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AAUW  **California  
Connection**



**May 2024**

**Achoo!!**



Dear <<First Name>>,  
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**



Our *Back to School* students were surprised by two pop quizzes at the Annual Event. If you were playing hooky, you can take your make-up tests in the detention room down the hall. Here are some sample questions:

- 1.. In what year did AAUW admit men?
  - A. 1954
  - B. 1946
  - C. 1987
  - D. 1995
2. AAUW California's mission states: AAUW California facilitates California branches in meeting the vision and mission of AAUW by providing...what?
  - A. Programs, education, and resources
  - B. Funding, guidance, and oversight
  - C. Training, resources, and leadership
  - D. Technology, communications, and governance
3. How many feet must you continuously signal before making a left turn?
  - A. Signaling is not necessary if there are no cars behind or approaching you
  - B. 50 ft.
  - C. 75 ft.
  - D. 100 ft.
4. How many girls applied for Gov Trek?
  - A. 52
  - B. 95
  - C. 102
  - D. 73
5. AAUW authored AB2843 in the California legislature!! If signed into law, what would it do?
  - A. Establish a minimum wage of \$17/hr for daycare providers
  - B. Eliminate the cost-sharing for rape survivors who seek medical care
  - C. Mandate that colleges and universities have counselors trained to handle sexual assault complaints and the president of UC to provide a report of their Title IX compliance.

You may grade your own work by watching the [recording](#) of the Annual Event to learn the answers (pay special attention at 52:12 and 1:24:45). Don't copy off anyone else's paper. We're watching from the back of the room.

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Numbers are our friends. Well, unless they are in word problems, the national debt, or on a bathroom scale. In the case of our recent Lobby Days event, numbers told a big story. An amazing 140 women on 43 teams from 63 branches entered the state halls of power to advocate for passage of the top three bills we are supporting. Whether in the flesh, via Zoom, or in one exceptional case on a hiking trail, our passionate and prepped members presented their arguments at 66 Assembly and Senate offices. We'll pause to let those numbers sink in. Meanwhile, consider the case of a train leaving Boston traveling at 75 mph. . . .



The running of the 150th Kentucky Derby ended with three horse noses in a photo finish. That was not true for the running of the 103rd AAUW California Annual Event. Several star pupils clearly finished first at our *Back to School* celebration and earned top awards. We congratulate the following:

- State Named Gift Honoree: Jane Niemeier
- Equity Champion: LA County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
- President's Award: Mary Isaac
- Speech Trek Competition Winner: Addison Horn from the Auburn Branch
- Gov Trek Winning Team: Vote Eliana

- Branch Activity of the Year Award: Petaluma Branch for *Normalizing Safety: Gun Violence Prevention*

Unfortunately, none of them will receive \$3.1 million, but they also don't have to eat 35,000 calories a day and wear blinkers.

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## Things to Do

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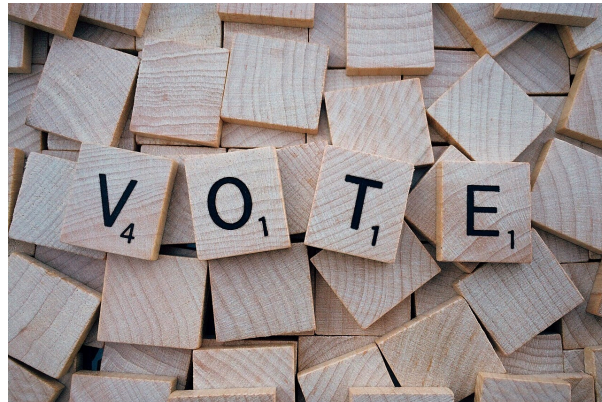
What does the word “annual” mean? Once a month? No. Once in a blue moon? No. Once in the life cycle of the cicada bug? No. It means once a year. Just once. So we hope you'll find one day out of 365 to attend your branch's annual meeting. Reconnect with fellow members, bask in your branch's accomplishments, get jazzed about next year's plans, and sign up for any job that's open and does not require singing.



There's a very special new page on our website. No, we won't tell you what it is. Stop asking. We mean it. It's a surprise, like finding Roman ruins or a carrot shaped like a lawn mower. Okay, okay, we give up. It's [HERE](#). Yes, it's our annual request for people like YOU to join a state committee. And you almost missed it! This is your chance to join like-minded volunteers who want to help

bring great programs and services to California branches. Take a look at all the opportunities and submit an application by May 31st. Now aren't you glad you made us tell?

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We said it before and we'll say it again. Vote. The national election closes May 15th at noon ET. That's 9 am in California for those of you who are challenged by UTC offsets. You can vote on the critical question of approving the proposed bylaws amendment to remove the degree requirement for membership. If you fear your ballot has been lost in the black hole of your inbox, find the email sent April 3rd from sender **AAUW** with the subject line **AAUW Election 2024**. It's probably buried in the springtime ads for a Solo Stove® Smokeless Bonfire 2.0 and an inflatable pool unicorn. Look in all your folders; emails can hide like dust bunnies. Then make your voice count.

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**Pardon our sneezing. Please pass the Kleenex®.**



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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