



# Sharing the Vision



## Sharing the Vision II

**Nancy Mion, AAUW-NYS President**  
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As I read your newsletters it is rewarding to see how branches are “Sharing the Vision”. Branch meeting topics reflect your involvement in our Mission. Through our meetings we are continually expanding our knowledge and developing our awareness of the world in which we live. This fulfills one part of our Mission of promoting “life long education”. However, being AAUW, we then need to take what we learn and use it to promote “positive societal change” and the third part of our Mission “equity for all women and girls”.

You may wish to become involved in the first AAUW initiative under the new theme **Education as the Gateway to Women’s Economic Security** called “Campus Action Project: Building a Harassment Free Campus”. It is based on new Educational Foundation Research. The NYS Board continues to develop the programs related to economic security and equitable school financing that you requested at Convention. There are opportunities waiting for you.

Reaching out with a special project based on our mission, utilizing your knowledge and know how, can make a difference in your area. Support your branch as it embarks on a program that goes beyond the branch meeting. You will learn and society will benefit. Your participation will expand your life. You will be “Sharing the Vision”. [Are you taking part in the Louisiana Library Project?]

2006 marks the 125th Anniversary of AAUW. Come celebrate at the NYS Convention. Network, learn, elect, share in the excitement, become a vital component of this event. You are AAUW NYS. You, the members, make it all happen.

**The All Member Poll:** (formerly the Every Member Survey) is in the November *Outlook*, and also online. This questionnaire is designed to allow leaders to better understand members’ perceptions of AAUW. Please respond by January 13, 2006. Your opinions DO count.

**Call for Resolutions:** Resolutions provide a way to have AAUW-NYS support actions that you believe are important to furthering our mission. If you submit your NYS Convention resolutions to Public Policy Director Betsy Forkas, by March 28, they can be adopted by a majority vote. If you wait and bring your resolution from the floor, it requires a 2/3 vote to be heard and a 3/4 vote to be adopted. Further info at [aauw-nys.org](http://aauw-nys.org).

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# Equity Online: Expanding Horizons

**Pat Thompson, AAUW-NYS Equity Director**  
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WEEA, Equity Online, <http://www2.edc.org/GDI/>, is a valuable resource for information around education equity. The WEEA “is a national project promoting bias free education”. At the site there is an online discussion of issues, Dialogue with the Experts, an issue related online discussion featuring a panel of experts, and Women of Achievement, an index of women who have been recognized for their achievements.

The need to encourage women to enter into the science and math fields remains the issue according to WEEA. Dr. Shirley Jackson, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Dr. Rita Rossi Colwell, of the University of Maryland, both expressed the urgency for the recruitment of girls and women in these fields at the 2005 Induction Ceremony of the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls. Dr. Colwell stated that by the seventh and eighth grade girls lose interest in math and science.

Programs like the Westchester and NYC Branches’ **Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science Conference** are greatly needed. Check out the AAUW web site for more ideas. According to Dr. Ruth Smith of Smith College we have an obligation to mentor girls into these fields. So if you are in these fields, allow your branch to use you as a resource as we provide opportunities for girls to follow in your footsteps.

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## Leaving A Legacy

**Phyllis Anderson, AAUW-NYS Educational Foundation Vice President**  
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For most of us, AAUW has been a source of friends and fellowship. We have a good time together with women whose goals match our own. Even when we are working hard to raise funds for the Educational Foundation, we laugh and share the funnier moments of our efforts. We have helped each other get through the difficult times of our lives, feeling a sense of sisterhood with other members.

The Foundation has suggested an opportunity for individuals to pass that kinship along to women who will continue our good intentions. The Legacy Circle was created to simplify the procedure. Perhaps you are considering a gift in your estate plan, such as a bequest in your will or living trust. It could be for a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the estate, or specific property. It might be a beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy, annuity, or IRA. It could be set up to provide you tax savings and an income during your lifetime. The procedure is confidential and personal, handled at the Foundation by the Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving.



A fringe benefit of such a decision is the lovely Legacy Circle Pin, designed by Swarovski. It is a golden wreath with pave’ crystals, trimmed with a golden ribbon that proudly proclaims “A Legacy of Equity.” At the base of the wreath is an open book from which a pearl is suspended. When you join the Legacy Circle, you receive the pin to wear and enjoy. It is a symbol of your generosity and commitment. The AAUW Educational Foundation asks all those who care about the future of women and girls to consider making a planned gift.

