



Branch newsletters are a valuable source of information for branches, Interbranch Councils (IBCs), and the state leadership team. Most branches submit their newsletter to AAUW California so they can be shared with other branches. If you would like to submit your newsletter or subscribe to receive other branch newsletters, the procedures are on the website [HERE](#). You can see all the branch newsletters in the [archive](#). You can find newsletters of neighboring branches there by either clicking on the district designation (e.g. 8-Southern) in front of the branch name or by clicking on Labels on the left side and choosing the district your branch is in.

### Quick Links

#### Committee News

- [AAUW Fund](#)
- [Branch Development](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Public Policy](#)

#### Program News

- [Gov Trek](#)
- [Speech Trek](#)
- [Tech Trek](#)

### As Sandi Sees It

**Sandi Gabe**, President, AAUW California, [statepresident@aauw-ca.org](mailto:statepresident@aauw-ca.org)

#### OUR DREAMS ARE BIG. OUR GOALS ARE AMBITIOUS.

When you want to achieve something big, bring passionate women together to chart the course! That's what we did!

On August 19th, the AAUW California committee members gathered to strategize and set our direction forward. Together, we forged a roadmap that will guide us toward our shared goals and aspirations to:

- Develop resources to help branches build membership.
- Assist branches struggling with leadership needs.
- Strengthen connections among the state, branches, and national AAUW.
- Provide exciting new opportunities for members to engage.

Now, it's time to put our plans into action. I'm excited to highlight a few of our first steps.

- We merged several committees and peer groups into Branch Development; one-stop shopping for branch leaders as we focus our efforts on leadership development, membership growth, and branch support.
- Peer groups are launching this month bringing branch and state leaders together with our committee members to share best practices and learn from each other. The summary schedule and information about each peer group can be found on the website [HERE](#).

- Voted by Committee Day attendees as the “Project that will be most exciting to the branches!”, Public Policy launches the School Board Project with a timely and informative webinar on book banning and curricula censorship.
- Our Google Ads for Nonprofits launch this month. With the opportunity to spend up to \$10k per month, we hope to expand the reach of AAUW and fill your roster with new members. This effort will be followed by our LinkedIn ad campaign designed to attract educators.

Like you, I need inspiration to keep moving forward. Having the opportunity to rub shoulders with talented, passionate, and committed members recharges my batteries and gives me hope that we’ll continue to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Click [HERE](#) for some inspiration from Committee Day.

Keep up the good work,

Sandi

## Committee News

### AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

*Karen Vanderwerken, AAUW Fund Committee chair, [aauwfund@aauw-ca.org](mailto:aauwfund@aauw-ca.org)*

#### **ALL NEW FORMAT FOR VIEWING ANNUAL CALIFORNIA FELLOWS AND GRANTEES! EVERYONE, EVERYTHING, ALL AT ONCE!**

See what your AAUW Fund donations support.

Our 24 California fellows and grantees will each record a 5–8-minute presentation on their study or project. Topics include Women’s History, Medical Sociology, Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and others.

We’re making it easier for you to see the presenters and choose which one you want to invite to your branch by posting their presentations on our website.

For 2023-24, these **recordings will replace the typical Fund events that we have had in the past.**

This should make it easier and more efficient to pick an appropriate speaker and topic for your branch event. In one click you will be able to watch them all whenever and as often as you want.

In late October, you’ll be notified when the videos will be available. They will be available until April 20, 2024.

We will accept AAUW Fund speaker requests starting November 1, 2023.

**What I need to know:** This year, the Fund event will be replaced by recordings of the California fellows and grantees speaking about their studies/projects. This will make it more convenient to pick a possible speaker for your branch.

**What I need to do:** Watch for the announcement when the recordings are posted on the website.

**Should I include this in my branch newsletter?** Not at this time.

### BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

**Sharyn Siebert**, Director, Branch Support [branch@aauw-ca.org](mailto:branch@aauw-ca.org)

**Sigrid Moranz**, Director, Leadership, [leader-dev@aauw-ca.org](mailto:leader-dev@aauw-ca.org)

**Marsha Swails**, Director, Membership, [membership@aauw-ca.org](mailto:membership@aauw-ca.org)

## **ONE BIG SUPERPOWER!**

AAUW California is announcing a new way to support our branches' needs across multiple functions. We have combined our Membership, Branch Support, and Leadership Development committees into one to streamline our contact with branches and create synergy across all our offerings.

