



100 IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES FROM SUCCESSFUL AAWCC CHAPTERS/SECTIONS

-Educate-

1. Schedule regular events such as monthly or quarterly luncheons or programs. Consider a quarterly or annual theme that mirrors the national agenda. Examples have been “Enhancing Diversity,” “Leaders are Made - Not Born,” “The New Workforce,” “The High Cost of Powerlessness,” etc.
2. Use special events on your campus as springboards to your own meetings. For example, encourage members to attend a special event such as a lecture or play as a group. Meet briefly or serve refreshments before or after the event.
3. Invite local retailers or others to present a “Dress for Success” or “How to Build a Wardrobe on a Limited Budget” workshop, and invite students.
4. Invite the president and deans to speak from their perspective on “what I’d like AAWCC to do for me.”
5. Invite the president and deans to speak from their perspective on “what I’d like to do for AAWCC” or “My Commitment to AAWCC.”
6. Send AAWCC promotional items (pens, pencils, etc.) to administrators on campus with a note asking them to make sure their staffs are free to attend AAWCC meetings. These items can be obtained through your regional director or the Vice President for Membership.
7. Set up a booth at college events to promote AAWCC.
8. Ask a local radio, TV or newspaper personality to speak at your next group meeting.
9. Host a “Bring a Student to Lunch event with an appropriate program.
10. Plan at least one college-wide event that focuses on the current national program theme for AAWCC.
11. Use nationally distributed teleconferences as a focus for a half-day workshop. Plan a speaker or panel to precede or follow the conference. Serve a continental breakfast or light lunch.
12. Tape and edit your special events or meetings. Develop special presentations for future use, especially to attract new members.
13. Attend state/regional/national AAWCC conferences. Take a member and encourage other members to participate by organizing a vanpool.
14. Invite local businesswomen or those who have been elected to public office to attend your meetings or to present special programs.

15. Assemble a panel of state and/or local officials to address issues of importance on your campus.
16. Utilize the talents of people on your campus to present programs on issues such as women's health concerns, juggling career and family, public speaking, presentation skills, etc.
17. Begin a leadership development or mentoring program at your college that targets women and minorities.
18. Organize a speakers bureau with members of your chapter.
19. Meet for an afternoon tea and send a tea bag as an invitation.
20. Host an informal quarterly "Breakfast Club." Invite members to share what is new or of special concern in their areas of responsibility.
21. Hold a "round table" discussion luncheon and invite members to come and discuss a special topic selected by the group.
22. Invite a participant in a special project to share what s/he has learned.
23. Host a panel discussion on "How to Expand your Circle of Influence." Invite politicians and/or local celebrities to share how women can get on boards and expand their influence.
24. Encourage members to submit proposals for presentations at state and local meetings of other organizations.
25. Invite your state, regional, or national officers to do presentations on your campus.
26. Play commercially available leadership games or simulations. Allow time for debriefing and relating the experience to everyday problems encountered on your campus.
27. Divide your membership into 12 groups and have one group responsible for a program each month.
28. Publish a list of benefits for membership in your school newsletter or other communication vehicle.
29. Plan a regional one-day, drive-in conference. Invite AAWCC members and others from nearby colleges to attend.
30. Encourage members to read the AAWCC Quarterly for program ideas and events. Hold discussion sessions on books reviewed or topics of interest presented in this publication.
31. Invite administrators or trustees to speak to your chapter about budget, governance, or other important issues.
32. Publish a newsletter and include book reviews, articles, poems, pictures, and other contributions from members.
33. Conduct seminars on women's safety and health issues.

34. Work as a group to raise awareness of security issues on campus, i.e., improved lighting in parking lots.
35. Invite a financial planner to address concerns of women such as planning for retirement.
36. Host a “brown bag” lunch. Send a brown bag as the invitation.
37. Host a “Diversity Day” to focus on women of other cultures. Invite women to share information on customs, dress, etc. Serve ethnic foods.
38. Host “round table” discussions on your campus on topics such as “Appropriate Solutions for Inappropriate (But Not Illegal) Situations,” “Dealing with Tough Situations,” “Raising Consciousness: Our Own and Others.”
39. Develop a “shadowing” program for women students and/or employees so that they can observe positive role models in action.
40. Encourage your college to become an Institutional Member of AAWCC. Benefits include membership for the President and two additional members.
41. Disseminate information on your campus about issues of importance to women.
42. Invite executives from your state department of education to meet with members and discuss their state level responsibilities.
43. Organize a trip to your state department of community colleges for a state board meeting. Invite the system chief to speak to your group following the meeting.
44. Hold a team-building workshop using the Myers-Briggs Type indicator (or similar inventory) to help members develop a greater understanding of self and of others.
45. Provide training, counseling, and/or role-playing opportunities to help members and students increase assertiveness, poise, and self-confidence.
46. Co-sponsor a workshop for the college and business community on “Breaking the Glass Ceiling.”
47. Encourage members to read a book as a group project. Host a panel discussion on issues noted in the book.

- Cooperate-

48. Adopt a “sister” college and help potential members begin an AAWCC chapter.
49. Invite members from nearby institutions to join your chapter activities, particularly if there are not enough members to sustain a chapter at their college.

