



President's E-Letter

March 12, 2016

Happy Women's History Month! Let's celebrate our dedicated AAUW members across the nation who make history for women and girls every day.

Equal Pay Day: Many of us are getting ready for Equal Pay Day next month, on April 12. Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day when women's wages (79 cents on average for every dollar paid to men) finally catch up to men's wages from the previous year.



The gender pay gap is a primary issue for AAUW. In 1955, AAUW supported a bill introduced by Reps. Edith Green (D-OR) and Edith Rogers (R-MA) requiring "equal pay for work of comparable value requiring comparable skills." Congress finally enacted the Equal Pay Act, a version of the 1955 bill, in 1963.

Despite the Equal Pay Act, the wage gap persists; women are typically paid just 79 cents on average for every dollar paid to men — and that number has barely budged in a decade. Enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and other civil rights laws has helped to narrow the wage gap, but significant disparities still exist. To improve the scope of the Equal Pay Act, AAUW advocates passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This would give employers stronger incentives to follow the law, enhance federal enforcement efforts, and prohibit retaliation against workers asking about wage practices. AAUW uses Equal Pay Day to draw attention to the gender pay gap and build support for the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Branches are encouraged to plan an event to recognize Equal Pay Day. A well designed event can engage potential members, students, and your community in a conversation about an issue that affects everyone.

Annual Meeting: Our theme is "Building Inclusive Branches" as we reach out into the community to be a more inclusive branch and recruit new members. Deepti Gudipati from AAUW will address the following:

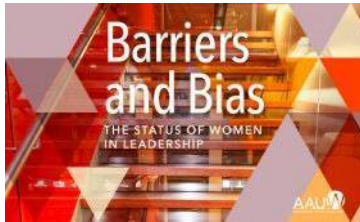
How does inclusiveness make for a better community? This training will work on answering that question for your specific branch. You will learn new ideas and concepts about why inclusivity matters and how an inclusive organizational culture can help your branch become more diverse. You'll have a chance to reflect on how your branch currently exhibits inclusiveness, and you'll brainstorm and share ideas on concrete actions you can take to make your branch more diverse and inclusive.

Another focus for the annual meeting is reaching out to the community through social media. There will be several opportunities to learn about using social media to get our message out to the community as well as to recruit new members.

Branch Presidents: Please fill out the President's Survey that you received in the mail with your packet of materials for the AAUW NC Annual Meeting. Bring it with you to the President's Council meeting on Friday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m. It will help us address issues of communication and expectation.

Remind your members to go to AAUW of North Carolina website, aauwnc.org, and register for the annual meeting.

Something to do: Go to aauw.org Under Leadership, register to watch Barriers and Bias Research Launch Panel on Women in Leadership.



March 30, 2016
Time: 3:30–5:30 p.m. ET
Location: Online
Cost: Free

Sandra McLaurin, Co-President, AAUW North Carolina