If you are not ready for Planned Giving, you can help in a smaller way. Everybody can participate by registering for the annual WALK for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund at our NYS convention. This year we will walk from the hotel to the downtown area, a charming scenic stroll. If you register, you will receive a set of AAUW note cards. By collecting pledges/donations from supporters, we raise a lot of money very easily. There will be recognition for the “walkers” who raise the most funds. Last year, our “walkers” collected over \$1000 and some of them never left the hotel! This is a flexible “walk” with varied levels of involvement. Try it to promote the Foundation, the oldest and largest organization which supports women in their pursuit of education beyond the Baccalaureate.

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## Diversity Has Been My Game

**Erna Cunningham,**  
*AAUW-NYS Diversity Director*  
631/585-0868 rcunning@suffolk.lib.ny.us

Now in my second year in this office and having been the Diversity Chair of AAUW-Islip Area Branch for ten years, my eyes and ears have been tuned to reading and hearing about the activities of diverse people. I also seek the unique connections of branch members who can extend our network. I am eager to write about the people around us in our newsletters, and to invite them to a branch program as a speaker or guest. Inviting a variety of organizations and the public at large promotes the AAUW Mission to seek a diverse membership. Membership has increased due to publicity of our programs in local newspapers and library displays. Be sure to include guests who cannot qualify for membership. They can promote our activities and mission. It is said that what you say to one person will be conveyed to ten. Diversity in membership, programming and publicity working together can create a harmonious branch.

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## Creativity Café 2006

**Deb Poplasky,**  
*AAUW-NYS Cultural Chair*  
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If someone asked me what woman was my inspiration, I would look to the past and equate “inspiration” with “mentor.” Now think about this idea with a twist. Whose politics, bravery, wisdom, etc., inspires you now? The only criteria are that you know her personally, and she’s still alive and living in New York State. I would like to use what you write/respond as the bones of a display, asking you also to find a high school photography student who will fulfill some community service time by photographing you both (together or apart) for the display. Digital photography and printing make such assignments wonderful rather than burdensome. Use your connections! Reach out to your community and the photographer gets credit in a gallery setting! Could we set a goal of one or more per branch? We can achieve that and have an inspiring display for State convention 2006!

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## Legal Advocacy Fund Update

**Cheryl Papa,** *AAUW-NYS LAF Vice President*  
607/748-6075 cbpapa528@yahoo.com

*Lynn Russell v. the Trustees of Princeton University* is the latest case adopted by AAUW LAF. Ms. Russell, a former assistant clinical professor in the chemical engineering department at Princeton University, maintains that the chairman of her department, at the time of her employment, treated her worse than her male colleagues, interfered with her tenure review, and exaggerated and misrepresented student complaints. Consequently she was denied tenure. Alleging that Princeton fosters a poor climate for women in science and engineering fields, with only one woman having ever been promoted to tenure within the department, her case is based on sex discrimination in the denial of tenure and retaliation for complaining about sex discrimination. Her lengthy battle has only begun!

In 2001, Linda Brodsky, a medical doctor and tenured full professor at SUNY at Buffalo, sued the university for pay inequity and retaliation for complaining about it. Even though she received outstanding performance evaluations, she had not received equal pay for equal work. She further alleges that many male doctors had been recruited with similar or lesser qualifications but were given higher salaries. After complaining about the inequities, SUNY removed her tenure, compensation, and benefits by unilaterally changing her status to non-salaried voluntary faculty. Her trial is scheduled for 2007. AAUW LAF continues to support her case.

These cases are representative of the cases AAUW LAF money supports. Discrimination comes in many forms. Men involved in coaching women’s teams get caught up in this when the institution does not abide by Title IX rules. Women of all ages are faced with sexual harassment by fellow students, professors or colleagues. LAF is trying to build up a body of law, which will eventually change society so the Fund will not be needed. When you contribute to LAF, you are living the AAUW mission of “creating positive societal change” for the future.

# THE RACE IS ON!!

**Betty Harrel,**  
AAUW-NYS Convention Co-Director  
845/462-2141 bharrel28@msn.com



## *Join in the fun at NYS convention...*

- ◆ Participate in a Convention for **ALL** AAUW members.
- ◆ Have the opportunity to find out what is happening in AAUW, talk with the NYS leaders and gain a broader understanding of AAUW.
- ◆ Join with like-minded people exchanging ideas at a beautiful resort with spa, golf course and miles of walking trails. All located in the 2,200 acre Saratoga Spa State Park.
- ◆ Become informed, stimulated, energized and ready to be part of "Sharing the Vision 2006".
- ◆ Learn what branches across the state are doing to "Share the Vision" and "promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change".
- ◆ Take part in workshops related both to AAUW issues and personal development.

