

What do your annual dues support?

By Edwina Frances Martin, Esq., AAUW-NYS President

When you pay your annual dues, a portion goes to AAUW national, a portion goes to the state, and a portion goes to your local branch. AAUW national is the national voice for AAUW, promoting the mission, vision and goals of AAUW on a national level, and providing support to members and branches through leadership, grant and scholarship programs and funding. AAUW-NYS provides support to its local branches to promote AAUW, raise visibility, provide community leadership, and attract new members dedicated to the mission of AAUW. At the local level, members live the mission of AAUW and are the lifeblood of the organization – giving local scholarships, collaborating with like-minded organizations to address critical community needs, and providing leadership in their local communities on issues of importance to AAUW. Your annual dues support:

1. The promotion of AAUW's overall mission, vision and goals by the national office on a national level:
 - *Mission:* AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
 - *Value Promise:* By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.
 - *Vision Statement:* AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.
 - *Diversity Statement:* AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

2. The lobbying, public policy and research work of the national office, including in 2015-16:
 - Fighting for women's rights – recent work includes addressing sexual assault on campus;
 - Promoting STEM careers for young girls and women;
 - Advocating for Pay Equity;
 - Producing the report *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing*, which takes a closer look at the STEM fields where the jobs are but women aren't;
 - Lobbying for [Reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\)](#);
 - Producing a [New Toolkit for Title IX Coordinators](#);
 - Lobbying for the [STEM Opportunities Act of 2015 \(H.R.467\)](#); and
 - Continued advocacy on issues such as the [Gender Wage Gap, Work-Life Balance, and Economic Justice](#) (i.e., the Paycheck Fairness Act, increasing the Minimum Wage, Paid Family Leave and Paid Sick Days, Health Care and Reproductive Health, and Decreasing Student Loan Debt).

3. The grant programs and legal advocacy and workshop projects of the national office, including:
 - [The Legal Advocacy Fund](#);
 - [Elect Her–Campus Women Win](#);
 - [Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop](#);
 - Campus leadership Programs; and
 - [Tech Trek](#), [Elect Her](#), [Tech Savvy](#).

4. The grants and programming provided for you by the state, including:
 - [The AAUW-NYS Branch Grant Program](#);
 - [The AAUW-NYS District Conference Grant Program](#);
 - The annual summer leadership conference;
 - The *Focus* newsletter; and
 - The Business Meeting at the annual convention.

5. Last but not least, your dues support the scholarships and programming of your local branch!

The combination of national, state and local work is what makes being a member of AAUW so powerful and special – we are truly the change makers of our communities and our nation!