



NEW YORK STATE

Volume 51, Issue #3
 Summer 2002
 ISSN: 1056 3199

NYS - the 21st Century
Will You Choose to Make It Positive?
 Roberta 'Bobbe' Fortunato, AAUW NYS President
 631/665-4689 bobbef@juno.com



My Small Gift to You!
Time is a Gift
Give Some to Others
Give Some to Yourself
Take Five Minutes Just to Breathe

Has this last AAUW year been good for you and your entire branch? I am sure you have been told time and again something that is very true. The members of a branch make it what it is and how the wider community views it. You and I need to be vigilant to 'market' AAUW and our branches as the positive force they truly are, for women, girls and society as a whole.

The NYS AAUW Convention this year was crisscrossed repeatedly by the theme of coalitions and partners. We showed in Lake Placid that members and branches benefit by joining our name, our physical efforts and our determined advocacy with like-minded organizations. In numbers there is strength and means to educate many more people about our issues.

The State Task Force made a presentation to the convention attendees based on the information they had collected from their branch survey. More than half of the states' branches requested help from the Board of Directors. The branch leaders expressed concerns about positive ways to return to AAUW's Mission, just as the board members had done when they, too, filled out a survey. I truly believe we all want equity and education, positive societal change and all that can go with these pivotal needs.

Now comes my plea: ***Involvement by each and every NYS AAUW member.*** What and how much are you willing to do? This is not a big step for some of you; you have worked with other organizations and understand the process of advocating a cause. Yes, some causes are far easier to wave the banner for; but fewer are so long-standing in the face of adversity as the advancement of women both young and old. From the arena of education to equitable health care, from access to equity in sports to boardrooms—your organization does this work and it needs your help to continue on this important course.

The state leaders are going to ask you to join them in something you may feel you're not sure about. Still, if we all work together, with each of us doing our part, we can start to 'market' AAUW. Not sell, but 'market' what we have, what we advocate for and especially our desire to share a positive future for society. AAUW is not just a bridge game, luncheon or dinner. We are educated women who choose to join an organization that offers us a chance to research issues of importance to all society, a group that is willing to discuss, advocate and even march for a cause that our neighbor might choose to hide from. Don't you hide when asked to be a part of the change for AAUW, especially because the change is for each of us!

In This Issue:	
Awards	p. 2
Membership	p. 3
EF & LAF	p. 4
Voter Education	p. 5
Nominations	p. 6
Program	p. 7
NYS AAUW Board	p. 8

Thank you to my Friends

Thank you for the many cards and the wonderful 'Alice Ann Leidel Day' poster signed by so many AAUW members at the Lake Placid Convention. I treasure the messages you have sent during my trying battle with cancer.

Love,
Alice Ann Leidel Jacobs

Lake Placid Convention Wrap-up: NYS 2002 Awards

PEACOCK AWARD TO QUEENS BRANCH

Jane Sheeran, Diversity Director

The **Queens** Branch won the Peacock Award for the first Transitions conference in NYS—*Transitions: A Conference for Women Considering a Return to School*. Panelists from five colleges participated. Bobbe Fortunato, NYS President, was the keynote speaker. Topics addressed were Getting Started, Campus Life and Your Other Life, Financial Aid Information, and Preparing Mind, Body, and Spirit. All of the panelists had the experience of interrupting their education. The prospective transition students were given the strong message: "**You CAN do it!!**"

PEACOCK PRIDE CERTIFICATES

Garden City: Women In Islam

Islip Area: Role of Women in the Merchant Marine

Ithaca: Branch meetings and projects

Massapequa Area: Reach-out Massapequa

New York City: Student Outreach Program for Mentoring Disadvantaged Female Students at the East Side Community High School

Rockland County: 5th Annual Joint Diversity Brunch

St. Lawrence County: World in Potsdam Diversity Festival

Schenectady: The Culture of Muslim Women

Staten Island: Implementing Programs for Hispanic Immigrants

Each Peacock entry had outstanding points. For folks who may entertain the idea "My branch could never do that!" here are the *Common Success Factors*. (Branch size is **NOT** the key to success.)

