

NEWS FOCUS

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NY Board Votes to Broaden Membership Branches Asked to Discuss Resolution

Jeanette Knapp, Membership Vice President

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A resolution to urge the Association to broaden its membership criteria was approved by the AAUW-NYS Board in January and will be presented to the entire state membership at the Lake Placid Convention, May 3-5. All branches were sent copies of the resolution in January and asked to discuss the proposed change before their delegates vote on the resolution in May.

The resolution asks the Association "to revise its membership criteria to welcome to full membership all women and men who support equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change." Membership would be open to all individuals who hold a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university or who share AAUW's goals.

AAUW-NYS Board members unanimously support this resolution, noting that the Association mandates a diverse membership with "no barriers to full participation...on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class." The board supports this mandate, and pointed out that branches cannot open their membership to individuals of all classes until the Association opens its membership to individuals who support our mission, regardless of their education.

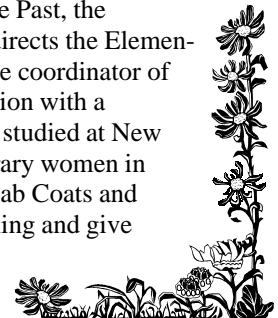
If New York AAUW members support this resolution, the state board plans to present a similar resolution at the national AAUW convention in 2003. The entire history of AAUW has been to broaden its membership—from women graduates of liberal arts colleges to women graduates of accredited four-year colleges and universities to men with similar degrees. AAUW's Eleanor Roosevelt Fund honors a remarkable first lady who was a high school teacher and champion of civil and human rights. But she wasn't eligible for membership in AAUW because after high school she was largely self-taught.

AAUW-NYS Convention 2002

Keynote Speaker

Janice Koch, Ph. D.

Dr. Koch, Associate Professor of Science Education at Hofstra University, will speak on "Girls and Women: Lives in the Balance—the Past, the Progress and the Promise" at 10 a.m. on Sat., May 4. She directs the Elementary Science Program for the School of Education and is the coordinator of the graduate Master of Arts Program in Elementary Education with a specialization in Mathematics, Science & Technology. She studied at New York University where she explored the lives of contemporary women in science and received an award for her dissertation titled "Lab Coats and Little Girls." Dr Koch will have a chat room Saturday evening and give the challenge address on Sunday.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Roberta 'Bobbe' Fortunato
AAUW NYS President

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After returning from the New York State Winter Board meeting I can tell you I have rewritten my piece to all of you several times. The board addressed many areas of concern about our members and our work. We agreed that we should be sure that our focus was to be a “mission-driven” organization. With our **Task Force for the Future** we can get back to that “Task” the way we feel the branches want us to do.

Combining our Fall and Winter *Focus* allowed us to send news of branches to all the Members at Large who are residing in New York State. The state board hopes that some of these people have contacted a local branch to see how they might become involved in the work we are doing. The NYS Membership VP, Jeanette Knapp, also has all the addresses. You and your branch can obtain a copy by zip code of the people who live within your branch area. If your branch has not asked for them, do it now! Maybe you can form a membership study group to reach out and grow.

If you think about it, this last year words and actions are taking a very large part in what NYS has been attempting to do. At the Association Convention the word used most prominently was “*Change*.” You have seen, I hope, some of the starts that we in New York are trying to make concerning this concept. Your state elected and appointed officers are trying to bring about change not only literally but also figuratively.

As we approach the next part of our year, the one where the branches and their members consider the next step in both AAUW and personal growth, I look to see where we are really going. The new century has opened many doors for us as we work to address the changes being made both on the Association level as well as the State. **Slim down, work with other organizations, and provide better leadership.** We must address these concerns *now*, not *later*. All of these ideas and many more require that AAUW-NYS change.

As I have been reading the newsletters from other states they all refer to the tragic terror we faced on September 11th and the weeks that followed. New York branches and members are finding ways to come to grips with all of the changes that have happened to us since that fateful day. We are learning to react and respond. We have to help our organization and

ourselves because leaving things alone will not allow *Good Change* to happen.

Last year at the Rochester Convention I announced the formation of New York State’s Task Force for the Future. We realized that to give you, our members, the best you deserve, we needed to start thinking about many changes. To do that, and still keep the state functioning, we needed help that could only come from people outside of the working board. The state is addressing the size and purpose of the board and committees. We are looking at movement within the present structure, job description and interaction of directors. The Task Force is looking at leadership, committee structure, membership and how they all can be improved for the members’ benefit.

Thank
you
AAUW NYS

Peggy Coe
International Relations Director

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Mutena Yorukoglu, a chemical engineer whom many of us met at the IFUW Conference in Ottawa, and Representative of the Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW), thanks all of you for your contributions to the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID). The Gaziantep Branch used BRPID funds to develop a four year program focused on reading and writing skills for illiterate adult women, and which also included job training and an income generating skills component. In addition, there was information on women’s health and women’s rights often not available to women in Muslim countries. This program is now established and quite popular among girls and women. The Gaziantep Branch will continue its operation. Ms. Yorukoglu writes that the TAUW will ask for BRPID funding for 2002 for a new similar project prepared by their Adana Branch for the women of families migrated from the south-eastern Anatolia to the outskirts of Adana.

How can you contribute? Your branch can hold a small fundraiser. Or join the Bina Roy Lap Swim at the NYS Lake Placid Convention.

The Nominating Committee presents the following members as qualified to stand for election to office in AAUW New York State for 2002-04:

**For AAUW-NYS
President**

Evelyn "Evvie" Currie



Evvie, a 55-year member of AAUW, belongs to the Schenectady Branch, where she has served in many leadership roles. She was branch president from 1994-96, held other elected positions, and chaired numerous committees, including

LAF, Cultural Arts, nominations, and hospitality. For AAUW-NYS, she is serving in her fourth year as the Legal Advocacy Fund Director, in addition to having served as the Cultural Interests Director, Parliamentarian, Nominating Committee Chair, and a member of the EF committee. A musician, Evvie taught vocal music at all levels and has extensive community service experience in her local area. Former AAUW-NYS president Betty Harrel says Evvie is "... always enthusiastic, energetic, and well organized. She made a concerted effort to reach out to branch members and involved many of them in state issues for the first time. Her personal touch helped to make them feel they were an important part of the organization."

**For AAUW-NYS Educational Foundation
Vice President**

Phyllis Anderson



Phyllis is a 29-year member of AAUW from the Smithtown Area Branch. She has extensive Educational Foundation experience, currently serving as the District VI EF committee member and has been her branch EF chair since 1995. Her other AAUW leadership

experience includes having served as the AAUW-NYS Membership VP from 1991-93, branch president in the early 1980s, and a founder of the Patchogue Branch. She is a teacher, currently working with adults to pass the GED, and has volunteered for many Smithtown organizations, including the Girl Scouts, LWV, Habitat for Humanity, and the local book club, historical association, and garden club. Marie Cannava, the Smithtown Branch president, writes, "I have known Phyllis Anderson since 1986 ... and since that time I have been impressed with her work ethic, her leadership ability and her affable, charming manner. Everything she undertakes she does with total commitment."

For AAUW-NYS Program Vice President

Jane Smith



Jane, a 25-year member of the Bath Branch, has varied branch leadership experience. She has been president (1986-90), Program VP (1999-2000), and the chair of both LAF and EF. She has worked on the Educational Equity

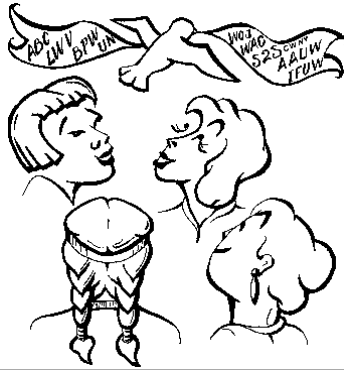
Committee for NYS, as well as served as the Director of Voter Education, and is the sitting Public Policy Director. Since 1981 Jane has run her own small business, Bluff View Catering, and has also worked in public education and with community groups. Her community experience includes serving as her town Democratic Party chair and current president of the Prattsburg Rotary Club. Bath Branch program chair Georgiana Gehret says Jane "... has more energy than five women, which is very infectious. She is always positive and one of the best champions of AAUW I have ever met. ... I can think of no one else who could do a better job."

Marjorie Smith



Marjorie is a 15+ year member of AAUW, holding dual membership in the Cortland and Ithaca branches. She is the current AAUW-NYS program Vice President and served as the AAUW-NYS

Treasurer from 1992-96, as well as co-coordinator of the 1997-98 state conventions. She has served as treasurer, Program co-VP, LAF/EF Estate Sales chair, and worked on the Ithaca Sister-2-Sister planning committee. She is a retired School Business Administrator, and active locally in the LWV, Canine Companions, historical societies, as well as church and education associations. Jeanette Knapp, NYS Membership VP, writes that Marje "... is direct, personable, and friendly, going out of her way to involve new and younger members in our branch and at the state level. I have been very impressed with her ability to see a job that needs doing and to do it, quickly, efficiently, and competently."



Invitation to the AAUW NYS 2002 Convention at the Hilton Lake Placid Resort May 3-4-5

COALITIONS • COOPERATION • ACTION

COALITIONS • COOPERATION • ACTION

Marjorie B. Smith
NYS Program Vice President

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Organizational coalitions working together can achieve societal change. AAUW branches throughout the state have joined with other organizations in coalitions to achieve successful projects within their communities. AAUW-NYS has also joined with other organizations in coalitions in the public policy area to educate and solicit support for legislation that reflects the mission of AAUW.

Representatives of organizations and coalitions from throughout the state will be participating in workshops at the NYS convention in Lake Placid. Several of the organizations and coalitions are: League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, Dignity for All Students Coalition, Women on the Job Task Force, the United Nations, and Sister-2-Sister Connection of Western New York.

NYS branch representatives will be participating on panels in the areas of membership, fundraising and education & equity. Chat rooms will be available on branch leadership styles, younger members and membership. Another opportunity to exchange and share information will be the topics/interest groups/counterparts tables at breakfast Saturday morning.

Activities will begin on Friday afternoon: Peace Building: Tools You can Use - Part II (advance registration required), NYS board meeting, or you can tour or shop in the village of Lake Placid. Friday night is an Adirondack buffet; dress is casual.

Saturday events include a LAF luncheon, judicial forum, and a wine and cheese event at the top of the ski jump facility (advance registration required).

Talking with other members from around the state is often the best part of each day at state convention. Members learn that the problems other branches encounter and solve are similar, regardless of branch size or location. Join us at convention at Lake Placid.

Come with a desire to learn for yourself and your branch. You will leave with new ideas, renewed enthusiasm and a better understanding of branch activities and all we try to accomplish for the future of women and children in New York State, our nation, and our world.

Building For Your FUTURE

NYS LAF Litigant Luncheon Speaker

Evelyn "Evvie" Currie
Director, LAF

518/399-3711 currie-em@northnet.org



The Legal Advocacy Fund Luncheon, Saturday noon at the Convention, will have Dr. Lynn Ilon, one of our LAF litigants, as our featured speaker. Ilon's case was adopted by LAF in June 2001. At the time she was an economics professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She was denied tenure despite her qualified record. She alleges that over the 10 years she was at Buffalo most of the male tenure-track professors received tenure, while most of the female tenure-track professors did not. Ilon filed suit in federal court in November 2000 alleging sex discrimination, retaliation, and pay inequity. She was awarded \$5000 by LAF in support of her lawsuit. Each litigant's story is unique. As Dr. Ilon tells us her experiences, we will once again be shocked into the realization of the importance of the Legal Advocacy Fund.

At the luncheon, we will also recognize the NYS LAF Star branches and the top 10 branches in LAF giving. The "LAF Cups" will be on the tables for your contributions toward our NYS LAF 2002.

AAUW NYS 2002 Convention

May 3-5, 2002

Hilton Lake Placid Resort

Registration

REGISTRATION Forms available from:

- Your branch president
- Betty Preble, 716/662-0608 • bettyp6935@aol.com
- www.northnet.org/nysaauw/lkplacid.htm

LAF BASKET SILENT AUCTION

AAUW NYS Convention 2002

Friday, May 3 – 4:30 PM to
Saturday, May 4 – 10:00 PM

- Branches bring up to 3 baskets
- Bidders raise money for the Legal Advocacy Fund
- Branches receive credit for basket money
- Bidders receive credit for money paid



Join us in the North Country

Lake Placid is a strolling village with charming shops just outside the Hilton. You can walk around Mirror Lake, visit the Adirondack Craft Center and see the Olympic Training Center.

Hilton Lake Placid Resort has charm, vistas of lake and mountains, fireplaces and casual dining. Renovated two years ago, it has a resort atmosphere.

Adirondack Night - Dress for the evening is "North Country Casual" - slacks, plaids, checks... There will be a CONTEST for the "Best North Country Hat." Suggestions: hiking, fishing, skiing, bird watching. Friday night begins in The Dancing Bear Lounge with an open bar & hors d'oeuvres, followed by a buffet featuring North Country dishes.

Olympic Ski Jump Wine and Cheese Reception, May 4th, 5:45 p.m. Take a glass elevator to the top of the Ski Jump to enjoy wine, cheese and a spectacular view of the Adirondacks. Cost \$21, limited to first 100 people.

Travel by Bus from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Nesconset, Hicksville, Bayside and Tarrytown.

Sleep/read/socialize - There'll be food, friends and fun. It's about 350 miles from starting points.

Cost \$80, except \$60 from Syracuse.

Cost: Hilton Lake Placid Resort - two nights with six meals — \$337 Single, \$256 Double, per person, \$229 Triple, per person

AAUW NYS Registration, \$40

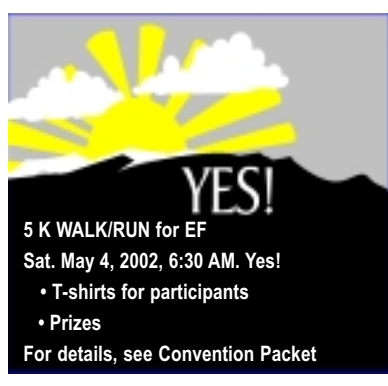
Nancy Mion, Convention Director
631/472-9377 • myown@mycidco.com

LAKE PLACID 1st ANNUAL BINA ROY LAP SWIM

Ask your friends for the suggested
amount of: \$.50 - \$1.00 per lap
Chart your own laps in either pool



- All proceeds go to Bina Roy
- Awards to winner of most laps and to most \$\$ raised
- Pledge sheet in convention packet
- Questions: Jane Smith,
blufview@empacc.net (or) 617/868-3243



Sat. May 4, 2002, 6:30 AM. Yes!

- T-shirts for participants
- Prizes

For details, see Convention Packet

AAUW-NYS Task Force For The Future

Loreen Ginnitti
Task Force Chair

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As part of a long-range visioning process, AAUW-NYS created a Task Force for the Future committee several months ago, charged with the following:

- Improve communications among/ between the board and the branches
- Streamline the structure of AAUW NYS as an organization
- Make the best possible use of the available funds
- Assist the branches with the implementation of programs

The committee's first face-to-face meeting coincided with the winter board meeting. They sent out a survey in late January to the branch presidents to help to determine if their plans support the needs of the branches, and to identify other issues that need to be addressed. The Task Force hopes to have solid recommendations in place by the start of the new biennium (July 2002). Among some of the items they looked at were: Board Structure, Committee Structure, District Meetings, Convention, Program, Leadership, Marketing, Branch Needs, Assisting Branches, NYS Vision.

The Task Force is determined that the state and branches be more mission-driven. To that end, their discussions have focused on leadership development, more effective communication, and visibility. Some of their preliminary recommendations included:

1. Promote direct communication with branches

2. Increase counterpart communications
3. Use technology more efficiently to assist the work of committees and directors
4. Identify and mentor prospective leaders
5. Create a membership orientation packet that includes information about AAUW: the big picture, structure of the state, acronyms, summary of projects, member services, EF, LAF, etc. to be distributed to members.
6. Increase the connection between the College/University representative and the branches.



Reminder to Branches
Task Force Survey Due March 15
Your input IS important!



As part of her ongoing program to introduce high school girls to today's technology, **North Shore** Branch's Gender Equity Chair, Marlene Natale, has turned to the world of digital imaging. Under Marlene, Professor Joanne Clemente and graduate mentors from The New York Institute of Technology, the girls are creating career videos which will include "commercials" for careers, interviews with persons currently in those careers at their places of business, and a web link which will include education requirements and other pertinent information about each career. The resulting product will be accessed on the computer network in the new Montefiore Children's Hospital in the Bronx. The adolescent patients will be

able to access these informational computer videos from their bedside at the hospital. To create the career commercials, the girls have learned to operate digital video cameras, were taught filming by an instructor from NYIT, will edit this product using Imovie software, and will create a website with information and web links about these careers. All participants are very enthused and looking forward to the final product. For more information, call Marlene at 516/486-5838 or e-mail her at championofthexx@yahoo.com

Mid-Island is making its impact in the "battle" to assist women with very real problems. Our branch was pleased to join with representatives of schools, clergy, judges, social service organizations and elected officials to deal with the insidious problem of "domestic violence." Zelda Katz, Evelyn Schaeffer, Mary Yaakob and Ellen Watnick represented Mid-Island at the North Hempstead Committee Against Domestic Violence "Wake-up Call Breakfast" in November. The assistance of the branch was recognized in

helping to communicate with women who may be affected by this "disease." Our members assembled packets that contain information about where, and how, to obtain help.

Westchester Branch's focus is on increasing membership and the power of our presence by reaching out to other groups. We had our New Member Tea in the Fall at the College of New Rochelle, and plan another in the spring. Our Tech Savvy Girls Action Group is working with a broad coalition, including the Westchester County Office for Women, U.S. Dept. of Labor Women's Bureau, Marymount College, Girl Scouts, YMCA, and YWHA to present a conference for middle school girls sometime in the spring of 2003. Our Equity in Education Action Group is planning our second annual essay contest for high school girls, with cash awards. This group also worked in mentoring Hispanic students and presented two workshops for Hispanic students and parents. They hope to make this a pilot project that can be replicated elsewhere.

BRANCH ACTION NOTES

The **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** Branch answered the call of Partners in Development and went international. The members collected new and used books for all ages, both fiction and nonfiction, and mailed them to two women's colleges and a girls' high school in India. The response was heartwarming and the branch hopes to continue to raise enough funds to send more books in the future.

North Fork Branch has sent a donation to the Education Foundation in memory of our Grand Lady, Geraldine Auerbach. She served as our Program Chair, Public Policy Chair, Co-President, delegate to CAST (Community Action in Southold Town), member of the Southold Town Anti-Bias Task Force, and on the Board of the Women's Resource Center. She was dedicated to the mission and policies of the AAUW and worked assiduously for equity and positive social change.

Yates County Branch is working on a project called "Through the Eyes of Women." We are digitally videotaping interviews of women from all walks of life who have lived in Yates County for many years. We are then going to edit and share these tapes with our local history museum where they will be available for all to view on newly purchased computers.

Jamestown's 46th annual What's New Fair, our branch fundraiser for local scholarships and the Education Foundation, was a roaring success despite unique challenges. The net profit was 25% greater than previous years. Our third annual Get In The Game, the local celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, was held on March 2. We served 175 girls in grades 4 through 8 working with a broad coalition of partners.

Mohawk Valley Branch was busy ringing bells for the Salvation Army

BRANCH ACTION NOTES

Red Kettle Drive and enjoying a Christmas Tea at Acacia Village during December. At our February Brunch and Easter Candy Fundraiser kickoff, Thórunn, an Icelandic native and local bookstore owner, presented a program on the role of women in Iceland. Our diversity theme continues when author and lawyer Shah Dalal, a Palestinian-American, speaks at a March 18th joint program with Alpha Delta Kappa sisters.

