



**Minutes of the California Online Branch
Board Zoom Meeting**
March 11, 2025

Branch Established October 2, 2001

Attendance:

Gail Swain, President

Elaine Johnson, Program VP

Randa Blanding, Communications Chair, Website, Tech Trek

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

Sharon Westafer, Secretary

Kathi Harper, Public Policy

Excused: Shelley Mitchell, Finance

Total attendance: Six

Gail welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

No additions to the agenda.

Minutes: January meeting minutes approved as presented.

Financials: Shelley provided her data via email, including revisions to the budget. Gail will ask Shelley to write up a motion to make the changes needed to the budget, then the board will vote to approve. The board agreed to put the unrestricted carryover into the budget, and to change the reserve to \$500. A line item will be added to the budget to pay for speakers. **Motion:** Cathy moved to pay Penelope Oliver \$100 for her participation in the Speech Trek meeting. Gail seconded; motion carried. Elaine will question the state board at their meeting tomorrow, regarding the cost of the branch insurance since there are no in person meetings.

Addendum to minutes: Motion: Shelley moved, via email, that the revisions to the 2024-2025 budget be accepted as outlined. Motion seconded and carried. **Motion:** Shelley moved that \$200.00 be moved from the unrestricted carryover to the conference line item to support Kathi Harper in her work with the Public Policy Committee. Motion seconded and carried.

Membership: Elaine will continue as membership chair for next year. She has a list of National members living in California and will continue to try to contact them regarding joining the branch. The new branch roster is available on the branch website. Elaine remarked on how enjoyable the last meet and greet was. The meetings will continue.

Website: Randa will continue as Website, Newsletter and Tech Trek chair.

Newsletter: None

Tech Trek: Gail was contacted by an AAUW member who would like a student to attend Tech Trek. The person's branch participates in Tech Trek but doesn't work with the school the student attends. Dr. Mimi (Mary Isaac) said that the student can participate if a teacher recommends her. Randa also spoke with Dr. Mimi and Dr. Mimi will let her know if there are any students that could use Online branch money to attend.

Public Policy: Kathi will continue as Public Policy chair. Kathi reported on what is happening at the National and State levels. The National committee has sent their public policy recommendations to the board for review. They want to be clear that they don't support the new wording for Title IX that the new administration has created. This is also true at the State level. The National and State committees also oppose all diversion of public funds to private and charter schools. National is presenting a Webinar on March 25th at 1 p.m. titled "What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security." Interns at National have completed material on the gender pay gap. The state committee is working on lobby days. Discussion occurred.

Program: Cathy would like to continue next year as program and DEI chair. She has several ideas for programs.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): Cathy has ideas for two DEI programs for next year.

Speech Trek: Cathy discussed ideas for any remaining funds in the Speech Trek budget after awards are presented at the State meeting.

Fund: Branch members have donated \$14,445.50 to the Fund for the 2024-2025 year. Discussion occurred regarding who to name as Branch Named Gift honoree. Gail questioned branch policy that states that board members can't receive the award. Discussion occurred. Gail will research who in the branch has received the award.

Addendum to minutes: Motion: Sharon Westafer moved, via email, to nominate Shelley Mitchell for the Branch Named Gift Award. Motion seconded by Randa Blanding and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.05 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: To be decided.



Sharon Westafer, Secretary