Living our Vision of Equity for All

March 16, 2021
Presentation materials:
- Download the presentation from the AAUW California website home page.
- The meeting recording, a summary Q&A document and example documents will be posted following the meeting.

Questions:
- Use the Q&A function to pose a question. We’ll stop periodically to answer general questions.
- Chat has been disabled.
Agenda

Welcome and Introductions
AAUW membership
AAUW mission
Reasons to adopt the bylaws amendment
AAUW California support of bylaws amendment
Q&A
Presenters

Sharon Schuster  
Past President,  
AAUW National and  
AAUW California

Dianne Owens  
President,  
AAUW California

Nancy Shoemaker  
Co-Founder, Open Up AAUW  
Past President, AAUW NC  
Member, AAUW California Online
History of AAUW Membership

1881
- Founded as Association of Collegiate Alumnae
  - 17 women – Boston
  - Promote higher education for women
  - Support women in occupations
  - Utilize their education for the benefit of society and themselves

1883
- Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae
  - Based in Chicago
  - Established a fellowships fund
  - Worked with Hull House

1903
- Southern Associate of College Women
  - Worked to establish 4 year college programs in South
History of AAUW Membership (continued)

- **American Association of University Women**
  - Formed in Washington DC
  - Committee on standards determined which colleges were included for membership
  - National bylaws changed to establish national membership criteria
  - Graduates of Regionally Accredited Colleges allowed to join
  - Men allowed to join
  - Graduates with an associate or equivalent degree allowed to join

- 1921
- 1933
- 1949
- 1963
- 1987
- 2005
The Unchanged Nature of AAUW’s Mission

- Research
- Education
- International connections
- Community action
- Political action
- Personal growth
- Equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy
The Relevance of a Degree to Our Mission

- Times have changed.
- We have changed.
- Now is the time to change again.
AAUW Mission, Vision, and Values

**Mission**  To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**Vision**  Equity for all.

**Values**  Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

*This is who we are, all of us in AAUW*
Basis of the Degree Requirement

- From our early days to 1987, our purpose (Bylaws Article II) included uniting alumnae.
- That changed to uniting graduates when we admitted men.
- In 2009 we deleted “uniting graduates” and used “advancing equity for women and girls...” as our purpose.
- So, why the degree requirement NOW?

Honor the values we say we hold.
Results of the Contradiction

Others perceive us as:

- Elitist
- Out of touch with cultural change
- Not honoring the value of inclusion

We are weaker without all our allies

- At our table as members, or
- Willing to partner with us

We need to LIVE our mission, vision and values.
Without a Degree, What Makes Us Unique?

Our strategies to advance gender equity
- Our series of respected reports
- Our public policy and advocacy
- Our fellowships and grants
- Our programs that often engage our campus partners

Our extensive network of branches
- Each with its unique character.
- Supporting grassroots advocacy
- Running local programs and projects
- Fostering social and networking opportunities
My Personal AAUW Journey

"Only she who attempts the absurd can achieve the impossible."
Change...

- is constant
- can be challenging
- helps us thrive and grow
- helps to keep us moving
- is opportunity in disguise
- helps us to think like an entrepreneur
- helps us be optimistic
AAUW California Board of Directors’ Support of the Bylaws Amendment

- Voted to endorse the proposal
- Appointed a working group to develop tools and an educational campaign
  - Developed a social media campaign.
    - Featured videos and messages from AAUW influencers
  - Conducted an informational webinar which can be shared with branches.
  - Distributed sample branch newsletter.
  - Developed “Talking Points.”
  - Posted relevant articles on the AAUW California website.
Voting Period April 7 - May 17, 2021
Questions
Resources

 Degrees of Equality: The American Association of University Women and the Challenge of Twentieth-Century Feminism

 Susan Levine

AAUW National Tools

- Bylaws change language
- Open membership toolkit
- Talking points
- Discussion guide

AAUW California Tools

- Talking points
- Sample branch newsletter
- Leadership videos