

January 17, 2023

The Bath Branch



Visit us at: <http://bath-ny.aauw.net>

Book Club:

We will meet at the Hammondsport library at 12:30 on February 16th at 12:30 and will be discussing "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult.

--submitted by Sally Murphy

Next Meeting February 7, 2023 "Nancy Louk-Murphy, her career and Title IX":

Where: Hammondsport library- Fred and Harriett Taylor Memorial Library

When: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm

What: Nancy Louk-Murphy, (Sally Murphy's mother) will be discussing her career in counseling and how it led to her work as director of Title IX at Houghton College.

--submitted by Linda Haley & Sally Jacoby-Murphy

President's Message:

Happy New Year, Everyone!

*"Yesterday is gone.
Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today.
Let us begin."*

Mother Teresa

May 2023 treat we women of AAUW kindly! I wish you all a healthy and happy 2023!

The future of our branch looks bright! Just think in 2023 we will be celebrating 70 years of our Bath Branch!

We continue to bear in mind the mission and strategic plan of AAUW. The Five-Star Criteria and Resources for 2023 have been posted and acts as a resource for us as we conduct business and plan for the sustainability of our branch. As you read in last month's Branch, we are proposing some revisions to our bylaws to guide us with a succession plan for governance. We are submitting the bylaws for review and comment to both our membership and AAUW-NYS. Our bylaws were last updated in 2016.

What a community we live in!

Our August program included a trip to Bristol Valley Theater to view together *Amy and the Orphans*. The play showcased one very productive and talented actress. Our understanding of Down's Syndrome was deepened by the experience shared on a local stage.

Our October speaker was Brady Dean who shared his life story of living with Cerebral Palsy. He is an inspiring gentleman and we found great value in his talk.

November found us at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum. Nan Scinta, of AAUW-NYS, joined us for luncheon and shared her energy and passion for AAUW and information about her role as Public Policy Vice-President for AAUW-NYS.

Our December holiday party was enjoyable and entertaining. AAUW BB is all about FRIENDSHIP!

That brings us to January. The High School Library at Haverling in Bath was a lovely venue. Ann S. Nicholson of Corning, Inc. shared her personal story of how her career has evolved. She recounted how she grew into her many and varied work roles. Her determination to mesh her interests and talents with the company she works for was inspiring and thought-provoking.

Our speakers are amazing! After listening and learning from their experiences we have a much broader understanding of our local community and the world just outside our front doors. Hope to see you all soon!

Minutes of January 3, 2023 Meeting:

AAUW Bath Branch Minutes January 3, 2023 Haverling High School Library Program: Speaker Ann Nicholson spoke on "My Journey From a STEM Career In Engineering To a Senior Management Position"

Business Meeting Called to Order at 7PM

- A motion to accept minutes from 11/6/2022 as published in the newsletter, was made by Nancy Cole and seconded by Linda Haley and was passed.
- President Susanne Curran noted that Five Star Criteria has been updated for 2023 and is available on National AAUW website. It is hoped we can qualify for several stars.
- Bylaws: Proposed changes to bylaws were included in the December issue of the Branch and will be available again in January's newsletter. Suggested changes, including new positions for President Elect and Social Media Chair, will be submitted to State and then will be voted on by membership at our April meeting.
- Treasurer Report: Balance is \$2800.19.
- Program: Sally Jacoby-Murphy's mother Nancy, will speak about her experiences working with Title Nine on February 7 at the Hammondsport library.
- EOF: Scholarship applications will be going out to local high school girls.
- Communications: Newsletter items are due by 1/12.
- Public Policy: NYS first woman governor was elected this past November. Barbara Walters and her many accomplishments was acknowledged upon her recent death.
- Book club will be meeting 3rd Thursday of each month. Titles are available in newsletter.
- New Business:
 - Caren Tobin will contact the Dorman Library about the purchase of a book in memory of Willie Bilancio, a longtime member who passed away this past June.

--submitted by Bonnie Taggart, Secretary pro tem

Proposed By-Laws Amendments:

NOTICE: These Proposed Amendments and Revisions to the By-Laws will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in April.

