

Board to Board (B2B)

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards
Linking together for our mission.



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February 2023

February is Black History Month and the news includes information about books being banned in some locations. I just learned about a local middle school that has a display of many banned books including notes about why they are banned. Also, there are book groups that are choosing to read books that have been banned. Maybe there is a DEI discussion here.

-Editor

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AS SANDI SEES IT...

Sandi Gabe, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

Short on inspiration? Let Chatbot solve the problem.

I'm sure you've heard the controversy about ChatGPT, the tool that will revolutionize the world, mush our brains, and make it impossible to tell if what you're reading has been written by a human or a computer. Use of the tool poses some interesting questions. I was introduced to it last month and, of course, I played around with it. Short on inspiration this month, I asked it to write 100 words to inspire people in February. Here's the result. I can see how people will be drawn to it. In ten seconds I had a reasonable essay to consider. How will we harness its power?

February is a month of new beginnings and opportunities. It's a time to set new goals, make new plans and take action towards your dreams. Believe in yourself and your abilities, and don't be afraid to take risks. Embrace change, be open to new experiences and be grateful for the journey. Remember that success is not about reaching a destination, but about the lessons you learn along the way. Celebrate your progress, no matter how small, and always strive to be better than you were yesterday. With determination and hard work, combined with a positive attitude, you can achieve anything you set your mind to. So, take a deep breath and let's make February a month to remember!

The rest was written by me and edited by the communications team. 😊

News from National

Looking for logos and updated branch websites? The long-awaited branch website updates have hit another snag. Due to staffing challenges at National, the release has been delayed. National has agreed to release the branch logos prior to the branch website redesign. Watch *Membership Matters* for updates.

With the implementation of the Community Hub, 15-month memberships became a thing of the past. Since you had already made commitments to your members who joined in February, March, and April, National agreed to honor those memberships this year only. The membership renewal dates for those members have been adjusted to end on June 30, 2023. All non-lifetime memberships now span 12 months only. Watch *Membership Matters* for information about the 2023 renewal process.

Find the archives of *Membership Matters* on the AAUW National website [HERE](#).

Vote!

National and state elections are around the corner. Encourage your members to confirm that their email address is correct in the Community Hub so that they receive their online ballot.

National Election Details	California State Election Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 5 voting opens (online voting is encouraged)• May 15 Online voting ends at 5:00 pm ET• May 17 Vote results announced online	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 22 voting opens (online voting is encouraged)• May 13 Online voting ends at midnight PT• May 17 Vote results announced online

Committee News

AAUW FUND

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Karen Vanderwerken, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org

SHINE THEIR LIGHT!

Nominate branch and state Named Gift Honorees. March 1, 2023, is the due date for the Branch Named Gift nominations. You can nominate one member for each \$750 contributed by your branch and/or branch members to AAUW Fund by December 31, 2022. Also, consider nominating a member for the State Named Gift award. This should be someone who has done outstanding work to promote AAUW Fund or AAUW state programs and goals. One nomination per branch. State nominations are due February 15, 2023. You can find both nomination forms [HERE](#).

What I need to know: Nominations for State Named Gift Honorees and Branch Named Gift Honorees are due February 15th and March 1st respectively.

What I need to do: Complete the appropriate form to submit a nomination for either named honoree award. Present thank-you certificates to branch members who donate \$100 or more to AAUW Fund.

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

Watch for the Excel donation reports from National coming next week! Your individual member and branch donations will be listed. Please keep this information confidential to respect the privacy of the donors. Only share the totals.

Remember, you can present a certificate to any member who donates \$100 or more to AAUW Fund. Click [HERE](#)

for the certificate template.

ANNUAL EVENT

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Charmen Goehring, Meetings Planner, meetings@aauw-ca.org

GET READY FOR THE *ACADEMY AAUWARDS!*

AAUW California will be hosting our Annual Event on April 22, 2023, from 9-4 on Zoom. This year's theme is the *Academy AAUwards!* Come join us for red carpet interviews, listen to inspiring keynote speakers, and watch the Speech Trek and Gov Trek finalists. Cheer on your fellow members and branches for all sorts of AAUW awards, get a public policy update, and meet the board candidates. And, every awards event worth its swag bag has after-parties! Join our Zoom-style parties to hang out with your friends! Look in next month's B2B and on the website for more information soon!

