



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY WOMEN
CALIFORNIA ONLINE BRANCH
MINUTES OF BOARD BUSINESS
CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL
January-March 2021**

Branch Established October 2, 2001

Attendance:

Shelley Mitchell, President
Jean Simutis, Treasurer
Gail Swain, Program VP
Bev Van Citters, Membership VP
Harriet Tower, AAUW Funds VP
Sandy Kirkpatrick, Communications Chair
Cathy Foxhoven, Speech Trek Coordinator

January

- Distributed *Onliner News* to members.
- Held a Zoom branch “Happy Hour” on January 8.
- Noted that, thanks to a donation from Harriet Tower, the branch has sufficient funds to participate in Speech Trek for another two years.
- Held a mid-year Zoom board meeting on January 12 (see separate minutes for that meeting).
- Approved the January 12 Zoom meeting minutes, which were then posted on the website.
- Decided to hold the branch election in March. Agreed the election would only be a vote on branch officers, and not to include a resolution of support of the AAUW proposed bylaws amendment for open membership, but instead to provide members with links to resources showing AAUW leadership’s support for the measure.
- Agreed that advertising events offered by other AAUW entities supporting AAUW mission could be included in the branch newsletter, rather than being sent out as separate announcements on the branch member email list, in keeping with the commitment to minimize the number of emails members receive on that list.
- AAUW Funds VP Harriet Tower submitted the AAUW Fund Auction Fundraiser and Program VP Gail Swain submitted the September 2020 program discussion on “White Fragility” to AAUW CA Activity of the Year Committee for consideration for recognition.
- After hearing poet Amanda Gorman at the US Presidential Inauguration, discussed the feasibility of offering her a gift membership, and submitted a request to national AAUW that they consider doing so.
- Selected Shelly Johnson and Cherie Sorokin as branch Named Gift Honorees for this year, to be announced in the February newsletter.

February

- Distributed *Onliner News* to members.
- Held a Zoom branch “Happy Hour” on February 5.

- Harriet Tower confirmed that certificates had been mailed from the state office to the two branch Named Gift Honorees, and that the branch website list of honorees would be updated to include this year's honorees.
- Agreed to include in the next newsletter an announcement that new members who join the branch after March 15 get the best deal, with their membership expiring June 2022 and that national AAUW dues will increase by \$2 for 2021-2022.
- Agreed to wait until late April to begin asking for member renewals.
- Cathy Foxhoven conducted the branch Speech Trek contest on Zoom on February 20, with three contestants. The branch winner was decided by the panel of judges to be Lilian Chang, a senior at Mills High School in Millbrae. Treasurer Jean Simutis was authorized to purchase a \$25 Amazon gift card to be sent directly to the winner as her prize.
- Communications Chair Sandy Kirkpatrick explored possible platforms to use for the branch election. The board participated in test runs using Mailchimp's survey function, but found it lacking controls to prevent duplicate voting. Sandy Kirkpatrick consulted with AAUW CA Assistant to the President (and past state Communications Chair) Sandi Gabe and went with her recommendation to use Survey Monkey, sending out the ballot to two groups of 40 or less voters to stay within Survey Monkey's free account limitations.
- Agreed to authorize an optional email from national AAUW to all primary branch members to inform them of the option of becoming Life Members prior to March 15, when the cost of doing so will increase by \$119.

March

- Distributed *Onliner News* to members.
- Noted that the branch's G Suite annual subscription with Google renews on March 24.
- Reviewed an image to consider using for the branch's Facebook group banner. Although it showed attractive ethnic diversity, it was agreed to continue to use our current banner image since the rights to the image are unknown and the image did not show age diversity.
- Held a Zoom branch "Happy Hour" on March 5.
- Branch election was held using Survey Monkey, with voting open from March 15-22. The following slate were elected by unanimous vote with 39 out of 77 members casting a vote:
 - President – Shelley Mitchell
 - Treasurer – Jean Simutis
 - Program VP – Gail Swain
 - Membership VP – Bev Van Citters
 - AAUW Funds VP – Harriet Tower
- Received notification from AAUW CA that the branch Speech Trek winner, Lilian Chang, was selected to be one of the three contestants in the state competition to be held in April. This is the first time a CA Online branch contestant has made it to the state competition.
- Program VP Gail Swain announced that holding the Zoom play performance of "We Did It For You," during March for Women's History Month may not happen until April. Once it is ready, the program will be offered twice to try to reach as many members as possible, avoiding holidays per our branch policy. The possibility of posting the video of the Zoom play was discussed, but it was agreed that the protections of intellectual property rights of the author made this an unworkable option.
- After a motion from Gail Swain was offered and then withdrawn, it was agreed by consensus to include in the April newsletter a branch board statement of support for the national AAUW

proposed bylaws amendment as well as the AAUW CA leadership's statement of support for the measure.

- Received notification from the AAUW CA Activity of the Year Committee that the two submissions from the branch (see January business) were not selected for special recognition, with the following acknowledgement: "Your branch showed enthusiasm in support of the mission of AAUW and we appreciate your willingness to share your concept so that other branches can be inspired by your work."

Signed,

Sandy Kirkpatrick