

AAUWNYSFOCUS

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BUFFALO BRANCH MARKS A MILESTONE

125 and still going strong

By JULIA WEIDEMANN
Buffalo Branch Past President

The Buffalo Branch of the American Association of University Women is now 125 years old. Nationally, the Association of Collegiate Women was founded in 1880. Ten years later, in 1890 there were only eight women in all of Buffalo who had graduated from college. Five of them met and became the officers of the group which became the tenth branch of the organization which became AAUW. Originally known as the “Western New York” branch, it took on the name “Buffalo Branch” in 1921.

CELEBRATE WITH BUFFALO AT THE STATE CONVENTION, APRIL 17-19 AT BYBLOS NIAGARA RESORT & SPA, GRAND ISLAND

A charming description of the initial meeting was written by Olga Murray Lindberg for the 85th Anniversary Celebration of the Buffalo Branch.

On a sunny October afternoon in 1890, a stylishly dressed young woman stepped from her carriage and gathering her skirts in one hand, hurried up the walk to a home on 7th Street. Mrs. Lena Hill Severance was hostess, and five other college women met in her living room to form a Buffalo Chapter of the Collegiate Alumnae, later to become the American Association of University Women. Their goal was to establish a \$500 fellowship “For

the purpose of enabling young women to continue their education at European Universities.” As recorded in the minutes, “Women have shown that they can take a college course without injury to their health and with great benefit to their intellectual powers. It remains to be proved that a college course will produce its natural fruits in at least a handful of women who shall take a proper share in the intellectual activity of their country men.”

These women did not need to be concerned about the contributions of the educated women in AAUW in their community.

Awarding of scholarships to women for higher education has remained a strong focus for AAUW Buffalo Branch. In 1936, Sarah Dodge Chamberlin left money from her large estate to the Buffalo Branch for non-interest bearing loans to young women to help fund their college education. Since that time, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been loaned to women. In 1999, member Velma Cobb bequeathed \$30,000 to the branch for scholarships. In 2001 the Branch learned that Olga Lindberg had bequeathed almost one



The Buffalo Branch book sale, above, has been a popular fundraiser for 60 years. At left, a newspaper clipping about the branch's 1940 spring luncheon.

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Buffalo Branch marks a milestone

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half a million dollars to the Buffalo Branch for Scholarships. This Olga Lindberg is the same woman who wrote the description of the initial meeting of the organization. In 2004 another bequest of \$50,000 was received from the estate of Dorothy Payne. A \$5,000 scholarship has been given for the past four years in honor of local newscaster, Jacquie Walker, who has given outstanding publicity to the Book Sale. Other smaller scholarships have been given as memorials and tributes.

In addition to our local scholarship programs, we have fully funded two AAUW programs – one American Fellowship and one “Research and Projects.” We are also currently working to fund a second American Fellowship in honor of Hillary Rodham Clinton. We are also delighted to be supporting, for the past couple of years, young people who have founded student AAUW groups at the University at Buffalo and Daemen College.

For 60 years, the Buffalo Branch has sponsored a Used Book Sale. The sale has become a fixture in the community. Books are recycled and funds are raised for the Association Educational Foundation and for local scholarships and community projects. For a number of years over \$50,000 has been realized.

Social issues have long been a focus for the branch. In 1914, members learned that Buffalo was the only large city without a Board of Education. AAUW members lobbied locally and in Albany and were instrumental in a Buffalo Schools Board of Education being formed. Low salaries for women teachers were also a concern for the branch in its early years. Branch members worked hard to campaign for fair and equal salaries for women teachers.

The Buffalo Branch sold thousands of dollars worth of War Bonds during World War II and was recognized nationally for its efforts. After the war, the branch sponsored a number of meetings and forums to help plan intelligently for the postwar education of civilians and veterans.

Locally two events for women have become part of the yearly program. “Sister to Sister” is a day long program for girls ages 11 to 17, based on the Association model, to provide a forum for teenage girls to discuss issues of importance to them. Among those issues, all important to AAUW, are sexual harassment, domestic violence, body image, teen sex, and substance abuse. This year is the 18th event here in Buffalo, now led by a group of community organizations.

In March 2015, the branch will sponsor the 10th Annual Tech Savvy Program. This program now hosts over 500 girls, as well as parents and teachers. The day is spent helping the participants learn more about STEM careers and how to prepare for them.

