we will advance during Lobby Days.
- [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 annually completes this training.

NEW REPORT FROM CREATORS OF PROJECT 2025

In January 2026, the Heritage Foundation, creators of Project 2025, released a new report entitled "[Saving America by Saving the Family: A Foundation for the Next 250 Years](#)." Like Project 2025, the 2026 report offers a series of policy-based "solutions" to things that AAUW members rarely label as "problems," like no-fault divorce and the decline in teen pregnancy. If you want to learn more about report findings and recommendations, Missy is releasing a four-part series on her substack, [HERE](#).

WEBINARS AND EVENTS

- AAUW California and Lift Up Public Schools Webinar Series, Part III - *Why School Boards Matter to Everyone*. **Thursday, April 23, 2026, 7-8:30 pm PT**. Register [HERE](#).

- *CA Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate Forum* - Sponsored by Contemporary Policy Institute with cohost AAUW California. **Saturday, April 25, 2026, 9-10:30 am PT.** Register [HERE](#).

If you missed it...

- *Lobby Days Training Webinar*. See the recording [HERE](#).
- AAUW California and Lift Up Public Schools Webinar Series
 - Part I - *School Districts 101: How They Work*. See the recording [HERE](#).
 - Part II - *School Board Trustee, Leadership*. See the recording [HERE](#).

Thank you to all of our members who have participated in or will participate in Lobby Days 2026! AND a big thank you to all who went out to march for democracy and equity at No Kings 3.0 on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

If you have great photos that you would like to share from either Lobby Days or No Kings 3.0, please do! We ask that you upload them using the following submission forms:

- **Lobby Days 2026:** Click [HERE](#) to upload a photo
- **No Kings 3.0:** Click [HERE](#) to upload a photo

We look forward to seeing you all in action.

The next Public Policy Peer Group will be on Friday, June 5th, at 1:30 pm. The Zoom link has already been provided, send an email to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org if you would like to attend but are not a member of the Public Policy Group.

Program News

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

✨ **BETS ARE PLACED AND NOW COMES THE FUN PART!** ✨

Each year between January and mid-April, AAUW California branches follow the same Tech Trek process: throw out a net and see what that brings in that is worth investing in for a STEM future bet. Over the years, some of that process has been digitized, which can both benefit and drag on productivity. Thanks to that digitization, secure, role-driven access to private information can be entrusted to branch coordinators, who, fortunately, understand the responsibility that it brings, and do their best to select campers who will prove to be a sound investment for branch donors.

Funds to support the branch camper assignments were due in March, and selections are due by the middle of April, and parent acceptances are due by the beginning of May. Currently, most of the funding is in place at camps, and 65% of branches have already submitted their selections for campers and alternates, with over 500 applicants left to select from.

Additionally, eight out of the nine camps have all but finalized their volunteer staff assignments, with virtual coaches the last to be selected by mid-April. This year was a record year for staff applicants, both counselors and adult staff, thanks to everyone's commitment to lifting Tech Trek.

Here's to another successful selection process!

Find time in your schedule to visit a camp if you haven't yet or if it has been a while. Most camps are now offering a financial literacy workshop and are ALWAYS looking for help with it. Check out the camp schedule [HERE](#) and click a camp name to learn more.

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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