

FOCUS

Mobilizing the VOTE

Betsy Forkas, *Public Policy Director*
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The year 2004 is a critical election year for all of us . . . we have recently seen legislation proposed/enacted that seeks to limit and restrict our rights. We must be ready to inform women — and men — about the effects of this legislation on our society. Remember, we believe in moving forward — *positive societal change* — not returning to the world of our foremothers.



What Can We Do?

- **Be focused.** Know the issues. Visit the AAUW website: <http://aauw.org/takeaction/policyissues/index.cfm> to study the issues of concern including Civil Rights, Educational Equity, Managed Care, Family & Medical Leave Act, Pay Equity, Reproductive Rights, Social Security and Medicare Reform, and Welfare.
- **Be informed.** Study the AAUW position papers. Visit other websites: Planned Parenthood, NOW, Emily's List, NARAL, YWCA, NYS Pay Equity Coalition, Feminist Majority, and BPW, to name just a few.
- **Speak out.** Have some sound bites ready. Something you can say in two minutes or less. For example, recently I was getting a jacket for a client; he wanted to go to Wal-Mart. I told him in three seconds what I had told him before: "I do not shop at Wal-Mart as they do not pay women the same wages they pay men to do the same work." The light bulb went on and we made another plan.
- **Build a coalition.** Use the Public Policy/Voter Education CD provided to your branch at the 2004 Convention for lists of possible coalition partners. Work with these like-minded organizations in your community and develop issue forums and meetings. Make sure candidates know AAUW positions and make sure you know the candidates' positions on issues of concern to us.
- **Make the personal political, the political personal.** Relate issues to your own life: Are your daughters compensated equally with your sons? Does/will your pension compare with a man's pension in a similar field? Is your daughter getting an education that compares with her brother's education? Should anyone you love need abortion services, will they be clean, legal, and safe? Tell your story.
- **Get out the vote. Get out the vote. Get out the vote.**
- **Vote as if your life depends on it, because it does.**



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN
NEW YORK STATE

In This Issue:

From the President.....	p. 2
Program VP's Report.....	p. 3
Eleanor's Legacy.....	p. 4
State of the Membership..	p. 5
Voter Education.....	p. 6
Ed Foundation Report.....	p. 7
Legal Advocacy Fund.....	p. 8
Communication Report...	p. 9
Action for Equity.....	p. 10
Branch Action.....	p. 11
Nominating Team.....	p. 12



Living 
the Mission

Committed to Living the Mission

Evelyn M. Currie, AAUW-NYS President
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We have funded Special Project Grants to the following Branches this year:

- **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** - Sister-2-Sister Conference
- **Chautauqua-Westfield** - Branch Coalition to present the "Families in Crisis"
- **Ithaca** - Sister-2-Sister Conference
- **Schenectady** - Reading Project with Schenectady County Jail Women
- **Skaneateles Area** - Women in Art Show
- **Westchester** - Three workshops in coalition with the College of Westchester to prepare Hispanic students in furthering their education and job prospects

During the year, I have continued to read all of the branch newsletters. I have sent e-mails or notes to the editors thanking them for their work for AAUW. I have watched many of the newsletters improve in having mission-based articles and an interesting layout. At my request, all but a few now have the AAUW Mission statements in each newsletter. I have also continued to give or send "Living the Mission" Certificates to the branches that have produced a worthy project.

On June 30, I will turn over the reins to the new president, Nancy Mion. I will serve on the Board as Past President Advisor, at her request.

Thank you all for entrusting the care of AAUW-NYS to me the last two years. It has been a wonderful learning experience for me. I have been blessed with a supportive Board of women to help me spread the word about the importance of Living the AAUW Mission in all we do. Your commitment to AAUW-NYS and its mission has made all the difference in what we have been able to achieve in the last two years. Always remember that in AAUW we are women helping women. Our positive actions, as we work for societal change, will be a beacon for others to follow. Along with our other Past Presidents, I will continue to support the work of AAUW-NYS in whatever way I can. Thanks again and keep in touch!

Evvie

Affiliate's Agreement



In February, AAUW-NYS was thrown a curve by the Association. On January 29, Nancy Rustad, the Association President, sent out an Affiliates Agreement Packet to all of the Branches in the country. The NYS Branches received it sometime during the first week of February. The State Presidents received it the same time as their branches did, with no advance information. When I read the packet, I realized how ludicrous it was to expect the branches to deal with something completely new and return signed forms to the Association within a month.

I immediately emailed Nancy Rustad and Jackie Woods with my complaint. So did most of the other state presidents (some in words much harsher than mine). Nancy Rustad then sent out further explanation of the necessity of the request, which I forwarded to the Branch Presidents. I have continued to take phone calls and e-mails from Branch Presidents asking for advice, which I have answered to the best of my ability.

Incorporation and Liability Insurance are the sticking points for many of the Branches. Branches are not required to have either of them, but the Association strongly recommends that they do. This has caused several of our Branches to mistrust the Association's motives in requiring an Affiliates Agreement. To quote Nancy Rustad, "This document was drafted and conceived solely to make our branches safe and to protect them and you. Without a document of this nature, our tax exempt status could be placed in jeopardy and we as branches and members of branches could be subject to substantial liability."

As a 50-year+ member of this organization that I love, I trust the leadership to lead us (branches and members) in an honest, forthright manner. So I suggest that all Branch Presidents sign and return the Affiliate Agreement.

Evelyn Currie

Living 
the Mission

The Future of Mission-based Programming in NYS

Jane Smith, AAUW-NYS Program VP 607/868-3243 blufview@empacc.net

A couple of years ago my sister Ellen gave me a gift of visiting a psychic in Lillydale. I went into the cozy study of a young mother who grew up in that wonderful old community full of small Victorian homes to hear about my future and find comfort with my past. What I heard was incredible. Meg the Seer knew about my life and the pivotal moments I had experienced. Of course I had to pay attention to what she was looking at in the layers of the future.

“Living the Mission” has been our past now for two years in AAUW. Many of us have given all and more of ourselves to the goals of the State Board under Evvie’s leadership. It has started to make a difference in the programming in our branches across the state. Some of you have clicked and “gotten it”. At convention we saw a few of the branches that have excelled in mission-based programming this past year. We didn’t need Meg the Psychic to tell us about what good things have happened in AAUW communities as a result.

Outstanding among the branches responding to the 21st Century Award application was the **Buffalo Branch**. One spectacular event that they have perfected is their Transitions Conference held every year for women returning to school. Their president, Linda Suchocki, did a great job on Sunday at convention explaining various aspects of their branch’s work through the year.

My own **Bath Branch** won the award for best AAUW **Reads!** project and entertained us with a rousing program by Susan B. Anthony and Julia Ward Howe. Women from the branch investigated lives of some of the 31 Women of Distinction of NYS and brought them to life on stage for 4th graders in a local school. Then they spoke in “persona” to 5th graders at the Glenn Curtis Museum. It was hard to top that program.

Another highlight for “Living the Mission” was my recent trip to the Nevada State AAUW Convention. Two women from Nevada were in Rhode Island last year and participated in the three-hour workshop we presented there. I was asked to attend their convention and recreated the workshop for them. I returned at the beginning of May with their enthusiasm ringing in my ears. They are on the road to accomplishing great things.

I would be interested to go see Meg in Lillydale now however. I would ask her what is going to happen to the great work that was started here and now carried to other states. I would ask her if the branches are going to carry on mission-based programming and continue to do the work that will be positively affecting our communities. I would ask her what she sees in AAUW-NYS’s future now.

The last four years on the state board for me have been wonderful. I have made the best friends a person could ever find. I have worked harder than I wanted to. I have driven and traveled more than I could afford to, but I knew then and know now that we started to change the spiraling downward path previously destined for AAUW.

Maybe I will go see Meg in Lillydale again and ask her what she can see.....

Living 
the Mission

2004 Program Awards

AAUW Reads!

- **First:** Bath
- **Second:** Oswego
- **Third:** Mohawk Valley
- **Participation Certificates:** Chautauqua-Westfield, Kingston, New York City, Nassau County, North Shore, Ontario County, Westchester, Yates County

21st Century Awards

- **Platinum:** Buffalo
- **Gold:** Huntington, New York City, Westchester
- **Silver:** Bath, Islip Area, St. Lawrence County
- **Bronze:** Amsterdam-Gloversville- Johnstown, Greater Rochester Area, Ithaca, Mid-Island, Syracuse
- **Honorable Mention:** Adirondack, Albany, Elmira/Corning, Garden City, Kingston, Nassau County, North Fork, North Shore, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, Queens, Schenectady, Skaneateles, Southern New York



Carrying on the Legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt

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The **Girls' Leadership Workshop** (GLW) is a 9-day summer program for young women entering either their freshman or sophomore year in high school. The program empowers young women by advancing their knowledge and leadership skills in a nurturing environment centered at the Stone Cottage at Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's country retreat in Hyde Park, New York. The program consists of workshops, interactive seminars, a service project, all-day field trips to New York City and Albany, creative and cultural activities and time to relax and reflect.

Inspired by the example of Eleanor Roosevelt, participants:

- Develop powerful leadership skills.
- Meet with and learn from accomplished women.
- Travel to New York City and meet with international woman leaders at the United Nations.
- Explore the concept of citizenship through participation in a community service project.
- Learn about the role of women in state government and politics through a visit to Albany, the capitol of New York State.
- Team build through hands-on experiences such as rock climbing and group presentations.
- Establish a mentoring relationship with successful women doctors, attorneys, architects and other pioneers.
- Increase self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Become more knowledgeable about women's history and women's issues and concerns.

Applications for 2005 will be sent to schools, girls' organizations, etc., by Dec. 1, 2004. Visit the website at www.ervk.org for more information.

Several of the members of the **Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW** do volunteer work with the Girls' Leadership Workshop - they all find it a very worthwhile program for young women. If you have further questions, you will find a contact e-mail address on the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill (ERVK) website under Girls' Leadership Workshop.



