

# Board Design: Aligning Form and Function

Leadership Day 2017

In this workshop we'll review the AAUW requirements for a branch board, then use a "member-centered" board design approach to explore alternative board structures.

## Branch Board Requirements



# Branch Board Requirements

According to the AAUW Bylaws, branches are only required to have a branch president/administrative and finance contacts.

Branch Model Bylaws Winter 2017

Section 2. Organization (same for incorporated branches)

- a. Purpose. Affiliates shall promote the purposes, programs, and policies of AAUW.
- b. Bylaws. Affiliates shall develop bylaws as meet their needs. However, any such bylaws shall not conflict with AAUW Bylaws or with applicable law.
- c. Structure. Affiliates may create such leadership structures as meet their needs. Each Affiliate shall provide AAUW with designated contacts for administration and finance.

The IRS requires board meeting notes to be taken.

Source: Governance Workshop AAUW National Convention 2015

## Member-centered Board Design

***Optimize Board structure around how members want and/or need their leadership to be.***

Create a governance structure & environment that facilitates Volunteer Satisfaction - Good bylaws, policies & orderly meetings:

Free members to focus on mission-based activities and enjoyment

Attracts and retains members

Entices members to participate in leadership

Teaches leadership skills

Good governance facilitates & encourages:

Great mission-based work for women and girls

Making new and interesting friends keeping them for years

Having fun together

# Alternative Governance Example

## 2008-2012

In April 2008 a number of concerned members met to explore options for keeping our Branch alive. We did not want to disband or merge, and... no one would volunteer to be on the board. After a retrospective and much discussion the group decided that working as a Coordinating Committee would be a doable solution.

Ah-Ha! We acknowledged that life has many demands and we need to integrate AAUW in a way that is sustainable.

Minimum roles needed: Administrative contact as required by AAUW Bylaws; coordinates the Committee, facilitates meetings and does her best to energize the Branch. Treasurer, Secretary (rotating), Program Coordinator, and Membership Coordinator.

Other roles: Newsletter Editor, Scholarship Coordinator, Tech Trek Coordinator and Co-conspirators (members who as possible attend meetings and work on projects but do not want a formal role/commitment).

## Member-centered Board Design Worksheet

**5 min.**

**5 min.**

**5 min.**

Common Understanding of Current Situation	What's Not Working & Why	What Is Working & Why

**What new design might work for us?**

**15 min.**

(Counter the Negative "Because," capitalize on what's good)

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## Member-centered Board Design Worksheet

<b>What roles do we need? (create new roles as needed)</b>	<b>Role Description/Responsibilities Can the role be shared or rotated? What is the minimum viable set of responsibilities? GEFN!</b>