



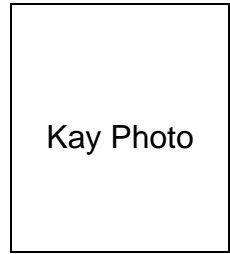
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FROM THE PRESIDENT: **TAKE THE LEAD**

Kay Kraatz, NYS AAUW President
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As we reflect on the events of our New York State Convention in Corning we can ask.... **What does it mean** to be a member of the American Association of University Women?

We know our mission.....to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. Can you say, **YES**, I'm living this mission? Can you say, **YES**, my branch is actively involved in the community, providing an opportunity for equity? Can you say, **YES**, diversity is pushing me to re-examine my perspective?

The number of **5-Star New York State Branches** provides inspiration to us all! The projects, programs embraced AAUW issues of educational equity, workplace equity, social reform, health care. **Yes**, they have embraced the mission. And the future....

The Association convention has a theme of '*Connections*': *member to member, sister to sister, leader to leader, woman to woman*. There are workshops galore. Caucus and Special Interest Groups are meeting. The proposed dues increase will come to a vote. Two programs will be launched at the convention: **Woman-to-Woman**, which will enable one to explore issues of social justice with diverse members of the community, and the **School Recognition Program**, a road map for creating a gender-fair school. These are the tools to recharge us, or jump-start us.

Another tool is the mid-July leadership training **BOOT CAMP**, provided by your New York State AAUW Board and committees. Encourage your branch leaders to attend. Then, insist that your current and all potential branch leaders attend the Fall District Conferences for an opportunity for growth.

Equity. Diversity. Leadership. AAUW must take the lead. **You** must be there!

Leadership Training for Branch and State Leaders

Enhance your communication skills. Learn to deal more effectively with groups. Take part in team building exercises.

Join the NYS Board and committees for a day of leadership training. Led by Mary Fagan-Howard, corporate and non-profit trainer, members will have the opportunity to take part in a one-day workshop held at Sage College in Albany on Saturday, July 10, from 9:30-3:00.

The \$25 registration fee includes coffee, materials, lunch, and a light snack. Send checks payable to NYS AAUW to Pat Breslauer, 60 Old Town Road, Huntington, NY 11743. For further information, contact Betty Harrel at 914/462-2141 or e-mail: BHarrel28@juno.com.

THE LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND GOALS MET

Evelyn M. Currie, Director Legal Advocacy Fund

LAF had two ambitious goals this year. One was to achieve 100% participation of the New York State branches. The other was to increase the NY State contribution level to the LAF. We made both of those goals! Many thanks go to the following who made it happen:

- 53 branches, which each made a contribution
- 36 branches, which attained the LAF Star (\$3.00 or more per member)
- 37 individuals, who each contributed \$50 or more and the NYS Board members, who each gave \$25 or more

The following branches achieved the LAF Star:

Adirondack, Albany, Alfred-Hornell, Amherst, Bath, Buffalo, Chautauqua-Westfield, Dunkirk-Fredonia, East Aurora-Southtown, East Hampton, Elmira, Farmingdale Garden City, Greece Area, Islip Area, Ithaca, Jamestown, Jefferson County, Massapequa, Mid-Island, New York City, North Fork, North Shore, Ontario County, Oswego, Peekskill, Putnam County, Queens Inc., Rockland County, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Skaneateles, Smithtown, Staten Island, Syracuse, Yates County

The top 3 branches in contributions were

- **Islip Area** (98 members) - \$1,607.50
- **North Shore** (255 members) - \$1,277.50
- **Schenectady** (216 members) - \$1,111.00

Consequently, NY State was able to contribute \$15,276.00 to the Legal Advocacy Fund for the 1998-1999 contribution year! Congratulations to everyone who helped!

