



INTRODUCTION

Convention 2015:

- The Convention 2015 Planning Committee should be commended for their hard work preparing for this convention: Dr. Susan McClary and Jane Russell (Co-Chairs); Valora Blackson (Diversity Director); Janice Brown (Development Vice President); Karen Carr (Immediate Past Convention Director); Angela Clark-Taylor (C/U Director); Mary Lou Davis (Immediate Past President and District Director); Jennifer Mayfield (Cultural/International Director); Nancy Mion (LAF Director); Joan Monk (Special Projects); Kimberly Pollard (AAUW Regional Field Representative); Betty Preble (Buffalo Branch); Linda Roberts (Convention Treasurer); and Donna Seymour (Public Policy Vice President).
- Convention 2015 features two (2) AAUW firsts –
 - our first workshop to offer Continuing Legal Education professional credit – “*Women and the Vote*,” a collaboration with the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, and
 - our first “*New Leadership Track*” for college students; we have over 20 students registered to participate!
- Among the many luminaries participating in our convention this year, we will have a visit from New York State’s Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Kathy Hochul.

AAUW National Elections and Convention:

- Please help make AAUW’s national election, April 15 through June 19, a success by voting! In addition to electing AAUW’s 2015–17 Directors, members will vote on proposed changes to our AAUW’s Public Policy Program and amendments to our bylaws—including proposals about AAUW’s membership degree requirement. For more information go to aauw.org and click on “*AAUW National Elections*.”
- The National convention is almost sold out. Being held in San Diego June 18th-21st, there is still limited space left – go to convention.aauw.org for more information or to register to attend.

2014-16 Term Goals:

In *Focus* articles and visits to branches around the State I have had the opportunity to speak about my goals for the 2014-16 term. Over the next year the state board will be honing more closely on these goals, starting with the summer conference at Cazenovia College:

- *Visibility*: Increase visibility through training and assisting branches in communications.
- *Strategic Planning*: Identify ways in which to build membership and assist branches. At our 2014 State Fall Board Meeting, three key goals were identified: (i) increasing

membership; (ii) developing practical leadership modules for branches, incorporating diversity; and (iii) facilitating community engagement in branch programming.

- *Increasing Board Outreach to Branches:* Ensure the board is reaching out to all branches to engage them in AAUW's mission and goals. This includes ensuring that branches are aware of state resources, such as the Leader on Loan Program and our state Speaker's Bureau, reaching out to branches as liaisons to the state board on a regular basis throughout the year, and ensuring that all branches are aware of the current State branch incentive programs.

MILESTONES

Branch Birthdays:

The following branches are celebrating important milestones in their history and service in 2015:

125 years –

Albany (1890)
Buffalo (1890)
Corning (1890) (now Elmira/Corning)

115 years –

Southern New York (1900)

100 years –

Jamestown (1915)

95 years –

Adirondack (1920)
NYS-AAUW (1920)

90 years –

Dunkirk/Fredonia (1925)
Kingston (1925)
Poughkeepsie (1925)

55 years –

Islip Area (1960)

50 years –

Cortland (1965)

Testimony and Policy Memos:

- S.3004/A.3870 – In support of Paid Family Leave Insurance for NYS families.
- A.4272 – In support of Reasonable accommodations for Pregnant workers.
- A.6075 – In support of Equal Pay.
- A.3006/S.2006 (Part H) – In Opposition to Campus Sexual Assault legislation contained in the Executive Budget instead of introduced through a deliberative budget process.

2014 Summer Meeting:

- “*Empowering Branches to Meet the Needs of Modern College Campus,*” July 25-27, 2014. The 2014 Summer Meeting included a ‘Hot Topics on College Campuses,’ a panel with students who attended NCCWSL, and a Communications session on ‘Enhancing your Branch Communications.’ And if you missed it, you can find a lot of the sessions posted on our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheAAUW>).
- And speaking of our social media expansion, in May I filmed videos of my candidate’s speech, greeting for Summer Meeting, and a piece on #BringBackOurGirls, all of which were also posted on our YouTube Channel.

