

# Nominating Committee Report

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The 2014 AAUW-NYS Nominating Committee is pleased to present to this 2015 Convention the following slate for election, as qualified to serve for state office 2015-17:



**AAUW-NYS 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, providing information, advice and encouragement, as needed. In praising Donna as a mentor, Trudy Ruchman, of the L.I. 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.”



**AAUW-NYS 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 public 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."



**AAUW-NYS 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 the 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."



**AAUW-NYS 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 2015. This role is a natural fit for Ruth, who served as Treasurer of her branch from 2008-2012 and as the AAUW-NYS Treasurer from 2009 to 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 her Master’s 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, N.A. in the Commercial Business Banking Group in Buffalo, N.Y., Ruth previously held various leadership positions for HSBC and Key Bank. Her volunteer experience focuses on organizations that support education, equality, diversity, economic development and family. 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.”