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**December 2023**

**Be prepared.**



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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Puzzlers, it's your turn. What do these eight words have in common?

Talk      Vision      Cross      Mint  
Team      Fault      Dip      Whammy

Give up? Here's a hint: Want to \_\_\_\_\_ your money? Donate to AAUW by December 31st and your contribution will be worth twice as much! Thanks to the generosity of AAUW National's board of directors and other leaders, every donated dollar will be matched up to \$75,600. Help AAUW double down on its work to spur change. Stop working on the puzzle and click [HERE](#) to send your financial support. You should have the answer by now anyway. No? Oh come on, how many hints do you need?

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Oh sure, it's pretty and confection-y. But is it seismically sound? Houses need a strong foundation. So do AAUW branches. As affiliates of AAUW National, branches must adopt and be guided by foundational bylaws that define their structure and operation. Sometimes those must be updated, like adding dual pane windows, or a Ring doorbell, or pretzel sticks. AAUW recently mandated some updates to branch bylaws to reflect recent member-approved changes, mainly for legal compliance and clarification of current practices. If your branch is not making any other changes to its bylaws, only your board has to vote to approve the revisions. So you can save your voting enthusiasm for the really big event coming up in November 2024. We just thought you'd like to know. And we saw you try to take a bite out of the chimney.

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You have a lot of things to keep track of: birthdays, wisdom teeth extraction appointments, Netflix series releases, and United Nations meetings. Here's one more: [AAUW California Bill Tracker](#). Our Public Policy Committee labors to thoughtfully select the legislation we will follow as well as those we support with our funds and our energy. How are we doing? The Bill Tracker is kept up to date so you can be too. Check it periodically to see what bills we're rallying around and how they're doing. Put it on your calendar in red between the chiropractic appointment and the dog's rabies shot.



## Things to Do



What? You didn't get a callback when you auditioned for maids-a-milking? You can still be a star and upstage the pipers piping. Bring your considerable talents and skills (but no drama please) to the big stage of the AAUW California Board of Directors in 2024. The troupe has six openings: secretary (two-year term 2024-2026), four directors (two-year term 2024-2026), and one director (one-year term 2025-2026). Act on your passion! Apply [HERE](#) by March 1st and become a leader-a-leading. Sorry, the partridge gig has already been cast.





Don't fret about [FOMO](#). Your branch is likely hosting some sort of holiday gathering. Put on your sparkles or spats and lift a glass of cheer with your AAUW family. These are your peeps. Do enjoy each other. Do toast your branch's triumphs. Do eat every kind of appetizer that has ever been made with cranberries. Do lick the unappetizing colored icing off every seasonally-decorated cookie. But don't look in your host's closet and don't forget to take your serving platter home.

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Speaking of missing out, are you missing emails? We never thought we'd ask, but are you sure you're getting enough of them? The Cyber sales ads for dehydrators that make elk jerky are delightful, of course, but we want to make sure you're hearing about our elections, webinars, program announcements, AAUW opportunities, and sometimes just our warm and fuzzy messages. Be sure you get all our communications by adding just the domain name "@aauw-ca.org" to your email safe sender's list. If your email system requires a full email, add "[siteadmin@aauw-ca.org](mailto:siteadmin@aauw-ca.org)" How? Here's some [help](#). And don't forget to check your spam folders or those folders that Gmail willy-nilly tosses messages into, such as "Social" and "Promotions." Who knows what's lurking there?

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## My AAUW Moment

We want to hear your story of an "aha" AAUW moment, a time when you had a sudden heartwarming flash of happiness, gratitude, pride, excitement, or hilarity because you're part of this organization.

Keep it under 75 words and send it with your name and branch to [cc@aauw-ca.org](mailto:cc@aauw-ca.org).



*My most exciting moment in being an AAUW member was attending a pay equity gathering in San Francisco featuring Nancy Pelosi. I was so looking forward to meeting her.*

*She met all our contingency and took a picture with us. I was so in awe of her and proud to be a member of AAUW!*

*Cathy Foxhoven  
California Online Branch*



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



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