

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the South Shore Area Branch of AAUW



Our Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW's place in women's history

What was happening on the national level since our branch was formed in 1968



1881

NOVEMBER 28, 1881

FOUNDERS MEET

Marion Talbot and Ellen Richards meet in Boston with 15 alumnae representing eight colleges to discuss the needs of college-educated women. In addition to broadening opportunities and assisting other women in higher education, they discuss the formation of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae.

1884

1884

BRANCH STRUCTURE IS ESTABLISHED

Branches are admitted as local groups with the provision that they carry on the work of the larger association in addition to their independent work. Washington, D.C. is home to the first branch. New York, Pacific/San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Boston branches are formed in 1886.

1968

1968

THIS BELEAGURED EARTH PROGRAM

AAUW embarks on an environmental program, This Beleagured Earth — Can Man Survive? and urges branch members to study environmental problems in their communities . [Listen to the PSA »](#)

ACTION FOR A UNIFIED SOCIETY—At the June Board meeting, the Board passed a resolution calling upon the organization to adopt a single program thrust entitled "Action for a Unified Society" which asked branches to adapt their present study and concern to this action program involving each member in specific activities.

Subsequent questions have been raised by some members about this resolution and its relationship to established AAUW program. To clarify the statement, the Executive Committee of the Board elaborates:

1. The "Action for a Unified Society" thrust is just that; it is not a new program or a replacement of existing programs, but rather calls for greater emphasis and expansion of the many existing community action programs that branches and states have developed in response to the Association purpose of "discharging our special responsibility to society." Traditionally these programs have evolved from study of the Topics, i.e. "Law and the Citizen," "Education, An Antidote to Poverty."

2. The very basis of this Association is that its activities are voluntary; this special program thrust is no exception. It is the Board's hope that, in view of the many problems that plague our communities today to which volunteers can contribute solutions in some part, branches and divisions of AAUW will endeavor to make the meaningful contribution for which they are so uniquely qualified.

3. It is assumed that, in the tradition of AAUW, careful study and planning, coordination with communities' agencies and other organizations, will precede the development of new community programs. The September 1968 issue of the

GDL offers guidance in this respect.

The Board is exhilarated and gratified at the remarkably enthusiastic response of members, branches and divisions throughout the country to the Board's resolution. Travel program and communications to officers indicate that many members feel this leadership on the national level meets a long-standing Association need in giving impetus to the study/action phase of the Association program.

1969

1969

ACTION FOR A UNIFIED SOCIETY

In response to the race riots in Washington, D.C., the AAUW Board of Directors launches the Action for a Unified Society program. Many branches participate in activities designed to promote racial understanding and civil rights.



1969

1969

CORETTA SCOTT KING FUND ESTABLISHED

The AAUW Educational Foundation establishes the Coretta Scott King Fund, which provides scholarships to African American women to study history, culture, and peace.



1971

JUNE 1971

AAUW AND THE ERA

At the 1971 convention, AAUW members pass resolutions supporting the legalization of abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment.

1975

1975

LOBBY CORPUS FORMED

The AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps is formed to monitor congressional hearings and lobby for bills that match AAUW's legislative program.



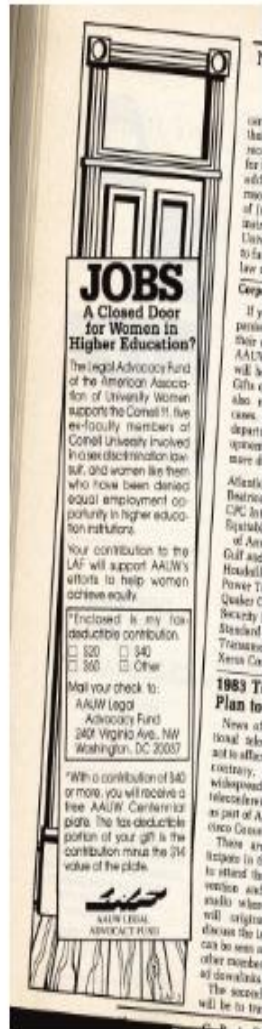
1981

1981

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND ESTABLISHED

AAUW establishes the Legal Advocacy Fund to support women who seek justice in instances of sex discrimination in higher education. Two years later, it becomes a separate AAUW corporation.

AAUW ADMI



A Letter From AAUW's First Male Member

Since the announcement that I am the first male member of AAUW, several people have asked me how I came to think of the idea of joining, and especially of being first.

For some months, friends in AAUW have been talking about the idea of males joining the organization. All those I have talked with were enthusiastic about the idea and several mentioned they thought a resolution to admit males would be acted upon favorably at the national meeting in Houston. I figured that if men were admitted I would join right off, but as I was preparing for the May meeting of the Rock Hill (SC) Branch it just occurred to me that there was a way to very likely be the first man to join—send a check and application blank with the local delegates who would be at the Houston meeting and could turn them in immediately after the vote. I talked it over with my wife, Grace, and she was enthusiastic; so that is exactly what I did.

The idea of being first is more a fun thing than anything else. There can only be one first male member and it is exciting to be that person.

