



June 2017

Please remember to share the information in this edition with those who are assuming new responsibilities in your branch as we are in a transition between the existing and new officers. **HAPPY SUMMER!**

REFLECTIONS FROM DONNA...

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

This is the last issue for 2016-17. Most of you are preparing for next year. You are either leaving your branch position, entering into a new position, or you are staying where you are and thinking about making it better for next year. The last option is where I am. I have ended my first year as state president and I'm beginning my second year. It took the first year for me to understand how things worked. I have learned a lot and now I'm trying to make a difference in 2017-18.

That isn't always easy. Making a difference sometimes means shaking things up. It can be scary. It's much easier to just keep doing what has always been done. After all, I only have one more year and I could just sit back and let things happen. You may be facing changes in your branch. If no one steps up to be president, what do you do? If you don't have a secretary, how can you continue? In this past year I have heard of two branches that are each over 100 years old. One of the branches ended up merging with another branch. The second one found a way to keep going. It is so hard to lose all that history and that passion. AAUW has been such a large part of my life for the past 16 years that I can't imagine it not being there.

Branches all over California are trying to find ways to continue. Ainsley Neis, AAUW California Director and chair of the Branch Support Committee, has developed and presented workshops on alternative forms of governance. We have many ways to govern; it doesn't have to be the old traditional form. We in the Old Guard, myself included, are comfortable with having a president, program vice president, fund vice president, treasurer, secretary, etc. It's not easy to think that we don't have to have all those positions. We get hung up on titles. It's time to realize that the structure is not AAUW. WE are AAUW. Together we can find a way to keep AAUW moving forward. Help me make a difference this year. Tell everyone you meet about AAUW. Hand out brochures. Be proud of what we do and share the wonder of Tech Trek, Speech Trek and all the valuable programs that our branches are doing. We are the best kept secret in town and it is time to let the secret out that we are making a difference for women and girls.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

AAUW California Branch Officer Report:

AAUW California maintains a database of California branch leaders and state committee members to facilitate communication between the AAUW state board and branch boards. The information is used to produce:

- Job-specific email distribution groups which are used to send important email messages from the state organization to branch officers.
- Annual print and online directory of state and branch leaders. The directory is distributed annually to branch presidents and state committee members and is available on the state website. Please note that not all branch leadership positions are listed in the directory.

Outgoing Presidents are requested to [update](#) the records by **JULY 1st**. You may delegate this responsibility to another officer. Access to the Branch Officer Report is now available [online](#) on the AAUW California website.

If you have difficulty updating your records, please contact Kim Wilber in the AAUW California office at 916-448-7795.

GOVERNANCE

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

Membership Action Alert:

A critical issue will be coming before the membership of AAUW California in the near to immediate future that needs **EVERYONE's** attention and vote. Please read the following information carefully and direct any questions you might have to governance@aauw-ca.org or statepresident@aauw-ca.org.

When AAUW California undertook its reorganization in 2008 a critical error was made that affects the corporate standing of AAUW California under California Corporate Code as well as its standing with the IRS, as well as its affiliate relationship with National. At that time AAUW California was switched from a "public benefit corporation" to a "mutual benefit corporation". National is a public benefit corporation and AAUW California as a state affiliate must be aligned with National as a public benefit corporation. We have spent a great deal of time negotiating with the state of California and conferring with an attorney on the issue. The outcome is that the membership needs to vote to change the corporate designation for AAUW California back to a public benefit corporation. Without this change we risk losing our National affiliation as well as jeopardizing our tax status.

In the near future every member of AAUW California will receive a notice of a vote on this proposed change. The vote will be taken electronically and in order for the presented motion to pass, it is critical that every member vote and approve this change to the corporate designation of AAUW California back to a public benefit corporation.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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

Still Looking For A Few Good....Women And Men!

If you have leadership knowledge that you would like to share with the branches, the Leadership Development Committee would love to have you join them this coming year. The team could use your expertise to help prepare and/or present a workshop for the AAUW California convention in April or for the 2017-2018 leadership training days. Trust yourself that you can impart leadership skills to your fellow members. Send in your [vitae](#) ASAP and plan

on attending the July 15th Leadership Day in Sacramento to help develop the workshops for the year. AAUW California will cover your expenses to participate in the event. Subsequent communication and planning will be via email.

