



**December 2024**

**Know any good jokes about galoshes?**



**Neither do we. We just like saying the word.**

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**



People will wait a long time for something good. To wit: the families at the front of the lines at Disneyland® are Cro-Magnon. Our branches have been waiting

with the same giddy excitement for the somewhat languorous rollout of the new branch website templates from National. But they're here at last and, as the proverb promises, good things come to those who wait. The updated websites are clean-looking, full of links and buttons, and more customizable by branch webmasters. Not all branches use National's platform, but for those that do, it's an [E Ticket](#) ride.



Gone are the days when you could pay your taxes with a goat. You won't find many [Toggenburgers](#) in general circulation. You have to use real money (or Bitcoin if you actually understand how that works). So you might as well at least reduce your tax bill by donating to your favorite charitable organization. Yes, that would be us. If you're 70 1/2 or older, even if you don't itemize, you may reduce your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your retirement fund and count it as part of your Required Minimum Distribution, if applicable. Conveniently, we have two suggestions: (1) donate directly to National using this [form](#) or (2) donate to Tech Trek via [AAUW California Special Projects Fund \(SPF\)](#). Just be sure the donation is paid directly from the IRA to the charity and is received by the qualified charity by the end of the year.

Small print: Check with your tax advisor. Check with your IRA custodian. Goats smell funny.



It's easy to waste 10 hours a week. Options include: yelling at news commentators, deleting ads for air fryers from your inbox, and writing capital letters in cursive. But AAUW California and California State University Long Beach have partnered to offer something better: a pilot program offering a lucky

CSULB student an internship for 10 hrs/wk to learn firsthand about advancing gender equity through legislative action. This potential mover and shaker will shadow AAUW California Public Policy leaders to help advance projects aligned with both organizations' goals. They will even—gasp—attend meetings. In terms of developing our youth's skills in leadership and advocacy, we believe this falls into the category of practicing what we preach.

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## Things to Do

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If just the word “election” gives you the heebie-jeebies, we promise AAUW California’s will be free from drama. We’re pretty sure Russia doesn’t care who serves on our board of directors. But we do. And we need dedicated, enthusiastic, drama-free leaders to fill five state positions: president-elect 2025-2028 (one year as president-elect, then president for two), and a CFO and three directors for two-year terms 2025-2027. Read the job descriptions and other details [HERE](#) and complete the nomination form [HERE](#) by March 1st. Feel free to beseech someone else to apply, as they will surely be grateful. We’ll post candidate bios and photos on the website in the order received but don’t expect a convention with a balloon drop.



We bet you need something to talk about besides politics. Our controversy-free suggestions are seltzer water, roly bugs, and camels. If you need something meatier, ask your branch leaders to line up an AAUW Fellowship & Grant recipient to speak to your members about her studies or project. There are [31 awardees in California](#) who can present remotely or in-person (remember what that is?). Learn about everything from DNA to downy mildew resistance in lettuce, and midwifery to low power tunable multiferroic flux sources. You heard that right. Get the jump on scheduling a speaker by submitting a request [HERE](#). And watch the website for the speakers' short videos describing their work. Build excitement about downy mildew, a safer topic than just about anything else these days.



Fasten your seatbelt.  
Return your tray table to an upright and locked position.  
There might be turbulence for the next four years.

**The November issue of the *California Connection*  
featured  
a photo of a jump-worthy pile of fall leaves.  
It inspired a reader to send this [video](#).  
Be delighted.**



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.



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