A FEATHER FROM THE AAUWL JANUARY 2021

HOW TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED AAUW BYLAWS CHANGE

To: AAUW Danbury Area Members:

From: Sophie R. Godward, Public Policy/Bylaws

Proposed Bylaws Change

The AAUW Board of Directors and the AAUW Governance Committee are recommending a Bylaws change which would eliminate the degree requirement for membership. The voting will take place this spring. We have until **5:00 PM** **ET on Friday** **February 5, 2021** to comment on the proposed change. The comments will be reviewed by AAUW’s staff and Governance Committee and should be debated in our state and branch meetings.

AAUW’s rationale centers on its belief that AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains its exclusionary membership requirement. AAUW states: *“The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This (*eliminating the requirement*) is simply the right thing to do.”* This information is also available in the bulletin you should have received by email on January 22, 2021: AAUW Mission and Action: Looking Back and Looking Ahead.

To comment on this proposed bylaws change, please go to the AAUW website (aauw.org) and search for bylaws amendment or membership change; scroll to the section titled 2021 Comment Period: Bylaws amendment, and locate Article IV: Membership and Dues to see how it will change the national bylaws and consequently state and branch bylaws, including the effect on dues and student affiliates etc. A form is included to submit your thoughts, comments or proposed changes to AAUW.

Nana Amos, CT State AAUW President, sends you the following memo, which describes this requirement and includes links to the current Bylaws and the **Open Membership Tool Kit**, with more information about the proposed change.

This spring AAUW members will vote on proposed changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Now through February 5, 2021, you can comment on the proposed changes. All submitted comments or proposed changes will be reviewed by AAUW’s staff and the AAUW Governance Committee. Debate on open membership will take place in national town halls and state and branch meetings this spring.

Here’s how to comment or propose a change:

Read the current [AAUW bylaws](https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/02/aauw-bylaws-2018.pdf" \t "_blank) and review the proposed changes below.

Submit any comments or proposed changes by 5:00 pm ET on Friday, February 5, 2021.

[https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/" \t "_blank)

[https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aauw.org%2Fresources%2Fmember%2Fgovernance-tools%2Fnational-election%2Fopen-membership-toolkit%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cnana.amos%40uconn.edu%7Ce6965355ee44411a18ca08d8be586979%7C17f1a87e2a254eaab9df9d439034b080%7C0%7C0%7C637468634218240258%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Hu8JblAfoz4FFNp4nZzfhUHy6ExGLIYkIrG6JJvZ%2BWw%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank)