



February 2017

Dear AAUW member,

Warm greetings from our board and staff! We look forward to meeting you at your state convention — so much has happened since last year.

We saw the political and social impact of the first woman representing a major party in a historic presidential election. January found the country with a new administration, presenting challenges and changes in policy. Throughout the presidential campaign and postelection, AAUW has focused on nonpartisan issues of women's equity and enforcement of civil rights for all. As the 2017 AAUW National Convention approaches we are preparing our legislative agendas for strong discussion on Capitol Hill.

As a leading gender equity advocacy organization, AAUW is uniquely positioned to convene diverse communities to take action on pay equity, freedom from discrimination and violence, health care, education, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) opportunities. Through our public policy priorities, fellowships and grants, Legal Advocacy Fund, and other programs, AAUW amplifies all of our voices, with trusted research and advocacy informing our work. Our advocacy work remains a priority not only in Washington, D.C., but also in statehouses across the country, where we saw so many successes last year. And AAUW Start Smart and AAUW Work Smart are spreading exponentially, with Work Smart programs now in six cities across the United States ... and growing.

We hope you will enjoy learning at your state convention about the latest tools available to you from the national office. The resources you have access to are varied and valuable to your daily work, from our soon-to-be-released research report *Higher Ed, Higher Debt: Why Women Owe More* to new videos you can use to recruit members.

It truly is a wonderful time to be part of such a dynamic, relevant organization as AAUW. The AAUW Board of Directors and I thank you for your dedication, talent, and energy and hope that you leave your state convention feeling confident that you have the skills and fervor to be part of the rising tide of advocacy in action!

Yours in AAUW,

Patricia Fae Ho
AAUW Board Chair