2014-15 Impact Grant:

- Thanks to the vision of our Public Policy Vice President Donna Seymour we were able to secure another AAUW Impact Grant for 2014-15 on Title IX: STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and Common Core State Standards. Goals of the year include:
 1. Expanding the number of branches in NYS offering STEM-related events and outreach in local schools at all age levels.

2. Expanding the Hour of Code events in-state for Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 8-14, 2014)
3. Connecting Branches to local NYS-based STEM expansion efforts, personnel and resources (there are 215 new Master STEM teachers in NYS this year; the NYS STEM Incentive Program will provide full tuition coverage to the top 10 percent of high school students if they pursue a major in the STEM field and commit to work in New York for at least five years following their graduation; and the state chapter of the National Girls Collaborative Project will officially launch this fall as NY STEAM (they added the 'arts' into STEM).
4. Expanding AAUW-NYS participation in Common Core advocacy groups and networks at both the state level (High Achievement New York) and the regional level (i.e., with BOCES partner schools).
5. Providing District & Branch help to put on local and region Common Core success workshops and events prior to Election Day 2014; continue to follow up with CC-related education and advocacy efforts post-election.

State Field Representative Program:

- NYS was selected to participate in the AAUW Regional Field Representative program, with Kimberly Pollard as our representative. The focus of this program this year was on membership and development. We have been informed that AAUW is contemplating continuing this program for another year and we hope to continue with this program.

Women in Office Collaboration:

- We have continued to meet with representatives from the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY), the YWCA, and Eleanor's Legacy, to continue our discussions regarding a project focused on getting more women in political positions and on the bench in a non-partisan manner.

Board Orientation:

- On July 15th we held our first NYS Board Orientation. Materials regarding the history of the organization, governing regulations, and duties of board positions were disseminated. The board members on the call shared their vision and goals for their positions for the year/term.

NYS Student Advisory Board:

- Under the leadership of C/U Director Angela Clark-Taylor and Cultural/International Director Jennifer Mayfield we have started NYS's first student advisory council; applications are being disseminated to the students at Convention this weekend and will be circulated to our C/U representatives and student mentorship programs around the state.

NYS at the National Level:

- AAUW continues to be well represented at the national level:

Sandra Camillo

Board Secretary & Governance
Committee Liaison

Jacqueline Goffe-McNish

Nominating Committee

Eileen Hartmann

Board Director, Branch Program
Resources Committee Liaison & Voting
Engagement Chair

Melissa Guardaro

United Nations Representative

Heide Parreno

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

Elizabeth Harrel

Governance Committee

Mary Lou Davis

STEM Liaison Task Force

Diane Daniels

Legal Advocacy Fund Committee

Uma Gupta

STEM Liaison Task Force

Nancy Mion

Legal Advocacy Fund Committee

New State Projects:

- NYS Special Projects Director Joan Monk will lead us on a further exploration of the leadership lessons from Eleanor Roosevelt. With the focus on leadership from AAUW on both the state and the national level, “Leadership: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” is the next logical step for NYS. With the naming of the youngest Nobel Laureate ever, Malala gives us the chance to educate young people to leadership through advocacy and philanthropy. Malala also helps us to refocus our attention on girls’ education and violence against women/girls. Since girls are our future, developing, expanding or enriching girls’ leadership possibilities rounds out the project. And the NY/NJ WILD Project will continue for a second year, using Robin Gerber’s book, “*Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way*” as a vehicle for leadership development and a platform to discuss new ideas for programs and projects.

AAUW Meet & Greet:

- I had ‘Meet & Greet’ meetings with Jill Birdwhistell (AAUW COO) and Mark Hopkins (Chief Strategy Officer) on September 4th and October 8th to meet Mark and Jill and learn about long-term planning initiatives at National.

Branch Disbandment:

- NYS received official notice of approval of the Skaneateles branch disbandment application on October 31st, 2014.

