

You're Invited: Celebrate 98 Years of AAUW Stockton at Our First Branch Meeting! Saturday, September 6th, 2025 – 9:30am O'Connor Woods West Hall - 3400 Wagner Heights Rd.

Join us as we kick off an exciting new year for AAUW Stockton at our first branch meeting of the 2025/26 season on Saturday, September 6th, 2025, at 9:30am in West Hall at O'Connor Woods.

This year marks a remarkable milestone—98 years of empowering women and girls in Stockton! Our program will reflect on our past, present, and future, highlighting key accomplishments and sharing goals for the year ahead.

We're especially proud to feature the inspiring voices of local girls who attended Tech Trek this summer. Come hear firsthand how this immersive STEM experience shaped their aspirations and confidence.

Bring a friend, invite a neighbor, and help us build a stronger community committed to equity, education, and opportunity. All interested guests are warmly welcome! Please include them when you RSVP.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

When: Saturday, Sept. 6th, 9:30am

Where: O'Connor Woods West Hall
3400 Wagner Heights Rd.

Cost: \$10 (Registered Guests Attend without Charge)

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, August 3rd

Connect with your caller or contact Betty Parsons
@ (408) 309-8958 bjpars_95120@yahoo.com

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

President's Message



Welcome to another year of programs that advocate for the equity of opportunity for women and girls. The Stockton Branch of AAUW, established in 1928, has consistently provided a variety of activities and resources to support and to further this mission. This year's programming will continue that advocacy.

The Board of our Stockton Branch consists of members with many years of experience with AAUW. Board members dedicate a great deal of time and energy to planning programs and maintaining policies and procedures that keep us functioning in alignment with State and National priorities. Our program vice-presidents, Ronda Sanders and Amy Lovett-Cooper, have cobbled together a series of entertaining and informative programs and celebrations. Together with our annual Tea fund-raiser, these events will make for an enjoyable year.

Most AAUW members are content to attend Branch meetings, some regularly, some occasionally, and to support our programs financially and philosophically. However, if you would like to be more involved, we have some positions available for you. Please consider volunteering for one of the following:

Governance/Parliamentarian: This member should be familiar with Roberts Rules of Order and will also keep our Branch in alignment with State on By-Laws.

College and University: This person should contact heads of Delta College and UOP to establish working relationships,

Historian: This position is for someone who enjoys photography and would be tasked with keeping a photo record of our meetings and programs.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Sandra Mazzuola by text or email. I hope to hear from some eager members.

(For those who are wondering what happened to my usual political commentary, don't worry. I have not mellowed and will be back with that. MEANWHILE...just remember that the first three words of the Constitution are "We the People," and there will be a reckoning for those who forget that).

Sandra Mazzuola
President

2025-2026 Elected Board of Directors

President

Sandra Mazzuola

Directors at-Large

Anita Bautista

Barbara Nash

Program Vice Presidents

Ronda Sanders

Amy Lovett-Cooper

Membership Vice President

Diane Oren

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Public Policy Chair

Karen Frank

Branch Website:

Sue Kenmotsu

aauwstockton.org

Delta Steamer

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“Thanks for Giving” Tea Needs Your Help

Save the Date... Saturday, November 8th for the Third Annual “Thanks for Giving” Tea.

This is our primary fundraising event supporting the AAUW Stockton Branch 501(c)(3) Community Programs. **To ensure financial success, all Branch members are asked to participate.**

The Tea committee is looking for hostesses to provide their own dishes and flatware to set a table for eight. People who enjoy baking or cooking are needed to make pumpkin bread, Kahlua balls, Holiday Layer bars, Chili Cheese tortas, or Lemon Posset (a type of pudding), and recipes will be provided. Volunteers are needed to help set up on the morning of Friday, November 7th as well as clean up after the event.

A Silent Auction will advance our fundraising goals and you can help! You are needed to help get auction items. Donations of gift cards, dining out certificates, food items, wine, gift baskets, certificates for hair, pedicures, or nails. Ask the person where you have your hair done, or a store where you shop for a donation. Members will be provided a Merchant Donation letter via email that can be presented to the vendor. All donations will be useful, and if you have any items you would like to “regift,” the committee can include them as part of a gift basket.

You can sign up to volunteer at the first Branch meeting on Saturday, September 6th, or you can contact Claudia Mennuti at (209) 603-7190 or cmennuti@comcast.net.

The 501(c)(3) Community Programs that will be funded by the Tea include: the Reading is Fundamental (RIF), Tech Trek, and Mentor Program, Delta College Scholarships. Essay, Contest and AAUW Fund.

Your support of the Tea is essential for the funding of these programs.

AAUW CAN \$AVE YOU MONEY ON YOUR TAXES!

Did you know donating to our AAUW Community Outreach Fund can possibly save you money on your taxes? It's true! If you are 70½ years old and are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA you can receive a tax benefit if you make a direct contribution from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity. Alternatively, you can potentially deduct charity donations as an itemized deduction on your tax return.

Every year you, as an IRA account holder, withdraw your RMD you must pay income taxes on the amount withdrawn. This does not apply to ROTH IRA's since taxes were paid on contributions made to those accounts when originated. If you donate all or a portion of your RMD directly to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity you pay no taxes on that amount. This is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

Of course you may receive a deduction for charity contributions by itemizing deductions on your tax return. Did you know that even a portion of the tickets to our Thanksgiving Tea is tax deductible! In the last several years however, itemizing deductions is less common since the standard deduction is quite large. For 2025 the federal standard deduction for a single taxpayer is \$15,750 (\$31,500 for joint filers) plus an additional \$1,600 each for those of us over 65 years old. Obviously you would need a lot of qualified deductions to total more than the federal standard deduction amounts. If you are like many in our age group, the standard deduction is more beneficial than itemizing on your tax return. That means we would receive no tax benefit from our charity donations if the total deductions are less than those amounts. Keep in mind the California standard deduction is much less than the federal standard deduction and has a different impact. Several changes regarding charity deductions are forthcoming in 2026.

So you can contact your broker and tell them to write a check from your IRA to our AAUW Community Outreach Fund for a qualified charitable distribution or just write a check to our Community Outreach Fund as a potential itemized deduction. Not only are you saving money but you are benefiting our great programs - Mentor, RIF (Reading is Fundamental), Tech Trek, Delta Scholarships, and our Essay Contest. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your particular tax situation. We thank you for your consideration.

Mentor Program

The mentors met via Zoom on August 11th to plan our activities for the year. We have some exciting activities planned which are designed to meet our short and long range goals for our girls. We are lucky to have dedicated members who are the backbone of our program. The mentors each bring a valuable personal skill to the table for our girls. Terri Mercer, Julie Pichardo, Jessica Lopez, Rosa Solis, Leslie Cazares, Jennifer Gray-Rieber and Pam Mallett-Jones all work tirelessly to bring the best experience for our girls.

We are fortunate to have the unwavering support of the members of the Stockton branch. There are many ways to support our program besides actually being a mentor. Of course, we could not offer a quality program without the generous donations from our members and the community. However, even if you are unable to make a monetary donation you may know of a company or individual who is in a position to do so. Please talk us up to them! Also, we are always looking for a place to hold some of our activities. Do you live in a community with a recreation center or room we might use? Is your home or yard large enough for our girls to meet? (They don't mind sitting on the floor!) Do you have a skill to share? Can you do an art project, cooking class, or have an interest to share? Let us know!

Thank you for the unwavering support you have all shown us over the past 18 years our program has been in existence. You should know that you are helping to build female leaders and insure a stronger future Stockton Community.



Board to Board

A Communication from the

AAUW California Board to Branch Boards

The State Peer Group meetings will be starting in September. Watch for an email giving the date and details.

A Message from the Reservations Chairperson

As another wonderful year of AAUW activities begins, this is just a gentle reminder that your callers will be contacting you soon to introduce themselves and ask how you would like to be contacted throughout the year. We love seeing you at branch meetings and your callers will make that happen. We would appreciate a timely "yes" or "no" response to the call.