From Cheerleaders to World Leaders

Mary Grainger,
Ithaca Branch
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Thirty girls in middle and high school from Ithaca had the chance to find out what was involved in becoming leaders. On May 1 the Turn Beauty Inside Out Leadership Rally was a four-hour local event as part of an ongoing national campaign to

redefine teenage girls' image of beauty to consisting of character, actions and ability — not just physical appearance.

The girls had the chance to talk with many local (city, town and county) female elected officials and community leaders. One elected official ran her first campaign for student government in seventh grade.

The theme of this year's program was Women in Politics. Local politician Michelle Berry said, "I wish someone had told me at that age that I could consider a career in politics. I frankly didn't see women in politics and I didn't think of it as a career option."

Coordinated by Caren Cooper, the project was co-sponsored by Ithaca

College's Project Look Sharp, Mind on the Media, and the **Ithaca Branch** of AAUW. Cyndy Scheibe of Project Look Sharp and her group had just completed a new media literacy curriculum about elections and she volunteered her program. The girls met in small groups with politicians and the politicians listened to the girls.

The girls learned that careers in politics are within their reach and that, in just a few years, participation in our democracy is not just their right, but an empowering process and responsibility.

Turn Beauty Inside Out (TBIO) is an ongoing national campaign to redefine beauty. Visit the Mind on the Media website (www.mindonthemedia.org) to download the TBIO Action Kit and plan your own event for 2005! The TBIO Action Kit, available, by mail or e-mail, is designed to give you ideas about how to use TBIO Day to raise awareness, inspire discussion and foster coalition building or involvement in girls' issues.

Mind on the Media is a non-profit organization working to increase public awareness about the harmful effects of media images.



State of the Membership

Diane Silvestro, Membership Vice President 716/631-3349 belvoir6@hotmail.com

It would be so nice to report that our state gained members from last year but we did keep the loss to a minimum, a difficult task given the challenges of today's market. The 46 branches of New York have 3423 members down 78 (2%) from 3501 in 2003, which shows how hard our branches are working to increase or stabilize their membership. Sixteen branches increased their membership from last year.

Congratulations to:

Alfred-Hornell 11%, Buffalo 6%, Cortland 5%, Greater Rochester Area 4%, Huntington 9%, Islip Area 3%, Ithaca 3%, Kingston 22%, Nassau County 2%, New York City 21%, North Fork 5%, Poughkeepsie 3%, Rockland County 2%, St. Lawrence County 5%, Syracuse 23%, Westchester 5%

Maintaining a stable membership, six branches kept members involved, replaced lapsed members, and quickly integrated new members into branch activities – Adirondack, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Chautauqua-Westfield, North Shore, Oswego and Smithtown.

A student affiliate satellite was established by New York City, planting seeds for the future by introducing younger members to AAUW. Sadly, the Waverly and Peekskill branches disbanded.

Membership project funds of up to \$75.00 per branch per year were used by ten branches: Adirondack; Albany; Amsterdam-Johnstown-Gloversville; Huntington; Islip; North Shore; Skaneateles; Smithtown; Syracuse; and Westchester. Sending a mailing to the 3300 MAL's in NYS was the most popular use of these funds, but creating and distributing a branch brochure, mailing copies of newsletters to prospective members, presenting branch activities at an orientation meeting serving cookies and beverages, and inviting former members to rejoin were used as recruitment tools. The most innovative project was a fashion show for prospective members, which involved members, relatives, and friends as models - a fun day for all.

At the state convention, information about the Give A Grad A Gift program was sought. Available only online from the Association, it's a great way to introduce recent graduates to AAUW. Next, members wanted information about the Shape the Future Campaign giving discounts to new members joining at branch events. Remember the state dues waiver incentive for first year Give A Grad A Gift recipients, grad students, and student affiliates when talking to younger members about joining.

At Delta Lake, Mary King and I will present a membership workshop, so I hope a representative from each branch can attend. It's difficult to communicate by e-mail and newsletter articles alone, face-to-face interchange is still the best. Years ago when I was on the branch council, I asked branches to bring their problems to our meeting. I ask the same of you.



The Power of One Campaign

Joan Monk, International Affairs Director 914/245-7704 ftmaven@bestweb.net

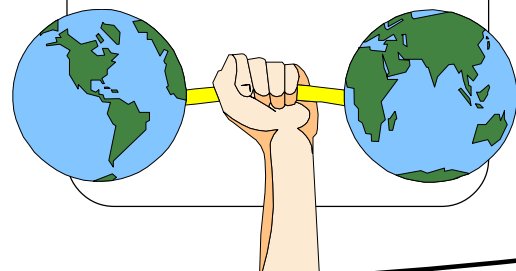
The 2004 NYS AAUW Convention finished with a flourish at the Bina Roy Luncheon. The tables were decorated with centerpieces made by 5th students at Paideia School 15 in Yonkers. The new Bina Roy Bookmark was at each place setting a colorful table. Awards and certificates were given, photos were taken and then the call to action was given.

State Board members circulated throughout the tables to Orphenbach's can-can music collecting donations for Bina Roy. In those few minutes, almost \$500 was collected, bringing the Convention total to \$2592.31. The funds raised at this year's convention are being donated in memory of Carol Stull, a former IA Director, Branch President, NYS President and peace activist. Carol Stull's life exemplified "the power of one." She would want us remember that over one billion people live on less than \$1/day.

Carol knew that:

- \$1 makes a difference,
- 1 person makes a difference,
- 1 branch makes a difference,
- 1 state makes a difference,
- 1 organization makes a difference.

We do make a difference!



"Be The Miracle"

Jann Mirchandani, Voter Education Director
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I recently caught "Bruce Almighty," a movie about Bruce, played by Jim Carrey, who thought God wasn't doing a very good job by him. He saw his job, his house and his life as mediocre. When he asks God for a miracle, God tells Bruce to "be the miracle." It was a very amusing tale with a very powerful message. If we expect things to change, we must be agents of that change.

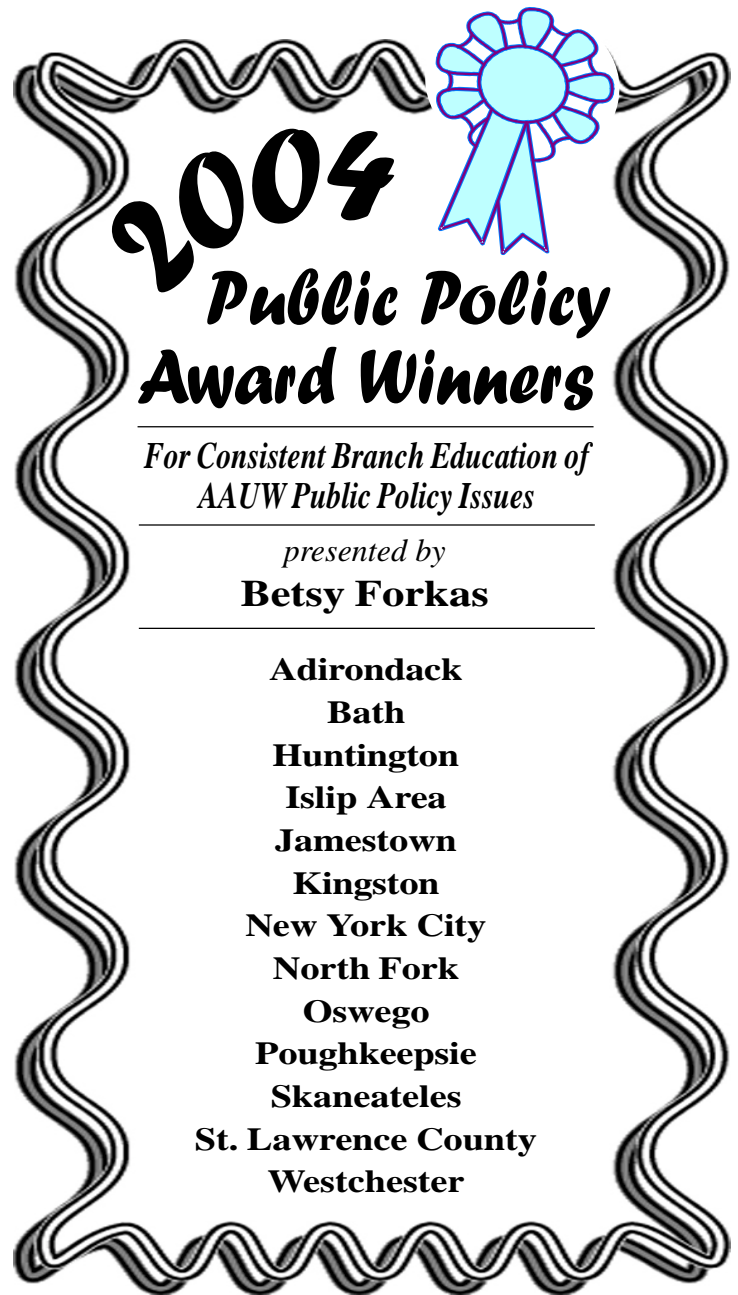
Too often we wait for "someone" to do "something." We might feel that we aren't qualified or informed enough. We may be afraid of making a mistake or being criticized.

Don't make that mistake this year. There is too much at stake: Higher Education Act reauthorization, No Child Left Behind, The Pathways Advancing Career Training Act (PACT), school vouchers, single-sex education, Title IX, affirmative action, Federal judicial nominations, hate crimes prevention, PATRIOT Act, attacks on reproductive choice, equity in prescription and contraceptive coverage, international family planning, reproductive health restrictions in appropriations bills, Unborn Victims of Violence Act – the list goes on.

Don't wait for another member of your branch to volunteer to lead the Voter Education effort this year. Don't leave Voter Education for the League of Women Voters to do. Don't expect the candidates to give us a fair accounting of their positions (OK, you can stop laughing now.)