The Board is proposing changes to our Bylaws. The proposed changes are highlighted in red. Comments and questions from our membership are encouraged and can be directed to Marianne Furfure, Bylaws Chair or to Suzanne Curran, President and will be discussed at an upcoming meeting prior to a vote which will be scheduled at a regular business meeting as soon as we have approval from NYS AAUW.

The purpose of these changes is to create a succession plan for Branch Leadership by establishing the position of President-Elect; redefine the responsibilities of several positions (Historian, Legal Advocacy, Program) and create a new position of Social Media Chair. This was done to better align with National's priorities and to codify some of our current

practices. The changes would also reduce the number of general meetings, allow notification by email and authorize virtual meetings. The Bylaws would also give the Board the authority to approve the amount and funds to which Branch contributions to National are made, in order to streamline the approval process.

BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF THE BATH BRANCH

ARTICLE I. NAME AND GOVERNANCE **

Section 1. Name. The name of the organization shall be the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Bath Branch, hereinafter known as the "Affiliate."

Section 2. Affiliate. AAUW Bath Branch is an Affiliate of AAUW as defined in Article V.

Section 3. Legal Compliance. The Affiliate shall comply with the requirements of AAUW and federal, state, and local law. The bylaws of the Affiliate shall in no way conflict with the AAUW Bylaws and/or policies.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE **

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The purpose of the Affiliate is to further AAUW purposes and policies.

Section 2. Policies and Programs. In keeping with this purpose, the Affiliate shall promote equity, education, and development of opportunities for women and girls that enable them to realize their full potential.

ARTICLE III. USE OF NAME **

Section 1. Policies and Programs. The policies and programs of AAUW shall be binding on all members engaged in AAUW activities, and no member shall use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or programs.

Section 2. Proper Use of Name and Logo. The name and logo of AAUW may be used only by members (as defined below at Article IV, Section 2) and Affiliates (as defined below at Article V, Section 1) only according to policies and procedures established by the AAUW Board of Directors; others may do so only according to written licenses.

Section 3. Individual Freedom of Speech. These bylaws shall not abridge the freedom of speech of any AAUW member to speak an opinion in the member's own name.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES **

Section 1. Composition. The members of AAUW at present consist of members ("Individual Members") and college/university members ("College/University Members").

Section 2. Basis of Membership.

a. Individual Members.

(1) Eligibility. An individual holding an associate's (or equivalent, e.g., RN), bachelor's, or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S Department of Education (an "Accredited Higher Education Institution") or other qualified educational institution located outside of the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. The provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to AAUW membership except that the AAUW Board of Directors may establish a process to assess credentials that are submitted based on degree equivalence.

(2) **Appeals of Refusals of Admission to Membership.** Any potential Individual Member or College/University Member who claims qualification for membership in AAUW and who has been refused admission to membership may present credentials to the AAUW Board of Directors for review. The decision of the AAUW Board of Directors shall be final.

(3) **Saving Clause.** No Individual Member shall lose membership due to any change in the status of the higher education institution upon which original qualification for membership was based.

(4) **Life Membership.**

(a) **Paid.** An Individual Member may become a life member (a "Life Member") upon a one-time payment of twenty years' annual AAUW dues, based on the amount of annual AAUW dues the year the Member elects to become a Life Member. Thereafter, the Life Member shall be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.

(b) **Fifty-Year Honorary.** An Individual Member who has paid AAUW dues for fifty years shall become a Life Member and shall thereafter be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.

b. **College/University Members.** Any Accredited Higher Education Institution or other qualified higher education institution located outside the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, that pays annual dues to AAUW shall be eligible to be a College/University Member. Each College/University Member shall appoint one or two representatives who are eligible to be Individual Members and who shall each have the membership benefits of an Individual Member and any other benefits that accrue to representatives of College/University Members, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 3. Student Associates. The AAUW Board of Directors may permit undergraduate students enrolled in Accredited Higher Education Institutions or in other qualified educational institutions located outside the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, to associate with AAUW, with fees (if any) and benefits as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 4. Dues.

a. **Amount.** The annual dues and member benefits for any category of member shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the AAUW Board of Directors. Members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least 60 days prior to the vote.

b. **Payment.** Member dues shall be payable in accordance with procedures established by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 5. Severance of Membership. Any Member may be suspended or removed from membership for any conduct that tends to injure AAUW or to adversely affect its reputation or that is contrary to or destructive of its mission according to these bylaws, with action taken following policies and procedures adopted by the AAUW Board of Directors. In addition, a College/University Member that is no longer eligible for membership shall be removed from membership as soon as practicable after it loses its eligibility.

