



Sharing the Vision

**Mid Atlantic Region
Conference**
March 18 & 19, 2006
Holiday Inn, Rt. 22, Bethlehem, PA

Education and Equity Challenge

Nancy Mion, AAUW-NYS President
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Once again, another AAUW year has started. We have greeted friends, old and new. Mission based programs have been planned. An exciting challenging year lies ahead of us.

Part of that challenge will be implementing the new AAUW program, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security", which fits so well with our NYS Women's Economic Equity Initiative. Education and equity have long been associated with AAUW. Let us continue to be strong advocates.

The future of women's rights is the relevant theme for this *FOCUS*. As you read about pay equity, Title IX, and Susan B. Anthony think about how much we have accomplished, what we need to do, and how we must work together to maintain the advances we have made. Each of you can make a difference. Support your branch's legislative efforts to secure equity.

Equity is still very much an issue and the excitement this year is that we will be able to involve more people than ever in AAUW's mission. We can now, thanks to a Membership By-laws change, recruit those with an associate or equivalent degree to join us, increasing our impact.

We belong to AAUW because we believe in our Mission. Sharing the Vision will enable us to achieve our goals.

"Leadership is envisioning how your choices and actions today may influence the next 10 years."

- AAUW-NYS 2005 Summer Leadership Conference video

**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



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Economic Equity for Women

Betsy Forkas,

AAUW-NYS Public Policy Director

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Women in this country still lag behind their male counterparts when it comes to pay equity. We make around 75% of what men make. To bring this issue to the forefront, a resolution was passed at the 2005 Convention that addresses our issues. We will become more visible and more active as members of the New York State Pay Equity Coalition and will work with BPW/NYS and Pay Equity Lobby Day.

Throughout the year, AAUW NYS Board members will provide information to branches on issues, activities, and legislation related to economic equity for women.

- We will keep you informed about pending legislation and ask you to contact your legislators.
- We will track the positions legislators take on the issue.
- We will work closely with BPW and its members to create a stronger voice.
- We will lobby in Albany, joining BPW for their Annual Lobby Day.
- We will encourage branches to sponsor forums and will provide the suggestions and necessary information.

For more information or questions, please contact me.

[Editor's Note: Betsy Forkas, Schenectady Branch, has been appointed to a two-year term on the Association Public Policy Committee. She is so excited and proud to have this position that her quote had to be edited. Congratulations, Betsy!]

Equity in School Activities

Erna Cunningham,

AAUW-NYS Diversity Director

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Are we there yet? Let's look at the facts. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the statute barring sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funds, protects against discrimination in college and high school athletics. Title IX has led to greater opportunities for girls and women to play sports, receive scholarships and obtain other important benefits that flow from sports participation.

Before Title IX, high school participation was 10 percent female. Thirty years later it was approximately 42 percent. The law is extremely flexible and some members of Congress pressure to even further weaken the regulations used to implement Title IX. Parents must be ever vigilant to insure that girls get their fair share. There are still lawsuits pending. AAUW believes the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) must receive adequate funding to strengthen its efforts to enforce Title IX.

Both black and white female athletes have higher graduation rates than non-athlete females. Sports enhance the educational experience by providing opportunities for leadership, teamwork, and competition. At the Olympics, female athletes bring home the gold.

(Source: AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department, April 2005)

A Very Special Weekend

Betty Harrel & Margaret Nijhuis, AAUW-NYS Convention Directors
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*Would you like to
take action to further women's rights?
play golf on a championship golf course?
relax with a mineral bath and massage?
share ideas with interesting women?*

If your answer is YES! to any of these questions, be sure to mark your calendar for April 28-30, 2006. All this and much more awaits you at the AAUW- NYS Convention. It will be held at the Gideon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs.

Many exciting, action-oriented programs are being planned for ALL AAUW members. Watch for upcoming information and registration forms on the AAUW-NYS website. See you in Saratoga!

