

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



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May 2026

If someone is replacing you in your current position, please forward this copy to your replacement and explain that this is a monthly publication from the state board to the branch boards. It contains up-to-date information, some of which should be shared with your branch members, and some information is just for branch leaders. All members can always find the latest *Board to Board*, as well as a link to archived issues, on our website's homepage.

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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.

Our **Annual Event** on April 18, 2026, *Cultivating a Sustainable Future*, included information every branch could use to grow and retain members while staying active in their communities. The Town Hall, led by Katrina Sun Breese, included four leaders from across the country (three of whom were younger women of color) whose branches are making great strides toward sustainability. We learned that our own advocacy work in California, including legislation, the School Board Project, and the City Council Advocacy and Monitoring Project (CCAMP), are all ways to energize your branch and community. If you missed the Annual Event, you can watch it [HERE](#). Don't miss the

incredible video, *A Brief History of AAUW's Successes*, created just for us! We are all part of an amazing legacy – let's keep it going strong!

Please share the [2025 AAUW Annual Report](#) with your branch members. It is an incredibly transparent look at our organization today. A shocking takeaway – 96% of the overall revenues are restricted for fellowships and grants. This leaves a very small portion available for staffing and all the other projects and outreach that AAUW does. Also shocking is how few members and branches provide financial support to our “mother” organization. “Support from AAUW branches and states is crucial to achieving collective impact for women and girls.” (2025 Annual Report)

New Branch/State reporting requirements have been shared over the past few weeks, and a letter from me went out to all branch presidents and financial officers on April 29, 2026. Branches in California are fortunate because we already filed form CT-TR1 with the State, and this form will suffice for the new IRS requirement. Treasurers should send this form to the branch president for inclusion in the AAUW Annual Survey, which is due by June 30th. This new form is **mandatory**, and failure to complete it could put AAUW and every branch in jeopardy. Please contact CFO Renee MacArthur or Five-Star guru Donna Holmes with any questions.

Did you know that your branch can request a **National speaker** for your branch or IBC program? You could request a staff member or a board member, depending on your program focus. You can find more information and the request form [HERE](#).

Our **Four Pivots Book Study** wraps up on Tuesday, May 19th, at 7 pm. We will be exploring Pivot 4: From Hustle to Flow. You may join us even if you missed the first three sessions! You can register [HERE](#).

GET READY! BRANCH PRESIDENTS, BOR UPDATES ARE HEADING YOUR WAY

Julika Barrett, AAUW California Office Manager, Office@aauw-ca.org

The transition to our 2026-2027 term is officially around the corner! It's almost time to log on and get your new officer team into the Branch Officer Report (BOR) system. Keep an eye on your inbox —more information will follow, and your login credentials will be arriving later this May.

Mark these key dates on your calendar:

June 1, 2026: **Launch day!** Start entering your new and returning officers.

June 1 to 5, 2026, from 10 am - 2 pm: Need a hand? Join us for Live Zoom Office Hours for demos and real-time Q&A. Register for a Session:

Monday, June 1, [HERE](#)

Tuesday, June 2, [HERE](#)

Wednesday, June 3, [HERE](#)

Thursday, June 4, [HERE](#)

Friday, June 5, [HERE](#)

Be sure to:

REVIEW

UPDATE

VERIFY

Committee News

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

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?

New Leaders's Orientation

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 discuss the philosophy of leadership, the nuts and bolts of what to expect in your new office, and the resources available to you.

Please join us for **Part 1 on Tuesday, May 12th, at 7 pm** for an informative Zoom session. Click [HERE](#) to register for May 12th, and you will receive the sign-in link.

Part 2 will be on Tuesday, June 9th, at 7 pm. (Because we have so much to share!)

AAUW California Committee Sign Up Time

We need your leadership experience at AAUW California. Contribute to the future of AAUW California and its upcoming programs. Would you like to be a part of the new version of GovTrek? Would you like to help plan our 2027 in-person AAUW California convention? Consider becoming a member of an AAUW California Committee. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and sign up to be a part of the future of AAUW.

If you are considering a board position in the future, please join us for the New Leaders Orientation. See how you can contribute to AAUW's future!

