



**Minutes of the California Online Branch  
Board Zoom Meeting  
March 28, 2023**

*Branch Established October 2, 2001*

**Attendance:**

Gail Swain, President, Social Media  
Kristina Rueckert, Treasurer  
Bev Van Citters, Jean Simutis Program VP  
Tobi Balma, Membership VP  
Randa Blanding, Communications Chair  
Patrice Lyn, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Cathy Foxhoven, Public Policy Chair and Speech Trek  
Bev Van Citters, Tech Group, and Gov Trek  
Sharon Westafer, Secretary

**Absent:**

Charmen Goehring, Fund, (Report sent by mail), Harriet Tower, Book Group, Shelley Mitchell,  
Newsletter

Gail Swain called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The agenda was approved as presented.

**Board Reports:**

**Financial:** Kristina reported that a deposit was received from National. She will send out the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report..

**Program:** Bev and Jean are waiting to hear back from Cathy's niece regarding a program this spring. They are also working on a Women's History program.

**Fund:** The branch Named Gift award will be announced at the branch annual meeting. Charmen is planning a Legacy Fund celebration sometime near Mothers' Day.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Patrice reported that the DEI meeting on Gender vs Sexuality, in March, was very informative.

**Public Policy:** Patrice attended the AAUW California Lobby Days and had a very positive experience. Six GovTrek girls participated. Cathy attended via zoom.

**Communications, Website:** No report

**Social Media:** Gail reported that the branch Facebook site has over 400 members. Other branches have posted announcements on the site. There is also a private Facebook page for members only. Although it isn't currently used, it will be maintained.

**Tech Group:** The group had a meeting in March, led by Bev Van Citters, called Podcast 101.

**Speech Trek:** Cathy reported that the online branch competitor didn't place this year and that she will compete again next year. Cathy requested that members seek new competitors. Tobi suggested that branch members be asked to coach/mentor contestants.

**Newsletter:** No report.

**Gov Trek:** Bev reported that the program was very successful and she believes the program may go National. There were over 100 attendees. Bev described the program and referred members to the State website. Nancy Pelosi's speech was excellent.

**Membership:** Tobi reported that the branch has 99 members. She posted the Member Welcome Letter on the branch website, and she will add membership requirements to the document. California AAUW will be doing a dues renewal webinar on May 3. Discussion occurred regarding when the \$5 dues increase will be effective. **Motion: Moved by Bev Van Citters: The dues increase shall be effective on April 1.** Tobi seconded. The motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 abstain. As of April 1, dues will be \$15 per year.

**Committees:**

**Nominating:** Jean and Bev are working on nominations. Discussion occurred regarding different ideas for the Program position. Nominees for board offices are due April 1. The slate will be provided for the annual meeting.

**Policies and Procedures:** Bev, Shelley, Patrice, and Gail will work on updates, via email, starting in April.

**Annual Membership Meeting:** Gail will send an email to members requesting ideas for meeting topics.

**Other Business:** Tobi would like to know if our "alias" email addresses can be used front end as well as back end. She has no problem receiving emails sent to the membership and responding. She would also like to be able to log into the email and use it to send emails. Gail will check with Hayley regarding this, since none of the board members with alias emails are able to do this at this time. It may have been set up that way in the past, but that information has never been passed on.

Next Board Meeting to be decided. May or June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Sharon Westafer, Secretary