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April 2021

The Board to Board is a monthly e-newsletter to branch boards and leaders from the AAUW California Board of Directors. We ask you to click on the links for more information and to share appropriate items with your branch, especially in your branch newsletter. For some branches, all the branch leaders receive the monthly B2B. Some branches have members on your board who are not on the B2B mailing list. The following leaders are on the B2B mailing list: president, president-elect, communication, newsletter editor, AAUW Fund, finance, membership, program, college university coordinator, public policy, coordinators for Speech Trek and Tech Trek, diversity and inclusion, and people who have been designated to receive “all communications” for their branch. You can also click [here](#), then click on your branch, to view who in your branch is listed in the directory and receives this publication. The branch officers listed in the state directory are on the B2B mailing list.

FROM DIANNE'S DESK...

Dianne Owens, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

FROM DIANNE'S DESK...SAD NEWS....

The AAUW California Board of Directors/Leadership Team lost James (Jim) Doty, a beloved member, March 19, 2021 after a Board meeting. Jim was currently serving as Project Oversight Committee Chair and was the former editor of the AAUW California Perspective newsletter for many years. He also served as his wife's assistant when Kathleen was AAUW California President. Many of you probably remember Jim taking many pictures at our Conventions and Annual Meetings, as he served on the Communications Committee for years.

The AAUW California Leadership Team has established The James Doty Memorial Fund #4497 to fund AAUW Leadership programs such as NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), Campus Action Projects and Empower. To donate online, check the box “in memory of” add Jim's name and fund number. If you are mailing a check, mail to: AAUW P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045 and note #4497 James Doty Memorial Fund on the check.

I have asked Carol Holzgrafe, Branch Assistance Chair, to add Project Oversight Committee duties to her responsibilities until June 30th. After our California election in April/May, the Board will appoint someone to finish Jim's term.

Annual Meeting, April 17th, 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

The April 17th Annual Meeting will be dedicated to James (Jim) Doty so please join us in paying tribute to a longtime AAUW member and hard-working member of the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch and the AAUW California Board. Register [HERE](#) to join the Annual Meeting and learn what has happened in California this past year and what is ahead. It will be an exciting morning followed by a special musical production.

Join us to view your (maybe) first animated Doodly presentation! Learn who our 2020-21 State Named Gift Honoree is, and which branches will be recipients of State Project Awards. Our first Branch Activity/Project Awards will be revealed and our first Equity Award recipient will be honored. And there is a lot more. Please don't miss it!

AAUW California Board Supports Bylaws Change

The AAUW Board of Directors joins the AAUW Board and numerous other state boards in support of a "yes" vote on the bylaws change to remove the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. To learn more visit our [AAUW California website](#) and the [AAUW website](#).

If you have questions, please let us know. This is an important election that requires a 2/3 vote to approve the change. AAUW has survived for over 130 years because it has been willing to change as the world has changed. Now it is our turn to help AAUW continue to thrive with the changing times. It is up to us to ensure that our children and grandchildren can enjoy AAUW in the foreseeable future! Vote YES between April 7th and May 17th.

Gold Stars Awarded To:

- *Kathi Harper, Sue Miller, co-Public Policy Chairs, and Kathy Osten, MVM Strategies, for organizing a highly successful Lobby Day, October 24th!*
- *Tracey Clark, Tech Trek of the Future Task Force facilitator, Sandi Gabe and Dawn Johnson, support team extraordinaire and Task Force members/work group members, and all the participants in the brainstorming groups for their work imagining the future Tech Trek.*

AAUW California COVID 19 Update

As we move into the transitional stage of COVID-19 and we are seeing the light get brighter at the end of the tunnel, questions are coming about having in-person AAUW meetings.

Since there are 58 counties in California with 58 different County Health Departments, here are our best recommendations for the next few months:

Follow CDC guidelines for masking, social distancing, and traveling:

- Follow your county guidelines for how large a group can meet in one space-- inside or outside.
- Remember that our AAUW insurance probably will not cover COVID-related illness.
- Be smart, be cautious, and stay safe as we move toward our "new normal." We have made it this far and we are getting closer to the end! Won't it be nice to see each other again?

Be bold, brave, and brilliant,

Dianne

BRANCH ASSISTANCE

Crystal Stebbins and Carol Holzgrafe, Directors, branch@aauw-ca.org

THE NEWS FROM BRANCH ASSISTANCE

California [Five-Star Program](#) Recipients: June 30th is the deadline to complete your 1 to 5-star efforts. You may have already checked

What I need to know: June 30th is the deadline for applying for any stars in National's five-star program. There are pins you can purchase for members attaining 20, 25, 30, 40, and 50 years of membership.

off several items but look again before the time is up. You will be glad you did.

