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May 2021

Now we approach the end of the fiscal year and the beginning of a new year energized by a new board. Please share the information in this edition with those who are assuming new responsibilities in your branch. Also, for those who produce material for the branch, please share the [AAUW Branding Toolkit](#). It includes our logos, the way we use them, the colors in our palette, and our choice of typography.

FROM DIANNE'S DESK...

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

IT IS NOT TOO LATE ...

VOTE:

- AAUW National's election continues until **Monday, May 17th**, at 2 pm PDT. You still have time to shape AAUW's future by voting to open our membership to everyone who supports our mission of equity for all. You will also be asked to support our Public Policy Priorities for the next two years and select our national leaders.
- Your California board has voted to support the proposed bylaw change to open our membership to all. This change supports our vision of "Equity for All."
- By making AAUW more inclusive, the bylaw change will open opportunities for funding from foundations and corporations.
- Click [here](#) for more information.
- Your ballot should have arrived on April 7th in an email from Shannon Wolf (memberinfo@aauw.org) titled "Vote now to shape AAUW's future." If you cannot find it after checking your spam folder, email connect@aauw.org and request a new ballot. You can only vote once as your member number is associated with your ballot.
- Still undecided? For more information visit [here](#). Check out the map at the bottom of the page showing the states whose boards of directors are supporting the bylaw change for open membership. It is updated as we learn of new votes by state boards.
- As AAUW California members, nearly 10,000 strong, we can lead the nation to keep AAUW relevant in a fast-changing world and ensure that the AAUW we cherish will be here in the future for ALL to join.

VOTE TODAY!

VOTE:

- AAUW California's election ends **Friday, May 7th** at 5 pm! Vote today for the proposed bylaw changes, directors to the state board, and Public Policy Priorities for 2021-23.
- We will elect President-Elect, CFO, and one director. We will be approving the Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023 and two bylaw changes.
- Visit [here](#) for more information. Learn about the candidates, the Public Policy Priorities, and the reasons for the bylaw changes.

VOTE TODAY!

Thanks to everyone who attended our 2020-2021 Annual Meeting on April 17th. We had nearly 400 people attend, and they represented 103 of our 119 branches. We presented our "Year of Covid" accomplishments with a creative animated Doodly designed by Sandi Gabe, who is my assistant and our webmaster. We honored former Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson with our "2021 Equity Champion Award" for her longtime work on equity issues impacting women and girls. Harriet Tower was selected as our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree. We heard and learned from three amazing Speech Trek finalists, and much, much more! Click [here](#) to view the meeting. This meeting would not have been possible without the outstanding work of Sandi Gabe, Tracey Clark, the entire Communications Team, and the California Leadership Team. Kudos to all!

Be bold, brave, and brilliant,

Dianne

BRANCH ASSISTANCE

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

BITS AND PIECES FROM BRANCH ASSISTANCE OR FACTS, FIRES, FIVE STARS, AND MORE!

FIVE-STAR PROGRAM: Have you looked at the requirements for earning one to five stars? You, too, could be eligible to join the stellar list. Click [here](#) to check it out.

MORE ON 50-YEAR MEMBERS: An officially recognized 50-year honorary member is exempt from paying not only future national dues but state dues also. Many branches also forgive those members from paying branch dues, but that is up to the individual branches. If you want an application for 50-year members (they would have joined in 1970), ask us and we'll email it to you.

Honor your members' years of service with a 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 40, or 50-year pin. Order from the Redlands Branch at AAUWpins@gmail.com. Each pin is \$5; add \$10 to each order for postage etc. Mail check to AAUW Redlands, P.O. Box 7678, Redlands, CA 92375. Be sure to include a mailing address and contact information.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PINS: These beauties can be ordered from the Napa Branch, Click [here](#) to find photos and details.

VOLUNTEERS ARE SCARCE? Are you having trouble filling board positions? Ask us about slimming down your calendar and/or changing the board structure. We have even more ideas that can help. You might want to attend the June 2nd webinar "The Care and Feeding of Volunteers" to get some ideas for recruiting volunteers and branch leaders. Click [here](#) to register.

