



January 2018

With the holidays behind us and 2018 ahead of us, we next prepare our branches for the upcoming January 9-11 re-vote to return AAUW California to a Public Benefit organization. **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.** It’s better to not vote if you don’t understand than to cast a no vote. See the Governance article below.

2018 promises to be exciting with the upcoming AAUW California State Convention and election of eight candidates for six positions on the AAUW California Board of Directors. Campaigning and convention information will be forthcoming.

AAUW FUND

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

Nominations for **AAUW California State Named Gift Honoree** and **Branch Named Gift Honoree/s** are due by February 15, 2018. Branches and individuals can nominate a special AAUW member to be selected as [AAUW California Named Gift Honoree for 2018](#). Nominees for this award have shown dedication to AAUW at the branch **and** state level. Branches can honor individuals who contribute at the branch level to the mission of AAUW by completing the [Branch Named Gift Honoree form](#).

There has been some confusion in the past regarding the nomination process and branches have mailed me \$750, to be sent to National, in order to nominate a member for the award. 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.

We wish you a happy, healthy New Year!

COMMUNICATION

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

Are you a Techie Wannabe?

With 74 website managers, 46 Communication Managers, 14 Marketing Managers, 108 Newsletter Editors and 41 Publicity Managers serving AAUW California Branches, we have a wealth of expertise in our own ranks.

To capitalize on this know-how, the AAUW California Communication Committee is launching a Peer Group aimed at sharing best practices, learning new tools and techniques and maximizing our use of technology.

We'll meet by conference call initially to determine areas of interest and will follow with monthly meetings focused on a particular tool or need identified by the group.

An Invitation to participate will be sent to Branch Leaders. Our initial meeting will be held Thursday, February 22nd at 6:30 pm. The topic for this meeting will be Facebook best practices.

Stop by to share your wisdom or learn some new techniques!

Convention 2018 will re-energize your branch

Jim Doty, California Perspective editor, perspective@aauw-ca.org

AAUW California's biennial convention will be April 27-29, 2018 at the Irvine Marriott (18000 Von Karman Avenue in Irvine). The convention theme is "Educated. Reasoned. Active.". There has never been a time in which we have been more challenged to advance our mission, nor has there ever been a greater opportunity.

Celebrate the advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research we do to achieve equity for women and girls! Meet state and national leaders. Attend revitalizing workshops. Hear inspiring and entertaining speakers, including plenary sessions on grassroots advocacy, women peacebuilders, advancing equity for all, and this year's Speech Trek competition: "How Can We Stand Up to Sexism?" And we will top it off with a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Tech Trek!

Encourage your members to attend. Include information about AAUW California's biennial convention in your branch newsletter and website.

Additional details and registration materials will be in the winter issue of the *California Perspective* and our state website. The [logo](#) for the convention can be downloaded from the AAUW California website.

FINANCE

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

Insurance, insurance, insurance

Our liability insurance only covers events with expected attendance of 500 or less. If attendance is higher, an additional form must be completed and additional insurance paid. The [certificate of insurance form](#) has been updated to reflect the attendance requirements. Please tell your appropriate branch leaders to access this new form.

Most of our branches have paid their insurance bill that was due November 15, 2017. However, we still have a handful that have not. Each branch has been sent reminders directly through QuickBooks and in direct emails to the branch president and treasurer shown in our state directory. If you haven't paid your insurance (and funds assessment bill), please do so ASAP. We already paid the bill in full in July 2017!

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Jan Cook, Financial Literacy Committee Chair, financialliteracy@aauw-ca.org

Are you Financially Literate? Can you answer these questions?

Financial Literacy is understanding your money: where it comes from, how to earn it and what to do with it. Financial Literacy is the ability of an individual to make appropriate decisions in managing personal finances.

Can you answer these questions about **your own** Financial Literacy?

- What is the difference between a “need” and a “want”?
- Do you know where your money goes each month?
- Do you have a budget?
- Do you use a financial diary?
- What about your savings? your giving?
- Are you careful with your personal information?

When researching Financial Literacy, you will find these questions to be the most important tools wherever you look.

Every financial institution by law has an education division that presents programs for the public. Type in “Financial Literacy” in your browser—there is more information than you can absorb. Many education sites are based on national and specific state standards for Financial Literacy and entrepreneurship education.

Financial Literacy in today's world is almost as important as learning to read and write. A goal we all share is that of financial responsibility and success. Most people are not prepared to manage their money, yet all people handle money.

I hope to see many of you at the AAUW California state convention in April in Irvine California. Look for the Financial Literacy Workshop in your program.

GOVERNANCE

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

Mark your calendar for the AAUW California Articles of Incorporation Re-Vote January 9-11, 2018

Please note that all votes (including phone votes) must be cast between January 9-11 in order to be valid. Early phone votes will not be accepted.

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.

What is the difference between a Mutual Benefit and a Public Benefit Organization?

Mutual Benefit

Members of a Mutual Benefit corporation can receive distributions from the organization and receive the assets of the organization if it is dissolved, similar to shareholders of a for-profit corporation.

Mutual Benefit Corporations typically qualify under 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6).

Public Benefit

All assets must be irrevocably dedicated to a charitable purpose and as such, there are no distributions to members of the organization on dissolution or otherwise.

Public Benefits corporations generally qualify for federal tax exemption under 501(c)(3) and sometimes 501(c)(4).

The FAQs have 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 align with National AAUW's status and move the organization forward.**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

Please resolve to share with your leaders and members the information contained in this B2B and the upcoming *California Perspective*. It is so important to read it all in order to be informed about AAUW California and AAUW.

