**State Membership Report for April 20, 2024**

**State Membership and Votes for Opening Membership … by the Numbers** -We currently have approximately 464 members. As you know, at this time anyone holding an associate’s degree or equivalent, or a bachelor’s or higher degree may join AAUW. Recently, AAUW sent out ballots for members to submit their vote in regard to opening enrollment to those who may not hold these advanced degrees. Nancy Shoemaker, who is chairing this endeavor, reported that so far 18.7% of our Maryland membership have voted on this measure, which is a total of 76 members. This is a very important issue and as such everyone’s voice needs to be heard. To date, of our 464 members, Simply Voting reported that 22 ballots were undeliverable due to invalid/incorrect emails. These members have been contacted by phone, if phone numbers were available, and letters via the US mail to ask for updated email addresses. Hopefully, this information will allow AAUW National to contact them successfully. In the case of those who do not have an email address, AAUW will send ballots to them through the mail. Meanwhile, it’s hoped that the list of members who have not yet voted on this issue will be sent out the week of April 22nd. I will share this information with each branch so that presidents and VPs for membership can reach out to their members to encourage their participation on this important issue.

Meanwhile, what can members do?

* Members can check past emails for their ballot that they may have overlooked. The initial email originated from AAWU with the subject title, ***AAUW Election 2024*** on April 3, 2024.
* Members can also check their spam folder for the ballot and/or add "vote@simplyvoting.com" to their contact list for future attempts by AAUW to send out the voting ballot.
* Members can watch for reminder emails, which according to Nancy Shoemaker will go out every Monday until the member votes.  Voting ends on May 15th.

Jeanne Blades (Harford County Branch)

VP for Membership, Maryland