Celebrating the Mission of the Educational Foundation

Phyllis Anderson, *AAUW-NYS Educational Foundation Vice President*
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A highlight of the Association Convention in Washington, DC was the Educational Foundation Banquet, at which Madeleine Albright spoke. The evening was a celebration of our goals for the future. It was very exciting to learn that New York ranked fourth in the nation in total giving with \$99,004. The top state is always California, this year followed by Illinois and Florida. Thanks to the hard work of our 43 branches, we can be very proud of our accomplishment. Buffalo Branch ranked third in the nation with total contributions of \$25,430. We congratulate their amazing Book Sale!

We can't rest on last year's laurels; the 2005 year is already half gone. Our goal is easy, just \$25 per member by December 1. If your branch is not having a major fund raiser this year that will yield that amount, perhaps you are able to just write a check to support in that simple way. The Foundation does so much for so many women, enabling them to finish their dissertations or prepare for advancement in their careers. We make it possible for women to work toward financial security and move all of us toward pay equity. As the new Association slogan reminds us, "Education is the Gateway to Women's Economic Security". The Foundation works for positive societal change through research, activism, and support of scholars. Each of us can be part of that success by generously sharing as many dollars as we can afford!

Last spring the selection committees met to choose the recipients of Fellowships and Grants for 2005-2006. There were 2,248 applications and the volunteers worked hard to make good decisions. Only 203 awards could be made, about the same number as last year. The Grants and Fellowships will total \$3,548,270, with individual awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$30,000. If we had more funds, we could award them to more scholars. Perhaps your individual contribution or that of your branch will make a difference next year. The applications for 2006-07 will be on the AAUW web site after August 1, and the directory of current Fellows will be ready online in the fall. Make sure that your branch is part of this wonderful opportunity to Advance Equity for Women and Girls!

Legal Advocacy Fund Update

Cheryl Papa, *Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President*
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AAUW is changing to meet the challenges of the 21st century! The Legal Advocacy Fund is now a program administered within the Educational Foundation. This change in structure will financially guarantee that LAF can continue to be a vital entity. A procedure has been established which will insure that the Legal Advocacy Fund monies and the Educational Foundation funds will not be commingled. **The Association still considers the mission of LAF to be equally as important as the mission of EF!**

The NYS total 2004 contributions to LAF were \$26,880.45. We were in second place nationally! Within that amount, the Evvie Currie Giving Circle donations were \$5886. The Circle money will be used in the Campus Outreach Program in NYS.

As of June 1, 2005, our total contribution is \$10,976.00. Our goal is to surpass last year's total by 5%. Please consider becoming a member of one of our special donor categories: \$5000 (Guardian), \$1000 (Defender), \$500 (Advocate), \$250 (Partner), and \$100 (Amicus). Those contributing \$100 or more receive an LAF pin. Each and every donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated.

The 2005 AAUW endorsed report, *The (Un) Changing Face of the Ivy League*, states that women in academia fill only 20% of the tenured positions, and women faculty, in general, receive 77% of the pay male faculty receive. If each one of us gives 5% more to LAF than we did last year, we will not only reach our goal, but we will be actively helping to change those percentages! **Economic equity is a goal worth attaining!**



Call for Nominations!

Erna Cunningham,
*2005-06 AAUW-NYS
 Nominating Team Chair*
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rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us

Candidates for State President, Program Vice President, and Educational Foundation Vice President are being recruited for the elections at the April 2006 Convention. Finding excellent leaders determines the direction of AAUW in New York State.

Any AAUW member with Branch or State leadership experience within the last five years is eligible for a State office. We are anxious to find candidates in areas of the state that are not represented on the Board at this time. You can nominate yourself or another qualified member.

I must receive the applications by November 1 with three letters of endorsement as stated on the application. Any pre-convention campaigning is strongly discouraged. Candidates may distribute brochures at the Convention but other promotional material is strongly discouraged also. There will be a "Meet the Candidates Night" reception before dinner Friday night. Then at the Convention business meeting, the candidates will each speak for three to five minutes before the vote.

