



**January 2017**

Happy New Year! You have received this e-newsletter because you agreed to serve your branch or the state organization in a committee or leadership position. Members of the state board send you news and information, deadlines and reminders to help you do your job. Please feel free to share any part of the Board to Board with your members.

### **REFLECTIONS FROM DONNA...**

What is your AAUW passion? There are so many facets of AAUW that can appeal to women. Many of us are really interested in the STEM activities. We have Tech Trek for girls entering eighth grade in the fall. They attend a weeklong camp on a California university campus. There are many ways to become involved in the process, either by reaching out to the schools or by serving on an interview committee and meeting the girls personally. If you want to be more involved, you can volunteer to work at the camps by contacting Linda Stinebaugh at [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org). Another STEM activity that AAUW has developed is Tech Savvy, a one day STEM conference for sixth through ninth grade girls. If you are interested in finding out about this program, check out [Tech Savvy](#).

Your passion may be oriented toward young women. Many branches raise money and fund local scholarships for young women in their communities. This gives you a connection to local women and an opportunity to really get to know how your money makes a difference. Another opportunity we all have is to send young women to the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#). Some branches identify young women from local colleges to attend the four-day event in Washington DC. Check out NCCWSL to learn more about this program.

Maybe your passion is linked to helping women already in the workforce. Besides reaching out to them to become members, AAUW has developed salary negotiation workshops to help them advance in their careers. The premier workshop in this package, called Start Smart, coaches newly graduated women in techniques to negotiate fair starting salaries. The newest workshop is Work Smart and is focused on women already in the workforce. California has received a grant to offer these workshops in San Jose, Long Beach and San Diego. You can find out more about these programs at this link [Salary Negotiations](#).

And finally, you may have passion for helping all women and girls by becoming an activist in public policy. There are so many opportunities to be involved. You can become a Two-Minute Activist by signing up [HERE](#). You will receive emails with links to contact your representative on

specific issues that are up for a vote. The information you need to contact them is included and a sample message is even provided. It is easy to do from home and very important. There are many other opportunities to become involved in public policy, including becoming your branch public policy chair. Click [HERE](#) for some resources that might help you decide if you want to get involved.

Whatever your AAUW passion, let's share that passion with those around us. Passion is infectious; you know because you find yourself babbling about your topic. So let's infect those around us with our AAUW passion.

**Donna Mertens**, President, AAUW CA, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)

### **AAUW FUND COMMITTEE**

Nominations for AAUW California State Named Gift Honoree and Branch Named Gift Honoree's are due February 15, 2017.

**AAUW California State Named Gift Honoree.** Branches and individuals can nominate a special AAUW member to be selected as AAUW California Named Gift Honoree for 2017. Nominees for this award have shown dedication by contributing to the AAUW mission at both the branch and state level. Click [HERE](#) to access the nomination form.

**Branch Named Gift Honoree.** Branches can nominate a Named Gift Honoree for each \$750 contributed to AAUW Fund on or before December 31st, 2016. Click [HERE](#) to access the nomination form.

There has been some confusion in the past regarding the nomination process for the Branch Named Gift Honoree. For every \$750 donated by a branch to the AAUW Fund, or any of the programs under the Fund, the branch may nominate a branch Named Gift honoree. If a branch has contributed money to the Fund, no additional money needs to be sent to make a nomination. In the past, some branches have mailed me \$750, to be sent to National, in order to nominate a member for the award. Funds should always be sent directly to National. We wish you a happy, healthy New Year!

**Sharon Westafer**, Director, Chair Fund Committee [aauwfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfund@aauw-ca.org)

### **GOVERNANCE**

Over the past month, two critical questions have been presented to the AAUW California Governance Committee that will have implications for all branches. Please read their summaries below. Feel free to contact the AAUW Governance chair at [governance@aauw-ca.org](mailto:governance@aauw-ca.org) if you have additional questions regarding either of these items or need further clarification.

1) How should a branch handle applications for membership, scholarships, or participation in other AAUW projects or activities from individuals who are transgender and are in the process of re-defining their gender identification?

Branches should consider the person's gender as that which they consider themselves to be at the time they file the application. In addition, in 2012 California passed an act that recognizes perceived gender identity. California law takes precedent over any bylaws or standing rules an organization might have in place that are counter to the law.

2) Are non-AAUW members allowed to participate in branch interest groups?

At this time AAUW has a membership requirement and participants in AAUW-sponsored activities for branch members, not including those events that are advertised as open to the

public, need to meet AAUW's current membership requirements. This includes participation in branch interest groups.