Celebrating AAUW California, its branches, and its members will be the most fun event of the spring! Don't miss out on the *Academy AAUwards* on April 22nd! Get ready to mingle!

What I need to know: This year's Annual Event on April 22nd will have an Academy Awards theme with awards, presentations, and "after-parties" for members to mingle.

What I need to do: Watch for details and registration information coming soon.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, be sure your members mark their calendars for April 22nd.

BRANCH SUPPORT

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Carol Holzgrafe and Sharyn Siebert, Directors, Branch Support Committee Co-Chairs, branch@aauw-ca.org

AskUsFirst! — And you have!

Have questions? We have answers – or we know who does. Drop us a line.

Having trouble finding leaders? Remember, you only need a facilitator/administrator, a treasurer, and a recorder (especially if you are incorporated) to take notes of decisions made. But, asking a room full of people if anyone wants to be treasurer etc. is usually fruitless.

Instead, identify a few people you know could do the job and ask them personally. Take them out for coffee or lunch since a face-to-face meeting is best. A phone call can also work. The other jobs (program, hospitality etc.) can be done by whomever wants it done. Generally, it does happen.

What I need to know: Your branch only needs three leaders: a facilitator/administrator, a treasurer, and a recorder/secretary.

What I need to do: For better success, ask possible candidates personally. Watch for an upcoming online workshop on finding new leaders. Sign up to receive other branch newsletters to get ideas.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this information is for branch leaders only. But do share with the nominating committee.

What are other branches up to?

- The Del Mar-Leucadia and Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista (COV) branches will hold a joint meeting in March with the Merrill Lynch Women's Exchange. Could your branch arrange such an event?
- COV also has an Interest Group called "Crunch Bunch" – a vegan cooking class. But you could branch out into desserts or vegetarian or ???
- The Poway-Peñasquitos Branch has an Interest Group called "Grape Expectations" in which they visit

wineries and occasionally breweries. Would your branch members be interested in something like this?

To see what other branches are doing to keep their members happy and the community served, type “AAUW” and the branch name in your search box. You can also send a request to webteam@aauw-ca.org to receive other branches’ newsletters. We have some creative people in AAUW.

Looking for leaders? Help is on the way.

Watch for communication from Branch Support about an upcoming Interactive Zoom workshop, *Help Wanted!* which will offer ideas and sharing opportunities for branches that are struggling to find new leadership.

COMMUNICATIONS

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Dawn Johnson, Director, Communications Committee Chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM FOMO?

FOMO = Fear of Missing Out (yes, it’s a real expression). If you have FOMO, you might be worried that you’re missing the helpful Tech Peer Group meetings that the Communications Committee has been hosting. These are interactive, informal gatherings to learn from each other about tech tools--and trials.

But FOMO no more! You can now access recordings of the meetings on our YouTube playlist [HERE](#). Pass the word to whomever in your branch is in the Tech Peer Group. To join the group, contact our office manager, Julika, at office@aauw-ca.org to get the Zoom link and be added to the distribution list.

The next meeting on February 7th will be a brief introduction to the graphic design software, Canva, followed by general sharing of the good, the bad, and the ugly of tech.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Do your branch communications need a little pick-me-up with fresh photos or other images?

Remember that you can’t just copy and publish cool pictures from the internet. Be sure the images are in the public domain (have no copyright protection) or have a “Creative Commons” license and can be shared if credit is given. Here are a few websites offering FREE images that are okay to use.

<https://www.pexels.com/>

<https://pixabay.com/>

<https://free-images.com/>

<https://www.freepik.com/popular-photos>

<https://www.stockvault.net/>

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

What I need to know: The meetings of the Communications Committee Tech Peer Group are recorded and available for those who missed the meetings or want to learn more about the topics covered.

What I need to do: Pass along the link to the recordings to your representative to the Tech Peer Group.

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

Stormy Miller Sabia, Director, DEI Committee Chair, diversity@aauw-ca.org

CENTERING IN SOLIDARITY

A time of year that is often met with hope, resolution, and intentions, has been met with sorrow and grief for many, particularly among Asian, Black and African American communities. The mass killings in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, and the shooting in Oakland, occurred in rapid succession in our state, and our trauma was intensified by the killing of Tyre Nichols. It's hard to know what to do or how to respond to these horrific experiences impacting communities of color.

