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

**July 2020**

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

**Bragging on Branches**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first virtual [Five-Star National Recognition](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/) Celebration and Updates webinar. Even during these difficult times, AAUW branches all over the country have continued to do the critical work necessary to advance gender equality and push AAUW’s mission forward.

Congratulations to the following branches on completing the program in the first year and to all branches that participated and made this program a success: (California) Marin, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette; (Illinois) Schaumburg; (Nevada) Capital; (Missouri) Ballwin-Chesterfield; (Pennsylvania) State College; (Texas): Northeast Tarrant County; (Virginia) Virginia Beach, Reston-Herndon Area, (Washington) Bellingham, Seattle; (Wisconsin) Racine, Rivers Falls.

Huge kudos to the following branches on their Five-Star achievements in the past month: (Alabama) Talladega County; (California) Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette, Beach Cities, Napa County; (Colorado) Aurora, Longmont; (Florida) Daytona Beach, Sarasota; (Illinois) Elmhurst Area; (Maine) Waterville; (Michigan) Northville, Midland, Rochester; (Minnesota) Saint Paul; (Ohio) Medina County; (Oregon) Yamhill County, Ashland; (Pennsylvania) Carlisle, Indiana County, Lansdale; (Texas) Fort Bend County; (Virginia) Reston-Herndon Area, Virginia Beach; (Washington) Seattle; (Wisconsin) Milwaukee, Racine.

**Secret of their Success: AAUW River Falls (WI)**

AAUW-River Falls, founded in 1935, has long supported gender equity. Five-Star criteria encompass much of our ongoing work: public monthly programs, candidate forums and legislator meetings, annual contributions to AAUW National and Legacy Circle members, and communicating through social media and now virtual meeting formats. The Five-Star sustainability criterion prompted us to intentionally draw newer members into leadership roles and to create a strategic plan, aligned with national and state priorities. The plan will focus our future work and shape persuasive messages to community audiences. Advice to other branches: Celebrate the good work you already do and keep us moving forward to a more equitable future!

**Suzanne Hagen, President of AAUW River Falls**



**AAUW Mid-Peninsula (CA): New Possibilities for Change**

Although our branch was already in line with the Five-Star goals, examining the requirements for each one opened up the possibilities of what more we could do. We laid out an action plan to include the meetings and activities already planned. We noted which ones applied to which stars and found that we were essentially aligned with the mission and added activities that helped us reach each goal.

Gender equity has always been important to our branch and is featured in our programs, literature and actions. Our Public Policy section and dynamic leader educate us and find opportunities to influence issues and legislators.

Early in the term, the branch board should look at the 5-Star requirements and indicate where their plans fit into the format. Then they can explore the kinds of actions that their branch could do and how to implement them.

Cathy Chowenhill and Carole Farina, co-presidents

AAUW Virginia Beach (VA): You Can Do This!

Following the 2019 Summer Leadership Conference, I knew I wanted to work to make Virginia Beach a five-star branch. After reviewing the requirements for the stars, I realized that the Virginia Beach branch was already close. We held a planning session in the summer of 2019, and we discussed what was required to earn the five stars. Our branch is fortunate to have very experienced and passionate board members, and they know how to plan our programs and activities around the mission and values of AAUW. As requirements for the stars were met, I would log the information on the database. Unfortunately, as COVID-19 shut things down, we had to cancel events and hold virtual meetings. Achieving five stars is a process that takes planning and time. My advice for other branches is to delegate responsibilities and track your progress on a spreadsheet. Celebrate your accomplishments and acknowledge the contributions of branch members along the way in your newsletter. You can do this!

Jeanette Olson, president

**5-Star Stats**

**[In 2019-20,](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[70](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[branches participated in AAUW's 5-star recognition program.](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[In 2019-20,](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[11](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[AAUW branches achieved all five stars in our recognition program.](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[Did you know?](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[California](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**[is the state with the greatest number of stars in AAUW’s 5-star recognition program.](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)

**[Among branches that participated in the 5-Star program,](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[43%](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**[achieved at least three stars.](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/)**

**News & Resources**

New Leaders: Get Set Up in our Database

Presidents/Administrators, Membership VPs and Finance Officers will use AAUW’s [Membership Services Database](https://www.aauw.org/membership/) (MSD) throughout the year to maintain and manage their branch with the national office. Log in to access the MSD to get started. If you have never logged in before, you’ll need to [create an account.](https://svc.aauw.org/recore/inc/register_wp.asp)

AAUW Group Exemption Season Is Open

All AAUW-affiliated entities must file a tax return with the IRS each year. If your annual gross receipts are normally $50,000 or less, you can file Form 990-N. We can also file Form 990-N on your behalf if the finance officer completes the group exemption form in the Membership Services Database, now through October 15, 2020.