The founder of the program in Buffalo, Tamara Brown, was honored by the White House in 2011 for her efforts and the program is now being duplicated by other branches nationally.

There have been a number of other conferences over the years. Some of the recent ones have focused on Title IX, Transitions (women experiencing major changes in their lives) and Campus Sexual Assault/Intimate Partner Violence.

Since 1940, we have also honored a woman every year as our “Achievement Award Winner.” These are women who have gone above and beyond in community service, politics, advocacy, their professions, etc. The list includes internationally acclaimed and “quiet” names, of whom we should all be proud.

City of snow and good neighbors

It was around 1890 and Buffalo was a booming town. The U.S. president was Benjamin Harrison, who was both preceded and followed by Buffalo’s own former mayor and NYS governor Grover Cleveland. The city’s population had reached over 250,000, which made it the 11th most populous in the whole country. Larkin, which began as a modest soap company in 1875, became the first large scale manufacturer to eliminate all middlemen with



Louise Bethune

its innovative “Larkin Clubs” using catalogs and mail-order exclusively.

The first electric chair was used at the Auburn penitentiary, the result of experiments by a Buffalo dentist. Sara Hinson, a Buffalo teacher, principal and school board member, started Flag Day exercises on June 14, 1891 (Its official holiday status came in 1916.) Louise Blanchard Bethune, one of America’s first female architects, designed the Livestock Exchange building, which opened in 1892.

The daily Buffalo Express evening newspaper, of which Mark Twain had been an editor a decade earlier, cost three cents.

Electric power from Niagara Falls, which was the catalyst for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition “City of Light,” became available in 1896. Dr Roswell Park established the first cancer research center in the world in 1898.

Louise Bethune was involved in the design of the Women’s Fair Building and was an early advocate of equal pay.

Part of Buffalo’s early success was due to its location as the terminus of the Erie Canal. Ships brought goods from the Midwest and canal boats brought goods from the East. The business of transferring the cargo between the two was huge, but dwindled to almost nothing after the completion of the St Lawrence Seaway in 1959. About the same time, the huge steel manufacturing business started leaving the area.

For quite a while, Buffalo was in a decline. But the past few years have brought a resurgence of energy. The Queen City of the Great Lakes, this city of snow and city of good neighbors, has much to offer everyone.

-- Betty Preble and Barbara Carier

Get ready to fun-raise at convention

By JANICE BROWN
AAUW-NYS Development VP

The development team has coordinated several fundraising activities for the state convention this year, to be held April 17-19 at Byblos Niagara Resort & Spa in Grand Island, N.Y.

There will be Bunco games, swimming and dancing ... plus the famous basket room.

The Bunco games will be a "meet and greet" on Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be a new game every hour. The cost will be \$10 to play and four players will be needed at each table. Wine and cheese will be served.

An EOF event on Saturday will give attendees a chance to "Dance the Night Away." The cost will be \$20 per person. Come with your best dance moves because there will be a dance contest to end the night.

LAF will have a guest speaker at the luncheon and we will collect donations for the LAF funds at that time.

We will also have the basket room, celebrating 20 years. Bring your best basket item/raffle items. See instructions in your convention packet.

To raise other funds, we will have a swimming contest and swim aerobics on Saturday morning at 7. The cost will be \$10 per person.

Who will be this year's Mermaid of the Convention?

See the convention packet for details on each event.

Fundraising is a big part of our mission in changing the lives of women and girls.



Proceeds from Buffalo's book sale, which began in 1955, have grown to over \$50,000.

60 years of success

By PATRICIA SWIFT-MacCLENNAN
Buffalo Branch

The Buffalo Branch's annual book sale, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2014, was a significant innovation in the early 1950s when fashion shows and bridge parties were the primary sources of funds for women's organization. As AAUW focused on fellowships and depended on branches for increased donations, Buffalo members decided in 1954 to become book sellers.

The first sale, in 1955, was held in a vacant downtown storefront with books collected by members, who also were the primary customers. It raised \$209.72 and was considered so successful that it became an annual event.

