



Sharing the Vision

AAUW: A Leading Voice For Women

Nancy Mion, AAUW-NYS 2005-2006 President
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Being your New York State president for the last two years has been a wonderful experience. I've had the opportunity to lead our state in meeting the challenges of fulfilling our AAUW Mission. Underlying all my actions was the desire to share my enthusiasm and dedication to AAUW. I wanted you to feel good about yourselves and your involvement in AAUW, our significant organization that is a leading voice for women in America. I feel I have succeeded.

NYS received the AAUW 21st Century Platinum Award for 2005-2006. Achieving this honor is a tribute to the members, branches and state. It acknowledges NYS's commitment to our Mission.

This issue of the *FOCUS* is a celebration of our achievements. Outstanding branches, programs, membership advances, contributions, communications, and more are presented. Emerging leaders are featured, too. The state has been there to help you along the way.

A NYS Board Task Force created a Marketing AAUW-NYS Packet. It is chock full of ideas for reaching out, especially to campuses. Each branch has one. The NYS posters, brochures and bookmarks are eye-catching. It is a great new tool.

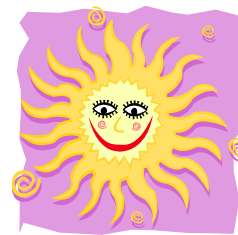
As I pass the leadership of AAUW-NYS on to Diane Haney, I am secure in the knowledge that she and her Board will continue to move AAUW forward into the future.

"Thanks to all our combined efforts NYS won the AAUW 21st Century Platinum Award. Hurrah!! You are the greatest AAUWers." -Nancy Mion

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NYS 2006 Summer Leadership Conference
AAUW 101 (And Fun)
Delta Lake Conference Center,
Rome, NY
July 14-16, 2006



Come and help plan for the future of New York State, 2006-2008. Meet leaders, develop skills, and make NYS strong, bold and effective. Two leaders from each branch are urged to attend. Others will be accommodated as space permits.

Contact: Eileen Skaggs ejskaggs11750@hotmail.com
or 631/472-2291 for reservations by 7/1/06; also
aauw-nys.org

Emerging Leader Awards For 2006

Mary Lou Davis, AAUW-NYS District Director
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Fifteen women were nominated as Emerging Leaders of their branches. They demonstrated their leadership potential through their enthusiasm, creative ideas and commitment to the AAUW's mission. The Emerging Leaders for 2006 are:

Kathleen A. Hoeltzel, Adirondack, currently Corresponding Secretary, Co-President elect. She helped with the auction and presents book reviews. Her observations led to board problem-solving.

Julianne Clouthier, Amsterdam-Gloversville- Johnstown, Public Policy Chair, helped with the Sister to Sister Summit and started a Young Member special interest group after attending the National Convention.

Katherine B. Gill, Bath, Program Vice-President, portrays an early pioneer woman doctor in the community project, "Oh, What Did Susan B. Do?" and created large portraits of the women as stage props.

Kristin Bojanowski, Buffalo, is Publicity Chair and leads the College Bound program for 7th and 8th grade girls.

Pam Neely, Fairport, co-chaired the Legal Advocacy Fund events for the branch, including a gourmet dinner at her home.

Alexandra Hennessy, Huntington, arranged a Christmas Dinner, was a speaker for a meeting, helped with hospitality, and participated in the Excellence in Science Awards and the Book and Author Luncheon.

Linda Gibson, Islip, works in the Bay Shore Soup Kitchen and is willing to take on any assigned task. She will be a member of the board next year.

Garnette Arledge, Kingston, Vice-President for Programming and newsletter Editor, arranged for two newspaper publishers to speak to a public audience.

Lisa Wilson, New York City, Treasurer and a member of the Apple Kores, was on the Pay Equity Committee and will be Volunteer Coordinator at the Expanding Your Horizons Conference on Math, Science and Technology for 7th grade girls.

Hilary Neretich, North Shore, Recording Secretary and Co-Chairperson of the Evening Literature group, introduced members to the VIAL FOR LIFE Information Packet, and is planning a fund raiser for LAF.

Jill Edmonds, Poughkeepsie, Co-Vice President for Program, writes a regular column on environmental issues for the branch newsletter and is very involved in other community projects. She planned programs on estuarine research of the Hudson River and environmental issues of the Hudson Valley.

