**[STATE & BRANCH TOOLS](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/)**

**Membership Matters: A News Hub for Leaders**

**December 2021**

*Resources, tips and tricks for AAUW state and branch leaders*

**Bragging on Branches (and States!)**

Celebrating Branch Milestones

Last month we marked AAUW’s 140th birthday along with many milestone anniversaries for our affiliates, ranging from 10 years to 100! Visit the [complete list of state and branch birthdays](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/#birthdays) on our 140th anniversary hub page. Congratulations to those with big birthdays in 2021-22, and thanks to everyone who helped us advance equity this year and every year. Your work is a testament to your persistence and commitment.

We’ll also highlight some century-making branches and states here, including the stories below about AAUW Manhattan (Kansas), AAUW California and AAUW Saginaw (Michigan).

**Success Stories**

Get inspiration and advice from other branch leaders.

**AAUW MANHATTAN (KANSAS)**

**A Century of Support for Women and Girls**

“The AAUW Manhattan (Kansas) branch celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020. Historically, the branch found many meaningful ways to support women and girls. In the 1920s, members raised $3,000 for scholarships by helping bring Broadway entertainment to communities. During the ‘30s, they provided 50 books to each of 15 traveling libraries. The branch was also a local sponsor for an effort to provide early childhood education and child care for parents seeking employment during the Great Depression and war years. In 1934, the K-State Friends of Art was formed as an outgrowth of an art lecture series sponsored by the branch.

Today, the branch supports scholarships for women students at Kansas State University and STEM summer camp scholarships for seventh grade girls. The 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment coincided with our branch anniversary. We partnered with the League of Women Voters to celebrate and promote voting. The branch hosted our sixth annual International Women’s Day Panel in 2021. Each year four women living in Manhattan and having origins outside of the United States shared their unique perspectives on women’s issues. With our history as a foundation and our commitment to supporting women and girls today, we are ready for the next century.”

*—Marlene VerBrugge, president*

**AAUW CALIFORNIA**

**A Golden 100 Years**

“The women of California struck gold when the first branch of AAUW was founded in 1886 in San Francisco. By 1921, branch leaders knew they had tapped the deep vein of women’s interest in pursuing equity, and they formed an umbrella organization to unify their efforts: AAUW California. Since then, we have grown to 119 branches with 9,571 members. The past 100 years have given us a rich treasure of accomplishments, most notably the establishment of the Tech Trek program, which has provided hands-on STEM learning to more than 13,000 seventh grade girls. The program was so exemplary that AAUW adopted and expanded it nationally.

AAUW California also sponsors the Speech Trek public-speaking contest for high-school students. Through the generosity of its members, AAUW California has the distinction of completing 245 AAUW Fund endowments. Always innovative and nimble, we pivoted to virtual programs during the pandemic, reached out to all members through multiple channels, provided an entirely homegrown educational webinar series, and launched a marketing campaign to build brand recognition and membership.

Thanks to a robust and innovative leadership team, AAUW California has weathered war, social change, COVID-19 and Twitter. And we continue to support branches with the resources and education they need to carry out the AAUW mission.”

*—Dianne Owens, AAUW CA President*

**AAUW SAGINAW (MICHIGAN)**

**A Century Is on the Books!**

“The Saginaw, Michigan, branch of AAUW was organized on February 23, 1921, with 50 founding members. To provide loan scholarships for young women, the branch presented a lecture series, raising $800 for the first fund. It continued growing its programs and funding for many years. The Branch has a history of service to the community, including building an independent theater in 1934, developing a nursery school in the 1950s, running workshops for women in the 1970s, and providing Christmas gifts for under-served children—a 40-year program that began in 1980.

For many years, used book sales were the primary fundraiser for donations to the tax-exempt Association Educational Foundation and for scholarships at local colleges. From 1980 to 1985, members managed a used book store in a local mall. Sales continued at beauty salons, retired teachers’ meetings and farmers’ markets.

Our Fine Arts group, one of many study groups, started in 1962 and continues to meet monthly.”

*—Kathy Tobin, president, and Marion Tincknell, chair, Fine Arts Group*

**News & Resources**

Connect2AAUW Virtual Office Hours

AAUW is pleased to offer a new service for AAUW state and branch volunteers. Join us during our “office hours” to receive customer support with web navigation, resources and tools, and more. One-hour time slots are reserved to allow volunteers the opportunity to get answers, assistance and visual support for online learning. Office-hour sessions will be held on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. ET beginning December 16. [Register for the first session](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdemgrj8tHtZyk1T31iYU70Xv9aqxvCJv) and keep the link handy for future office hours.

AAUW’s 140th Celebration: Relive the Magic!

In November, we held a truly special gathering and celebration of AAUW’s 140th Anniversary. If you weren’t able to attend the live event, we have now posted [the event](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/#video) to our [140th Anniversary page](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/). Please share with members in your state or branch. We hope they’re as inspired as we were by the words of 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization and one of Time magazine’s 100 most influential people of 2021.

Our 140th hub page also includes [affiliate milestones](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/#birthdays) and recognizes the many [AAUW leaders, board and staff](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/#matching) that contributed to this year’s historic matching gift of $75,000! Affiliates and members can double the impact of your 140th Anniversary contributions by donating at [www.aauw.org/give140](http://www.aauw.org/give140).

End-of-Year Giving Tips for Affiliate Leaders

This is the time of year when many affiliates are collecting and preparing to send in contributions by December 31. **If you’re mailing checks, please use a method that tracks your packages in transit**, as we continue to hear about issues in the mail. As year-end draws closer, we would also urge you to think about contributing online. You can give online at [www.aauw.org/give140](http://www.aauw.org/give140) as a state or branch or as an individual. To give as an affiliate, simply enter the name of your state or branch in the “first name” field. In the “last name” field, enter AAUW. All other information should be yours as the card holder; that way, the confirmation will come to your attention.

The Five-Star State Portal Is Open

Following the recent opening of our [Five-Star Recognition Program](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/)’s branch portal for submissions, we’re excited to announce the portal is now available to states as well. Presidents, membership VPs and finance officers can now sign in and begin cataloging your progress towards five stars. Similar to the branch criteria, the state criteria has not changed much since the FY 20-21 iteration of the Five-Star program but we do encourage you to review the tweaks that were made over the summer. As always if you have any questions throughout the process, please reach out to fivestar@aauw.org for assistance.

Five Great Ways to Leave a Legacy

Your support of AAUW reflects your values—a desire for equity and a drive to make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls. [Making a planned gift](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/) to AAUW is a wonderful way to ensure your values live on after you. Here are five options for leaving a meaningful legacy to AAUW.

**1. Leave a gift in your will or trust to AAUW.**You can take care of family and friends first and donate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate.

**2. Donate retirement assets.**Simply update your beneficiary designation form with your plan administrator.

**3. Donate a life insurance policy you no longer need.**You can update the beneficiaries at any time by requesting a new form from your insurer.

**4. Direct your donor-advised fund.**You can name AAUW as a beneficiary of whatever remains in your donor-advised fund after your lifetime. It’s as easy as updating your form.

**5. Make a gift that pays you income for life.**If you are age 75 or older, help secure your retirement with a charitable gift annuity. In exchange for your gift of cash or stock to AAUW, you receive fixed payments for life at attractive rates, while securing a partial tax-deduction, if you itemize.

To take the next step, visit [aauw.org/legacy](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/)or contact Heather Miller, director of Advancement, at 202-785-7766 or millerh@aauw.org.