## 2006 AAUW-NYS Convention *"Sharing The Vision 2006"*

**April 28-30, 2006 • Gideon Putnam Spa & Resort • Saratoga Springs, New York**

Convention information, Hotel & Convention Registration Forms available online at  
[www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org) after January 1, 2006.

Choose "Convention" from top of page, then "forms" from the left side or use the "hot button" on the home page.

Questions or to order mailed copies contact: Margaret Nijhuis 845/635-8612 or RNijhuis@hvc.rr.com

Convention Registration forms will **not** appear in the spring 2006 FOCUS. You may obtain them online or order them from Margaret Nijhuis as listed above.

The hotel package includes two nights' lodging, six meals, welcome reception, and breaks.

*The cost per person is \$295 Double, \$250 Triple, and \$430 Single.*

## Bina Roy - A Sure Bet

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

Welcome to the races and rest assured that Bina Roy is still a sure bet. Since we are in horse racing territory for the convention for the next two years, our fundraising for Bina Roy will have the feeling of a horse race. The Grand Prize is a weekend at the Gideon Putnam Hotel.

Branches can enter the competition by fundraising for Bina Roy to enter a horse in the race. You can enjoy a carriage ride at the convention and your branch will be given a five dollar credit for each participant. The branch that raises the most money will be in the running for the grand prize. But there will be a dark horse in this race! If the most money is raised at the Bina Roy Luncheon on Sunday, the weekend prize will be raffled off there.

But remember, you've got to be in it to win it! Please join us in support of international projects through the Bina Roy Fund. Upon completion of your fundraising efforts, please send me your checks, made payable to Bina Roy-IFUW.

### **FOCUS (USPS-390-570)**

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Send all address changes to Buffalo Postmaster, Buffalo, NY, 14240, and AAUW Records Office, 1111 16<sup>th</sup> 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 [betty6935@adelphia.net](mailto:betty6935@adelphia.net)

Spring Issue Deadline: January 8, 2006  
Summer Issue Deadline: May 1, 2006

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# You're Invited!

**Betty Harrel and Margaret Nijhuis**  
AAUW-NYS Convention Co-Directors  
845/462-2141 bharrel28@msn.com  
845/635-8612 RNijhuis@hvc.rr.com

**You are cordially invited** to spend a beautiful, exciting, and invigorating weekend at the Gideon Putnam Resort where AAUW will—

**Choose** our leadership for the next biennium.

**Question** the candidates at the social hour on Friday.

**Collect** useful ideas at Celebrate AAUW!

**Meet** local, state and national officers, as well as other neat women who are members.

**Resolve** to make AAUW views known through the resolutions members bring to the floor.

**Support** the Educational Foundation, the Legal Action Fund and Bina Roy and have fun doing it while you hear the stories of the women we support.

**Examine** a world issue with American implications as we learn about trafficking in women and girls (It isn't just in other places.)

**Take home** historical tidbits as we celebrate 125 years of AAUW.

**Find out** the latest news on economic equity for women and education funding reform.

**Learn with Lisa** as she helps and tells us about grass roots organizing and gives us the national picture on economic equity for women.

**And much more!** Gathering, considering, increasing understanding, noshing and eating, having fun and learning. Watch your local newsletters as we firm up the details.

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## 2006 NYS Emerging Leader Award

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

Each New York State branch is being asked to submit the name of an emerging leader who will be recognized at the 2006 State Convention. This award is presented to branch leaders who are first term board members or officers or AAUW members for less than 3 years, who demonstrate leadership potential through their enthusiasm, creative ideas, and commitment to AAUW's mission.

Last year we recognized 12 new branch leaders who organized forums, chaired events, raised money for various causes, collected food and gifts for military personnel, started interest groups, and served in board positions.

Nomination forms will be sent to the president of each branch and are also available on the state website. Nominations must be postmarked by February 1, 2006 and mailed to: Mary Lou Davis, 125 Andrews Road, Lagrangeville, NY 12540.

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## Win-Win Connections

**Wanda Lancaster**,  
AAUW-NYS College/University Director  
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*Convention: A coming together for a particular purpose.* As we prepare for our 2006 convention in Saratoga Springs, let's keep in mind the purpose of our coming together - the AAUW Mission: Promoting equity for all women and girls, life long education and positive societal change. Through our college and university connections, we have a wonderful opportunity to live this mission. Get to know your local campus representatives. Hold a joint program. Invite students to attend convention! What better place to

introduce young women to the excitement and opportunity that AAUW affords!

I'm sure everyone who attended last year's convention at Turning Stone remembers the tremendous panel of college students discussing their issues. Not only did these young women enrich our program, but also they, in turn, were given the opportunity to learn about the passion and commitment of our AAUW members.

