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Living the Mission

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The American Association of University Women New York State will have "Living the Mission" as its theme for the next two years. What does this slogan mean and why have we chosen it to guide us at the beginning of the 21st Century?

"Living the Mission" means putting into real action the AAUW Mission statements, which we have professed to all of our members and prospective members. AAUW is a cross corporate entity. The Association, the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund are equal partners in advancing the AAUW Mission. Our Association and State publications and the branch newsletters all print the following mission statements:

- 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.

A commitment to these issues is reflected in AAUW's public policy, leadership, diversity and international initiatives. AAUW, a 150,000-member organization with more than 1,500 branches nationwide, lobbies and advocates on behalf of these issues. New York State is a part of this larger whole. We belong to AAUW because we believe in and want to join with others in forwarding the mission. "Living the Mission" will serve to remind us during the next two years of the reason we all belong to AAUW in the 21st Century.

What can we do as individuals and branches to make this slogan meaningful? We can plan branch programs that concern AAUW issues. We can co-sponsor programs with other organizations about equity for women and girls. We can contribute equally to EF and LAF since they are partners, not opponents. We can each make a personal commitment to education and equity in our personal and professional lives. We can each be open to new ideas that result in change.

We all need to remember, that as individuals and branches, we represent the "AAUW Image" to our communities. Let's all work together to ensure that AAUW in NYS has a positive mission-based image for the next two years!

Tribute to Alice Ann Leidel

Alice Ann Leidel passed away peacefully in her sleep Tuesday morning, August 20, 2002. She had fought a long, brave battle against cancer. Her spirit and up-beat attitude during her illness was an example of great courage for us all. Alice Ann continued to be supportive of the AAUW NYS Board and we will all deeply miss her strength and guidance.

Alice Ann Leidel was the ideal example of dedication to the AAUW mission. Her life evidenced that commitment. Mid-Island was her home branch and she also belonged to the North Shore Branch. She was the NYS Educational Foundation Vice President in the 1980s and became the AAUW NYS President from 1984-86. She was the Association Educational Foundation President from 1993-1997.

(Please see *Alice Ann Leidel*, Page 4)

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Women Helping Girls- A Program That Works

Jane Pfeiffer Smith, NYS Program VP

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As Program Vice President of AAUW-NYS I have chosen to investigate branch programs that are working. If the program can be duplicated or adapted by another branch many more can benefit. Such is the first program that I want to share with you. **Greater Rochester Branch** has developed and maintained a program called **Women Helping Girls** for over ten years. See for yourself.



Five women who were educators or retired in the Rochester City School District knew there was a great need for some assistance with the education of girls in the city schools. Bettie Lindley, currently Branch President, and several of her friends approached middle schools in the city about working with girls starting in 5th grade. Three middle schools were involved in the beginning. AAUW volunteers developed a curriculum that still is followed today. Mentors were solicited and assigned to specific students identified by the schools. And so the program began in 1992.

Today, the program starts with 6th grade girls in the Dr. Freddie Thomas Learning Center, a middle school in inner city Rochester. It is now a three pronged program:

- a **mentoring program** whereby a mentor is assigned to a girl in 6th grade and stays with her until she completes school
- an **in-school program** where volunteers organize and carry out activities on a monthly basis such as women speakers who could be role models and field trips
- a **high school program** that has been highly developed within the last two years that keeps track of the girls in grades 9-12 who have scattered to the seven city high schools and offers activities several times throughout the school year.

The high school program is now under the direction of Liz Webb, a dedicated AAUW member. One part of the program is a newsletter that the girls write and publish themselves.

Volunteer work on the part of an AAUW mentor who is a graphics designer helped to make this possible.

Penny Quill, a new friend of mine, is the Mentor Coordinator of the program. Her background in Community Health is a plus for her in this position. She takes each new mentor into the home of the girl selected, introduces them to each other and describes the mentoring process to the girl and her family. She involves the family, especially the mother and grandmother, with the activities of the project. Penny told me that with each mentor the goal is "one quarter at a time." Every quarter of completion of school is a success. The goal is for each girl to finish her education and find a job, but it is done in little steps with small and sometimes large successes. Because this program has been in existence for ten years there are some obvious success stories to report. Twin girls who started in 6th grade are now studying at Cornell. One student is going to Manhattanville College. One student who now has a three year old is attending Oswego. The amount of good for the families, the community and society cannot be measured.