This New Year's resolution will help educate your leaders and develop new leaders!

MEMBERSHIP

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

Is your branch in compliance? Have you visited the national website lately?

PLEASE make sure your branch is being inclusive for people with disabilities when you plan your events. [This guide](#) gives you helpful tools and hints to make your event a success. A little preplanning and care make us that much more inclusive and accessible to new members.

Let us know if you found this useful and please be sure to share with the others on your branch boards.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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

Candidates Are Campaigning

Eight candidates stepped up to answer the call to fill 6 vacant seats on the AAUW California Board of Directors. Candidates from the north and south of the state are currently campaigning to be elected to serve you in 2018-2020. Members with an email address will receive an invitation to cast a ballot. Members without an email on file with AAUW National will receive a postcard with voting instructions on how to cast a vote by phone or online between April 22 and May 12.

Check out the [8 candidate statements](#), photos and videos.

Prepare to be impressed.

PROJECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Dianne Owens, Project Oversight Committee Chair, dianneowens9@gmail.com

The next Tech Trek or Speech Trek?

Does your branch have a mission-based project that you would like to pursue, but you need some funding? Is it a project that would not only benefit your community but might be applicable to other California branches and communities?

The AAUW California Board of Directors has approved an application procedure for branches that have developed or want to develop new projects that will enhance our AAUW mission of breaking through barriers for women and girls. Branches and individual AAUW members may apply. Up to two \$500 grants will be awarded each year. The deadline for application is March 1, 2018. The application and directions for applying for a [State Project Grant](#) are located on the AAUW California website.

In 2017, the Auburn Branch received a grant of \$500 to help them implement a new project, *Electrifying Art: A Maker Project*. A branch or individual who receives a grant may apply for a renewal of one year. The current AAUW California Project Oversight Committee oversees Tech Trek and Speech Trek.

PROGRAM

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

Programs of the Quarter - October, November, December

Our branches have had such dynamite programs that it is very difficult to pick the Programs of the Quarter for the second quarter of the year. We have been mulling over more than 40 branch programs that are worthy of recognition. We first separated the mission-based programs into categories which are as follows with the number of programs in that category in parentheses: Title IX (4), Homelessness and Affordable Housing (5), Immigration and Inclusiveness (5), Women's Equality, Gender Bias and Feminism (9), STEM (4), Trafficking (3), Women on Boards and Electing Women (3) and Other (7).

We were struck by how closely the Women's Equality, Gender Bias, and Feminism category matched AAUW's mission of breaking through barriers for women and girls. Therefore [nine programs](#) were selected because of their outstanding speakers and ideas.

They are:

- Alhambra – A speaker from the League of Women Voters presenting on “Obscure Feminism: Underappreciated Aspects of gender inequality.”
- Cabrillo-Diego – Marla McGuire, a TV personality speaking on pay equity and the ins and outs of being a woman in the TV business;
- Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista – Women Challenging the System with two professor-researchers from the Salk Institute speaking about “What it Means to Stand up to Gender Discrimination” (AAUW National is supporting these women in their lawsuit.);
- Citrus Heights-American River with Sacramento presented the film Equal Means Equal which gave “a compelling argument for ratifying the ERA amendment”;
- Laguna Beach - “Our Heritage, How Women Won the Vote”, women’s suffrage history;
- Lodi - “Famous Women in Art History and How Their Art Made Them Both Feminists and Artists” with a woman speaker from the University of the Pacific;
- Lompoc-Vandenberg - “Gender Bias at Work: What is the problem and how can we fix it?” with a woman professor from UC Santa Barbara;
- Pasadena - “ERA Then and Now” with a speaker who gave the history of the struggle to get the ERA passed;
- San Clemente-Capistrano Bay – Gender Inequality with a woman professor from Saddleback College as the featured speaker.

We would also like to give special recognition to the San Mateo Branch for their ongoing program of helping women in prison. AAUW members volunteer to teach women prisoners vocabulary to help them pass the GED.

BRANCH



Happy New Year! ‘Tis the time for reflecting on all of your 2017 accomplishments while setting intentions for a grand 2018! We hope each branch acknowledges its hard work carried out through programs and outreach to the community. And just a friendly reminder, there’s an easy way for you to document your success via Branch Bingo! Thank you to those branches who submitted your Round 1 card prior to the deadline. We have decided to extend Round 1 for a two-week period, closing on Sunday, January 14th.

Round 2 Begins on Monday, January 22nd and closes on March 31st!

Remember, you can participate in both rounds and those branches who participate will be entered to win a grand prize (1 entry per round) that will be announced at the state convention in April.

To [play Branch Bingo](#), go to the AAUW California Programs and Education page on the website.

PUBLIC POLICY

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

Where Does AAUW Stand on Tax Reform?

You may be asked about AAUW's stand on the recently passed tax reform. AAUW has not made a public policy statement on the reform measure yet. However, AAUW signed on to a letter opposing elements of the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act." In this, AAUW joined 92 organizations dedicated to advancing the health, economic security and opportunity of women and families and eradicating their barriers to success. The letter expressed opposition to the tax proposal stating that it threatens the economic security of women and families by impacting the Affordable Care Act (ACA), eliminating critical tax benefits for countless families, decimating state and local revenues, and undermining the funding for programs that are essential to the wellbeing of people and communities across the United States and to our country's economy.

So, if you are asked, you can state that AAUW has serious concerns with the tax reform bill's impact on the lives of women and children.