THE LAF BREAKFAST is now a part of the Convention packet. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Augustine Pounds, the president of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, as our keynote speaker. The teal blue LAF cups on the tables at the LAF Breakfast netted \$368.25 in contributions. Thirty branches brought a total of 71 baskets for our LAF Silent Auction. \$1,950 was the grand total from the baskets! The 30 branches that brought them are well on their way to a LAF Star in 1999.

COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY AWARDS:

Alene Wyatt, NYS Communications Director

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Congratulations to the following branches for receiving recognitions of excellence at the convention in the following categories:

Noteworthy Newsletter Awards were given to the **Oswego** (small branch - Jody Longeill, editor), **Poughkeepsie** (medium branch - Mary King, editor), and **Schenectady** (large branch - Marjorie McMahan, editor and Julie Castleberry, assistant editor) branches.

Media/Publicity Awards were given to:

Garden City (large branch - submitted by Judith Ammerman) for media coverage of three topics including a quiz written in recognition of Women's History Month.

St. Lawrence County (medium branch - submitted by Katherine Briggs) for media coverage of the Cross Border Issues Forum "Clean Air, Clean Water - the Toxic Tide, No Place to Hide."

Progress in Technology Awards were given to:

Buffalo (large branch - submitted by Ann Hicks and Barbara Carier) which developed an extensive web site and a branch e-mail network.

St. Lawrence County (medium branch - submitted by Donna Seymour) which has offered Introduction to the Internet Workshops to the community with branch members acting as facilitators, has created a branch e-mail network, and has developed web pages on Women's History, National Girls & Women in Sports Day, and a "Welcome to the WWW" webpage.

The *NYS FOCUS* (USPS-390-570) is published for the American Association of University Women. The subscription rate of \$2.15 is included in the NYS dues. Second class postage is paid at Washington, DC, and additional offices. **Send address changes to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.**

Questions and articles should be addressed to the *NYS FOCUS* Editor, Donna Seymour, 8 Cedar St., Potsdam, NY 13676, 315/265-6985, e-mail: onthego@northnet.org

Fall Deadline:

August 1, 1999

Winter Deadline:

October 30, 1999

INITIATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Ann B. Walker, Director

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CONGRATULATIONS to the 1999 Action for Equity Award recipients:

Westchester Branch received the award for their Sister-to-Sister Summit at Pace University and **St. Lawrence County Branch** for their National Girls & Women in Sports Day promotion.

The 1999 Convention in Washington, DC will be launching a new program theme for the next biennial, **Education and Equity: Choices for a Changing World**. At convention, the AAUW Educational Foundation is releasing the Sister-to-Sister and "Transitions" research. Programs on diversity, technology, and the new Woman-to-Woman program also will be presented.

The AAUW Report: *Gender Gaps: Where Schools Still Fail Our Children*, indicated that girls are severely under-represented in technology education and lack the interest and confidence boys show in this important area. In response to these findings the *AAUW Tech Check for Schools* was developed. *Tech Check* provides AAUW members and schools a tool for action to address this gender gap. This guide lists 18 indicators of a gender-equitable

learning environment, ideas on how community groups can help, and over 25 excellent resources.

Are you looking for an idea for your Action in Equity project? Consider using the *Tech Check*. Single copies are available free by contacting the AAUW Member HELPLINE, 800/326-AAUW ext. 204, or write: AAUW, c/o Erica Payne, Program and State Support Department, 1111 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036, or e-mail helpline@aauw.org

SISTER-TO-SISTER SUMMITS:

Summits have been held in the Buffalo TriCounty Area, Westchester, Long Island, Cortland and Amherst this year. In preparation for the upcoming summits there was Sister-to-Sister Support Network Workshop at the Corning conference. Carolyn Donovan (Long Island), Bonnie Calzolaio (Cortland) and Leslie Gerace (Amherst) shared information gleaned from their experiences in planning a summit. A Resources page and Suggestions for Funding Your Summit were distributed. Additional copies are available upon request. Begin your planning with the *Leader In Action* issues from Fall 1997 and Fall 1998.