The applications will be reviewed by the Nominating Team and will be presented at the Fall Board Meeting. The application and job descriptions are available on the AAUW web site or from me. Let your voice be heard! Able candidates are needed!

2005 FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Mary Lou Davis, *AAUW-NYS District Director*
 845/223-5544 davehdavis@aol.com

The District Coordinators have been busy planning the Fall Conferences with their district branches. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to meet and share with other branches, so we hope you will plan to attend.

DISTRICT COORDINATOR	DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
1 Tamara Brown 716/649-9871 Dist1aauw@cs.com	October 15 9:15 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	University Room, White Inn, Fredonia	Charting our Course: Navigating Through Change to Foster Education & Equity for Women & Girls
2 Jane Smith 607/868-3243 homechick@empacc.net	October 29	Geneseo	Women's Economic Equity
3 Suzanne Conmy 607/785-1540 bookworm119@stny.rr.com	September 24 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Onondaga Valley Presbyterian Church, Syracuse	Leadership/Membership
4 Michele Acquaro 518/863-2417 acquaro@adelphia.net	October 1 9:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	Valkill Stone Cottage, Rt.9G Hyde Park	Leadership and the Life and Legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt
5 Maria Ellis 973/635-1406 mellis@opm32.hbs.edu	October 8	New York City Branch House	Leadership and Public Policy
6 Catherine Moore 516/466-0975 mooremce@aol.com	October 15	St. Joseph's College, Patchogue	Women in the Work Force: Their Rights and Their Security
7 Donna Seymour 315/265-6985 onthego@northnet.org	September 24	Jefferson Community College	KIDS AT RISK: A North Country Forum

Branch Action Notes

The **Greater Rochester Area Branch** received an award from Phi Delta Kappa, the education fraternity/sorority for its program, "Women Helping Girls" that works with Rochester City School District girls in middle and high schools. It also received an award from the Rochester Area United Nations for the branch's community service and involvement in international affairs. In addition, members are sponsoring student affiliates from the "Women Helping Girls" program. It is proving to be an excellent way to grow membership.

The winner of the quilt that the **Westchester Branch** raffled was won by Marie Owens of West Babylon, NY. Marie had purchased the tickets while attending the NYS Convention in April. The drawing was held at our Final Fling, June 8th.

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A New Beginning

Pat Thompson, AAUW-NYS Equity Director
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Fall marks a new beginning for us. The Director of Education Equity title has been changed to Equity Director. We will still focus on those education issues that are most important to us, but now will include the issue of economic equity for women. Education and economic equity go hand in hand. We have just broadened the scope of our activities. It allows those of us who are passionate about these and other related issues to work through AAUW and other organizations with which we partner. It also opens up avenues for new partnerships with groups who have similar goals.

With the recent passing of the CAFTA legislation and the break up of the AFL-CIO, economic equity is going to be a huge concern for many Americans. We have lost over 100,000 jobs in the past few years in New York State alone. The loss of jobs means workers need to reeducate to prepare for employment if they are going to compete. The glass ceiling is going to get tougher to penetrate for women with degrees and experience. It also means that women are going to have to look for employment in non-traditional fields.

We at the state board encourage members to participate in movements such as the New York State Pay Equity Coalition. Contact Bobbie Fortunato or me for additional information. Contact your local unions for information regarding how you can aid them in their quest for pay equity and health benefits. Hold a job or trade fair for women in your area to educate them about the opportunities for education and employment in nursing and in the trades. Publish a job board in your monthly bulletin or present news about openings to members at monthly meetings. Hold resume writing sessions and distribute a list of the human resource officers for businesses and industries in your area during the sessions. In that this is an election year, many opportunities are available for aiding candidates who support women in their quest for office.

Let's keep doing what we have been doing and then add something new for our branches to achieve. Let's share our ideas, applaud and support each other as we work to give more opportunities for women to realize their dreams.

