



December 2016

Happy Holidays from your AAUW CA Board of Directors! This is such a busy and fun time of the year and we hope your holiday event is enjoyed by all. Please share any part of this newsletter with your branch leaders and your members. There have been some formatting issues which may or may not be present depending on your email system. We are working on this and hope to find a solution before the next issue.

REFLECTIONS FROM DONNA...

The holidays are upon us and we have lots of distractions. This is also the time of year that I like to start thinking about the new year and where we are headed. The election is all but over (although there are vote recounts still going on), and I have already been accused of being overly optimistic. Whatever happens from now on, we can continue to question the wisdom of our system, or we can look to the future and find a way to move on and continue to make a difference.

This election brought about victories for women as noted in this headline from the November 10, 2016 edition of the Los Angeles Times: "There will be fewer women in California's Legislature in 2017, but number of Latina members grows"

In addition, AAUW National noted that "Women in the Senate make gains :

In 2017, there will be [21 women](#) serving in the U.S. Senate — the highest number in history. The chamber will also feature a record number of women of color. Senators-elect Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) will be the first Thai-American, first Latina, and first biracial woman, respectively, to serve in the U.S. Senate. They will join Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI), the chamber's first Asian-American member, thereby quadrupling the number of women of color in the Senate."

Despite these gains, it is more important than ever to reach out to our local representatives and introduce them to AAUW. Charmen Goehring, chair of the Lobbying and Advocacy subcommittee has already recruited several branches to start this movement at the grassroots level. Here are some [resources from the National website](#) to help you if you are interested.

Lastly, we are introducing something new to the website this month called [ASK THE BOARD](#). Sometimes you may have questions about AAUW California and what is going on at the state level, or you may wish to bring issues or ideas to the board's attention. The column will show the question and the answer from the appropriate state board member. We will start this month with a question that came up at the Southeast IBC meeting in the fall. Send your

questions to me at statepresident@aauw-ca.org. I look forward to hearing from you as we all strive to keep AAUW moving forward.

Donna Mertens, President, AAUW CA, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Membership Payment Program (MPP). I thank all the branches that helped us work toward our Finance Committee's strategic plan goal to increase the participation in the Membership Payment Program by 10 percent. We are still a bit short of that goal. Please consider signing your branch up for MPP. It takes fewer branch resources for membership renewal, provides your branch members the opportunity to pay their dues using their credit cards, and reduces the clerical workload at our AAUW California office by reducing the number of checks we have to handle and deposit in our AAUW California bank account. Information about MPP may be found [HERE](#).

Federal and state tax submissions. These submissions were due to the IRS and the Franchise Tax Board on November 15, 2016. Not filing taxes can result in revocation of your branch's nonprofit status. You DO NOT want that to happen. So—file late rather than not at all.

Tax deductibility of dues. National dues are partially deductible as a charitable deduction on your income taxes--\$46 of the \$49 dollars paid. State dues are NOT deductible as we are a 501(c)4 charity. Branch dues are only deductible if your branch is a 501(c)3.

Questions about these and other financial matters? Please contact me at cfo@aauw-ca.org.

Patricia (Pat) Ferrer, CFO, AAUW CA, cfo@aauw-ca.org

SPEECH TREK SEARCHING FOR STATEWIDE JUDGES

Speech Trek would like to assemble judges from throughout the state to judge the regional competition, March 1st - March 10th, 2017. In the past, the judges have been primarily from the coordinator's area and the committee would like to broaden the panel. This year we would love to have public speaker specialists, i.e Toastmasters, Speech & Communication instructors, etc. from your area. They will be able to judge the contestants from the comfort of their own homes. Can you recommend someone? If so, send your suggestions to speechtrek@aauw-ca.org.

Cathy Foxhoven, Director, AAUW CA Speech Trek Coordinator, speechtrek@aauw-ca.org

LEADERSHIP DAYS COMING TO YOUR AREA IN 2017!

The AAUW CA Leadership Development team is making final arrangements for a "Leadership Day" in your area. The winter edition of the *California Perspective*, which will be published in January, will not only have the dates and places, but also the specific workshops that will be available to all members who wish to attend. Plan on "saving the date" in your 2017 calendars once you receive your *California Perspective*.

Cathy Foxhoven, Director, AAUW CA Leadership Development, aauwfox@gmail.com

AAUW FUND

Happy Holidays from the Fund Committee!!