WALK-RUN FOR EF/LAF

The First Annual Walk-Run for EF/LAF at the Corning Convention raised \$963.00 for the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund! A special thank you to the following branches and participants for making the Walk-Run fun and profitable:

Poughkeepsie (Laura Graceffa, Betty Harrel, Barbara Markell, Cindy Smith)
Islip Area (Joan Smalto, Julia Arena, Geri Ossana, Carmen Wyszomerski, Bobbe Fortunato)
Oswego (Jody Longiell, Helen Engel)
Jamestown (Inez Alston)
Ithaca (Carol Stull, Jeanette Knapp)
Chautauqua-Westfield (Loreen Ginnitti, Lana Potter)

Jefferson County (Marie Watkins)

Syracuse (Nancy Clausen)

Skaneateles (Kay Kraatz)

Queens (Jeanne Riger, Marianna Floresta, Gertrude Malin)

North Shore (Norma Plett, Carolyn Donovan)

Yates (Sharon Pinckney)

Bath (Jane Smith)

St. Lawrence County (Donna Seymour)

East Hampton (Helen Fitzgerald)

Schenectady (Betsy Forkas)

Smithtown (Laurie Teachout)

Guest Walkers: Augustine Pounds and Amy Falk



Thanks, also, to Lee Wells of Corning who laid out the route and lead us in warm ups.

AAUW PROGRAMMING

PLANNING FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Bobbe Fortunato, NYS Program Vice President
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As you plan for next year remember that the national convention will initiate some changes in programs and the directions that our issues will be marching in. Leave room in your branch meetings so that you can let your members know what is happening and find out how your branch wants to participate. Take a look at the *Tech Check* booklet that your president received this year. I would like to feature each branch at convention next year with a list of the schools which they checked. If each branch works with only one local school, we will have a state-wide program happening. If you can each do two schools, then we can have an even larger impact for girls. This can also be used in achieving 5-Star status.

Many of the workshops that were given at Corning represented a chance to work on life-long issues for branches and communities. Women, especially older women, must address technology and the changes it brings. We also found in the Women's Sports Federation workshop that many of us are not aware of how very important athletics are in the lives of today's younger women and girls. Sports and good health go hand in hand with being a physically and mentally well-rounded young woman. Diana Cutaria, our WSF presenter, is available to speak to any branch around the state since she is also a recruiter for her college.

Kay Kraatz has culled from the many newsletters which she receives a list of wonderful programs which your sister branches around the state have used during '98-'99. If your branch had members who went to Corning for the NYS Convention they may have picked up the packet. If not, we have it posted on the AAUW state website, so take a look and download what you want. If you don't have Internet access, please drop me a line and I will send you a copy ASAP.

Ways to increase membership, raise more funds, and initiate new programs are all at the top of our priority lists. Your state board of directors has worked hard to jump-start the process this year at the state convention and we will continue to give you support as we move toward the new millennium.

COLLEGE UNIVERSITY MEMBERS UPDATE

Carol Grzywinski College/University Director
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Progress in Equity Awards were presented to SUNY Stony Brook and Marymount College at the NYS Convention in Corning. Applications for the 2000 PIE Awards were mailed to CU member representatives in May and are due June 21st. Guidelines for future awards are on the NYS AAUW webpage for college faculty and staff to review.

Diversity on Campus --- programming, curricular innovation, pedagogy, etc. --- will begin to be recognized by the Association in the coming year. Awards will be given to colleges and universities who promote continuous attention to diversity issues and concerns (not just the monthly celebrations). Look for more details on this exciting new project in the Fall 1999 issue of *NYS FOCUS* and on the NYS webpage [www.northnet.org/nysaauw/].

What can AAUW branches do for College University Members faculty and staff? This is the purpose of a survey being conducted statewide. Surveys were sent to CU representatives, but faculty and staff who may not have received the survey can participate by taking the survey on the webpage.

