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

**January 2022**

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

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

We’re so proud and grateful for all the branches that stood up for equity with recent branch gifts. Last year was challenging on many levels—which makes us all the more appreciative of everyone who found creative ways to develop effective programming, recruitment strategies and fundraising opportunities.

A special thank you to the following branches that made unrestricted contributions of $2,000 or more to AAUW’s Greatest Needs Fund or strategic focus areas last year:

(California) Greater Whitter Area, Half Moon Bay, La Mesa-El Cajon, Morgan Hill, San Francisco; (Illinois) Elmhurst Area, Naperville Area; (Michigan) Ann Arbor; (Minnesota) Red Wing Area; (New Jersey) Freehold Area, Somerset Hills; (North Dakota) Jamestown; (Pennsylvania) Bethlehem, State College; (Texas) Tyler; (Wisconsin) Racine; (Washington) Seattle.

Note that this is only a partial list because we’re still in the process of updating our yearend numbers. Stay tuned for more information—and thank yous!—in upcoming issues of Membership Matters.

**Success Stories**

Get inspiration and advice from other branch leaders.

**AUW ST. CLOUD AREA (MINNESOTA)**

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

“As our nation and world experiences the growing power of women’s voices and perspectives, the AAUW Saint Cloud Area branch is celebrating its centennial. Over the years, the branch has provided scholarships to support college women students and offered programs for area girls. Some examples include TechSavvy, an AAUW STEM program for middle-school girls; Start Smart, workshops focused on helping college-level girls learn salary negotiation; the Paramount High School Arts Exhibition; and Savvy Teens, a student seminar series for career success.

Today, the branch has over 123 members, more than 60% of whom have advanced degrees. For more than 10 years, St. Cloud State University and the College of Saint Benedict have been institutional AAUW members. We welcome new members and offer monthly dinner programs, book clubs, social activities and many ways to support the community.”

*—Linda MacLeod, president*

**News & Resources**

Prepare for MSD Blackout Period

AAUW National will soon upgrade our data systems to better serve our members and affiliates. As a necessary step in the implementation, there will be a brief blackout period from February 4 through February 15 during which neither you nor the AAUW staff will be able to access the Member Services Database or other website applications for member dues and donations. **Please complete time-sensitive transactions and download any needed information by no later than 9 p.m. ET on Thursday, February 3.** Stay tuned for more information and instruction when our systems are back up and running.

FY23 National Dues Rate Changes

Beginning July 1, the AAUW national dues will be $67, of which $64 will be tax-deductible. Please update your materials and websites.

Consider Lifetime Membership!

This is a great time for current members to upgrade to lifetime membership for $1,240, a $100 savings compared to the cost after June 30. Lifetime membership is fully tax-deductible and allows you to put your values into action for many years to come!

Count Your Members through January 31

Check your branch member roster and verify your member count in preparation for the official February 1 count—which includes memberships processed through January 31. Reports will be available by mid-March.

AAUW Election: Learn the Issues and Vote

As AAUW members, you have the right to comment on any proposed changes to our bylaws before they are put up for a member vote this spring. But time is running out! The [comment period](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/) closes at 5 p.m. ET on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. Then weigh in this spring to elect members to the national board of directors and vote on amendments to bylaws.

Deadline Extended: STEM Branch Survey

AAUW’s Director of STEM Programs Leshell Hatley is eager to hear from member leaders like you about your affiliate’s STEM-related activities. Please fill out [this survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/aauwstem?emci=e720fae4-6e6e-ec11-94f6-c896650d923c&emdi=ea000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000001&ceid=)—the deadline for which has been extended until Friday, February 11—about your state or branch’s important STEM work. It only takes about 15 minutes to complete, and we will highlight the most inspiring success stories we get from state and branch leaders here in Membership Matters!

Year-End Matching Gift Thank You

Thank you for your many special gifts to AAUW’s 140th anniversary and the historic yearend matching gift of $75,000, which was made possible by our board, volunteers and staff. While we are still tabulating the numbers, we are proud to share that we greatly exceeded this record-breaking match. We could not be more grateful for your support. If you haven’t already, please visit and share within your branch and state our [140th Anniversary hub](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/140-anniversary/) where you can learn more about the vibrant history made possible through your support and our shared success in 2021. Because of supporters like you, we will accomplish even more together in 2022!

Submit to the AAUW Art Contest by January 31

There’s still time to submit your artwork to our 13th annual member [Art Contest](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/art-contest/), but please act quickly. We’re accepting entries through Monday, January 31, and voting begins on Wednesday, February 2. Members can submit up to two entries across all mediums, and the top six entries will be featured on a selection of note cards mailed to all members in the spring.

Upcoming Inclusion and Equity Webinars

AAUW’s Inclusion and Equity Committee invites you to participate in a virtual webinar series, which kicks off on Thursday, January 27 at 4 p.m. ET. These webinars support state and branch leaders, diversity officers and other members as they work to make their affiliates more diverse, equitable and inclusive. They supplement the resources available in [AAUW’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) toolkit](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/).

Register now for any and all of the 2022 series, which includes [Creating Allyship](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vfpwQEJeS5q8vUSBjBbTdQ) on January 27 [Intersectionality Identified](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zi7BNoYhSh-muyKlpmrqxA) on March 24, and [Social Justice: Creating Change](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ur-cb6kGTn-_eWbUOu8EMA) on May 26. If you can’t make a date, look for the recording on our [webinar page](https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/); it will be added within about a week of each event.

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. [Register for the next session](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdemgrj8tHtZyk1T31iYU70Xv9aqxvCJv) or keep the link handy for future office hour slots!

2021 Year in Review

Are you looking for something to plug in your next branch newsletter to highlight AAUW’s accomplishments and successes in 2021? Look no further than our [Year in Review](https://www.aauw.org/about/years-in-review/2021-review/), an inspiring summary of AAUW’s impact in the last year. You can also share our [2021 By the Numbers](https://www.aauw.org/about/years-in-review/) graphic by clicking on the three dots at the top right of the graphic. The past year showed us how resilient we are as an organization and a nation. AAUW piloted new programs, forged partnerships, funded a record number of women scholars, and so much more. We hope you take pride in our joint accomplishments!

AAUW Welcomes New Legacy Circle Members

We gratefully acknowledge these visionary AAUW members and supporters who have recently joined the Legacy Circle: Sheila Austin (Texas), Helen Elkiss (Florida & Illinois), Rose T. Ennis (Texas), Elaine A. Johnson (California), Ilze Kalnajs (Texas), Ellen P. Roche (Florida), Beverly Van Citters (California), along with three individuals who wish to remain anonymous. By making a [planned gift](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/) to AAUW National, each has embraced equity for future generations of women and girls as part of their personal legacy. If you would like to learn more about the AAUW Legacy Circle, please contact AAUW Director of Advancement Heather Miller at 202.785.7766.