



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

NEW YORK STATE

Volume 49, Issue #4
Summer 2000

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FROM THE PRESIDENT: ...Reflection and Shaping...
Kay Kraatz, NYS AAUW President 315/685-6256
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What a wonderful way to end our year.....Reflection and Shaping.

In reflection, it was Marion Talbot’s mother who said, “I see my own daughters, other young women across the length and breadth of the United States, with similar training and congenial tastes drawn together in a great body for the advancement of human folk. I see how by cooperation and organization these young women might set the stakes ahead in the matter of educational methods, might encourage young girls in more definite aims for their lives, might give support to the student struggling for lack of funds...might formulate plans for investigation of the very problems which at the moment seem incapable of solution, and by investigation point the way to their answers.”

The state group was formed by the initiatives of five branches: New York City, Syracuse, Albany, Buffalo and Corning. The first state president, Juanita Bates, of Ithaca, was elected in 1920. Of particular note, the first standing committee was the Committee on Educational Legislation....to shape the future of education in New York.

At the 1940 Convention, the first formal State Legislative program was voted upon, covering three fields: Education – support of legislation favoring adequate state aid to education, including kindergartens and nursery schools; Social Studies – support of legislation favorable to consumer interests; and Economic and Legal Status of Women - opposition to discriminatory legislation against women.

In the Sixties, the Division, as the state was called, accepted the challenge adopting the four topics presented by the Association. The slogan “Action without Study is Fatal; Study Without Action in Futile” was the attitude of the state.

In the Eighties, the Division devoted much of its time in support of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Topics of study included Families Facing Change, Managing Resources for Tomorrow, Money Talks, and Taking Hold of Technology.

And in the Nineties, the State, as it is now called, focused on education and equity. We have now held Sister-to-Sister Summits across the state and have embraced technology for managing our business and sphere of influence. We have begun to address the diversity within our communities, within ourselves and are working in collaboration with various organizations. We look to see how AAUW can assist in achieving common goals.

The current board of directors is completing its term and many will move on. They deserve a huge **Thank You** for their enthusiasm and commitment to AAUW. It has been an honor to serve the state and I look forward to sharing in future AAUW activities. Best of luck to Bobbe Fortunato, our new AAUW-NYS President, and to each of you. Eighty years after our beginning, our commitments and actions continue to shape the state, shape the women of tomorrow, the women of New York.

Tarrytown Convention Wrap-up

Legal Advocacy Fund Giving

Evelyn Currie, LAF Director

LAF Baskets: 28 branches contributed 60 baskets for our Silent Auction which produced \$2,391.50 for the Legal Advocacy Fund. The teal blue LAF cups on the tables at the Saturday LAF Luncheon produced \$977.50. Those 2 sums are \$1000 more than we received from them in 1999. It came at a wonderful time because they were matched by an anonymous donor to LAF.

Sharon Leder, one of our LAF-supported litigants, told us of her 11-year struggle with SUNY Buffalo at the luncheon. The OUR MEASURE OF SUCCESS pins and table signs, designed and made by Margaret Passalacqua of the Peekskill Branch, and the Quotes of the Day, made by Joan Monk of the Westchester Branch, really made our luncheon a festive occasion!

LAF Director Evvie Currie introduced the new LAF pin which will be available throughout 2000 for donors contributing \$100 or more to LAF. She also announced the new branch per capita contribution rate of \$5.00 to achieve the LAF Star in 2000.

2000 Communications Awards

Alene Wyatt, Director of Communications

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

Progress in Technology:

Medium Branch: **Smithtown & St. Lawrence Co.**

Large Branch: **Greater Rochester Area**

Very Large Branch: **North Shore**

Media - Publicity:

Medium Branch: **Poughkeepsie**

Large Branch: **Garden City**

Noteworthy Newsletters:

Small Branch: **Kingston**

Medium Branch: **Ithaca & St. Lawrence Co.**

Large Branch: **Poughkeepsie**

Very Large Branch: **Schenectady**

College & University Member: **Marymount Institute for the Education of Women & Girls**

PEACOCK Awards & Commendations

Sharon Frayne, Director of Diversity

Peacock Awards and commendations are presented each year to recognize branches for programs and projects with a diversity component, community outreach, partnerships, replication, originality and visibility.