50. Support local charities - battered women's shelters, local soup kitchens, adolescent and pregnancy prevention programs, etc.
51. Participate as AAWCC teams in other organization's fundraisers and activities.
52. Take on a crusade or issue that needs serious attention on your campus. Examples might include childcare, sexual harassment, affirmative action, and increasing diversity.
53. Work with other college committees, particularly those addressing issues of importance to women.
54. Work with your president and other appropriate staff to utilize staff development, sex equity, or other similar funds to co-sponsor AAWCC events.
55. Seek grant funding for initiatives through gender equity programs or other special funds for special populations.
56. Establish and/or support a women's resource center on your campus.
57. Become advocates for women by writing letters to local, state, and national elected officials on key issues. (Remember to obtain permission to use the AAWCC name from the AAWCC national President before using it for purposes that may be in conflict with AAWCC goals.)
58. Assist your college in conducting an audit to determine if it is "family friendly."
59. Work with the Continuing Education office to present community service workshops on "family friendly" workplaces. Highlight business/industry leaders who are excelling in this area.
60. Work with local groups such as the Commission on the Status of Women to sponsor a Professional Development Luncheon Series for the business community.
61. Encourage clusters within a chapter to develop special interest support groups, for example, small groups to practice interviewing or review resumes.

-Elevate-

62. Raise scholarship money for women students with a "Cooking for Scholarships" day. Involve the entire campus. Have them bring gourmet food to sell and use the profit for scholarships.
63. Have an auction to raise scholarship money. Items could include donations as well as special parking spaces, services, etc. Include the entire college community.
64. Give a scholarship to an outstanding woman student and recognize her at a special event.
65. Award a professional development scholarship to a worthy member and recognize her at a special event.
66. Recognize support staff on campus regularly.

67. Send a holiday gift of blue and white jellybeans to members with a note: "The side effects of these jelly beans will be wisdom, courage, confidence, etc."
68. Send a bouquet of flowers, balloons or candy to people for outstanding work, particularly on issues of importance to women.
69. Tackle a special project such as a fundraiser for campus childcare or other worthwhile projects.
70. Purchase special promotional materials for members to give recognition and visibility to the chapter. (Ask your regional director for camera-ready originals of the organizational logo.)
71. Send information on chapter activities and pictures to local papers, college publications, regional newsletters, and the AAWCC *Quarterly*. (Send all information for regional and national publications to your Regional Director.)
72. Lead special initiatives on your campus such as Women's Resource Center.
73. Host a breakfast or dinner honoring your trustees with the theme "Meet your Trustees." This could be done either before or after your normal Board of Trustees meeting.
74. Purchase AAWCC pins for new members (available through the national membership office for \$5). Encourage members to wear their pins on meeting days.
75. Send a "Ten Most Wanted List" inviting prospective members to AAWCC. Include the individual's name along with the President's and other key personnel.
76. Sponsor an art exhibit, musical presentation, poetry reading, etc., recognizing works of women on your campus.
77. Develop a conference scholarship fund to assist would-be participants with conference registration fees.
78. Sponsor a deserving student or employee by giving her a gift membership in AAWCC.
79. Publish a directory of members. Include pictures and information on special talents, interests, etc. Send copies to key administrators
80. Nominate your president for "AAWCC's President of the Year" or a deserving woman on your campus for the annual "Woman of the Year Award." A trustee is also honored yearly by the national organization. Contact your regional director for details.
81. Nominate and support a local or state candidate for office on the National AAWCC Board.

-Celebrate-

82. Produce a brochure or short promotional video showing your members in action for use as a recruiting tool.

83. Honor members or other deserving individuals on campus who receive awards. (Example: participants in NILD *Leaders* program, recipients of special recognition, outgoing officers, etc.)
84. Host a quarterly tea or coffee to welcome new employees.
85. Recognize a “Woman of the Year” on your campus. Set up criteria and seek nominations.
86. Have a “Showcase of Talent.” Install new officers and have talented musicians, actors, or artists perform instead of having a speaker.
87. Host an annual “high tea” just for fun.
88. Purchase balloons and send one to each member announcing the next meeting or conference.
89. Give small, personalized gifts to out-going officers. (Example: give crystal globe to president; candle to vice-president; purse to treasurer; pen to secretary; handkerchief to hard workers.)
90. Give away door prizes--free AAWCC memberships.
91. Sponsor events on your campus such as Women's History Week in March. Recognize women's groups in the community during the week and invite them on campus for a meeting or event.
92. Host a dinner honoring one or all of your trustees.
93. Nominate a campus women’s program that reflects AAWCC’s mission for recognition as an AAWCC Model Program.
94. Gain positive visibility internally and externally by publicizing successful events, invited guests, newspaper articles, etc.
95. Host a champagne reception for faculty, staff, and/or administrators.
96. Give an AAWCC Student Leadership Award.
97. Give an Annual Equity Recognition Award for a business or community member who promotes equity in education.
98. Recognize a “Boss of the Year” who supports women.
99. Plan an annual outing to a special place.
100. Send in your chapter’s ideas, pictures, programs, and activities for recognition in national publications and the next revised, expanded list of ideas for local chapters.