

## *Schenectady Branch AAUW Program*

### **Women Leaders in Academic Medicine**

**Presenter: Dr. Laura Schweitzer,**  
President of Union Graduate College

**How this program addressed AAUW's mission:** This program focused on the women – their achievements in academic medicine and the challenges these women and women currently face to advance in both academic and research positions.

**The branch goals** met in doing this program included

- *Focusing on women – history of women leaders in academic medicine, education environment facing women and challenges in advancing.*
- *Visibility* –Newsletter article and by having Dr. Schweitzer speak she became more aware of our organization which we hoped would lead to a partnership with Union Graduate College.

#### **Action Steps in planning this program**

- Contacted Dr. Laura Schweitzer, the president of Union Graduate College, to do a presentation. She is a member of our organization but not active.
- Contacted the Edison Club and planned a brunch prior to the presentation

#### **Action Steps taken for community visibility**

- A brunch preceding the presentation was our culminating event for the year. We reserved the Edison Club to make this event extra special.
- Contacted the Union Graduate College to plan a program together at the college. Our intention was to invite the graduate students, faculty and staff to the event.

#### **Measureable impact on the community**

Many members commented about the quality of the presentation and how it made them aware of the uphill challenges for women to advance in academic and research positions. We had 67 members in attendance on a beautiful spring Saturday. This was a very good turn out for our branch.

#### **Lesson Learned**

We had 67 members in attendance on a beautiful spring Saturday at a very nice country club. It brought our members together to socialize before and during the brunch. We were the AAUW community! This event showed that we get a better turnout when programs are scheduled during the day, though comments were made that we would have had more people if we didn't have it on a Saturday in June. For our upcoming culminating event in May therefore, we will be having a dinner on a Wednesday evening at the same place.

Due to scheduling conflicts on the part of the college, we were unable to have a program there. During the summer when we plan our programs for the year, we will try to work around the College's schedule.