An AAUW connection with our colleges and universities offers everyone a genuine win-win situation. Our members are made aware of the problems and opportunities facing today's young women, and those young women get to benefit from our experiences and knowledge base. See you at convention and bring a young friend.

# Sharing The Vision In Branch Action

The District 2 Conference held in Geneseo on October 29 proved to be a valuable event for attendees. Three excellent speakers provided thought-provoking information on the topic of Economic Equity for Women.

Donna Seymour from the St. Lawrence Co. Branch spoke as co-author of the Economic Equity for Women Resolution that was presented and passed at the AAUW-NYS Convention in April 2005 at Turning Stone. Her excellent overview gave her reasoning behind the Resolution and the hope that we use it in developing our state AAUW programming activities.

Cynthia Oswald, President of the Livingston Co. Chamber of Commerce, spoke on economic opportunities for women in the area and in business.

Evelyn Effinger LaCroix addressed the Economics of Child Care in her capacity as Coordinator of Infant and Toddler Services at the NYS Child Care Coordinating Council in Albany. Website: [www.nyscccc.org](http://www.nyscccc.org)

All three speakers opened eyes regarding issues dealing with women's economic status and equity in the workforce. Following their presentations, they suggested ways to follow-up in developing branch programs and advocacy efforts.

During the Branch Dialog session, AAUW-NYS Membership VP Eileen Hartman explained various membership promotions and issues in the district. Donna Seymour outlined the Advocacy 101 workshop her branch had organized with AAUW-NYS Public Policy Director Betsy Forkas. She handed out copies of a resource CD created for the event to each of the branches in attendance, which included **Alfred-Hornell, Bath, Fairport, Greece, and Ontario County**. Those not represented were mailed handouts. From all the positive evaluations received, they missed a very thought-provoking program and meeting.

Fulton Montgomery Community College will host the first annual **Elizabeth Cady Stanton Symposium** on women's issues on **March 11, 2006**. Several members of the **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown** Branch are spearheading the event, aptly named for the great suffragette of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who was born and raised in Johnstown. Organized in partnership with the Business and Professional Women of Fulton and Montgomery, Soroptomist International, the YWCA of the Adirondack Foothills, and Fulton Montgomery College, the cost is being underwritten by NBT Bank with the sponsorship of Key Bank for workshop presenters. Workshop choices include rural women and government, financial resources and management skills, non-traditional and career change development, gender equity in education and the workplace, and women's health issues.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Helen DesFosses, Dean of the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at SUNY Albany, serves as President of the Albany City Council and is a commentator on public radio WAMC. She regularly lends her expertise on current local, national and international affairs, and has a history of involvement with AAUW, receiving the AAUW Coretta Scott King Award while completing her dissertation.

All members of AAUW-NYS branches and friends are invited to attend the March 11<sup>th</sup> event from 9:00 to 3:00 at Fulton Montgomery C. C. in Johnstown. The cost of registration, which includes workshops and lunch, is \$25. Organizers are seeking women entrepreneurs to set up displays of their businesses and services. Please contact Michele Acquaro for information and registration, 518/863-2417 or [acquaro@adelphia.net](mailto:acquaro@adelphia.net).

The **St. Lawrence County** Branch awarded its biennial Agent of Change to Bea Woodward of Potsdam for her service to community-based organizations; invited Public Policy Director Betsy Forkas to present Advocacy 101 to college students and community activists; co-sponsored a televised candidate debate; and continued its campaign of voter and issues education in the local newspapers. In September, the branch along with **Jefferson County** AAUW and area service providers and agencies collaborated on KIDS at RISK: A North Country Forum, to explore the stresses on young people.

"The District 3 conference, hosted by Syracuse Branch on September 24, provided an interesting mix of women from **Cortland, Ithaca, Mohawk Valley, Oswego, Skaneateles, Southern NY**, and our branch. Our silent auction raised \$300 for LAF. The panel discussion on membership included NYS Pres. Nancy Mion, VPs Diane Haney and Eileen Hartman, and Ann DiNicola, president of Mohawk Valley Branch. Utilize talents of new members soon to get them involved!

Susan Boland of the Matilda Joslyn Gage House spoke about the life of this foremother, whose early advocacy of separation of church and state put her at odds with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. NYS Past Pres. Pat Hogaboom spoke of her book, *Hope Chest*, born from a family reunion and legacy. "Women in the Military" was the topic of Capt. Roberta Comerford, Military Police Company, NY Army National Guard at Utica. This Syracuse Branch member appeared commanding in camouflage. While in uniform she is just "one of the guys", and never views being a woman as a problem. When disciplining to those in her command, she always asks to hear the other person's side, as they may have good reasons for their behaviors."

