



# DIRECTIONS

[novatoaauw.org](http://novatoaauw.org)

June, 2021



## June Highlights

- 6-9 Wine Down
- 6-20 Father's Day
- 6-27 Novato Branch Picnic - Miwok Park
- 7-1 Start of new AAUW year - 2021/2022
- 9-1 Next branch newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please come to the first Novato branch AAUW in-person event in a year and a half -- a picnic at Miwok Park on June 27th from 4-6.

Bring a chair and a snack or food of your choice. We will meet near the boche court on the lawn. I will bring a cooler with discreet adult beverages as well as soft drinks.

Given the current county and state plans, we should be able to see each other in person without masks by then!

To help us determine if we need a bigger space, please RSVP to [krgallivan@hotmail.com](mailto:krgallivan@hotmail.com)

I want to thank all of you for your continued support during the last year. We all hope that our branch will be able to continue with our many favorite sessions and activities in the new AAUW year and to provide ongoing support for the AAUW mission and goals.

ENJOY your June (and July and August too!) and I hope to see you soon.

Hugs, Cindy

Cindy Demchuk [ckbarr66@hotmail.com](mailto:ckbarr66@hotmail.com) 415-519-2032  
Novato Branch President

PS: Want to be our branch programs chair? Please email me!

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE ROLLING IN

Good news part 1: Over 25% of branch members have already renewed their membership! Good news part 2: There is still plenty of time for the rest of you. The membership year turns over July 1. For those of you who have not yet renewed, a new reminder will be coming soon from AAUW -- keep an eye on your email inbox. It will tell you everything you need to know.

We are looking ahead and are more and more confident that we will be able to resume all normal branch activities come September. Stick around, and bring your friends!

## AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION

In case you missed the results of the AAUW National election which were published in an e-mail to the membership on May 19, the following excerpts summarize the results.

Julia T. Brown was re-elected to serve as the board chair for three more years. Malinda Gaul was re-elected as board vice chair, and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino were also re-elected and will retain their board seats.

AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.

The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds, or 66.6%, vote required to enact a bylaws change. However, the board is heartened that a remarkable 63% of you voted in favor of making this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership. This was a significantly higher number than we saw in previous votes, which hovered just below 50%, to make the change.

While we have many voices, I know we all share the same commitment to AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy, and our vision of achieving equity for all. More than ever, we must embrace our values and continue to strive towards [diversity, equity and inclusion](#); it's a journey that will never end.

No matter how you voted in this election, you are a valued part of our community. In fact, you—our members—are our core community, and the final decisions about board leaders and bylaws will always be yours to make. Now it's time to move forward together. Thanks again for making your voice heard.

## AAUW CALIFORNIA ELECTION

This year's annual state election is expected to impact the following areas:

- Who represents you on the AAUW California Board of Directors
- Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023
- Changes to the bylaws

The voting closed on May 7 and the results are the following:

### **Elected board members:**

- President-Elect - Sandi Gabe
- CFO - Roli Wendorf
- Director - Carol Holzgrafe

The bylaws changes passed and the Public Policy Priorities passed.

The Public Policy Priorities will be active for the next two years and are as follows:

### **Economic Security for All Women**

- Equity in the workplace
- Enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes
- Security in retirement
- Access to job training for career development
- Work-life balance, including access to quality affordable childcare and paid sick and care-giving leave

### **Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students**

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX
- Adequate and equitable funding at all educational levels, including pre-school and post-secondary
- Instruction in STEM fields
- Opposition to the use of public funds for schools that do not meet public school civil rights and accountability standards

### **Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society**

- Self-determination in reproductive health
- Equal access to quality affordable health care, housing and a healthy environment
- Freedom from violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, including racially-motivated violence
- Guarantee of civil and constitutional rights for all, including all forms of identity and expression, and all family structures
- Protection and expansion of voting rights
- Support for United Nations sustainable development goals which address human rights and women's and girls' concerns.

## TECH TREK

There are 640 girls selected for the three camps and the first Tech Trek virtual camp kicks off June 21st.

Additional volunteers – workshop volunteers -- are still needed for the July camps – the dates are July 12 - 16 and July 26 - 30. If you are interested in volunteering, go to the virtual camp website for an application .

## WINE DOWN – JUNE 9!

The June Wine Down meeting is this Wednesday, June 9 from 5:00 to 6:30 at Trek Winery. Roberta wants to add that they have great food offerings, huge portions, and reasonable prices. There is no formal Wine Down meeting scheduled for July or August, but some may gather informally.

### From your newsletter editor –

This June newsletter is the last one in this AAUW year – after that your next newsletter will be for September. So send those fun summer pictures for the September newsletter. My husband and I did go east to grandson (and his parents) in mid-May – so here is a picture of him (and yes, probably more in September)!



I wish all of you continued good health and I look forward to seeing you at a hoped for September meet up! Best wishes to all!

Eileen Hutchinson, *Newsletter Editor*  
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*Submissions for articles written by members or news articles of interest are always welcome. Feel free to email me if you have something interesting you would like to share and it may be added to the newsletter.*