Kari Smoker, Rochester, chair of the Women Helping Girls Project, reviewed the by-laws, the governing rules, the confidentiality policy and the insurance regulations, and helped with grant writing practices.

Rosalind Maxwell, Rockland, Vice President of Program and Diversity Committee member, initiated a fund raiser with Barnes and Noble.

Judy McGinn, Skaneateles Area, helped with Voter Registration, organized a Candidates Forum, established a Public Policy Committee, and is currently offering support to form an Environmental Committee.

Linda Rey, Westchester, started the Business Networking Interest Group and is Co-Chair of the Branch's 50th Anniversary Celebration. She was honored as "Business Woman of the Year" by the Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

AAUW-NYS OFFICERS 2006-2007

Diane Haney: New President

Jann Mirchandani: New Program Vice President

Tamara Brown: New Educational Foundation VP

Connie Pilato: New *FOCUS* Director

AAUW - Making a Difference for Women and Girls for 125 Years

Linda Haigh Tozier, AAUW-NYS Director
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Established on November 28, 1881, AAUW will be celebrating its 125th anniversary for the next fourteen months. The "125 Years – A Legacy of Leadership" logo can be downloaded from the Association website for all to use. A pin designed by Lucinda will be

Success Is Contagious

Phyllis Anderson, AAUW-NYS Educational Foundation Vice President
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The NYS Convention was wonderful! It was delightful to hear so many good speakers, to see friends from around the state, and to participate in workshops that will make our branches more effective! The weather was perfect for enjoying the beauty of the grounds. Our Eleanor Roosevelt Walk raised \$1716. The prizes went to **Carolyn Lippmann** from North Shore Branch, who collected \$360, **Patti Carey** from Skaneateles Branch who collected \$355, and **Peggy Kelland** from Poughkeepsie Branch with \$235. Thanks to everyone who walked and registered for note cards, too.

The Branches who were recognized for their outstanding support in 2005 are:

Buffalo	\$15,050
Ithaca	\$6,956
Islip	\$6,703
North Shore	\$5,695
Westchester County	\$5,162
Smithtown	\$3,200
Schenectady	\$2,713
Garden City	\$2,010
New York City	\$1,697
Southern NY	\$1,610

Eleven Branches met the goal of \$25 per member.

Ithaca	\$115.93
Buffalo	\$66.89
Islip	\$62.64
Smithtown	\$49.23
Oswego	\$47.50
Fairport	\$45.76
North Shore	\$31.64
Westchester	\$29.50
Albany	\$27.25
Queens	\$27.17
Southern	\$25.97

It has been my pleasure to serve for four years as your EF VP. In parting, I encourage every branch to try a new fund raiser next year. The Islip Branch celebrated Women's History Month by honoring those who had an impact on their lives. For \$25, a woman was sent a nice card and her name was featured on a display. Over \$300

was raised in a few weeks without a lot of hard work. For more information, contact Bobbe Fortunato at bobbef@juno.com. Thanks for all your efforts for the Educational Foundation!

Thank you to Nancy, Evvie and all of the members of the board for their support and the opportunity to serve our members as Director of Equity.
-Pat Thompson

Branch Action

New York City Branch Black History Chair, Dr. Nkechi Agwu, won a Special Projects Award from New York State for "The Legacy of Rosa Parks and Pan-Africanism," which extended the usual celebration of black history at our branch from a single program in February to a multi-month observance from January to May this year. It began with a remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. and continued with tributes to Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King. Students from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, faculty from the City University of New York and various community groups participated, attracting a diverse audience. In addition, Dr. Agwu wove black history into AAUW monthly interest groups in literature and drama.

We had a special Diversity Program in February with a reading by Sujoya Roy, author of the novel, *For Ganesh, Remover of Obstacles*, a fictionalized account of her mother's life. Ms. Roy described how her mother, an Educational Foundation International Fellow, became the first woman to attend Princeton University through the intervention of AAUW. An Indian lunch, prepared by Annie Segan, our Diversity Chair, was served and a classical Indian dancer performed.

The **Greater Rochester Area Branch** hosted two "Table Talks" this spring. They included Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks, and Rochester Deputy Mayor Patty Malgieri. The Branch also sent Bettie Lindley to the Rochester Summit on Citizen Diplomacy. Members are revising the Branch's by-laws to keep them in conformity with the state and national, and updating the policy file and the operations Manual. At the state convention the Branch presented information about the Women Helping Girls program, and the Open World program.

