



MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

VISION STATEMENT

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

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IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

by Diane Haney, AAUW-NYS President
president@aauw-nys.org / (516) 248-0476



It's true: It is time to celebrate! Not only at the upcoming convention, but right now! First, congratulations to us all for strong membership numbers statewide. In December, we had a gain of over 3% and, in a time when many states are losing 5 or 10%, this shows that we are doing something right! Today we gained a hair; tomorrow we want the whole wig.

Eileen Hartmann has done a fine job, but she could not do it alone. **Branch membership chairs and individual members have been working hard for along time, and the effort is paying off.** Raising branch membership is hard, and raising it statewide represents true dedication.

Very special congratulations to the **Rockland Branch** with a 55% gain. This is a stunning achievement! **District One** has achieved positive gain in every branch, with a 12% gain for the district as a whole. Thank you, too, to those branches who have submitted names for the Keys to the Future Hall of Fame program: **Amsterdam-Gloversville Johnstown, Islip Area, Kingston, New York City, North Shore, Southern New York, and Staten Island.** National champion at the moment is **Betty Nitzky** of Kingston with 12 new members to her credit. She is receiving a gift certificate from the Association. Good work, Betty! How do you join the Hall of Fame? Include the referring member's membership number on the new member's application.

More successes: Issues supported by our Public Policy program have been moving forward. **Of nine early appointments made by then-Governor-elect Spitzer, five went to women.** A comparable worth study will be made on Long Island, Governor Pataki signed Timothy's Law legislation providing mental health coverage for children, and equitable school funding now has a chance. **Nancy Mion**, who is now working on more issues, reminds to keep those calls, letters and emails coming. We do make a difference. And, as congress heats up, be sure to visit the Two Minute Activist at www.aauw.org to inform congress of our national priorities.



Congratulations to the **College of Staten Island, CUNY**, team which won a CAP grant from AAUW's Leadership and Training Institute for a project for college women to mentor girls 13-17 on money management and non-traditional careers. They are planning workshops and on-campus events.

By reading your branch newsletters, I feel I am better informed. It truly amazes me how much I learn. They are newsy, interesting and increasingly very good-looking. **Rochester, Jamestown and Westchester** are especially notable. Many branches are not yet using the new mission statement which is now appropriate. Please remember to do so.

(Continued on page 2.)

Celebrate!

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, at our April convention we will have a super keynote speaker on Friday evening in **Sally Chamberlain** who is knowledgeable, provocative and witty. Another highlight will be the 21st Century Awards—reasons to celebrate indeed. More program details of this splendid event, planned by **Jann Mirchandani**, **Michelle Acquaro**, and their crew will be found throughout this *Focus*.

There are many good reasons for attending a convention. It is a chance to honor the achievements of the year. It increases our sense of who we are. Together we choose the future direction of AAUW in New York. And, last but not least, it is fun! I look forward to seeing many of you in April

EXCEPTIONAL SPEAKERS SET FOR AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION

AAUW is always delighted to feature speakers on a wide array of issues, ranging from educational challenges abroad to the opportunities that continue to develop for women in America.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano has been invited to address attendees on opening day of the 2007 National Convention in Phoenix.

To learn more about the convention's respected speakers and awardees, go to <http://www.aauw.org/convention/Conv2007/SpeakersAwardees.cfm>



ASSOCIATION NEWS

EXPANDING OUR LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP: AAUW's BOLD MOVE INTO THE FUTURE

Members have spoken. AAUW's boards have listened. And now your support is needed.

For 125 years, AAUW has been advancing equity for women and girls through education, advocacy, philanthropy, and research—and through community action by strong branches throughout the country.

During the past 18 months, AAUW and the Education Foundation have been engaged in an extensive strategic process to address shared challenges and opportunities. More than 11,000 members' voices were incorporated through surveys, online conversations, and discussions at the branch, state, regional, and national levels. Several principal findings have emerged as the result of this process:



1. **Members' commitment to promoting equity for women of all ages is as strong as ever.**

We continue to work on issues that affect women today, because equity is still an issue. To focus our strength and reaffirm our commitment, the AAUW and Education Foundation boards have adopted a single, shared mission that encompasses the legacy of both:

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

2. **We need to adapt AAUW's organizational structure to meet current and future challenges.**

The strategic process found AAUW's current structure a barrier to attracting new members, strengthening our revenues, and accomplishing our mission. The boards heard the members' voices that we need to adapt our structure as a necessary first step toward reclaiming our legacy as a relevant, vibrant organization.