There is a much more serious reason for joining. I have known the



John Freeman

AAUW as a fine organization that has done important things for many years. I have read AAUW publications that Grace received and, especially in the last several years, have attended meetings of the local branch and those of a few other branches when Grace gave poetry readings. I like what AAUW stands for. To me, basically AAUW is working in three areas: the personal environments of individuals and families; the social environments of people; and our shared physical environment. It sees its primary method for furthering these three areas as

educational action in the broadest sense.

In its work promoting education and rights, AAUW is attacking one of the problems our society has saddled itself with, inequality of educational and economic opportunities. In working for more women entering political life, it is attacking another societal problem, underrepresentation of a major group in the policy-making processes of our society. To me, these are not so much problems for women as they are hindrances to our whole society. To put it in a sentence: any time a group within our culture is not allowed opportunities for development, all people in the society are harmed. That means that the problems of a disenfranchised group, whether women, blacks, the poor or others, are also problems that affect and should be faced by men, whites, and the affluent.

I joined as a life member to say that I have a continuing, lifelong commitment to the ideals worked on by AAUW. I look forward to working within AAUW, for the ideals it stands for must prevail, for the sake of all of us.

John Freeman

1987

JUNE 1987

AAUW ADMITS MEN

AAUW votes to extend membership to male college graduates.

1989

1989

AAUW MOVES TO NEW HOME

AAUW sells the Educational Center to the International Monetary Fund and moves to 1111 Sixteenth Street, NW, where AAUW stayed until 2016.

1993

1993

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Through the hard work of the AAUW Lobby Corps, the Family Medical Leave Act passes.

1995

1995

VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

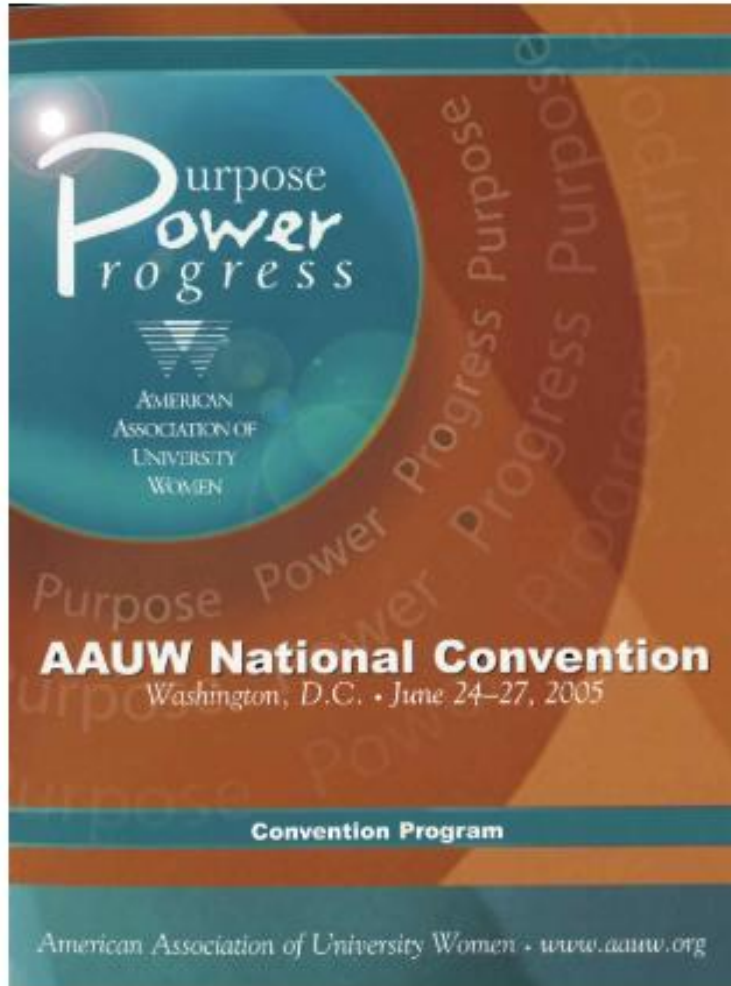
AAUW launches Voter Education Campaign.

2002

2002

NCCWSL

AAUW hosts its first National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at American University in Washington, D.C. More than 250 students attend.



2005

JUNE 2005

MEMBERSHIP EXPANDS

At the 2005 AAUW National Convention in Washington, D.C., AAUW members vote to expand membership to include graduates who hold an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution in response to the growing population of women who have entered economically advantageous careers with this kind of educational background.

2008

2008

AAUW RECEIVES SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

This designation gives AAUW a voice at U.N. meetings and on committees such as the Commission on the Status of Women, U.N. Women, the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations, and the Working Group on Girls. AAUW has the privilege of signing on to nongovernmental organization statements, making oral and written statements, holding office in NGO committees, and sharing our well-respected expertise. For example, AAUW's groundbreaking STEM report, *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*, resulted in a special invitation to participate in a UNESCO Expert Working Group on STEM, which produced major recommendations for the 55th Commission on the Status of Women.