As the sale grew in size and duration finding space large enough and rent free became an issue. In 1981, the group finally paid rent to get space in the Buffalo Convention Center. It was the most luxurious spot the sale has ever known but expenses were cutting too deeply into profits so in 1988, the group persuaded a local college to loan its recreation center.

Sale workers managed to find donated space in the city until well into the 1980s. The growing collection attracted the interest of dealers who advised the branch to charge admission fees, at least on opening

day. The other four days remained free of charge until two years ago when a \$1 fee was instituted.

With increased donations, the demand for ever larger space made staying in downtown too difficult and in the 1990s members began looking at vacant suburban big box stores, some of which were provided rent-free by a local developer. There was need for at least 16,000 square feet to house a collection that was approaching 100,000 books. By 2014, that figure was close to 150,000. It was also getting impossible to find free space.

Expenses were rising, but so were profits. Last year the gross was over \$70,000 and the net was over \$50,000. These profits have allowed the branch to fund one AAUW fellowship pledge and commit to another as well as several programs and scholarships locally.

The book sale has remained an all-volunteer event. Members collect, sort and package books for eight months each year and fill multiple jobs during the sale.

There was a time when members' homes and garages were used as drop-off and storage depots. Today, free space is provided for collection and storage where workers spend two days a week processing donations.

Never underestimate the power of AAUW.

Meet the candidates for state office

The AAUW-NYS Nominating Committee is pleased to present at Convention the following slate for election, as qualified to serve for state office 2015-2017:

Public Policy Vice President:

Donna Seymour

A dual member of the St. Lawrence County and Empire State Virtual Branches, Donna Seymour is seeking a second term as the AAUW-NYS Public Policy Vice



President. An experienced leader, she has served on the AAUW-NYS Board as Communications Director (2000-2004; 2008-2012), Public Policy Director (2012-2013) and Nominating Committee Chair (2013).

During her tenure, Donna has formed strong coalition partnerships with organizations such as Women's Equality Coalition, NY Equal Pay Coalition and PowHerNY, which support our work and amplify our message.

Donna is well regarded for her consistent outreach to branch leaders. In praising Donna as a mentor, Trudy Ruchman of the Long Island North Shore Branch writes, "Donna is always available to me for telephone consultations and has spent much of her valuable time clarifying state-wide concerns."

Donna's energy, skills, commitment, ideas and national contacts combine to make her a highly effective leader and public policy advocate. Current Program VP Jane Russell states, "I have worked with Donna for almost twenty years in this organization and I have never met a more dedicated volunteer. Donna's life reflects the mission of AAUW."

Secretary/Bylaws:

Loreen (Laurie) Ginnitti

In addition to her many leadership roles as a member of the Jamestown Branch, Laurie Ginnitti is a voice of authority on policies and procedures of the AAUW-NYS Board, helping many branches bring their bylaws into compliance.



AAUW-NYS Past-President Evvie Currie writes, "Laurie's knowledge of the AAUW history, the national and state organizations and our pub-

lic policies is unmatched by many members." She was the Chair of the AAUW-NYS Task Force for the Future, which focused on board structure and communication with branches.

She has served twice as AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws (1999-2001 and 2005-2007), once as AAUW-NYS Administrative Director (2002-2004) and several times as Parliamentarian for AAUW-NYS conventions.

During her first term as Bylaws chair, she conducted an extensive bylaws revision, and in her second term she facilitated a major revision of the working rules. AAUW-NYS Past President Betty Harrel states, "Laurie always acts in a precise, professional manner while maintaining excellent rapport with her peers."

Nancy Mion, current LAF Director and AAUW-NYS Past President, says, "She is everything one would wish for in an AAUW-NYS Secretary/By-Laws Officer. She is totally committed to AAUW and our mission."

Membership Vice President:

Margaret (Peggy) Tiffany

In five years as a member of the Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch, Peggy Tiffany has embraced leadership roles, serving as both Co-President and Public Policy Chair.



"Peggy has spent countless hours encouraging membership growth, providing a link to college programming and creating a liaison with the Women's Student Union at Fredonia," writes Karin Lewis, Dunkirk-Fredonia LAF and Education Chair. Peggy is enthusiastic about the AAUW mission and enjoys telling people about our lobbying efforts, the scholarships we provide, and our collaborations with other women's organizations.