FIVE STAR AND STRATEGIC PLAN [TOP](#)

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

A ROSE IS A ROSE, BUT THE 'BRANCH SURVEY' IS NOW THE AAUW BRANCH & AFFILIATE ANNUAL REPORT

What is the same:

- Due Date June 30, 2026, and
- Only one submission per branch/affiliate, which means the finance report is given to the officer submitting the rest of the survey to attach to it. The survey portion covers **7/1/25-6/30/26**.

This is what is new but not hard, honest:

- The annual report is now **mandatory** and reflects major new IRS compliance requirements for our non-profit group tax exemption filings. Now our finance officers need to provide a balance sheet and income statement or California form CT-TR-1 for Fund Year 2025 ending **6/30/2025** or CT-TR-1 For 2025, submit by 11/15/2025. **(Note: the finance requirement is for last year.)**

If your branch is one of the 5% that file their own taxes instead of letting National do your filing, your entire 990 or 990EZ for 2025 is added to the survey.

More details, survey questions, sample finance forms, FAQ, etc., are found [HERE](#) on AAUW.org.

As I noted last month, *Membership Matters* has a lot of information and answers, too. Click [HERE](#) for the **May** edition.

If one branch/affiliate does not complete this task, the IRS will revoke the group exemption for all AAUW affiliates, from the National to the smallest. Help the whole mission by doing the report, not arguing why!

COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

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

Submitted by Sandi Gabe: I've been working behind the scenes over the past couple of years, and beginning in July, I'll be stepping into a more active role as Communications Team Director. We have a passionate, dedicated team and we're looking for a few more people to help us do even more.

Whether you enjoy:

- Shaping and polishing content (editing)
- Sharing our story (social media)
- Designing clear, engaging visuals (content design)
- Hosting online meetings (Zoom)
- Or simply pitching in where needed

There's a place for you.

If you've ever thought, "*I could help with that,*" you probably can, and you won't be doing it alone. I'm very hands-on with training and support to make sure everyone feels confident and set-up for success.

Small time commitment. Real impact.

Reach out if you're even a little curious.

Ready to jump in? Click [HERE](#) to complete an application by May 15th.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion [TOP](#)

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

IT IS NEARING THE END OF THE YEAR, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO DO!

Several branch DEI coordinators requested a mini-retreat to plan for the upcoming year. Please respond to this [Google form](#) so we can quickly find a date that works for most people and start planning an agenda. The agenda and retreat will be the focus of our next Peer Group meeting.

Thank you for all that you are doing to encourage members to consider the impacts of DEI within your branch and your community.

The next DEI Peer Group will be on Thursday, May 14th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be Retreat/plans for next year.

FINANCE [TOP](#)

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

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE NEW BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

The AAUW National Annual Branch Survey has been renamed the **AAUW Branch and Affiliate Report**. Each branch is **required** to submit its balance sheet and income statement for the FY ending 6/30/2025. If your branch filed the California CT-TR-1 form with the California Attorney General's Office for FY 6/30/2025, this form can be submitted in lieu of the balance sheet and income statement. The new reporting requirement is due to a change in IRS requirements for non-profit group filings. **Failure to do so will result in the IRS revoking the group exemption for all AAUW affiliates, from the National to the smallest.**

The due date for submitting the report is June 30, 2026. If you have any questions about the **financial reporting requirement**, please email Renee MacArthur at cfo@aauw-ca.org.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

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

GET READY TO GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)!

Gearing Up For The Midterms: Primary Election - June 2, 2026

The Public Policy Committee has prepared voter guides and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) resources for the upcoming primaries. The guides are nonpartisan and present candidates' positions on policy issues that are important to AAUW, based on their voting records and public statements.

Voter guides are now available for four closely contested U.S. House races identified by Swing Left: CA-22, CA-48, CA-13, and CA-45. Guides are also available for the eight gubernatorial candidates.

This year's gubernatorial primary is especially significant due to California's "jungle primary" system, in which the two candidates receiving the most votes - regardless of party affiliation - will advance to the November general election.

You can find AAUW California's electronic Voter Guides [HERE](#). A printable handout for the gubernatorial race can be found [HERE](#). And printable QR code bookmarks that direct others to the electronic guides can be found [HERE](#).