- 5-star branches (so far): Citrus Heights-American River, Marin, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette
- 4-star branches: Beach Cities, Healdsburg, Mid-Peninsula, San Clemente-Capistrano Bay
- 3-star branch: Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek

Virginia is the only 5-star state – so far. You can help California reach that level.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Five-Star Program.

Get Your Forms Here:

50 Years! Do you have any members approaching their 50-year AAUW anniversary? In order to achieve this exalted status (and be exempt from paying future National dues) they must complete a form, then send it to National which confirms the data and returns a certificate.

Need the form? Contact us at [AskUsFirst](#)

For added meaning, along with the certificate, you might present your 50-year member with a pin that honors the occasion. 50-year pins are available for sale from the Redlands Branch for \$5 plus shipping. Pins recognizing 20, 25, 30, and 40 years are also available. Contact Redland's Toni Momberger at AAUWpins@gmail.com.

Quote of the Month: "In November 1881, seventeen women gathered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to jointly consider their future prospects and form a national organization of female college graduates." from [Degrees of Equality, AAUW and the Challenge of 20th Century Feminism](#) by Susan Levine. Given AAUW California's 22-year emphasis on STEM, and given how rare women in STEM were in 1881, we find it invigorating that those 17 women gathered at an institution devoted to the sciences.

FINANCE

Roli Wendorf, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee Chair, cfo@aauw-ca.org

ANNOUNCING BRANCH FINANCE WEBINAR

The AAUW California Finance Committee is organizing a branch finance webinar, How to be a Branch Treasurer, to be held

What I need to do: Check out the book *Degrees of Equality, AAUW and the Challenge of 20th Century Feminism* by Susan Levine.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Your members may be interested in learning about this book and your book clubs may be interested in discussing it.

What I need to know: There will be a webinar on June 7th especially designed for incoming branch treasurers called *How to be a Branch Treasurer*.

Monday, June 7th, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. Please mark your calendars!

The webinar is aimed especially at incoming branch treasurers. Seasoned treasurers/finance officers, presidents, membership chairs, Funds chairs, project leaders, and other board members will also benefit from the discussion. Finance touches everything, and the entire board shares responsibility for branch finances. We are also continuing our discussions with all Inter-Branch Councils (IBCs) regarding their finances.

What I need to do: Make sure the incoming treasurer has the opportunity to register for this webinar.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this is for branch leaders.

MARKETING

Michelle Miller-Galaz and Sharyn Siebert, Directors, Marketing Committee Co-Chairs, marketing@aauw-ca.org

TOOT YOUR OWN HORN!!!

How do we get AAUW California to become California's best-known and most highly respected organization in our state?

You need to "toot your own horn," through local print and other media formats. Let's all try to do this—even if it's only online in a tweet. And we will soon have the information on the Marketing consultant's campaign to guide us.

Hopefully, your branch got your city or county to issue a proclamation in support of AAUW and Equal Pay Day last month, including your work to move in the direction of pay equity.

Now, let's talk about the next step. We need you all to promote your branch's work in your community, whether it is sending girls to Tech Trek, holding a *Work Smart* workshop, or donating scholarships to returning women, or something else-- you certainly have positive impactful things you do that you can tout!

A press release should include the 5 W's: who, what, where, when, and why. And most importantly, it needs to include contact information for the writer in case of questions. Click [HERE](#) for "*How to Write an Effective Press Release*." It was a part of the "*She Who Thrives, Survives*" webinar. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Marketing Committee members meet monthly to discuss ways to increase awareness of AAUW California in the state and across all demographics.

What I need to know: It is time that our branches "toot their own horns" about AAUW and their work in their communities.

What I need to do: Promote the branch in print and social media. A press release template is available.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this is only for branch leaders.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Janice Lee, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

WHY DO WE NEED YOUR VOTE?

Your vote in this year's annual state election will impact the following areas:

- Who represents you on the Board of Directors
- Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023
- Changes to the bylaws

There are three positions to be filled on the Board of Directors and the nominees are:

1. President-Elect: Sandi Gabe (uncontested)
2. Chief Financial Officer: Roli Wendorf (uncontested)
3. One Director: (choose one)
 - Judy Cavin Brown
 - Carol Holzgrafe

AAUW California's Public Policy Committee reassesses policy directives every two years in light of the ever-changing cultural and legislative landscape. To keep AAUW California aligned with our mission to advance equity for women and girls and remain consistent with our values of fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society, vote "yes" on the ballot for:

1. Economic Security for All Women
2. Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students
3. Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society
4. Changes to the bylaws

We urge you to vote "yes" to two changes related to the Board of Directors structure.

