

February 2016 Highlights

Hello everyone,

From this little bit of AAUW history, we see not much has changed in the pay equity arena since 1913.

A Bit of AAUW History

1913 – Report on Civil Service Jobs and Pay

The ACA (Association of Collegiate Alumnae) continues its efforts to secure pay equity for women with the Washington, D.C., branch's study of civil service jobs. The report details the number of women employed by 13 government departments, the positions they hold, and their salaries. It finds that women are paid about 78 percent of what men who are similarly employed earn.

Do you know – The Public Policy Highlights are on the AAUW-PA website. Hover your cursor over the Public Policy tab to see the drop down menu and then click on Highlights. All the Highlights from August 2015 through February 2016 are there. Let your branch members know this is another way to access public policy information.

Quick reminder – Please send us your Gateway to Equity Award recipients by February 15 for inclusion in the AAUW-PA convention yearbook.



Available resources - To help with Pay Equity, GOTV, Education or any other public policy issue related events, AAUW has developed a new website full of resources for public policy. Check it out at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/top-tips-for-public-policy-chairs/>

Here's What We Do...

In-District Visits - Schedule one with your legislator and remember that AAUW has fact sheets to brief you before the meeting. Form a lobby corps within your branch and schedule a visit once a month.

Save the Date – Rally and Lobby Day in Harrisburg is April 12 – Equal Pay Day. Mark your calendars now so you're ready to join us as we urge our legislators to “do the right thing” as President Obama says, and pass equal pay legislation.

Equal Pay Day for African American women is August 26
Equal Pay Day for Native American women is September 14
Equal Pay Day for Latina women is October 15.

THIS MUST CHANGE! We must get women “out of the red!”

Action Alert – Make your voice heard in Congress and Pennsylvania. [Sign up for the Two Minute Activist](#) now. Challenge your branch members to sign up with you. We'll have a contest in Pennsylvania and the branch that has the highest use of action network wins. Prizes will be awarded at the AAUW-PA convention in April.

GOTV - We know that with a presidential election coming up this year, it will be a year filled with advocacy opportunities for us as individuals and as members of AAUW. If you are working with your coalition partners or working just within your branch, now is the time to begin planning your GOTV efforts. The [AAUW website](#) has issue fact sheets, how to guides, the [Congressional Record](#) for the 113th Congress and more.

Important as the presidential election is, state and local races demand our attention too. About one third of the Senate is in play as well as every seat in the House of Representatives. We know that women change the dialog; we bring different perspectives to the issues that face the nation. We need to turn out the vote in the primaries as well as the national election. Let's make this a year where we increase the number of women in elected positions locally, state wide, and nationally.

AAUW national plans to have voter guides for some hotly contested races. Will the Toomey - McGinty race for the United States Senate be one of them? Only time will tell. Perhaps you'd like to make your own Voter Guide. Download the template for state and federal races [here](#).

Tips and Plans for Equal Pay Day Events – Begin planning now!

1. Host a call in day to your legislator
2. Encourage your legislator to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act
3. Ask your mayor to issue a proclamation declaring April 12 Equal Pay Day
4. Get media coverage when receiving the proclamation from the mayor
5. Ask your legislator to sponsor a fair pay bill
6. Have an unequal bake sale or an unhappy hour
7. Write and submit a letter to the editor on Equal Pay Day
8. Start a petition for equal pay
9. Host a forum on equal pay and the gender pay gap
10. **Have fun!**

As women, we must stand up for ourselves. We must stand up for each other. We must stand up for justice for all.

Michelle Obama

February is:

Black History Month
Bake for Family Fun Month
Library Lovers Month
Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month

Important February Dates:

- 1 National Baked Alaska Day and Women's Heart Health Day
- 4 National Girls & Women in Sports Day
- 6 Pay A Compliment Day
- 7 Love Your Robot Day
- 11 Be Electrific Day
- 12 Darwin Day
- 13 Blame Someone Else Day
- 15 President's Day/**Congressional recess – make an in-district visit**
- 22 Be Humble Day
- 26 Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day
- 28 Public Sleeping Day