Most branches currently have guidelines in their branch policies and procedures for non-member participation in interest groups or other AAUW Branch-sponsored activities. In most cases, a person who is eligible for membership is allowed to attend and participate in an interest group for a defined number of times (usually 3) to determine if they are interested in becoming a member of AAUW. After that visitation time limit has been met, they are then required to join the branch/AAUW. It would be up to the branch, in its Policies and Procedures, to define any exceptions to the rule such as a spouse driving a member to a meeting because the member no longer drives and then remaining during the session as a non-participant. If the driver is eligible for membership and participates in the group activity the membership requirement rule would apply. The same is true of an adult developmentally disadvantaged child accompanying a member to a branch activity. In all instances, compassion and common courtesy are critical in addressing the situation and preserving our goodwill.

**Sue Cochran**, AAUW CA Governance Committee Chair, [sjcaauw@sonic.net](mailto:sjcaauw@sonic.net)

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

Women's Marches on January 21 are intended to send a message to all levels of government that we stand together in solidarity. We expect elected leaders to act to protect the rights of women, their families and their communities and recognize that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

AAUW California members are encouraged to participate in Women's Marches taking place around the state, including these locations:

[Chico](#)

[Los Angeles](#)

[North County San Diego](#)

[Eureka](#)

[Oakland](#)

[Orange County](#)

[Sacramento](#)

[San Diego](#)

[San Francisco](#)

[San Jose](#)

[San Luis Obispo](#)

[Santa Cruz](#)

[Sonoma County](#)

[Walnut Creek](#)

Let your community know that AAUW is a leader in advocating equity for women and girls by wearing a t-shirt with the AAUW logo! You can find details on our AAUW California [website](#), including how to purchase t-shirts.

**Sue Miller**, [suellen-aauw@wavecable.org](mailto:suellen-aauw@wavecable.org) and **Nancy Mahr**, [nlmahr@verizon.net](mailto:nlmahr@verizon.net), AAUW Public Policy Co-Chairs

## **SAVE THE DATE! LEADERSHIP DAYS**

Be the first to know the dates and venues of the Leadership Days in your area. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. Please encourage potential leaders to attend also. Workshop choices will be published in the February Board to Board and in the upcoming California Perspective.

Confirmed Schedule

March 11<sup>th</sup> - West Bay (San Francisco-Gilroy)  
San Jose City College

March 25<sup>th</sup> - Los Angeles area  
Presbyterian Hospital, Whittier  
Box lunches included

April 1<sup>st</sup> - East Bay/Central Valley  
Cal State East Bay- Concord Campus

Box lunches included

May 6th - Far North/Redding

Lema Ranch

Pizza/Salad lunches

Still pending: Santa Barbara area and San Diego

**Cathy Foxhoven**, Director, AAUW CA Leadership Development, [aauwfox@gmail.com](mailto:aauwfox@gmail.com)

## **SPEECH TREK**

Still Trying To Identify Speech Trek Semi-finalist Judges Throughout The State.

Thank you to the several members who volunteered to judge the Speech Trek semi-finals

March 1st - March 10th. Our bylaws and Policies & Procedures state the judges must be non-AAUW members. This was created to bring community awareness to AAUW, as well as provide a fair and equitable contest for all participants. If you know of qualified coaches, please contact [speechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:speechtrek@aauw-ca.org).

**Cathy Foxhoven**, Director, AAUW CA Speech Trek Coordinator, [speechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:speechtrek@aauw-ca.org)

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

*Tools to help you succeed.*

Each month the AAUW California Communications Committee will highlight a tool that we use to make our job easier or give us better information. We've created a section on the website that highlights Tech Tools you might consider incorporating into your branch operations. Check it out [HERE](#).

This month we're focused on "How do you know?" In order to understand what our members and leaders want we need to ask them. That can be a daunting task when you have nearly 11,000 members and 1,100 branch and state Leaders if you have to rely on emailing a set of questions and recording the answers in a spreadsheet. Google Forms and Survey Monkey are tools that we use to easily ask questions, tally responses and create meaningful reports. Both tools allow you to ask a set of questions with a form that can be emailed or embedded in a website. Survey Monkey is a bit more sophisticated and allows you to use branching logic to route respondents through questions. We are in the process of migrating all downloadable forms to Google Forms on our website so that responses are immediately tallied and available. See an example of Google Forms in action on our website under [Named Gift Honorees](#).

Last summer we surveyed members to identify website needs. Based on member feedback, our redesigned AAUW California website was launched last October. The upcoming issue of the California Perspective (and the February Board to Board newsletter) will include a survey about that publication's form, cost, content, format, tone and length. We hope you will encourage your members to take the time to tell us what they like and what they don't like about the California Perspective so that it fits their needs. Members will be able to complete and submit the survey form printed in the issue or they will be able to take the survey online at our website.

