

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



[View in browser.](#)

November 2024

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy is the AAUW mission. We often include “our AAUW mission” in our articles. It is important to articulate the mission and keep it in front of us so we can ensure our programs honor and support it. AAUW’s stated values include being *Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional* and our vision is *Equality for All*.

Quick Links

Committee News

- [AAUW Fund](#)
- [Branch Development](#)
- [College/University](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)

- [Finance](#)
- [Governance](#)
- [Nominations and Elections](#)
- [Public Policy](#)

Program News

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

Charmen's Chat

Charmen Goehring, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

Despite the current climate in our nation, I have faith that love and compassion will ultimately win, and we will be OK. Change is tough, so give yourself some grace and kindness over the next few weeks.

Speaking of change and hard things, I want to pay tribute to Lilly Ledbetter, who passed away on October 12, 2024. Lilly worked courageously with then AAUW Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz to get legislation passed through Congress to ensure fair and equal pay for women. In January 2009, President Obama signed his first bill into law with Lilly and Lisa by his side— *the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*. AAUW had a long-lasting, strong, and productive relationship with Lilly and she never stopped advocating for gender pay equity. In her honor, AAUW vows to continue the fight, and so will we.

Another change on the horizon with a serious impact on many branches is the recent decision by AAUW to transfer the organization and administration of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to an outside group, NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. Despite the support received from branches, state affiliates, members, and colleges and universities, the cost has become unsustainable for AAUW. I know this will disappoint many members, and there will be lots of questions that we don't have answers for yet. Because of the unknowns, including whether branches can even send students to the new conference without violating IRS rules around giving money to other organizations, it might be advisable for branches to hold off on any fundraising specifically for NCCWSL at this time. We hope to have more information in the coming weeks.

One thing that has not changed is the commitment and passion of your state leadership team and our committees. They are hard at work producing informative webinars, advancing GOTV campaigns, assisting branch leaders with difficult issues, gearing up Fund recipient presentations, and so much more. I am thankful every day for this team that I am a part of.

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

Deanna Arthur, AAUW Fund Committee chair, aauwfund@aauw-ca.org.

The 2024-25 [Fellow List](#) is posted on the California website. The school, fields of study, and city of the 31 recipients who are currently living in California are listed on the website.

We have contacted the fellows, and their photos, videos, and more will be posted as they are received.

Remember to fill out the [application form](#) online to request a speaker.

We are looking forward to an amazing year for the Fund. I know we've had a slow start, but it is all about the finish.

What I need to know: The Fellow List and updated speaker request form have been posted.

What I need to do: Watch for the videos to be posted and then share them with the branch.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, once the videos have been posted, the members might like to check out the Fund Fellows and Grant Recipients.

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

Sigrid Moranz, Director, Leadership, branch-development@aauw-ca.org

Rebecca Gomez, Director, Membership, branch-development@aauw-ca.org

THE JOIN/RENEWAL PROCESS MADE EASIER!

Recent changes were made to the Join/Renew process of the Community Hub to remove the University and degree information because many people could not remember the exact date or the search feature did not include their academic institution. However, this does **not** change the membership requirement, which states, "AAUW membership is open to anyone with an associate (or equivalent, e.g., RN) or higher degree from an accredited university. Students enrolled in an

accredited university may join as student associates (undergraduates) or graduate students.” The educational requirement for membership should still be included when recruiting new members. Members can update their education, preferences, and demographics in their individual accounts.

Please encourage people to utilize the online Join/Renewal process to increase the accuracy of the database.

WHAT IS LOL? NOT “LAUGH OUT LOUD!”

AAUW California is lucky to have a number of talented leaders available to branches to help with the plethora of issues and needs they have. By requesting a Leader on Loan (LOL) via the [online form](#) detailing what the branch needs are, they can avail themselves of someone to help. That is where your state dues come in.

This does not mean that the LOL person will take over and become your branch president or membership VP. It means having conversations and perhaps a Zoom event with that leader to address the questions input on the application. Click [HERE](#) to find out more about the LOL program. Remember that lead time is needed to make these arrangements.

We at AAUW California want your branch to succeed, whether that means joining another nearby branch or revitalizing the current one. Asking for help is the first step.

One of the [Branch Tools](#) is the variety of webinars on any number of topics stored via the state website. First, go to the Branch Tools section of the very useful portion of the website and scroll down to the box labeled **WEBINARS** and search for your topic or use the search engine (the magnifying glass) at the top of the website with the word search for the topic you want to address.

