**AAUW MN**

**PUBLIC POLICY**

**UPDATE**

**May 7, 2019**

A few issues came up during the AAUW-MN State Convention that need clarification. Also, a few individuals commented to me concerns in the areas of procedural practices, politics and legislation, civil rights, communication, and AAUW-MN public policy priorities.

Every branch public policy contact should share this update and its responses and answers for complete transparency.

1. **Resolutions Process**
   1. The position of VP Public Policy, requires it to chair the Resolutions Committee. The AAUW-MN bylaws clearly define the procedure. [Article XVIII, Sec.4, f.] The procedure was followed. Once the procedure was completed, there was no method to verify if the information was disseminated to the members by branch public policy chairs/contacts. In the future, the bylaws may need to include & clearly state methods of communication to disseminate information. The bylaws could be amended to clearly state how the actions of the Resolutions Committee be communicated. The bylaws could state that reviewed Resolutions will be sent to all AAUW MN members via email, AAUW-MN website and The Pine. If needed U.S. Postal Service may be utilized.
2. **Resolutions: post passage**
   1. Two resolutions passed at the State Convention. The implementation section of each Resolution will require action by the VP Public Policy.
      1. **AAUW ERAMN**: AAUW Branches will actively support and advocate for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment within Minnesota and nationally. Activities to achieve this may include but are not be limited to:

\* Branches educating their members about the Equal Rights Amendment to include for example, visiting the ERAMN.org website, and watching “Equal Means Equal” or “Legalize Equality” videos

\* Letter/postcard writing campaigns to Minnesota and U.S. Legislators advocating for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment

\* Personal visits to both Minnesota and U.S. Legislators advocating for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment

* + 1. **AAUW DACA**: The State Board of AAUW Minnesota will encourage its branches to stay informed on the progression of DACA legislation and the impact it has on education in Minnesota. Policy chairs will inform State and Federal representatives of AAUW’s studies of correlation between education and a more productive life.

The VP Public Policy will assist branches through research and keeping current to the issues in order to disseminate information.

1. **Resolutions Power Point presentation:** [**How to write a Resolution**](file:///C:\Users\Jan\Documents\AAUW%20MN%20Resolutions%20workshop%202019.pptx)[click for a copy]
   1. During the convention, State officers conducted Officer Training sessions. To the group who attended Public Policy session, I offered a presentation on ‘how to write a resolution’.
2. **AAUW Public Policy Priorities 2019-20**
   1. Public Policy Priorities are now in process of adoption by national vote. However, at the State Convention a motion to approve the 2019-20 National Public Policy Priorities de facto, carried. AAUW members received an email from National on or before April 24th. Voting is now open in AAUW’s National Election! This is the culmination of the biannual process to update our Public Policy Priorities, and State Public Policy Chairs have been involved every step of the way, from submitting survey feedback to commenting on proposed changes. All members can cast your ballot to elect our Board of Directors and approve the Public Policy Priorities at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>. Voting closes at 5 p.m. CST on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.
3. **ERAMN Information**
   1. ERAMN provided literature and voting postcards for all AAUW members. Those present were also given a 30-minute DVD titled ‘Legalize Equality’, which branches can use and view. Branches not present will be mailed a copy to your branch president.
4. **AAUW Legislative Day – March 8, 2019 – State Capitol**
   1. While at the Legislative Day and Rally in the Capitol Rotunda, I took many photos. I used the photos to create a 3-minute video montage. This video will be shared in The PINE and on the AAUW MN website.
5. **Voting Rights:** An AAUW branch member share this information in which a particular statement shocked me. I was totally aware the 2016 MN Legislature had passed a bill establishing a presidential nomination primary. MN had only had a Caucus process for determining nominees.The information below is copied from the MN Secretary of State webpage. The section in green can be interpreted as alarming.There are hyperlinks in **blue** that should be read. **What is certain is this new Primary process will be highly suspect to voter discrimination and give leverage to incumbents.** District election judges are receiving training and assumedly will be prepared. **But will the public be prepared to have their vote suppressed?** As public policy chairs/contacts, you must be vigilant to this process.
   1. **MN Presidential Primary**
      1. In 2016 [**legislation was passed**](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=162&year=2016&type=0) establishing a presidential nomination primary. Common questions about the presidential primary are answered below.

**When will the presidential nomination primary take place?**

March 3, 2020.

**Will all parties participate in the presidential nomination primary?**

No, only [**major parties**](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/political-parties/) will participate.

**Will all parties be on the same ballot?**

No, each major party will have a separate ballot.

**Who decides which candidates will appear on a party’s ballot?**

The chair of each party will submit a list of candidates for the party’s ballot no

later than 63 days before the date of the presidential primary (December 31, 2019).

**What if a candidate drops out before the primary?**

Once a party’s list is submitted, changes will not be made to candidates that will appear on the ballot.

**Will there be a place to write in a choice or vote for “uncommitted”?**

Only if it is requested by the party chair. Party chairs will need to submit names of write-in candidates to be counted seven days before the primary.

**Will any other offices be on the ballot?**

No, only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.

**How will I be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary?**

Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee up to 46 days before presidential primary day (January 17, 2020). A voter must state which party's ballot they want and will be given a ballot containing only that party's candidates. If you refuse to select a party, you will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.

**Will other people know which party’s ballot I request?**

Yes, a voter’s choice of party ballot will be recorded and will be public information. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.

**Will parties have to abide by the primary results?**

The presidential primary results must bind the election of delegates in each party.

**Who will pay for the presidential nomination primary?**

County and municipalities will be reimbursed by the state for the primary costs.

**Will there still be precinct caucuses?**

Yes, [**precinct caucuses**](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucuses/) and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.

In conclusion, Public Policy is an essential element of AAUW MN and reflects the priorities set forth by AAUW National. As your VP of Public Policy, I will remain vigilant and as proactive as possible to ensure information is provided to branch public policy chairs & contacts in a timely manner.

***Moving Forward - Collectively Advocating***

Jan Carey, AAUW MN VP Public Policy