Links to CU Member websites are being added to the CU Member list on the NYS Webpage. By visiting member colleges sites AAUW members can learn about the independent and public colleges in NYS that actively support education and equity for women and girls.

GirlSports 2000

Looking for a branch action project that will put you in touch with girls in your area and further the mission of AAUW (not to mention help earn a Community Action star for next year)? GirlSports 2000 is an exciting part of the Girl Scout sports initiative in which girls count down to the millennium by participating in sports and fitness events.

Your branch could offer to help host an event for local Girl Scout troops in your area. You can find more information about GirlSports 2000 at the Girl Scout website - <http://www.girlscouts.org/>.

International Relations

Carol Stull - 607/257-0256
carolstull@aol.com

We topped the goal to raise \$400 for the IFUW (International Federation of University Women) Projects in Development in Nigeria, the Cameroon, and Zambia. Branches contributing to the goal were: **Adirondack, Queens, Poughkeepsie, North Shore, Islip, Ithaca, Jamestown** and **Elmira**. At Sunday brunch we went over the top to \$415 to support our sister organizations' projects. Think what we could do with a few more branches. This is a 3-year commitment, so you can still be part of it.

NYS AAUW has purchased a video and workbook on fifteen women world leaders. It would be excellent for a branch meeting or to use with PTAs or student groups (upper elementary through college.) Show your colleges what we can offer them as resources. You can borrow the video from me for \$10 and return shipping. Contact Carol Stull 2622 N. Triphammer Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 for more information on the International projects or to reserve the video.



Program VP Bobbe Fortunato (left) leading the troops on the Walk-Run for EF/LAF.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION GIVING

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Congratulations to all of you who helped New York State contributions to the Educational Foundation total over \$90,000 for the 1998-99 year ending April 20, 1999. The top ten branches for total contributions and for per capita contributions were:

PLACE	BRANCH-TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	BRANCH-PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS
1	Buffalo	Mid-Island
2	North Shore	Syracuse
3	Mid-Island	Buffalo
4	Schenectady	Islip Area
5	Islip Area	North Shore
6	Smithtown Area	Smithtown Area
7	Syracuse	Amherst
8	Greater Rochester Area	Ontario County
9	Northern Westchester Area	East Auora-Southtown
10	Albany	Albany

Kudos are also in order to the **Buffalo Branch** for donating the funds to support an Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowship in the coming year and to the **North Shore Branch** for starting a new Research and Projects Grant.

Remember the current Foundation year coincides with the calendar year and will end December 31, 1999. Plan your 1999 fund raisers now. Let's keep up the good work!

AAUW AT WORK IN NEW YORK STATE: BRANCH ACTION

Helen Fitzgerald from the **East Hampton Branch** reports they have gotten two new members via their website hosted by NYS AAUW.

President Heather Sutter tells us the **Waverly Branch** hosted a story hour at the local library for children in grades K -2 with an Animal Safari theme. Branch members read stories, helped with a craft project, and showed a video.

Queens Branch member Jeanne Riger reports they displayed their branch banner at the Whitestone Public Library in Nov.-Dec. 1998. They added information about AAUW, branch activities, and copies of EF reports to the display case. Membership flyers were available nearby.

Patricia Stedge says the **Kingston Branch** held a very successful Bridge Fundraising Luncheon with all proceeds going to the Educational Foundation.

Nancy Clausen, president of **Syracuse Branch**, reports they celebrated their 110th anniversary in April. Congratulations!

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC POLICY CONVENTION REPORT

Ann Bish, Director of Public Policy - 716/741-3964 ashicks2@juno.com

HOSPITAL MERGERS

If you attended the Issues Forum at convention or have had direct involvement with hospital mergers, you know that a variety of women's health services now available in secular hospitals (contraception, sterilization, abortion, *in vitro* fertilization, use of fetal tissue, end-of-life choices, and HIV prevention counseling) will be banned in some religious facilities. Should a merger be considered in our community, we have a wonderful resource in Lois Uttley, project director for Merger Watch. She has monitored numerous religious and secular health care partnerships throughout New York State. She can be reached at Family Planning Advocates of NYS, 17 Elk Street, Albany, NY 12207 (518/436-8408).