2000 PEACOCK Award Winners:

Islip Area - Woman to Woman Dialogue

Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown - 12

partnership - Sister to Sister Summit

Westchester - Sexual Harassment Forum

Garden City - disabilities campaign

Greater Rochester Area - Sister to Sister Summit

North Shore - three diversity programs

Massapequa - 7 major diversity programs

Buffalo/East Aurora/Smithtown/Amherst - major regional Sister-to-Sister Summit

New York City - 14 programs on diverse subjects

Staten Island - program providing English classes, clothing, employment within the community.

2000 PEACOCK Commendations:

Kingston - three diversity programs

Ithaca - international scholar dinner/recognition

St. Lawrence County - multicultural celebration

Albany - for its participation in The Senior Lifetime Achievement Award

2000-2001 Officers & Board Members

NYS President: Bobbe Fortunato (Islip Area)

Educational Foundation VP: Helen Engel (Oswego)

Membership VP: Jeannette Knapp (Ithaca)

Program VP: Marge Smith (Cortland & Ithaca)

Treasurer: Mary Thompson (Albany)

Secretary/Bylaws: Loreen Ginnitti (Chautauqua/Westfield)

Directors:

2000 Convention: Ann Hicks (Buffalo)

Cultural Interests: Rajam Hariharan (Bath)

Administration: Carmen Wysomierski (Islip Area)

Communications: Donna Seymour (St. Lawrence Co.)

Diversity: Jane Sheeran (Saratoga Springs)

Educational Equity: Ann Walker (Islip Area)

International Relations: Peggy Coe (Jefferson Co.)

Legal Advocacy Fund: Evelyn Currie (Schenectady)

Public Policy Director: Ann Bish (Buffalo)

PP/Voter Education Director: Jane Smith (Bath)

Past President: Kay Kraatz (Skaneateles)

Proud to be an AAUW
Member in New York
State

Roberta (Bobbe) Fortunato
Membership VP 516/665-4689
bobbef@juno.com



Another year has gone by and many of us are shaking our heads and wondering just where it went and what did we do during its race through our lives? Did we do anything we can be proud of?

If you are a New York State member of AAUW you can answer "YES" to that question. Even if you are caught up in the how do we get more members, or how do we get them out to meetings, you can still answer "YES!"

Just a few short weeks ago members from forty branches gathered in Tarrytown, New York to celebrate the idea of *Women Shaping Our Future*. They worked together to make the state convention come to life. New York's members responded to the speakers and the workshops to get involved to make things better for everyone through action.

Branches with concerns about the environment, the death penalty, child care and school financing saw that other members were listening. We learned new ways to involve our volunteer members. We found that now is the time to build the coalitions that will Shape the Future.

Forty branches took home at least one project to work on during this next year. Most new members join because they know or have heard that AAUW promotes equality for all women and girls, that AAUW supports women to advance education and to do the research which can enhance lives in the future, and that AAUW gives money and moral support to women who are seeking redress in the judicial system for sexual discrimination.

You are a member of AAUW New York. Be proud of what you and your sisters around this state have done. Big, little, in coalition, by ourselves or with just one or two together, we are all AAUW. The women and girls of New York State need each one of us to stand up and speak out for those who may not know how. That is what being in AAUW has taught us to do.

How Branches Can Assist Their Hearing
Impaired Membership
Sharon Frayne, Diversity Director

914/962-7009 Dave_Frayne@prodigy.com

AAUW cannot afford to lose loyal members as they age or become disabled. Members will drop out of their branches if they find it more difficult to participate. We cannot afford to lose members who do not hear or physically function as well as they once did. We need to find ways to make sure they are able to participate fully.