ARTICLE V. AAUW AFFILIATES **

Section 1. AAUW Affiliate Defined. An AAUW Affiliate ("Affiliate") is an organization affiliated with AAUW for the purpose of supporting AAUW's mission through Affiliate programs, fundraising, networking, and/or other activities. Affiliates are typically nonprofit membership organizations under state law and may also have been recognized as tax-exempt 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code. An Affiliate may use AAUW's name and/or logo only if approved by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 2. Organization.

a. **Purpose.** Affiliates shall promote the purposes, programs, and policies of AAUW.

b. **Bylaws.** Affiliates shall develop bylaws as meet their needs. However, any such bylaws shall not conflict with AAUW Bylaws or with applicable law.

- c. **Structure.** Affiliates may create such leadership structures as meet their needs. Each Affiliate shall provide AAUW with designated contacts for administration and finance.

Section 3. Loss of Recognition of an Affiliate.

a. The AAUW affiliation status of an Affiliate may be revoked for cause through affiliation review procedures specified by the AAUW Board of Directors.

b. The Affiliate shall have the right to appeal to the AAUW Board of Directors within a designated period.

Section 4. Property and Assets. The title to all property, funds, and assets of an Affiliate is vested in the Affiliate. An Affiliate shall have complete control of its property and assets, except that such property and assets shall not be used for any purpose contrary to AAUW's purposes. In the event of the dissolution of an Affiliate or the termination of an Affiliate's affiliation with AAUW, all assets of the Affiliate shall be transferred and delivered to AAUW or to another Affiliate designated by AAUW. AAUW may solicit and consider recommendations from local leaders before making a designation.

ARTICLE VI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY **

The rules contained in the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Affiliate in all instances in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the AAUW Bylaws or with the requirements of AAUW or applicable laws.

ARTICLE VII. AAUW-MANDATED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS **

AAUW-mandated amendments shall be implemented by the Affiliate's board of directors without a vote of the Affiliate's membership and as prescribed by the AAUW Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations

- a. There shall be a Nominating Committee of three members, elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting. **A vacancy in the office shall be filled by the Board until the next Annual meeting.**
- b. The term of service on the Nominating Committee **shall be two years** for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- c. **The Nominating Committee shall enlist nominees for elective office and submit a proposed slate of officers to the membership at least ten days prior to the Annual meeting or any special meeting to fill a vacancy in the office of President-Elect.**
- d. Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the Nominee.

- e. The Nominating Committee shall select an Auditor who shall be responsible for annually reviewing the financial records of the Treasurer and Educational Opportunities Fund and reporting the results of those audits to the membership.

Section 2. Elections.

- a. Elections shall be held at the Branch Annual Meeting.
- b. Elections shall be by ballot unless there is only one nominee for a given office, in which case a voice vote may be taken. Election shall be by a majority vote of those members present and voting.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS. (Note: This Article is amended _____, 2022 to add the Office of President Elect and Social Media Chair, to rename the Legal Advocacy Vice President to Action Fund Vice President and to transfer the duties of the Historian to the Communications Chair.)

Section 1. Officers

- a. There shall be officers to fulfill the functions of Branch Administration, Program, Membership, Educational Opportunities Fund, **Action Fund**, Public Policy, Diversity, Communications and Bylaws.
- b. Elected officers for the Branch shall be President (or Co-Presidents), **President Elect (or Co-Presidents Elect)**, Vice Presidents (or Co-Vice-Presidents) for Program, Membership, Educational Opportunities Fund, **Action Fund**, Secretary (or co-Secretaries) and Treasurer.
- c. Elected officers shall serve a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected or appointed and assume the office. The term of office shall begin on July 1. The President, Secretary, Educational Opportunities Fund Vice-President shall be elected in even numbered years. **The President-Elect shall be elected in 2023 for a one-year term and, thereafter, shall be elected in even numbered years for a two-year term.** The Treasurer and Vice-Presidents for Program, Membership and Action Fund shall be elected in odd-numbered years. **If there are co-Educational Opportunities Fund Vice-Presidents, one shall be elected in even-numbered years and the other in odd-numbered years.**
- d. No elected officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.
- e. The incoming President may call a meeting of incoming officers and Board members prior to July 1.
- f. **A vacancy in office, excluding the President (or Co-President) and the President-Elect (or Co-Presidents Elect) shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the Board of Directors. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the President-Elect. The unexpired term shall not preclude the President-Elect from serving two full consecutive terms in the office of President. A vacancy in the office of President-Elect shall be filled by special election.**

Section 2. Duties.