1. The addition of a one-year term Director elected in even years to serve opposite the President-Elect position, which is elected, in odd years. In doing this, we will eliminate an increasing imbalance of positions elected in even years. (Currently, 8 out of 12 positions are elected in even years) This imbalance represents a challenge in even years to fill all the board openings and to maintain a level of continuity of experience on the board in the face of high turnover.
2. Separately, to align with the best practice of having an odd number of voting members and for budgetary efficiencies that would not affect board effectiveness, we recommend reducing the number of board positions from twelve to eleven.

What I need to know: The voting period for the AAUW California election will be April 16th-May 7th. There is one contested position. The 2021-2023 Public Policy Priorities are on the ballot along with two bylaws changes.

What I need to do: Understand the effect these changes will have.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, the members need to understand the importance of this election and that their vote matters.

If we have your email address, you will get a link to vote online; a mail-in ballot will be sent to you if we do not have your email address.

Voting period: April 16-May 7, 2021

Click [HERE](#) for details on candidates, public policy priorities, and changes to the bylaws.

When you vote, It MATTERS!

PUBLIC POLICY

Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PUBLIC POLICY FOR APRIL

Our first ever (virtual) Lobby Day was a huge success! 111 AAUW members from 68 branches visited 36 Assembly and 23 Senate offices, and the Public Policy co-chairs visited with the Governor's staff. Many offices were familiar with AAUW, and we had a great opportunity to educate those who weren't, as well as to advocate for our top-priority bills. Please thank your branch members for their participation.

The Public Policy Committee has completed its review of the bills for this legislative season, and the 2020-21 [Bill Tracker](#) can now be found on the website under Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking.

Don't forget to register for the [Annual Meeting](#) where we will present our first-ever "Equity Champion" Award to former California Senator Hannah Beth Jackson for her many years of legislative advocacy on behalf of women and girls.

What I need to know: This year's Lobby Day was a huge success. The Public Policy Committee has completed its review of the bills for this legislative season. The 2020-21 Bill Tracker is available on our website. The first-ever "Equity Champion" Award will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

What I need to do: Register for the Annual Meeting.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members need to be aware of the Bill Tracker. They need to be encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting.

SPECIAL PROJECT FUND (SPF)

Sue Cochran, SPF President, spf-ca.president@aauw.net

AAUW CA SPF – THE OTHER CORPORATION

The AAUW California Special Projects Fund is a separate California corporation established to provide a tax-deductible avenue for donations supporting approved AAUW California and branch

What I need to know: SPF is available to 501(c)4 branches to raise tax-deductible funds for approved AAUW California and branch programs and projects.

What I need to do: Review SPF's website for more information.

programs and projects. AAUW California SPF is administered by an eight-member board of directors.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this information is for branch leaders.

Currently, the SPF client list includes two AAUW California Projects: Tech Trek and Speech Trek, 8 local branch scholarship programs, and 7 local branch projects.

Clients using SPF as their 501(c)3 fiduciary agent receive regular financial reports from SPF. Funds raised to support these projects are required to meet federal, state, and AAUW fundraising requirements.

More details on SPF's guidelines and the process for applying to use SPF as a project's non-profit fiduciary agent are available on [SPF's website](#).

Using SPF as the non-profit fiduciary agent for approved projects/programs enables a branch to retain its 501(c)4 status and continue robust lobbying in support of AAUW's and AAUW California's public policy agenda and still raise tax-deductible funds to support a program/project.

SPEECH TREK

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

THE FOLLOWING QUOTES FROM THE JUDGES ARE A REFLECTION OF THE CALIBER OF SPEECH TREK 2021

"Wow, those were humbling! Amazing girls!"

"These contestants were awesome. I was very inspired."

"What a great experience. I thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity...I can't believe the talent of these young women, who will be our future leaders."

The semi-finals have concluded, the ballots are in, and the tally is completed. Congratulations to all the participating branches who braved the virtual world this year. Special kudos to the three contestants and branches below, whose contestants will move on to the finals (in alphabetical order by branch):

BRANCH	CONTESTANT
California Online	Lilian Chang
Del Mar - Leucadia	Halle Schaffer

What I need to know: The videos for the three Speech Trek finalists will be shown at the April 17th Annual Meeting and the winner announced. The judges were inspired by the contestants and one branch indicated all the students said the topic was "on point for the times."