Please remember that the deadline for contributions to AAUW Fund is December 31st for recognition for 2016. In accordance with IRS regulations, AAUW National goes by the postmark date rather than the date on the donation check. Click [HERE](#) to download a branch donation form. Please consider designating your contributions to help complete an unfinished California endowment. Click [HERE](#) for the list.

We know that branches have been busy doing last minute fundraising. Keep in mind that funds raised should not provide financial support to non-AAUW organizations or charities. Some branches mention their work on “community causes” when describing their fundraising efforts. When partnering with other community organizations, remember that branch fundraising is limited to supporting AAUW programs. You should notify potential donors about the program they will be supporting and that the gift is for AAUW (branch name) (state) Branch. This ensures that donors will understand how their money will be used and who will use it. As stated in AAUW policy 501, funds donated to AAUW National or AAUW-affiliated entities are, therefore, presumed to be raised and spent for AAUW mission-based programs, activities, and services. Click [HERE](#) to access policy 501.

To see the inspiring work that AAUW Fund donations support, check out the videos of the Northern and Southern Fund luncheons on the AAUW CA website. Click [HERE](#) to access the videos.

Sharon Westafer, Director, Chair, AAUW Fund Committee, aaufund@aauw-ca.org

C/U COMMITTEE



Congratulations to Linh Anh Cat, one of the 10 members of AAUW’s National Student Advisory Council (SAC) forming a unique feminist team that helps AAUW grow and connect with our student community. These students serve as AAUW ambassadors on campus, advise AAUW staff, and lead gender equality projects on their campuses. SAC members also play a critical role in planning AAUW’s annual [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL).

Linh Anh’s fieldwork takes her from Alaska to Mexico as she earns her doctorate in microbial ecology at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Her passion for gender equity and science outreach has led her to serve as a peer leader with [AAUW Tech Trek](#) and organize hands-on workshops that she brings to classrooms and science centers all over Southern California. She aspires to be a role model to all young girls who are strong, outdoorsy, and inquisitive. In her free time, she enjoys exploring nature by diving at the beach, hiking mountains, and climbing in the desert.

On October 21-23, Linh Anh participated in the SAC Leadership Training Retreat at AAUW National Headquarters in Washington D.C. She developed her +1 Project which will address female and minority STEM role models for undergraduate students at UCI, a minority and Hispanic-serving institution. She will implement a mentorship program for graduate and undergraduate students that will allow 1) undergraduate students to receive advice specific to their interests and backgrounds, 2) have visible role models, and 3) increase visibility of female and minority scientists across campus for all students to reduce the stereotype that only men with crazy hair work in the lab.

Linh Anh also will be working with the AAUW Student Group on campus at UCI and is joining the Newport-Mesa-Irvine Branch.

Tina Byrne, C/U Committee Chair, aauwtina@gmail.com

PUBLIC POLICY

Thanks to all branches that took an active part in events leading up to the November election. Over 35 branches reported registering voters, holding candidate forums, educating voters on the California Ballot Propositions, or getting out the vote in other ways. While many of us have concerns about how the inevitable and still-undefined policy changes will impact AAUW's priority issues, we must acknowledge the results of the election but also commit to monitoring policy changes in the Administration and Congress. As Lisa Maatz succinctly stated, "AAUW will always speak truth to power."

The CA Public Policy Committee will soon be drafting the AAUW CA Public Policy Priorities for 2017-19, which will then be on the spring AAUW CA ballot for member approval. Thanks to all branches who took the time to review and comment on the priorities!

Sue Miller, suellen-aauw@wavecable.org and **Nancy Mahr**, nlmahr@verizon.net, AAUW Public Policy Co-Chairs

MEMBERSHIP

Membership VPs are reminded that as of November 30th all members who have not paid their dues were removed from the branch roster. Membership VPs - Please check the [National MSD](#) (Member Services Database) to make sure all your members are listed. If you have problems, please contact:

Alex Bellenger, Director, Membership Committee Co-Chair, alexbellenger22@yahoo.com and **Kathy Andreini**, Membership Committee Co-Chair, kathyaauw@gmail.com

BRANCH SUPPORT

Here's a common question: Where do I send our newsletter so all branches can read it? I've heard from several branches about this recently, so as a reminder to everyone, here's where to send your newsletter - branchnewsletters@AAUW-ca.org. If you'd like to receive copies of the newsletters, send an email to webteam@aauw-ca.org.