What does this mean for our work in AAUW? What does this mean for an individual committed to equity and justice? And how might we mobilize and unite when things feel heavy and hard? There's an opportunity to explore these questions within our branches and in conversations and community that center on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Most importantly, let us explore how we can stand in solidarity and support our fellow AAUW members who are members of these communities. Below are a few resources you may wish to review or share, in an effort toward lifting up communities of color and providing mental health resources and support during this difficult time.

Wishing you all comfort and peace, and wishing you a warm and joyous start to the celebration of Black History Month.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

BEAM: <https://beam.community/> Black Emotional and Mental Health Collaborative

Asian Mental Health Collective:

<https://www.asianmhc.org/> aspiring to make mental health easily available, approachable, and accessible to Asian communities worldwide.

Stop AAPI Hate: <https://stopaapihate.org/>

What I need to know: Recent tragic events, many impacting communities of color, could be an opportunity for branches to engage in important discussions.

What I need to do: Consider providing a forum for your members to discuss these events.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, the message is important and inspiring and members may wish to consult the resources provided.

FINANCE

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

THINKING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is already February! Before we know it, it will be time for membership renewals again. We now have a new model of membership where a new member's renewal date depends on the date of joining and may not conform to the July 1-June 30 financial year. I had many questions about how

What I need to know: National dues are increasing by \$5; state dues are unchanged at \$20. The new membership renewal process may affect when you begin your renewal drive.

renewals would work this year. Here is what I found out by attending a recent Office Hours session by national AAUW.

For members who joined with the old system, the start date is July 1st, and membership expires on June 30th. There is a 3-month grace period on either side for renewals; i.e. from April 1st to September 30th. Branches should begin their renewal efforts in April, rather than March 16th, as we did before. As long as membership is renewed by September 30th, there is no break in membership for memberships that expire June 30th.

For new members, the membership expiration date is determined by their join date. Their membership will expire a year after the date of joining, and they will have three months of a grace period from the expiration date for renewal. From the coming year, membership chairs will need to keep track of when membership is expiring for various members and ask them to renew.

AAUW National is happy to send renewal notices to branch members as well. However, this does not happen automatically. Since not all branches want this service, those who do will need to opt-in. A message will be sent asking for opt-ins closer to April.

National dues will be going up by \$5 again to \$72. California state dues will remain unchanged at \$20. If your branch is planning to increase its dues for the coming year, do let Angela Cooper (coopera@aauw.org) at National know about it before April.

Finally, the February 1st count of the number of members in each of our branches will continue. It is expected to become available in early March.

For any additional questions on renewals, check out National's office hours, held every Tuesday at 12:00 PT and Thursday at 12:30 PT. It is a great opportunity to get your questions answered.

What I need to do: Alert your Membership Chair to the changes in the renewal process. Remind them to keep track of when memberships expire so they can send (or request National to send) a renewal notice.

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

MEMBERSHIP

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Marsha Swails, Membership Committee Chair, membership@aauw-ca.org

RESOURCEFUL WOMEN: LET'S GROW!

Over the last several months, it has been a privilege to work with several talented women thinking and dreaming about how to grow AAUW California membership. On January 25th, the Membership Committee presented the webinar *Growing AAUW California*. Click [HERE](#) to view the webinar and the slides for the presentation. Besides presenting statistics about current membership, the group challenged branches to grow 6% by February 2024.

Five areas hold potential:

What I need to know: The Membership Committee's recent webinar offered several promising ways to grow membership to reach a goal of 6% by February 2024.

What I need to do: Consider implementing at least one of the suggestions in the webinar.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, encourage members to view the webinar (perhaps at a watch party) to learn how they can help the branch grow.

1. Create the role of Branch Ambassador to mentor and guide new members.
2. Invite college/university members to join branches as well as the 986 national members in California without branch affiliation.
3. Enhance branch communications, which are key to new member outreach. The app [Canva.com](https://www.canva.com) and QR codes can enhance your outreach.
4. Create a culture of rewards and recognition to energize members with the “Bling Project.” The webinar offers more info on that. Connect with your communities in a couple of deliberate ways to introduce our brand to potential members.