1. Relevance of project to community need or interest.
2. Professional excellence in planning and implementation.
3. Collaboration and shared ownership of specific project responsibilities by project partners.
4. Internal project partners' PR and project PR to the larger community.

PUBLIC POLICY AWARDS

Jane Smith, Public Policy Director

Awards were given to the following branches based on information in their newsletters showing interest in the area of Public Policy:

Adirondack, Bath, East Hampton, Elmira, Garden City, Huntington, Islip Area, Ithaca, Jamestown, Jefferson County, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, Nassau County, New York City, North Shore, Ontario County, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, Schenectady, Skaneateles Area, Smithtown, St. Lawrence County, Syracuse, Westchester, Yates County

ACTION FOR EQUITY AWARDS

Ann Walker, Education Equity Director
Walkerab@aol.com 631/563-2678

Action for Equity Awards recognize and celebrate branch projects which promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change. Descriptions of the projects and branch contacts are on the website (see page 8). To make the competition more equitable, branches are categorized by size.

FEWER THAN 50 MEMBERS: Title IX: Sports for Women and Girls - **Skaneateles Area**

50 - 100 MEMBERS:

- Third *Sister-to-Sister Summit* - **Amsterdam/Gloversville/Johnstown**
- Second *Sister-to-Sister Summit* - **Ithaca**
- *Local eGRLS! Partnership Project* - **Islip Area**
- *Get in the Game* - **Jamestown**

MORE THAN 100 MEMBERS: El Centro Hispanico project - **Westchester**

HONORABLE MENTION CERTIFICATES

- *Courageous Conversations: on Race and Social Justice* - **Westchester**
- *Looking at Early Childhood* - **Garden City**
- *Women Helping Girls with Choices* - **Greater Rochester Area**

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Jeanette Knapp, Membership VP

17 BRANCHES INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Seventeen branches have more members than last year:

Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Buffalo, Chautauqua-Westfield, Cortland, East Hampton, Greece Area, Huntington, Islip Area, Kingston, Nassau County, Oneonta, Poughkeepsie, Queens, Skaneateles Area, Staten Island, Westchester

NYS 21ST CENTURY AWARDS

Fifteen branches received awards:

Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Buffalo, Greater Rochester Area, Islip Area, Ithaca, Jefferson County, Massapequa, Mid-Island, Queens, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Syracuse, Westchester, Yates County

Communications Award Winners

Donna Seymour, Communications Director

Many branches took home communications awards at the AAUW NYS Convention. The branches of New York State are promoting AAUW through their creative use of technology, the media, and through the pages of branch newsletters. NYS has a dedicated and talented group of people who volunteer their time and talents to keep the rest of us informed about local, state and national issues. Thank the people who do so much to make your branch visible to the world.

PLATINUM MEDIA/PR AWARDS: Garden City, North Shore, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady and Syracuse

The **NEWSLETTER AWARDS** were awarded to every branch that put the Communications Director on the regular mailing list. Based on the number of points earned, newsletters were judged according to criteria in three categories.

- **NOTEWORTHY NEWSLETTERS:** Rockland County
- **NEWSLETTERS OF DISTINCTION:** Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Cortland, Elmira-Corning, Ontario County, Queens, Saratoga Springs, Staten Island, Yates County
- **NEWSLETTER OF EXCELLENCE:** Adirondack, Bath, Chautauqua-Westfield, East Hampton, Jefferson County, Garden City, Greater Rochester Area, Huntington, Islip Area, Ithaca, Jamestown, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, Nassau County, New York City, North Shore, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Skaneateles Area, Smithtown, Syracuse, Westchester

NYS AAUW TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

- o **GOLD:** Garden City
- o **PLATINUM:** Huntington, Ithaca, North Shore, Poughkeepsie, St. Lawrence County, Westchester
- **TECHNOLOGY RECOGNITION AWARDS** for creating a branch webpage in 2001-02: Chautauqua-Westfield, Huntington, Greece, Islip Area, Smithtown, Southern New York
- **EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AWARDS** for sending newsletters electronically in 2001-02: Adirondack, Alfred-Hornell, Chautauqua-Westfield, Huntington, Jefferson County, North Shore, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, St. Lawrence County, Saratoga Springs
- **TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP Awards:**
 - o **Poughkeepsie:** For Transforming the Way They Distribute their Newsletter
 - o **Yates County:** For Submitting their 21st Century Application on CD-ROM!

NY Votes to Keep Degree Requirement

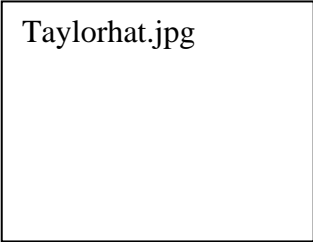
Jeanette Knapp, Membership Vice President

Delegates to the AAUW New York State convention in Lake Placid defeated a resolution that would have urged the association to open AAUW membership to all individuals who share our goals. A second resolution to open membership to women and men with two-year college degrees was also defeated. That same weekend Maine AAUW, at their state convention, voted to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Maine's resolution may be brought to the 2003 AAUW national convention in Rhode Island.

Seventeen branches increased membership in 2001 (see list on page 2). Contact these branches or see our state website for some of their secrets to growing your branch. Seven NY branches have applied for and received funding for membership projects. Request the *New York Membership Campaign* handout to help your branch plan its own membership campaign. State funds, up to \$75 per branch, are available for your project.

The Association is continuing its three membership initiatives that can be very helpful to your branch. The *Shape the Future Campaign* offers discounts to people who join at your public meetings and bonus memberships to the branches. The *AAUW Emerging Leaders Internship Program* provides step-by-step details and a poster/job description you can post on a college bulletin board to help you find a college student(s) to work with your branch. The Association will waive dues for up to three undergraduate student interns per branch. The *Give a Grad a Gift* program is even easier. Any member can give a FREE 12-month AAUW membership to a recent college or university graduate at no cost to you.

See the AAUW website for guidelines and applications for these membership programs. Go to <http://www.aauw.org>, then choose Member Center, and be prepared to type in your AAUW ID number (on your *Outlook* mailing label). If you don't have Internet access, visit a friend or the public library and ask for help to get wired. (Or call the AAUW Hotline and ask them to mail information to you: 800-326-AAUW; or helpline@aauw.org)



Taylorhat.jpg

Carolyn Taylor, Kingston Branch, in the "Best North Country Hat" at the Lake Placid convention.

NYS Raised \$95,000 for EF

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

Thanks to each of you and 100% Branch participation, New York State 2001 contributions to the Educational Foundation totaled over \$95,000. Congratulations!

The top ten branches for total contributions and for per capita contributions in 2001 were:

	Total	Per Capita
1	Buffalo	Ithaca
2	North Shore	Buffalo
3	Ithaca	Oswego
4	Islip Area	Chautauqua-Westfield
5	Smithtown Area	Islip Area
6	Mid-Island	Smithtown Area
7	Queens	Queens
8	Garden City	North Shore
9	Westchester	Mid-Island
10	Syracuse	Albany

With help from all who participated in the State raffle and other State fund raisers, New York State was able to honor Alice Ann Leidel Jacobs, a former New York State President and President of the Educational Foundation; Alice Cook (in memory of) and Jennie Farley, Ithaca Branch members who were instrumental in the formation of LAF; and New York State 2001 Anniversary Branches: New York City (1886), Greater Rochester Area (1916), Saratoga Springs (1916), Waverly (1926), Queens (1931), Westchester (1956), Chautauqua-Westfield (1961) and Skaneateles Area(1981).

Kudos are also in order to the **Jamestown** and **Syracuse** Branches for finishing their Research and Project Grants.

Congratulations to Nancy O'Connor, Westchester Branch, who won the Grand prize (2002 Convention registration and hotel package) in our State raffle.

Tentative Fall District Conference Schedule

Dist.	Date	Place	Host Branch
1	Oct 5 (or 19)	ECC South	Buffalo
2	Oct. 19		Elmira-Corning
3	Sept. 28	Fort Drum	Jefferson County
4	Oct. 5	Albany	Albany
5	Oct. 5	NYC Branch House	Westchester
6	Oct. 19	St. Joseph's College, Oakdale	Islip Area

Evelyn M. Currie, NYS LAF Director

New York State was in second place in contributing \$31,423 to the Legal Advocacy Fund. (In 2000 NYS placed third with \$27,092.) The **Schenectady** Branch was eighth in the country in branch total giving with its contribution of \$3,522; the **Islip Area** Branch was ninth with \$3,456.90.

The **2001 LAF Star** was awarded to the following branches at the NYS AAUW Convention LAF Luncheon, having met the challenge of LAF President, Sylvia Newman to give 5% more in 2001 than 2000: Adirondack, Albany, Alfred-Hornell, Amherst, Buffalo, Chautauqua-Westfield, East Hampton, Elmira, Farmingdale, Greater Rochester, Greece Area, Islip Area, Ithaca, Jamestown, Jefferson County, Kingston, Lyndonville/Medina/Middleport, Massapequa, Nassau County, North Fork, Ontario County, Oswego, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, Rockland County, St. Lawrence County, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Skaneateles Area, Smithtown, Southern NY, Syracuse, Westchester

The top ten branches for total contributions and for per capita contributions in 2001 were:

	Total	Per Capita
1	Schenectady	Islip Area
2	Islip Area	Ithaca
3	North Shore	Schenectady
4	Buffalo	Kingston
5	Ithaca	Oswego
6	Westchester	Fairport Area
7	Kingston	Albany
8	Greater Rochester	Amherst
9	New York City	Syracuse
10	Poughkeepsie	Adirondack

Dr. Lynn Ilon, our LAF litigant suing SUNY Buffalo, gave an informative talk about her case at the LAF Luncheon. As a result of her inspiration, the LAF cups on the tables yielded \$820.

CONVENTION LAF BASKET SILENT AUCTION

This year 28 branches contributed 65 LAF Baskets for the Silent Auction. Even though the Basket Room was open infrequently this year, we still made \$2,666 for LAF. It is a wonderful way for branches to earn credit for their contribution to the Legal Advocacy Fund!

Bobbe Fortunato Recognized for Service

Bobbe Fortunato received a Lifetime Service Award from the Victim's Information Bureau of Suffolk at their Annual Spring Dinner. Congratulations!

Voter Ed Campaign Begins

Jann Mirchandani, Voter Education Director
mirchman@ix.netcom.com 718/671-1649

Mid-summer is not too early to begin turning our attention to the elections in November. Our Voter Education efforts go a long way toward AAUW's missions by educating the public on pivotal issues, involving women in the political process, heightening our visibility within our communities and drawing in new members. Further, it is an opportunity to develop new leaders and new leadership skills.

There are many ways to get involved without getting overwhelmed.

- Hold issue forums, including Women's Summits on Social Security Reform, an issue education program.
- Organize letter-writing campaigns to members of Congress and editors of local and national media outlets.
- Mail and distribute AAUW's informative, nonpartisan voter guide.
- Hold public candidate forums.
- Organize phone banks to contact women and encourage them to vote.
- Use partnerships with diverse organizations to inform a broad cross-section of women on the issues at stake.

There are **MANY** resources to use to get these programs off the ground. You do not need to go this alone or "re-create the wheel". The Association website, www.aauw.org/5000/vec.html, has a wealth of information through:

- *Get the Facts* alerts, to share with colleagues and friends and disseminate in your community (there's a program right there!)
- *Action Alert*, AAUW's monthly public policy newsletter (\$20/year)
- *Two-minute Activist*, to e-mail Congress
- Position papers on AAUW priority issues
- Voting records for your members of Congress
- AAUW Public Policy Program in English and in Spanish

There are step-by-step guides for **SMALL GROUPS** to help in planning a Candidate Forum, Voter Guide Research, and Voter Guide Distribution.

This is a great opportunity to plan a simple program with real meaning and impact. For more information on AAUW's Voter Education Campaign, including how-to materials and voter guides, contact AAUW's Public Policy Department (800-608-5286, votered@aauw.org) or me.

International Affairs

Peggy Coe, International Affairs Director
bpcoe@imcnet.net 315/788-8702

Thanks to the support of many AAUW-NYS branches and individuals, women in Turkey, Sierra Leone, and the Cameroon are benefiting from projects developed by our IFUW sisters in these countries. The Bina Roy Projects in Development provides funds for literacy, nutrition information, women's and children's health, skill training, money management and other needed programs.

This year New York State AAUW has doubled its 2000-2001 contribution to over \$1700, which meets our goal of 50 cents per member. Fifty cents is such a small amount to us and a large amount in many other countries. Half of the money contributed, over \$865, was raised at the AAUW-NYS Convention at Lake Placid, thanks to the brilliant idea of Jane Smith, our Public Policy Director. Not only did she organize and advertise the Bina Roy Lap Swim, but she swam and raised the most pledge money.

Branch Action Notes

The **Westchester** Branch held a Planning Retreat bringing the various group leaders together to get a better understanding of what each is doing, working towards conveying a more cohesive message to the community. Several new members are being included to give them a better idea of ways in which they can help to make a difference.

Honored at the annual Awards Dinner of the **Alfred-Hornell** Branch were graduating senior girls from seven area high schools who have excelled in the fields of Math and Science. Also honored were the three winners of an essay contest open to grades 4, 5 and 6 on the topic, "The Woman I Most Admire." After 140 essays were judged, the three winners read their essays at the dinner. Those honored (a mother, a grandmother and a teacher) were guests of the branch along with the students.

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

Summer Issue deadline:
August 1, 2002

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING DEDICATED APPLICANTS

Jane Smith, Nominating Committee Chair

The new Nominating Committee was formed as part of our District Caucuses at the Lake Placid Convention. I was selected to be the Board representative and Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2002-2003. We will be looking for enthusiastic and dedicated people to run for the following offices for the years 2003-2005: Membership VP, Secretary, Treasurer and the new position, LAF VP. The committee will be meeting at Delta Lake in July. The committee is asking you, the members, to submit names to us for consideration. Please check out the webpage for more information. We hope to have a terrific slate to present to you early in 2003.

Chair	Jane Smith	Bath	607/868-3243	blufview@empacc.net
Board	Inez Alston	Jamestown	716/763-1226	713jpa@madbbs.com
Board	Betsy Forkas	Schenectady	518/377-6919	bforkas@earthlink.net
D1	Marguerite Collesano	Buffalo	716/853-6480	
	Dolores Thompson	Jamestown	716/484-8289	musicat@netsync.net
D2	Carol Olszewski	Bath	607/776-7774	carolols@yahoo.com
	Carol Richardson	Fairport	585/223-5954	carite@rit.edu
D3	Carol Stull	Ithaca	607/257-0256	carolstull@aol.com
	Kay Kraatz	Skaneateles	315/685-6256	kraatz@dreamscape.com
D4	Peggy Kelland	Poughkeepsie	845/297-0507	smkell45@aol.com
	Nan Scinta	Adirondack	518/743-9430	nscinta@adelphia.net
D5	Hortensia Stoyan	Queens	718/229-0371	GAT4886@aol.com
	Ida Davis	Westchester	914/665-0560	
D6	Erna Cunningham	Islip	631/585-0868	rcunning@Suffolk.lib.ny.us
	Julia Arena	Islip	631/587-7966	orchid34@aol.com

The **Chautauqua-Westfield** Branch honored twenty-one 8th grade girls in three area public schools for their outstanding accomplishment (grades of at least 90%) in their math and science courses. Each girl was presented with a framed certificate, congratulatory letters were sent to their parents, and their school libraries were presented with a copy of *A to Z of Women in Science and Math* by Lisa Yount.

Nine young women in their junior year in high school were honored for winning a **Huntington** Branch Excellence In Science Award. Members of the Awards Committee presented the gift certificates to the winners in their schools. At our Installation dinner special recognition was given to Doris Lessuck, for her 53 years of dedication to the mission of AAUW in the Huntington area and to four of our new members who attended.

Branch Action Notes

The **Yates County** Branch AAUW just received from AAUW the Gold Level of Achievement in the *Twenty First Century Recognition* program for their digital videotaping project called "Through the Eyes of Women". Noted local women were interviewed and videotaped. These tapes and CDs are to be shared with the entire community through the local historical society.

The **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** Branch has completed its third successful *Sister-to-Sister Summit*. The branch participated in a Heritage Faire in Johnstown, in coalition with the Mohawk Pathways Girl Scouts Council and BPW. Members conducted a booth (open to the public) with puzzles, word search, and other materials about Women's Rights Movements and the area's contribution to it, especially the role of Johnstown native Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Also, they provided special "design-your-quilt-square" materials for the benefit of the attending Troops.

For Women's History Month, the **Jefferson County** Branch invited Col. Jeanette James, Fort Drum Meddack Commander, who showed a video celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps. Col. James is just one of nine Commanders worldwide who are from the Nursing Corps. Nurses have only recently been allowed to assume command positions, despite their advanced military and educational training. This barrier has now been removed and nurses such as Col. James who have advanced degrees and attended the Army War College are making history. Women from Ft. Drum have joined our branch and that certainly adds to our diversity in many ways.

Dear AAUW NY Friends,
Thank you for the wonderful party in Austin. It was perfect, and the icing on the cake was the announcement that over \$2500 had been contributed to the Legal Advocacy Fund in my name. A special thank you to the more than 60 individuals and branches in New York that made this generous gift possible.

I deeply appreciated your unending support during my Association presidency. You were always there when needed; demonstrating over and over again that the AAUW family in NYS is truly very special.

Here's to AAUW thriving in NY State!

Sandy Bernard
November 12, 2001

Building College/University Ties

Kathryn S. Podwall, C/U Director

May into June marks the winding down of the academic spring term at the AAUW institutional members (C/U) campuses. The time of summer's rest, relaxation, and even research can begin for those in higher education academia. Suggestion:

Consider using the summer as a time to further organize a link between one's AAUW branch and any and all local colleges and universities. (Perhaps there are faculty members that are also members of one's AAUW branch. Perhaps a local college and/or university will become a new institutional member because of one's efforts this summer.) OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT.

Consider developing whatever already exists as the start to a stronger partnership between branch membership and local institutions of higher education. Some surprising outcomes, in very positive ways, can occur. For example, after attending the recent AAUW Spring NYS Convention in Lake Placid many were recharged to work on ways for greater linkage between branches and C/U campuses. The goals of AAUW offer enough for ever so many to become involved.

Yes, summer can be a great time for renewal while researching new ways to accomplish much through new or stronger partnerships between campuses and AAUW branches. Happy Summer!

MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 11, 12,13, 2002

WOMAN TO WOMAN SUMMIT: A DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Howard Johnson Inn, Salisbury, MD
410/742-7194

Hotel reservation deadline: Aug. 15, 2002

Contact your Branch President for agenda, registration and meal fees

Branch Action Note

Smithtown held its yearly golf outing to support local scholarships for high school senior girls going on to college. This year we've awarded five to members of the class of 2002 at Smithtown, Kings Park, Hauppauge, Sachem and Western Suffolk BOCES. Awards are presented by branch members at the high schools' awards ceremonies.

Field of Dreams

Jane Smith, Program VP

Field of Dreams has always been one of my favorite movies. Besides the fact that Kevin Costner starred in it, the message, "If you build it, they will come," has hit me many times in my life. I have been thinking about this again since I was elected Program Vice President in Lake Placid. If we build the program for New York State AAUW, with hard work and with faith just as the folks who built a baseball field in the middle of a cornfield, we will be rewarded as they were.

We need to build our programs in our branches to be relevant to our members. They need to offer challenge. They need to give back to our communities. They need to portray our mission of lifelong education for women and girls. They need to excite us and attract new members. They need to stimulate us to grow and encourage growth in others. They need to make us want to be involved.

