



October 2023

Step away from the candy corn.



Dear Randa,
Welcome to the *California Connection*, the monthly missive sent to every member from your state organization for a quick and informal read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Things to Know

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World Teachers' Day was three days ago. This international UNESCO-sponsored day celebrates teachers and reminds us of their power to transform education as well as the support they need. You probably missed it because you were creating a line graph plotting microbe growth or wondering how to put googly eyes on your Halloween costume. But we didn't. Valuing education is a core tenet of AAUW. Teachers are our peeps and we want more of them in our branches. We have just launched a campaign to attract educators on LinkedIn and designed a "just-for-teachers" page on our website [HERE](#). You are permitted to pass that note to a teacher friend. Pop quiz: Who was your fourth grade

teacher? You may check your own answers. If you wrote Mr. McGowan, you were in my class.



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We're trying something new. No, it is not the first time we've done something new since 1954. We're cutting back on our lineup of general interest Zoom webinars. No, this is not because we were snubbed at the Oscars. It's because we're focusing instead on monthly, informal, peer-to-peer sharing sessions for branch leaders. Membership VPs can talk to other membership VPs, program chairs can talk to other program chairs, presidents can talk to other presidents. We have nine peer groups meeting regularly to share need-to-know info, how-tos, the good, bad and ugly of their jobs, cool ideas, and likely some goofy chatter. You can see their meeting schedule and recordings [HERE](#). Think of them as clubhouses for grown-ups. Girls are allowed.



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A bunch of bunnies is called a fluffle. We'll pause while you smile. What can we call the bunch who attended our webinar on book banning? Not smiling. Nearly 250 serious members learned about AAUW California's *School Board Project*, our bold initiative to address the threats of regressive school board candidates and curricula cleansing. You CAN do something! Watch the recording [HERE](#) and look at the action toolkit [HERE](#). Bunnies are funny. Book banning isn't.

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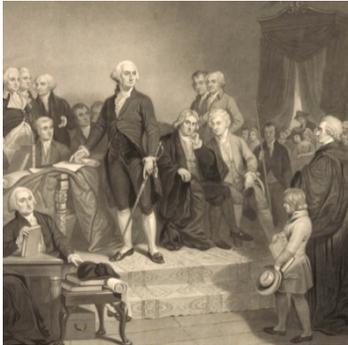
Things to Do

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[Hail to the chief!](#) We'll pause while that music plays in your head. Sorry for the earworm. But what better way to announce the launch of our Gov Trek program that could quite possibly produce a future U.S. president? A future WOMAN president? At Gov Trek's October 16th peer group meeting, branch leaders will learn how to get involved with this unique program to introduce high school girls to careers in elected office. Encourage your branch to participate and promote it in your schools and community. It was



a hit last year and we're trumpeting it again. Get it? Trumpet? Maybe you should listen [again](#).



Ruffled shirts. Knee-length pants. Silk stockings. Is that what Milan teased us with in its recent Fashion Week? Nope. That was what U.S. senators wore until the late 1700s, topped with those poofy powdered wigs. Such fashion became, well, unfashionable, like leisure suits and go-go boots. But the norm of respectful and traditional dress remained a hallmark of the Senate. Until now. With the newly relaxed dress code, senatorial debate now rages over wearing hoodies. What does this have to do with AAUW? We have no dress code. We have no infighting over dress codes. We worry about bigger things. So we don't care if you go to branch meetings in a clown suit. Just GO! (We will not stoop to a lame joke about go-go boots here.)



Once upon a time . . .

We all have AAUW stories. We want to hear one of yours. Not why you joined AAUW. Not what jobs you've held. Not the details of your branch's recipe book sales profit. We want to hear about your *AAUW Moment*, a time when you had a sudden heartwarming flash of happiness, gratitude, pride, excitement, or hilarity because you're a part of this organization. Keep your story to fewer than 350 words and send it with your name and branch to cc@aauw-ca.org. Aesop would.

My AAUW Moment



Our branch was asked to host a Tech Trek booth at a TEDx event. Because I foolishly entered the planning meeting late, I was put in charge. Six former campers set up stations to demonstrate robotics and science experiments. Their competence, poise, and overall braininess blew me away. I left feeling completely useless, slightly stupid, and enormously proud.

Dawn Johnson
Mariposa Branch



AAUW's mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
[AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org)

AAUW California's mission: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing programs, education and resources.
www.aauw-ca.org



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