

Demystifying the New AAUW Funds

By

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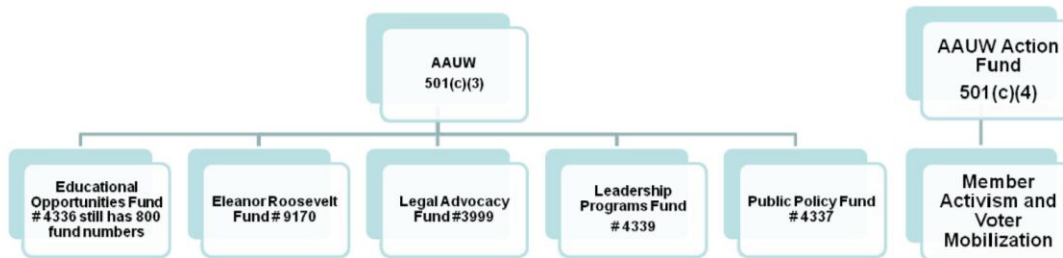
Many of you may be confused by all of the changes in AAUW in the last couple of years, especially the changes that have generated the AAUW Funds. During this program year, my goal is to demystify these changes through a number of articles and e-mails. My aim is to help you understand all of the giving options, inform you about where your donations are making a difference, and encourage you to be generous to the AAUW Funds.

AAUW's new mission statement reads: "Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, **philanthropy**, and research. The mission statement has been expanded to specifically include philanthropy. Without your donations the important work of our organization would be severely hampered.

I would like to start with a discussion of the changes in the structure of AAUW. Before the restructuring we were organized as follows:



The restructuring has isolated the activism and voter mobilization efforts into the AAUW Action Fund – a 501(c)(4) organization. This now allows AAUW, including all of the pieces of the AAUW Funds, to be a 501(c)(3) organization. The new AAUW structure is:



Although AAUW has restructured, our philanthropic purpose, goals, processes, and activities remain exactly the same—and so do our fellowship and grants funds, the Legal Advocacy Fund, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Campus Action Projects, research, and all the other programs that help us advance equity for women and girls. You can still make contributions to support the programs that you have supported in the past. The only thing that has changed is the terminology we use to refer to the destination for our charitable giving, which is now called AAUW Funds (#9110). As before, you can designate your gifts to one or more of the funds of AAUW, and you can use the same fund names and identification numbers that you have always used. Undesignated (unrestricted) giving will continue to be especially appreciated, because this type of donation makes it possible for AAUW to use your contribution where it is most needed. Wherever your philanthropy is directed, your gifts will be acknowledged and recognized according to your intent and designation — and they will be immensely appreciated.

In the coming months I will focus on each of the fund categories.