



# Minutes of the California Online Branch Board Zoom Meeting October 8, 2024

*Branch Established October 2, 2001*

Attendance:

Gail Swain, President

Shelley Mitchell, Finance

Elaine Johnson, Program VP

Randa Blanding, Communications Chair, Website, Tech Trek

Cathy Foxhoven, Program, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Speech Trek

Sharon Westafer, Secretary

Excused: Kathi Harper, Public Policy

Total attendance: Six

Gail welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Financials:** Shelley has updated the branch financials through September 30, 2024. AAUW will file the branch tax returns, and Shelley will ensure that they are filed. Shelley presented the proposed 2024-2025 budget and the actual budget. Discussion occurred regarding how Elaine will know who has paid their dues; she will check on the AAUW hub and also call Shelley if necessary. The branch insurance cost is high, and Gail will write a letter to the state board asking for a reduction since the branch only meets online. The current cost of the insurance is \$540.00.

Shelley then explained the proposed budget. The convention line was removed as there are no in person conventions at the present time. The branch has \$500.00 at the Tech Trek Virtual camp, and \$100.00 in the branch Tech Trek account. The branch will participate in Tech Trek again this year.

**MOTION:** Randa moved to accept the proposed 2024-2025 budget. Motion seconded by Cathy and carried. Shelley will send it to the webmaster for posting.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):** Cathy reported that the group met on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The discussion was about hate groups throughout the United States. There were nine attendees including three from Oregon.

**Speech Trek:** There are \$800.00 grants available for branches who want to participate in Speech Trek.

**Program:** Cathy announced that the October 22<sup>nd</sup> program will be regarding Project 2025. Randa sent out a notice to multiple branches. There are currently eighty people registered, including members of

the Washington On-Line, Oregon On-Line, and North Carolina On-Line branches. The program for February (tentatively February 8) will feature Penelope the Poet, a former Tech Trekker. Whatever money left over from Speech Trek, with approval from the donor, will be given to Tech Trek for a workshop with a speech component. Penelope will teach the workshop.

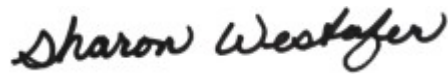
**Membership:** Randa will remind new and prospective members of the branch Meet and Greet on Saturday, October 12th at 2 p.m. Elaine appreciates that people are sending her names of prospective members, and she is reaching out to them.

**Public Policy:** None

**Tech Trek:** See notes under financials and program.

**Announcements:** Gail will be working on recruiting a treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. **Next Board Meeting January 14th, 7 P.M.**



Sharon Westafer, Secretary