What I need to know: Individuals no longer need to enter their education background when joining or renewing. The videos of the past webinars can be found on the AAUW California website.

What I need to do: Make sure everyone knows that the Join/Renewal process has been made easier.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter: Yes, because the new Join/Renewal process could affect all members.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY[TOP](#)

Susan Bangasser, College/University Committee chair, cu@aauw-ca.org

NCCWSL IS IN TRANSITION

AAUW has informed us that they will be [outsourcing NCCWSL beginning in 2025](#). Although AAUW will have a presence at the leadership conference, they will no longer manage the administrative, financial, and programmatic oversight and planning. It is likely the event will once again be held at the University of Maryland in 2025. After that, the location may change. Details from AAUW National will be announced soon, and at that point, we will share them with our California members.

If you could not join us for the October 29th C/U Peer Group meeting, you can find it on our webpage. Click [HERE](#) to access peer group recordings.

Want to know more about AAUW C/U programs? Click [HERE](#)

What I need to know: NCCWSL will be outsourced starting in 2025.

What I need to do: Read the information about NCCWSL above, the FAQ answers most concerns.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes.

COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

*Michelle Baer and Donna Holmes, Directors, Communication Committee Co-chairs,
communications@aauw-ca.org*

WEBSITE UPDATES HAVE ARRIVED!

We're excited to announce that the updates to the California branch websites hosted by AAUW National are officially scheduled to begin on November 5th! The update process is expected to take about three to four weeks to complete for all branches.

Webmasters will receive an introductory announcement from the project team, which will include detailed documentation about the changes and a link to the overall schedule. They will be notified when their branch update begins and is completed.

AAUW California will host a post-implementation meeting on December 3rd at 6 pm to share the best practices and answers questions that webmasters may have. The invitation for the meeting has been sent to the webmasters and the branch presidents. The meeting will be hosted by Sandi Gabe.

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Always believe YOU can make a difference. The California Online Branch asked the Public Policy co-directors to present a branch program regarding Project 2025. There was such great interest in this subject that the branch asked AAUW California if their Zoom account could be used, allowing for more attendees and a webinar. Next they asked if the entire California membership could be invited, then they invited Online branches of other states. Thanks to Amy, Missy, AAUW California, and all the work behind the scenes by the Communication Committee, what started out to be a program for maybe 30 branch members ended up being an **outstanding webinar** on *Project 2025 and How it Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities* with about 225 attendees! Click [HERE](#) for the video and the presentation.

What I need to know: National will update the affected branch websites this month.

What I need to do: Affected branch webmasters and presidents received an email on October 30th about this process. If you are a branch webmaster or president and didn't receive the notice, please notify the webteam.

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, let your branch know when your website has been updated.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION [TOP](#)

Lata Murti, Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, diversity@aauw-ca.org

LET'S MOVE FROM EDUCATION TO ACTION!

If you missed our October DEI Peer Group meeting, catch the recording on the [DEI Peer Group section](#) of the AAUW California website. We had a robust discussion about DEI educational resources and how several branches have made use of them, following a great presentation by Bonnie Krupp, of the Amador Branch.

In our upcoming November DEI Peer Group meeting, we will begin reflecting and brainstorming on

how we can move from DEI education to DEI action in your branches and communities! Please join us! Register [HERE](#) for our Wednesday, November 20th, 7 pm (PT) DEI Peer Group meeting.

And please remember to complete the [Fall 2024 AAUW CA Branch DEI Survey](#) for your branch by midnight Tuesday, November 26th. The survey is short but may require consulting with your branch's program committee/chair and membership chair to complete it.

What I need to know: The next DEI meeting is November 20th

What I need to do: Complete the DEI Survey

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? No, this information is for the DEI chair.

FINANCE [TOP](#)

Kathy Ford, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee chair, cfo@aauw-ca.org

BRANCH FINANCE LEADERS – WHAT DO YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND BETTER?

You have the opportunity to tell us by filling out the [Survey](#); you can also find it in the [Finance Peer Group](#) section of the AAUW California website. Tell us what additional topics you want to be covered in the remaining peer group sessions scheduled for this fiscal year.

Future peer group sessions are tentatively scheduled for:

- February 6th, 6:30-8 pm, on reporting, including for fundraising, and
- April 3rd, 6:30-8 pm, on membership dues and navigating the Community Hub.

