

Greetings AAUW-MN Branch Public Policy chairs,

So much is happening at the national level. It's overwhelming. It's a daily assault on issues vital to AAUW and that effect women and girls.

Instead of repeating information you may already receive from direct updates from AAUW, I want to reiterate how AAUW-MN reaches you and why you need to engage your branch in serious discussion about the legislative trends in Congress.

Those trends are finding their way to state legislatures. As the 2018 MN legislative session is about to begin, AAUW-MN members need to take independent actions to get ready.

As the AAUW-MN website states, "Members make a difference in statehouses across the United States. With chapters and branches in all 50 states; Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; and Guam, members are able to exert significant influence over policy." And branch public policy chairs can make an important difference and contribution to the success of AAUW.

First, may I suggest you review the AAUW [Public Policy Priorities](#). "Priorities are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership." AAUW believes it is important to have a strong, unified voice. That voice must be clear to what AAUW stands for.

Secondly, branches may select which of the public policy priorities they want to advance and that would be palpable within their communities. I have discovered branches have created "Wine & Whine" events to discuss issues with the community in an informal setting at a local wine bar. Others have used specific issues, such as human trafficking, to forge petitions to the upcoming Super Bowl. So put your creative hats on to develop innovative, visible events or actions.

Meanwhile, AAUW-MN can help you identify, track, and assess upcoming State legislation where you live. Track specific legislation by completing the [State Legislative Request Intake Form](#). As the legislative session advances, you can easily share the progress of bills with branch members.

Grassroots advocacy is an opportunity to network with legislators and seek support or to show opposition to proposed bills. For information about and materials for grassroots advocacy, check out [these resources](#).

As we enter this busy holiday season, try to take some time to brainstorm creative avenues for the advocacy of AAUW Public Policy Priorities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional assistance and information.

Happy Holidays!

**Jan**