



AAUW Q&A for Women's Advocacy Day

March 4, 2003

1. What is the American Association of University Women?

AAUW is a diverse community of college graduates working for equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

2. What does AAUW do in public policy?

AAUW maintains a vigorous voter education and public policy advocacy program. Biennial action priorities include support for public education, economic self-sufficiency for all women, and guarantees of equality, individual rights and social justice for all. The national office in DC publishes a monthly "Action Alert" (available by subscription), and there is a free monthly e-mail alert "Get-the-Facts". Locally, AAUW NC is a member of NC Women United, sponsor of the Women's Agenda Assemblies and Women's Advocacy Day and has an e-mail list and quarterly newsletter to keep its members updated on North Carolina issues.

3. I don't have any time for meetings. Is there some other way I can get the information?

Individuals who do not wish to maintain contact with a branch can join the Association as "members-at-large". That gets you on the mailing list for the national publications and provides certain local privileges like the option of a subscription to the AAUW NC e-mail list. On the other hand, many branch members skip the meetings but find the local membership a good value primarily for the newsletter and yearbook.

4. What are other AAUW programs?

The AAUW Educational Foundation funds fellowships for graduate and post-doctoral studies in all fields and supports research studies on gender equity in education and related topics. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund fights sex discrimination in higher education. Two and four-year institutions of higher education can join the Association as College/University members. NCSU, Meredith, Peace, UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke are among the members in North Carolina.

5. I'm a man. Is any of this important to me?

Some of the programs, such as the graduate fellowships, are restricted to women. However, other programs like the research reports apply to all who are concerned about equity and education issues. For instance, the AAUW report, **Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age** was quoted (by men) in the education

column of the **Communications of the ACM** as raising issues that apply to all students. Male college graduates are welcome as both "branch" and "at-large" members.

6. What about students?

Graduate students are eligible for membership and may be interested in the Fellowships and the Legal Advocacy Fund programs.

Undergraduates at two and four-year institutions may become AAUW student affiliates – either "at-large" or as an affiliate of a branch.

Discounted memberships are available for recent graduates and for undergraduates who wish to work on branch projects.

7. What's happening in North Carolina?

Branches around the state sponsor programs of local interest and provide local networks for those concerned with AAUW issues. There is also an "online satellite" of the Winston-Salem branch that welcomes members from all areas of North Carolina who would rather participate in a "virtual" community or may have difficulty fitting face-to-face meetings into their schedules.

The AAUW NC Convention on April 5-6 in Raleigh will focus on education with workshops on Emerging aging issues, Taking stock of North Carolina's schools, Girls on Track: research on programs in math and science, and Exploring principles of fair trade. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is sponsoring a pre-convention Campus Outreach Program on April 4 to address issues of gender equity on campus.

You'll find registration information for Convention (all are welcome) and more information on current and past activities on the AAUW NC website: www.rtpnet.org/aauwnc.

8. So what does it cost?

At-large membership in AAUW is \$40/year. Branch membership, which includes membership in the national and state organizations, varies, but ranges from about \$55 to \$70. College/University membership ranges from \$125 to \$350 depending on enrollment and includes an at-large membership for one representative. Research reports run \$6 to \$15. There is no membership requirement to apply for Fellowships or support from LAF.

Please contact us for more information:

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AAUW North Carolina: www.rtpnet.org/aauwnc, aauwnc@rtpnet.org, 800/320-3933

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