What I need to know: Pins for past presidents and long-term members are available for purchase. 50-year members are exempt from paying some dues. Branch Assistance will publicize notable branch activities.

What I need to do: Confirm where your branch's bylaws are housed. Contact Branch Assistance to submit your successful branch activities or for help filling board positions.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Most of this is for the branch leaders but you may want to share the "Fun" Fact.

A BIT OF AAUW'S HISTORY FROM *DEGREES OF EQUALITY* BY SUSAN LEVINE

THE FIRST AAUW STUDY

"..... two months after the organization was founded [by 17 women at MIT], in January 1882, sixty-five women answered their call. With their purpose to 'unite alumnae of different institutions for practical education work, 'the women embarked on a program that would alter the status and the world of female college graduates. One of the Association's first projects was a study designed by Marion Talbot to prove explicitly that college women were no less healthy than other American women. The study found that college women did, indeed, suffer from 'constitutional weakness' and emotional strain, but the researchers attributed the conditions to cultural expectations rather than biological limitations."

So, educating women did NOT upset their reproductive abilities as had been claimed by those intent on keeping women in "their place." As the bumper sticker says, "A woman's place is in the House... and the Senate."

ABOUT YOUR BYLAWS: Where does your branch keep its bylaws and who has them? Do you keep them in the cloud, passed on with president/facilitator/treasurer/bylaws chair or what? It is important for you to know where a current handy copy is.

BRANCH NEWS: You will find everything you ever wanted to know about fire weather, starting with climate change and ending up in your front yard – in a webinar produced by the Morgan Hill Branch. The presenters are professors of related sciences at San Jose State University plus a highly personable Fire Marshall. Check it out on the [AAUW Morgan Hill Branch Facebook page](#).

ALSO: if your branch has done something special, let us know and we'll give you some publicity.

"FUN" FACT: In 1954, the Mrs. America contest included competitive ironing as well as peeling potatoes and making their own dresses.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tracey Clark, Director, Communications Committee Chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

ANNOUNCEMENT! RECORD YOUR NEWLY-ELECTED BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS

What I need to know: Record your newly-elected branch board members as appropriate into two databases.

Provided by Julika Barrett, AAUW California Office
Manager, office@aauw-ca.org

The 2020-2021 AAUW fiscal year is coming to an end. Let AAUW California know who has been selected to lead your branch next year. Your accurate list of officers provides the communication channel from AAUW California to your branch leaders and members. Please note that you will need to update two databases as AAUW National and AAUW California do not currently share this information. The deadline is July 1st.

1. AAUW National - Enter information into the [Members Services Database \(MSD\)](#)

2. AAUW California - Enter information into Branch Officer Report (BOR). Each current branch president and president-elect will receive an email later in May with a link, login information, and instructions about how to enter their branch officer information. The information you enter about your officers is used to:

- Maintain accurate mailing lists for state and branch-specific positions allowing us to contact you with information related to your branch role.
- Maintain the state directory which includes branch and state leaders.

Remember to: *REVIEW*

UPDATE

VERIFY

Your actions mean that branch leaders will receive timely and pertinent information. Keep your membership in the know.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Elaine Johnson, Director, diversity@aauw-ca.org

DEI ACTION COMES FROM WITHIN

Congratulations and thank you to the many branches across California that have been taking action to make diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) real for AAUW California's current and prospective members.

The DEI toolkit is available [here](#). It has many resources available for branch use. The glossary of terms is a handy guide with

What I need to do: For AAUW National, enter the information into the Members Services Database (MSD). For AAUW California, enter the information into the Branch Officer Report (BOR) when the link is sent out. Deadline: July 1st

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

What I need to know: Many branches are taking action to support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

What I need to do: Consult the DEI toolkit for helpful information. Keep your state leadership informed of any materials or connections you have that support the DEI effort.

definitions of some of the most used terms such as implicit bias or intersectionality.

Your branch is encouraged to identify new materials and connections with other organizations that support increasing DEI. Please share your experiences with us at diversity@aauw-ca.org.

