



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

*Branch Established October 2, 2001*

**Attendance:**

Gail Swain, President  
Randa Blanding, Communications Chair, Website  
Shelley Mitchell, Finance  
Sharon Westafer, Secretary  
Kathi Harper, Public Policy

Excused: Elaine Johnson, Membership VP, Cathy Foxhoven, Program, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Total attendance: Five

Gail welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board members shared things for which they are grateful and gave updates on personal milestones and activities.

Discussion occurred regarding management of the email list and Gail explained the process for removing or adding subscribers.

The agenda was revised by moving the membership discussion after Sharon's report and moving Fund discussion to be included with the financial report.

**Program:** No report.

**DEI:** No report.

**Financials:** Shelley reported that the first quarter financials have been posted on the website. Income to date is more than expenses and the branch finances are in good financial shape. Gail has been added to the bank account and Jean Simutis has been removed. All tax forms have been completed and submitted.

**AAUW Fund:** Gail would like a yearly donation to the AAUW Fund to be added to the branch budget. There is \$2500 available. In order to qualify as a 5-star branch, eleven members must donate this year, one more than last year. **Motion:** Kathi moved to donate \$250 to the Greatest Needs Fund and \$250 to the Public Policy Fund. Shelley seconded and the motion carried.

Gail will work with someone at National to retape her interview regarding the 5-Star program. The original video, which was flawed, has been removed from the National website and the new video will be uploaded once it is complete.

**Public Policy:** Kathi will be presenting a Title IX webinar on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. for the branch. On January 31, she will be presenting a half day symposium focused on the school board project: The symposium will feature a keynote speaker, panel discussions, and workshops on coalition building and working with school boards. Kathi will include an article about the January 31<sup>st</sup> school board symposium in the December newsletter.

Discussion occurred regarding lobby days and the use of zoom versus meeting with legislators or their staff in person.

**Membership:** One new member, Helen Christensen, joined in October. Gail contacted her to request her bio for the newsletter. Discussion occurred regarding the branch member survey. Kathi suggested edits to streamline the survey, eliminate redundant questions, and prioritize gathering information on member involvement and leadership opportunities. Randa proposed keeping the questions about branch and state newsletter readership. It was agreed that the survey would be restructured to prioritize questions about member engagement and consider including a question about potential branch projects. Randa suggested sending the survey three ways: put the survey on the website, include in the newsletter, and send an email with a link to survey monkey. Gail will send the revised survey to board members for feedback.

**Website:** None

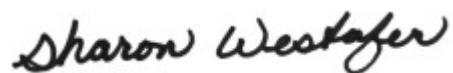
**Newsletter:** None

**Tech Trek:** The branch will participate if requested by the State Tech Trek coordinator.

**Discussion:** Shelley proposed having a branch project. Discussion occurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting:** To be decided.



Sharon Westafer, Secretary