Be a part of ONE peer group and get all the news on toolkits, meetings, and webinars. One-stop shopping!

Peer group meetings will be on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The first meeting is Tuesday, September 26th. Invitations will go out to all branch presidents, membership chairs, program chairs, IBC and District representatives automatically. Be there! Don't want to wait for an invitation? Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

This is easier than online shopping. Same day delivery!

## **LEADERSHIP**

### **EVOLUTION IS SURVIVAL. CHANGE IS GOOD! YOU GO FIRST!**

This year we will be working with branches to provide four new programs covering everything from leader recruitment to managing burnout. We will also be offering the popular Leader on Loan program to bring interesting and knowledgeable past and present leaders to your branch. And don't forget to be working on your Branch Activity of the Year submission. Stay tuned for more!

### **B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try**

Select someone in your branch to create a "leadership ladder." Let us help you make this possible for your branch.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!!!**

#### **ANNOUNCING THE MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT LAUNCH PARTY**

One year ago, the Membership Committee began work on a resource that will help branch leaders with all things membership. Please put Tuesday, October 24th, at 7:00 pm on your calendars. Our peer group will be the first to see the final product and we are excited to finally put it in your hands. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Toolkit topics include:

- branch leadership roles
- attracting new members
- managing membership at national, state, and branch levels
- how to retain your members

The team effort that went into this had many iterations along the way. We tried to distill the information and provide links to national and state websites that will make your work easier.

Our focus on growing AAUW membership is taking on new initiatives from the toolkit launch to a vibrant ad campaign on Google and LinkedIn. We can't wait to share more information about the exciting things ahead!

#### **B2B Bonus:** Quick Tips for Things to Try

Capture the gratitude of your Tech Trek parents now that their campers are back home. Use one of the [Shape the Future](#) free memberships you earned to invite them to join at a reduced rate by September 30th. National waives the dues. Your branch can too. They'll only need to pay state dues. What a bargain.

**What I need to know:** The new Branch Development Committee consolidates the services of three other committees in order to help our branches more effectively. The combined monthly peer group is for presidents, membership contacts, program chairs, and IBC and District representatives. October's topic will be the rollout of the new Membership Toolkit.

**What I need to do:** Watch for an invitation to join the peer group or register now.

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

### **COMMUNICATION [TOP](#)**

*Dawn Johnson, Director, Communication Committee chair, [communications@aauw-ca.org](mailto:communications@aauw-ca.org).*

#### **REMEMBER "SHARING TIME" IN SCHOOL?**

It works for grownups too! Communications will again host monthly peer group sessions for branch leaders who are involved with communications and technology and want to share ideas.

Branch leaders who were identified in the official Branch Officers Report (BOR) as Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Social Media, or Technology Coordinator will automatically receive a Zoom invitation to attend these informal sessions. The topics? Wait and see!

If you have someone in your branch who does not fit those titles, but has a related task such as Zoom host, P.R. coordinator, email guru, list manager, or whatever, send their name to [webteam@aauw-ca.org](mailto:webteam@aauw-ca.org) and ask to be added to the Communications Tech Peer Group with the title of "Communications Support."

Our Sharing Time will be on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm, beginning October 3rd. We won't give out gold stars, just good ideas.

**What I need to know:** Communications will host a monthly sharing session for peers who support communications and technology in their branches.

**What I need to do:** Alert the appropriate people to watch for their automatic invitation to the sessions. Contact webteam to add others.

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

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION [TOP](#)**

*Charmen Goehring, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, [diversity@aauw-ca.org](mailto:diversity@aauw-ca.org).*

#### **WE ARE STEPPING BACK TO STEP FORWARD**

Some may have noticed we have put the DEI committee on hold for the time being. This is not because learning more about diversity, equity, and inclusion and how they relate to AAUW is not

important. It's precisely because they are so important that we realized we needed a road map to successfully infuse DEI work into everything we do. So, this year, with the guidance of a couple of advisors, I will be creating a strategic plan around DEI and AAUW California. We will host monthly peer group sessions to provide resources and education for our branch DEI coordinators and will provide "office hours" for coordinators who have specific questions regarding their branch.

