

Create a Caring and Connecting Branch Environment

LEADERS FOCUS ON ENGAGING MEMBERS:

1. Build relationships with member-volunteers.
2. Use interpersonal skills to create an environment where the member-volunteer can be fulfilled.
3. Simplify projects and tasks to accommodate the member-volunteer's time and interests.
4. Be there to help and offer to help whenever possible.
5. Articulate the value of each project to the benefit of women and girls.
6. Be excited.
7. Recognize positive participation and success along the way.

SHARE THE VISION

- Frequently at meetings and gatherings, remind members of AAUW's mission and vision.
- Tell the organization's history, visionary and value growth – hopes for the future (eg. DEI).
- Facilitate members understand of the AAUW "big picture".
- Share upcoming branch activities that will benefit or help member-volunteers benefit women and girls.
- Make time to share the success or story of how a branch activity was beneficial to women and girls.
- Tell stories showing ways the beneficiary IS touched by current work of members.

BE A NETWORK CATALYST

- Invite members to share reasons for choosing to serve as a volunteer for AAUW.
- Help members build relationships with each other.
- Consider their network motivators for career, education, personal growth.
- Ensure every member has an opportunity to share interests, values.
- Encourage those who desire to work together to do so.

INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS IN YEARLY PLANNING DISCUSSIONS

- Ensure availability of a variety of AAUW mission-related activities/opportunities for all members.
- Plan activities using Circles of Engagement for Caring and Connecting.
- Ask all members to suggest new mission-beneficiary programs.
- Create many opportunities for member-volunteers to suggest a new or revive an old activity.
- Evaluate & share in decision-making for program and activity planning;
 - Asked what worked, what didn't?

- Ask was it worth the effort?
- Ask would you suggest we do differently?

COMMUNICATE WHAT'S HAPPENING: KEEP EVERYONE IN THE KNOW

- Frequently – at gatherings, emails and newsletters;
- Reminder emails – short descriptions with date, place and times;
- Inspirational stories showing ways the beneficiary IS touched by current work of members.