Hearing loss can happen at any age. The major cause of hearing loss is heredity, followed closely by exposure to excessive noise. Aging is not a cause, but it can exacerbate the hearing loss. The following suggestions may be helpful to accommodate members with hearing impairments:

- Provide a printed agenda to help all members follow the discussion, especially where the attendance is 25-30 or more.
- Setting chairs in a circle helps by providing a view of the speakers.
- At larger gatherings, provide assistive devices and ask the speaker to use a microphone that is connected to a transmitter so that listeners can use a receiver with an audio induction neck loop to receive the message clearly.
- Provide rooms that are acoustically sound (including good lighting and furniture arrangement), that reduce background noise and reverberation and use captioning features when showing a video.

The branch needs to provide an environment that is conducive to participation so that members with hearing loss do not curtail their attendance. All members will appreciate this consideration.

Whatever is you do in your branches to accommodate members with disabilities, it should be done in consultation with them. Independence is paramount. Disability is no reason to lose loyal members.

Many thanks to Marcia Dugan of the Yates County Branch for her timely suggestions on hearing loss and disability.

INITIATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY: ACTION FOR EQUITY PROJECTS

Ann B. Walker, Director - 516/563-2678 - walkerab@aol.com

Ten excellent Action for Equity projects were highlighted at convention. Need an idea? Adapt one of these projects to meet the needs of your branch or community. Network with other branches to learn about their successful projects. Consider working with neighboring branches or forming a coalition of community organizations.

"Agent of Change" (St. Lawrence County)

The branch biennially recognizes a local woman for her work as an Agent of Change, a woman whose work has advanced the cause of women's rights, exemplifies the importance of equity for women, or has brought about a significant change in the community. Contact: Katherine Briggs (315)-386-1630.

"Charter Schools - What's Up?" (Albany)

The Albany Branch and the League of Women Voters presented two public service meetings to discuss the charter school movement. Contact: Mary Thompson (518) 237-2577 cayethom@aol.com .

"Connecting Their World With Ours" (Smithtown)

Smithtown provided women at Bethany House the opportunity to share in the American dream by giving them the clothes necessary to dress for success in the working world. Contact: Melinda Geis (631) 269-3937.

"Get in the Game" (Jamestown)

Local celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day with a day-long event held at a local community college with 160 girls in grades 4 - 8 who participated with over 50 female athletes/presenters. Contact: Janet Forbes (716) 483-3525 jforbes@hotmail.com .

"Sexual Harassment in Schools" (Westchester)

The Westchester Branch presented a public program on sexual harassment in school to educate participants about issues and solutions regarding sexual harassment in schools. Contact: Dr. Carolyn Reppert Sears (914) 763-3219.

"Sisters & Friends Camp" (St. Lawrence County)

The St. Lawrence County Branch offered 25 local girls the opportunity to experience a residence camp in and to work with Bridgit Ball, a singer, songwriter and educator. Contact: Faye White (315) 393-2215 WHITEFW@canton.edu .

"Women and Sports" - (Dunkirk Fredonia)

An open forum was presented to discuss sports throughout the lifespan; the benefits & impact of sports; legal rights and equity; role models, family involvement; challenges and opportunities. Contact: Karen Lewis (716) 672-8079 lewis@neysync.net .

"Youth -Our Future: Woman to Woman" (Islip Area)

A panel discussed mutual concerns about the youth of today - their needs, their dreams and their futures. Contact: Carmen Wyszomierski (631) 698-1532.

"Excellence in Science and Math" (Queens)

The Queens Branch annually recognizes students in the many area schools who excel in science and math. Contact: Gloria Borguese (718) 641-3277.

"Merit Award" (Queens)

Each year a student from one of the five area colleges is selected to receive a Merit Award of \$250 for excellence in math, science or technology. Contact Frances Benanti (718) 463-2110

GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV) 2000

Judy Weidemann, Voter Education Director
716/655-3649 weideman@gateway.net

Efforts of the AAUW Voter Education campaign in the 1998 Election were successful. Many candidates favorable to AAUW issues were elected. Now is the time to gear up for the November 2000 elections.

