

Board to Board

A Communication from the AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

Standing together for equity



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February 2026

This is a reminder that the Board to Board (B2B) goes to the branch officers listed in the Branch Officers Report (BOR). That might leave some of your board members not receiving this important monthly document. There are two ways anyone can access this information. First, it is posted on our website on the front page within a day or two of being sent out. Second, anyone who wants to receive the B2B in their inbox can email webteam@aauw-ca.org requesting to be added as a B2B Subscriber (Non-Branch Officer).

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Peer Group Meetings

All members are welcome to attend any peer group meeting. The peer group email announcement is sent to the branch chair(s) of the relevant committee and the branch president. Example: For the Public Policy Peer Group meeting, the email announcement will be sent to all branch public policy chair(s) and branch presidents.

Charmen's Chat

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

A month highlighting all things pink and red, hearts and love, shouldn't feel so heavy, but here we are. Take time to check in with those around you, in your branch, and at home. Giving someone a few minutes of your time will mean the world to them, and deepen your connection (Pivot 2 from Dr. Shawn Ginwright in *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves*).

Our next Four Pivots book study will meet on Wednesday, March 18th, at 7 pm. We will be discussing Pivot 3: From Problem to Possibility. All are welcome, even if this will be your first meeting. You can register [HERE](#).

Recognizing our branches' passion for girls in STEM and their ability to drive change in their local communities, AAUW is offering Community Action Branch Grants. This will be dedicated funding up to \$10K to support branches and states in implementing innovative STEM programs for girls in grades K-12. The application deadline is March 31st. You can find more information [HERE](#).

Did you know you can search your Yelp app for Black Owned Businesses? Shopping or dining at these businesses is an easy way to show support for our Black communities. For this Black History Month, step out of your comfort zone and try a new restaurant or business. I have found some of my go-to restaurants this way!

Committee News

AAUW FUND [TOP](#)

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

WE DID IT

A big round of applause for all of you who gave contributions to the AAUW Fund this year. Our preliminary donation number from National is \$523,453.80. No donation is too small. No donation is too big. Please keep them coming. The Fund and the ideals it supports are so important.

Branch presidents and Fund chairs have received their branch's donation totals. It is now time to decide on your branch's Named Gift Honoree(s). Please complete the [form](#) and submit it by **March 15th** to receive a certificate to give your honoree(s) at an upcoming branch event. Remember, for every \$750 your branch donated, you can select one member for this honor.

We are also seeking nominations for a State-Named Gift Honoree; current State Board members are not eligible. You can use this [form](#) to share your idea of a perfect candidate! State forms are due by **March 1st!**

Remember to compare the branch donations on your list from National to your branch records- there are often mistakes, and it is best to catch them early!

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT [TOP](#)

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP [TOP](#)

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

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

JOIN THE FUN! BE A PART OF AAUW-CA BRANCH DEVELOPMENT ACTION AND ACTIVITY! THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE.

- Have you submitted your branch's best activity for the 2026 Branch Activity of the Year Award (BAY)? Be sure to send yours in. For information on how to submit and for examples of past submissions and winners. Click [HERE](#) for BAY Award Information.
- Have you thought about joining an AAUW California Committee? The Branch Development Committee needs members to join our team. Our portfolio of programs includes: Membership; Leadership Development; Leader on Loan; Branch Activity of the Year; College/University Partnerships; and Branch Support. For Committee descriptions and job requirements, click [HERE](#). The 2026 - 2027 application forms will be out in April. Watch for the announcement.
- Do you have a background in Marketing and/or Public Relations? We are actively seeking members to join us in the Fall to develop and deliver a refreshed marketing plan for AAUW California, which can then serve as a template for branches to follow. We all want more visibility for our mission and to attract new members.

If you have missed our monthly Peer Group Meetings, you can click [HERE](#) to catch up by watching the recordings on our AAUW California site.

The next Branch Development Peer Group will be on Tuesday, February 10th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be: NCCWSL 2026 and College University Partnerships

FIVE STAR AND STRATEGIC PLAN[TOP](#)

Donna Holmes, Director, Strategic Plan Consultant, strategic-planning@aauw-ca.org

SO MANY DUE DATES, IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO GET IT DONE!

We scrambled in December with all the personal and fiscal deadlines. For Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), many of us choose to donate some of our required funds to our passions. I personally give some to our scholarship fund and to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund 9110, which reduces my income taxes. This creates happy work for National, and our results will be sent to our branch leaders starting now.