- a. **Officers** shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws, Branch policies, and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

- b. The **President(s)** shall fulfill the customary duties of presiding officer; be the official representative of the Branch in the activities of AAUW at all levels; submit a list of current Branch officers to the President of AAUW/NY and the Executive Director of AAUW; and submit other reports as requested. The President shall be responsible for assuring that Branch Bylaws conform to the AAUW and AAUW-NYS Bylaws.
- c. The **President(s)-Elect** shall assume such duties as delegated by the President(s) and shall preside at meetings and act in the absence of or disability of the President. The President(s)-elect shall succeed to the Office of President(s) when a vacancy occurs. The President(s)-Elect shall be responsible for publishing the Program & Membership Directory annually with the assistance of the Treasurer and such other persons recruited; and shall be responsible for filing and submitting a copy to the Archive Custodian as designated by the Board of Directors.
- d. The **Program Vice President(s)** shall assume responsibility for Branch programs in conjunction with the Public Policy and Diversity Chairs to present programs which align and promote the AAUW Mission Statement. The Program Vice President(s) shall communicate the program calendar to members as early as practicable and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President and President-Elect.
- e. The **Membership Vice-President(s)** shall assume responsibility for Branch member recruitment, retention and development.
- f. The **Educational Opportunities Fund Vice President(s)** shall be custodian of funds raised by the Branch members, or received as gifts and memorials, for local scholarships and/or contributions to AAUW Fund components designated as “educational programs”; shall chair or serve on committees appointed to raise funds for Educational Programs and shall chair the committee determining recipients of local scholarships. The EOF Vice President(s) shall recommend the dollar amounts to be awarded or sent to AAUW Educational Fund Programs for approval by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall determine the amounts and specific Educational Program to be which monies shall be sent. The EOF Vice President shall keep financial records of monies raised and/or collected; and shall provide a monthly report to members and submit records for audit annually.
- g. The **Action Fund Vice-President(s)** shall collect and record funds received for the support of state and/or national AAUW initiatives and funds and shall recommend the amount and specific fund or initiative to which the funds shall be allocated. Any funds received shall be deposited in the Branch Treasury. The Board of Directors shall determine the amount and the fund designated to receive the funds collected. The Action Fund Vice President(s) shall report regularly regarding state and/or national projects in which AAUW is involved or of interest to members, the amounts collected and how funds have been distributed.
- h. The **Treasurer** shall be responsible for collecting, distributing, and accounting for the funds of the Branch, and shall collect annual dues, send unpaid dues reminders as needed, and forward all AAUW dues to the AAUW financial officer and all AAUW/NY dues to the state’s financial officer as required. The Treasurer shall maintain proper financial records for the Branch and shall provide a monthly financial report to the membership. The Treasurer shall submit the financial records for audit annually. The Treasurer shall maintain membership information for the Branch.
- i. The **Secretary(s)** shall record and keep minutes of all meetings of the Branch and of the Board of Directors, and shall prepare notes of meetings for publication in the Branch newsletter.

- j. The **Public Policy Chair(s)** shall be appointed by the Board and shall keep members informed about issues and legislation pertaining to the work of AAUW and AAUW-NYS; and shall report to the membership on matters of local concern; and shall chair or serve as a member of any Branch committees appointed to study or take action on such issues.
- k. The **Bylaws Chair(s)** shall be appointed by the Board, and shall assist the President in assuring the Branch Bylaws conform to AAUW and AAUW-NYS Bylaws.
- l. The **Diversity Chair(s)** shall be appointed by the Board, and shall keep the membership informed about issues concerning diversity and social justice which are relevant to AAUW, and shall assure that issues of diversity and social justice are included in Branch Program planning.
- m. The **Communications Chair(s)** shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve as editor of the monthly Branch newsletter, "The Branch," and may assist with other Branch publications as requested by the Board. **The Communications Chair(s) shall maintain records of the activities of the Branch and Board of Directors** by submitting newsletters to the Archive custodian designated by the Board.
- n. **The Social Media Chair(s) shall be appointed by the Board and shall be responsible for posting on social media information on Branch activities and topics of interest. These postings shall be made at regular intervals after review and approval as to content by the President(s). The Social Media Chair shall chair or serve as a member of a Branch Committee to develop and review the Branch's social media policy.**