We are very fortunate to have a group of delightful and talented callers. Many have volunteered for this important job for years and we extend a warm heartfelt thank you to each of you: Carolyn Wischhusen, Della Richardson, Erica Dei Rossi, Helen Vignolo, Pam Mallet-Jones, Pat Hague, Jennifer Balestracci, Rosa Solis, Sue Kenmotsu, Lisa Lennon Wilkins, and Anntoinnette Silva Backus. We also thank our new callers for volunteering for this important job: Jennifer Gray-Rieber, Lolita Drullard, and Andree Guest.

Each month please respond promptly to the email or call so we will know whether or not you will be attending a meeting. Please remember "a reservation made is a reservation paid."

Looking forward to seeing you throughout the year.

With Gratitude,
Betty Parsons
Reservation Chair

Thank You



Understanding DEI: Definitions and Aspirations

Diversity refers to the presence of differences within a given setting—differences of race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and more. Equity demands fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people, while aiming to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. Inclusion is the practice of creating environments in which any individual or group can feel welcomed, respected, supported, and valued.

These concepts are interdependent and together underpin the moral fabric of many modern societies. They are not simply corporate buzzwords or rhetorical flourishes; rather, they are frameworks for meaningful change. In the context of political protest, DEI provides both the justification for dissent and the strategy for mobilizing it effectively.

Protest as a Platform for Diversity

Community protests are often, by necessity and design, diverse events. When a government enacts policies that adversely affect certain groups—whether through economic measures, restrictions on civil liberties, or neglect of marginalized populations—those impacted may come from a broad spectrum of backgrounds.

- In urban centers, protests might draw together residents from historically underserved neighborhoods, students, workers, religious groups, immigrants, and allies from more privileged communities.
- In rural areas, agricultural workers, indigenous communities, and environmental activists may join forces to resist policies threatening land, water, or culture.

The very act of protesting against policies—especially those that are discriminatory, exclusionary, or inequitable—often brings together coalitions that reflect the population's multifaceted nature. Signs, banners, chants, and speeches all serve to amplify the distinct voices within the movement, showcasing diversity not only in identity but also in experience and perspective.

As you all know, I have been the DEI chair for a number of years. In that capacity, I have written many articles for the Steamer. I think you also know that in February, I founded a coalition, SJC4DEI. In the coalition, we really have walked the walk and talked the talk. If you would come to one of our meetings, you would see people around the table who come from different religious and cultural backgrounds, people who represent a range of generations, people with differing abilities and people who enjoy a wide range of activities. One thing they all have in common is the desire to make a change and DO SOMETHING. One of the things we have decided to do is to PROTEST.

I decided for this issue, I wanted to bring together my passion for DEI and my new desire to DO SOMETHING, in the form of a Protest. My dilemma was how to write it. Then, I remembered a new skill I have acquired, using AI. What you will find next is an article written by AI, edited by me, and available for you. I hope it is as meaningful for you as it is for me.

Community Protest and the Embodiment of DEI Principles

Exploring How Collective Action Reflects Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In any functioning democracy, community protest serves as a powerful testament to civic engagement and the pursuit of social justice. When communities rally against government policies, their actions can be a living manifestation of the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). This interplay between grassroots activism and DEI unfolds in numerous dimensions—through the makeup of participants, the causes they champion, the methods they employ, and the outcomes they envision.

Equity as a Core Motivation for Protest

At its heart, protest is often an outcry against inequity. Communities mobilize because they recognize that policies in question have created or perpetuated unfair systems. Whether it is the underfunding of schools in certain districts, disparities in healthcare access, or regulations that disadvantage small businesses and minority entrepreneurs, these inequities spark collective action.

The pursuit of equity during protest is not simply about demanding equal treatment but about seeking remedies for historical injustices and systemic barriers. Protesters may advocate for affirmative action, reparative policies, and targeted investments that recognize differing needs and circumstances.