The 'official' membership count was pulled by National on February 1st, and your branch's share of the state's insurance premium for the next fiscal year (July-June) will be based on those numbers. The Five-Star program's membership retention criterion is also based on the February 1st counts.

By the end of this month, the branch presidents will receive a snapshot of their Five-Star progress. This **ONLY** goes to branch presidents, and it is important they share the information so you continue to earn more 'star dust'. Fund donations for the Five-Star program are measured from 7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026, so if you haven't made it on your snapshot, you still have time. [The Membership Matters February newsletter](#) from Katrina Sun Breese (AAUW) came out on 1/29/26 and contains all this and more.

For your entertainment and education: *AAUW Winter Member Gathering*, Wednesday, February 18th at 1:30 pm PT, register [HERE](#).

And Celebrating Success and Updates for the Five-Star Program, National has posted Five-Star Success stories from last year's winning branches, the first three are California Branches! Click [HERE](#)

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY[TOP](#)

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

We are delighted to invite you to an upcoming Peer Group Meeting focused on the College & University Partnership Program, taking place via Zoom on Tuesday, February 10th, at 7 pm.

Our distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Asha Jones from NASPA and NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), will provide an exclusive preview of the upcoming NCCWSL conference. While you may already know the dates and costs, this session will provide deeper insights into the conference's vision, agenda, and leadership development opportunities.

In addition to the conference overview, we will explore effective strategies for building connections with local colleges and universities and highlight valuable resources available to branch leaders. Your perspectives and innovative ideas are highly encouraged—please come prepared to share suggestions that can benefit our community.

We especially encourage you to extend this invitation to members in your branch who are involved with scholarships, NCCWSL, or other student-focused programs. Their participation will enrich our discussion and foster greater collaboration.

Please click [HERE](#) to register. You will then receive the Zoom link to the Peer Group Meeting. Feel free to invite colleagues who would benefit from this engaging and informative session.

We look forward to your participation and to a dynamic exchange of ideas!

Susan Bangasser

College & University Partnership Programs

COMMUNICATIONS [TOP](#)

Michelle Baer, Director, Communication Committee chair, communications@aauw-ca.org

EMAIL SCAMS: THE NEVER-ENDING NUISANCE

Another month, another round of scams. This one appeared to come from a Board President (or similar figure) and asked the recipient to purchase gift cards. Please believe me: the likelihood that anyone will legitimately ask you to buy a slew of gift cards by email, in such a manner and *out of the blue*, is effectively zero. That email is a scam!

I sent an all-member email in November with tips on how to spot scam emails and what to do (read it again [HERE](#)).

On a lighter note, the upcoming peer group meetings are as follows.

- Wednesday, February 18th, at 7 pm
 - Topic: **How to work with images within Canva**
 - Click [HERE](#) to register.
- Wednesday, April 15th, at 7 pm
 - Topic: **How to edit videos**
 - Click [HERE](#) to register.

We hope to see you there!

The next Communication Peer Group will be on Wednesday, February 18th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be: How to work with images within Canva.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion [TOP](#)

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

BRANCH DEI COORDINATORS WIN THE AWARD FOR PATIENCE!

You might have felt neglected this year, and rightfully so, but it doesn't mean that DEI is any less important to AAUW California. We don't have a specific state-level coordinator, and I have been trying to balance it all. We will have a Branch DEI Coordinator's peer group meeting on Thursday, March 12th, at 7 pm. Please register for the meeting [HERE](#). Bring your ideas, successes, questions, and concerns to share. We will review the DEI Strategic Plan and develop a plan for the remainder of the year and into next year.

The next DEI Peer Group will be on Thursday, March 12th, at 7 pm. Click [HERE](#) to register. The topic will be: the next DEI Strategic Plan

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS [TOP](#)

Gail Swain, Nominations and Election chair, nominating@aauw-ca.org.

WHAT DO THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DO?

We are seeking six candidates. We need four candidates for two-year terms, one candidate for a one-year term, and one candidate for secretary (two-year term). The Nominations are due by March 14th. Click [HERE](#) to start your nomination application.

The responsibilities of the State Board of Directors are:

- Attend monthly board meetings on Zoom (except for the June retreat, which is in person).
- Assist the Board in creating policies, resources, and events to help guide branches in their work.
- Act as a "leader-on-loan" to branches when asked for your expertise.

In addition to the above list, the Board Secretary also:

- Serves on the Executive Board.
- Takes minutes and records all motions.
- Shares minutes with the Board promptly.

Directors also:

- Serve as a chair or co-chair of a committee.
- Host peer group meetings.
- Update the Board Success Plan when appropriate.