Many branches have traditionally sponsored Issue and Candidate Forums. They are often done in coalition with other organizations. Branches are encouraged to continue and expand these activities. **Get the Facts** need to be distributed widely. Position papers on a number of issues are available from the AAUW Public Policy department at 800/608-5286 or from votered@aauw.org.

The following Legal Guidelines for all election activities carried out in AAUW's name must be adhered to:

DO: Conduct election-related activities that do not expressly advocate the election or defeat of any clearly identified candidate or political party. Gather and publicize information about the candidates' position on issues. Invite all major party candidates running for office to the forum.

DON'T: Endorse candidates in ANY partisan election. Coordinate election-related activities with one or more candidate, campaign or party-related organization.

Membership Matters:

Take Advantage of AAUW Emerging Leaders Internship Program

Jeanette Knapp, Membership Vice President
607-272-3367 jdk4@cornell.edu



Each branch can appoint up to three (3) student affiliates to work on AAUW programs, public policy, websites, and/or membership issues under the guidance of a branch leader. The Association will waive dues for these 2000-2001 Emerging Leader Interns. The state no longer charges dues to undergraduate and graduate student members, and branches should also consider waiving student dues.

Women college students in our communities and their professors are terrific potential members. They are already committed to education and equity and will find AAUW publications valuable tools. See AAUW's website (www.aauw.org/6000/internpr.html) for suggested projects for internships, announcements to post at universities, applications, registration forms, and evaluation forms. For additional assistance, contact Sondra Stephenson, Manager, Membership Support/HELPLINE, by e-mail: stephens@aauw.org or by phone: 202/785-7772.

Star Awards: Highlights and Winners

Bath increased membership by 29%! **East Hampton** joined with the NAACP to picket K-Mart at Bridgehampton, which agreed not to sell guns at its new store. **Buffalo** has just held its 3rd Girls Summit.

Massapequa is helping the local teen-parent program. **Schenectady** is working on a county-wide race relations initiative. **New York City** celebrated Women's History Month with a historic dance program: "Take the Lead: Women Unchained in Politics, Dance & Dress."

Jefferson County increased membership by 23%. **Islip** won 8 stars for community action, leadership development, and the state's most imaginative fund-raising events.

I wish I had room for details from all the inspiring 5-Star applications and AAUW action across the state. I marvelled at the creative ways each branch worked on issues vital to its members, essentially reinventing AAUW for this time and this place. Use the 5-Star criteria in your branch planning this summer and appoint a new member to your board as the 5-Star coordinator. She can collect materials and remind you of what still needs doing. Congratulations to the 28 branches that received star awards at the state convention and to all branches for making AAUW a respected voice for equity and education in your community.

8 Star Branch: Islip Area

7 Star Branches:

Bath - Buffalo - East Hampton
New York City - North Shore
Schnectady - Smithtown
Westchester

6 Star Branches:

Garden City - Jefferson County
Massapequa Area - Mid-Island
Mohawk Valley

5 Star Branches:

Albany - Dunkirk-Fredonia
Elmira - Ithaca - Jamestown
Poughkeepsie - Rochester
Rockland County - Queens
St. Lawrence County
Staten Island - Syracuse

4 Star Branch: Alfred-Hornell

2 Star Branch: Kingston

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. Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, DC, and additional offices.

Send all 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 Issue Deadline: August 1
Winter Issue Deadline: October 30

NYS website:
www.northnet.org/nysaaaw

Thank you to all the members of New York State who contributed to American Fellowship on behalf of Sandy Bernard and Alice Ann Leidel Jacobs. The first Fellowship has already been awarded from that Fund.