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall include the elected Officers, **the immediate Past President(s)** and the following appointed Chairs: Communications, Public Policy, Bylaws, Diversity **and Social Media.**

Section 2. The Board shall have the general power to administer the affairs of the Branch, including but not limited to establishing policies and procedures to control financial records. The Board shall accept responsibility delegated by AAUW and AAUW/NYS.

Section 3. Meetings of the Board shall be held at least three (3) times annually. Special meetings may be called by the President, and shall be called upon request of three (3) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The quorum of the Board shall be a majority of its members.

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Establishing Committees. The President may establish standing and special committees as needed, with the consent of the Board.

Section 2: Purpose. With the approval of the Board, each standing and ~~any~~ the special committee(s) shall formulate programs and activities to carry out the mission of AAUW.

ARTICLE XII: Financial Administration

Section 1: Fiscal Year: The fiscal year shall correspond to that of AAUW and shall begin on July 1.

Section 2: Financial Policies: The Board shall set and maintain policies and procedures to control financial records consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and federal, state, and local laws, including an annual financial review.

Section 3: Budget: The Board shall adopt an annual budget for presentation to the Branch.

ARTICLE XIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be **at least eight (8) general membership meetings** each year.

Section 2. **The general membership meetings shall be held in person and/or virtually as circumstances dictate.** The exact date, time and place of all general, annual and special meetings shall be established by the Board with the Annual meeting to be held in April.

Section 3. The purpose of the **Annual Meeting** shall be to conduct Branch business including but not limited to hearing officers' reports; reviewing the budget; electing officers and a nominating committee; establishing dues; amending Bylaws; and giving directions to the Board. **The members may take action to Amend Bylaws, elect a President Elect to fill a vacancy created during an unexpired term and conduct other business at a general membership meeting with prior Board approval.**

Section 4. The quorum shall be fifteen (15) members or twenty-five percent (25%) of the Branch members, whichever is less.

Section 5. Notice of meetings shall be sent **by email, or regular USPS mail, or telephone, or hand-delivered** to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV. INDEMNIFICATION

Every member of the Branch may be indemnified by the Branch against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon such Member(s) in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding to which the Member(s) may become involved by reason of being or having been a member of the Branch, or any settlement thereof, unless adjudged therein to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duties. In the event of a settlement the indemnification herein shall apply only when the Branch Board approves such settlement and reimbursement as being in the best interest of the Branch. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which the Member is entitled.

ARTICLE XV. BRANCH BYLAWS.

Section 1. AAUW-Approved Bylaws, both National and State. The local branch must abide by the bylaws amended by both the AAUW State and national entities.

Section 2. Prior approval. All proposed amendments to the Branch By-Laws shall be sent to the state Bylaws Committee for approval before the call for the Branch vote. If there is no state structure, approval of amendments to Branch By-Laws in those states will according to procedures established by the AAUW Governance Committee.

Section 3. Branch Vote. Provisions of these Bylaws not governed by the AAUW Bylaws may be amended at a Branch meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided notice shall have been sent to the members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Articles I through VII are mandated by AAUW as of 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, and/or 2022 and are denoted by **. Article XII was mandated during 2016 apparently, which is date Bath Branch last updated these By-Laws; as of 2022 it appears Article XII is discretionary.

Amended November 3, 2016

Amended _____, 2022? 2023?

Public Policy:

January 11, 2023

Act — *Take action on the most pressing policies*

Let's Make 2023 the Year of State Advocacy!

