

## VOTE ON AAUW MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

April 5-7<sup>th</sup> all members with an e-mail should have received an e-mail with your personal link to your online AAUW ballot. It was sent from Shannon Wolfe, AAUW, and is titled “Vote now to shape AAUW’s future”. You will be voting on amendments to our Public Policy priorities and bylaws, **including a proposal to eliminate AAUW’s longstanding membership degree requirement**. You’ll also vote on four candidates to join AAUW’s board of directors. **Voting closes May 17<sup>th</sup>**. If you did not get your ballot on-line, email AAUW at [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) and ask them to resend you a link to your ballot. (Those without e-mails will get a paper ballot in the mail.)

Please make sure you vote by May 17<sup>th</sup> on this important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors and OML’s Board of Directors strongly support the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization and better aligned with our mission, values, and the needs of women today.

Did you know that when AAUW approaches organizations and companies for grants, many, if not all, will not consider our applications when they see our membership restrictions. Many of us were privileged to have had access to and/or encouraged to attend higher levels of education. That was not the case for many people, women in particular. Many people who did not have the opportunity still understand the importance of education. They would be a welcome addition to our organization and can help us continue our important mission of equity for women and girls. Regardless, changing our membership requirements will signal to all that we support diversity, equity, and inclusion!

If you have any questions about this vote, or help in finding and/or getting your ballot, contact Denise Burian, Marie Bonilla, or Peggy Cabaniss. You can also view the powerpoint presentation that the three of us presented on this issue at our April 20<sup>th</sup> general meeting on our AAUW OML website (it is on the top of the home page).