

NYW AAUW State Project 2006-2008

Using the new mission and vision statements, each branch is asked to create an advocacy project. This project is expected to last three years. For 2006-7, our goal will be to have branches identify a project, incorporate it into their planning for the 2007-2008 year, and bring project ideas to the summer leadership conference in 2007. In the fall branches start their studies. 2007-8 will be a year of study leading to action and of voter education. In fall 2008 some projects will be completed and evaluated. The information gathered and actions planned may be relevant for the upcoming elections in 2007 and 2008 and local voter education

Mission Statement *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

Vision Statement *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

The project should be something which inspires a sense of urgency, passion and commitment and could lead to an outcome that would produce a change.

Questions to find a branch's passion:

What issues especially concern us now?

For each issue ask:

How does this affect women?

How can AAUW members influence this issue?

Has this issue ever been a problem for you?

Which one issue should we select?

What will we do about it?

Possible issues would include (but not be limited to)

Voter registration, voter's guide, GOTV, getting voters to the polls,

Sexual harassment Pay equity

Education funding Child Care

Quality of local education Health

Social Security Pensions

Medical research on women College loans

Environment Elder care

Public transportation Sandwich generation

College tuition Senior housing

These issues were the result of brain-storming at the state board meeting and are suggestions. **It was agreed that the issue(s) a branch chooses should:**

- 1) have wide acceptance by branch members,
- 2) relate clearly to the AAUW mission
- 3) provide education for members and the community
- 4) encourage diversity which includes age, gender, race, handicaps, culture.....
- 5) provide multi-layered projects (see the actions below).

Possible branch actions would include

- Publishing information
- Lobbying/educating local officials
- Having branch meeting or public forum programs on the topic
- Reaching out to the community or other groups in the community
- Creating PSA/letters to the editor/op-ed pieces
- Adding entries to the state blog (send entry to any state board member)
- Letter writing to officials
- Speaker's Bureau listing of knowledgeable speakers (members)
- And so on

Time Line:2006-2007

- Branches select projects
- Branch reports/sharing at Delta

Fall 2007-2008

- Planning and study by branches commences
- Voter education--local
- Fact Sheets on display at convention
- Branches share information at leadership conferences

2008-9

- Implementation and Action
- 21st Century Recognition