



Welcome to the Sphere Newsletter, the monthly e-blast sent to every member of the San Diego organization for a quick read of things to know and do in AAUW!

Gov Trek teams shine in competition

—Shauna (Oenning) Ruyle
AAUW California Gov Trek Program Director
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If you joined us Saturday, March 16, at the virtual 2024 Gov Trek Campaign Competition, you know which student campaign team won the highly contested 2024 Gov Trek election: Team Vote Eliana, which includes four high school girls from San Ramon, two from Roseville-South, and one from Santa Cruz County. Congratulations to the communities and to these up-and-coming leaders!!

🌟 Say hello to our Gov Trek 2024 Superstars: Team "Vote Eliana"! 🌟 After clinching the nomination, team "Vote Eliana" for San Ramon City Council, District 1 won the race at AAUW California's Gov Trek Finale & Campaign Competition to receive internships and prizes. Eliana's team delivered consistency and discipline since the beginning, and we're proud to support their leadership aspirations!

- 🏆 Grand Prize: Vote Eliana <https://lnkd.in/g/xXUgFu>
- 🏆 Best Candidate Speech: Gov Trek Girlies <https://lnkd.in/g/Rvgj6Fs>
- 🏆 Best Campaign Management: Melissa 4 Riverside <https://lnkd.in/g/NMBBcHt>
- 🏆 Best Campaign Ad & Flyer: Abby for Senate <https://lnkd.in/g/9gScFtg>
- 🏆 Best Voter Outreach Plan: Vote Delisha <https://lnkd.in/g/FRD3INv>
- 🏆 Audience Choice Award: Gov Trek Girlies <https://lnkd.in/g/Rvgj6Fs>

🙌 Thank you to the California leadership team, San Diego branch, Gov Trek committee, facilitators, and esteemed judges for championing women and girls! Your commitment to equity is invaluable.

👁 Watch the Gov Trek Campaign Competition recording HERE!
(link: https://youtu.be/MGVF4prte_o)

