



## **American Association of University Women Glossary of Acronyms and Frequently Used Terms**

This glossary is composed mainly of acronyms, terms, and phrases used by AAUW National , which is referred to as AAUW. Terms and phrases used by AAUW California are identified as such.

**AAUW** - American Association of University Women. Name was adopted in 1921 through the merger of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae and the Southern Association of Collegiate Women. There are no periods between the initials. AAUW includes both a section 501(c)(3), the primary membership organization, and the AAUW Action Fund, a smaller section (501(c)(4) social welfare organization that may engage in limited activities related to member activism and voter education.

**AAUW Action Network** – A network of members who are interested in influencing legislative issues affecting women and girls. Action Network enables anyone with an email address to receive timely notification of legislative activity on important issues and take action to affect the outcome. The Two-Minute Activist email alert system is the vehicle for this action.

**AAUW California** - AAUW California is the organizational unit of AAUW conforming to California state boundaries and corporate law. AAUW California is a non-profit public benefit corporation. Mailing address: 1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100 Sacramento CA 95833. Email address: [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org). Phone: (916) 692-5125. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and is closed Friday through Sunday.

**AAUW California Board of Directors** - The AAUW California Board of Directors is comprised of 12 directors and officers. Officers are President, President-Elect (Vice President), Secretary and CFO (Chief Financial Officer). Except for the officers, directors run for the board without portfolio. The officers and directors are elected statewide by the voting members of AAUW California. In addition, the board may appoint a parliamentarian who serves as a consultant to the board and to the Executive Committee. The board may also appoint an Assistant to the President.

**AAUW California website** - [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) posts current information on events, public policy, forms, membership, AAUW Fund news, bylaws, policies and procedures and links to the



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AAUW National website.

**AAUW Endowment** – There are more than 1,000 separate AAUW Fund codes. The majority identify our named, restricted funds, collectively called the AAUW Endowment, which provides the support for AAUW’s Fellowships and Grants. The endowment is 501(c)(3) exempt.

**AAUW National** – The national organization including the entire membership and the staff. Also used as an adjective to signify national level: National policy, National convention, etc. Always capitalized. AAUW National’s email address is connect@aauw.org.

**AAUW In Action** – The AAUW National publication containing how-to information for branch leaders, updates and convention news sent to every member.

**AAUW National Website** – [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) – The website features information on AAUW's mission-based projects and initiatives, updates on public policy issues within AAUW's field of vision, research reports, online publications including *Action Alert*, updates on AAUW Fund, LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) fellows and litigants; *Shop AAUW*, links to state websites and more.

**AAUW Strategic Plan** – A national model of goals, indicators of success and strategies that reflect an integrated approach to fulfilling AAUW’s mission, vision and values.

**AAUW Washington Update** – A weekly newsletter published by the Public Policy and Governmental Relations Department of AAUW. Contains updates on federal legislation supported or opposed by AAUW and suggestions for branch and individual action.

**AAUW Values Statement**– Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

**Branch** – The local unit of AAUW; never called a chapter or club. There are approximately 1300 branches nationwide and 800 College/University institution partners (defined later in this document).



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**Branch Dues Report** – The traditional Branch Dues Report (BDR) form is sent via email the first week of May to the branch finance officers with a copy sent to presidents and membership vice presidents. The BDR comes in PDF file format and must be printed and completed by hand. State dues are sent to the AAUW California separately unless the branch participates in the National Membership Payment Program (MPP), defined later in this document..

**Branch Officer Report (BOR)** – Report produced by AAUW California that lists the names and contact information for branch officers. A very important communication tool.

**Branch member** – A member of an AAUW branch who pays annual branch and national dues.

**California Perspective** - The AAUW California publication sent three times a year to all AAUW California members. It contains pre and post-convention information, California legislative news, state programs and branch news.

**Campus Action Project** – A Program-in-a-Box to develop an idea and apply for an AAUW Campus Action Project grant to present a program or project that helps break through educational and economic barriers that women face on campus.

**Campus Programs** – These include campus action projects as well as Programs-in-a-Box such as Campus Sexual Assault: A Program-in-a-Box to raise awareness about campus sexual assault so that everyone can help end it, LAF Campus Outreach Program: A Program-in-a-Box to help local institutions combat sex discrimination and \$tart \$mart: A Program-in-a-Box to provide women college students entering the job market with tools to negotiate salaries and benefits.

**College/University(C/U) Member** – A College or University that joins AAUW. AAUW's College/University Partner Member Program provides educational institutions the opportunity to easily share all the benefits of AAUW with their students, faculty, and staff. Partners collaborate with branches on community programs, receive national visibility, and benefit from AAUW's powerful network that supports them and advocates on their behalf. Any regionally accredited



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two-year or four-year higher education institution is eligible to join the partner membership program. Information on the fee and membership period can be found on the AAUW website, [aauw.org](http://aauw.org).

**College/University Representative** - The liaison between the member college or university and the local branch. A representative's National dues are included in the dues paid by the institution, however if the representative joins a California branch, they pay only branch dues.

**District** – A geographical division of AAUW California.

**Diversity Statement** - AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

**Dual Member** - A member of more than one branch who pays branch dues to each branch. Pays AAUW National and state dues to primary branch only.

