



December 2017

Happy Holidays from your AAUW California Board of Directors! This is such a busy and fun time of the year and we hope your holiday event is enjoyed by all. Share any part of this newsletter with your branch leaders and your members. Please pay close attention to the important information in Governance concerning the upcoming vote.

REFLECTIONS FROM DONNA...

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

Our holiday season is in full swing. I know some of you are way ahead of the rest of us. You have all your presents purchased and your trees and decorations are up. The rest of us will catch up soon. Did you know that November 28th was the 136th anniversary of AAUW? And Kim Churches, our new CEO, has been traveling the country on her "listening tour" to find out what our members and branches think about our organization. She is looking at who we are and what we should be. She is asking all of us to think about what AAUW does well and what we could do better.

So, what can we do better than anyone else? There are so many nonprofit organizations around and many have similar goals. We should differentiate ourselves from all the others. How can we do that? The National board will approve a new strategic plan in June. Kim will be using all the information she has gathered and with her working committee, she will put

together a draft plan by March. The branches and members will have 45 days to review and comment on the draft plan during March and April. It is important for all of us to take advantage of this opportunity to help move our organization into the future. We need to focus our efforts in order to make sure that AAUW is relevant and has an impact on equity for women and girls.

AAUW FUND

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

The Deadline is Quickly Approaching

Please remember that the deadline for contributions to AAUW Fund is December 31 for recognition for 2017. In accordance with IRS regulations, National goes by the postmark date rather than the date on the donation check. Click ([HERE](#)) for branch donation forms. Please consider designating your contributions to help finish an unfinished California endowment. Click ([HERE](#)) for the list.

Seventeen remarkable stories you helped make possible

In three locations across the state, Fellowship and Grant recipients shared their passion for education, research and changing the world. With topics ranging from decreasing and decarbonizing the nation's energy footprint to life and death-term criminal sentencing of women, the impact of our financial donations to support fellowships and grants was evident and inspiring. Catch a glimpse of their thought-provoking research by watching the [videos](#) from the recent AAUW California Fund Luncheons. As an example, listen to Coly Lenz discuss her research on criminalization, gender violence, and social movements in California. Her studies focus on life and death-term criminal sentencing of women. Watch her [presentation](#) from the Seal Beach Fund Luncheon.

Thanks very much to our videographers; Robbie Cavolino (Southern CA luncheon), Cathy Foxhoven (South San Francisco luncheon) and Jan Cushman (Danville luncheon). We truly appreciate all of your commitment to making sure the luncheon speakers can be seen by members unable to attend the luncheons.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY (C/U) COMMITTEE

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

Want to do your part to inspire future leaders to become role models for generations to come?

Where do student leaders have transformative experiences that inspire them to improve their campuses and their communities? The 2018 National Conference For College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is coming from May 30 to June 2, 2018 at the University of Maryland. Encourage young women to attend and to apply for scholarships. Even better, create your own branch scholarships! Early-Bird registration is open now through January 31, 2018. Regular registration is February 1 through April 30, 2018. The [National Scholarship Application](#) is now open and closes on February 28, 2018.

Check out the national website where you will find information on everything [NCCWSL](#) including how to send a student to this incredible conference.

FINANCE

Pat Ferrer, CFO, cfo@aauw-ca.org

Let's Clear Up Some Things

Annual Financial Report: Apparently there was some misunderstanding regarding my B2B last month. I only have the power to eliminate the AAUW California Annual Financial Report. Reporting to the IRS, Franchise Tax Board, and others remain in effect.

Outstanding Invoices from AAUW California: Thank you to all the branches that paid their bill for insurance and the fund assessment on or before the due date. All other branches have had the invoice re-sent through QuickBooks to the Finance Officer(s) of record (check your spam if it didn't arrive) and then emailed to the Branch President and Finance Officers. I have heard back from several of you. Please pay this bill immediately. AAUW California paid the insurance bill in full back in July. The amount is almost 25 percent of our operating costs. We need your payment to help us pay our bills. We also need the payment for the fund assessment in early December, so we can send in our CY 2017 donation to National by December 15.

Events with greater than 500 in attendance: Our insurance broker found that our liability insurance only covers events with attendance of 500 or less. If your branch needs insurance for an event with attendance greater than 500, the increased cost will need to be paid by the branch. AAUW California will pay the bill and invoice your branch for the amount paid.

Information about insurance, the fund assessment, and other financial topics of importance to Branch Finance Officers/Treasurers may be found on our [website](#).

GOVERNANCE

Sue Cochran, Governance Committee Chair, governance@aauw-ca.org

AAUW California Re-Vote Scheduled for January 9-11, 2018

The September 2017 member vote to return AAUW California to a Public Benefit Corporation failed because of 26 “No” votes. Although 99% of votes were “Yes,” it was not enough. Our state’s corporate regulations require a unanimous “Yes” vote to change the status of a corporation.

AAUW California will conduct a re-vote January 9-11, 2018 in hopes of avoiding costly and time-consuming legal options.

The FAQ piece has been updated and expanded on the AAUW California website and can be [downloaded](#) and distributed to your members or included in your branch newsletter. Encourage your members to thoroughly read this piece and address any additional questions or need for clarification to governance@aauw-ca.org. **It is critical that all members voting cast a “Yes” vote to change the status to a Public Benefit Corporation in order to move the organization forward.**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Cathy Foxhoven, Co-President Elect, Leadership Development Chair, leaderdev@aauw-ca.org

CHANGE IS GOOD...IF YOU CAN REMEMBER!

