



BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF NORTH TAHOE (CA) BRANCH

ARTICLE I. NAME AND GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Name. The name of the organization shall be the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of North Tahoe (CA) Branch, hereinafter known as the "Branch".

Section 2. Affiliate. AAUW North Tahoe (CA) Branch is an Affiliate of AAUW as defined in Article V.

Section 3. Legal Compliance. The Branch shall comply with the requirements of AAUW and federal, state, and local law. The bylaws of the Branch shall in no way conflict with the AAUW Bylaws and/or policies.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The purpose of the Branch is to further AAUW purposes and policies.

Section 2. Policies and Programs. In keeping with this purpose, the Branch shall promote equity, education, and development of opportunities for women and girls that enable them to realize their full potential.

ARTICLE III. USE OF NAME

Section 1. Policies and Programs. The policies and programs of AAUW shall be binding on all members engaged in AAUW activities, and no member shall use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or program.

Section 2. Proper Use of Name and Logo. The name and logo of AAUW may be used only by members (as defined below at Article IV, Section 2) and Affiliates (as defined below at Article V, Section 1) only according to policies and procedures established by the AAUW Board of Directors; others may do so only according to written licenses.

Section 3. Individual Freedom of Speech. These bylaws shall not abridge the freedom of speech of any AAUW member to speak an opinion in the member's own name.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Composition. The members of AAUW at present consist of members ("Individual Members") and college/university members ("College/University Members").

Section 2. Basis of Membership.

a) Individual Members.

- 1) **Eligibility.** An individual holding an associate's (or equivalent, e.g., RN), bachelor's, or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education (an "Accredited Higher Education Institution") or other qualified educational institution located outside of the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. The provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to AAUW membership except that the AAUW Board of Directors may establish a process to assess credentials that are submitted based on degree equivalence.
- 2) **Appeals of Refusals of Admission to Membership.** Any potential Individual Member or College/University Member who claims qualification for membership in AAUW and who has been refused admission to membership may present credentials to the AAUW Board of Directors for review. The decision of the AAUW Board of Directors shall be final.
- 3) **Saving Clause.** No Individual Member shall lose membership due to any change in the status of the higher education institution upon which original qualification for membership was based.
- 4) **Life Membership.**
 - i) **Paid.** An Individual Member may become a life member (a "Life Member") upon a one-time payment of twenty years' annual AAUW dues, based on the amount of annual AAUW dues the year the Member elects to become a Life Member. Thereafter, the Life Member shall be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.
 - ii) **Fifty-Year Honorary.** An Individual Member who has paid AAUW dues for fifty years shall become a Life Member and shall thereafter be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.

- b) **College/University Members.** Any Accredited Higher Education Institution or other qualified higher education institution located outside the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, that pays annual dues to AAUW shall be eligible to be a College/University Member. Each College/University Member shall appoint one or two representatives who are eligible to be Individual Members and who shall each have the membership benefits of an Individual Member and any other benefits that accrue to representatives of College/University Members, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 3. Student Affiliates. The AAUW Board of Directors may permit undergraduate students enrolled in Accredited Higher Education Institutions or in other qualified educational institutions located outside the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, to associate with AAUW, with fees (if any) and benefits as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 4. Dues.

- a) Amount. The annual dues and Member benefits for any category of member shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the AAUW Board of Directors. Members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least 60 days prior to the vote.
- b) Payment. Member dues shall be payable in accordance with procedures established by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 5. Severance of Membership. Any Member may be suspended or removed from membership for any conduct that tends to injure AAUW or to adversely affect its reputation or that is contrary to or destructive of its mission according to these bylaws, with action taken following policies and procedures adopted by the AAUW Board of Directors. In addition, a College/University Member that is no longer eligible for membership shall be removed from membership as soon as practicable after it loses its eligibility.

ARTICLE V. AAUW AFFILIATES

Section 1. AAUW Affiliate Defined. An AAUW Affiliate ("Affiliate") is an organization affiliated with AAUW for the purpose of supporting AAUW's mission through Affiliate programs, fundraising, networking, and/or other activities. Affiliates are typically nonprofit membership organizations under state law and may also have been recognized as tax-exempt 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code. An Affiliate may use AAUW's name and/or logo only if approved by the AAUW Board of Directors.

Section 2. Organization.

