

INFORMATION FOR LAF CHAIRS

By Cheryl Papa

EDUCATING YOUR MEMBERS

Your acceptance of this position demonstrates your desire to further the cause of LAF. Information sources are the keys that will enable you to educate your membership.

Use the AAUW websites. You will find them very informative.

Association: <http://www.aauw.org/laf/index.cfm>

New York State: <http://aauw-nys.org/laf.htm>

I am updating the NYS website with readily accessible information that you will need. You will find the Association LAF portion excellent in updating case studies and giving you the information you need on all aspects of the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Develop a program during the year further your membership's knowledge of LAF.

When the members understand the importance of LAF's mission, they are willing to support it with their time, talents, and resources.

Are You "LAF"ing Yet? is a Readers' Theater that you can access by contacting me. It can make an informative program about the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Three new litigant stories have been developed for those who have already used the above mentioned Readers' Theater as a program.

Another use of all of the litigant stories can be to separate them from the Reader's Theater and use them as a "five minute" LAF section of any of your branch meetings.

I would like to suggest that you get your branch into the habit of anticipating a regular LAF update.

Speaker: If your branch would care to have me come and speak, I am willing to do so. I will address whatever you feel is necessary: information on all aspects of LAF, its place in EF, latest cases, the importance of the mission and each member's support.

Drawing the Line / Sexual Harassment on Campus is the latest report by AAUW. I am willing to speak on that topic for a program. However, someone from your branch could become informed and present the program. There is a Power Point presentation found on AAUW's website.

Counterpart messages will be sent regularly by me. I can promise that there will be at least four throughout the year. **I attempt to send "potential newsletter" articles for your use.** I do think that it is important that you have an LAF CORNER in your newsletter to update your members. Feel free to write your own. Do not feel obligated to use mine.

ENCOURAGING CONTRIBUTIONS – YOU CAN DO IT!

Why is it important that you lead your membership into increasing their contributions?

If we are to have equity for women, we are going to have to achieve it through the courts. The litigants give years of their life to right an injustice to ensure that others won't have to experience the same. Those long years make lawsuits extremely expensive as well as physically and emotionally exhausting. We need to help them achieve success. It is our contributions that can do just that! **All Top Ten Branches in Total Contributions and Top Ten Branches Per Capita Contributions will be listed in the LAF Luncheon Program.**

NYS LAF Goals:

- **\$5.00 from each member in the branch.**
- **5% increase from total LAF 2005 giving.**

ALL BRANCHES ACHIEVING THE ABOVE GOALS WILL BE MENTIONED IN THE LAF LUNCHEON PROGRAM.

- **100% branch participation in LAF giving. (There is no specific amount to qualify for this. In order for NYS to achieve this, each branch must give something.)**

FUND RAISERS : These can be from small to big. Possibilities: Basket raffle at monthly meetings; 50/50 Raffle; Book sale; Wine tasting; Dinners; Game Nights; Teas; Anything your branch is creative enough to imagine and energetic enough to accomplish.

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS: Encourage your members to donate to become major donors.

The various levels of giving:

NYS LAF Circle (\$50-\$99)

LAF Amicus (\$100-\$249)

LAF Partner (\$250-\$499)

LAF Advocate (\$500-\$999)

LAF Defender (\$1000-\$4999)

The major donors will be honored in the LAF luncheon program at the Spring Convention in 2007. Certificates will be made and given to a branch representative. I suggest you have a small ceremony highlighting these donors at your May or September meeting.

As the Chair, please keep track of all donations. Some members are more comfortable making several smaller donations throughout the year. Add the individual's various donations so that you will have a record of which category of major donor was reached. In January send me the various donor categories with a list of which members reached each specific level. When a member has reached \$100.00, please let me know immediately so the Association will send them a pin. The 2006 pin is beautiful.

The deadline for 2006 donations is December 15, 2006. Please see that all donations arrive by then. If there is some exception, please notify me before that date.

WHAT IS CAMPUS OUTREACH?

- **The initiative was established to educate students and staff about sex discrimination issues.**
- **Share ways to address and prevent sex discrimination.**
- **Provide action steps toward creating a more equitable campus climate.**

LAF believes that the more men and women know about sex discrimination and the prevention policies in place at their institutions, the less sex discrimination will occur. LAF staff works with the administration, faculty, and students at the university or college selected to determine the best type of presentation and specific issues to be addressed.

EVVIE CURRIE GIVING CIRCLE

Evvie Currie was the third New York State Director of the Legal Advocacy Fund. She held that position from 1998 – 2002. She was enthusiastic in educating the AAUW New York State membership to the importance of the Legal Advocacy Fund. She advocated having the position become an elected Vice Presidency. The board voted to do so and in 2002 the office of NYS LAF VP was born. This allowed the position to have a place on the Executive committee.

Susan Sontup Hearty was the first elected NYS LAF VP. She initiated the Evvie Currie Giving Circle. I reinstated the fund in July 2005. LAF raised \$10,000 for the Evvie Currie Giving Circle by the end of 2005. The money given to this fund is earmarked to remain in New York State for campus outreach programs. The first recipient of the New York State program was the State University College at Geneseo.

Evvie Currie was elected AAUW NYS President from 2000-2004. Evvie is a dynamic leader. She continues to give everything she has to maintain and further all missions of AAUW. LAF has a particular place in her heart. In her “retirement”, she willingly became Schenectady’s LAF Chair. I would like to quote her from one of her newsletter excerpts:

Why is it important to give to the Legal Advocacy Fund? AAUW is about women helping women and this is a tangible way we can put our words into action. The women, whom we help to earn higher degrees through our EF contributions, also need our help when they experience discrimination in their academic pursuits. EF and LAF are partners in the AAUW mission of creating positive societal change. Won't you become a partner in this important AAUW work too?

I would like to see us raise another \$10,000 in her honor for such a fabulous program. Evvie has always maintained that education is the key to prevention of sex discrimination. I totally agree. So, please encourage your membership to designate their donation to this fund. The Fund number is 3086.

SILENT AUCTION BASKET SALE

The rules for the basket sale that takes place at the spring convention is on the NYS website: aauw-nys.org

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONVENTION LAF BASKET SILENT AUCTION April 27-29, 2007

1. Each Branch is allowed to bring from 1 to 3 baskets.
2. Friday, April 20, 2007, is the deadline to notify me the number of baskets to be contributed by the Branch. **NO BASKETS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DEADLINE!**
3. Each Basket is to be wrapped in clear plastic. (not colored or figured)
4. A 4 x 6 card should be attached, listing the Title, contents, and name of the contributing branch.
5. All baskets must be in the display area by 5 p.m. Friday, April 27. No baskets will be accepted on Saturday.
6. The bidding will be available during scheduled times from 7 p.m. Friday until 10 p.m. on Saturday. The winners will be announced at 8:15 a.m. at Sunday Breakfast.
7. **PLEASE BRING A CHECK, TO AAUW LAF, IF YOU PLAN TO BID.**

NOTE: THE MONEY PAID FOR A BASKET BY THE BIDDER WILL BE CREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION TO THE CONTRIBUTING BRANCH. THE WINNING BIDDER WILL BE CREDITED PERSONAL CREDIT TOWARDS MAJOR DONOR STATUS BY NYS LAF FOR THE AMOUNT PAID. GIFTS TO THE AAUW LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.