

Bylaws change for branch without borders support

This change allows for the creation of a “branch without borders,” following the Montana model but allowing for some flexibility in the way the state supports this branch.

Add a paragraph (3) to

ARTICLE X. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. Powers and Duties.

b. Branch Supervision.

(3) Special support to one branch. The state board of directors may give special support to one branch which is established to serve the entire state. This support may include appointing members of the state to fill the branch positions required by the Association. This support shall be in accord with the bylaws of the branch. Those members appointed by the state to serve in branch roles shall be required to join the branch.

Rationale

This change to the bylaws will have no effect unless at least 15 members of the Association choose to establish a branch that would ask for support from the state board. Examples of the support that could be written into the branch bylaws could be:

1. The branch shall have no independent fiscal status. Any dues collected will go through the state treasury and any funds needed will be requested from the state.
2. The branch will have at least one meeting a year, and its annual meeting will be concurrent with a meeting of the state. If there is no quorum at this meeting or if there are vacancies on the branch leadership team for other reasons, the state president, with approval of the state board, may appoint members of the state to serve in the branch roles required by the Association.

Why would we want to form such a branch? One reason is to allow a small group of members to form a “satellite” of this branch. They would join the branch, and could then use the AAUW name in their local community, but would not be required to handle the administrative work that a full branch requires. Another reason is to allow at-large members to join the state and this “low profile” branch – their status would be very much like at-large members of the state, but since they would be on the rolls of this branch, the state leadership team would handle things like annual dues renewals.

Montana is implementing their “branch without borders” as a branch formation. North Carolina is including this change to their state bylaws to clarify that the state does agree that this is a reasonable responsibility for the state board of directors.