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Congratulations and Thank You

Diane Haney, AAUW-NYS Program Vice President
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The best of the best branches, otherwise known as the 21st Century Awards, were very hard to judge this year because so many branches had really outstanding projects and initiatives. I asked two people to make sure my judging criteria were fairly applied. All of the branches listed did truly outstanding work this year. Please give congratulations to the **2006 21st Century Award Winners:**

PLATINUM AWARD:

Buffalo

GOLD AWARDS:

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnston
New York City
Poughkeepsie
Westchester

SILVER AWARDS:

Adirondack
Bath
Elmira-Corning
Huntington
Islip Area
Mid Island
North Shore
Oswego
Skaneateles

Once again outstanding ideas were given Sunday morning at Celebrate AAUW! Nancy Shadd and Rose Ann Szczepanik, Fairport, spoke about Planning for Membership Growth. Nan Scinta and Linda Campopiano, Adirondack, described their Fifth Grade Essay Contest on Notable Women, modeled after Smithtown's program. Debby Benzinger, Islip Area, explained Fund-raising, Islip Style. Islip has many small events which when added together total contributions to high numbers. Beverly Vaughan, Greater Rochester, told of her branch's long-time program of Welcoming Russian Women. Patti Carey, Skaneateles, presented Celebrating Women in the Arts, designed to make an impact on the community, but which evolved into a money maker. Five nifty ideas were shared! If you are interested in one of them and have trouble contacting the presenters, let me know.

Thank you to everyone who made the convention a success - way too many to list by name. Thank you also for a wonderful two years as program VP. It has been exciting, educational, time-consuming, a true adventure, and a whole lot of fun.

Thanks for Compliance With Branch Bylaws

Loreen Ginnitti, AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws
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Branch officers, please remember that whenever you wish to make changes in your bylaws that have NOT come from Association Delegate action, they must first be approved by the NYS Secretary/Bylaws Director. I will then check them for conflict with NYS and Association bylaws. Please do this after your board approves the changes but BEFORE presenting them to the membership. If you send them electronically, there is usually a one-day "turn-around". If your branch has bylaws questions or needs bylaws assistance feel free to contact me. A big thank you to all branches that complied with the membership bylaws change by the March deadline. I know that making this bylaws change seemed like tedious "busy work" but was mandated by you, the Association Convention Delegates.

In addition to corresponding with branch treasurers statewide and working with dedicated AAUW-NYS board members, as treasurer I relished the opportunity to enhance my computer skills in Quickbooks and Excel.
-Mary King

Honoring Branches That Share

Betty Preble, AAUW-NYS Communications
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The AAUW year draws to a close – with that comes the opportunity to honor branches which have gone the extra mile to share our vision during 2005-2006. I am pleased to name several branches that have done great jobs with their newsletters – they are attractive, informative and inspiring. The branches named as having newsletters of excellence are **Adirondack, Alfred-Hornell, Bath, Buffalo, Elmira-Corning, Greater Rochester Area, Huntington, Jefferson County, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, New York City, North Shore, Rockland County, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Skaneateles, Southern New York and Syracuse.** In addition, the following branches actually had perfect scores according to the judging criteria – **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Islip Area, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Smithtown and Westchester.** Congratulations to them all!

I was delighted to see the number of branches that are embracing the new technologies – starting with webpages and e-mail communications. Almost half the branches use these communication avenues, the tip of the iceberg as far as possibilities go – **Adirondack, Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Bath, Buffalo, East Hampton, Elmira-Corning, Fairport Area, Greater Rochester Area, Huntington, Islip Area, Ithaca, Jefferson County, North Shore, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, St. Lawrence County, Skaneateles, Smithtown, Southern New York and Westchester.**

Congratulations to all these branches and thanks to all of you for a wonderful and successful two years!

2006 Peacock Award Winners

Erna Cunningham, AAUW-NYS Diversity Dir.
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This award recognizes programming with a diversity component. The multicolored feathers of the peacock symbolize the varied members in our community. Attracting a diverse membership through programming is the major goal.

Platinum: **Buffalo, New York City.**

Gold: **North Shore, Poughkeepsie, Schenectady.**

Silver: **Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Bath, Islip Area, Mid-Island.**

Legal Advocacy Fund News

Cheryl Papa, AAUW-NYS LAF VP
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We were fortunate to have had Dr. Michael Burch speak at the Legal Advocacy Fund Luncheon at the AAUW-NYS convention. He related his experiences at the University of California at Davis. By defending women's rights to participate in wrestling, retaliation resulted. His case is still pending. Such courageous ardent defenders are needed to advance equity for women.