**Sandi Gabe**, Director, Communications, [Communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:Communications@aauw-ca.org)

## **STATE PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Branches will soon be selecting girls for the 2017 upcoming Tech Trek camps. The State Projects Oversight Committee, along with former Tech Trekker Rae'Bel Neary, prepared a video

for branches to use to tell girls about the Tech Trek experience. Please click [HERE](#) to find the video.



**Jane Niemeier**, Chair, State Projects Oversight Committee, [jniemeie@hotmail.com](mailto:jniemeie@hotmail.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS - RETENTION**

As the new year begins, membership in AAUW becomes an even more important avenue to promote equity for women and girls. Building rapport with new members and keeping veteran members involved is important for retention and increasing AAUW visibility. One way branches have welcomed members and engaged the more established members has been through meet-and-greet dinners or gatherings, wherein new members get to interact with members who have been with the branch for quite some time.

Sharing information about the interest groups and advocacy efforts of your branch will help in recruitment. Utilize the resources and networks you have at your disposal and spread awareness of AAUW by promoting what the organization has to offer, such as scholarships and Tech Trek.

**Alex Bellenger**, Director, Membership Committee Co-Chair, [alexbellenger22@yahoo.com](mailto:alexbellenger22@yahoo.com) and **Kathy Andreini**, Membership Committee Co-Chair, [kathyaauw@gmail.com](mailto:kathyaauw@gmail.com)

### **A NCCWSL REMINDER**

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) unites college women from across the country to address important leadership issues of the day. Attendees have transformative experiences that inspire them to improve their campuses and their communities. Visit [www.nccwsl.org](http://www.nccwsl.org) to learn more about NCCWSL and the effect it had on past attendees. The conference is May 31–June 3, 2017, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Please consider having your branch sponsor a student from a local campus to have this wonderful experience.

- December 5, 2016: Early-Bird Registration Opened Call for national scholarship applications opened. Full payment due by February 28, 2017, 11:59 p.m. ET.
- February 28, 2017: Early-Bird Registration Ends Last day to register with fully refundable registration. Call for national scholarship applications ends.

- March 1, 2017: Regular Registration Opens Includes nonrefundable \$100 deposit, per registrant. Early-bird registrants who have not paid in full are removed from registration and returned their deposit.
- April 30, 2017: Final Day to Register Payments are due in full. Registrants who have not paid in full forfeit their \$100 deposit and are removed from registration

**Tina Byrne**, Chair C/U Committee, [tina.byrne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tina.byrne@sbcglobal.net)

## PROGRAM

Due to unanticipated circumstances, the December Eleanor Roosevelt discussion group was postponed. Please join us at the January 24th conference call when we will discuss both chapters 4 and 5. Victor Valley branch demonstrates how to extend the Eleanor discussion through An Afternoon with Eleanor on Saturday, January 14 from noon to 2:30 in Victorville. This branch program will feature Donna Mertens as Mrs. Roosevelt. Please let me know if your branch has used our statewide read for a project or program. As a reminder, our calls are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and are accessed by dialing 877 885 3221 and entering the passcode 7770040. Best wishes for a wonderful 2017!

**Lynne Batchelor**, Director, Chair, AAUW CA Program Committee, [lynneaauw@aol.com](mailto:lynneaauw@aol.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

See the calendar on the AAUW California website for upcoming state and branch events. The calendar on the right side of the home page contains only public events while the calendar at the top of the page contains all AAUW events including deadlines for state committee activities.

If you check the calendars regularly, you won't miss gems like this upcoming event:

[Women Changing Our World: Paths to Leadership](#)

The Santa Clara County Interbranch Council (IBC) of AAUW presents five outstanding leaders in the fields of business, law, government, STEM and sports in a panel discussion entitled "Women Changing Our World: Paths To Leadership."

- When: Sunday, January 29, 2017, 2-4 p.m.
- Where: San Jose City College Theater, 2100 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, CA 95128
- Who: Panelists include Danielle Feinberg, Director of Photography-Lighting for Pixar Animation Studios; Marlene Bjornsrud, Executive Director of the Alliance of Women Coaches; Caryn Beck-Dudley, Dean of the Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University; and Superior Court Judge Julianne Sylva. Moderator is Cathy Foxhoven of AAUW-California.
- What: Panelists will discuss the special challenges they have faced and overcome as women in male-dominated fields. They will describe what led them to their current life's work, how they have reached their current positions, and how women can create and pursue paths to leadership.

The event is free and open to the public and no registration is needed. Q and A will follow the panel discussion.

Contact: Claire Noonan [c.noonan@yahoo.com](mailto:c.noonan@yahoo.com)

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**Message sent to Group(s): BranchLeadership, State, Blanding**

AAUW California

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

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