PUBLIC POLICY [TOP](#)

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

TAKE ACTION FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Standing In Solidarity With Minnesota

AAUW California Public Policy has created the following petition language, regarding ICE activities in Minnesota and throughout the country. You can send this statement to your Senators via Resistbot by clicking [HERE](#), or copy and paste this language to send to your representatives manually, via email.

Petition Language:

The recent activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Minneapolis have been horrific - an escalation of an already socially and legally questionable series of law enforcement actions. As in other communities across the country, masked ICE officers have terrorized law-abiding people, ruptured tight-knit communities, broken happy families, and stolen innocent lives.

The presence of ICE in our communities has also trampled on our individual and collective civil rights, ensuring regular violations of our fundamental rights to due process, to privacy, to protest, and to humane treatment—rights that are afforded to everyone who steps foot on American soil. A sharp increase in racial and ethnic profiling, based on the language that one speaks or the color of one's skin, has accompanied ICE activities.

All of this has occurred, ironically, in the name of making our communities safer.

With gratitude, empathy, and love, we stand in solidarity with the people of Minneapolis. We condemn the tactics of federal officers who continue to interfere with our rights and who unnecessarily take our lives.

We must see a return to policies and practices that seek to ensure that all who live, work, and visit the United States are free from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs. We must ensure that anyone subject to harassment or violence based on race, ethnicity, gender, and nationality must have full protection and recourse under the law.

Accordingly, we demand action. You must rein in these violations. We demand that you, our representatives, protect our civil and constitutional rights, which are being regularly infringed upon.

Decision Coming in Legal Challenge to Proposition 50

As you all know, given your impressive get-out-the-vote efforts, Proposition 50 was approved by California voters in a special election in November 2025, passing with 64% of the vote. Its passage allows for the state constitution to be amended for redistricting mid-cycle, and a new district map to be used in California from 2026 through 2030.

But will these new California maps go into effect? This depends on an [upcoming decision by the U.S. Supreme Court](#), expected by February 9, 2026. What to expect next:

Timing. While the appeal asks the case to be resolved prior to the February 9, 2026, opening date for candidates in California to file candidacy declarations in advance of this year's June primary, it is unclear whether this request will be honored.

Who Will Decide? Procedural, emergency, and time-sensitive requests are often heard on the "emergency docket," which you may know as the "shadow docket." Some time-sensitive requests on this docket are decided by the Supreme Court Justice who oversees the district from which the appeal originated, in this case, Justice Kagan. However, given the potential nationwide importance of this appeal, it will likely be decided by the full court. This means that the appeal will need five votes to succeed.

Reasoning. The Court's decision on Texas redistricting should influence its decision on California redistricting, leading the court to find in favor of keeping the new district maps approved by passage of Proposition 50. Why? While there was stronger reason to step in in the Texas case, as there was stronger evidence of racially motivated redistricting, and while there was no input by voters in Texas, one of the primary reasons the Court gave for not intervening was timing—in

essence, when they ruled on the Texas case in November 2025, the Justices who wrote the majority opinion said that it was already far too late into the 2026 primary election season for a “lower federal court” to step in to “alter the election rules” (go back to the pre-August maps).

So, by the Court’s own logic, they should decide in favor of the voters in California. However, only time will tell.

(The above is an excerpt; see the full update [HERE](#).)

City Council Action & Monitoring Project (CCAMP) - New Special Project is Launching!

CCAMP is a special project being launched by AAUW California Public Policy to provide action-based resources that support local advocacy and relationship-building with city councils and county boards of supervisors.

In 2026, we will focus our advocacy on local anti-discrimination education and protection. Why anti-discrimination? As we’ve witnessed all too blatantly, the federal government can no longer be counted upon to protect our citizens from discriminatory practices; in fact, their actions on numerous fronts speak to the opposite effect. Protections once taken for granted now depend on state, county, and city governments.

To this end, through CCAMP, we guide you to take stock of what your city/county is already doing to teach residents about anti-discrimination—to dispel misinformation, educate, and provide resources and pathways for reporting. This year, the project will roll out as follows:

Launch Webinar: Friday, February 27th at 1:30 pm PT (register [HERE](#))

- Step 1: Build Your Team (March-April 2026)
- Step 2: Learn More About Your City/County (March-May 2026)
- Step 3: Attend A Council/Board Meeting & Make A Public Comment (April-June 2026)
- Step 4: Meet One-On-One With A Council/Board Member & Make Specific Asks (June-September 2026)
- Step 5: Report Back to AAUW California Public Policy (ongoing)

Please see this [overview document](#) for additional information and join us on February 27th for our launch webinar, where we will answer all of your questions and provide you with a toolkit filled with resources. In the interim, you can also email us your questions at publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org.