"Problems?" says Penny, "Sure." Not enough volunteers to make everything happen that needs to be done. The program is desperately looking for someone with computer skills to set up a tracking program for the girls in the program. Too few people are doing most of the work. Money to operate the special projects is slim, although a very nice grant was given to Women Helping Girls from the Costanza Family Foundation just recently. And most dramatically, the three guidance counselors from The Freddie Thomas Learning Center who have been so involved in the program since the school was founded in 1995 have been terminated due to extreme budget cuts in the Rochester City School District.

At this point in time there are about 60 mentors and volunteers and about 120 girls in the program. If you would like more information email Penny Quill at tquill01@rochester.rr.com. It is very difficult to describe such a wonderful program in such short space. I hope I have been able to give you some idea of the huge scope of Women Helping Girls. Rochester AAUW you are to be congratulated. Keep up the great work!!!

Long Island's for me in 2K3!

AAUW NYS Convention
April 25-27, 2003

Islandia Marriott, Long Island
Friday Evening Keynote Speaker
Jacqueline Woods, AAUW Executive Director
www.northnet.org/nysaaauw/longisld.htm

Briefings on the Status of Human Rights for Women Around the World

Tuesday, October 8, 2002 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
United Nations Headquarters in New York City
co-sponsored by

AAUW-NYS and League of Women Voters – NYS
Details on the LWV-NYS website (www.lwvnys.org)

Living The Mission:

Girls Ice Hockey Advocacy!

Mary Grainger, Ithaca Branch

“EQUITY” IS A MINDSET SHARED BY AAUW MEMBERS IN OUR STATE AND OUR NATION. This summer educational equity, especially as it relates to athletics, has been on the minds of governmental and political leaders and has been featured in the media. The 30th Anniversary of Title IX was celebrated by some and criticized by others!

Starting in 1998 AAUW members in many areas of New York were active in advocacy for athletics equity for girls ice hockey players. The Empire State Games (ESG) had no girls or women’s divisions although boys and men had long been included. Many New York high schools offered varsity ice hockey for boys, but none did for girls. AAUW was an integral part of the successful grassroots efforts to reverse both of these inequities.

AAUW led the way, showing hockey players and their parents and coaches how to use their voices to affect change. For example, AAUW leader Donna Seymour printed postcards to the ESG administrator with a basic message so that parents and girls only had to add a note and sign their names. At the AAUW state convention, more letters and postcards were sent, asking for equity. Open Women’s Ice Hockey became part of the Winter Empire State Games that same year, and the Scholastic Girls Division was added the next summer. Check on this year’s Empire State Games at www.empirestategames.org

AAUW helped arrange and sponsor the statewide tour of New York by Mitzi Witcher of GREAT (Girls Really Expect A Team). Mitzi brought statewide girls high school hockey to Minnesota, and assists other states to add the sport. While in Ithaca, she met with two high school girls who spearheaded the local efforts to start a

school team at Ithaca High. They were effective; Ithaca and Saranac Lake simultaneously initiated the first NYS school club programs in 1999. In the 2000-01 school year they were joined by Canton and Oswego, with all four districts approving varsity programs that season. Last year Salmon River joined in, and in this school year, Skaneateles, Lake Placid and Potsdam plan to participate. (Note: active, involved AAUW branches serve most of these communities!)

In the eight communities with varsity girls’ teams, there continue to be equity issues about funding and allocation of ice time that need to be addressed. In other communities, where groups have requested a girls’ team and been turned down, more advocacy needs to be done. And in still more communities, the girls and parents have yet to find their voices, so no requests have been made.

As an organization that lives the AAUW mission to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change, AAUW played a critical role in helping to establish ice hockey at

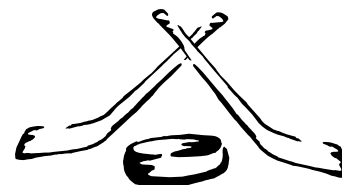
the Empire State Games for women and girls in New York. The time is right for AAUW voices to join in calling for more opportunities for girls in local high schools to play ice hockey. For more information about the developing girls high school hockey league, contact Mary Grainger at mmgithaca@aol.com or call 607/257-3268.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal statute prohibiting sex discrimination in education. The law states—