AAUW California supports branches in their efforts to include diversity, equity, and inclusion information and sharing. We are here to assist, but awareness and action must come from the members within the branches.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Inform your members about the DEI toolkit for their personal education on this topic.

FINANCE

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

HOW TO BE A BRANCH TREASURER

Mark your calendars! The AAUW California Finance Committee is holding a webinar, How to be a Branch Treasurer, on Monday, June 7th, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. You can register [here](#).

The webinar is aimed especially at incoming branch treasurers/finance officers. Seasoned treasurers and finance officers, presidents, membership chairs, Fund chairs, project leaders, and other board members will also benefit from the discussion. Finance touches all activities, and the entire board shares responsibility for branch finances. Understanding the basics will be helpful to all.

The webinar will cover the most common tasks encountered in a branch – processing membership dues, accounting for events and fundraisers, budgets, reports, and filing taxes.

Don't miss this opportunity to take back many best practice examples to your branches, and a practical guide for how to be a branch treasurer.

What I need to know: There will be a training webinar for new and seasoned treasurers and all other board personnel who also bear fiduciary responsibility for the branch on June 7th.

What I need to do: Register [here](#).

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

MARKETING

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the previous columns from the AAUW California Marketing Directors, we asked each branch to try to make their community aware of their great work. Now we are asking that every branch

What I need to know: The Marketing Committee is collecting information on how many branches promoted themselves by securing a proclamation or other means. The marketing consultant's report and

that secured a proclamation from your government entity in honor of AAUW, or a public relations/marketing notice in one of your local publications or other media, to please forward these to the above address. See the Branch Events under the Public Policy section of our website (or click [here](#)) for a list of branches that have secured a proclamation.

We are trying to determine how many of our branches tout their good works. If you did, indeed, “toot your own horn” in some fashion in the past one or two months, we want to hear about it!

AAUW California has hired marketing consultants to help us expand awareness of our phenomenal work here in our state. How can we do that without our local branches making use of every potential “toot?”

Marketing consultants have given us a road map, which we are working through with our Marketing Committee and the Marketing Design Task Force. More information will be forthcoming.

suggestions for expanding AAUW’s presence will be shared soon.

What I need to do: Inform the committee if your branch has “tooted its own horn” and how.

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

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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

A REMINDER TO VOTE

We want to clarify the key difference between the two ballots all AAUW members received in April:

- The ballot from National is asking you to vote on eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW membership. The election period ends on May 17th. If you have not received an email with the ballot, then contact: Connect@aauw.org
- The AAUW California annual state election ballot asks you to vote on:
 1. Candidates for open positions on the state board
 2. Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023
 3. Changes to the bylaws concerning board structure

If we have your email address, you received a link to vote online; a mail-in ballot has been sent to you if we do not have an email address for you. The voting period for the California ballot ends on May 7th. Refer [here](#) for details on candidates, Public Policy Priorities, and changes to the bylaws.

What I need to know: Members received two ballots: one for the national election and one for the state election.

What I need to do: Vote and encourage your members to vote.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members may have been confused when they received two ballots.

PLEASE VOTE! IT MATTERS.

SPEECH TREK

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



“I WAS SO INSPIRED BY THE SPEECH TREK SPEECHES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING...

I WANT MY BRANCH TO START THIS PROGRAM!” --PHYLLIS TAYLOR, PRESIDENT, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH.

Welcome, Santa Cruz County Branch, and others, who have written to say they are eager to join Speech Trek 2022. AAUW California Speech Trek joins Ms. Taylor in congratulating the top five speakers of 2021 (click [here](#) to watch the 1st three-place winner’s speeches):

Honorable Mentions:

Liliana Jacquet - Morgan Hill

Rhea Jain - Fremont

3rd Place: Lauryn McGuire - La Mesa-El Cajon

2nd Place: Halle Schaffer - Del Mar Leucadia

1st Place: Lilian Chang - California Online

Congratulations to all the participating branches who stepped up and conducted virtual contests!

AAUW California Speech Trek is already preparing for 2022! The 2021-2022 Branch Tool Kit and the 2021-2022 Student Tool Kit are being readied and will be on the website this summer.