WEBINARS AND EVENTS

- AAUW National webinar: Promoting AAUW Education Values Through School Board Advocacy. An ACLU expert will provide an overview of the legal landscape. AAUW state leaders will speak about what’s happening across the states, including our own Kathi Harper, who will share an update on AAUW California’s School Board Project. **Thursday, February 12th at 4 pm PT. Register [HERE](#).**
- Lobby Days Team Leaders Q&A: **Thursday, February 5th, at 7 pm PT.** All Lobby Days participants, including non-team leaders, are welcome. Zoom link [HERE](#).
- CCAMP Project Launch Webinar: **Friday, February 27th, at 1:30 pm PT.** See above for additional information about CCAMP. Registration link [HERE](#).
- Lobby Days Training webinar: **Monday, March 23rd, at 7 pm PT. THIS WEBINAR IS MANDATORY for all Lobby Days participants. Register [HERE](#).**

If you missed it (January 2026 programs) ...

- AAUW National webinar: *The Future of Higher Education*. Find the recording [HERE](#).
- AAUW Turlock/Modesto Branch event: *Reproductive Health Care Post Dobbs*. Find the recording [HERE](#).
- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch event: *A discussion about the Supreme Court and attacks on reproductive rights featuring Leah Litman*. Find the recording [HERE](#).

Three Steps to Take Action in February: Defend and Advance Reproductive Justice

STEP 1: Self-Focused: Education

- If you missed it, watch the recent AAUW Silicon Valley Branch webinar with [Professor Leah Litman's](#) update on legislative challenges to reproductive health and what we can do to respond. Find the recording [HERE](#).
- See the excellent program hosted by the AAUW Turlock Branch exploring issues in reproductive health care and medical school training since the Dobbs decision. Find the recording [HERE](#).
- Watch the PBS documentary, *Growing Up Trans*, which shares the perspectives of parents, doctors, and kids on navigating gender and identity. Find the documentary [HERE](#).
- Listen to this powerful and deeply moving podcast episode from The Daily: "[Parenting a Trans Kid in Trump's America](#)".
- Watch this very informative episode of John Oliver's Last Week Tonight about trans athletes. Find the episode [HERE](#).
- Read the article about Reproductive Freedom on p.6-7 of the February issue of [Public Policy News](#).

STEP 2: Other-Focused: Education & Connection

- Organize a watch party for one of the excellent documentaries listed above. Pair your watch party with an opportunity to have a group discussion about something you learned or something that surprised you.
- Share your favorite resources with 3-5 people via word-of-mouth or social media.

STEP 3: Politically-Focused

- If you haven't already, please [click here to download the 5 Calls application](#). Once in the app, click on 'see all 44 issues'.
- [Protect Funding and Access to Gender-Affirming Care \(UPDATED 12/19\)](#), and [Defend Reproductive Rights](#), to select from a menu of actions

Please share the latest issue of [Public Policy News](#) with your branches, your friends and your network.

The next Public Policy Peer Group will be on Friday, February 6th at 1:30 pm. The Zoom link is made available to all peer group members. Please contact the Public Policy Co-chairs to request a link. The topic will be: Updates from State and National

Program News

TECH TREK [TOP](#)

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

🌟 DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR MOU BY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Excitement is rising as we kick off what promises to be another stellar Tech Trek year, starting with the CampDoc launch at the end of January for camper and staff applications.

In mid-January, branch presidents received the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that all participating branch leadership must agree to. The MOU defines the number of camper spots the branch is committing to, the requested camp locations, estimates of branch volunteer participation, and other terms, such as maintaining contact with campers for five years after camp.

Not quite 60% of branches have submitted their MOUs, which are due by February 15th.

Please complete your MOU [HERE](#) if you have not already submitted it.

All documents have been updated on the main Tech Trek website [HERE](#) to help your branch share the excitement with schools, teachers, and families. New content is added regularly, particularly in the alum and volunteer areas, so do check back frequently.

Camp leadership teams have begun planning and may reach out to you for full-time adult camp staff, day volunteers, and special funding requests. We are fortunate that our branches consistently come through!

The Tech Trek Branch Coordinators Peer Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. They have the link for these meetings. The topic will be: Tech Trek activities relevant to branch coordinators.

AAUW California

[Unsubscribe](#)

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