

## AAUW TALKING POINTS

### What is AAUW?

We are the **American Association of University Women**. We are New York's most active and diverse organization for women, offering action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership, and friendships.

When you join the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of AAUW, you are also joining New York State AAUW, the national Association with headquarters in Washington, D.C., and the International Federation of University Women. Together, we are changing the world.

### What is the purpose of AAUW?

We are an organization of women and men who promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

### Who belongs to AAUW?

Here in New York there are 3,200 members in more than 40 **local branches** throughout the state and some 3,000 individual members (members at large.) **Nationally** there are 100,000 AAUW members. The only requirement for membership is that you hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. AAUW members are women in every stage of life, from all religions and ethnic backgrounds, with a wide range of interests and expertise. AAUW's diversity is its strength.

### What does AAUW do?

We make a difference in our community and the nation. We educate voters, mentor young women, sponsor community forums, promote equity in education, fight sexual harassment, lobby legislators, encourage women to run for public office, and influence school board policy.

We change the classroom. Members use the AAUW **Educational Foundation's** groundbreaking research to advocate for K-12 classrooms that are gender fair and free of sexual harassment. We reward and publicize innovative college programs that further Progress in Equity on college campuses.

We help women succeed in higher education. AAUW is the largest source of non-governmental funding for women graduate students. Each year the AAUW **Educational Foundation** awards millions in graduate fellowships to college women across the nation, funds that are raised each year from individual members and branches.

The **Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funds and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education.

AAUW is personal and professional growth. AAUW members know that education doesn't end with college, and they understand that knowledge is power.

- AAUW helps women develop their leadership skills through training and experience in group dynamics, communications, and goal setting.
- AAUW networks offer information and support for career women and women in transition.

AAUW is community leadership. Skilled, educated women are needed to get important things done in our communities.

- AAUW sponsors community projects and programs such as educational equity conferences, voter information nights, and public forums on local issues.
- AAUW encourages members to become actively involved in government and to support each other in community action programs.

AAUW is friendships.

- AAUW provides an opportunity for dynamic, educated women throughout the state, nation, and world to meet and work together for positive societal change.
- AAUW interest groups and social activities help build strong friendships and a feeling of sisterhood.

Your most influential talking point will be your answer to this:

**I am a member of AAUW because**