We will look at the survey results for additional topics to cover, so be sure to complete it no later than December 31, 2024.

So – add your ideas to the survey, and be sure to file your branch government reports by November 15, 2024. Even if you asked National to file your 990 N, you still need to file the California forms. If you need to file a 990 or 990 EZ, you have until November 15th. Check out the October 1, 2024, Finance Peer Group session [HERE](#) to see the requirements and how to complete them.

Then, have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

What I need to know: If you have not completed your government reports due November 15th, do it NOW.

What I need to do: Fill out the survey

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

GOVERNANCE [TOP](#)

Marty Mcknew, Governance chair, governance@aauw-ca.org

ARE YOUR BRANCH BY-LAWS UP TO DATE?

In spring 2023, AAUW members voted overwhelmingly in favor of changes to the national bylaws. Given the nature of changes to the bylaws, all AAUW branches are required to update their bylaws with these mandated changes. Many of the branches in California have done so, but almost half have not. If your branch is in this category, you have until June 30, 2025, to remedy this.

Click [HERE](#) to see the model bylaws template.

AAUW's branch boards can approve the required changes with a vote of the board – a full vote of the branch membership is not required to implement national-mandated changes to branch bylaws. Once you have updated the first seven articles as required, and your branch board has approved the new version, please send your bylaws to governance@aauw-ca.org. AAUW California will save a copy of all branch bylaws and will submit them to AAUW National by their deadline.

If your other articles (beyond the first seven mandated articles) are changed, your branch membership must approve them by vote at your Annual Meeting held in the spring. After approval by your membership, please send them to governance@aauw-ca.org as stated above.

A Governance Peer Group session for an explanation of what must be changed and how it will be changed will be scheduled soon. Watch this space for the date and time.

What I need to know: Check that your branch bylaws have been updated with the mandated changes and sent to AAUW California.

What I need to do: Make sure your parliamentarian, governance, or bylaw person receives this information.

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

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS [TOP](#)

Elaine Johnson, Nominations and Election chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org

MAKE YOUR VOICE SHOUT OUT LOUD AND CLEAR!

One way that each of us can make our voice heard is to vote for our next board of directors. We will be electing a president-elect, treasurer, and three board members.

The new application, which will be available soon, will cover the following:

1. Describe any previous branch experience and years you served.
2. Describe any AAUW National or California positions and years you served.
3. Talk about any AAUW National or California events you attended or participated in, peer groups, or webinars in the last five years.
4. Talk about any pertinent community activities or connections and their corresponding dates.
5. Describe your employment/professional experience, including current employment.
6. Describe any other special skills or experience.
7. Explain how you will incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion in your plans.
8. Give your reasons for running for this office.

Voting will begin in April. Every member will receive a dedicated email ballot (or a paper ballot if there is no email address).

Encourage talented members to apply for AAUW-CA Board positions!

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Board members receive as well as give.

What I need to know: The board position application has been revised

What I need to do: Consider volunteering and bringing your skills to a larger audience!

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, hopefully, members will be interested in applying.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko, *Directors, Public Policy Committee Co-chairs*, publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org

A SUCCESSFUL 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Thanks to the many AAUW members who participated in Lobby Days, to those who called or wrote to their legislators and the Governor through our Action Alert Network, and thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Kathy Van Osten, our Legislative Advocate, 29 of the 41 bills on our Legislative Agenda made it to the Governor's desk, and 25 of them have been signed into law! **This represents an 86.2% success rate!**

All 3 of our A-priority bills were signed:

- **AB 2843 - Signed into law!** Authored and sponsored by AAUW California and carried by Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, this bill eliminates cost sharing, including deductibles, from being imposed on any rape survivor seeking medical care following a rape. Countless rape survivors do not seek medical care following their assault because of prohibitive costs. AB 2843 removes the cost barrier, ensuring that survivors can receive the care they need following a traumatic sexual attack.
- **AB 2326 - Signed into law!** Sponsored by AAUW California and authored by Assemblymember David Alvarez, this bill requires the Chancellors of the Community Colleges and the State Universities, and the President of the University of California, to provide an annual report, publicly and orally presented, of their schools' compliance with Title IX.
- **AB 2099 - Signed into law!** Authored by Assemblymembers Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and Kevin McCarty, this bill makes it possible for the District Attorney to pursue felony charges for the posting of information about reproductive health care patients or providers if the posting and subsequent actions result in bodily injury.