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

To learn more, visit:

www.northnet.org/nysaauw/title9.htm



INTRODUCING Eileen Hartmann

AAUW-NYS College/University Director

AAUW-NYS is fortunate in having Eileen Hartmann, the past President of the Fairport Area Branch, assume the duties of the College/University Director on the AAUW NYS Board for 2003-04. Since we have not had constant representation in that area for the last four years, we need Branch and individual help in updating our C/U records. We request that each Branch produce a list of colleges in their area with address, phone and e-mail address, if possible. If the College Representative of any of them is known, please include that name, phone, address and e-mail. Please send to: Eileen Hartmann 7951 Oak Brook Circle Pittsford, NY 14534, phone 585/924-4876; email: telcali@aol.com

The College/University connection in AAUW NYS is very important.



When we think about attracting new members, we need the help of our colleges to spread the word about the importance of AAUW in today’s world. We also need our college professors to be members and help us in furthering the AAUW mission across the state. So please help us get the C/U part of the AAUW NYS mission back on track by updating Eileen soon.

Alice Ann Leidel

(Continued from page 1)

She was always available to speak to branches or individuals who needed her expertise. Although the Educational Foundation was her first love, she also supported the Legal Advocacy Fund because she knew it kept the doors open for women who had them opened by EF. A celebration of Alice



Ann's life was held on October 5, 2002. Contributions may be made in memory of Alice Ann to the newly established Educational Foundation Future Fund. Contributions are tax deductible. Please note in the "For" section of the check "Alice Ann Leidel Projects". The projects selected will be ongoing with long-term impact and will bear the name of Alice Ann Leidel, to honor her many contributions to the Educational Foundation and AAUW as a whole, throughout her lifetime. To honor her memory, we can all dedicate our lives to "Living the Mission." She loved the choice of that theme for AAUW NYS 2002-04.

In Memory of Jennie Farley

Jennie Farley passed away June 19, 2002, after a long illness. Jennie was President of the Ithaca Branch during the Cornell 11 events. She was an undercover supporter, as she was not tenured at the time. Eleven brave, resolute female professors brought a class action lawsuit against Cornell University for denial of tenure, attributed to sex discrimination. As a direct result of this case, AAUW created the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund in 1981. She became a full professor in 1990 in the Industrial and Labor Relations College. Her career at Cornell spanned more than thirty years.

Look Beyond Your Branch

Susan Sontup, NYS LAF Director

tresswann@yahoo.com 516/679-6274

I cannot tell you how excited I am to have been given the opportunity to serve as LAF director for this year. In June I attended the AAUW "Women in Charge" Conference in Washington, D.C. It was a gathering of state presidents, Educational Foundation chairs and Legal Advocacy Fund chairs. What an awesome, inspiring weekend! I was so proud when I heard NYS announced as second in the country for LAF giving, and then hearing the names of **Schenectady** and **Islip Area** as being in the top ten branches in the nation.

I also had the opportunity to hear Susan Whittaker, an LAF plaintiff, speak. This is how our money goes to work. This is why every dollar we raise is so important. We need to be able to support women like these; we need to be able to fund and promote programs like the Progress in Equity awards and the college outreach programs.

I can report that the directors and state leaders present at the Summer Board meeting in July came through and we had total donations that weekend of \$599! As I said that weekend, this was money just from us—AAUW. LAF is larger than just us. Therefore, what I am suggesting is that every branch attempt this year to reach beyond the branch. In every area of NYS, there must be 10 people (not just women) who would each give \$100. Think about it. If we were able to do this, we could raise at least \$50,000 that did not come directly from our members **and** we would make new people aware of LAF and AAUW and the excellent work we do. In your community, think of professors, attorneys, doctors, insurance agents, professionals and others who do not currently contribute to LAF.

I plan on being in contact with every branch president and LAF branch person in the immediate future. I look forward to your continued support and our success.

"Living the Mission" T-shirts!



Get your very own AAUW-NYS 2002-04 theme T-shirt in two great styles: White w/teal lettering or Teal w/white lettering. The AAUW Logo and "Living the Mission" theme are silk-screened on the front of a 50/50 blend T-shirt, with our mission statement on the back. Great for branch projects, membership

recruitment events, or just to show your AAUW spirit!

Order in sizes Large & X-Large for just \$7 each. Add \$2.50 shipping/handling for the first shirt, and an additional \$2 per shirt after that in the same order. Be sure to choose a color (otherwise we'll send white!)