AAUW Policy in Action:

- Court of Appeals Fracking Decision – in Cooperstown Holstein Corp. v. Town of Middleton, the NY Court of Appeals upheld lower court decisions that allow NY

cities and towns to block hydraulic fracturing within their borders. By a 5-2 vote, the court upheld dismissal of lawsuits challenging bans in the upstate towns of Dryden and Middlefield, ruling, in important part, that the towns engaged in a 'reasonable exercise' of their zoning authority and were within their rights. Here is a link to the New York Times article on the decision:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/01/nyregion/towns-may-ban-fracking-new-york-state-high-court-rules.html? r=1>.

SPECIAL EVENTS/BRANCH VISITS

Branch Visits:

- I spoke at the Staten Island Branch for its September 2014 branch meeting on national and state goals for 2014-15.
- On November 16th, 2014, I met with the president of the Albany Branch following the November board meeting.
- On November 20th, 2014, I joined over 70 attendees to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our North Shore Branch.
- On March 3rd, 2015, I spoke at a Westchester branch program on my journey to AAUW and Convention 2015; I attended the Westchester and Empire State Virtual Branch's `EYO – *Explore Your Opportunities: The Sky's the Limit*' conference on March 21st.
- On April 11th, 2015, I attended the screening of `Feminist: Stories from Women's Liberation,' sponsored by the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch, with a Q&A following the screening with director Jennifer Lee.

Forums:

- On December 5th, 2014, I presented on a panel at New York Law School's forum on 'HOUSING JUSTICE: New Yorkers Should Have a Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings.' This movement is important for women because the overwhelming percentage of low-income housing clients in NYS legal services programs (over 72%) are women.
- On March 13th, 2015, I presented on a panel at SUNY Stony Brook on "AAUW: The importance and power of coming together to work for change – advocacy, research, community organizing and leadership for gender equality.

Policy Lunches:

- Attended AAUW in the UN Day, October 24th, 2014.
- Attended luncheon on October 29th, 2014, at the Harvard Club with Lisa Maatz, AAUW Public Policy VP, to learn about recent policy initiatives of AAUW – such as VAWA – and election updates

Pay Equity:

- I presented regarding Pay Equity and the Paycheck Fairness Act presentation to group of Staten Island clubs on October 27th, 2014.
- I was invited to be a member of the Steering Committee of the NYC Women's Suffrage Centennial Program, a five-year plan to investigate and celebrate the empowerment of NYC women leading up to the 100th anniversary of the right to vote for US women. The first year of programming will revolve around the fight for equal rights and its continued relevance to today's activists.
- Working with the NYS Bar Association's Committee on Women in the Law, we successfully advocated for the New York State Bar Association to add the Paycheck Fairness Act to its 2015 federal legislative agenda.

- On April 14th, 2015, (the date on which women have to work to make the same amount as a man in 2014) AAUW-NYS joined members of the New York City Council's Women's Caucus for a National Equal Pay Day rally, calling for the passage of the NY Equal Pay Bill, A6075/S1, and highlighting the urgent need for other laws to support women's economic equality.

Film Screening:

- On October 10th, 2014, I attended a film screening of "*America the Beautiful 3: The Sexualization of Our Youth*", which covered topics such as how the Internet has made pornography affordable, accessible and anonymous; one teenager's campaign aimed at Abercrombie & Fitch, and the surprising outcome of her efforts; aspiring actresses/models and what they will do to be famous; rape on college campuses: how universities have been ignoring the epidemic; and the fact that one in five women have been sexually assaulted, yet often little is done about it.

Cities for CEDAW:

- On January 20th, 2015 I participated in '*Cities for CEDAW*.' CEDAW is the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women; the United States is the only major industrialized nation not to ratify CEDAW. *Cities for CEDAW* is an organized group of US city representatives working together to get CEDAW passed at the municipal level. San Francisco and Los Angeles have both passed a CEDAW city ordinance and it has made a measurable difference in public safety, budgetary allocations and employment. The day of action included a virtual conference (via conference call) and a panel featuring UN and municipal leaders at part of the *Cities for CEDAW* movement.