Educational Foundation Report

Helen Engel, Educational Foundation VP
315/343-9678 rengel@oswego.edu

Thanks to all of you who gave to the Educational Foundation in the 1999 fiscal year. With individual member and Branch participation, we had 100% branch participation in New York State. Congratulations to everyone.

The top ten branches in total contributions and for per capita contributions in 1999 were:

Total Contributions	Per Capita Contributions
1 Buffalo	Buffalo
2 North Shore	Mid-Island
3 Schenectady	North Shore
4 Islip Area	Albany
5 Mid-Island	Islip Area
6 Garden City	Syracuse
7 Smithtown Area	Chautauqua-Westfield
8 Greater Rochester Area	Smithtown Area
9 New York City	Schenectady
10 Syracuse	Ithaca

Even though the weather didn't cooperate for the EF Walk/Run at the State convention, almost 50 people took part. Let's see if we can top that next year. We were able to raise over \$1700. This money will be credited to Branches for the year 2000. It's not too early to think about participating next year.

If you haven't seen the new Foundation publication *Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age*, a copy is available in your Branch. They were sent out in mid-April. Be sure to read it.

Good luck with your year 2000 fund raising. Spread the word about the Grants and Fellowships available through the Foundation. Remember, the work of the Foundation helps all of us, we need you!



Some of our EF Walk-Runners who helped raise over \$1700 on Sunday morning in Tarrytown!

MAR 2000 Conference

at the National 4-H Center,

In Community ...

A retreat for women who want to change lives

Join the women from the Middle Atlantic Region from Friday to Sunday, Sept. 22-24, in an exciting learning weekend. Women to women, spiritual, and leadership experiences await us all as we gather in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Registration for the weekend is just \$75. Rooms range from a single at \$97/night to a quad at \$42/night. Meals for the entire weekend are \$46. Plan to car pool so the traveling is cheaper and more fun as well.

More information from Lana Cobb, 9505 Fern Hollow Way, Montgomery Village, MD 20886, 301-869-7217 [phone] or e-mail: lcobb@erols.com.

International Relations

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

Here's a project for the next ten years. The UN General Assembly has declared the year **2000** as the **International Year of Peace** and **2001 - 2010** as the **International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World**. The original purposes of IFUW, to foster cross-culture understanding and promote world peace, are being met through this project.

There is a **Manifesto 2000** as part of the activities. Any and everyone can participate. It is a pledge signed by each individual that she or he will practice the principle of a Culture of Peace in everyday life. IFUW has signed on to this with UNESCO. They recommend that people use the Internet to sign on www.unesco.org/manifesto2000. IFUW's account is NGO/INT/035/UWI. The hope is to collect 200 million signatures by September 20, 2000. The plan is to promote peace-building. Contact Carol Stull for more information or visit this webpage www.ifuw.org/peace. We **can** make a difference.

Plan Ahead to attend one of these Fall District Conferences

District 1 & 2	Oct. 21	Bath
District 3	Oct. 14	St. Lawrence County
District 4	Oct. 28	Albany
District 5	Oct. 28	New York City
District 6	Oct. 21	LI Interbranch

A FOCUS on Resolutions

Ann Bish, Director of Public Policy

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One of the definitions of the word *pride*, as defined in Webster's New World Dictionary, is the "delight or satisfaction in one's own or another's achievements." Each of us, whether or not we attended the convention at Tarrytown, can take pride in the fact that we endorsed resolutions that address a variety of serious issues impacting our communities and society. The following resolutions, researched and submitted by concerned members, establish action plans for us, the members, as well as for the President and the Board of Directors of AAUW NYS:

Work for Improved Child Care in New York State

- AAUW NYS supports the Child Care that Works Campaign--a campaign of 5 years duration that is endeavoring to improve child care in NYS through legislative initiatives;
- AAUW NYS members actively support child care initiatives (necessary training, inspection of centers and personnel checks) being sought by child care agencies throughout the state;
- AAUW NYS members lobby locally, state-wide, and nationally for funding and legislation to improve the access and quality of child care.