Inclusion: Fostering Belonging and Solidarity

A protest's success depends, in large part, on how inclusive its organizers and participants are. Inclusion is reflected in the ways a movement welcomes new members, listens to divergent viewpoints, and creates space for marginalized voices. An inclusive protest will:

- Make deliberate efforts to ensure accessibility—providing translation, sign language, wheelchair access, and safe spaces for vulnerable groups.
- Encourage various forms of participation, from marching and chanting to art installations, teach-ins, and social media campaigns.

Inclusion also means recognizing intersectionality—the idea that individuals can experience overlapping forms of discrimination and privilege. A movement that is attuned to intersectionality will be better equipped to build solidarity across lines of race, gender, class, ability, and more.

A Case Study: Community Protest as DEI in Action

Let us consider an example, which is especially relevant for AAUW, where community protests have vividly embodied DEI principles:

Women's Marches

Women's marches have been held in many countries to protest government actions perceived as detrimental to gender equity, reproductive rights, and broader social justice. These marches unite a wide array of participants—of different ages, backgrounds, and gender identities. The diversity of causes represented is matched by the equity-driven focus on dismantling patriarchy and systemic sexism. Inclusion is practiced through deliberate representation of trans women, women of color, and disabled women in leadership and messaging.

The Ripple Effects of DEI-Driven Protest

When a community successfully embeds DEI principles in its protest, the impact often extends beyond the immediate policy struggle. Such movements can:

- Raise public consciousness about issues of difference, justice, and belonging.
- Influence policy making to be more responsive and representative.
- Build stronger, more resilient networks of community solidarity.
- Inspire future generations to value diversity, pursue equity, and practice inclusion.

Even in instances where protests do not result in immediate policy change, the process itself can be transformative—reshaping attitudes, building coalitions, and altering the political landscape.

Conclusion: Protest as an Expression of Democratic Values

Community protest, when grounded in DEI, serves as both a mirror and a catalyst for societal progress. It reveals the pluralism inherent in modern societies, challenges systemic inequities, and creates inclusive spaces for dialogue and action. Such movements are not only about resisting what is unjust, but also about envisioning and building a more just, equitable, and inclusive future. In this way, protest becomes not merely a tool for opposition, but a celebration of the diversity, equity, and inclusion that make democracy vibrant and strong.

Public Policy Update



Welcome back from AAUW-vacation! While we may not have heard from AAUW over the summer, activities within our priorities haven't stopped. So, let's catch up!

As the summer began this year, AAUW California Public Policy produced a Take Action spreadsheet, found [HERE](#) - Take Action to Fight Project 2025 - Google Sheets. This spreadsheet creates a clearinghouse for ongoing resistance activity, so that you can follow and join-in based on your passions and preferences. AAUW believes that this Public Policy work is the most effective way to fulfill our mission to advance equity for women and girls.

There is an overlap with DEI work, as you can see on this spreadsheet. Our Public Policy group will concentrate on the rest of "Take Action". As you can imagine, there is more than enough work for everyone.

This process always involves efforts by competing interest groups to influence policy makers in their favor. This process is necessarily political ("decision-making about distribution of resources or policy selection by those in power"). This is not

the same as partisan, which involves the decision to support or oppose a particular candidate based on their party identification. We are non-partisan, but we are not non-political.

AAUW's Public Policy efforts, at all levels, are guided by our Public Policy Priorities. As a reminder, our three pillars of priorities are:

- Economic Justice for All Women
- Equal Access to Quality Public Education for all Students
- Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society.

AAUW National's #1 priority for FY2025-26 is on women in higher education. Of special concern currently is the impact of recent changes to the efforts to reduce student loan debt, and to Title IX.

AAUW California's focus for FY2025-26 will be on monitoring school boards for compliance with California laws, keeping members informed regarding policy developments, and encouraging members to take action.

With our first branch meeting on Sept. 6th, I'll have an update for everyone. See you then!

