



July 2016

We are in a transition time so for some branches this B2B will go to the old officers and for some the new officers. Therefore, please make sure your new officers receive this. Also a new change is Donna, our President, will be including her message in the B2B rather than doing a separate mailing each month.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - NEW BEGINNINGS

Each New Year brings the opportunity for new beginnings. As we stand at the beginning of our new fiscal year, we have the choice to continue as we always have or to change what we are doing. In AAUW, it is easy to fall into a rut and do things the way they have always been done. But, we don't have to do that. We can make a choice today to challenge tradition.

In California, our branches have been losing members slowly over the past many years. We need to look at some of the reasons. The obvious reason that comes to mind is that many of our members are going to the great AAUW beyond. If we stop looking for reasons there, we can just throw up our hands and accept the inevitable.

If we look beyond the obvious, we become aware of all the women's organizations that are available today. We have a lot in common with many of them, but what makes us stand out? How can we draw new members if we are all the same? What does each of our branches do that makes women want to become part of us?

In California, we lead the nation in the number of members and branches in one state. We need to revitalize our members. Some branches are struggling just to find members to serve in leadership roles. Over the years, their leadership team may have grown to 30 or 40 members. They may need to downsize their leadership team and go back to "lean and mean", like many businesses of today. We can learn from business. If no one is interested in chairing the annual tea, then maybe we don't need to hold the annual tea anymore. Branches need to look at their priorities and decide what the most important reasons for their existence are.

In my generation, we waited until we retired to look for ways to give back to the community. Today's women are looking for ways to be part of the community and fit that in to their active working lives. Think about how we can become that organization and still support the mission of AAUW, by advancing equity for all women and girls, through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy.

I challenge you to make our California branches more vital and effective in this new year. Look for your unique qualities and “market” them.

Donna Mertens, President, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

FINANCE - Good News!

After working with our insurance broker and provider, AAUW California was able to reduce the cost of insurance for our 2016-2017 fiscal year to less than we paid for only 10 months coverage for the 2015-2016 year. For budgeting purposes, the cost of insurance will be your 2/1/2016 Headcount, previously provided by AAUW National, and multiplied by \$3.08. Your actual bill may vary, but not significantly. Any additional coverage requested will also be billed and is available by contacting me directly.

In August 2016, your branch will receive its bill for its share of the liability insurance, the AAUW Fund assessment, and any requested additional coverage. As AAUW California must pay our insurance broker and provider in full in early July, I request that you pay this bill immediately or no later than 30 days from receipt.

Treasurers: Mailing your state dues?

National made a mistake and included our CFO's home address as the one to mail your state dues. Please mail the state dues to our office: AAUW California, 1331 Garden Hwy, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833

Patricia (Pat) A Ferrer, AAUW CA CFO, cfo@aauw-ca.org

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Website updates

We still need you! The Communications Committee is embarking on a large project to refresh our website this year.

How can you help?

- Give us feedback: Watch your email for a very short survey about how you use the website; what you like and what you think can be improved. We'll use this feedback as we design our new look and feel.
- Work with the team: Want a more active role? Join the Communications Committee and be part of the design process. Complete a committee application by clicking [HERE](#) or contact me at Sandi.Gabe@hotmail.com

Board Officer Report (BOR) – There’s still time. Extended deadline! July 31st!

It’s important that you complete the CA State Board Officer Report as it’s used to create job-specific emailing lists, the annual directory and labels for print mailings to branch leaders.

Can’t remember how? Instructions can be found on our website or by clicking [HERE](#).

Can’t remember your login? Contact Kim Wilber (Monday – Thursday, 8 am – 2:30 pm) at office@aauw-ca.org or [916-448-7795](tel:916-448-7795).

Directories

To improve the quality of information in our state directory we'll be confirming the information that you enter in the BOR to uncover any typos or missing information. Each leader will receive an email with a copy of their entry and a link to update any incorrect information.

As you create your branch directories, consider including information about the National and State websites:

- AAUW.ORG – our national website.
- AAUW-CA.ORG – our state website. Some areas are password protected:
 - Members only user name: member
 - Members only password: aauwca

Sandi Gabe, AAUW CA Communications Chair – Sandi.Gabe@hotmail.com

BRANCH SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Greetings! I'm Ainsley Nies, a new 2016-2018 AAUW CA Director, and Chair of the Branch Support Committee. I've spent the last couple of months engaging with new IBC Chairs and recruiting Branch Liaisons to build our state-wide network for branch support. I'm happy to report that we now have about 90% of branches covered! I will be the support contact for the uncovered branches/IBCs until a local contact is established.

Branch Support contact information on the AAUW CA website will be updated in late July. In the meantime, feel free to get it touch (branch@aauw-ca.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Convention Follow Up – Have you seen the Convention video on the AAUW CA website home page? For a short overview, do take a look.

Let members know that if they forgot to hand in their Convention Evaluation form (different from the Workshop Evaluation) they can still turn one in. This feedback will help to make future conventions as relevant and enjoyable as possible. The form can be downloaded from the Convention 2016 page [HERE](#). The Convention page is also where you will find a video version of the 2016 SnapShots, a video compilation of notes from the Open Space sessions and session presentations.

Ainsley Nies, Chair of the Branch Support Committee, branch@aauw-ca.org

AAUW FUND

As you plan your programs for the upcoming year, please keep in mind that the Fund luncheons will be October 23rd in Seal Beach and October 29th in Danville. This is an excellent opportunity for your branch members to meet Fellowship and Grant recipients and perhaps choose a speaker for one of your branch meetings. Please share this information with your branch members.

All of the Fund forms on the AAUW CA Fund website page have been updated and there is more information to help AAUW Fund V.P.s do their jobs.

When planning designation of your branch AAUW Fund donations, please consider the unfinished California endowments. Click [HERE](#) to access the list.

Sharon Westafer, Director, Chair, AAUW CA Fund Committee, aauwfunds@aauw-ca.org

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please be alert for a short survey designed to discover what your leadership needs are for 2016-2017. If you are continuing in your office, you should receive this survey by the end of August. If you have new incoming officers, please inform them of this.

Cathy Foxhoven, AAUW CA Leadership Chair, aaufox@gmail.com

SPEECH TREK

The 2016-2017 Speech Trek Toolkit and Student Packet are now available. If you would like copies of these documents, please click [HERE](#).

Cathy Foxhoven, AAUW CA Speech Trek Coordinator, spechtrek@aauw-ca.org

Message sent to Group(s): Blanding

AAUW California

<http://www.aauw-ca.org>

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