As the new year begins, both Congress and state legislatures are getting to work—so this is a critical time to engage with them. Whether you connect virtually or face-to-face, meeting with legislators is a great way to build relationships and cultivate your influence on the issues that matter most to you. AAUW has many resources to support your advocacy:

- Start by [reaching out to your AAUW state or branch leaders](#), who are vital to our collective impact; we look forward to uplifting their hard work this year.
- Use the [How to Hold a Meeting with Your Elected Officials resource](#) to engage with lawmakers. The guide includes advice on arranging virtual or in-person meetings and preparing for your discussions with legislators.
- Stay up to date on the issues by reviewing the [AAUW Public Policy Priorities](#) and perusing the [Policy Center](#) for topic-specific information on where we stand.

Also, check out our new *State Highlights* feature in the Engage section. It aims to inspire members to take part in local advocacy and honor the successes of AAUW's state leaders.

Learn — *Dig deeper into the issues that matter*

Celebrating Passage of Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

We were thrilled to end 2022 by [celebrating](#) the long-awaited passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act as an amendment to the omnibus spending package, which President Biden signed into law on December 29. The law is a momentous victory for pregnant and postpartum workers and their families.

Effective June 27, 2023, employers will be required to provide basic accommodations to pregnant workers, such as carrying a water bottle or taking bathroom breaks. The legislation will enable millions of workers to provide for their families without compromising their health or pregnancies. This is the most significant protection for pregnant workers in decades! [Learn more](#) about the law from our partners at A Better Balance.

A huge thanks to the thousands of AAUW members and activists who mobilized for this critical legislation over the past decade, joined by our allies and partner organizations in tireless grassroots efforts across the country. You made this happen!

Engage — *Share the important work we're doing*

- **State Highlights:** In this special new section of *Washington Update*, we highlight AAUW state and local volunteers whose activism is making a big difference in their communities and beyond. We hope it inspires you and provides ideas of how you can engage. As we near what should have been a celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, it is fitting that we start by honoring state leaders fighting for reproductive rights.
 - When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, AAUW of Washington State quickly went to work, joining many partners in their state to build a strong coalition. AAUW-WA and allies in the Future of Abortion Campaign came together to ensure Washington state would remain a safe place for abortion seekers. They put up accurate and informative billboards in Eastern Washington and posters across the state. Abortion providers, abortion seekers and community groups throughout the Northwest are committed to making Washington a compassionate state to get an abortion - [join the movement!](#) No judgement, no stigma, no barriers. Learn more about [AAUW-WA's advocacy here](#).
 - Want to engage locally on the anniversary of *Roe*? AAUW joins the Women's March and partners across the country for "[Bigger Than Roe](#)", a national day of action to bring attention to the fights for reproductive rights on the state level. Reach out to your state or local branch and [find a sister march near you!](#)
- **AAUW National Election Update:** Starting the week of January 16, AAUW members will be able to comment on and propose changes to the AAUW bylaws and Public Policy Priorities—an opportunity that comes around every other year. [AAUW's website](#) will provide all the information you need to tackle this important task. Comments can be submitted until Friday, January 27, at 5:00 pm ET.
- The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in two cases on the Biden Administration's student-debt cancellation program ([Biden v. Nebraska](#) and [Department of Education v. Brown](#)) on February 28, 2023. In November 2022, AAUW [joined](#) over 200 organizations in calling on President Biden to extend the student loan repayment pause until the conflict is resolved and the cancellation plan is processed for borrowers. Biden [extended](#) the payment pause until 60 days after the litigation is resolved or June 30, 2023—whichever comes first.
- AAUW supported the introduction of the Students' Access to Freedom and Educational Rights (SAFER) Act on December 1. We look forward to its reintroduction in the 118th Congress. The [bill](#) would protect students' right to educations free from discrimination, harassment and violence.
- AAUW joined the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and 26 organizations on a [comment](#) urging the Department of Education to update the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections FAQs [guidance](#). We asked that the guidance more directly support safe, healthy and inclusive learning environments for all students.
- Sign up as a [Two-Minute Activist](#) today and keep up to date on our policy work with our [letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs](#) to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts.

**Strengthen our voice with policymakers with
a gift to AAUW.**

Donate Now

[AAUW Action Fund](#)

1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
votered@aauw.org

--submitted by Nancy Cole, Chair of Public Policy



The Bath Branch AAUW Newsletter-----Published by Wendy Lee Gould