Send your check or money order made out to AAUW-NYS T-Shirt to: Donna Seymour, Communications Director, 8 Cedar Street, Potsdam, NY 13676-2019. Combine your branch order to save shipping costs.

New York's 3,000 Members-at-Large May Be Waiting to Hear from You

Jeanette Knapp
NYS Membership VP

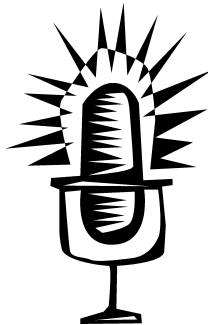
jdk4@cornell.edu ... 607/272-3367

- "WE NEED NEW MEMBERS."
- "WE NEED YOUNGER MEMBERS."
- "WE NEED MEMBERS WILLING TO BE OFFICERS AND SERVE ON COMMITTEES."

Some 3,600 women in New York State belong to our 48 branches. Another 3,000 New York women are members of the national American Association of University Women, but do not belong to any branch. They are members-at-large (MALs).

If you have not invited the members-at-large in your area to join your branch, you may be missing one of the best sources of new members and new branch leaders. Many MALs are faculty women or recent graduates new to the area. They believe in AAUW's mission and already support it financially. They may not know there is a local branch nearby. Or they may be waiting to hear from you. Women do not need an invitation to join AAUW, but it is the most effective way to recruit new members. The **Huntington** Branch and the **Queens** Branch had great success with their MAL invitations. Each recruited more than five new members. The three newest branch officers in **Ithaca** were all MALs who accepted our invitation to join the branch.

Each year the Association sends me an electronic list of all the members-at-large in the state. If you are handy with databases and have Excel on your computer, I can e-mail you the entire file and you can select the names in your area. Otherwise, send me the ZIP codes of your current members, and I will send you an electronic or printed copy of the



names and addresses of your MALs.

Plan a mailing for these women. Invite them to your next branch meeting and send them an issue or two of your newsletter. Explain that if they are currently members-at-large, they only need to pay state dues of \$10 and your local branch dues to join. If their Association membership has expired, they can rejoin through your branch by paying association, state, and local dues.

I can send you sample letters that you can adapt for your branch. A 5% return is considered very good for direct mail. If you send invitations to 100 nearby MALs, you are likely to get more than five to join. And you can apply for membership project funds to pay for up to \$75 of your cost. Just save your receipts and request a membership project form when you request your MAL names. Contact me by email, phone or regular mail. My address is 1143 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Diversity Assistance Offered

Jane Sheeran
NYS Diversity Director

Sheeran176@aol.com 518/587-4895

I AM AT YOUR SERVICE. HOW MAY I HELP YOUR BRANCH? Do you know where Diversity fits in every aspect of branch activity?

I do. I challenge any branch to toss me a branch program and I will come up with specific suggestions on how it can be turned into an inclusive mission-based program. Although interest groups generally follow "for members only" protocol; if desired, these, too, can be converted to an open fellowship format. Your AAUW-NYS Diversity online resources include the website page and the Diversity e-group. I also participate with my counterparts in other states and the Association's Diversity Resource Team.

A seemingly small local program can have an impact fast and over a large geographic area. For example, the **Jefferson County** Branch dialogue with Fort Drum female officers was shared with both the state and Association e-groups. *Branches in other areas* near U.S. military bases had an "ah-ha!" moment. Let's use all our communication resources to maximize your fantastic local branch efforts.

FOCUS (USPS-390-570), a quarterly newsletter, is published for the New York State Division of the American Association of University Women by Printking, Inc., Cheektowaga, NY 14225-0701. The subscription rate of \$2.15 is included in the NYS dues. Periodicals postage is paid at Buffalo, NY, 14240.