DEI coordinators should be watching for an email soon regarding the dates, times, and structure of the monthly peer group meetings. If you have any questions, please contact me!

#### **B2B Bonus:** Quick Tips for Things to Try

Starting place: Check out the [DEI toolkit](#) on AAUW National's website. We will go over it in more detail at our first peer group meeting.

**What I need to know:** DEI is reviewing its focus and plans for the coming year.

**What I need to do:** Watch for an invitation to the monthly peer group sessions.

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

## **FINANCE [TOP](#)**

*Kathy Ford, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee chair, [cfo@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cfo@aauw-ca.org)*

### **DO YOU NEED HELP WITH BRANCH FINANCE? THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IS HERE TO HELP YEAR-ROUND.**

The Finance Committee has scheduled four information sessions that will focus on the key roles of branch finance officers:

- October – How to do Government Forms
- December – Review of Finance Webpages
- March – How to Record Membership Dues
- June – Financial Reporting

To get started, check out the finance website section on the AAUW California website [HERE](#).

#### **Helpful Hint:**

A branch recently asked if mileage expense reimbursements are taxable if the current IRS mileage rate of \$0.655 is used. Generally, expense reimbursements are NOT taxable if reimbursements are based on an accountable plan. What is an accountable plan?

- Reimbursement is for a legitimate business/organization purpose and cannot be for a personal expense.
- The expense is documented within a reasonable period (defined by the IRS as 60 days) and includes the business/organization purpose, time and place and the amount. Note - a copy of the gps map showing the route and miles for the trip is a way to document mileage.
- Excess reimbursements are promptly returned within a reasonable period (defined by the IRS as 120 days).

Accountable plan rules apply to volunteers providing services under the control and direction of the organization.

Be sure to watch for announcements and emails about the Finance Committee information sessions. Whether you are new to branch finance or experienced, join the Finance Committee information sessions to learn the whys and hows of branch finance and share your experiences with your peers. See you there!

**What I need to know:** Finance has scheduled four sessions to cover important information related to running branch finances.

**What I need to do:** Watch for invitations to the sessions.

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

## **PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)**

**Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko**, Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs, [publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org](mailto:publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

### **GET EXCITED ABOUT PUBLIC POLICY!**

The Public Policy Committee met in person in San Jose on August 19th as part of AAUW California's 2023-24 Committee Day. We spent the day together talking, eating, laughing, and planning some exciting public policy projects for the year ahead.

One of these projects, the School Board Project (SBP), created quite a buzz! Committee Day attendees, who came from all state committees, voted it as one of the state's most exciting undertakings in the coming year. We're excited, too.

The SBP will offer the webinar *Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!* on Thursday, September 21st, at 7pm. Kathi Harper, School Board Project Committee Chair, will explain the project, what we are doing, and how all AAUW California members can help. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

The webinar will give you tools to address a problem that is being faced by communities all across the state and the nation: attempts to elect regressive school board members who support book banning and curricula censorship.

In addition to the SBP, the Public Policy Committee is also making plans for our other core projects: creating a new monthly public policy newsletter for branch public policy chairs and presidents, setting our next Legislative Agenda, planning Lobby Days, and creating a new Action and Education Outreach campaign. Stay tuned! We will share more information about these projects in the coming months.

### **What I need to know:**

The webinar *Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!* will be held on Thursday, September 21st at 7 pm. The committee will send a monthly newsletter with useful information for public policy chairs.

### **What I need to do:**

Register for the School Board Project webinar [HERE](#). Public Policy chairs and presidents should watch for the inaugural issue of the newsletter in September.

### **Should I include this in my branch newsletter?**

Yes, encourage your members to register for the School Board Project webinar so they can learn more about the project and how they can help. Share the articles and updates from the Public Policy newsletter.