2009

JANUARY 29, 2009

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SIGNS THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

This law makes it easier for workers to seek redress for sex discrimination on the job. Thanks to an anonymous note, Lilly Ledbetter found out that she was making less money than the men who held the same position at the Goodyear plant in Gadsden, Alabama. Although she won her case in a jury trial, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned her victory and 40 years of precedent by ruling that she should have filed her claim within 180 days of the original discriminatory decision. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act restored the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's practice of counting each unfair paycheck as an act of discrimination.



[\[View larger\]](#)

2011

MARCH 28, 2011

THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND EXPANDS ITS MISSION

In 2011, the Legal Advocacy Fund accepted its first strategic lawsuit outside of academia, *Dukes v. Wal-Mart*. In this case, 1.5 million former and current women employees of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club formed the largest-ever class-action lawsuit to protest sex discrimination at Wal-Mart Stores. The U.S. Supreme Court heard the case in 2011 and deemed the class too big to move forward. AAUW members and staff rallied in protest. AAUW continues to provide support to a smaller lawsuit that represents all female workers in California, including original lead plaintiff Betty Dukes.



[\[View larger\]](#)

2011

JUNE 17, 2011

ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE

On June 17, 2011, the polls closed for the first-ever One Member, One Vote election, in which AAUW members voted in a popular election—rather than through a delegate system—to elect national officers and approve bylaws amendments and amendments to the Public Policy Program. More than 10,000 ballots were cast online and by mail, easily meeting the required quorum and far exceeding the delegate votes cast at the previous convention.

2013

2013

**AAUW WELCOMED OUR FIRST
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
PARTNER MEMBER, THE AUSTRALIAN
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.**

2014

2014

AAUW WAS INVITED BY THE WOMEN'S BUREAU OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN UPDATE OF THE INFLUENTIAL AMERICAN WOMEN REPORT ON THE REPORT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

2015 Empowering Working Women in Boston



CITY OF BOSTON
Office of the Mayor
Martin J. Walsh

In 2015 the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, and the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement launched a large-scale grassroots initiative to teach and empower 85,000 women by 2021 to confidently and successfully negotiate for salary and benefits packages and help close the gender pay gap in Boston.

2017



Kimberly Churches
becomes AAUW's
chief executive
officer.

2018 Strategic Plan

The AAUW Strategic Plan is created through an inclusive process involving the AAUW Board of Directors and staff. The goals, indicators of success, and strategies reflect an integrated approach to fulfilling our mission, vision, and value promise. As AAUW continues to move forward in a changing world, so have our Strategic Plan and our Vision Statement.

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity.
Inclusion and
Intersectionality

Our Research

AAUW research draws national attention to issues of gender equity in education and the workplace; influences policy-makers as well as educators, parents, and students; and, most importantly, serves as a catalyst for action...

1968: *This Beleaguered Earth – Can Man Survive?*

1969: *Congress and You*

1970: *Campus 1970*

1971: *Standards for Women in Higher Education*

1975: *Liberating Our Children, Ourselves: A Handbook of Women's Studies Course Materials for Teacher Educators*

1977: Educational Financial Aids

1977: Monitoring Title IX

1978: But We Will Persist

1984: The Military Budget: A Woman's Guide to
Community Action

1991: Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America

1992: How Schools Shortchange Girls

1993: Hostile Hallways: The AAUW Survey on Sexual
Harassment in America's Schools

1994: *Schoolgirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem, and the Confidence Gap*

1995: *Growing Smart: What's Working for Girls in School*

1995: *Keeping Chinese Girls in School*

1996: *Girls in the Middle: Working to Succeed in School*

1998: *Gender Gaps*

1998: *Separated by Sex: A Critical Look at Single-Sex Education for Girls*

1999: *Gaining a Foothold: Women's Transitions through Work and College*

2000: *Community Coalitions Manual*

2001: *Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing, and Sexual Harassment in School*

2003: *Women at Work*

2004: *Under the Microscope: A Decade of Gender Equity Projects in the Sciences*

2004: *Tenure Denied: Cases of Sex Discrimination in Academia*

2004: *Harassment-Free Hallways: How to Stop Sexual Harassment in School*

2006: *Drawing the Line*

2007: *Behind the Pay Gap*

2008: *Where the Girls Are*

2010: *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*

2011: *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*

2012: *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation*

2013: *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success*

2015: *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing*

2016: *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*

2017: *Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans*

On the local level

Our branch has a long history of supporting mission-driven projects. Among our most memorable:

- Resource Center
- Boston Ballet Fundraiser
- Career Fair
- Sister-to-Sister
- Peace Fair
- July 4th Parade Float

- Family Friendly Workplace Awards
- Boston Children's Theatre
- Comedy Night for AAUW Funds
- Silent Auction for EF/LAF
- College Fair for non-traditional students

- Girl Scout Tutoring Project
- Women's Health Workshops
- Evening with MA Legislators
- Celebrating Women's History Month
- Get Out the Vote (10/12)

- **STEM Conference (5-17-14)**
- **STEM Conference (4-11-15)**
- **STEM Conference (4-9-16)**
- **STEM Conference (4-8-17)**
- **STEM Camp (7-18–22-16)**

Last slide but
not the end. . .



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