

A Bit of AAUW History

1931 – 50th Anniversary

On its 50th anniversary, AAUW has 521 branches and 36,800 members. By 1949, those numbers have risen to 1,097 branches and more than 108,000 members.



Although our AAUW year is winding down, it's not over yet. Our Harrisburg rally was a rousing success; just ask anyone who was there. We made the local TV news and may have been on PCN as well. We had fabulous cooperation from our legislators who sponsored HB 1160 and SB 303. If you're in the letter writing mode, sending Senator Rob Teplitz, Representatives Brian Sims and Tina Davis a thank-you note would not be out of order. We had amazing support from our coalition partners as well.

BUT... we need to keep the pressure on our legislators to get our bills out of committee and onto the floor for a vote. Keep sending those Letters to the Editor (LTE) and Op-Ed pieces to your local papers, post on your elected official's Facebook page, and on your own for further distribution, tweet if you're comfortable with the medium.

Have a different member of your branch send an LTE every two weeks for several months. The letters don't have to be long; they can be built around a different equal pay talking point each time always ending with the "ask" and that is "Please bring HB 1160 or SB 303 to the floor and vote **YES** when it comes up for a vote.

At this point in the year, are you still asking "How do I get more branch members involved in Public Policy?"

- Create a friendly competition between branch members to see how many LTEs get published. Be sure to have compelling incentives.

- Partner with a branch in your district and do the same thing.
- Provide resources for branch members who don't see themselves as advocates.
- Find the comfort area of interest/experience/expertise for a particular branch member and make use of that knowledge.

The Pennsylvania Primary is now history and we turn our thoughts to the November election. Keep in mind that it's always time to register voters - art fairs, local festivals, car shows, farmers' markets are just a few places to set up your table and get to work. Begin now to make plans with your C/U partner for voter registration tables when classes begin in the fall. Be ready with all the reasons why voting is important, not the least of which is that it's the best way to effect changes in our government. Pull up the digital [AAUW-PA Voter Toolkit](#) and make a list of organizations and agencies that might have a need for this and really appreciate your initiative here.

Of the many learning experiences and challenges we've had in this public policy year, the one thing that we'd single out would be the extraordinary value of coalitions! For us, whether local organizations such as LWV, NAACP, Planned Parenthood and in-district branches working together or the state wide PA Campaign for Women's Health and Education Voters PA, coalitions have given AAUW-PA Public Policy support, their presence, ideas for strategies, their resources. They have boosted our confidence as we took some risks and stretched AAUW-PA Advocacy efforts. In short, if you haven't already explored the options for partnering or building a local coalition, we strongly encourage you again to give it a try. We believe you will find the benefits exceptionally rewarding.

I always did something I was a little not ready to do. I think that's how you grow. When there's that moment of 'Wow, I'm not really sure I can do this,' and you push through those moments, that's when you have a breakthrough."

Marissa Mayer, CEO of Yahoo!

May is:

Date Your Mate Month
Foster Care Month
National Bike Month
Older Americans Month

Important May Dates:

1 May Day
3 National Teachers Day and World Press Freedom Day
5 Cinco de Mayo
8 Mother's Day
11 Twilight Zone Day
16 Love a Tree Day
20 Pick Strawberries Day
25 Tap Dance Day
30 Memorial Day