

Public Policy:

January! Time for New Year's Resolutions!

By Jeanne Delp

Is that a groan I hear? Yes, New Year's Resolutions have a way or testing one's will power and commitment, but the fact that you have even addressed or dismissed the idea of a change in your life is a feather in your cap! Let's RECAP (pun intended) suggestions from last year's Public Policy articles that can still count as means to making a difference in your life and in Fremont AAUW.

1. **Lobby Days** are here again! Mark your calendar for the event on April 2-3. An interest survey including a registration form will arrive in your inbox mid-January. Please be sure to complete and return the form to be added to the communications list for the event. This is your chance to influence a legislator and the outcome of our priority bills in Sacramento without traveling to Sacramento.
2. **Words Matter.** Yes they do, especially when you are recruiting someone, asking for help, or just explaining your position on an AAUW issue. A *Wall Street Journal* article suggested using the word "recommend" will improve the acceptance of your suggestion, using "because" followed by your reasoning improves acceptance of your idea by 50%, and the easiest of all—rather than ask someone to help, change it to "a Helper, a Voter, a Leader."
3. Become a **Two Minute Activist** because it is an easy way to stay up-to-date on Public Policy priorities—explore the issues, empower yourself with the knowledge to share your ideas and take action if you desire. Sign up [HERE](#).
4. **The School Board Project** will be a major focus of AAUWCA for 2024. The AAUW CA Public Policy Program establishes policy directives that will guide our members to become advocates for AAUW's values of achieving "fair and equitable opportunities for our diverse society." "Communities across the nation are being faced with well-coordinated attempts by conservative organizations to elect regressive school board members who support book banning and curricula censorship." Educate yourself about the candidates for your local school board. Become a listener, a speaker, or a candidate for an open position on the school board. Amanda Gorman's poem, "The Hill We Climb" included this timely thought: 'To compose a country committed/ To all cultures, colors, characters/ And conditions of man'.
5. Become a **Donor to AAUW** because it will help provide opportunities for the diverse society in which we live. You become a Gift-Giver and according to the *Wall Street Journal* (12/17/23), "It's a profoundly moral and meaningful part of our lives and an important part of what it means to be human."

Hmmm, I need to rethink my aversion to New Year's Resolutions!