“LEADER ON LOAN” BECOMES “BRANCH RESOURCE CONNECTION”

Remember the famous song from **THE FANTASTICS** entitled “Try to Remember”. AAUW members are still struggling with the name change of AAUW Fund – now we’re asking you to remember another name change!

The Leader on Loan Program was designed to share expertise and training to the branches. However, "**Branch Resource Connection**" better clarifies what this branch support provides to the branches.

Branch Resource Connection provides branches with speakers from AAUW CA current/past directors, appointed chairs and members. These speakers will present mission-based programs to the members and the community that are relevant to their area. It helps to strengthen the branch's internal organization, increase AAUW California's presence in the community, overcome common challenges such as growing and retaining membership and develop branch leaders.

Remember the name **BRANCH RESOURCE CONNECTION!**

MEMBERSHIP

Deanna Arthur (Secretary) and Kathy Andreini, Membership Committee Co-Chairs, membership@aauw-ca.org

Has anyone been left out?

Please be sure to check your branch roster on the [National website](#). On November 30th all members whose dues have not been paid for 2017-18 have been removed from the Member Services Database. While you're on the MSD, please double check to make sure members' contact information is correct. Email addresses are particularly important for voting.

Contact membership@aauwca.org for help accessing the Member Services Database (MSD). Feel free to contact Deanna Arthur if you are from the South or Kathy Andreini if you are from the North if you have any other questions. Keep up the good work.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Donna Lilly, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

Hone Your Skills as a Dynamic Leader

Self-nominate as a candidate for Secretary or one of five Directors for the AAUW California Board of Directors. Share your knowledge and passion for AAUW as one team player on the

Board of 12 Directors. The strength of our organization needs you as a dynamic leader in 2018-2020.

I invite you to complete an [application form](#) online prior to December 8th.

Job descriptions and duties are found in the [Policies and Procedures](#) in the Governance section of the website. To access this section, you need to enter the password: aauwca.

PROGRAM

Jane Niemeier Co-President Elect), and *Stormy Miller*, Director, Program Co-Chairs, program@aauw-ca.org

Did You Say Prizes?!?!

'Tis the season of giving, so yes we did! The Program Committee is anxiously awaiting your Branch Bingo cards! As an incentive to get those daubers out and showcase your mission-based activity, we have LOTS of prizes in hand, and even better...it's AAUW swag for the grand prize winners! We have t-shirts, seat pads, notepads, and other goodies we'd love to give away for your participation. As a reminder, Round 1 results are due by December 31st. You can find the bingo card on the AAUW California website on the [Programs and Education](#) page. Thank you to La Mesa-El Cajon and Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch who have shared the activity among their branch members or indicated they would work to complete. See, we're always looking!

Programs of the Quarter

As the end of the year approaches, we're gearing up for another round of outstanding program recognition, which will be announced in the January B2B and on the AAUW California website. Did you miss the last announcement? No worries! The link will take you to the July through September [Programs of the Quarter](#), naming the branches and the particular program activity. With topics related to gender equity, running for office, STEM, and international work in Russia, branch programs left us motivated and inspired. Please keep up the good work and continue to let us know about those outstanding programs!

PUBLIC POLICY

Charmen Goehring, and Nancy Mahr, Directors, Public Policy Co-Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

Perfect Pre-Season Public Policy Plans

The Legislative session is over and legislators are home in their districts for the next few weeks. This is the perfect time to sign up for your local representative's newsletter to keep up on their actions and to make appointments to introduce yourselves to not only your legislator but the district staff. Your State Public Policy Committee, along with our advocate, are hoping to also build a database that includes the names of elected and appointed office holders who are members of branches-please send in their names to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org!

As part of our statewide effort to build up advocacy efforts, we will be offering an exciting plenary to open our AAUW California State Convention in April. Plan to join us and help take our mission and public policy platform to new heights!

SPEECH TREK

Marlene Cain, AAUW California Speech Trek Coordinator, spechtrek@aauw-ca.org

How can we stand up to sexism? The following branches are going to find out when they host their 2018 Speech Trek competitions!

- Big Bear Valley
- California Online
- Diamond Bar-Walnut
- Half Moon Bay
- Healdsburg
- La Mesa-El Cajon
- Lompoc-Vandenberg
- Morgan Hill
- Napa
- Napa Valley
- Oakdale-Riverbank-Escalon
- Redlands
- Riverside-Moreno Valley-San Geronio
- Roseville-South Placer
- Sacramento
- Stockton

This year's topic-- "How Can We Stand Up to Sexism?"-- is relevant, timely, and encourages our younger generation--high school boys and girls -- to understand and speak out on this important topic.

It's not too late - join us in 2018 or beyond! Speech Trek is an ideal platform to publicize your branch and to advance mission-critical topics while giving high school youth (and future AAUW members!) an opportunity to hone research, leadership and communication skills.

Never hosted Speech Trek? No problem! Call AAUW California Coordinator Marlene Cain, (909.866.2819) and she'll walk you through how to get started, share best practices, including partnering with an organization that regularly hosts speech contests, such as Toastmasters International (www.toastmasters.org). Or email Marlene at aauwcain@earthlink.net. Or download the [Branch Tool Kit](#).

How can your branch stand up to sexism? Participate in Speech Trek, which joins together your community and your branch, and begin breaking down stereotypes and biases in school, at work, in the military, and in our communities.