3. **AAUW needs your engaged support now and your vote at the Association Convention in June.**

We *must* adapt our structure and send a mandate to the new boards for immediate, bold action to move forward. Please take time to research the proposed structural changes for yourself and talk with other members at the local level about our collective direction.

Visit the AAUW website and click the Strategic Process link on the main homepage at <http://www.aauw.org>.

- Read the Joint Boards' Report (October 31, 2006).
- Study the chart outlining the proposed bylaws changes to be voted on at the Association Convention.
- Get your questions answered and the facts by bookmarking, visiting, and revisiting the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

In addition, contact your branch and state leaders as well as others who will be voting at Association Convention and let them know you support the proposed changes.

Let's support the proposed bylaw changes and send a clear, strong message to the new board members. Let's tell them we're ready to put them to work to reenergize and refocus the AAUW we love and to which we've given so much, because we do know that equity is still an issue!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Helen Engel and Marilyn Smiley, AAUW NYS Co-Historians

Ah yes, I remember it as if it were yesterday....

Women Making a Difference

Think of all the prominent women in our state who fit into that category! To honor them, NYS AAUW is planning to compile their biographies in a book. This is a project in which every branch and every member can participate. If you have not already started this project, plan a meeting of the branch or of interested members to brainstorm names of women worthy of inclusion. Here are some suggested procedures:



- Identify several prominent women in your community or area who have made a difference. Include women from the past or present, AAUW members or non-AAUW members. List as many as possible.
- Choose one or more women from your list and find biographical information

about them.

- Write a 1-3 page biography of each which includes her accomplishments and contributions. Be sure to document all sources.
- Send the biographies to the NYS AAUW historians by June 1, 2007.

For the next year, 2007-2008, choose one or more different women from your list and follow the steps above. Ongoing projects include scrapbooks and oral histories. Branches are encouraged to utilize these tools to record and preserve their histories.

Scrapbooks:

- Displays of scrapbook pages at the NYS Convention are enjoyed by attendees and help to highlight branch accomplishments.
- Copies of branch scrapbook pages will be taken in June to the AAUW NYS Archives at the University of Rochester, where they will be preserved.



Oral Histories:

- Continue to interview branch members and tape their recollections of important branch projects, events, issues, and memories about people, places and things..
- Archive both the tape and a hard copy in your branch archives.
- Share these interviews with others.



If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at (315) 343-4803 (Marilyn) or (315) 343-9678 (Helen).

FOCUS ON MISSION

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS Program Vice President / (914) 245-8568

When the NYS Board met in November, there was a statement placed on the wall under the new mission statement that really spoke to me: "*Every meeting that does NOT focus on education and equity diffuses the mission for members and external audiences and potential members.*" I believe it originated in a missive from the Association, but I feel it is something we should take as our own.

The new mission statement reads: "**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.**" Depending on whom you ask, you will receive a different answer to the question "What is the key word?" Yet, while we may each focus on different aspects of the mission, it is the mission on which we should focus. Our mission is our *raison d'etre*.

Program planners must ask themselves whether the mission is the focus of their meeting or event. If not, how can the mission be incorporated? How can they advance equity for women and girls through their efforts?

If the mission is not an integral part of the event, members, and arguably more important, guests and non-members, do not get an accurate picture of who we are and what we do. This only serves to dilute our message and our efficacy as an organization.

Quick Hint: start each meeting with a recitation of the mission. Much like we recited the Pledge of Allegiance in school or sing the national anthem at ball games, we can reinforce to ourselves and guests what AAUW means.

I will continue to include Quick Hints with my communications as a means to share some of the great ideas passed along to me by individuals and branches. Feel free to contact me.



PASSIONATE ABOUT AAUW? PASS IT ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION

By Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS VP Membership / (585) 924-4876

As I write this, I am celebrating my 59th birthday and have been an AAUW member for 33 of those years. I feel passionate about AAUW.

My daughter is 29 and is an AAUW member. She has known her entire life about our organization and the message of turning topics into action.

Life for her is both similar and different from mine at 29. I had already retired from teaching for the first time at her age and she is building her career, but there are similarities which I ponder when considering how all of us must pass along the AAUW mission to the next generation and keep our membership intact.

At 29, my daughter and I both had college degrees and had used them to earn a living, immersed ourselves in knowledge about community people and actions both locally and globally, faced concerns about world conflicts and leaders, and struggled to find time and methods to relax! She is passionate about the state of the world, its people, and its many complicated issues. She works in an environment which allows her to have a positive impact on the quality of life for people in our community, but has less time or inclination to volunteer than I had at 29.