In addition to her commitment to AAUW, she has significant experience as a leader, a recruiter and a supervisor in non-profit organizations. Active in her community, Peggy served as Vice President for Communications (2007-2008) and President (2008-2011) of the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County and was also the Vice-President (2010-2011) and President (2011-2014) of the Chautauqua

County Rural Ministry.

Shirley Erbsmehl, Co-President of the Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch, states, "I cannot think of anyone who is better suited to work with groups and individuals on a professional basis than Peggy. She has a marvelous sense of humor and always goes out of her way to make people feel comfortable in any situation."

Betty Preble, President of the Buffalo Branch, notes, "Peggy brings the knowledge and experience that comes with dealing with the challenges of a smaller branch. This will be a great help to many of her branch counterparts."

Treasurer:

Ruth Fierro-King

Ruth Fierro-King, a member of the Buffalo Branch since 2008, is currently serving as interim AAUW-NYS Treasurer



through June. This role is a natural fit for Ruth, who served as Treasurer of her branch from 2008-2012 and as AAUW-NYS Treasurer from 2009-2013.

"Ruth's background in finance, and her branch, state, and national knowledge of AAUW have previously enabled the board and members to stay informed about the status of the state. I feel confident she will continue to provide excellent guidance and explanation," says Eileen Hartmann, AAUW Director and AAUW-NYS Past President.

A graduate of Bernard Baruch College with a BBA in Economics and Finance, Ruth completed a master's degree in International Finance from the University at Buffalo.

She has an extensive background in commercial real estate lending, business structure lending, community development lending and in successfully managing large business relationships.

Currently a Vice President at First Niagara Bank in the Commercial Business Banking Group in Buffalo, Ruth previously held various leadership positions for HSBC and Key Bank.

AAUW-NYS Membership VP Maria Ellis writes, "Ruth believes in giving back to the community and she is committed to AAUW's mission to improve the lives of women and girls."

Leader on Loan will focus on education

By DONNA SEYMOUR
AAUW-NYS Public Policy Director

Education is a top priority in AAUW's advocacy work.

Our AAUW Leader on Loan for Convention is Erin Prangley from the Public Policy Department. Erin works closely with us on many issues, including the Common Core and education funding inequity.



Erin Prangley
Inequity of opportunity is directly tied to funding inequity. Both are serious problems here in New York and across the nation.

For the first time in 50 years, a majority of U.S. public school students come from low-income families.

According to a recent study, New York schools in poorer districts spent \$8,733 per pupil less in 2012 than those from wealthier ones. Educational inequity has grown by nearly 9 percent since Gov. Cuomo took office in 2011.

At the same time, schools

across the state have been working to implement Common Core, college and career readiness standards, and establish a better understanding of 21st century learning.

At the college level, students, parents, and higher education stakeholders all want the same thing: affordable college. Student debt is out of control and students have at best a poor understanding of what the real costs of education loans will be over a working lifetime.

For public school students, the biggest factor in determining how much they pay is state investment. In 2012 for the first time, tuition surpassed state money as funding sources for public universities, according to a new Government Accountability Office report. Too many states haven't made higher education a priority.

Erin will walk us through the many challenges and the opportunities AAUW members and branches have to continue to effect positive change on our local and state public school and college educational systems.

2 sessions on women in office

Elected women officials at all levels bring a unique skill set with them to their positions.

That is because some of the traditional abilities that women use in their daily lives – such as multi-tasking, peacemaking, financial planning, and organization – are valuable assets that can be used when elected.

This year's convention features two sessions about women in municipal office.

The first will take place on

Saturday at 11 a.m. A panel of elected women officials consisting of several women from different parts of the state will talk about their journeys to office.

An afternoon breakout workshop will be presented by Taking Action in Politics, a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to the election of qualified women candidates running for local and statewide public office in Western New York.

– Jane Russell, Program VP

Warm welcome for students

By ANGELA CLARK-TAYLOR
and KIM POLLARD

Another first for AAUW of New York State – a student specific program at the 2015 State Convention! As AAUW-NYS forges ahead in 2015 with the mission of “Leading the Way: Women Leadership in the 21st Century,” what better way to proceed than with the women who will continue the charge by our side?

The convention will feature a one-day college student track on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Byblos Niagara Resort. The cost for this program is \$20 per student, and the same low rate will be offered to faculty and staff who bring students to the convention.

