



## AAUW-NYS Public Policy Counterpart Newsletter

<http://www.aauw-nys.org/pp.htm>

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Here are some important Public Policy resources for you!

- ♦ **Your Every Question Answered: Advocacy How-To Resources**  
<http://www.aauw.org/resource/advocacy-how-tos-guides/>
- ♦ **The 2013-2015 AAUW Public Policy Program**  
<http://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities/>
- ♦ **AAUW Action Network and Two-Minute Activist tool** (sign up today if you're not already subscribed to the e-mail list!) <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>
- ♦ **AAUW Branch Event Report-Back Form** (so you can share your successes with AAUW national staff and receive recognition!) Bookmark this page!  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LN7Kle\\_Pd44DftoRPMzQZ4pgHvoQQEwN7coRrhNHwHo/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LN7Kle_Pd44DftoRPMzQZ4pgHvoQQEwN7coRrhNHwHo/viewform)

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2014 Public Policy Calendar – some dates to keep in mind!

Many of these events would make great **Letters to the Editor** and/or local **OpEds** to bring visibility to AAUW and our Public Policy issues.

**January 2014**    - Jan 28: President Obama's 5<sup>th</sup> State of the Union speech at 9 pm  
Play **AAUW State of the Union BINGO**  
<http://www.aauw.org/2014/01/13/sotu-bingo-2014/>

- Jan. 29: 5th Anniversary of the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**  
Join the **Let's Talk About It: Advancing Women and Families in 2014**

A national tele-townhall event on fair pay, paid leave, and access to child care

The call is at 8:30 pm and you must **RSVP** at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1clLvOqrdNDklf6qcwopIzHvuFFtmSouZYlybPGeQP6I/viewform>

Be on the lookout for an Action Alert on/about January 30 – calling on President Obama to issue an Executive Order that would ban federal contractors from retaliating against workers who ask about wage practices or share salary information; and for the NYS legislature to pass WEA.

### **February 2014**

- Black History Month
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- Feb. 5: National Women and Girls in Sports Day
- Feb 12: AAUW's SPPC Chair call for Equal Pay Day Planning
- Feb. 14: Valentine's Day & One Billion Rising  
[www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org)
- Feb. 17-20: Branch-level Advocacy Trainings in Buffalo, Jamestown, Rochester areas (contact Donna Seymour or Kim Pollard to schedule training for your branch!)

### **March 2014**

- Women's History Month
- March 8: International Women's Day (check out for Programming suggestions at: <http://www.aauw-nys.org/international.htm>)

### **April 2014**

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- April 1: Deadline for the NYS Gold Star Public Policy Award

[http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/branch\\_forms/Be%20a%20Gold%20Star%20Public%20Policy%20Branch%20in%202014%20form.pdf](http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/branch_forms/Be%20a%20Gold%20Star%20Public%20Policy%20Branch%20in%202014%20form.pdf)

- April 2: SAVE THE DATE for an EQUAL PAY RALLY in Albany, NY. Details will be forthcoming. If your branch and/or local C/U Partner is interested in joining us in Albany, please let Donna know.

- April 8: Equal Pay Day

Review AAUW's "Equal Pay Resource Kit":

<http://www.aauw.org/files/2013/11/AAUW-Pay-Equity-Resource-Kit-2013Nov-nsa.pdf>

If you are planning an Equal Pay meeting, event, forum, rally, etc. please let me know as soon as possible so we can help you promote the event and offer support.

- April 25 – 27 – The AAUW-NYS Convention at Honors Haven, Ellenville: <http://www.aauw-nys.org/convention.htm> Register now!

## May 2014

- May 11: Mother's Day

## June 2014

- June 10: 51st anniversary of the Equal Pay Act

- June 23: Title IX 42nd anniversary

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## AAUW Help for Planning for Equal Pay Day – April 8!

AAUW's next State Public Policy Chair conference call will be Wednesday, February 12, and this will be a special call... because we're opening it up to everyone! The February call will be devoted entirely to preparing for Equal Pay Day, so all branches in NY are invited to mark their calendars for Wednesday, February 12, at 8:30 p.m. ET. (The conference call number will be provided the week before the call). We will go over a checklist of items to think of and prepare for your Equal Pay Day activities, and we'll even talk about quick and easy activities you can implement in the time remaining between February's call and Equal Pay Day. Watch for an invitation to the call!

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As you know, AAUW-NYS has a Public Policy Impact Grant. Title IX is one of two focus issues (the other is Paid Family Leave Insurance). If your branch has done great work on Title IX, please submit a nomination in LAF's new TIX Recognition Program! **Make sure National knows about all your hard work!**

## Calling All Title IX Champions!

Nominate an AAUW branch or member for our new Title IX Champion award! We've seen AAUW members do amazing work to ensure that students' rights under Title IX are enforced. You investigate Title IX compliance, assemble lists of Title IX coordinators, promote better just sexual assault policies, and help teach students, parents, educators, coaches, and administrators about Title IX's requirements. The U.S. Department of Education simply cannot enforce Title IX alone, and the work of AAUW members is crucial to shrinking the enforcement gap. Now we want to recognize, celebrate, and publicize your wonderful contributions!