Call your branch president today and let her know YOU will work on this project. Then make plans to come to Delta Lake outside of Rome, NY July 16-18, 2004 for AAUW 101 (and fun). Betsy Forkas, AAUW NYS Public Policy Director and I will be presenting a program planning "how to," complete with actual legislative meetings. We will show you what can be done and how to do it. And we are both much more fun in person!

Go ahead, be the miracle!



Living 
the Mission

**SAVE
THE
DATES!**

**2005 AAUW NYS
CONVENTION
April 15-17, 2005**

at Turning Stone in Verona, NY
(30 miles East of Syracuse right off the Thruway)

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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

Communications Director:

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betty6935@adelphia.net

Fall Issue Deadline: August 30, 2004

Education Foundation Report:

EF VP Phyllis Anderson,
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Walking,
Listening, &
Applauding!



There were 16 eager walkers in the lobby of the Albany Marriott at the ghastly hour of 6:30 am on Sunday. The paved pathway of lovely Crossings Park at Colonie was our destination. Because these are dedicated supporters of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, we didn't waste any time getting started. The sun was encouraging, nobody was lost or confused by the maps, and everybody returned in time for breakfast! We raised \$1061 from our sponsors, and another \$100 from the sale of EF tote bags. The three walkers who were recognized for their success in raising funds are Carolyn Lippmann from the North Shore Branch with \$300, Jeanette Knapp from the Ithaca Branch with \$155, and Onalee Nixon from the Bath Branch with \$141. Thanks to everyone who helped in some way, especially to Carmen Wyszomierski who sold tote bags during registration and to Donna Seymour who ordered the tote bags.

On Saturday evening we had the pleasure of listening to Dr. Laurie Mandel, recipient of a Community Action Grant in 2002-03. Part of her funding is from the Ruth Waddell Gansz/Carol Gansz Stull Research and Projects Grant. Laurie is an art educator at Murphy Junior High in Stony Brook. She designed "The Relationships Project" for a yearlong commitment of 60 students, girls and boys. They kept journals and made posters about the damaging effects of language, peer pressure, and homophobia. Their culminating event was a series of skits dealing with issues that

young teens face in the hallways and classrooms of school. A dynamic Power Point presentation highlighted Laurie's speech. Currently Dr. Mandel is working on a video that will spread the news of her success to other schools that could replicate the project. Laurie is a member of the Smithtown Area Branch.

An additional treat on Saturday night was a short summary of the project of Hadley Kruczek-Aaron, recipient of an American Fellowship in 2003-04. Part of her funding is from the North Shore Branch Fellowship. Hadley is working toward a Ph.D. in anthropology. Using archaeological evidence, she is exploring the impact of social reformers in Peterboro, NY. Abolitionists and women's rights activists are included in her research. A student at Syracuse University, Hadley now lives in Albany and has joined the Albany Branch.

Congratulations to everyone who supported the Educational Foundation in 2003. When I attend the Leadership Conference in June in Washington, DC it will be exciting to accept recognition for New York State in the "Top Ten" in the nation for total contributions. Congratulations to Buffalo, North Shore, Ithaca, Islip Area, Westchester County, Smithtown Area, Garden City, Schenectady, Southern NY, and Mid-Island Branches for their Top Ten Contributions. There are 16 Branches who met the goal of \$25 per capita donations: Ithaca, Islip Area, Smithtown Area, Albany, Buffalo, Oswego, Syracuse, North Shore, Mid-Island, Bath, Chautauqua-Westfield, Southern NY, Westchester County, Ontario County, Rockland County, and Skaneateles.

By working together, and working harder, we contributed \$78,792.11 for the continuation of grants and fellowships. Thank you for allowing me to encourage you in your efforts. In 2004, I hope to list even more Branches for reaching the goal of \$25 per member. It is attainable! Start now to make sure your Branch is included!

AAUW-NYS SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

July 16-18, 2004 at Delta Lake Conference Center, Rome, NY

Registration for AAUW 101 (and fun) provides an opportunity for you to participate in activities that will increase your knowledge of AAUW NYS. You will interact with the NYS Board in "Sharing the Vision." Space is limited.



Attendance by two members of your branch is recommended. A portion of the cost is subsidized by AAUW NYS. You pay only \$25. For further description and Registration Forms, contact Carmen Wyszomierski (wyszcarmen@msn.com) or Nancy Mion 631-472-9377.

Legal Advocacy Fund Update

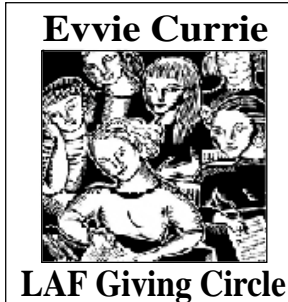


Susan Sontup,
LAF Vice President
tresswann@yahoo.com
516/679-6274

I am proud to report that our members and friends enabled the NYS convention to be a truly stellar event for LAF. Our speaker, Dr. Linda Brodsky was excellent. Everyone who heard her speak heard concrete proof that equity is still an issue. For more information on her case, visit the AAUW website. We raised over \$5500 at the convention. We had more than 20 major donors of \$100 or more. More people made contributions. I thank each and every one who attended the convention for their support of LAF.