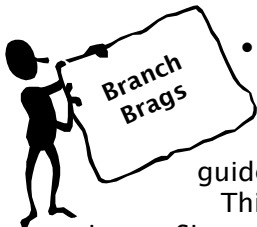
She is not unlike many of her generation. AAUW is working hard to speak to her and others her age by focusing on leadership training, pay equity actions, methods which can be used to combat discrimination, the value of communication, and by continuing to encourage women to realize the power of advocacy at home or in the workplace. In our branches, each of us, as AAUW members, must reach out and talk about these topics, our common concerns, and potential actions, with young women in order to connect.

Passion passes along to the next generation. Use it to keep AAUW alive and celebrating.

AAUW NYS CONVENTION: SARATOGA SPRINGS, HERE WE COME!

Registration for the NYS AAUW 2007 Convention in Saratoga Springs is currently in progress. Reserve your place now to begin to shape NYS AAUW for the future. We will be electing officers, hearing about Association initiatives, and speaking with litigants and women making changes in our world. We will have fun, camaraderie and good food. **April 27-29** are the dates and the **Gideon Putnam Resort and Hotel** is the location. Registration materials are available from your branch president or on the NYS website.

A number of events require pre-registration, including the Friday and Saturday afternoon art and shopping tours of Saratoga Springs and the creation of theme baskets for an auction benefiting the Legal Advocacy Fund. See your conference materials for more information and registration forms.



- **BRANCH EXHIBIT AREA** / A display in the exhibit area at the NYS AAUW Convention is a popular way for each branch to share accomplishments, ideas and wares with other branches. The Branch Exhibit Area is a place for members to meet people from other parts of the state and enjoy a spirit of camaraderie as they share information and ideas. The guidelines are few and the rewards are many.

This year each branch is encouraged to reserve a half-table for displays, handouts and sale items. Since the hotel charges for additional tables, if a branch needs more than ½ table, the charge will be \$5 per ½ table. Keep in mind that the Branch Exhibit Area is unsecured. Display posters should be free-standing or on a storyboard. Look for more details and the registration form in your conference materials.

- **ANNUAL EF FUN WALK/TREASURE HUNT** / On Saturday afternoon, April 29, we will have the eighth Fun Walk for the Educational Foundation (EF). We all know what a treasure EF is for many women and girls. This year, you'll have a chance for a little fun while you stroll and search for treasure!

To make this a success, we need 100% participation. We ask that at least one member or team from each branch participate. All EF chairs are asked to join members walking in this effort. We need all of you! For those who cannot take part in the actual walk itself, there is the virtual (paper version) treasure hunt. Either way, it'll be fun for all and everyone's efforts will benefit EF!

Awards will be presented to the walkers who raise the most funds and who find the most correct answers for the Treasure Hunt.

To get started, fill out and mail in the registration form found in the convention information packet. Your \$10 registration fee includes walk materials and a special AAUW gift. Please make your check payable to "AAUW NYS EF".

Please get as many people to sponsor you as you can. Checks should be made out to "AAUW Educational Foundation." This way your sponsors will be making a tax-deductible EF donation. Your branch will receive credit for any money you raise. This is an easy way to raise EF funds for 2007.



LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND NEWS

by Cheryl Papa, AAUW-NYS LAF VP / cbpapa528@yahoo.com / (607) 748-6075

Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) contributions have more than doubled since November. I had hoped our total would surpass that of 2005, but I know how hard so many of you worked towards this effort and I am grateful for your support of the mission.

Why are your dollars so important? While progress has been made, women continue to be targets of sex discrimination. The only way equality will be achieved is through education and legal precedents. As the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education, we must remain vigilant to bring about that change. Your funding of the Case Support and Campus Outreach programs is vital.

Three updates will demonstrate the importance of your donations. Roderick L. Jackson, the girls' high school basketball coach at Birmingham, Alabama who was fired after complaining about inequitable treatment of his team, was recently reinstated as coach. This was made possible by the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision that one could claim for retaliation under Title IX. In the settlement, the school district also agreed to several steps to ensure equal treatment for female athletes in all its schools and programs.

Michael Burch, the wrestling coach at UC-Davis, reached a final settlement agreement with the University of California (UC) Regents on January 19 after a nearly four-year struggle with the school system.

Dr. Linda Brodsky, a medical doctor and tenured full professor at SUNY-Buffalo, is awaiting her tentatively scheduled trial to begin soon.

Each litigant has committed years to rectify an injustice. Little progress would be made without such courageous individuals. Your support, through LAF, is vital.

