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

**May 2022**

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

**News & Resources**

Celebrating 50 Years of Title IX

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark federal legislation that prohibits gender discrimination in any educational institution or program that receives federal funds. Through your support and advocacy, AAUW members are a key part of this law’s legacy. To commemorate the day the legislation was signed (June 23,1972), we’re holding a special virtual event to highlight AAUW’s important and ongoing work on Title IX and to recognize our generous supporters and affiliates. [Register now](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_plHsRyu4RrSeaYPkItm3Sw?emci=d3578f9b-78d7-ec11-b656-281878b8c32f&emdi=12f60247-a6d7-ec11-b656-281878b8c32f&ceid=908990) for the virtual celebration on Thursday, June 23, at 4:30 p.m. ET.

You’re also invited to [attend](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w64rU6T0T3ubVv95nuAKLQ) a webinar on Wednesday, June 15, at 3 p.m. ET, titled “Exploring Tough Policy Issues Through an AAUW Lens: Title IX & Transgender Student Rights.”

Finally, you can also mark the occasion—and protect students’ rights by strengthening Title IX—by donating to AAUW in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. We’re pleased to announce that you can have Title IX anniversary contributions count as progress towards your affiliate’s Advancement star in our Five-Star Recognition Program. For more details, please reach out to Tremayne Parquet, deputy director of advancement, at [parquett@aauw.org](mailto:parquett@aauw.org).

Stay Up to Date on Community Hub

We continue to be grateful for the patience of our member leaders as we work to improve our [Community Hub](https://my.aauw.org/NC__Login). Visit our comprehensive [Community Hub: Tools & Resources Page](https://www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update/) to stay up to date on the latest training videos, written guides and a recent compilation of answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) we’ve received since launching the Hub. Be sure to check back often and bookmark the page. We’ll keep posting updates and information based on your feedback and inquiries.

Finance Officers Must Respond — Don’t Lose Your IRS Tax Status

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 do this on your behalf if you complete the group exemption form in [Community Hub](https://my.aauw.org/NC__Login) now through October 15. Login to your personal snapshot and then go to MY AFFILIATIONS and click the blue button next to your affiliate name. Choose TAX INFORMATION and then ADD NEW TAX DETAILS to complete the form. The form will ask for the principal officer, which for taxes is generally the finance officer. The tax period is from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Officer Update Form Will Open in Early June

If your affiliate title is president/administrator, membership vice president or finance officer, please update officers for FY23 by no later than June 30, 2022. Even if an officer is returning, please update their leadership term.

To do this, login to your [Community Hub](https://my.aauw.org/NC__Login) personal snapshot, then go to MY AFFILIATIONS and click the blue button next to your affiliate name. Choose BRANCH COMMITTEE to update officers. If leaders and roles remain the same next year, EDIT the officer and change the Start and End dates to the new fiscal year (for example, 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2023). Use ADD NEW to change leaders and their roles. Click BRANCH COMMITTEE to return to the full list.

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

Congratulations to the latest affiliates that made achievements in our [Five-Star Recognition Program](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/)! We’re proud to announce that the following branches have attained all five stars: AAUW Aurora (Colorado), Racine (Wisconsin) and Virginia Beach (Virginia). Kudos also to these branches, which have made great strides towards their own goals: California (La Mesa-El Cajon, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette, Mid-Peninsula); Colorado (Longmont); Florida (Daytona Beach, Saint Augustine); Hawaii (Honolulu); Illinois (Naperville Area); Ohio (Middletown); Pennsylvania (Fox Chapel Area); Virginia (Alexandria, Reston-Herndon); and Wisconsin (Fort Atkinson, Monona-Madison).

**Success Stories**

Get inspiration and advice from other branch leaders.

AAUW Racine (Wisconsin): 5 Tips to Get 5 Stars

How did we achieve Five-Star status? Our branch has a couple unique advantages—a large membership of 198 people and a 99-year history of successes. But the following is advice anyone can apply to help meet their own 5-Star goals.

**Find a fundraiser that works and keep doing it.** Involve the public. We’ve been doing a used book sale for more than 20 years. We rent a large basement so we can work on organizing books for a twice yearly sale. We have progressed from raising $3,000 annually to more than $40,000 last year.

**Stay aware of social issues.** In 2020, the Racine branch responded to the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement by writing our own anti-racism statement, forming a Diversity Committee and starting a discussion group around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) issues. Our programs reflected our growing interest in DEI, which continues today.

**Encourage members to bring forward their ideas.** A decade ago, someone in the branch suggested we launch a STEM program for middle-school girls. We’ve now run the program for nine years and counting.

**Combine two or more goals in one branch program.** A legislator could speak on fair pay, domestic violence or other gender-relevant issues.

**Plan ahead.** In May, we start planning our programs for the following year.

Margaret Tungseth, branch president