6%. That is about 600 new members by February 2024. Just imagine the energy, experience, and perspective these new members will bring!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Invite your branch leadership team for a viewing party for the Membership webinar. Afterwards, discuss which ideas might fit your branch. Even if you choose to implement just one idea, you should feel excited about the potential for growth!

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

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Charmen Goehring, Nominations & Elections Chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

Submitted by **Deanna Arthur**

DO YOU HEAR A TICKING CLOCK?

Don't miss an opportunity to share your expertise with the state of California AAUW members and branches. We need you to run for office. Don't be afraid to show off your talents! The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2023. To learn more and submit your nomination, click [HERE](#).

Don't miss your opportunity to have your voice heard. If you are contemplating the run for office, stop contemplating and submit your information. The state needs your expertise.

Don't let the alarm go off before you submit your application. Looking forward to seeing your applications pouring into the state.

What I need to know: The deadline to apply to run for a position on the state board is March 1st.

What I need to do: Consider who might be a good candidate to help at the state level (including yourself!) and encourage them to submit their nomination form.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, you may have a promising candidate in your membership.

PROGRAM

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Janice Lee, Program Committee Chair, program@aauw-ca.org

YOU'VE DONE THE WORK, NOW LET'S SHOW IT OFF!

What I need to know: The deadline to submit one of your branch's successful activities for a state award is March 15th.

Branch Activity of the Year Award

Submitted by Jenn Krebsbach, Co-Chair, BAY Award Committee

The Branch Activity of the Year Award is the recognition of a signature branch activity that's been presented during the past year. The program provides branches an opportunity to showcase and share an activity that is novel, inspirational, and reproducible, promotes AAUW's mission and image, and incorporates elements of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The activity may be a one-off program or event or a sustained recurring project for which the branch is known.

Winners will be announced at the Annual Event on April 22nd.

Click [HERE](#) for details and the application. Please submit your applications by March 15th for consideration.

Show off your awesomeness!!

Women are far less likely to self-promote their achievements than are men. Defy gender norms! Be proud of your work and call out your successes!

What I need to do: Review the criteria and submit an application for consideration.

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

PUBLIC POLICY

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Kathleen Harper, Director, Public Policy Committee Chair, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

CELEBRATING BRANCH MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN SHAPING AAUW CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY

Over the last two months, the state Public Policy team has reached out to members with two opportunities to participate in our advocacy efforts. In December, we asked members to provide input on our Public Policy priorities for 2023-25 and 465 members responded! While the majority felt that the current priorities satisfactorily represent their views, and there were many suggestions for modifications and/or additions. The committee appreciates the time and thought that went into these comments, and is in the process of reviewing and discussing each one.

In January, we asked members to sign up for Lobby Days to help us advocate for our top three bills with the California legislature on March 21st and 22nd. 111 members answered our call, and the committee is now working on organizing those members into teams. Members should expect to receive further information this month once we know which offices will be participating. A note: some members completed the interest survey but did not register for the mandatory training webinar on March 20th. If you, or any of your members, received a notice of need to register for the webinar, please do so ASAP! Please remember, if you do not attend the training, you cannot participate in the Lobby Days event. Finally, "late-comers" who wish to

What I need to know: A quick note: I wrote last month that it looked like Equal Pay Day would be on March 15th – that has been finalized as March 14th. You can click [HERE](#) to find quick tips for a successful EPD event.

What I need to do: Lobby Day signup has been extended to February 28th. Some members who signed up still need to register for the mandatory training webinar. Equal Pay Day is March 14th.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, advise members that Lobby Days signup has been extended to February 28th. Thank your members who took the time to respond to the survey on the proposed Public Policy priorities and signed up for Lobby Days.

participate but missed the deadline can still submit an interest survey and register for the training. Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey and register. **The deadline has been extended to February 28th.**

The committee recognizes the role our branch leaders play in getting the word out regarding public policy events and encouraging members' participation, and we want you to know you are appreciated.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- A quick note: I wrote last month that it looked like Equal Pay Day would be on March 15th – that has been finalized as March 14th. You can click [HERE](#) to find quick tips for a successful EPD event.

Project News

GOV TREK

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Shauna Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director, govtrek@aauw-ca.org

VIRTUAL GOV TREK HAS BEGUN!