Send all address changes to Buffalo Postmaster, Buffalo, NY, 14240, and AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Questions and articles should be addressed to the *FOCUS* Editor, Mary J. King, 77 King George Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, 845/462-0567, e-mail mary@kings-online.net

Winter Issue deadline:

Oct. 31, 2002

Creating Good Public Relations for AAUW

Donna Seymour, Director of Communications

onthego@northnet.org 315/265-6985

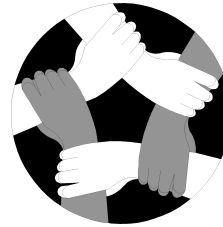
Each branch in AAUW-NYS, and each branch member, plays a key part in creating good public relations for AAUW. Why is it important to have good PR for AAUW? Good public relations:

- Builds membership
- Makes our members feel they are a part of an organization that makes a difference!
- Increases name recognition for AAUW
- Gains visibility for AAUW, the branch, and local programming
- Increases contributions to the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Foundation
- Gives the public a better understanding of the background and mission of AAUW
- Promotes our mission: **to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.**

Branches that identify key needs in their respective communities that AAUW is best suited to address and devise local programs to meet these needs are creating good PR for AAUW. If you can find ways to include other community organizations in a coalition to meet these local needs, so much the better.

We know that good local visibility and meaningful programming are two important factors in the success of our most dynamic branches. Outreach to the community is another key to success. Giving our members meaningful, satisfying work to do helps keep them active, strong members in AAUW. And it is the best way to attract new people to our organization.

Branches that are doing interesting work that makes a positive change in the local community do not have a problem getting publicity and good PR. Every branch member can have a



positive impact—volunteer to work on a local project, express your ideas at meetings, be the go-between with another community organization you are a member of to build a coalition, support a new idea, share your enthusiasm and commitment for AAUW with your branch members and others.

Think about how much being a member of AAUW means to you. Finding the energy and ideas to share that with others will be easy and you'll be creating good PR for AAUW!

Initiative for Educational Equity

Janet Forbes, Educational Equity Director

jlforbes@hotmail.com 716/483-3525

I'm looking forward to the next two years of my term as the Initiative for Educational Equity Director for AAUW-NYS. I will be serving as a resource person and, hopefully, a source of inspiration in this important area of the work of AAUW throughout the state.

I will be in touch by mail with each branch Educational Equity Chairperson or President at least four times throughout the year. I will be sharing resources, ideas, and program links with branch leaders. I will also be serving on the AAUW-NYS Program Development and Public Policy Teams. This will offer us the opportunity to mesh together well the work of these various Teams.

My vision for Educational Equity activities in AAUW-NYS includes each branch:

- Appointing an Educational Equity Chairperson
- Identifying Educational Equity needs within your community and working in coalition with other organizations to meet a specific need
- Sharing project ideas, resources, **successes** and challenges with AAUW-NYS

- Making consistent use of the website, www.northnet.org/nysaaauw, which will be bursting with wonderful information and resources
- Finding your niche for community action that fits your branch's interests, skills, and energy

As your Initiative for Educational Equity Director, you can expect that I will:

- Respond to emails, phone calls, or letters in a timely fashion
- Welcome your questions, comments, ideas, and inspiration
- Post current and helpful information to www.northnet.org/nysaaauw
- Provide support for your branch projects

Please feel free to be in touch with me whenever you have a concern about Educational Equity issues. I'm looking forward to working with all of you throughout the year and am excited about what we will be able to accomplish and share together.

In the words of our foremother, Margaret Mead,

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Let's go change the world!!

**Building A
Better
Future**

Branch Action Notes

The **Garden City Branch** honored Ruth Harley, a long-time member and former Dean of Adelphi University, at the June installation dinner. Dean Harley had recently celebrated her one-hundredth birthday and had been a speaker at the Sister-to-Sister Summit in December. This summer the branch displayed an exhibit of their activities at the Garden City Library and also toured the Nassau County Museum of Art.

Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, President of SUNY Stony Brook, spoke at **Smithtown Branch's** September Open House. As our branch was the very first group she spoke to when she first arrived on Long Island, we are so pleased to welcome her again.

The **Massapequa Area** and **Islip Area Branches** swapped programs this spring. For Women's History month the Islip Area Branch presented their wonderful "Presidents Wives" program. In exchange Massapequa's Fran Sontag presented a very informative slide presentation of "From Spirituals to Jazz" with the Chordalairs, Massapequa's musical study group, singing some spirituals.

The **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch** concluded the year with the celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the branch and the 30th anniversary of Title IX. For our annual planning meeting in July, we invited Jane Sheeran and Faith Beldon, making an effort to set the stage for future "cluster" programs with area branches. Jane, AAUW-NYS Diversity Director, assisted us by interjecting more State and Association objectives into our upcoming programs. Faith invited our branch to attend the December meeting in Schenectady.