**Attached is the proposed budget for the current 2025-2026 year for your review.
We will vote on the budget at the September meeting.**

Proposed Operating Budget 2025-26

Beginning Balance	\$20,768.23
REVENUES	
Total Dues Collected	15,876
Steamer Ads	112
Monthly Program	6,550
Interest	1
501(c)(3) Donations (commingled w/Dues)	530
Operating Monthly Meeting Revenues	600
TOTAL REVENUE	23,669
EXPENSES	
Administrative	
President	100
Treasurer/Financial Secretary	100
Bank Fees	50
Secretary+postage (Steamer)	50
Insurance+Branch Ins. Assessment	750
ByLaws	30
Tax (Prep+Filing Fees)	350
PO Box Rent	275
Postage	50
Operating Fundraiser Expense	100
Total Administrative	1,855
Leadership Development	
Board Retreats (2)	100
Total Leadership Development	100
Membership	
Membership Treasurer (postage/sup)	200
Directory Printing & Postage	150
Membership Recognition (inc. 50-yr)	100
New Member Gifts	100
Dues Payment to National	9,576
Dues Payment to State	3,780
Total Membership	13,906
Monthly Meetings	
Programs/Meetings	6,550
Check-in Supplies	75
Total Monthly Meetings	6,625
Programs	
College&University	100
501c3 Commingled Donations Transfer to COF	530
Total Programs	630
Publicity	
Website	300
Dues Comm. On Status of Women	50
Donation to Comm. On Status of Women	125
Event Supplies (Festival of Trees)	50
Total Publicity	525
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,641
Net Profit/Loss	28
Ending Cash Balance	20,796

Proposed 501 (c)(3) Budget 2025-26 by Program

	Beginning Balance	Proposed Budget	Total Funds Available
COF REVENUE			
COF General Fund			
COF Unrestricted Balance	36,592.50		
COF Undesignated Donations		530	
COF Unrestricted Revenue	36,592.50	530	37,123
Fund Raising Revenue			
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	3,737.35		
Donations		13,000	
Total Fund Raising Revenue	3,737.35	13,000	16,737
AAUW Fund			
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	810.91		
Donations		200	
Total AAUW Fund	810.91	200	1,011
Delta Scholarship Program			
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	33,779.75		
Interest Earned		1,189	
Donations		1,000	
Total Delta Scholarship	33,779.75	2,189	35,969
Essay Contest Program			
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	53.25		
Donations		300	
Total Essay Contest	53.25	300	353
Mentor Program			
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	4,672.19		
Donations		2,000	
Total Mentor	4,672.19	2,000	6,672
RIF Program			
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	-		
Donations		1,500	
Total RIF Program	-	1,500	1,500
Tech Trek Program			
Beginning Balance 7/1/25	-		
Donations		500	
Total Tech Tech	-	500	500
TOTALS	79,645.95	20,219	99,865
COF Expense			
Administration			
Admin Exp (Storage SD Box)		1,600	
Tax Filing & Filing Fees		375	
Paypal Fees		100	
Other Admin Exp		100	
Total Admin Expenses		2,175	
Fund Raising Expense			
AAUW Fund			
Honoree Plaques		60	
Branch Assessment		65	
Donations		200	
Total AAUW Fund		325	
Delta Scholarships			
Scholarships		6,000	
Other Expenses		100	
Total Delta Scholarships		6,100	
Essay Contest			
Cash Awards		450	
Other Expenses		90	
Total Essay Contest		540	
Mentor Program			
RIF Program			
Books		7,000	
Other Expenses		100	
Total RIF Program		7,100	
Tech Trek Programs			
Tech Trek (est. \$1,000 x 3)		3,000	
Other Expenses		200	
Total Tech Trek		3,200	
TOTAL COF EXPENSES		29,440	
Less Total Budget Revenue		20,219	
Net Ordinary Income		(9,221)	

AAUW Stockton Branch, Inc.
DELTA STEAMER
P.O. Box 690663
Stockton, CA 95269-0663

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Vision: AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measureable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

Mission: **AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.**

Value Promise: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

September Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location/Contact
Mon	1	6:00pm	September Board Meeting	Online via Zoom
Wed	9/3	All Day	Reservation Deadline	Betty Parsons - (408) 309-8958
Sat	6	9:30am	Sept. Program: "Celebrate 98 Years of AAUW Stockton"	O'Connor Woods West Hall