What I need to do: Plan on attending the Annual meeting and consider being a part of Speech Trek 2022.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, especially if you conducted a Speech Trek competition this year.

La Mesa - El Cajon Lauryn McGuire

For the finals, these contestants' videos will be viewed by a new panel of judges. The videos will be shown and the results will be announced at the April 17th virtual Annual Meeting.

In addition, an Honorable Mention is awarded to the following two contestants:

4th Place (tie)

Fremont Rhea Jain

Morgan Hill Liliana Jaquet

All contestants will receive their awards via the United States Postal Service.

Speech Trek 2021 thanks its semi-final judges for their time and thoughtfulness:

- Denise Stevens, retired financial professional
- Quentin Panek, retired education leader
- Gayle Glazer, mediator
- Esron Gates, insurance professional/Toastmaster
- Marla Zemanek, communications educator and public speaking instructor

Where other organizations canceled their speech contests for this year due to the challenging and unprecedented circumstances, AAUW California stepped up and conducted amazing virtual contests.

Speech Trek was a wonderful experience for our branch and we learned a lot... Even though we had to do everything virtually, we still felt a strong connection together amongst our committee and our students. All of our students said the topic was so on point for the times and what interested them to try Speech Trek.--Remy Parmar, Speech Trek Coordinator, Fremont Branch.

The committee invites all branches to have a wonderful experience - host Speech Trek 2022 at your branch!

TECH TREK

Susan Negrete, and Alice Hill, Tech Trek State Co-Coordinators, techtrek@aauw-ca.org

TECH TREK VIRTUAL CAMP: SPRING IS BUSY!

What I need to know: April will be focused on obtaining agreements and registering Virtual Camp students.

April is Camper Acceptance & Registration Month!

The goal for March was to complete branch interviews and to submit the selected camper data to the system. Behind schedule and need help getting caught up? Contact Camp Director Mary Isaac: 2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org

Selected Students & Parent Attendance Agreements

Parents and students must return online agreements before the system releases registration documents for selected students. Branch Coordinators can assist by staying in contact with parent/student responses and staying engaged with the process. Contact Camp Director Mary Isaac with questions! 2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org

Watch for System “Do Not Reply” Emails!

Review these notifications - these will assist Branch Coordinators in tracking parent/student responses.

Branch Camper Fees – Missed the March 15th Deadline?

No worries! Contact Alice Hill/Finance at techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

Don't Forget - Workshop Ideas & Presenter Applications!

This month begins the focus to evaluate and select workshops. Don't miss the chance to submit a great concept, proposal, or presenter! Click [HERE](#).

Camp Volunteers Still Needed!

A variety of volunteers are needed – and branch members from non-participating branches are welcome! Participate in a unique experience and increase your Tech Trek portfolio! Adult camp coaches, near-peers (below age 18 coaches), instructors, and logistics coordinators – a wide variety of roles are needed. Work for more than one camp! Click [HERE](#) for applications.

Branch Packet & National Documents Remain on Virtual Website

Branch Coordinators needing Tech Trek forms and materials can still access all the 2021 information. Password: aauwca Click [HERE](#).

Virtual Camp Website – Use a Great Resource!

Remember this site has important forms & updates. Click [HERE](#). Protected forms password: aauwca

SPF Manages Virtual Camp Deposits & 2020 Funds

What I need to do: Watch for email notifications from the Virtual Camp team to stay up to date on requirements and deadlines.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, keep your branch up to date regarding your Tech Trek activities. Let your members know that camp volunteers are still needed even if your branch isn't participating in Tech Trek this year. Also, workshop proposals are still being requested.

Questions and forms are available on their website. Click [HERE](#).

Marketing Never Stops!

The Virtual Camp marketing flyer link can be shared with members, schools, and parents by clicking [here](#).

Engaging New Donors for the 2021 Virtual Season

Tech Trek in a virtual format is an exciting new STEM program offering three virtual camps this summer! Refer potential donors [HERE](#).

Questions from Branch Coordinators, STEM & Tech Trek Teams?

For Tech Trek program or finance questions: Contact Alice Hill & Susan Negrete, Tech Trek Co-Coordinator, at techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

For 2021 Virtual Camp questions: Contact Mary “Dr. Mimi” Isaac/2021 Virtual Camp Director at 2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org.

The Virtual Camp Leadership Team

Thanks to the participating Branch Coordinators & teams for engaging with the REDCap software adapted by Camp Director Mary Isaac to develop the 2021 Virtual Camp’s online documentation system! AAUW California Tech Trek is the first non-research group to use this Vanderbilt University-developed software product.

As always – AAUW California Tech Trek is leading the way!