



Auburn AAUW Connection

A Note from the President

We are launching another amazing AAUW year!

We are starting the 2025/26 AAUW year with tremendous excitement and rejuvenation. We took a vacation in July, and then the newly elected AAUW Board and several committee chairs and members met for a retreat on August 5 to set goals, strategize outreach and develop a budget.

It looks to be an exciting year! We continue with the theme "We rise together," and there is renewed enthusiasm among many of the teams. We are looking forward to many incredible programs and events.

Our first big event will be the Sept. 19 general meeting featuring this year's incredible Tech Trek participants. Please see Rachael Kanowsky's recent call for volunteers to help with this incredible program.

One of the most important issues the Board and committees addressed was this year's budget. AAUW Auburn is an amazing organization that dedicates 87% of donations and raised funds to its mission to support women and girls through scholarships, Tech Trek, and Speech Trek. The remaining 13% includes the costs of marketing (banners, fliers, etc.), taxes and insurance, program expenses (food, room rental), bank fees and membership services. We run a very lean organization!

Below are details on our budget and information about what we need to do to maintain our mission goals. The budget will be presented to the membership in September. The general membership approves the budget so we are working to ensure you understand where we are at, what we need, and how we plan to get there.

Thank you for your commitment to AAUW. We are here because of you!

2025/2026 Budget Plan Raise Revenue Rather than Cut Costs

As stewards of AAUW Auburn's mission, we have always approached our budget with care and intention.

Last year, we made a bold and values-driven decision: to expand our impact by increasing both the quantity and amount of scholarships awarded, and by sending more girls to Tech Trek. This commitment was reflected in our budget through intentional deficit spending — a choice to invest our healthy reserve funds in the programs that matter most.

Unfortunately, we fell short of our revenue projections, resulting in a larger deficit than anticipated.

Historically, our budgeting process has relied on the previous year's actual revenue and expenses to shape the next year's plan. If we were to follow that model based on 2024–2025 figures, we would be forced to drastically scale back both revenue expectations and program expenditures.

But this year, we have a choice!

- Do we shrink our expenditures to match decreased revenue?
- Or do we focus on building revenue to sustain and grow our mission?

Cutting costs can only take us so far. In fact, 87% of our expenditures are mission-driven — scholarships, Tech Trek, and Speech Trek. These are not optional. They are the heart of who we are.

At September's membership meeting, we will present a budget that holds firm to our mission-driven programs and shifts our focus toward raising revenue. Not just to stay afloat, but to thrive. To expand our reach.

Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient AAUW Auburn — one that doesn't just weather budget challenges but rises to meet them with purpose and power. Let's invest in our mission.

Let's raise our voices — and our revenue!

Growing Our Impact: Why We are Looking Beyond Membership for Fundraising

AAUW Auburn has long been powered by the generosity and dedication of our members. You have supported scholarships, STEM programs, and civic engagement initiatives with your time, talent, and financial contributions. We are deeply grateful — and proud of what we have accomplished together.

But to sustain and grow our mission, we must now look outward.

Our goal is to raise revenue beyond our membership base. That means engaging local businesses, unions, civic organizations, and individual donors who share our values — and inviting them to invest in the work we do.

Why this shift?

- Membership alone cannot fund our expanding programs.
- Cutting expenses risks cutting impact.
- Community partnerships unlock new energy, visibility, and resources.

We are asking for your help — not just as donors, but as connectors.

Do you know a local business owner who supports education? A union leader who believes in equity? A neighbor who might sponsor a scholarship or attend a fundraiser?

Your relationships are powerful. A warm introduction, a shared story, or a simple invitation can open doors to lasting support.

AAUW Auburn makes every dollar count, and we are a non-profit so donations may be tax deductible.

Together, we can build a broader base of donors who believe in AAUW's mission — and ensure that our programs continue to thrive for years to come.

Hiking Group

Hikes twice a month. Contact Deb Sabo to get on the email list:

Bookends I

Meets 4th Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Rushton **Bookends II**

Meets in the evening. Contact Sharon Watson-Hamilton

Bookmarks

Meets 3rd Friday at 2 pm. Contact Sue Dings

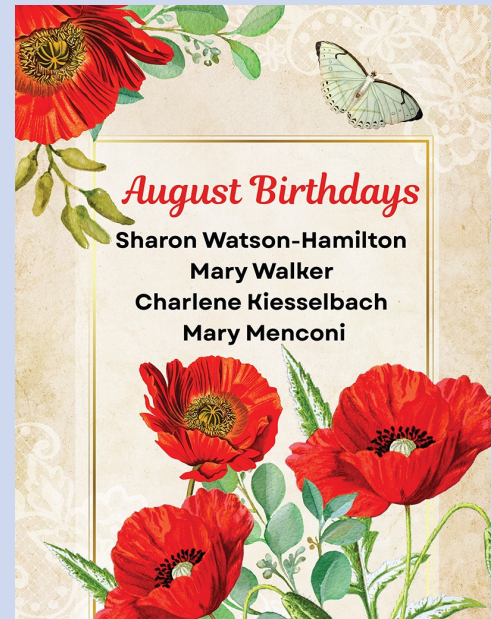
Booksters

Meets 4th Tuesday at 2 pm.

Bridge Groups

One meets 2nd Wednesday and the other the 4th Wednesday at 1 pm.

The Auburn AAUW Connection will come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline to submit news, information, photos, is the 25th of each month.



AAUW Auburn Branch | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

AAUW | P.O. Box 7872 | Auburn, CA 95604 US

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