Promoting equity and education for women and girls is not just a slogan – it's a way of life for AAUW members.

With more than 60 College/University (C/U) Partners and over 600 student affiliates across the state, engaging young women in the decision-making process and empowering them to break through barriers is a priority here in New York.

The college students who attend the convention will network with fellow student leaders, faculty, staff, and AAUW members; hear from a well-respected keynote speaker about her personal path to success; attend career-building workshops; and dialogue with AAUW-NYS leaders to assess our campus leadership programs and how we can better serve their needs.

Workshops will include Creating and Managing Your Digital Image; Internships 101: How to Determine the Good from the Bad, Market Yourself and Write a Winning Cover Letter; and Promoting Equity & Social Justice: Building Your Career Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy, and Research.

Help us spread the word about the new convention student track:

- ◆ Include this information in your branch newsletter and on your branch website.
- ◆ Share this information on social media.
- ◆ Invite your branch's scholarship recipients to attend the student track at convention.
- ◆ Make sure local colleges are aware of this opportunity for students, faculty and staff.
- ◆ Lead by example. Register today to attend the convention and bring a guest with you.

Proposed bylaws amendments

LOREEN GINNITTI
AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws

The following amendments to the American Association of University Women – New York State Inc. (AAUW–NYS) bylaws have been written by the bylaws committee and reviewed by the Board of Directors. They will be voted upon by the membership at the 2015 convention.

****Items that are underlined will be removed from the wording. Items shown in “quotations” are replacement or additions in the new wording.

Article VII Duties of Officers

Section 1 President

b. State Responsibilities

Currently – 4. Serve as an ex-officio member of all task forces and committees except the nominating committee.

New by replacement – 4. Serve “in an advisory capacity to” all task forces and committees except the nominating committee.

Rationale – Ex-officio gives voting rights to a person who may not have participated fully on the committee. In an advisory capacity the president has a right of participation but no voting rights unless specified in the bylaws or working rules. The president is listed as full voting member of the finance committee in the working rules.

Article VII Duties of Officers

Section 4 Treasurer

By addition – Add: b. “Prepare the annual budget with review and input from the finance committee for approval by the AAUW-NYS board of directors.”

Rationale – To clarify the role of treasurer, finance committee and the board in the budget process.

Article XII Financial Administration

Section 2 budget

Currently – The annual budget for the state shall be prepared by the finance committee and approved by the AAUW-NYS board of directors.

New by insertion: The annual AAUW-NYS budget shall be prepared by “the treasurer with review and input from the finance committee for approval” by the AAUW-NYS board of directors.

Rationale – To be consistent with the board of directors working rules and defining the role of the treasurer, finance committee and board of directors.

Article XV Parliamentary Authority

Currently – The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all instances..... not inconsistent with these bylaws, the laws of New York State and/or requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

New by insertion – Add: not inconsistent with these bylaws, “the Working Rules of the AAUW-NYS Board of Directors,” the laws of...

Rationale – The new wording prevents Robert’s Rules from superseding the Working Rules of the Board of Directors.

Article XVII Amendments to the Bylaws

Currently – Section 2. Prior Approval

All other proposed amendments to AAUW-NYS bylaws shall be sent to the AAUW-NYS Board of Directors for review prior to being voted on.

New by addition – Add: “approval and compliance with AAUW bylaws, AAUW-NYS bylaws, federal and New York State laws, regulations of the Internal Revenue service and the mission of AAUW prior to the membership vote at the annual business meeting.”

Rationale – Any member may propose an amendment to the bylaws. The Bylaws Committee/Board of Directors will review for compliance. AAUW is governed by DC law which requires board approval of all bylaws amendments. Since our bylaws must conform to AAUW bylaws, our bylaws must include the provision for board approval.

All approved amendments are submitted to the membership at the annual business meeting for approval.

Currently – Section 3. Member Vote

Provisions of these bylaws not governed by the AAUW Bylaws may be amended at the AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided written notice shall have been sent to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

New – By Insertion – Provisions of these bylaws not governed by the AAUW Bylaws may be amended at the AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided written notice “of approved amendments has” been sent to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Rationale – Change of Section 2. incorporated into Section 3



Register now for the 2015 convention

April 17-19 at Byblos Niagara Resort & Spa, Grand Island, N.Y.