Branch Advocacy during COVID

What creative initiatives has your branch taken to stay connected in the COVID era? We want to hear how AAUW branches are continuing their work to advance gender equity in this uncertain time. Answer [our survey](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/connected-community/) to share what you’re doing.

New Legacy Circle Members

We gratefully acknowledge the 36 visionary women and men who joined AAUW’s Legacy Circle in Fiscal Year 2020 (7/1/19-6/30/20). There are now 674 living members of the Legacy Circle who are dedicated to advancing equity for future generations.

We’re delighted to celebrate some intergenerational family memberships this year. Lee Battershell, President of the Citrus Heights-American River (California) Branch, inspired her granddaughters Carolina and Katie to follow her lead. We are also thrilled to recognize AAUW’s first mother-son Legacy Circle members: longtime member Jean Dodds of the Northeast Tarrant County (Texas) Branch and son Keith, who has chosen to honor his mother’s commitment through his own planned gift to AAUW.

By making a planned gift to AAUW National, Legacy Circle members embrace gender equity as part of their personal legacy. If you have included AAUW National in your estate plans, please contact AAUW Director of Advancement Heather Miller at 202.785.7766 to enroll in the Legacy Circle so that we may celebrate you too! Many thanks to:

Kathleen L. Asay, California  
A. Lee Battershell, California  
Caroline Ann Battershell, California  
Katherine L. Battershell, California  
Peg Carlson-Bowen, California  
Lynda Daniels, California  
Sandra Gabe, California  
Patricia M. Kohnen, California  
Patricia J. Missman, California  
Mary Renner, California  
Estelle Shiroma, California  
Sharyn Siebert, California  
Hedda H. Smithson, California  
Raegan M. Sweeden, California  
Susan Wheeler, California  
Lynn Gangone, Colorado  
Paula Dulski, Florida  
Patricia Higby, Iowa  
Emily C. Boone, Kentucky  
Christine Schmitz, Maryland  
Joanie Shores, Missouri  
Loni Hoodenpyle, Oregon  
Martha Maharg, Oregon  
Paula Wiiken, Oregon  
Keith Dodds, Texas  
Rosemary B. Jobe, Texas  
Margaret Martin, Texas  
Mimi Nimocks, Texas  
Diane Siegel, Texas  
Jane Marie Blackwell, Utah  
Susan F. Burk, Virginia  
Janine Greenwood, Virginia  
Barbara Woodlee, Virginia  
Linda W. Howell, Washington  
Fanny Behrens, Wisconsin  
Joan E. Moeschberger, Wisconsin

**Upcoming Events**

Even if we can’t come together in person right now, there’s plenty happening at AAUW — and plenty of ways to connect.

| Thursday, July 30 | | |
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| **Time** | **Event** | **Location** |
| 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | **[Webinar: Is your Perspective Inclusive?](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XTieAfDyQe2j0-4upY3lOQ" \t ")**  Our perspectives shape our interactions with others and help frame how we value culture, talent, beliefs and background. Join us for a discussion with Pamela Fuller, global client partner and thought leader, Inclusion and Bias at FranklinCovey, Dr. Lisette Garcia, executive vice president and chief operating officer at the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), and Sheila Amo, chief administrative officer at AAUW. |  |
| 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM | **[Webinar: Holding Space—How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity and Inclusion](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EAjuoRtFRQmzobeJuR5lNQ" \t "_blank)**  Join AAUW as we hold space for a collective journey toward gender, race, equity and inclusion dialogue led by Dr. Taharee Jackson. Dr. Jackson expands the capacity of federal agencies and diverse organizations to achieve their goals for equity, inclusion, belonging and organizational transformation. She is a certified trainer of diversity trainers, federal EEO counselor and is committed to “helping you do your best work in peace.” |  |