Many of you are doing this now. Good for you.

During the next couple of years your successes will be shared with other branches. Good things that you are doing may be able to be adapted for other parts of the state as well as programs that have worked elsewhere may be suitable to your branch. We will have a communication network to share information. Each program vice president in NYS will hear from me regularly so program ideas can be exchanged.

Another technique that you will notice with our suggested plans for programming will be inclusion of diversity, education and equity, the cultural aspects, and effects on public policy. A specific AAUW program touches on all of these aspects. It does not stand alone. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR A BRANCH TO HAVE ONE GREAT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE YEAR THAN 5 OR 6 ISOLATED PROGRAMS.

If we build our programs, as Kevin built the baseball field, we will see rewards. Our reward will be an increase of committed, new AAUW members. Our reward will be knowledge and enlightenment for ourselves. Our reward will be untold benefits for our communities.

Our reward will be the knowledge that if we are spending our valuable free time in AAUW that we will be making a difference.

"If we build it, they will come."



FOCUS (USPS-390-570)
Summer 2002
ISSN: 1056 3199
www.northnet.org/nysaauw
www.aauw.org

NEW YORK STATE

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE **PAID** at
Buffalo, NY 14240
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, 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

NEW YORK STATE AAUW BOARD: JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003

President

Evelyn M. (Evvie) Currie
37 Forest Road PO Box 16
Burnt Hills, NY 12027-0016
518/399-3711
FAX 518/399-2967
currie-em@northnet.org

Program VP

Jane Smith
Box 37
Pulteney, NY 14874
607/868-3243
blufview@empacc.net

Membership VP

Jeanette Knapp
1143 Ellis Hollow Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
607/272-3367
jdk4@cornell.edu

Educational Foundation VP

Phyllis Anderson
164 Northfield Rd.
Hauppauge, NY 11788
631/234-2451
EFPforNYSAAUW@aol.com

Secretary/Bylaws

Barbara Luther
801 Sunset Drive
Elmira, NY 14905
607/734-1321
barbaraluther@exotrope.net

Treasurer

Cindy Smith
18 Four Winds Drive
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845/462-1362
mdrctj@aol.com

Administrative Director

Loreen Ginnitti
75 Third Street
Westfield, NY 14787
716/326-4270
shyrl@netsync.net

Branch Council Director

Eleanor Filburn
53 Kennedy Avenue
Oswego, NY 13126
315/345-1953
eleanor62@earthlink.net

College/University Director

Kathryn Stanley Podwall
Nassau Community College
62 Dartmouth Street
Garden City, NY 11530
516/775-8688
podwalk@ncc.edu

Communications Director

Donna Seymour
8 Cedar Street
Potsdam, NY 13676
315/265-6985
onthego@northnet.org

Convention Director

Nancy Mion
220 Paulanna Avenue
Bayport, NY 11705
631/472-9377
myown@mycidco.com

Cultural Interests Director

Inez Alston
3760 Baker Street Ext.
Lakewood, NY 14750
716/763-1226
713ipa@madbbs.com

Diversity Director

Jane Sheeran
176 Burke Road
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518/587-4895
sheeran176@aol.com

Initiative for Educational Equity Director

Janet Forbes
78 Beech St.
Jamestown, NY 14701
716/483-3525
jlforbes@hotmail.com

International Affairs Director

Joan Monk
18 Devonshire Dr.
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
914/245-7704
ftmaven@bestweb.net

Legal Advocacy Fund Director

Susan Sontup

3281 Harvest Rd.
Wantaugh, NY 11793
516/679-6274
tresswann@yahoo.com

Public Policy Director

Betsy Forkas
1046 Baker Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12309
518-377-6919
bforkas@earthlink.net

Voter Education Director

Jann Mirchandani
120 Aldrich St., Apt. 22A
Bronx, NY 10475
718/671-1649
mirchman@ix.netcom.com

Past President

Roberta (Bobbe) Fortunato
551 Potter Boulevard
Brightwaters, NY 11718-1615
631/665-4689
bobbef@juno.com