

BRANCH ACTION PROJECT

Promotes Gender Equity on Appointed Boards and Commissions

This project can be organized by the Public Policy Committee or a branch Ad Hoc committee. It is suggested that many branch members and other community leaders should be involved in the actual process as “many heads make any project stronger”. Remember the more diverse (examples: age, gender, racial and ethnic groups, physically challenged) the groups you work with the better chance you have to find truly qualified women for local and state and private boards and commissions.

Project Purpose:

- To determine the practices and procedures by which appointments are made to boards and commissions in North Carolina.
- To raise the consciousness of women across the state to the opportunities to serve and how to seek appointment.
- The ultimate goal is to empower women.

Process

- Take the list of ten boards attached and customize for your community
- Find out how decisions to appoint are made
- Find out the process for submitting names for qualified people to be appointed.
- Work with other groups who are supportive of gender equity in appointments.

You can work as a committee of the whole, but I suggest you break down the job into smaller segments (easier to get people to volunteer) and appoint committees such as:

1. Research

The job of this committee would be to identify and prioritize the boards you wish to target by increased numbers of women members. This could vary from community to community.

This group would monitor the upcoming vacancies and give this information to the Talent Committee.

This committee would disseminate the above information for public awareness.

2. Talent

This committee would identify and recruit viable candidates who are committed to empowering women.

SUGGESTED METHOD:

They would design, distribute, collect and review questionnaires from AAUW members and other women in the community who are interesting in serving on Boards and Commissions.

The review of these questionnaires would enable this committee to develop a file of candidates for appointments to be recommended to the Placement Committee. Remember when selecting candidates for state boards and commissions, it is a good idea for the candidate to have served on a local board or commission

This committee would be responsible for recruitment publicity and being a support group of women appointees.

3. Placement

This committee will conduct a vigorous campaign to assure nomination, consideration, and placement of qualified candidates*

***Remember AAUW is non-partisan and you cannot work with political parties.**

When selecting people to serve on this committee look at (1) who knows the local government leadership; (2) who knows your state legislators; (3) people who are effective communicators. Remember some of our best friends are men, so don't hesitate to ask for their help in getting your candidate appointed.

4. Reporting

When the legislation was passed to create gender equity on boards and commissions, the bill contained a reporting section to be completed by all counties for certain boards and commissions. This report should have been submitted by Dec. 31, 2000 to the Secretary of State's office (see your hand – outs for a copy of this report). This report form has caused a lot of confusion at the local levels and many are not yet completed. Ask your local officials if they have completed this report.

Reasons for YOUR branch to become involved:

Many of the public policy decisions made by local and state boards, commissions, and committees have a significant impact on the lives of women: such as your money, your health care, your environment, your job opportunities, your family and your options.

This gives your branch a chance to involve groups that you might not have worked with in the past. This is an excellent way to diversify your branch membership.

Your leadership (AAUW branch) on this project gives you a lot of community visibility and this usually results into new members.

What help will AAUW NC give my branch if we decide to implement this project?

While we can offer no financial support, the State Public Policy Chair (both outgoing and incoming) will be glad to assist you in finding answers to any questions you may encounter as you implement the action plan. You do have a support group at the state level for this project.

We ask that as your branch implements this project, you share the information with us. If or as questions arise, Mary Peterson is as close as your computer (e-mail) phone or fax. She also has US mail delivery: Address: 6303 Gondolier Dr. New Bern 28560
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