RESOLUTIONS

A Resolution for Safe Schools, submitted by Jeanne Riger for the Executive Committee of the Queens Branch, passed at the convention. It states that:

- AAUW branches be encouraged to make a "grassroots effort" to work for safe schools in their communities, and that
- AAUW branches be urged to make contacts with their school administrators and leaders – presidents of school boards, superintendents of schools, school principals, teacher union presidents and/or PTA presidents -- to offer volunteer participation on a citizens' committee to determine what needs to be done to make schools safer as well as to develop a process for monitoring progress.

In a **pilot program** to implement the resolution, the **Queens Branch** has formed a task force, headed by Pat Heiser (718/454-7280), to develop strategies for branch community involvement. Small grants are available in the NYS budget for other branch initiatives. Contact Kay Kraatz, NYS president, for an application (315/685-6256).

A second resolution, relating to supporting a moratorium on the death penalty, submitted by Helen Fitzgerald for the **East Hampton Branch**, did not receive the needed 2/3 vote for consideration. As a point of information, the Association passed a resolution in 1971 to abolish the death penalty; hence, this position is applicable to all states. It was suggested that individuals write the governor and

their state legislators urging their support of a moratorium on the death penalty.

HELP BRING IMPORTANT NYS BILLS TO A VOTE:

Clinic Access - Call or write a brief letter to Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Codes Committee Chair Dale Volker to bring a clinic safety bill to the Senate floor for a vote. (Hon. Joseph Bruno, Room 909 LOB and Hon. Dale Volker, Room 708 LOB, NYS Senate, Albany, NY 12247 or call Sen. Bruno or Sen. Volker at 518/455-2800.)

Women's Health and Wellness Act S2996 A- Write to Insurance Committee Chair James Seward (307 LOB, NYS Senate, Albany, NY 12247) urging his support of the bill. The bill seeks to improve women's health in four important areas, including coverage for osteoporosis prevention and treatment, annual mammograms for women aged 40 and older, contraceptive drugs and devices, and cervical cytology screenings.

Senior Citizen Housing S. 811 (An act to amend the real property law, in relation to the rights of senior citizens to cancel certain contracts) - Call or write Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno to bring the bill to the Senate floor for a vote. It has already passed the Assembly. The bill would allow a senior citizen to cancel a lease or contract for senior citizen housing, excluding residential health care facilities, by contacting the owner or lessor within three business days after the contract was signed.

Each one of these bills is being followed closely; memoranda in support of the Women's Health and Wellness Act and the Senior Housing Bill have been sent from NYS AAUW Public Policy to senators serving on various committees during the past year. Internet editor Donna Seymour has kept an up-to-date listing of legislative initiatives affecting women on our NYS AAUW webpage. Check it out! [www.northnet.org/nysaauw]

Your branch should subscribe to **Action Alert**, the AAUW legislative newsletter, for just \$20 for 12 issues. It contains up-to-the-minute information on AAUW issues of national priority.

5-STAR MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Inez Alston, NYS Membership Vice President
716/763-1226 713ipa@madbbs.com

This has indeed been a very eventful year. Most branches seem to be doing very well. However, there are some just hanging on by a "twig." I must thank all of you for your hard work, dedication, commitment and cooperation. Thanks for the effort you put into preparing your 5-Star reports. It truly shows the pride you take in your work for AAUW, its goals and ideals.