"The more we share, the more we have." Leonard Nimoy

Wishing you a happy, healthy season!

Ainsley Nies, Director, Branch Support, branch@aauw-ca.org

COMMUNICATIONS

Website Tips and Tricks

We're continually adding new features to improve the website. Have you noticed the small blue button at the bottom right of each page? Click on it to send a message to the webteam. Using it you can:

- Ask a question
- Submit an article for the website
- Submit an event for the calendar

State Directory

Keeping the state directory up to date is important and it's continually changing! For the latest updates, print the [State Directory Updates](#) document. It lists the changes that have been made since the directory was printed. Page numbers are included so you don't have to print out an entire new directory. If you don't already have a printed directory, print both documents. They can be found in the [Communications Category](#) on the website.

Help Wanted

The Communications Committee is adding members to our team. Do you have three to four hours a month to be the liaison between the web team and a state committee? In this role, you'll collaborate to understand the committee's communication needs and coordinate their updates to the website. You'll only focus on one or two committees. No website experience is necessary. If you have website experience or want to learn though, this is the perfect opportunity. Our website is state of the art and you'll learn valuable skills that you can use outside AAUW.

Sandi Gabe, Director, Chair, AAUW CA Communications Committee, Communications@aauw-ca.org

PROGRAM

Just a reminder that we would love for you to send in your application for Program of the Month to share your great ideas with your fellow members. The [Program Recognition Application](#) can be found in the Program Category of the website.

After most of the holiday rush is over, why not join the Eleanor Roosevelt conference call on Tuesday evening, December 27 from 7-8 pm? The number to call is [877-885-3221](tel:877-885-3221) with the passcode of 7770040. New participants are always welcome. This month we will be discussing chapter four of the Robin Gerber book [Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way](#). Happy Holidays everyone!

Lynne Batchelor, Director, Chair, AAUW CA Program Committee, lynneaauw@aol.com

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

The election for AAUW CA officers and directors will be held April 22 to May 12, unless there are no contested positions and no propositions. The initial nomination deadline is December 8,

in order to get material into the Perspective. Nominations for open positions will continue to be accepted and posted on the state website, until April 2, 2017.

The [nomination and election information](#) is on the state website.

The current candidates are:

Co-President-Elect

Cathy Foxhoven and Jane Niemeier

Director

Charmen Goehring

Jean Simutis, Nominations & Elections, nominating@aauw-ca.org

GOVERNANCE

STOP THE PRESSES

***IT'S TIME FOR A RESPITE FOR CA AAUW BRANCHES ON BYLAWS AMENDMENTS
AND CHANGES TO GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS***

Effective immediately there is a moratorium for California AAUW Branches on all bylaws amendments/changes, both mandatory requirements from National and discretionary branch amendments. Please do not move forward or take action on any changes in process until further notice. This includes re-stating your Articles of Incorporation *if* your branch is incorporated, name changes to branches, mergers, satellites, etc.

The reason for this moratorium is that the mandatory changes coming from National have become a moving target and there is an issue with AAUW California's designation as a mutual benefit v. a public benefit entity that is in the process of being resolved. National is in agreement with this moratorium mandate and understands that all AAUW CA branches, AAUW CA, and any other AAUW affiliate entities in CA will complete this process by the end of the AAUW fiscal year (June 30, 2017).

When we are ready to move forward with bylaws changes, including restating Articles of Incorporation for incorporated branches, you will receive ONE document with complete instructions and a checklist for moving forward to complete the process. It is our intent that this will alleviate the frustration with the ongoing never ending list of changes and changes to changes that you receive. Yes, you will continue to receive directives from National, but take NO ACTION on these directives until you receive a directive document with detailed steps from the AAUW CA Governance Committee.

Please share this information ASAP with your Branch Bylaws/Governance Chairs/Committees. Questions? Please send your questions to governance@aauw-ca.org. Your patience and willingness to work with us is greatly appreciated.

Sue Cochran, AAUW CA Governance Committee Chair, sjcaauw@sonic.net

Message sent to Group(s): Branch Leadership, State, Blanding, Sandi

AAUW California

<http://www.aauw-ca.org>

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