

## AAUW Overview/Goals for the National, State and Branch Entities

**Our Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

**Our Vision:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

**Our Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

**National** – Since the first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change and improving women’s lives. Today, AAUW boasts approximately 100,000 members – women and men of different generations, races, and political affiliations. With more than 1,000 branches and 500 college and university partners, AAUW members across the country contribute to a more promising future for women and girls.

Members share a strong commitment, and AAUW is well known on Capitol Hill and in the civil rights and women’s advocacy communities. AAUW has been working to advance women’s equity for more than 128 years, integrating our time, our energy, and our philanthropy. Although members come from cities, towns, and rural areas across the country and overseas, AAUW is one united community, dedicated to advancing opportunity and equity for women and girls.

Today, more than ever, our AAUW community:

- *Protects* the legal rights of those facing discrimination,
- *Educates* women for a lifetime of success,
- *Advocates* for laws that give women a fair chance,
- *Researches* educational and economic barriers that harm women, and
- *Leads* and teaches others to lead in our schools, communities, and country.

**State** – AAUW of Oregon promotes advocacy, takes action to empower women and girls, and connects the Association with branch members.

The State organization, like National, has an active Public Policy focus calling for, among other things:

- Adequate and stable funding for public education and equal opportunity for all to broad-based education.
- Laws that protect all persons without regard to gender, race, creed, class, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.
- Programs that eliminate sexual harassment.
- Adequate funding for education, public safety, and human services.
- Support for all reproductive health options, as well as universal availability and accessibility to health care.

**Branch** - The Ashland Branch of AAUW is the largest branch in Oregon. The Branch has many local projects and interest groups it supports in addition to the national AAUW scholarships, legal advocacy, public policy, and research. Specific goals of the Branch include the following:

- *Enrich Members' experience of our Branch* through establishment of a more comprehensive Membership Committee outreach and communication of resources and opportunities. The Branch also focuses on increasing Member participation and retention, as well as designing and conducting four public community forums each year on topics of importance and interest.
- *Support equity and education for women and girls* by expanding Members' awareness of and participation in the Projects that result in direct benefits in this area and support our Mission and Vision. Members are encouraged to explore new Projects and ways of improving the depth and breadth of our support for the community.
- *Commit to civic and community action* in our expanding public policy work and increasing public awareness and support of AAUW achievements.
- *Activate National association principles and programs within the Ashland Branch* by evaluating our Programs and Projects in light of the National association's priorities and themes, as well as encouraging local participation at the State and National levels.