Because Equity Is Still an Issue

Diane Haney, AAUW-NYS Program V.P.
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Susan B. Anthony lived in a time when women were allowed few opportunities to earn a living and, according to her niece, in those where she was allowed to work, she earned only a quarter of a man's wages. If she earned less than men, she was equal when it came to paying taxes. If she was married, her wages were handed to her husband. Anthony worked for women's suffrage because she saw all other rights as contingent on the vote, but economic equality was very much on her mind. As women were excluded from men's unions, she formed and served as president of the Working Women's Central Association, working especially on behalf of women sewing machine operators, printers and typesetters. She advocated an eight-hour day and equal pay for equal work.

Susan B. Anthony lived the AAUW mission throughout her life. As we continue work to further our goals which, despite progress, still are much like the goals of Anthony, it is well to remember where we have been as well as where we are going. As 2006 is the centenary of Anthony's death, it is a particularly appropriate time for remembrance.

Materials useful for a program on Anthony, including both text and video, were distributed at Delta Lake and should be available through your branch president. If you still need them, contact me.

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., Williamsville, NY 14221-0701. The subscription rate of \$4 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, DC 20036.

Questions and articles should be addressed to the Communications Director, Betty Preble, 6935 East Quaker Street, Orchard Park, NY, 14127, 716/662-0608, e-mail communications@aauw-nys.com

Winter Issue Deadline: November 1, 2005
Spring Issue Deadline: January 8, 2006

AAUW-NYS is looking for a new editor for FOCUS. If interested, please contact Betty Preble or Nancy Mion to find out more about the opportunity.

Do You Speak Gildersleeve?

Joan Monk, AAUW-NYS International Affairs Director
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At the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Conference in Ottawa, I noticed many women wearing buttons that said, "Do You Speak Gildersleeve?" Curious now, I made a point to find out about it! There I discovered the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF). Founded in 1969 by eleven members of IFUW wanting to assist college graduates in low per capita income countries, its focus was to identify and implement solutions to problems confronting their nations. Within a decade, the Fund broadened its original purpose and began to encompass projects beyond those narrowly aimed at university women and to utilize a variety of conduits for aid.

Who was Virginia Gildersleeve? A noted leader in women's education and dean of Barnard College, she was a co-founder and twice President of IFUW. The only woman appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt to the U.S. delegation that established the United Nations, she was the first woman in the United States to sign a U.S. treaty. To "speak Gildersleeve" more fluently, visit vgif@vgif.org.

Membership Notes

Eileen Hartmann,
AAUW-NYS Membership Vice President
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At the 2005 Association Convention delegates voted to change the AAUW by-laws so that membership in our organization will be open to associate degree holders. For now, that by-laws change includes incorporating women and men who hold an AA degree and RNs with a diploma.

All AAUW members can encourage newly eligible community members to join! Embrace the opportunity, engage in positive dialogue, and spread the word about the membership benefits.

On the Association web site you may review incentives for membership through the Shape the Future Membership Campaign. Here are the highlights:

- * Each new member who joins at a Shape the Future Membership Campaign event will pay one half of the national dues.

- * For every two new members who join at the event, the branch will earn one free membership. (You might choose to give this membership to a branch program speaker.)

- * Each branch can earn a maximum of three free memberships per fiscal year (ending June 30.)

Guest lists and referral forms for Shape the Future Membership Campaigns can be downloaded from the www.aauw.org web site or phone the Helpline at 1-800-326-AAUW to obtain the newly designed guest/referral

form. What an outstanding opportunity for you to add members to your branch!

Our new theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security", provides a vehicle for new partnerships in the community. Your discussions and action based upon this theme may open a doorway for membership for others.

Would you like to receive a list of action ideas offered to us by the undergraduate and graduate students who participated in the "Conversations with the Next Generation" session at the April 2005 state convention? I have compiled their issues of concern and their recommendations for making inroads on college campuses and would be pleased to forward their valuable insights to you.

Thanks for your efforts on behalf of AAUW!