Submitted by Rosalind Renouard, Garden City Branch

Support for the Moratorium on the Death Penalty

- The AAUW NYS President urge Governor Pataki to follow the lead of Governor Ryan of Illinois (who set free 13 persons who had been wrongly sentenced and who joined the moratorium) and add the State of New York to the list of those states supporting the moratorium on executions.

Submitted by Helen Fitzgerald, East Hampton Branch

Work for Improved Equity in Public School Funding

- AAUW NYS members be encouraged to attend local school board budget hearings, to make contact with the State Board of Regents members and State legislators to advocate for fair and equitable funding for public schools in New York State;
- AAUW NYS members be urged to work in coalition with advocacy groups, such as the NYS School Boards Association, NYSUT, NEA NYS, School Administrators of NYS, PTA, to bring

about reform of state funding for public education.

Submitted by Judy Weidemann, Buffalo Branch

Environment and Health

- Branches work in coalition with other community groups to become informed on environmental and health issues;
- Branches advocate legislation at the state and local levels to ensure a clean and healthful environment;
- A workshop on environmental and health issues be included periodically at the New York State Convention.

Submitted by Judith Wagner and Ann Heidenreich, St. Lawrence County Branch

Support Jubilee 2000 Worldwide Movement

- AAUW NYS Board of Directors goes on record as supporting Jubilee 2000/USA;
- AAUW NYS members be encouraged to contact their own Senators and Representatives indicating their support;
- Organizations with similar interests be urged to support Jubilee 2000/USA, a worldwide movement seeking to cancel the unpayable international debts of the poorest countries by 2001.

*Submitted by Carol Stull
Director of International Relations*

If you want to read the resolutions in their entirety, you'll find them on the state website:
www.northnet.org/nysaauw .

Cultural Interests Idea Bank

Rajam Hariharan, Director

607/776-6950

rajam@linkny.com

I am creating a state-wide database of branch programs to illustrate the wide variety of ideas and projects which take in the Cultural Interests area of programming. Please take a moment to drop me a note with some of the best cultural events from your branch: Rajam Hariharan, Cultural Interests Director, 7162 Snyder Hill Road, Bath, NY 14810.



New York State *FOCUS* (USPS-390-570)
Summer 2000

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE **PAID** at
Washington, D.C. 20036
And all
Additional Entries
USPS-390-570

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. Attention postmaster: Dated Material. Please do not delay.

NYS LAF 6th in the USA in 1999 Giving!

Evelyn M. Currie, Legal Advocacy Fund Director
518/399-3711 ecurrie@gateway.net

Congratulations New York! \$21,055.25 was the amount we contributed to achieve this high honor. The following produced this result:

- 53 branches, which each made a contribution
- 43 branches, which attained the LAF Star (\$3 or more per member)
- 46 individuals, who each contributed \$50 or more
- 17 AAUW NYS Board members, who each gave \$25 or more

The top 3 branches contributing since April 1999:

- **Islip Area** (98 members) \$1,380.00
- **Schenectady** (216 members) \$1,230.00
- **Ithaca** (68 members) \$880.50

Four of our smallest branches gave more than was required to earn the LAF Star. They are special!

- **Alfred-Hornell** (16 members) \$75
- **Chautauqua-Westfield** (16 members) \$150
- **East Aurora-Southtown** (12 members) \$108
- **Putnam Co.** (17 members) \$92

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Evvie Currie (center) and friends working on the LAF Baskets at convention.



The 2000 LAF Star Branches:

Adirondack, Albany, Amherst, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Bath, Buffalo, Dunkirk-Fredonia, East Hampton, Elmira, Fairport Area, Farmingdale, Garden City, Greece Area, Huntington Township, Jamestown, Jefferson Co., Kingston, Massapequa, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, New York City, North Fork, North Shore, Northern Westchester, Ontario Co., Oswego, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, Queens, Rockland Co., St. Lawrence Co., Skaneateles, Smithtown, Staten Island, Syracuse, and Yates Co.