Nominate an AAUW branch or member to be a Title IX Champion by sending a brief summary of the nominee's Title IX work and a picture of the nominee or Title IX event to [laf@aauw.org](mailto:laf@aauw.org). Title IX Champions receive an award to display on their branch's website (pictured above), and we'll post their stories on the Title IX Champion Facebook page. Nominate a champion today!

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## IMPORTANT DATES in the NYS 2014 Political Calendar

- First date to circulate designating petitions for federal office: March 4
  - First date to circulate Opportunity to Ballot petitions for federal office: March 25
  - Dates to file designating petitions: April 7 to April 10
  - Last date to file Opportunity to Ballot petitions: April 17
  - **Federal Primary Election: June 24**
  - First date to circulate independent nominating petitions for federal office: June 24
  - Dates to file independent nominating petitions for federal office: July 29 to Aug. 5
  - General election: Nov. 4
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## 2014 Legislative Calendar

Print a copy of the 2014 Legislative Calendar so you'll know when lawmakers are scheduled to be in Albany!

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/197301829/2014-Session-Calendar>

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## June 24: Congressional Primary Day

I have asked **Jane Pfeiffer Russell** from the Bath Branch to provide support to NYS Branches who may be facing a Congressional Primary in June. Jane is a former Voter Ed and Public Policy Director for AAUW-NYS and our nominee to be Program VP for 2014-16.

About one-third of NYS Congressional Districts are competitive and at least two will have an open seat in November – NY 4 and NY 21 - with the retirements of Carolyn McCarthy and Bill Owens. And even if your district is not running a Primary, you are still advised to start thinking now about how you will educate voter about the issues, the candidates, and do voter registrations. Who are the partners in your branch area?

These are the NY seats we've identified as potentially competitive: 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 13, 19, 21, 23 and 24. If you live in another, please share that information with both Jane ([homechick@empacc.net](mailto:homechick@empacc.net)) and myself!

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## Be a Gold Star Public Policy Branch in 2014!

Your Branch will earn a star(s) for each public policy activity undertaken from June, 2013 – April 1, 2014. Based on the number of stars earned, you'll be awarded the Gold, Silver, Bronze or Honorable Mention Award at the State Convention. Apply on-line by April 1<sup>st</sup> at:

[http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/branch\\_forms/Be%20a%20Gold%20Star%20Public%20Policy%20Branch%20in%202014%20form.pdf](http://www.aauw-nys.org/attached%20files/branch_forms/Be%20a%20Gold%20Star%20Public%20Policy%20Branch%20in%202014%20form.pdf)

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## NYS Legislature Elections

2014 is a state-wide election year with all 213 legislative seats up as well as the office of Governor. At least 11 NYS seats are now open. There appears to be no move on Gov. Cuomo's part to call a special election, so over 1 million NYers have no representation in the state budget deliberations this spring. If these are still open seats come November, the local elections will be very exciting.

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## Women's Equality Agenda Update

The Women's Equality Coalition is gearing up for the new legislative season. The Steering Committee has resumed meeting weekly by phone and occasionally in person.

**LATE BREAKING NEWS!** "Today, the New York State Assembly built on its longstanding commitment to New York's women and girls by passing the full Women's Equality Act. By moving swiftly to prioritize the package of legislation, which was first proposed last year and did not become law, the Assembly has made it crystal clear that women's lives are a priority."

Stay tuned - watch <http://nywomensequality.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/NYWomensEquality> for updates!

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AAUW-NYS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.NYS>

Bookmark this page and visit it daily. There is a ton of useful and interesting information that gets posted daily. I can't possibly pass on everything by e-mail, so I use the AAUW-NYS Facebook page as a way to convey information. Many branches are starting to use Facebook as a way to connect to members and communities; please connect to AAUW-NYS in the same way!

You can also use Facebook to find out what AAUW.org and other AAUW states are doing!

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## Issue Updates:

I know from reading your newsletters that there is a wide range of issues our Branches do follow. Please feel free to visit these pages at my branch website that I do update on a daily and/or weekly basis. <http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaaaw/federal.htm>

- [Children's Issues](#)
- [Education Bills](#)
- [Elect HER!](#)
- [Federal Welfare Reform Proposals](#)
- [Environmental News & Action Items](#)
- [Equity & Affirmative Action](#)
- [Federal Budget - FY 2013](#)
- [Federal Judicial Nominations](#)
- [Health Care](#)
- [Human Trafficking Issues](#)
- [International News](#)
- [Pay Equity](#)
- [Poverty Issues](#)
- [Pregnancy & Family Leave Discrimination](#)
- [Reproductive Health](#)
- [Social Security and Retirement](#)
- [Status of Women](#)
- [Title IX Information](#)
- [Veteran's and Military Issues](#)
- [Violence Issues to Watch](#)
- [Voter Education Issues to Watch](#)
- [Women's Economic Equity](#)

For more information: [AAUW Fact Sheets and Position Papers](#) on Affirmative Action, Athletics, Education, Managed Care Reform, Reproductive Rights, and Social Security Reform.

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