

AAUW LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES 2008

TO: Regional Directors and State Leaders

CC: Association, Educational Foundation Boards of Directors
Michele Wetherald

FROM: Leadership Development Design Task Force
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In the spirit of AAUW's strategic plan, Association and Educational Foundation Boards have been considering alternative, cost-effective ways to offer leadership development opportunities to a greater number of AAUW members. Throughout the strategic process, your input has played a crucial role in shaping new directions for the organization. You have indicated a need to attract new leaders as well as to strengthen and revitalize those currently in these roles.

With members as our grassroots strength and valued partners in moving AAUW forward, the Leadership Development Design Task Force has sought to expand accessibility to leadership training for current and potential leaders at all levels through the pilot Leadership Development Conferences (LDC).

Who should participate?

State presidents/co-presidents, executive steering committees, state program teams, and state Educational Foundation/Development chairs must make every effort to participate in LDC. Other current state/branch leaders and anyone who would benefit from these interactive sessions are strongly encouraged to attend.

How will this be done?

Method of delivery would be through specially produced AAUW DVD's which will be distributed to regional directors and state presidents by April 1, 2008. These DVD's will contain modules addressing different aspects of AAUW's work and action plans, such as membership/development/marketing strategies, mission-based programs, organizational structure and governance, public policy advocacy, effective leadership skills and tools, among others.

DVD's will be accompanied by a discussion guide and suggested activities to facilitate interaction and role-modeling. When possible, Association and Educational Foundation board members, standing committee chairs, regional directors and other leaders will serve as primary facilitators.

Where will the Leadership Development Conferences take place?

In considering the needs of member leaders, as well as differences in demographics, geographic locations and proximity of branch and state populations, the LDC's can be held within the framework of leadership conferences or workshops, at state conventions, or any other format, in settings such as single state, multi-state, area gatherings which cross state lines, or any other option.

Regional Directors will be coordinating framework and geographic settings with their states so as to ensure that LDC opportunities are accessible to as many as possible.

When should Leadership Development Conferences be scheduled?

State leaders and regional directors should determine where and when their LDC's can be optimally scheduled; however, these should take place in late spring or summer 2008.

How much time should be allotted for the LDC's?

The DVD's and discussion guides will provide four required hours of participant engagement during the 2008 LDC. The remaining modules on the DVD's will cover additional leadership training topics and skills, which could be completed in any subsequent settings.

Using input from state leaders, regional directors, and Association Program Development Committee, the LDD Task Force is planning content and topics now, and will keep you updated to facilitate your planning.

What are the next steps?

By December 1, please determine the following with your regional director:

- * type of gathering or framework that is best for your current and potential leaders
- * date and time
- * city or area where LDC will be held
- * number of members whom this might serve
- * number of DVD's and discussion guides needed

The Leadership Development Design Task Force will provide

- * DVD's and discussion guides
- * a primary leader-facilitator for each site, whenever possible

Whom should we contact for further information or assistance?

Please address any questions to your regional director.