SUC@Geneseo is the first recipient of the College Program funded by the Evvie Currie Giving Circle. Funds raised through this circle are spent proactively for Campus Outreach in NYS to address issues of sex discrimination and harassment. Just indicate your wish on your donation to still contribute to this fund.

Congratulations to every NYS branch on achieving one of our major goals - 100% branch participation. Thanks to your generous 2005 donations to LAF, our total is \$31,755.18, a 19% increase from 2004. Thirty-five branches reached the Association's goal of \$5.00 or more per member. Twenty-four branches reached the NYS goal of increasing LAF donations by 5%. The top ten branches in NYS for total contributions were: **Schenectady, Islip Area, Westchester County, Buffalo, Poughkeepsie, Mid-Island, Southern New York, Smithtown Area, Elmira-Corning, and Fairport Area.** The top ten branches in NYS in per capita contributions were: **Islip Area, Schenectady, Fairport Area, Oswego, Westchester County, Albany, Mid-Island, Smithtown Area, Southern New York, and Queens NY.** I extend my sincere thanks to every member choosing to support our mission. We couldn't have done it without you.

If we wish to promote equity for women, prevent harassment, and deal with situations where harassment and discrimination have occurred, we need to continue to support AAUW's LAF, litigants such as Dr. Burch, and Campus Outreach. We must continue to forge ahead on the path of equality that our suffragette sisters initiated.

Membership Matters

Eileen S. Hartmann,

AAUW-NYS Vice President Membership

585/924-4876 telcali@aol.com

Awards for Membership Growth from March 31, 2005, to March 31, 2006, in NYS:

Fairport Area Branch: 24.0%

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown: 13.7%

Alfred-Hornell: 12.0%

Westchester County: 11.0%

Staten Island: 9.2%

Cortland: 8.8%

Skaneateles Area: 7.9%

Poughkeepsie: 7.6%

New York City: 6.2%

North Shore: 6.2%

Islip Area: 2.8%

Huntington: 2.2%

Adirondack: 1.4%

Congratulations to all branches on your successful efforts to grow the branches!

At the NYS convention in April a marketing plan to make college students and faculty aware of AAUW was piloted. Colorful and dynamic print materials were given to branch representatives to take to local campuses and begin the process of getting the AAUW name and issues in sight. An entire packet of materials was distributed to convention attendees (or mailed to branch leaders) and can be used for college as well as other group recruitment. Use your imagination along with the packet contents!

All branch members are pivotal in growing AAUW. Join your branch efforts, plan recruitment tactics to make an impact based upon those statistics, and keep AAUW going strong. Keeping your own membership current is critical, but recruitment of those under 55 years old is urgent. You will benefit immensely by bringing in branch members from diverse backgrounds. Think of all you can gain! According to the Association, in late June there will be a launch of a membership initiative called **“AAUW: Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-A-Member Campaign”**. The primary key to this campaign will be personal involvement by every member to bring new individuals in to AAUW. Recruiting new members will result in rewards for individual efforts.

As you renew, remember that Association dues for fiscal year 2006-07 are \$45.00. Dues collected April 1, 2006, or

after are at the 2006-07 rate and are paid through June 30, 2007. That's 15 months of membership for the cost of 12 months and a good message to pass along to potential members.

Thank you for all you do for AAUW. Please contact me at any time for assistance or to share your ideas.

It has been a quick two years of teaching/learning as NYS Focus director. Thanks to mentors Nancy and Betty and communications with all the Board members, I'm better prepared "to walk the [mission] and talk the [vision]".

-Ann Marie Finch



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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 betty6935@adelphia.net

Fall Issue Deadline: August 1, 2006
Winter Issue Deadline: October 31, 2006

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unveiled at the late-June Conference of State Leaders. Next fall each state will be requested to design a square for an anniversary quilt. The celebration culminates at the 2007 Association Convention in Phoenix, “Expanding a Legacy of Leadership”, from June 30 to July 2, 2007. Look for the complete anniversary calendar of activities in the spring ‘06, fall ‘06 and spring ‘07 issues of *Outlook*. At the successful MAR Conference in March, New York State was well represented by seven of the fifty-two registrants. During Sunday’s MAR Town Hall, Sally Chamberlain, EF Director, presented much information impacting the future of AAUW based on what AAUW looks like today:

- Four generations are represented in our membership
- 12% of AAUW’s branch members are under the age of 55
- AAUW’s membership numbers and contributions are down
- EF remains the world’s largest source of funding for graduate women
- EF’s groundbreaking research on gender inequity in education continues with the recent release of “Drawing the Line: Building a Harassment Free Campus”
- LAF, a program of EF, recently adopted its 100th plaintiff case challenging sex discrimination on campus
- Technology has changed the way we communicate
- By 2040, 50% of the United States will be minority; currently 8% of AAUW’s branch members are minority
- Our world is changing as we read this message

Every branch is invited to be part of the strategic planning process to position AAUW for the future. It’s not too late for your branch to participate in a Values Discussion. You can participate in the Values Discussion online, via email or snail mail. Responses may be mailed to AAUW Values Discussion at the Association Office, 1111 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 or emailed to strategic_process@aauw.org. Every member can participate as an individual member in the Discussion Board online at <http://discuss.aauw.org>.

The State of NYS International Affairs

Joan Monk, AAUW-NYS International Affairs Director
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Although the state of international affairs in the world is often tenuous, that is NOT the case in New York State. For the past four years, we have surpassed our goal of one dollar per member and I know we will do that again this year. To date, we have funded 23 Bina Roy projects and raised more than \$10, 097.92. I would be remiss if I didn’t highlight the Kingston Branch for their dedication to international women and girls by funding six of these projects themselves. Thank you, Kingston for your outstanding support of the Bina Roy Fund. The success we have achieved is a direct response to our themes and this year was no exception. At the luncheon on Sunday, the “dark horse” took home the blue ribbon. The weekend prize was raffled off here because \$639.36 was raised on the spot. Thanks to all those who participated making this such a big success. Our fundraising theme for this year was “In the human race, be a winner – make a difference!” And we did just that at this year’s convention.

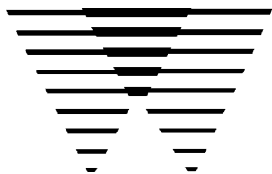
The response to our first International Affairs award was tremendous! Ten branches participated with twelve innovative and creative projects that promote awareness, advocacy and action. It was a great pleasure to honor these branches for their outstanding work:

IA ++ Awareness and Advocacy

- Islip Area Branch – “Understanding the Problems of the World”
- Greater Rochester Branch – “GRAB AAUW – Russian Visit”
- Garden City Branch – “A World Out of Balance Television Show”
- Poughkeepsie Branch – “Effects of Globalization Upon Women in India & Mexico”
- Syracuse Branch – “Women in Politics”

IA +++ Awareness, Advocacy and Action

- Adirondack Branch – “Pure Water for the World”
- Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown Branch – “A Focus on Women’s Health”
- Buffalo Branch – “5th Annual International Discussion on Women’s Rights”
- New York City Branch – “Trafficking II: A Global Human Rights Violation”
- Westchester Branch – “My Experience in Iraq” by Dr. Hind Rassam Culhane



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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, DC 20036

Fall District Conferences Coming Your Way

Mark your calendar to reserve the date to meet with AAUW members from branches in your area. The focus will be on the new theme: "Education is the Gateway to Women's Economic Security". Branches will be exchanging ideas and how-to's for their action projects.

- **Districts 1:** October 14, tentative
- **Districts 2, 4, 6, and 7:** TBA
- **District 3:** October 14, Center for the Arts, Homer
- **District 5:** October 14, NYC AAUW House

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



Branch Action

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Westchester Branch held a 50th Anniversary Celebration at Chappaqua's Kittle House on June 7. Guest speaker Nancy Rustad, AAUW 2001-2005 President, addressed the attending branch members, guests, and sponsors. Proceeds from this Golden Anniversary Event will be used to help keep our over 200 members' dues from increasing, fund special programs of our active branch, and pay for extra expenses incurred by this special event.

Cooperation is the keyword for AAUW activities with other area groups to promote community welfare. This year **Mohawk Valley Branch** has co-sponsored meetings and participated in voter registration with the League of Women Voters, rang the bells for two days for the Salvation Army and volunteered at the Festival of Lights for the Resource Center for Independent Living. We had joint fund raisers with Alpha Delta Kappa, AARP, and BPW for scholarships for the community, AAUW EF and the LAF. We expanded our information on women in non-traditional jobs such as fire fighting and GPS technologies.