In early April, I attended an LAF fundraising breakfast at the **Buffalo Branch**. It was an enjoyable, informative meeting, and a substantial amount of money was raised. Kudos to Jayne Harnisch for organizing this event. We were privileged to hear Sheila Graziano, a member of the LAF Support Network, speak. Other women's organizations were invited and attended. These events can be held in your community or branch. Let me know if you would like to do something like this. We can help you.

It is so important that we share what LAF is doing. And it is important that we continue to support this work. **Equity is Still an Issue**. For 2003, we were third in the nation for LAF contributions. This is phenomenal and a testament to our members in NYS. The **Evvie Currie NYS Campus Outreach Giving Circle** is open until March 2005. This is an effective way to contribute to LAF. All monies raised through this circle will remain in NYS and be used for campus outreach to proactively address sexual discrimination and harassment issues. Please consider making a contribution to this effort. The **St. Lawrence County Branch** gave the proceeds of their LAF baskets to this fund.



In the months ahead, I hope you will consider what you can do to advance LAF – share what it does with others, consider becoming a major donor, ask someone in your community to become a major donor, support the Evvie Currie Giving Circle. I am available to assist you in any way I can. Just let me know.

Have a great summer!

AAUW-NYS Emerging Leader Awards



Eleanor Filburn, Branch Council Director
eleanorr62@earthlink.net 315/343-1953

This award recognizes branch leaders who are first term board member/officer who exhibit the following: enthusiasm, demonstrated potential for leadership and AAUW knowledge. These women were recognized in 2004:

- Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch: Virginia Mazur
- Buffalo Branch: Adrienne Kotler
- Huntington Branch: Bernadette Olsson and Adaire Thompson
- Islip Area Branch: Susan Kinsey
- Jamestown Branch: Kathleen Stanton
- Kingston Branch: Bette Nitzky
- Mid-Island Branch: Bernardette Vaskas
- Westchester Branch: Sue Corcoran, Arlene Gross, and Marianne McGovern



Branch Action Notes

The **Garden City Branch** heard Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy on "The Impact of National Policies on Local Government" at a spring meeting. Their effort to support a single mother with two young boys came to a successful conclusion when she was able to move out of the area to a better environment and a better job. She claims that the branch help enabled her to make many positive steps in her life.

The **Greater Rochester Area Branch** partnered with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra to raise money for the orchestra's youth education program. Rochester Branch House hosted the Symphony Showhouse 2004 special events from May 30 to June 20. The Showhouse provided an excellent opportunity to raise the visibility of AAUW in the community. For more information, visit the Showhouse website at: www.rposhowhouse.org.

The **Westchester Branch** held their annual Women's History Month essay contest, asking the essayists to write about the woman they would most like to meet. Among the women the winners wanted to meet: Marie Curie, Lucille Ball, and Rosa Parks.

Thanks for the Memories!

Donna Seymour, *Director of Communications*
onthego@northnet.org 315/265-6985

As I conclude my term as Communications Director for NYS, let me tell you what a privilege and an honor it has been for me to be a part of the great Leadership Team that has worked with you and your branches to transform AAUW into a 21st Century organization under our Living the Mission banner and Evvie Currie's leadership.

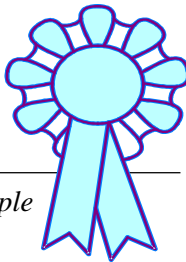
Betsy Forkas and I produced the **Public Policy & Voter Education Resources CD** that was distributed at convention. Each branch received one. We started out to collect material for branches to use during their fall Voter Education and Get Out the Vote efforts. What we ended up with is something far more comprehensive. The CD has 500 folders packed with a wealth of public policy and general AAUW resources. This is real leadership outreach tool.



My tenure as FOCUS editor is also ending. My thanks to everyone who provided the wonderful editorial content for FOCUS over the years. Our state newsletter is one of the best in the country because New York is such a great AAUW state!

I don't want to forget the hundreds of **Living the Mission T-Shirts** I handled during the last two years. Thank you all so much for embracing our theme and wearing your commitment to AAUW on your backs. It has brought great visibility to our organization.

2004 Communications Awards:



New York State 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.

2004 Newsletter of Excellence Awards were awarded to Adirondack, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Buffalo, Jefferson County, Huntington, Islip Area, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, Smithtown, St. Lawrence County, and Westchester.

The **21st Century Communications Technology Awards** for sending newsletters electronically in 2003-04 went to: Adirondack, Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Fairport Area, Greece, Huntington, Jefferson County, North Shore, Ontario County, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, Saratoga Springs, Smithtown, Southern New York, St. Lawrence County, and Westchester.

Special Recognition for Outstanding International Coverage went to the East Hampton Branch (Toni Giangrande, editor/branch president).