**MISSION-BASED PROGRAMS:
FOCUS ON STEM (AN ISSUE AREA OF OUR 2014-15 IMPACT GRANT)**

Branch	Stem Programs	Other Stem Activities	Collaborations and Funding
Adirondack	Dr. Kristine Duffy, ACC, 2015 - April Math Counts at AAC 2015: Feb. 7		
Amsterdam- Gloversville- Johnstown	A Taste of Tech Savvy Hour of Code Dec. 2014 STEM Lego Challenge 2015: Feb. 10	Tour of P-Tech Center	
Bath	Technology Devices Jan. 6, 2015		
Buffalo	10 th Tech Savvy D-1: Women in STEM Nov. 1, 2014	SAT Practice	UB Schools Of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Praxair, WTS Baxter
Cortland	Tech Savvy 2015: March 28 Hour of Code Dec. 2015		SUNY Cortland
Dunkirk- Fredonia	D-1: Women of STEM Nov. 1, 2015		
Empire State	EYO STEM Event 2015: March 15		College of Mount Saint Vincent and Westchester Branch
Islip		<u>Presentations</u> Why So Few? STEM seminar PowerPoint from NCCWSL Letters to editor of local paper about Hour of Code and STEM Education statistics	
Jamestown	Promoted Buffalo's Tech Savvy in		

Branch	Stem Programs	Other Stem Activities	Collaborations and Funding
	Jamestown D-1: Women of STEM Nov. 1, 2014 STEM Opps for Girls 2015: Feb. 12		
Jefferson County	Hour of Code 2014: Dec. 12 D:7 STEM Day Camp 2015: May 2 at JCC Super Science Sat. 2015: Feb. 7		
Nassau		Two high school scholarships for seniors	Local high schools
Oswego	GEMS program ongoing		
Poughkeepsie	1.GEMS Program – hands-on-workshops and mentoring 2.Let’s Read Math 3. Seventh Grade Girls Conference	4. Girl Scout Game Nights 5. Dutchess County Science Fair awards	Liberty Partnership, Marist College, Girl Scouts
Rockland County	STEM Coaching Summit Park Elem. On-going project STEM Family Night 2014: Nov. 14 5th HS STEM Conf. 2014: Nov. 18 5th Engineers Lunch 2014: Nov. 18		
Schenectady	Cyber Security Oct. 15, 2014		
St. Lawrence County	Hour of Code @ PPL 2015: Feb. 21 D:7 STEM Day Camp 2015: May 2 at JCC D-7: Engineering		

Branch	Stem Programs	Other Stem Activities	Collaborations and Funding
	Day 2015: May 14 at Canton Gender STEM Tool Box NCM: 2015: April 7		
Southern NY	Techworks Girl Power		Girl Scouts, Kopernik Observatory and Science Center
Westchester	12 th Explore Your Opportunities Conference March 21 GS STEM Conference 2014: Oct. 25 Ossining School STEM 2015: Feb. 4	STEM Interest Group -3rd Wed. of the month	College of Mount Saint Vincent and Empire State Virtual Branch
District 1 Conference	Women in Stem		SUNY Fredonia

DISTRICT CONFERENCES

District	Theme	Date	Highlight
I	Women in Stem	November 1 st , 2014	Tour of the state-of-the-art science center, panel of women in STEM, and short presentation from each chapter on current activities
II	Common Core Checkup: Year 2	October 25, 2014	Panel discussion with speakers from four schools
III	The Community Meets the Common Core	October 25, 2014	Two panels, a lunch keynote, and branch service recognition
IV	Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium Symposium	March 21, 2015	Part of a celebration of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's 200 th birth, the program featured panel with Ms. Stanton's great great granddaughter, a session on midwifery, and a video on the life of Louisa May Alcott
V	Inaugural SWAN Event	October 18, 2014	"Supporting Women Artists Now" to support women filmmakers; the day featured a screening of 'Bottled Up' followed with a Q&A with the film's writer/director Enid Zentellis
VI	Sexual Assault on Campus	October 25, 2014	Event featured a panel of college and criminal justice experts discussing the topic
VII	--WPBS Collaboration	January 15, 2015 April 13, 2015	Underwrote the broadcast of the WPBS's Public Eye