Branch Action Notes

-continued from p. 4

The **Poughkeepsie Branch** is expanding their Leading to Reading community project. During the first year, they partnered with Community Family Development, Inc. to provide classroom reading centers and 150 home-school activity kits for a low-to-moderate income day care center. Community organizations donated building materials, books, beanbag chairs, and money to buy supplies for the kits. A recent grant provided books for the Beacon Even Start, sponsored by the school district and Literacy Connections. Kits will be used by parents in literacy tutoring and then given to their children to use at home with them.

Did You Know?

Helen Engel and Marilynn Smiley, AAUW-NYS Historians

315/343-9678 & 315/343-4803

rengel@oswego.edu & smiley@oswego.edu

1945

State President: Mrs. James W. Kideney, Buffalo (1942-46)

Committee chairmen included: Arts, Economic and Legal Status of Women, Education, Fellowships, Historian, International Relations, Legislation, Membership, Publicity, Recent Graduates, Social Studies.

In May 1945 the Association cancelled the convention due to travel restrictions. They held a “Stay-at-home” National Convention. Addresses and reports were recorded and sent to branches. Six branches on Long Island met to share this convention program. Voting for AAUW officers was done in the branches and the reports sent in by mail.

A June State Board meeting was held in Albany. Plans included a fall “News Letter”, branch president conferences, study of the problems of compulsory military training, social security, medical care, price control, community planning and a continued fight against delinquency.

Since 1945 marked the 25th year of the NY State Division, it was felt a Division history was needed. A historian (Mrs. Robert Vail of New York City, past president of the Albany Branch) was appointed in 1944. In 1945 a questionnaire was sent to branch presidents: of 38 branches, 22 had historians, 6 had written histories.

The state supported bills in the State Legislature to provide adequate state aid for schools and increase minimum salaries for teachers.

New York branches contributed to an Association fund to aid university women refugees. Many members offered homes to British child refugees.

Branch study topics included education, price control, labor standards, status of women, civil defense, childcare centers and post-war planning.

New branch: Batavia

Questions for You

- Has your branch started its pages for the NY State 2005-06 scrapbook project?
- Has your branch thought about a branch oral history project?
- Who was Miss G?

Answer: She was a college graduate that Edward Clark, a retired professor at Harvard, used in his 1873 study to show that higher education was detrimental to a woman’s reproductive system and to her overall well being (a post-mortem revealed “commencing degeneration” of the brain.)

[The Toronto Star, 7/23/05 reported on a Miss G Project started by students who want women’s studies in high school curriculum in Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Education to state that gender equity and women’s issues are a government priority. There are Miss G chapters at several Canadian universities.]



FOCUS (USPS-390-570)
Fall 2005
ISSN: 1056 3199
www.aauw.org
www.aauw-nys.org

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE **PAID** at
Buffalo, NY 14240
USPS-390-570

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, DC 20036

Our Future Rights Begin Here

Wanda Lancaster

AAUW-NYS College/University Director
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With our fall Focus theme as the Future of Women's Rights, what better place to turn our attention than to our colleges and universities? Here lies our future. These are the women who will carry on the fight for women's rights and hopefully reap some of the benefits. Therefore, it's vital to reach out to them, involve them, and share our history, traditions and mission. Remember, too, that building and working with other organizations make programs even stronger and more effective. So I urge you to consider partnering with a college or university in your area. If you're not sure if they're already a member of AAUW, check the C/U Member page on the web at www.aauw-nys.org/cu_members.htm. If an institution is not a member, approach them anyway. After working together, they may wish to join.

Here are some suggestions for working with local colleges and universities.

- Organize a "Transitions" program at the college or university. Work with the various campus departments to engage their expertise into the program.
- Plan a branch program or other AAUW event on campus, advertising it at the college or in the community.
- Plan a Sister-to-Sister Summit and engage college students in the program.
- Invite a student or students to become affiliates in your branch. Seek the advice of faculty and staff members on how to approach students, perhaps through Women's Studies Programs, business departments, or other pertinent departments or campus groups.