Living the Mission

2004 LAF Pins

Thanks to these women who have already donated at least \$100 to the Legal Advocacy Fund to earn a 2004 LAF Pin. Your support of the Fund is much appreciated!



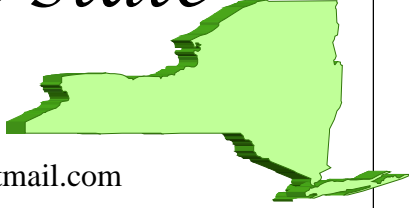
*Evvie Currie
Susan Sontup
Ida Davis
Ida Crawford Stewart
Nancy Mion
Meg Currie
Bobbe Fortunato
Patricia Hogeboom
Susan Furfaro
Gerri Ossana
Eleen Moomaw
Phyllis Anderson
Jayne D Mack
Janet Vine
Jane Sheeran
Donna Seymour
Eileen Hartmann
Linda Brodsky
Gertrude Malin
Anastasia Johns
Analine Hicks
Dorothea Fowler
Eileen Argenziano
Jennifer Windsor
Jeannette Knapp
June Carlson
Rachel Quackenbush
Ann Hennessey
Joan Dobert
Mildred DeWitt
Ann Bish*

Action For Equity Across the State

Janet L. Forbes,

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The AAUW-NYS Convention was a terrific time of networking, sharing successes and challenges, and highlighting the many ways that branches are Living the Mission across the state. Several of our branches received the 2004 Action For Equity Award in honor of their meaningful community action projects. Recipients of the award completed projects that advanced educational equity, collaborated with community partners, and could be duplicated by other AAUW branches. These award-winning branches also submitted Action For Equity Award applications for review.

This year's Action for Equity Branches are:

Amsterdam – Gloversville – Johnstown:

- Sister-to-Sister Summit
- Scholarship Program
- Groundhog Day Celebration

Jamestown: Get In The Game 2004

Kingston: Proclaiming Women's History Month

New York City: Expanding Your Horizons in Science, Math, & Technology

Skaneateles Area: Movie Night

St. Lawrence County:

- Agent of Change
- Professional Clothing Fair

Westchester:

- Strategies For College Success
- Expanding Your Horizons in Science, Math, & Technology

If you would like more information about a particular project, please contact that branch for details.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the AAUW-NYS Initiative for Educational Equity Director for the last two years. I look forward to our branches continuing the good work we have begun together as we continue Living the Mission.

Let's always remember 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."

Living

the Mission

*Let's continue
changing the
world!!*

Living the Mission Program Ideas:

*"Opening
the Business
World to
Young
Women"*



Nancy Shadd, Fairport Area Branch President

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The **Fairport Area Branch** had a program presentation in late April by Marcia O'Brien, Assistant Business Professor at Roberts Wesleyan College, entitled "Opening the Business World to Young Women." She was accompanied by two Business Major students, and a Franklin High School student who attends the Global Media Arts academy within the school.

Roberts Wesleyan held an exciting week-long, live-in business camp in February for Rochester City District Franklin High School girls to open their eyes to the opportunities for women in business, to provide and education that can change lives, and to make a positive impact in their high school, homes and community. The Camp covered topics in Business Ethics, Marketing, Accounting/Budgeting, appropriate communications, and dress.

The high school student said this week significantly changed her focus about her future, and she is eager to share this with others at her high school. Roberts Wesleyan is planning to offer the Women of Hope Business Camp in 2005, and is looking for support from AAUW and other organizations dedicated to promoting equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

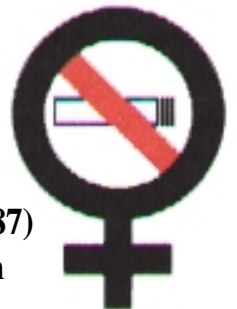
Other AAUW branches working with local college business programs and local women's business organizations could duplicate this program.

**NYS Task Force for
Tobacco-Free
Women and Girls**

NYS Smoker's Quitline:

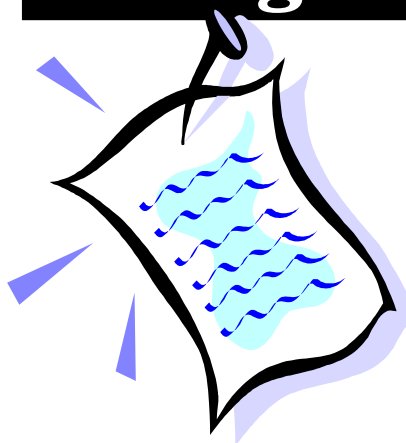
1-866-NY-Quits (1-866-679-8487)

or visit www.nysmokefree.com



Living the Mission in New York State

Branch Action Notes



Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch

cooperated with sister organization Business and Professional Women (BPW) in January to present a program on nontraditional roles for women. Featured speakers

included a postmistress and a Dean of Business, Technology, and Health Services.