2 of our B-priority bills were signed:

- **AB 1790 - Signed into law!** Authored by Assemblymember Damon Connolly, this bill requires the CSU system to report on the implementation of recommendations provided in the California State Auditor report, to ensure Title IX compliance and protections against sexual harassment.
- **AB 1831 - Signed into law!** Authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman, this bill expands the law prohibiting the possession and distribution of material depicting minors performing sexual activities to include AI and computer-generated images.

And very significantly, AB 1955 was signed. This was a C priority bill only because it was added to our Legislative Agenda later in the process.

- **AB 1955 - Signed into law!** This bill, authored by Assemblymember Chris Ward, prohibits public schools from notifying parents if their child uses a different name or pronouns or identifies as a different gender than assigned at birth. **California is the first state in the nation to ban forced outing of transgender students.**

For additional details on all the bills on the 2024 Legislative Agenda, see our bill tracking report [HERE](#).

As you might have noticed in our Get Out the Vote and Voter Education efforts, our national and state Public Policy Priorities (PPPs) are extremely important for shaping what we are able to say and do as a nonpartisan organization.

Your voice is critical for continuing to shape our PPPs! This year, we will conduct our biennial survey on the content of the [California PPPs](#). Please check your inboxes for the survey in November and take a few minutes to give us feedback.

On the National PPP front, you are invited to a Zoom meeting, “*AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results*,” featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. The meeting is hosted by AAUW Silicon Valley and will be held on December 4th, 2024, 4:00-5:00 pm Pacific. You can register [HERE](#).

On October 22, 2024, Amy Hom & Missy Maceyko delivered a webinar on the ways in which the Project 2025 agenda would, if implemented, be extremely detrimental to the California and National Public Policy Priorities (PPPs). The webinar specifically focused on potential negative impacts on things that have long been important to us as an organization, such as Title IX, sex-based discrimination, and reproductive freedom. The link to the Project 2025 Webinar is [HERE](#).

B2B Bonus: Quick Tips for Things to Try

Lilly Ledbetter, an icon in the equal pay movement, passed away last month. Her activism led to the introduction of the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009](#). See this [article](#) that honors her life and legacy.

What I need to know: AAUW California had an 86.2% success rate of bills passed in this legislative session.

What I need to do: If you missed the Project 2025 webinar, use the link above to watch it now or with your whole branch!

Should I include this in my branch newsletter? Yes, members need to know about our legislative success and the Project 2025 webinar.

Program News

SPEECH TREK [TOP](#)

Cathy Foxhoven, Speech Trek Program Director, and Speech Trek Committee chair,
spechtrek@aauw-ca.org.

SPEECH TREK 2024-2025 PROMISES TO BE A VERY SUCCESSFUL COMPETITION

To date, 16 branches have expressed interest in participating in Speech Trek 2024-2025, and [10 have](#) already sent in their MOUs. We had a very productive peer group meeting on October 21st with 10 in attendance. I strongly suggest you encourage your participants to read [The Climate Peril We Overlook](#) by Nicholas Kristof from the *New York Times*, September 14, 2024. It is extremely thought-provoking and will help the students in writing their speeches.

Don't forget that our next Speech Trek Peer Group meeting will be December 16th, at 7 pm, to discuss how the branches' competitions are going and to encourage the students to write their speeches and possibly memorize them over the winter break.

What I need to know: So far 10 branches have signed up for Speech Trek.

What I need to do: Have participants read the NY Times article.

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

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

THANKS BE TO AAUW TECH TREK BRANCHES!

Boo! And so starts the time for giving to assuage the guilt many of us will feel as we eat too much and buy FAR too much stuff that we know we or our giftee will never use. Many of you will be running fundraisers through the end of the year to take advantage of the goodwill guilt effect, so make sure to send some our way! Good

The board met at the end of October to approve the recommended budget, schedule (including camp locations), and fees for 2025. Final 2025 documents will be available, along with the Branch Request form and TTAG grant application link. Stay tuned!

The November 21st Branch Coordinator Peer Group Monthly ZOOM Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcu2oqzMrE9YEUXePLabe0d5Hf0-YhrdM>

Click [HERE](#) for the Branch Coordinator YouTube Playlist

What I need to know: The board met at the end of October and approved next year's Tech Trek budget.

What I need to do: Register for November's peer group meeting,

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

AAUW California

[Unsubscribe](#)

PO BOX 160067

Sacramento, CA 95816

United States

916-389-0220

Find us on social media