- a) Purpose. Affiliates shall promote the purposes, programs, and policies of AAUW.
- b) Bylaws. Affiliates shall develop bylaws as meet their needs. However, any such bylaws shall not conflict with AAUW Bylaws or with applicable law.
- c) Structure. Affiliates may create such leadership structures as meet their needs. Each Affiliate shall provide AAUW with designated contacts for administration and finance.

Section 3. Loss of Recognition of an Affiliate.

- a) The AAUW affiliation status of an Affiliate may be revoked for cause through affiliation review procedures specified by the AAUW Board of Directors.
- b) The Affiliate shall have the right to appeal to the AAUW Board of Directors within a designated period.

Section 4. Property and Assets. The title to all property, funds, and assets of an Affiliate is vested in the Affiliate. An Affiliate shall have complete control of its property and assets, except that such property and assets shall not be used for any purpose contrary to AAUW's purposes. In the event of the dissolution of an Affiliate or the termination of an Affiliate's affiliation with AAUW, all assets of the Affiliate shall be transferred and delivered to AAUW or to another Affiliate designated by AAUW. AAUW may solicit and consider recommendations from local leaders before making a designation.

ARTICLE VI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Branch in all instances in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the AAUW Bylaws or with the requirements of AAUW or applicable laws.

ARTICLE VII. AAUW-MANDATED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

AAUW-mandated amendments shall be implemented by the Branch's Leadership without a vote of the Branch's membership and as prescribed by the AAUW Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. DUES

Section 1. Dues.

- a) Amount.
 - 1) Changes in Branch dues shall be determined at the annual meeting by two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided notice has been given to the members 30 days prior to the meeting.
 - 2) Branch dues for college/university representatives shall be set by the Board. State dues are waived for college/university representatives.
- b) Payment. New members may join at any time. Dues are payable upon joining. Pro-rated dues paid by new members for less than a full year are determined by National, State and Branch policy.
- c) Reciprocity. A current paid member of a Branch or comparable AAUW-affiliated entity may transfer membership to another Branch or comparable AAUW-affiliated entity without payment of additional dues.

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations

- a) There shall be a nominating committee of at least 3 members, elected or appointed as follows: all members shall be appointed by the Branch Leadership, one of whom shall be appointed chair of the committee.
- b) The term of service of the nominating committee shall be for one year (from time of appointment until the Branch election) for a maximum of 2 consecutive terms, unless approved by the Branch Leadership.
- c) The names of the nominees for elected office shall be published and sent to every member at least 30 days prior to the annual Branch meeting.
- d) Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

Section 2. Elections

- a) Elections shall be held at the annual Branch meeting.
- b) Elections shall be by ballot unless there is only one nominee for a given office, in which case the election may be by a voice vote. Election shall be by a majority vote of those voting.
- c) Mail ballots or electronic voting may be used for elections, provided the number of members voting meets the quorum stated for meetings in Article XIV, section 6 Meetings.
- d) The election format may be changed by the Branch Leadership to conform to changing State laws.

ARTICLE X. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

- a) The elected officers for the Branch shall be president, president-elect, vice president for programs, vice president for membership, secretary, finance officer, and communications officer.
- b) The appointed officers shall be AAUW Fund, Girls' State, Tech Trek, Bylaws, Scholarship, and non-voting nominating committee chair. They shall be appointed by the president with the consent of the Branch Leadership.
- c) Officers shall serve for a term of 1 year or until their successors have been elected or appointed and assume office. Term of office shall begin on July 1. The incoming president may call a meeting of the incoming officers prior to July 1.
- d) No officer shall hold more than one office at a time, unless approved by the Branch Leadership; and no elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive terms in the same office, unless approved by the Branch Leadership.
- e) All vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Branch Leadership. A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by the president-elect, or if there is no president-elect, by the vice presidents in the order listed in Article X, Section 1(a).
- f) Each office may be filled by an officer or co-officers. Each co-officer shall have one vote.

Section 2. Duties

- a) Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the rules of policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors, and by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- b) The president shall be the official spokesperson and representative for the Branch and shall be responsible for submitting such reports and forms as required by AAUW and AAUW-CA.
- c) The vice president(s) shall perform such duties as the president and the Branch Leadership shall direct and as specified in Branch policies and job descriptions.
- d) The finance officer shall be responsible for collecting, distributing and accounting for the funds of the Branch, for meeting specific deadlines, and shall be the Branch's designated finance contact with AAUW.