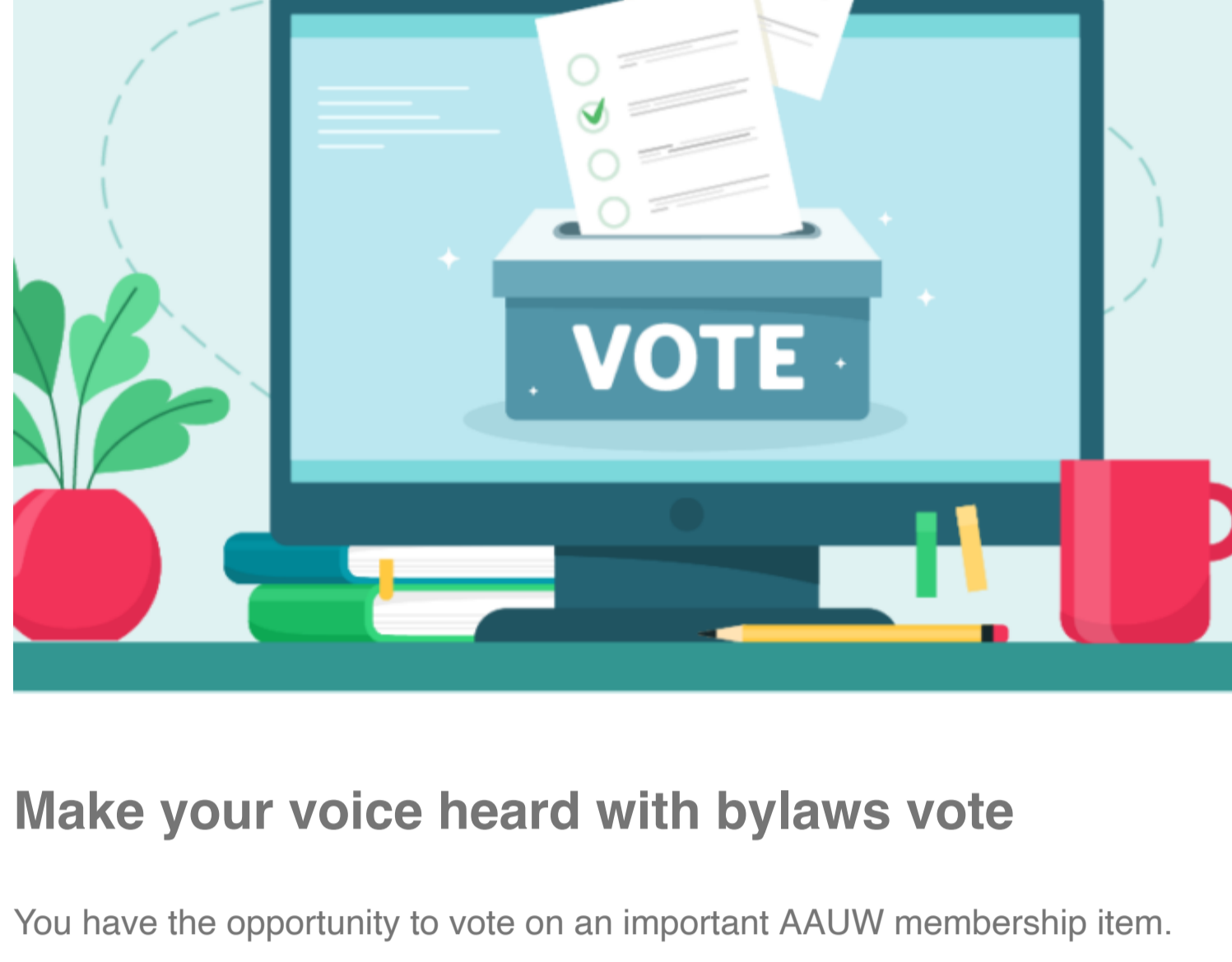
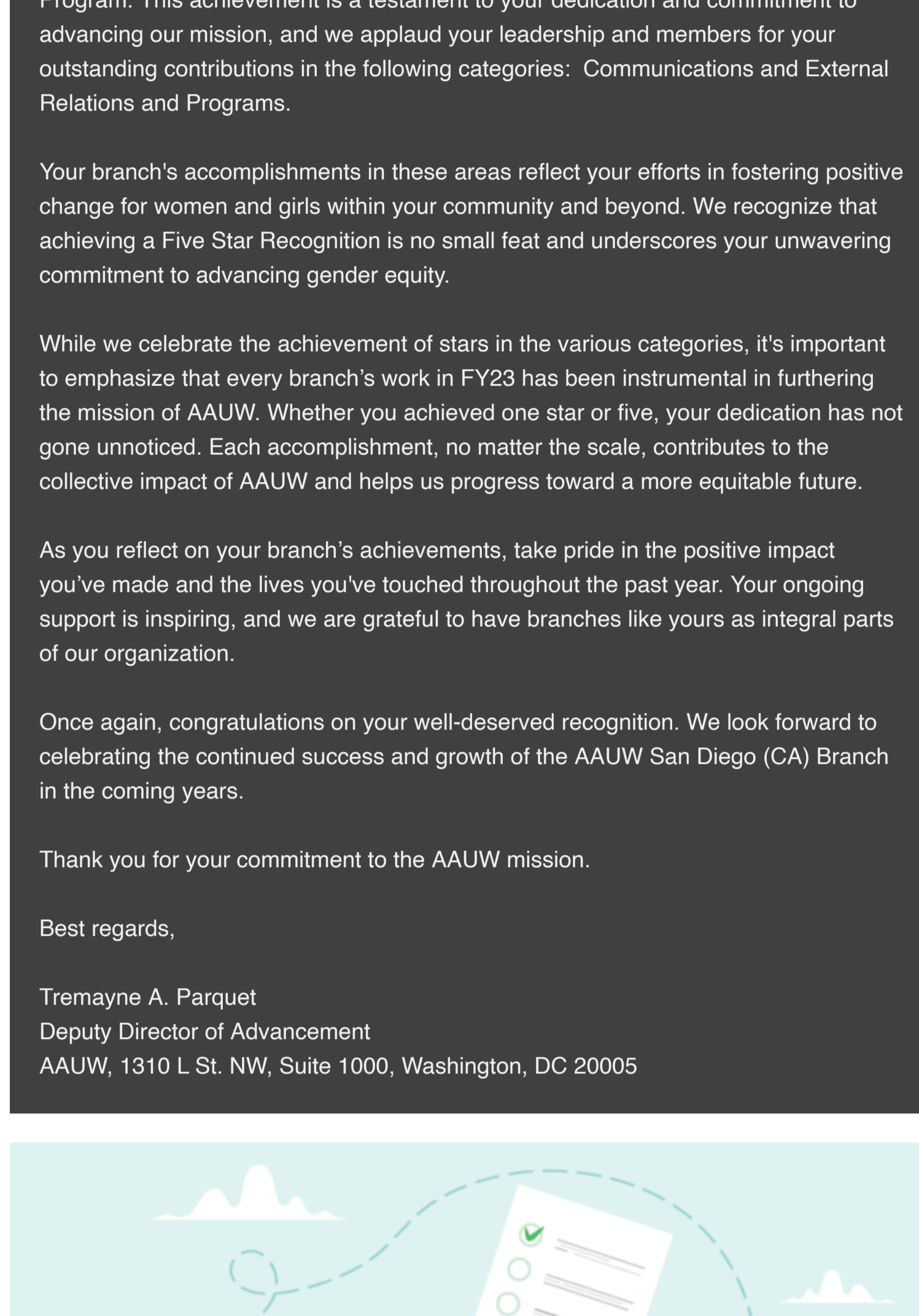
Want to join the Gov Trek movement? We have a facilitator, committee, and peer group on-site scheduled for April 1, and look forward to your valuable feedback for program improvement. Feel free to pre-register.