I'm happy to announce that 25 branches attained 5-Star status or better. I'm also happy to say that many branches believed me when I said that branches would be recognized for any number of stars they received. Each star attained represents a considerable amount of work and effort. Recognition goes to:

7-STAR BRANCHES

**Buffalo, Jamestown, New York City,
St. Lawrence County, Schenectady**

6-STAR BRANCHES

**Amherst, Dunkirk-Fredonia, Islip Area, Ithaca, North Fork,
North Shore, Queens, Rockland County, Smithtown Area**

5-STAR BRANCHES

**Adirondack, Albany, Chautauqua-Westfield, Garden City,
Jefferson County, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, Northern
Westchester, Ontario County, Poughkeepsie**

In addition, we want to recognize those branches that earned fewer than 5-Stars:

4-STARS: Alfred/Hornell

3-STARS: Syracuse

2-STARS: Bath, Farmingdale, Greece

**1-STAR: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown,
East Aurora-Southtowns, East Hampton, Elmira,
Fairport, Greater Rochester Area, Kingston,
Oswego, Peekskill, Skaneateles, Yates County**

Twenty branches increased their membership by 5% or more. The three branches with the highest increase in membership were **New York City** with 50, **Jamestown** with 35; and **Ithaca** with 28.

The Association is urging members to take advantage of becoming paid up Life Members before the next dues increase. The cost is now 20 x 29, or \$580.00. The Association no longer provides membership cards. Your membership identification number is printed on your *Outlook* mailing label, should you need it.

LOOKING FOR HOSTESS BRANCHES

Would your branch or district like to host a future New York State Convention? If you feel your area could host, let Program VP Bobbe Fortunato know and she'll help you check to see if it can happen.

We can help put a few interested branches in your area to work in bringing a convention to all of our members.

Contact Bobbe at 516/665-4689
551 Potter Blvd., Brightwaters, NY
11718, e-mail BobbeF@juno.com.

In addition, Bobbe is already planing for the 2000 convention to be held in Tarrytown, NY. To that end, she is looking for some information from branches:

- 1] Name of your branch if you have a branch banner
- 2] Name of your branch if you have a current History/Scrapbook
- 3] New or currently produced author or artist who might be interested in exhibiting
- 4] Subjects to be considered for inclusion in next state convention

Please contact her ASAP with this information. Thank you.



FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

Laura Graceffa 914/462-8478
Branch Council Director
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The Fall District meetings will be here before we know it. Make plans to attend the meeting in your district. Look for the schedule of meeting dates and locations in the Fall 1999 issue of the *NYS FOCUS*.



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

NEW YORK STATE *FOCUS* (USPS-390-570)
SUMMER 1999

SECOND CLASS PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Washington, DC 20036 And all Additional Entries

The **American Association of University Women** promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

The **AAUW Educational Foundation** provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

The **AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

In principle and practice **AAUW** values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Important! All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters.

Please send changes or corrections directly to: AAUW Record Office, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036

1999 PEACOCK AWARD WINNERS

Sharon Frayne, Diversity Director 914/962-7009

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The Peacock Awards encourages the New York State AAUW community to reach out to community partners and build coalitions focusing on education, equity, and diversity for women and girls. This process helps to diversify our membership and enhance our influence in NYS for the coming millennium.

FIRST PLACE:

- **Reach Out Massapequa** was a project developed in the Human Relations Study Group that sought to initiate and participate in activities that would assist the needs of the community.
- **New York City's** four diversity programs featured a tour of Harlem, student outreach for disadvantaged girls, a forum of African-American professional women, and a program on African-American arts.
- **Westchester's Sister-to-Sister Summit** brought together 95 girls from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds from 20 different schools.

SECOND PLACE:

- The **Adirondack Branch** sponsored a discussion and tour of the Independent Living facility. **Syracuse Branch** led a Youth and Violence forum with the Syracuse Partnership to Reduce Juvenile Guns and Violence.
- **Schenectady** was honored for its' diversity programs that highlighted nontraditional careers for women.
- **Islip Area Branch** concentrated on an in-depth study with the Japanese Studies Department at SUNY Stony Brook.

HONORABLE MENTION:

- At **St. Lawrence County's** St. Valentine's Day Diversi-Tea, members and guests dressed in native costumes, read poetry or a song in a foreign language.