Questions about Speech Trek? Whether it’s your first time or your tenth time, please email us at speechtrek@aauw-ca.org and we will be happy to Zoom into your branch with a full presentation or just a chat and Q&A. In the meantime, let your students start thinking about the new topic:

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” School children have

What I need to know: Speech Trek was very successful and attendees at the Annual Meeting watched videos of the finalists. Plans are underway for 2021-2022.

What I need to do: Watch for the Speech Trek Branch and Student Toolkits to be released during the summer.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, your members might be interested in next year’s topic.

been reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for nearly a century. What began as an advertising lark in 1923 has evolved to a patriotic act in 46 states.¹

(¹ "How the Pledge of Allegiance Went from PR Gimmick to Patriotic Vow", by Amy Crawford, Smithsonian Magazine, September 2015)

- Has the US lived up to its pledge of “liberty and justice for all”?
- Would requiring the study of diversity, equity, and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure “liberty and justice for all”?

“After watching the Speech Trek semifinalists during the AAUW California Annual Meeting... our branch is considering starting a Speech Trek program!” -- Jo Ann Cobb, North Tahoe Co-President.

Thank you, Jo Ann and Phyllis-- AAUW California Speech Trek looks forward to working with you and all the branches in 2021-2022!

TECH TREK

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

TECH TREK VIRTUAL CAMP: 8 WEEKS UNTIL VIRTUAL CAMP SEASON BEGINS!

May Activities – Ramping Up for Camp Implementation

The last 8 weeks before camps launch will be extremely busy, with Director Mary Isaac and camp leaders managing a variety of key initiatives:

- Finalizing camp content; selecting workshops & presenters
- Purchasing and organizing camp materials & SWAG
- Preparing and delivering volunteer training
- Preparing and delivering orientations
- Delivering pre-camp surveys

First Come – First Served: June 21st Camp is Full!

By April month-end, registered campers filled the June 21-25 camp. The July camps will all be assigned this month, on a first-come, first-served basis. Got placement questions? Contact Camp Director Mary Isaac: 2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org

Coming Soon – Dr. Mimi’s Logistics Coordinator Office Hour!

What I need to know: Tech Trek’s virtual camps will launch in eight weeks; one week is already filled. There is still a need for adult volunteers.

What I need to do: Check the resources listed above to have any questions answered.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? This is mainly for branch leaders and Tech Trek coordinators, but members may be interested in some of the updates and may also wish to volunteer.

Volunteers for virtual camp logistics support are invited to a special Dr. Mimi Office Hours on Friday, May 7th at 1:30 PM. Register [here](#).

Branch Coordinator Google Drive Spreadsheets – Internal Data Only

Data privacy is critical! Unless instructed by Camp Director Mary Isaac, BCs and their teams receiving online camp spreadsheets should not share with external users (e.g., schools, teachers, parents, etc.) as they contain private camper/family information. Internal users (branch members, Tech Trek teams, etc.) can receive/use the information as needed for managing branch program activities. Got questions? Contact Camp Director Mary Isaac 2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org

Camp Adult Volunteers Still Needed!

Additional adult social and build coaches are needed to support the three camps. Work for more than one camp! Click [here](#) for applications.

American Camp Association (ACA) – National’s Gold Standard

AAUW’s Tech Trek program requires affiliation with the ACA in order to know and follow their best practices, which are based on the CDC recommendations. In this year like no other, we’re sharing their latest link which outlines how difficult a 2021 in-person season would be. Click [here](#).

Virtual Camp Website: Go-To Resource

Find all 2021 Tech Trek forms and materials. Password: aauwca. Click [here](#).

Marketing STEM – California’s Tech Trek Virtual Camp Program!

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

California’s 2021 STEM-based Tech Trek program offers three virtual camps: June 21-25, July 12-16, and July 26-30. Refer potential donors [here](#).

Stay engaged – remain safe – stay well!

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 branch members who volunteered to support the virtual camp season or submitted proposals and speakers to add value to the program.

As always – AAUW California Tech Trek leads the way!