SPEECH TREK IS VITAL AND VALUABLE

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

As you plan your new year, consider having your branch participate in **SPEECH TREK!** The competition will bring valuable community visibility to your branch and educate high school students about AAUW's mission. The 2017-2018 topic is: *How do we stand up to sexism? What can I/AAUW do to break down stereotypes?*

All you need is a coordinator to work with your area high schools and a small budget for financial awards to make the competition an incentive to those busy students. Consider hosting a special fundraiser for your Speech Trek contest. One branch recently reported that they raised \$800 from a "Paint n' Sip" event. If you need more information, please contact Cathy Foxhoven at speechtrek@aauw-ca.org.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY (C/U)

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

Summer To Do List:

- Name a branch C/U Coordinator and make sure your branch president enters that name in both the national Member Services Database and the [state Branch Officer Report](#).
- Ask the C/U Representatives at nearby partner campuses to become branch members. The C/U Representatives are already national members and their state dues are also free. Your branch could sponsor their branch dues.
- Join us on the C/U Committee. We are seeking new members to work with branches, partner members, and student organizations.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Alex Bellenger, Director, Membership Committee Co-Chair, alexbellenger22@yahoo.com and

Kathy Andreini, Membership Committee Co-Chair, kathyaauw@gmail.com

Give a Grad a Gift

Give a Grad a Gift is a great way to introduce any recent college graduate, male or female, to AAUW. Members may give as many free gifts as they like. Let your members know that if they would like the recipient to also receive a free State membership, they should **forward the confirmation from National** to office@aauw-ca.org. Additionally, branches can waive the branch fee. If branch fees have been waived, **forward the confirmation from National** to membership@aauw-ca.org. This is a good method of recruitment and may help you attract college graduates to AAUW.

If you weren't able to include the Give a Grad Gift information in your branch's newsletter, you can send a special email to the members reminding them of this opportunity to provide a membership at no cost to them.

Also, don't forget to redeem your branch's free [Shape the Future](#) memberships!

PUBLIC POLICY

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

Bills are moving through the State Legislature. June 2nd was the deadline for bills to pass out of the house of origin. Some bills on which we have taken positions have been placed on the "suspense file" in the Appropriations Committees to be taken up later or are being held until 2018. This is due to the bills having costs attached. At some point, the Committee will look at all the bills in "suspense" and decide which they feel the state can afford to fund. Most of our targeted bills are continuing to move forward. You can track bill progress on the AAUW California website – click on Advocacy, then on [Bill Tracking](#).

Action Alerts: We are starting to send out [Action Alerts](#) which are emailed notifications of opportunities to take action related to critical legislation. Be prepared to respond immediately when an alert is received. This is an important grassroots tool. When alerts come to you as a board member, pass them on to your members.

As you plan for the coming year, be sure to include at least one branch program related to Public Policy. In this environment of major changes in federal laws it is important to keep our members well informed.

Keep up your efforts to connect with the local offices of your legislators. This is a key way for legislators to know what AAUW is and what we value and work to achieve.

We are sad to say goodbye to our terrific AAUW national public policy leader and mentor, Lisa Maatz, as she moves on to new opportunities. Lisa put together a great national Public Policy team who will continue to lead and to support the work of the branches and state organizations.

PROGRAM

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

Most branches hold a summer retreat, organizational meeting or goal-setting planning session. Please use this opportunity to ensure that a preponderance of your programs are mission-based. For additional information please check out the resources on both the state and national websites. Next year is our second year of *Leadership: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, a monthly state-wide "virtual" book group via conference call. Next year's discussion will be on [I am Malala](#). I encourage you to be thinking of ways to incorporate this study into your branch programming. Happy summer!

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

Deanna Arthur, Director, Development and Marketing Chair, deannaauw@gmail.com

As we reach the end of our program year, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you who read the Board to Board and shared information with your branch members.

We care about our branches and we care about AAUW. To that end, continue announcing your meetings on Meetup, Facebook, bulletin boards; and anywhere you can find like-minded people. Never stop fighting the good fight and caring about women and girls.

If you know a company that would love to sponsor an event at the 2018 Convention, please share that information with Kathleen Doty, our convention chair at dotyk2@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at the national convention in a few weeks.

FINANCE

Patricia (Pat) Ferrer, Director, AAUW California Chief Financial Officer, cfo@aauw-ca.org

If you are turning over the job to the new treasurer as of June 30th, please reconcile your bank account(s) through that date and then complete the following:

1. **Annual Financial Report** to AAUW California: Complete this form [online](#) at our website. All you need to provide is your branches total income and total expenses. The purpose of this report is to help us identify branches that may be experiencing financial distress and need help.
2. **Federal Income Tax Filing**: Although this isn't due to the IRS until 11/15/2017, if your branch income is \$50,000 or less, you can file it now. Either opt in with AAUW National, if your branch or IBC is NOT a 501(c)(3), or just complete the postcard form. To reduce fraudulent submissions, you may need to create an account with the IRS—just follow the instructions. If your branch has greater than \$50,000 income, a 990 EZ or 990 must be filed with the IRS.
3. **State Income Tax Filing**. Each branch must submit its state income tax form. While you can opt in to have AAUW National file your Federal income tax return, neither AAUW National nor AAUW California can file your California franchise tax submission for you. You can complete this postcard form online too. If your branch has greater than \$50,000 income, a 199 EZ or 199 must be filed with the California Franchise Tax Board.

Links to these forms may be found [HERE](#). Need more help? Email me at cfo@aauw-ca.org or call 562 597 4781.

State Dues Checks

Please send state dues checks no more frequently than once every two weeks to:

AAUW California
1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833