

AAUW

MEMBERSHIP BASICS

Membership Vice President is one of the most fun and important branch positions. You'll need several hats: recruiter, record-keeper, and meeter and greeter. Job share if you can find a friend or two with some of these talents. In a small branch, one person may be both membership vice president and treasurer. It's easier to keep track of new members if the form is sent to the membership VP who

- a. Calls or sends a note of welcome
- b. Notifies the newsletter editor who adds the new member to the mailing list
- c. Writes announcements about new members for the newsletter
- d. Sends the check and information to the treasurer

The treasurer fills out the new member form and sends copies and dues to the state treasurer and the association. The treasurer or membership VP keeps the branch copy of the forms for your records.

Membership categories:

1) Regular members. Any woman or man who holds a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university is eligible for membership. To join, an individual pays your combined local, state, and association dues:

- Association
- New York State
- Branch (each branch sets its own local dues; most are from \$10 to \$30 or more
\$59-\$79 total - depending on expenses and the local economy)

2) Dual members. Some women belong to two branches. They pay Association, state, and local dues in their primary branch, and local dues to the secondary branch. If the branches are in different states, they also pay state dues to the secondary branch.

3) Paid Life Members. You can become a member of the Association for life by paying 20 times the current association dues. Paid life members pay only state and local dues.

4) Honorary or 50-Year Life Members. Anyone who has been a member of the Association for 50 (consecutive/non-consecutive) years is eligible for honorary membership. Obtain an application form from the AAUW HELPLINE 800-236-AAUW or email helpline@aauw.org. Honorary members do not pay Association dues or state dues, and many branches waive local dues.

5) Student Affiliates. Undergraduates of a regionally accredited two- or four-year college or university may affiliate with your branch. They pay reduced Association dues and no state dues. Branches decide if students should pay local dues and the amount.

6) Graduate Students pay full association dues, but **no state dues**. Many branches waive local dues to keep membership affordable for graduate students.

6) Individual Members (Members-at-Large.) Members who have joined the Association but not a local branch are called individual members (members-at-large or MALs.) You can obtain names and addresses of IM's in your area from the state MVP or mailing labels from the Association and invite them to join your branch by paying state and branch dues. For a sample MAL recruitment letter, call or email the state MVP.

7) College/University Members. Colleges and universities can join AAUW as an institution and designate a member of the faculty or administration as the college representative. If a college in your area is a member of AAUW, invite the representative to join your branch. She pays state and local dues to your branch but not Association dues.

Membership Year. The AAUW membership year is from July 1 to June 30. Members who join from January 1 to March 15 pay half-year dues. Members who join after March 15 count for the next year.

Membership ID Number. The Association no longer sends membership cards. Your AAUW member identification number is located above your name on the AAUW Outlook mailing label or you can look it up online at the Association web site.

International Federation of University Women. When you join AAUW you also become a member of IFUW, a worldwide network of women's organizations.

Membership Tool Kit. The Association has produced a Membership Tool Kit as part of its Leadership Library with more information than you'll need about being a Membership Vice President and recruiting new members. If your branch did not receive one, download a copy from the Association web site or the AAUW NYS Public Policy & Voter Education Resources CD distributed at the 2004 State Convention.

Shape the Future Membership Campaign. Take advantage of the Association membership incentives to increase your membership:

1. Plan a program that will appeal to women in your community, such as a Sister-to-Sister Summit, Transitions Conference for women, or Voter Education event.
2. Have all guests sign your guest list for later contact.
 - a. Offer discounts to join on the spot: save \$10 off Association dues (a 25% discount.)
 - b. Join with a friend and get 2 memberships for 1 (a 50 % discount.)
3. To qualify for discounts send AAUW the guest list, referral form, new member form, and dues within 2 weeks of your event.
4. The branch earns:
 - a. One free association membership for every 2 new branch members recruited on the spot.
 - b. One free association membership for every 3 new individual members (members-at-large) recruited on the spot.
5. Use the free membership to help a low-income member, or raffle it to build your treasury.
6. For more information on the Association's membership campaign plus guest/referral forms, contact the helpline: 800/326-AAUW or helpline@aauw.org or <http://www.aauw.org>

NEW YORK STATE DISCOUNTS: You do not have to collect state dues for undergraduate student affiliates, graduate student members, or recent grads who join through the Give a Grad a Gift program, but do notify the state treasurer so she will count these members in your total.

Plan a membership project. Apply for up to \$75 in state funds. Questions? Contact Diane Silvestro, Membership Vice President, 6 Belvoir Road, Buffalo NY 14221; phone: 716-631-3349; e-mail: belvoir6@hotmail.com. Or check the AAUW New York website at www.aauw-nys.org.