The **Schenectady Branch** conducted two AAUW Reads! projects in 2004. They provided a children's book to several new moms at the Bellevue Maternity Hospital in Niskayuna and organized a project in the Schenectady County Jail to tape-record inmates reading bedtime stories to their children

The **Islip Area Branch**, working with the Ethical Culture Society, Massapequa Ladies Club, ORT, Amityville Ladies Club, and other AAUW branches on Long Island, continue their successful fund-raiser, Presidential Wives, for many community organizations. Originally prepared for a Women's History Month branch meeting five years ago, they continue to get requests to present this informative and entertaining show. Twelve of members depict the unique leadership styles of our modern first ladies from Eleanor Roosevelt on.

In April members of the **Poughkeepsie Branch** organized a protest of demeaning billboards put up by a local radio station. The billboards featured a bikini-clad woman from the neck to the waist with the theme "A perfect pair" to advertising a radio show with two hosts. Within two weeks, two of the 15 billboards were down with a promise from the billboard company that the others would soon follow.

Women can make a difference!

Mohawk Valley Branch member Janet Garza, with her History Through the Eyes of Women high school class, wrote and illustrated biographies of five of the "31 NYS Women of Distinction of 2004." The students read the biographies to fourth grade classes, conducted a poster contest, and then awarded books for prizes: classics about girls for the branch AAUW Reads! project.

Caroline Donovan, AAUW's Representative to the United Nations introduced the **North Shore Branch** to two women NGOs from the United Nations who described their efforts to improve the status of young women in their home countries.

Martha Beck of Cameroon and Rasmata Barry of Burkina Faso told how they are working to bring about a modification of social practices such as polygamy and female circumcision. Donations were collected from members to provide financial assistance to Ms. Beck's program, where young women are trained in income-generating skills such as sewing and embroidery.

The **Buffalo Branch** presented the 2004 Woman of Achievement Award to Dr. Vivian Cody, principal research scientist at Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute. At their annual meeting of nearly 120, Dr. Cody was recognized for her research on cancer and thyroid related diseases. She has published more than 165 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 49 book chapters, 2 books, and 265 meeting abstracts describing her research. She is active in the Buffalo Chapter of Women in Science, has mentored many students in her laboratory, and is an International Director of Zonta International.

The **Elmira-Corning Branch** is working in collation with the YMCA, Chemung County Council of Women and other women's groups on fall election activities. They are planning Voter Registration drives at Wisner Park, a farmer's market in downtown Elmira, on the campus of Corning Community College, and Elmira College at their Octoberfest.

As part of the AAUW Reads! program, the **Southern New York Branch** sponsored an essay contest featuring a New York Woman of Distinction at a local middle school. The branch donated copies of *A is For Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing American Women* by Lynne Cheney to local libraries in honor of Women's History Month, as well. They heard about "Feisty Upstate Women" at their annual meeting.

Huntington Branch undertook a new EF fundraiser with their first annual Book and Author Luncheon. Two local authors helped to make event a success.

Living 
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**AMERICAN
 ASSOCIATION OF
 UNIVERSITY
 WOMEN
 NEW YORK STATE**

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

2004-05 Nominating Team

Evelyn M. Currie, Chair emcurrie@earthlink.net 518/399-3711

The AAUW-NYS Nominating Team was elected unanimously at convention. They will have their first meeting at AAUW 101 (and fun!) at the Delta Lake weekend on July 16-18. After that initial meeting, they will work by e-mail and phone calls.

At the post convention AAUW NYS Board meeting, Evvie Currie was elected to chair the Team and Eileen

Hartmann is the Board representative. The offices open for election in 2005 are: Membership Vice President, Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President, Secretary/Bylaws and Treasurer. The qualifications for each office are listed on the state website. It is strongly recommended that candidates have AAUW leadership experience within the last five years. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer require computer expertise.

	Name	Branch	Phone	e-mail
	Evelyn Currie	State Board Chair	518-399-3711	emcurrie@earthlink.net
	Eileen Hartmann	State Board Rep.	585-924-4876	telcali@aol.com
D-1	Ingrid Wetherbee	Buffalo	585-535-7948	imweth@aol.com
D-1	Christine Ahlstrom	Jamestown	716-665-5851	christine@madbbs.com
D-2	Elizabeth Messmer	Ontario	585-396-3431	saltylizard@aol.com
D-2	Ruth Barry	Bath	607-569-2775	ruth1@infoblvd.net
D-3	Cheryl Papa	Southern NY	607-748-6075	cbpapa528@yahoo.com
D-3	Ann Marie Finch	Mohawk Valley	315-339-5649	amsfinch@yahoo.com
D-4	Jean Magnuson	Albany	518-456-4615	friartuck153@cs.com
D-4	Rachel Quackenbush	Adirondack	518-747-6076	slatewks@localnet.com
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D-5	Ann Vincenzo	Staten Island	917-863-3195	cby@mindspring.com
D-6	Norma Plett	North Shore	516-627-5590	normaplett@yahoo.com
D-6	Joan Stafford	Garden City	516-873-1732	jpsgc@mycidco.com
D-7	TBA	Oswego		
D-7	TBA	Jefferson County		