**E-Student Affiliate** – E-student affiliation is free for all full-time undergraduate students attending an AAUW College/University Partner member institution. Each e-student affiliate will receive free full membership to AAUW for one year as a graduation gift. See also Student and Graduate Student.

**Fellowships** - Stipends awarded by AAUW Fund to women scholars (called fellows), both from the United States and many countries around the world for advanced research at the dissertation and postdoctoral levels. They are never called scholarships.

**Fifty-Year Honorary Life Membership** - A branch member who has paid AAUW National dues for 50 years is thereafter exempt from AAUW National dues as an honorary life member. The membership years need not be consecutive, but must add up to 50. Many branches and states



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exempt honorary life members from branch and state dues.

**Give a Grad a Gift** - AAUW National membership promotion that allows members to give a free one-year AAUW National membership to a new college graduate.

**Graduate Student Affiliate** – A current graduate student can join AAUW at a special introductory rate of \$18.81 for the first year and \$59 per year thereafter. See also Student and E-Student.

**Helpline** – Toll-free AAUW National contact number (800-326-AAUW) (800-326-2289) staffed from 7:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in AAUW's Washington D.C. office.

**IBC** - Interbranch Council, composed of representatives from all branches in a geographic area. Council members act together regional public policy matters affecting AAUW's public policy issues, host forums and symposiums together and exchange program ideas.

**LAF Campus Outreach Program** – A Program-in- a-Box to help local institutions combat sex discrimination.

**Leader on Loan Program**– (**AAUW CA**) An AAUW California service to branches in which current or past state leaders travel to branches to speak, lead workshops and assist in solving branch problems.

**Leader on Loan Program** – (**National**) An AAUW National service to states in which current or past national leaders travel to states to speak, lead workshops and assist in solving problems.

**Life Member** - A branch member who pays a one-time lump sum equaling 20 times National dues and thereafter pays only branch and state dues. National members (see below) may also become life members.

**Lobby Corps**: - Local member volunteers who lobby Capitol Hill and state legislators on



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AAUW priority issues.

**Membership Payment Program (MPP)** – The Membership Payment Program (MPP) is a voluntary payment program that offers states and branches online dues payment processing, membership management, and a tracking tool. MPP is an enhanced feature within the AAUW Member Services Database (MSD).

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

**MPP** - see Membership Payment Program.

**Named Gift Honoree** – An individual who is honored by an AAUW branch or AAUW California for dedication to AAUW and its programs when a branch makes a minimum total donation to AAUW Fund.

**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) (pronounced “nickwhistle”)** - An annual conference of college women sponsored by AAUW National which brings together women student campus leaders from around the country to network and to learn skills such as civic engagement, advocacy, career planning and life balance.

**National Member (formerly Member-at-Large)** - A member who belongs to National and may belong to a state but does not belong to a branch.

**Outlook** – A national publication published electronically twice a year to every AAUW member. Contains feature articles about women’s equity, AAUW news and information on priority issues.

**Program-in-a-Box** – An online resource to help members consider and choose program activities for their branches. Each Program-in-a-Box outlines an activity that could be chosen for a branch, with the “what, why, and how” to implement that program. Programs-in -a-Box reflect a wide range of AAUW activities; recommendations for additional Programs-in-a-Box



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may be emailed to [programinbox@aauw.org](mailto:programinbox@aauw.org).

**Public Policy Program** – Establishes the federal action priorities on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts and guides the work of the public policy staff. Composed of principles for action and biennial action priorities.

**Special Projects Fund (SPF)** - A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, unique to AAUW California, which serves as a pass-through fund, enabling state or branch projects to collect tax-deductible donations from individuals and corporations without having to establish themselves as a separate non-profit entity.

**Speech Trek** – An AAUW California program which encourages high school students to develop their career-enhancing speaking skills and increases their knowledge of AAUW and its mission.

**STEM** – Acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

**Start Smart** – A Program-in-a-Box to provide women college students entering the job market with tools to negotiate salaries and benefits.

**Student Affiliate** – Students at institutions that are not AAUW College/University partner members can join AAUW for \$17 a year. See also e-Student and Graduate Student.

**Tech Trek** - A one-week STEM camp designed to develop interest, excitement, and self-confidence in incoming 8th grade girls in order to encourage them to pursue careers in STEM fields.

**Title IX** - A federal law that bans sex discrimination in education. It states (in part) that , “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” “Title IX Compliance: Know the Score” is a Program-in-a-Box that



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helps high schools reach Title IX compliance in athletics without the threat of expensive litigation.

**Tool Kits** - Publications designed to help branch leaders in the areas of change management, diversity, leadership skills and the job of branch president as well as the information and forms required for the implementation of specific projects, such as AAUW California's Speech Trek.

**Two -Minute Activist** – A vehicle for action within the AAUW Action Network. Subscribers receive a text or email message about legislative issues affecting women and girls with a suggestion for how to take action on them.. The concept is: one minute to read and one minute to personalize a message to the appropriate legislator.

**Work Smart** - Created for working women, Work Smart is an interactive workshop that teaches women to evaluate, negotiate, and articulate their worth confidently in the job market.

**Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF)** - A movement by and for younger women to fight for social justice. Together they form a diverse and inclusive group of activists, organizers, allies, and professionals on the local and national levels.