“AAUW Leading the Way: Women Leadership in the 21st Century”

www.aauw-nys.org/convention



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Michelle Jaureguito Henley will speak at Convention about how the Legal Advocacy Fund helped her win a Title IX case in California.

LAF champion on tap

By NANCY MION
AAUW-NYS LAF Director

Come to the 2015 NYS Convention and hear Michelle Jaureguito Henley speak about how the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund helped her and two colleagues with their cases of Title IX violations, retaliation, campus sexual harassment and more.

Mollie Lam, LAF Manager, tells us that Jaureguito, Paul Thein and Laurel Wartluft were former employees of Feather River Community College in California. In 2006, they filed whistleblower lawsuits against Feather River, alleging that the college violated Title IX by retaliating against them for complaining about sex discrimination, among other claims.

In July 2005, several students reported to Jaureguito and to Thein that a particular staff member had sexually harassed and inappropriately touched students. They reported the students' complaints to the college president. The two claimed that the college retaliated against them for reporting and investigating the students' complaints. Shortly after this reporting, Jaureguito was charged with a baseless disciplinary action (which was eventually dismissed) and harassed by staff. Although she reported the retaliatory harassment several times, it continued.

The three found out about our AAUW LAF, which helps people who are fighting to enforce the laws that pre-

vent sex discrimination. They submitted an application for assistance in 2007. Their request was evaluated by the staff for several factors including the legal validity of the claim, and it will set a precedent that will stop other employers from the same illegal behavior.

The LAF Committee considered all the factors including what monies were available and decided the case should be recommended to the AAUW Board of Directors for their approval which they gave.

It takes courage, determination, support and money to file a lawsuit. Your support and donations are so essential to obtaining gender equity through the legal system.

The cases were referred to California's State Personnel Board. In August 2009, a SPB judge issued a decision in favor of all three plaintiffs, ordering their reinstatement and awarding them back pay and damages.

Feather River appealed the SPB judge's decision. After a lengthy appeal, the full SPB upheld the judge's 2009 decision in the plaintiffs' favor. Now, more than eight years after filing suit, their cases are finally coming to an end.

I urge you to come to Convention and listen to Michelle Jaureguito Henley as she gives us all the details of her LAF case and how it affected her life.

See how your support and contributions make a difference in the constant battle to stop sex discrimination in the work place.



MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

VISION STATEMENT

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Focus, a quarterly newsletter, is published by the American Association of University Women-New York State. The distribution cost of \$4 is included in state dues.

Questions and articles should be addressed to: Focus Director Claire Regan, Associate Managing Editor, Staten Island Advance, 950 Fingerboard Rd., Staten Island, N.Y. 10305. Phone: 718-816-2845.

Email: focus@aauw-nys.org.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT / EDWINA FRANCES MARTIN, ESQ.

Convention: A rite of spring

What are you doing in April? I hope you will be joining us at the 2015 AAUW-NYS Convention – AAUW Leading the Way: Women Leadership in the 21st Century, April 17-19 at Byblos Niagara Resort & Spa in Grand Island, N.Y.

Since last September a dedicated team has been working hard to plan an exciting, engaging, educationally edifying and fun experience.

I have been organizing a workshop with Past Presidents Mary Lou Davis and Nancy Mion called “Women and the Vote: Past, Present and Future.”

We are collaborating with the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar As-



Nadia Shahram, Esq.

sociation of the State of New York to offer free Continuing Legal Education credit to AAUW member attorneys. This marks the

first time such credit is being offered to convention attendees.

The workshop will delve into the issue of women and the right to vote from many different vantage points – the impact on the women's suffrage movement of leaving out the right to vote for women in the 15th Amendment; the current status of efforts throughout the country to create barriers to the

right to vote; how the U.S. women's suffrage movement has inspired women around the world; and efforts our members around the state are involved in to celebrate the upcoming centennial of the women's right to vote in New York State (2017) and in the U.S. (2020).

Presenters will include members speaking on centennial efforts and experts on voting rights law.

Nadia Shahram, Esq., adjunct professor of law at SUNY Buffalo School of Law, will speak on the impact of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Declaration of Sentiments presented at the 1848 Seneca Falls convention.

I look forward to seeing you in April!