Gov Trek 2024 Recap
April 1 (TONIGHT), 7 p.m. on Zoom
◦ Registration
Required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/1Z0pcumprz0sGdOzapoBzSWTS1w8nmSV6go8>

If we want women to run the world, this is how we start!

San Diego branch recognized with two stars 🌟🌟

Our branch recently received national honors in the FY23 AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. Below is the letter from the deputy director of Advancement, congratulating AAUW-San Diego on this achievement.



Make your voice heard with bylaws vote

You have the opportunity to vote on an important AAUW membership item.

On April 3, voting opens on a proposed bylaws amendment on the AAUW National ballot that would eliminate the degree requirement. This amendment, if passed, will fully open membership to anyone who supports AAUW's work. This has been voted on once before. In 2021, 63 percent of members voted in favor of the amendment, however, it required a two-thirds (67.7 percent) vote to pass.

Throughout AAUW's 143-year history, members have voted on a handful of issues to better advocate for our mission. We know there may be strong feelings regarding this membership topic. Our purpose and work to improve opportunities for women and girls has never wavered. Our support of higher education has never stopped.

Please learn more [here](#) and be ready to cast your vote beginning April 3. AAUW is using [SimplyVoting.com](#), an independent, third-party voting system for this important vote. All members without an email address on file or who have unsubscribed from AAUW National emails will receive a paper ballot by mail. Online voting ends at 9:00 a.m. PDT on May 15. Results will be announced online.

(Paste this link into your browser: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/why-aauw-california-supports-removing-the-degree-requirement-for-membership/>)

Amendment Summary

THE PROPOSED REVISION OF ARTICLE III WOULD:

- Replace the Individual Members paragraph of the Membership Qualification provision (currently Article III Section 2 a) with new language indicating the sole requirement for membership is support of AAUW's purpose.
- Delete the provision on Student Associates (currently Section 3) since students would be allowed to join as full members of AAUW thus eliminating the need for a Student Associate provision.
- Renumber Section 4 Dues as Section 3 and delete the reference to "categories of membership" in this section to permit the board to set different dues for student members as previously allowed when Student Associates were listed as a separate category rather than included as part of the Individual Membership category.
- Make no changes to Article III Section 1 or Sections 5 and 6 on Life Membership and Membership Decisions, except that Section 5 Membership Decisions, and Section 6 Affiliates would be renumbered as Sections 4 and 5, respectively, with no other change.

Member Spotlight

[Shauna \(Oenning\) Ruyle](#)

*AAUW member since: 2014
*Fun Fact: One of Shauna's favorite quotes comes from Susan B. Anthony: "Educate. Organize."

She loves working with future leaders

"Advancing educational, gender, and political equity for women and girls is inspiring to me," Shauna (Oenning) Ruyle said about serving, alongside the AAUW California leadership team, as Gov Trek director.

As program director/chair, Shauna helped lead the design and delivery of Gov Trek, AAUW California's new virtual political leadership program for high school girls, by bringing Gov Trek from concept to MVP in just over three months. Gov Trek's second annual program was completed last month.

Kathi Harper, past AAUW Public Policy director, is founder of the original in-person Gov Trek pilot program launched by the Carlsbad-Oceanside-Vista branch.

"I love working with the next generation because their ideas are so innovative, their enthusiasm and confidence has not (yet) been diminished," Shauna said. "I sincerely hope this next generation has leadership opportunities my generation did not have. We need more women represented at all levels, and if given that opportunity, we are in good hands with these future leaders!"