The **Schenectady** Branch has a special project this year. We have "adopted" the Schenectady YWCA and their program for battered women and their children. Each month our members contribute an item in a chosen category. For example, in November warm outerwear was featured. In December, the item of the month was consumable baby goods such as diapers, bottles or baby wipes. January was linen month. Special requests, such as rocking chairs for mothers and their little ones, have also been honored. For more information, e-mail Carole Fox: cbfox@capital.net

In October the **Garden City** Branch heard Mrs. Sanaa Nadim, the Muslim chaplain at SUNY Stony Brook. She spoke on Women in Islam and on the events of 9-11-2001. In November Monica Norton of *Newsday* discussed "The changing diversity of Long Island" and the Public Policy Committee met with Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy.

The fourth **Long Island Sister to Sister** summit was held in December at Adelphi University, Garden City. Two hundred and thirty students and thirty-three counselors attended for a dynamic and exciting day. The girls made new friends and learned that they are not alone in their problems today—such as stalking by older men. Betty Kaufman, board member of wiredkids.org taught internet safety for chat rooms. Pat Hogeboom, Coordinator, reports that Ruth S. Harley, 99, former Dean of Women at

BRANCH ACTION NOTES

Adelphi and Garden City branch member, was the guest of honor.

Huntington Branch's November meeting celebrating our local high school Excellence in Science award winners was great. Forty-five people, including parents, heard Dr. Sue Larson, with the SUNY Stony Brook WISE program, share her insights into the challenges women face in the science area—at college and in the workplace. The best part was listening to the girls speak about the science research they are doing. It made us proud to be AAUW members!!!

In March the **Poughkeepsie** Branch will learn about art and raise money for the Educational Foundation with a bus trip and guided tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In April we'll commemorate the 30th anniversary of Title IX with a forum on Women Scholar/Athletes. Our annual meeting in May will have a literary theme.

Carolyn Donovan, **AAUW Rep to the U.N.**, Nora Plett, (**North Shore**), Ann Walker, Helen Regina and Marie Owens (**Islip Area**) attended the CTAUN (Committee on Teaching About the United Nations) conference "Environment, Education, and the United Nations: "Working Towards Sustainable Development" at the United Nations Headquarters in January.

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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

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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, 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.

One Woman's View of the Supreme Court

Jane Smith
Public Policy Director

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Prior to the 2000 election many ultra-liberal groups raised concerns about who might be selected as a new Supreme Court Justice should George W. Bush be elected. Candidate Bush promised that he would search for conservative constitutionalists if he were able to select a Justice.

On many controversial issues, the current court votes 5-4 with the slight liberal edge. In fact, the conservative appointments made by Ronald Reagan and George Bush sometimes vote with the liberal justices. The two newest members of the Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, are the only appointees of a Democratic President. John Stevens, 81 this year, was appointed by Gerald Ford. Although a moderately conservative Republican, he is one of the leaders of the liberal views of the court. Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court, was appointed by Ronald Reagan in 1981. Many view her as a centrist of the court. She has been the champion for twenty years for women's issues. Presidents

Nixon, Reagan and Bush appointed five members of the Court. These men were all appointed because of their very conservative views. Yet Justices Rehnquist, Kennedy and Souter have voted positively on liberal issues. Chief Justice Rehnquist has views on the right. Often decisions of the Rehnquist court are a reflection of his conservative views. Most conservative of all are Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia. Rarely do they vote on the same side as Ginsburg and Breyer.

Alarmists have frequently mentioned the poor health of several of the Justices. Despite older age and serious illnesses, these justices have been physically active and remain so. Ginsburg underwent cancer surgery and did not miss time on the bench for the entire year of her illness. Stevens is in excellent health for his age. It is possible, based on continued good health of the Justices, that President Bush may not make an appointment. Based on past history of the Supreme Court, if he did appoint a justice, that justice might not vote the way Mr. Bush thinks he or she will vote. It is very possible that the most conservative nominations will not be approved, based on Democratic control in the Senate, who has the final approval of any Supreme Court appointment.

As voters, we must watch the Court, carefully review any potential appointments, and notify our Senators of our opinions during the confirmation process.