- e) The secretary shall record and keep minutes of all noticed leadership, membership, and special meetings and shall make the minutes available upon request. The secretary shall be the Branch's designated contact to make available the minutes of each Branch meeting and Branch Leadership meeting.
- f) All officers and chairs shall submit annual reports to the president.
- g) Records for the Branch shall be retained in accordance with AAUW By-laws and Federal and State regulations.

ARTICLE XI. BRANCH LEADERSHIP

Section 1. Composition. The Branch Leadership shall include the elected officers and the appointed officers.

Section 2. Administrative Responsibilities. The Branch Leadership shall have the power to administer affairs of the Branch and to carry out its programs and its policies, and shall accept responsibilities delegated by AAUW and AAUW-CA. It shall act for the Branch between membership meetings. The Branch Leadership shall have fiscal responsibility as outlined in Article XIII, Financial Administration, Section 2.

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the Branch Leadership shall be held at least 6 times a year at a time and place agreed upon by the Branch Leadership.

Section 4. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president or shall be called upon written request of 3 members of the Branch Leadership provided that at least a 7-day notice of such meeting and its agenda have been given to the members of the Branch Leadership.

Section 5. Quorum. The quorum for a meeting of the Branch Leadership shall be a majority of the voting members.

Section 6. Voting Between Meetings. Between meetings of the Branch Leadership, a written, conference call, or electronic vote of the board may be taken at the request of the president on any question submitted to the Branch Leadership in writing provided that every voting member of the Branch Leadership shall have the opportunity to vote upon the question submitted. If a majority shall vote on any question so submitted, the vote shall be counted and shall have the same effect as if at a Branch Leadership meeting. The result of the vote shall be in the minutes of the next Branch Leadership meeting.

Section 7. Removal from Office. A member of the Branch Leadership may be removed for any reason by a two-thirds vote of the Branch Leadership in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by AAUW.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Establishing Committees. The president may establish standing and special committees as needed with consent by the Branch Leadership.

Section 2. Purpose. With the approval of the Branch Leadership, each standing and special committee shall formulate programs and activities to carry out the mission of AAUW.

ARTICLE XIII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall correspond with that of AAUW, July 1 through June 30.

Section 2. Financial Policies. The Branch Leadership shall set and maintain policies and procedures to control financial records consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and federal, state and local laws. Financial statements will be reviewed annually.

Section 3. Budget. The Branch Leadership shall adopt an annual budget for presentation to the Branch membership no later than the June meeting.

Section 4. Insurance

- a) The Branch is required to participate in the AAUW CA insurance programs in order to participate in AAUW CA sponsored activities and projects. The Branch must comply with all risk management requirements, AAUW CA program directives, and all other requirements as outlined in AAUW CA policy and procedures.
- b) The Branch must obtain separate insurance coverage for activities and projects not covered under the AAUW CA insurance coverage.

ARTICLE XIV. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The Branch shall hold an annual meeting to conduct the business of the Branch, including but not limited to, electing officers, establishing dues, amending bylaws and receiving reports. This meeting shall be held during the months of March, April or May, depending on the activities of the Branch as determined from year to year.

Section 2. Membership Meetings. The Branch shall hold at least 6 meetings during the fiscal year. The Branch Leadership shall determine the time and place for these meetings.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president or shall be called by the president at the written request of 3 members of the Branch Leadership or 10 percent of the Branch membership.

Section 4. Meetings Notice. Notice of meetings shall be sent to all members of the Branch at least 7 days prior to the meetings.

Section 5. Voting. Voting members entitled to vote at any meeting of members or by ballot shall be all those voting members in good standing as of the date of the meeting.

Section 6. Quorum. A quorum shall be 15 percent of the Branch membership.

ARTICLE XV. INDEMNIFICATION

Every Branch Leadership or committee member may be indemnified by the Branch against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon such Branch Leadership or committee members in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding to which the Branch Leadership or committee member may become involved by reason of being or having been a member of the Branch Leadership or committee, or any settlement thereof, unless adjudged therein to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duties. In the event of a settlement the indemnification herein shall apply only when the Branch Leadership approves such settlement and reimbursement as being in the best interest of the Branch. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which the board or committee member is entitled.

ARTICLE XVI. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Provisions of these bylaws not governed by the AAUW (see Article VII) or AAUW CA bylaws may be amended at a Branch meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided written notice shall have been sent to the members at least 30 days prior to the meeting.