## Program News

### GOV TREK [TOP](#)

*Shauna Oenning Ruyle, Gov Trek Program Director and Gov Trek Committee chair, [govtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:govtrek@aauw-ca.org)*

#### TAKE A MOMENT TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE GOV TREK 2023-2024 PROGRAM DATES!

Our innovative state program, [Gov Trek](#), which is designed to introduce high school girls to careers in public service and elected office, is returning this year. Students will meet on six Saturdays from 10 am - 12 pm (February 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th, and March 2nd, and 9th). Projects are due by midnight Sunday, March 10th. The final session will include the culminating campaign competition on March 16th from 10 am - 12:30 pm.

**What's on the Gov Trek agenda?** Women legislators, speakers, role models, and access to internships; along with interactive activities, such as a campaign simulation and a campaign speech competition and much more are on the agenda this year. We've assembled another powerful and passionate Gov Trek Committee this year, and the team is busy putting together another inspiring program for future leaders across California.

**Stay tuned for additional information regarding your branch's crucial role, how you can get involved, marketing materials, tips for recruitment, and when online registration will open!**

**Questions?** Email [govtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:govtrek@aauw-ca.org)

**What I need to know:** Gov Trek has established its meeting schedule for participating students and is developing informational materials for branches.

**What I need to do:** Watch for more information on the program and how your branch can get involved.

**Should I include this in my branch newsletter?** Not at this time.

### SPEECH TREK [TOP](#)

*Lana Widman, Speech Trek Program Director, and Speech Trek Committee chair, [speechtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:speechtrek@aauw-ca.org)*

#### FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR SPEECH TREK 2024

Speech Trek 2023-2024 is here, along with the five new items you need to know now:

1. The 2023-2024 Branch and Student toolkits are available on the website [HERE](#).
2. NEW: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) form has been converted to an online form that can be completed in just a few minutes. No need to print, get signatures, make photocopies, find an envelope, buy a stamp, find a mailbox, and keep your fingers crossed that it gets there in time! The link to the form is in the branch toolkit but you can also click [HERE](#) to access it.
3. NEW: The deadline for submitting the MOU has been extended to **November 18, 2023**.

4. NEW: The branch winner's first-place video submission to the state semi finals has been extended to **March 15, 2024**.
5. NEW for Speech Trek Chairs: Plan on attending our first "Peer Group" meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, September 20th, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

As the Speech Trek program continues to evolve, the Speech Trek Committee welcomes your help! As seasoned branch leaders, your input to help us plan the future of the program is incredibly valuable. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in working with us on the Speech Trek Committee, please let us know.

**What I need to know:** The Speech Trek toolkits are available on the website. There will be monthly peer group meetings for branch Speech Trek coordinators.

**What I need to do:** Submit your branch's MOU by November 18th if you intend to participate.

**Should I include this in my branch newsletter?** Yes, if your branch is participating.

## **TECH TREK [TOP](#)**

*Mary Isaac, Tech Trek Program Director, and Tech Trek Committee chair, [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org)*

### **THAT'S A WRAP! ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TECH TREK SEASON!**

The 2023 Tech Trek camp season closed out the year in July with a total of nine successful camps hosting over 800 STEMspired campers and 250 dedicated volunteers from 110 branches across the state. Camps were held in the following locations: Sonoma State University (2), Fresno State University, Whittier College, UC San Diego, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara (2), and Virtual.

Preparations are already underway for next year, with the Branch Coordinator Peer Group session kickoff scheduled for Thursday, October 26th, from 6:30-8 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.

The long pole in the tent for 2024 is camp leadership, with camp directors needed for both the UC Davis and Virtual camps, as well as camp treasurers for several.

Additional Branch Coordinator sessions are already scheduled for 11/30, 1/24, 2/22, 3/28, and 5/23.

Mark your calendars and help us keep the Davis and Virtual camps operating by teeing up some talent for critical camp roles!

Contact [techtrek@aauw-ca.org](mailto:techtrek@aauw-ca.org) if you have suggestions or questions.

**What I need to know:** Tech Trek held nine successful camps. There are openings for camp directors and treasurers for next year.

**What I need to do:** Tech Trek branch coordinators should attend the monthly peer group sessions.

**Should I include this in my branch newsletter?** Yes, share the good news about the successful camps, the large number of girls they engaged, and the need for applicants for camp leadership next year.



AAUW California

[Unsubscribe](#)

PO BOX 160067

Sacramento, CA 95816

United States

916-389-0220

Find us on social media