On January 28th we launched our inaugural virtual Gov Trek session with just over 60 future leaders and 40 volunteers in attendance from across California!

We were all honored to air a welcome video from Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi to launch this amazing program. We have received permission from the Office of Nancy Pelosi for each California branch to post the video on their websites and social media. Please use the messaging and link below:

Exciting News! AAUW California 2023 Gov Trek's inaugural session started with a video address from fellow Californian SPEAKER EMERITA NANCY PELOSI. We were privileged to have the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives greet us as we begin our journey together to explore careers in public office and elected positions.

<https://youtu.be/szcsrAj0lr4>

Five distinguished women leaders addressed Gov Trek participants in the Women in Leadership Panel. They covered topics on elective office and public service at different levels of government, including the skills and challenges involved with them, and other related career paths in leadership and political participation.

The speakers were:

- Kathleen Van Osten, AAUW California Advocate and Lobbyist
- Ellen Montanari, Deputy Campaign Manager, Rep Mike Levin
- Regina Luzincourt, Lobbyist and Former Press Secretary, State Senator Parker

What I need to know: Gov Trek launched its first session with an inspiring address by Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. The session was recorded and is available to view.

What I need to do: Consider watching the recordings of the Gov Trek sessions so your branch can promote participation next year.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, your members may want to watch the recording to learn what the speakers shared with the young women about careers in public service.

- Shana Hazan, VP San Diego Unified School Board
- Griselda Ramirez, Senior Director of Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Strategic Initiatives, Office of San Diego County Board of Supervisor Chair, Nora Vargas

Click [HERE](#) to watch **Gov Trek Session 1**.

There are four more inspiring Gov Trek sessions including the Gov Trek Finale & Campaign Competition! The speaker sessions will be recorded and available to AAUW California members on the website [HERE](#) in the **Student Program Materials** section.

We can't wait to see how our future leaders will change the world!

SPEECH TREK

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

IMPORTANT SPEECH TREK REMINDERS!

Contest season is in full swing throughout the state with high school students responding to this year's question:

“How can communities, organizations and citizens of all ages help protect and expand voting rights?”

Three IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. Record all contestants.
2. Upload your branch's 1st place winner's video to YouTube with the following information:
 - Speech Trek 2023
 - Branch name
 - First Place winner
 - Name of your winner
3. Email the YouTube link to Program Director Marlene Cain at marcain@earthlink.net by March 1, 2023.

That's it! Semi-final judging will take place in early March. Judges will select the top five speeches; the top three will advance to the finals, where a new panel of judges will determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The winning videos will be showcased at the virtual Annual Event in April, and the winners will be announced at that time.

Questions? Email spechtrek@aauw-ca.org.

Happy February, and best wishes for a successful Speech Trek 2023!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Have an idea for the 2024 topic? We'd love to hear from you! Email your suggestion to spechtrek@aauw-ca.org.

What I need to know: March 1st is the deadline to submit your branch's 1st place winner to the state to be considered for the finals.

What I need to do: Follow the instructions to correctly upload and share the video of your contest winner.

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

Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, techtrek@aauw-ca.org.

READY, SET... GO!!!

Nearly 900 Campers are Expected to Help Celebrate California Tech Trek's 25th Season!

Tech Trek MOUs are all in, branch allocations have been published and can be acknowledged by a branch coordinator [HERE](#), and CampDoc is almost ready to go LIVE!!

Branch Coordinators will receive instructions this week for sharing the link to CampDoc and an introductory email with parents of nominees to begin the process of submitting parent permission forms and student applications. These are due statewide on 2/28/2023.

Forms and documents to assist the branch in its selection process are available on the AAUW California website [HERE](#). Password (if required) is 'aauwca'.

The next Branch Coordinator Peer Group session is February 9th at 6:30 pm; register [HERE](#).

If you need help before that, Tech Trek office hours are every Friday starting at 12:30; register [HERE](#). For YouTube replays of TT meetings for Branch Coordinators, click [HERE](#).

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

- Always check your junk or spam folder for missing emails and make sure to send any email updates to webteam@aauw-ca.org.

Distribution: This email was sent to the following distribution lists: All distribution lists.

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www.AAUW-CA.org

