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April 2026

Welcome to the *California Compass*, the monthly roadmap sent to every member from your state AAUW organization!



Charmen's Compass Callouts: A message from Charmen Goehring, AAUW California President

Our AAUW California 7th Virtual Annual Event is coming up soon on Saturday, April 18th, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Our theme is *Cultivating a Sustainable Future*, and we are pleased to host AAUW Senior Director of Institutional Advancement, Katrina Breese, for a short, live town hall event with four other branches across the country that have seen great success in membership recruitment and retention. The panelists will be sharing their best practices with us. We will also highlight our own branch successes through our Branch Activity of the Year (BAY) awards. Come hear from our fabulous Public Policy team about current legislation, meet our Equity Champion, and our State Named Gift Award recipient. This year, we are encouraging watch parties for the event; gather together at a fellow member's home to watch together. Take a photo of the gathering, send it to the [webteam](mailto:webteam@aauw-ca.org) (webteam@aauw-ca.org), and we will highlight some of them during the event (be sure to mention which branch you're representing)! Click [HERE](#) to register for this fun Annual Event!

One way to help to create a sustainable future for AAUW California is to **join a state committee!** We are looking for members to serve on several committees, such as Public Policy, Branch Development, Communications, and Fiscal. No experience required, just a passion for the topic and a desire to add your skills and time to further our mission. You can click [HERE](#) to learn more and complete your application. The deadline is May 15th.

On a sad note, we lost another long-time active member this past month. Elaine Johnson served on the state board for several years and was a passionate advocate for young women in STEM. Elaine was also a Legacy Circle member, providing for AAUW in her estate plan, so her passion for equity for women and girls will continue to fuel AAUW into the future. If you would like more information on becoming a valued Legacy Circle member, visit the AAUW website [HERE](#) or contact one of California's two Legacy Circle liaisons, Tobi Balma (aauw.tobi@gmail.com) for the South, and me (charminme@yahoo.com) in the North. We would be happy to welcome you to the group!

The last session of our Four Pivots book study will be on Tuesday, May 19th, at 7 pm. We will be discussing Pivot 4: From Hustle to Flow and how it relates in our lives as well as in our branches. Please join us even if you missed the first three sessions! You can register [HERE](#)



National Needle: News from AAUW National

1. Equal Pay Day was March 26th. This is the day by which the average woman must work to earn the salary that men earn by December 31st. While this is the earliest date so far, it is still too late! [DONATE](#) now to help AAUW continue the fight for lasting change with economic empowerment programs, trusted research, and webinars that turn that research into action.
2. Speaking of [economic empowerment](#) webinars, there are two virtual ones coming up this month. Start Smart will be held on Wednesday, April 15th; you can register [HERE](#). And Money Smart: Smart Foundations will be presented on Thursday, April 23rd; register [HERE](#). As always, share these links with the women in your life to spread our impact!
3. The AAUW 2025 Annual Report is now [AVAILABLE](#). It is full of exciting and interesting information about our wonderful organization and its impact. For example, we gave \$440,325 to support Legal Advocacy (LAF) cases and clinic grants. There were 3,390 registrants for our Work Smart, Money Smart, and

Start Smart webinars last year- that is nearly 3,400 women getting vital economic information that could level the playing field for them! Sadly, the report also shows that, while the number is improving, only 20% of our total membership supports the organization financially (up from 18% last year) by donating to the AAUW Fund. And, there are just 40 monthly supporters (called Equity Keepers) out of 33,000 members! Charmen says, "I am proud to be an Equity Keeper and encourage you to donate monthly as well- it's easy!"



On the Horizon: Highlights from the State Committees

Tech Trek

Tech Trek California is a 100% volunteer-operated, branch-sponsored program of AAUW California, which means we can't do it without the help of \$\$ or time from members.

Camps love scheduling visitors for a few hours or a day! Check out the camp schedule [HERE](#) and click a camp name to learn more.

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

Strategic Planning

On March 26th, Katrina Sun Breese sent National's *Membership Matters* newsletter for April 2026 to leaders. Unfortunately, the link for the web version of the newsletter in the April B2B was incorrect; [HERE](#) is the correct one. This is a must-have reference document containing dues (increased \$2 to \$76 for National), the new discount codes, a calendar of renewal date reminders, how to update the HUB, the 2025 Annual Report, and more. Around 33% of the questions I receive can be answered by the April issue of *Membership Matters*.

Saturday, April 18th is our Annual Meeting, and it will be packed with news. Invite some friends over and have a watch party; that is what I am doing. It promises to be a fun and educational day where I am not 'alone' sitting in front of a screen. My guests are bringing food, and I am providing beverages, dishes, and utensils. **Happy Spring!**

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

Public Policy

This month, AAUW California Public Policy is highlighting education and prevention efforts to combat human trafficking. To learn more, read our article [“Learning More About Human Trafficking Can Help You Save A Life.”](#)

AAUW California is co-sponsoring two bills focused on education and prevention of human trafficking:

- **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.

Please share information about these bills by sharing [this link](#). Ask friends, family, and organizations to join us in support.

Please share the latest issue of [Public Policy News](#) with your branches, your friends, and your network.

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

Nominations and Election

GOOD NEWS!

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 the exact number of candidates as open positions, 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 member of AAUW California!

Gail Swain, Nominations and Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

Communications

If you visited AAUW California's website recently, you may have noticed a subtle change a few weeks ago. However, what appears subtle on the front end was a major advancement on the back end: the underpinnings of the website were upgraded! Credit goes to Sandi Gabe for leading this project and for performing a great deal of work to ensure the transition was as seamless as possible for our members.

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.

While most visitors to the website will simply enjoy a smoother experience, this work lays an important foundation for the future of AAUW California's presence online. In short, this upgrade strengthens our ability to serve our members well in the years ahead.

Michelle Baer, Director, Communications Chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

Branch Development

If you are considering a board position in the future, please join us for the Leaders Orientation on Tuesday, May 12th, at 7 pm. See how you can contribute to AAUW's future! Register [HERE](#).

Sigrid Moranz and Rebecca Gomez, Directors, Branch Development Co-chairs, branch-development@aauw-ca.org



Book Bearings: Mission-related book recommendations from the bookshelves of the state leadership team and committee members.

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We want your good reads! Click [HERE](#) to enter your book recommendations.

Publication priority will be given to books that relate to AAUW's mission in some way.



Wayfinder Links: Helpful links to the AAUW California or AAUW National websites

Click [HERE](#) to see this year's winners of the AAUW Art Contest, as well as past winners. The [AAUW Art Contest](#) is held every year in honor of our members and women in the art world. AAUW members cast their vote on the final candidates to be featured in the spring collection of note cards.



Monthly Trivia Question:

Which piece of AAUW-sponsored legislation was the first bill signed by President Barack Obama?

Click [HERE](#) for contest rules and to enter your response.

Answer to last month's question ('Which member became the first woman elected to the US House of Representatives?'): Jeannette Raskin. Congratulations to the contest winner: Kimberly Salter.

Questions or Comments?

We would love to hear from you! You can reach the *California Compass* editors at cc@aauw-ca.org.

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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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