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## Selling AAUW!

**Betty Preble**, 716/662-0608  
*AAUW-NYS Communications Director*  
communications@aauw-nys.org

When was the last time you “sold” AAUW to a friend, neighbor, acquaintance, or stranger? I was reminded of this membership responsibility at the District I meeting as a couple of speakers told how they had taken advantage of the topic of a conversation to “sell” one of the actions and/or policies of AAUW. Hear people talking about the unfairness of the NYS school system funding? How about the problems and pay inequities that women face in the workplace? Or the obstacles faced by women trying to improve their lives through further education? Maybe the talk involved the lack of good role models for our young girls. AAUW is active and is working to improve every one of these situations – plus many more.

None of us agree with all the positions taken by the Association – but we all agree with most or we wouldn’t still be members. Look at the Association and state websites (aauw.org and aauw-nys.org) and see where you feel most comfortable. Then LISTEN to those around you. If they touch on one of your topics, find a way to introduce AAUW and its activities in that area. You’ll be selling both AAUW and your priorities – a win, win for all!

Think you’re not a salesperson? Maybe you can’t sell everything, but you CAN sell what’s important to YOU! Try it!

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## The Power of MAR

**Linda Haigh Tozier**, *AAUW MAR Director*

“AAUW POWER” is the theme of our 2006 Middle Atlantic Regional Conference to be held on March 18 and 19 at the Gateway Conference Center (Holiday Inn), Routes 22 and 512, Bethlehem, PA. Keynote speaker is Dr. Dana Lightman, whose Power Optimism workshop at Association Convention electrified her audience. Dr. Lightman will lead us in “Developing Leadership with a Positive Edge.” In the Town Hall we will share the powerful ways our Middle Atlantic states and branches are exploring AAUW’s new theme, **Education as the Gateway to Women’s Economic Security**. State Senator Lisa Boscola will address women’s political power at the pre-conference lunch, organized by the Lehigh Valley branches.

Registration deadline is March 8, with details available in January on the aauw-nys.org MAR link. The Gateway Conference Center costs \$89 per night, single/double rooms, when mentioning AAUW. The price, which includes lodging and continental breakfast, is only valid until February 18. To reserve your room, call the Gateway at 888/222-8512.

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## We Want To Hear From You!

**Helen Engel** and **Marilynn Smiley**, *AAUW-NYS Historians*  
315/343-9678 & 315/343-4803  
rengel@oswego.edu & smiley@oswego.edu

Each branch is unique, and every member has contributed to its history. Preservation of materials is a critical issue, not only for us as AAUW members, but also for the history of our individual communities and for future scholars. Keeping this in mind, we urge all branches to write or update existing histories and participate in the scrapbook project. (Ask your president about it!)

As state historians, we’re keeping a folder for each branch, to be placed in the AAUW archives at the University of Rochester. This will contain the name of the historian, location where branch archives are stored, a copy of your branch history, and other materials.

Be sure that your branch has completed the questionnaire previously sent to your president. Thanks to all that have sent us the completed form. We look forward to hearing from all of you and to receiving additional information. Feel free to contact us!



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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 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Washington, DC 20036

## Membership Recruitment

**Eileen Hartmann,**  
*AAUW-NYS Membership VP*

AAUW has provided branches with several options to reach out to the community and recruit new members. Whether you have recruited people with an associate's degree or a nursing diploma, a student who might serve on your board, or a friend with a bachelor's, masters, or another degree you have acted on opportunities to bring in additional members to our organization. Continue branch membership growth by considering the following actions:

\***Discover** what special talents, skills, interests, and areas of expertise new and sustaining members have and **connect** your new member(s) to your AAUW branch activities and to enthusiastic long term members. **Involve** your new members and **encourage** attendance at the spring convention as a goal. **Recognize and honor** a new branch member as an Emerging Leader in April in Saratoga Springs.

\* **Acknowledge** one of your sustaining members or a member of the community who shares the AAUW vision in a branch awards ceremony and invite an audience of all ages.

\* Use a visually effective idea. **Order** business cards from Shop AAUW so that you can provide an instant way to be remembered no matter where you discuss AAUW.

\* **Reach out** to other local branches to form an Interbranch Council. **Organize** an annual program that brings together members from all local branches and allows you additional clout in providing a large audience for a speaker and more publicity potential.

\* **Match** your members one to one with college students to achieve a goal set by your branch and to connect with each other on equity issues.

\* **Exhibit** passion for the AAUW mission. Keep informed by accessing [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) or by reading AAUW publications.

\* **Share** some fun with your AAUW friends!

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](http://www.nysmokefree.com)