One year after completing the \$35,000 Ida Ackley/Bath Branch Educational Foundation Endowment, members of the **Bath Branch** were able to see the results of their efforts. Deborah A. Huhn, the first recipient

Branch Action Notes

of the Ida Ackley Research Grant, attended the branch's Educational Foundation banquet in June, and spoke on her special area of interest "Public Health." Three \$500 scholarships were also awarded at the banquet to local young women to assist in their college education.

The **Jamestown Branch** hosted the 2002 Chautauqua County Tri-branch meeting in April with over 30 members from **Jamestown, Chautauqua-Westfield, and Dunkirk-Fredonia** attending. We were privileged to hear an excellent presentation by Rev. Banu Moore, who co-pastors a Jamestown Presbyterian Church with her husband. Banu was born and raised in Islamic Turkey, and her fascinating presentation focused on the life of women in that country.

The **Jefferson County Branch** has enjoyed a wonderful summer full of great events and activities such as our Upscale Garage Sale for EF, celebration of our branch's 25 anniversary held on the beautiful St. Lawrence River near Clayton and our annual picnic at scenic Henderson Harbor. We hosted our District III Conference, which was held at nearby Fort Drum.

Mohawk Valley Branch will have three special projects this fall in addition to our regular monthly meetings. In October we will co-sponsor a "High Tea-High Fashion Show" with Business and Professional Women. We will again have our "Bookless Book Sale" in November. In early December we will continue our long standing tradition of ringing the bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Holiday Fund Drive.

During 2001-2002, the **Ontario Branch** contributed more than \$1000 to the Educational Foundation while at the same time funding three local scholarships of \$1000 each to mature students in our area, through our annual geranium sale. For the second time we also contributed 1000 bids

Branch Action Notes

that read "Please read to me" with the AAUW logo to our local hospital for inclusion in their newborn baby packets. We have a full program for the coming year, which started with a focus on voter registration and information.

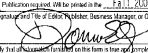
Three branches have launched new websites. Please visit! We'd love to hear your comments and thoughts.

BUFFALO BRANCH
www.aauwbuffalo.org

GREATER ROCHESTER AREA BRANCH
www.aauwrochester.org

POUGHKEEPSIE BRANCH
www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org

The **Schenectady Branch** held its sixth Summer Garden Tour on Sunday, July 14. We were fortunate to have the most glorious of days to showcase the eight gardens. The proceeds from the event, including sales of raffle tickets for two garden baskets and approximately 95 people who paid to view the gardens, benefited the Education Foundation.

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Living the Mission

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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, disability, or class.

IMPORTANT! All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Attention postmaster: Dated Material. Please do not delay. Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

We Must Be Ever Vigilant

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About 30 years ago when my kids were small and I needed an adult 'playground' with grownups for talking and sharing, I was invited to join AAUW. What exciting times: Would we dare to sue Ms.? Would we barnstorm an all-male bastion demanding entrance? Might we possibly have a representative in Washington who looked like us? Could our daughters have equal time on the playing fields and could we get promoted to management positions? We worked hard and long. As a result we gained much in terms of legislation, membership in organizations, and the recognition of our equality in all phases of life.

I'd like to think our work was over,

that we could rest. We can't. We must remain ever vigilant to keep Title IX in place, to demand fair pay, to protect reproductive rights for all women, to assure our daughters that they will find school programs that meet their needs, to reduce the level of violence all around us, to keep AAUW priorities in front of our legislators in New York and Washington.

I think that our tasks will be simplified if we work to build a collective voice. I suggest three steps each branch can take to remain vigilant and to make a difference in the lives of girls and women:

- Be sure that at least one branch member belongs to the Public Policy e-Group to receive and distribute information about women's issues and pending legislation



- Take the lead to build a coalition with other women's groups in the community – BPW, YWCA, Girl Scouts, LWV, etc.—to build a collective voice
- Develop a relationship with elected representatives—entertain them, feed them, educate them, and regularly communicate with them. Remind them that you elected them!

But first . . . **Get Out the Vote!!** Each branch has the materials (Check the Summer 2002 issue of *FOCUS* for more information or contact Jann Mirchandani, mirchman@ix.netcom.com or phone 718/671-1649. Then, please let me know how AAUW-NYS can help you develop a Public Policy Program that works for your membership and your community.