Get Ready to Get Out The Vote (California Primaries) - Three Steps to Take Action in May

STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education

- See AAUW California's Primary Election Voter Guide [HERE](#).

- Learn how California's "jungle primary" system may be [especially consequential](#) in this year's gubernatorial primary election.
- Check Out AAUW's [Election Resources](#) and the [2026 Voter Issue Guide](#).

STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- Share what you've learned about the potential consequences of our "jungle primary" with your friends and family.
- Meet up with a few branch members to watch AAUW National's webinar ["It's My Vote! 2026: From Issues That Matter to Actions That Count"](#) together.

STEP 3: Politically-Focused

- If you are in U.S. Congressional districts CA-22, CA-48, CA-13, and CA-45: please share the [AAUW California Congressional Voter Guides](#) with your community.
- If you are in California, please share the [AAUW California Gubernatorial Voter Guides](#) with your community.
- Encourage people in your community to VOTE, using the resources provided by AAUW California and AAUW National. Use these two resources for tabling: Print this [handout](#) double-sided. And/or make QR code bookmarks on cardstock using [this file \(your choice to use border or no-border\)](#).

Lobby Days 2026 - A New Approach Delivers Strong Results

Thank you to the AAUW activists who helped make Lobby Days 2026 a success! Nearly 200 members from 64 branches turned out to advance our priority legislation. Meetings have been held with 80 legislative offices, with a few more still to come.

See the full article detailing the event [HERE](#). And don't miss the Lobby Days 2026 photo gallery [HERE](#).

Talking to 5th Graders About Gender Equity

A group of fifth graders from Pleasant Hill, CA, recently reached out to us as part of a class project focused on making a positive impact in the world. They chose to explore gender equity and asked us several thoughtful questions. Their questions—and our responses—feel especially relevant to all of us right now, particularly in light of issues like the Heritage Foundation's 2026 initiative, "Saving American and Saving the Family," which Missy has been highlighting. We thought you would enjoy reading the exchange- find it [HERE](#).

Saving America? New Heritage Foundation Report

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 issues that AAUW members rarely label as "problems," such as no-fault divorce and the decline in teen pregnancy. If you want to learn more about the report findings and recommendations, Missy has been up to her eyeballs in this report for the last month. As of the writing of PP News, she has released three installments of a four-part series on her Substack [HERE](#).

- [Introduction](#)
- [Part 1: Have Kids or Society Will Collapse](#)
- [Part 2: Stop Having Kids or Society Will Collapse-How Problematic Families Are Destroying the Government](#)
- [Part 3: The Women Who Are Debasing Our Future](#)

Part 4, "The Policies That Will Save America" will be released the first full week of May. You can follow Missy on Substack to be alerted when she publishes new pieces or subscribe to have new pieces sent to your inbox- or look for links in future installments of PP news.

WEBINARS AND EVENTS

If you missed it...

- 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](#).
 - Part III - Why School Boards Matter to Everyone. See the recording [HERE](#).
- CA Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidate Forum - Sponsored by Contemporary Policy Institute with cohost AAUW California. See the recording [HERE](#).
- AAUW Webinar - It's My Vote! 2026: From Issues That Matter to Actions That Count. See the recording [HERE](#).

Your last chance to call for action.

Sign on to encourage California legislators to support two of our priority bills in 2026 - SB 1360 and SB 1164 - which seek to strengthen voting rights in California:

- [Make Voting in California Accessible for Everyone \(SB 1360\) — Sign & Send to State Legislatures | Resistbot](#)
- [Support the California Voting Rights Act of 2026 \(SB 1164\) — Sign & Send to State Legislatures | Resistbot](#)

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

Next Public Policy Peer Group Meeting - Last Meeting Of The Year!

Next meeting: Friday, June 5, 2026, at 1:30 pm Pacific. (Zoom link [HERE](#)) Anyone and everyone who is interested in public policy is welcome to join! Can't wait to see you there.

AAUW California

[Unsubscribe](#)

PO BOX 160067

Sacramento, CA 95816

United States

916-389-0220

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