District	Theme	Date	Highlight
	--STEM Camp	May 2, 2015	<p>with Jeff Cole Special: Human Trafficking (Jan. 15, 2015) Partially underwrote the broadcast of the WPBS: Public Eye with Jeff Cole special: Title 9, Sexual Harassment in College. In this special episode of Public Eye examines this very controversial and sensitive topic through a panel discussion exploring the realities surrounding sexual assault on our local college campuses.</p> <p>AAUW-Jefferson County is working with Jefferson Community College on a STEM Day Camp for Girls - GIRLS Grow Your STEM Knowledge And BLOOM!</p>
	--Women in Engineering Day	May 13, 2015	<p>AAUW-St. Lawrence County is cosponsoring the SUNY Canton Women in Engineering Day for 130 SLC middle school girls.</p>

*All District I-VI conferences requested district conference support from the state board.

UPDATE ON SALE OF NYC HOUSE PROCEEDS

According to the Amended Order of the Supreme Court, all of the assets from the sale of the NYC house are restricted assets to be used solely in furtherance of AAUW purposes within the NYC Metropolitan Area. These assets must be reported to the NYS Attorney General's office for 10 years (2013-23). Thereafter the funds need only be aggregated in AAUW's annual 990 filing, but they can only ever be used for the stated purpose.

Upon my request for an update as to how AAUW national intends to spend these funds for my convention President's Report, I received the following response from President Ho:

- *Dear Edwina,*

Regarding the assets received from the dissolved AAUW NYC Branch, the net proceeds are restricted and will be used exclusively for advancement of the AAUW mission on behalf of women and girls within the "metropolitan New York area." The Attorney General of the State of New York has specified that area and, as with most major cities, the "metropolitan area" is quite wide.

The AAUW Board of Directors will steward the use of these funds in full compliance with the final ruling and restrictions by the Attorney General. One requirement is that AAUW must file a yearly report, for 10 years. This filing is done after AAUW completes our 990 and state charitable filings.

I have appointed a working group of the Board to begin discussion around the protocol/method to be used to assess the who, what, why and how proceeds might be distributed over time.

As the Attorney General's final ruling implies, with a 10-year reporting period, we were given no indication that the proceeds were to be used quickly. The AAUW Board will be deliberate about how funds may gradually be distributed in support of AAUW's mission.

With best wishes for a successful, productive convention,

Patricia

2014-15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

July 8, 2014

- Motion passed to appoint Betty, Mary Lou and Jane as finance committee members.
- Motion passed that we assist Cho (NYS NCCWSL attendee) with \$100 to take the bus to attend 2014 AAUW NYS Summer Conference.

Dec 4, 2014

- Motion passed to pay board member transportation for meeting with national representative from reserve funds.
- Agreed that all board members receive properly redacted bank statements monthly upon request.
- Agreed that monthly financial reports sent to finance committee members would also be sent to all board members.

Dec 19, 2014

- Motion passed to extend nominations deadline to January 15, 2015.
- Motion passed to accept the AAUW-NYS treasurer's resignation as of January 1, 2015.

Jan 12, 2015

- Motion passed to extend deadline for nominations to February 1, 2015.
- Mandatory reword of bylaws Article XVII – section 2 to comply with DC law.

Feb 10, 2015

- Agreed to search for a potential accountant to take on tax and filing and annual review responsibilities.
- Motion passed to secure the appointment of Ruth Fierro-King as interim treasurer.
- Motion passed to amend Article VIII section 1, to comply with NYS law.
- Motion passed to approve funds for AAUW-NYS special project “WILD” and “Leadership: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.”

Feb 24, 2015

- Unanimous consent of the Board of Directors achieved for approval of Ruth Fierro-King's nomination to the 2015 slate as treasurer and Peggy Tiffany as membership vice president.

March 17, 2015

- Approved by unanimous consent the Resolution of Signatory Authority to appoint Ruth Fierro-King interim treasurer and modify account signatories.

CONCLUSION

My favorite quote is a saying of Eleanor Roosevelt's, "*Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both.*" As you participate in this weekend's Convention, remember that we are here to celebrate Eleanor's legacy, and the mission of AAUW, and enjoy! And set your calendars now for Convention 2016, April 15th to 17th!