

Bi-monthly calls – Vote for your favorite day/time

Our bi-monthly calls will continue to alternate with Highlights. We want to make these calls as convenient as possible for you. Calls will be in October, January, March, and May. To find a day that suits most, please participate in this poll. <http://doodle.com/poll/4ew7aze4n6bkikd7>. At this writing, only two people responded.

GOTV for November 8

If you missed our voter registration webinar in August, a copy of the power point which includes the new PA voter registration form was sent to all branch public policy chairs and to presidents of branches acting as chairs. It is also available on the state web site under the public policy/GOTV tab. The new form corresponds to the on line registration form and is much clearer. While the old forms can still be used, you may want to review the new one and the unique situations near the end of the presentation.

Please send us dates and participants of any candidate or issues forums in which your branch is participating. With enough notice, we can send a Salsa blast to persons in that legislative district already registered for action alerts. Don't forget to [register](#) it with national to receive resources and materials free of charge. Complete [activity report](#) to keep national informed of your activity.

There is still time to reach out to a non-profit organization serving underrepresented voters such as the young, elderly, minorities, disabled and families who are struggling economically using the [Voter Toolkit](#) as a resource. The purpose of the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Toolkit is to serve as a resource on topics such as how to register to vote, important dates for the upcoming elections, and who is up for election.

Thank you to the York Branch for providing a letter they are sending to all the schools in their county to encourage them to set aside a day for students and faculty to register to vote. They suggest using computer labs to do so on line and provide the link. The letter is available on the state web site under the public policy, GOTV tab.

Check out the new voter issue guides prepared by AAUW on where candidates stand on our issues. They are posted on the state web site, and don't forget to check registration or register to vote at www.VotesPA.com by October 11.

Register for AAUW's GOTV skills trainings today!

AAUW and the AAUW Action Fund **It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard** campaign harnesses the power of AAUW members to register and turn out millennial women voters nationwide. At a time when young women are less likely to vote and with Election Day rapidly approaching, your branch can spring into action to help Get Out The Vote (GOTV) this fall! Two webinar trainings remain. You will learn all the information and resources you need to educate, and turn out voters. Register for one or both and help make a difference this Election Day!

[Voter Education: It's My Vote Training Part II](#)

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Time: 7–8 p.m. ET

Each election cycle, AAUW members seek to provide all women voters with the information they need to cast their ballots. With so much at stake in this election, our efforts are needed across the country. At this one hour training, you will learn the ins and outs of a successful voter education campaign and tips for you to employ in your branch

this fall. From hosting candidate forums and attending town halls to making use of voter guides, and bird dogging candidates, there are so many ways you can help ensure that women voters are educated, able to exercise their right, and encouraged to do so on Election Day.

Turning Out the Vote on Election Day: It's My Vote Training Part III

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Time: 7–8 p.m. ET

Once you've helped to register and educate eligible voters, how can you ensure that they show up to the polls? Find out in this one hour webinar, which is the final training of our three part series. You will learn the crucial actions necessary to turning out voters on Election Day and actionable strategies for following up with and getting out the vote via the **It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard** campaign.

Education Working Group Update

The Education Working Group is continuing under the leadership of Cheryl Towers and is looking for members. Priorities for this year are below. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Cheryl at (cheryl@towersmaguire.com).

- State budget as it pertains to education. While a bipartisan fair funding formula was enacted, its potential to affect change is problematic as it only applies to new education funding, leaving 97% of education dollars untouched this year. Also on September 13, the PA Supreme Court will hear oral argument in the landmark school funding lawsuit. The lawsuit argues that PA's school funding system is so inadequate and inequitable that it violates provisions in the state constitution that require a "thorough and efficient system of public education" and equal treatment under the law. Partnering with [Education Voters of Pennsylvania](#), we will continue to monitor this situation and alert membership when action is required.
- Cyber school funding and charter school accountability. The York Branch has been attentive to this topic for several years, bringing forth the Education Resolution on Cyber Charter Schools which passed at the state annual meeting in April 2015. Charter school accountability legislation was not included in the state budget and will be addressed separately. We want to bring awareness of the issues to all members and alert membership when action is required.
- Lack of accurate reporting of sexual harassment under Title IX. AAUW has completed an analysis of the recently released U.S. Department of Education's [Civil Rights Data Collection \(CRDC\) for 2013–14](#) on harassment and bullying in America's public schools. The analysis shows 66 percent of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) (public school district, charter school, or system of charter schools) in Pennsylvania reported zero instances of harassment and bullying based on sex in 2013-14. In the nation overall, 68 percent of LEAs reported zero allegations of sexual harassment or bullying — something that AAUW research shows is virtually impossible. We believe the high rate of zeros points to very real problems in LEAs reporting systems. AAUW has provided a sample Letter to the Editor, which can be customized and submitted in your local newspapers. Branches can also deliver resources to your school's Title IX Coordinator. AAUW resources can be found at: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/titleixdelivery/>. We will also post these resources on the state web site.

Final Thoughts

I spent Women's Equality Day with my grandson who is ten. I told him that the day celebrated the date when women were granted the right to vote. He had a hard time understanding why that would be. He found it

incomprehensible that women were denied the right to vote just because they were women. It's great to see the different perspective of the younger generation. Yes we have come a long way and made great strides, since the passage of the 19th Amendment, yet there are still areas where women remain unequal and the gender gap persists. In 2015, the U.S. failed to make the top 10 or even the top 20 of the World Economic Forum's ranking of the [most gender-equal countries](#) — currently in 28th position and falling eight places behind several developing nations since 2014.

The workplace is a particular problem. According to the Center for American Progress, women “are only 25 percent of executive and senior level officials and managers, hold only 19 percent of board seats, and are only 4.6 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs.” And of course as AAUW has documented, the gender pay gap is alive and well.

In light of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, WalletHub's analysts identified the most gender-egalitarian states by comparing them across 15 key metrics. The data set ranges from the gap between female and male executives to the disparity between women's and men's unemployment rates. Pennsylvania ranked 47th out of the 50 states. Our scores in the three focus areas were: Workplace Environment - 45.15, Education - 34, and Political Empowerment - 40.

I am just as astonished by this low rank for our country and Pennsylvania as my grandson was by Women's Equality Day. This is why we do public policy and why we need to keep working. The personal is political. When women succeed it raises the quality of life for everyone.

Any questions or comments, you may always contact us at aauwpapp1@gmail.com (Barbara Price) and aauwpapp2@gmail.com (Ann Pehle).

September

National Campus Safety Awareness Month

September 6: Congress returns from August recess

September 13: Native American Women's Equal Pay Day

September 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month begins

September 27: National Voter Registration Day

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

National Bullying Prevention Month

October 3: First day of the 2016-17 U.S. Supreme Court term

October 11: U.N. International Day of the Girl Child

October 10 - November 11: Congressional recess (district and state work period)