Shauna has considerable experience in various industries, including government, nonprofit, education, high-growth SaaS, software, hardware, banking, and financial services. Her educational achievements include earning a BA in psychology and an executive MBA in business administration from CSU San Marcos, and a certificate in design thinking from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

"After obtaining an MBA and gaining significant experience in the tech sector, I found myself frequently underemployed and undervalued in this male-dominated field," Shauna said. In spite of those challenges, unexpected milestones were ahead. "Landing a job at Microsoft her own nonprofit initiative advancing tech education and economic equity for women and BIPOC youth.

Shauna has made her career mark as a creative senior leader and catalyst for social progress with a track record of leading high visibility end-to-end strategic partner and marketing initiatives, executing on key operational and strategic priorities; and driving social innovation across local, national, and global communities.

She followed her family to San Diego in 1989 to attend college. She considers her mother her biggest supporter. "My dear mom raised me to be an independent woman and equal to men (unfortunately, the real world doesn't hold this same point of view)." Her mother served as the branch president of the San Jose, California League of Women Voters in the '80s. "She inspired me to pave my own path and to follow my dreams. I truly miss life without her and my father; they both passed away in 2018."

Educational and economic equity for women and disadvantaged youth, and gender parity in politics are important issues for which Shauna advocates. She has been involved in AAUW for almost a decade after a Women in Tech workshop by the San Diego branch caught her eye.

Since childhood, Shauna has been extremely talented in the arts. "I was the first-chair violinist in two orchestras," she recalled, "and started my own 'private music lesson' business at twelve years old, teaching younger students to play. I was also very good at drawing and writing, which I continue today (using Canva and Generative AI, of course)."

Health and fitness are also among her personal passions. "I find immense satisfaction in running over six miles weekly, engaging in light strength and weight training, and maintaining a mostly vegetarian/healthy diet." But, she added "Don't get me wrong, I'm still a girl who wants her cake and to eat it too."

Member Spotlight is a monthly feature in The Sphere. If you have a suggestion of a San Diego chapter member to feature in coming months, please email Patricia Watts at pw4justice@yahoo.com

Branch events

Check out the calendar of events in future issues of The Sphere to see what is coming up. Last month, our members joined members of the La Mesa-El Cajon branch for "Women in Charge," a presentation featuring San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez and San Diego Tourism CEO Julie Coker.

Calendar of Events

April
Lobby Days 2024. **April 2, 3.**

May
La Mesa-El Cajon branch Scholarship Fundraiser, Author's Luncheon with Linda Moore, author of *Attribution*. **May 4, Noon-2:30 p.m.** Handlery Hotel, 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego 92108. Cost: \$75. Registration required by April 27. [Click for the registration form.](#)

Voting on an amendment to the national bylaws closes **May 15.**

June
Branch Scholarship Fundraiser Luncheon, TBA.

THE SPHERE SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submissions to The Sphere is the 15th of the previous month. Please email submissions to Patricia Watts: pw4justice@yahoo.com

Officers 2022-23

Listed below are the officers for 2022-2023. As you can see, we have a number of openings. If you know anyone who would like to help our wonderful branch, just let one of our Co-Presidents know.

Officers	
Co-Presidents	Jane Niemeier, Donna Lilly,
Membership	Anne Hoiberg
Finance	Vacant
Public Policy	Sherry Eberling
Secretary	Shauna Ruyle
	Lynne Batchelor
Chairs	
Sphere Newsletter	Patricia Watts
College & University	Donna Lilly
Scholarships	Lillian Payn
Tech Trek	Nanette Allen
Communications	
Historian	
Tech Outreach	

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SAN DIEGO BRANCH MEMBER?
Become a member in an in-person event, and your national dues are cut in half! The total will be \$74 for a new member if he/she joins at any in-person meeting. Total dues for 2022-2023 are normally \$110. (Dues: national—\$69 tax deductible + \$3 for the action fund/state—\$20/and branch \$18).

AAUW is a community of more than 170,000 people evenling strong for gender equity. Your membership makes our powerful voice standing louder on critical issues affecting women and girls.

AAUW MISSION AND VALUES

OUR VALUES Intersectional, inclusive, intergenerational, empowering. Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state, and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.	OUR MISSION Gender Equity & Economic Security We've led the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women — and the battle continues: Women still get just 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man, and men continue to dominate the top roles and highest-paying professions.
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