We are hoping to raise another \$10,000 for the Evvie Currie Giving Circle. All of the money raised for this fund remains in New York State as part of the Campus Outreach Program. The purpose of this initiative is to educate students and staff at colleges and universities about sex discrimination issues, share ways to address and prevent discrimination, and provide action steps toward creating a more equitable campus climate. LAF staff works with administrators, faculty, and students at the college/university to determine the best type of presentation and the specific issues to be addressed. Education is the key to prevention and elimination of discrimination. To support this cause, make your checks out to "AAUW LAF Evvie Currie Giving Circle".

LAF Baskets



Please plan on attending the LAF luncheon at the state convention on Saturday, April 28. Hearing the litigant's story is always an eye-opener. Discover which NYS college or university will be named as the second recipient of the Campus Outreach Program funded by the Evvie Currie Giving Circle. Encourage your branch to contribute baskets for our Silent Auction. Visit our Basket Room and bid!. I'll see you there.

DIVERSITY

by Joyce Clark Brown, AAUW-NYS Diversity Director / (845) 352-3275

In response to last year's historical number of natural disasters and their impact on people with disabilities, the Emergency Preparedness Initiative of the National Organization for Disabilities has launched a 12-month outreach, awareness and education series to encourage people with disabilities to better prepare themselves for emergencies. The calendar of suggested activities, however, is effective for everyone. Like Superman, most of us believe in the invincibility principle: If necessary, we will be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. However, true safety relies on careful planning.

Here's the calendar of activities. For more details visit the website www.nod.org/epi

January:	Become informed. For what kinds of disasters should you prepare? Hurricanes? Floods?
February:	Personal assessment. How self-reliant are you? From whom will you need support?
March:	Get involved. What agencies can provide training for you? How can you help or get help in the community?
April:	Identify your personal support network. They should be informed of your needs.
May:	Identify your sheltering options.
June:	Create your communication plan.
July:	Build your "Ready Kit" and "Go Bag".
August:	Summer Drill — Test what you've learned and prepared thus far.
September:	This is Prepare Your Pet or Service Animal Month
October:	National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Prepare at work.
November:	This is Ready While Traveling Month
December:	Year-End Review. Update your 11 months' accomplishments. Re-assess changes in your skill level. Revise your "Ready Kit" and "Go Bag".





BATH BRANCH CELEBRATES AAUW's 125th ANNIVERSARY: About 20 members of the Bath Branch celebrated in style on November 28 with a festive breakfast at a village restaurant. Mayor David Wallace joined the group, proclaiming it to be "AAUW Day". Charter members **Barbara Stewart** and **Joyce Benesh** also were in attendance.

Following the breakfast, festive teal-and-white AAUW balloons were distributed to local businesses along with greetings and information about the goals of AAUW. The event garnered the branch high visibility.

THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGING — NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

By Linda Haigh Tozier, AAUW Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) Director / (412) 369-5770

For the past 18 months, AAUW has been engaged in a strategic process that will enable us to achieve positive change. Over 11,000 members participated in the process.

In October, 2006, the Joint Boards of AAUW and the Foundation Directors adopted these Key Messages: a new Mission Statement, a Vision Statement, and Principles for Change. These three components address commitment to a single mission, transformation of the membership profile, and strategic restructuring of the organization.

Strategic Process Task Force Groups have begun work in five areas: Vision Focus, Membership, Organizational Structure and Governance, Due Diligence, and Internal Communications and Roll-out. MAR members are part of three task forces: **Sally Chamberlain** (EF Program VP) on Organizational Structure, **Susan Nenstiel** (former EF VP) on Vision Focus, and **Linda Tozier** on Membership.

Every AAUW member is urged to go to www.aauw.org to study the entire Strategic Process work and findings which are outlined under *Strategic Planning Process, Principles for Change, Draft Strategic Process Roadmap, Key Messages and Proposed By-Laws Changes*.

Ten Campus Action Project (CAP) Teams will be agents for change in 2007, and two are from the Middle Atlantic Region. The University of Maryland – Baltimore's "Helping Young Women Succeed Project" will create web-based tools to enhance academic and career advising and planning. Pennsylvania's Edinboro University's "Equal Pay Day Education Project" will use their findings to help female students make better informed decisions when selecting aca-

demical majors and career paths.

The Educational Foundation was awarded a five-year grant by the National Science Foundation for the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) to provide more opportunities by girls and young women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The Middle Atlantic Region is one of five regions included in the NGCP's first phase. MAR has been divided into two areas with **Elizabeth Vandenburg** of Virginia representing Maryland, DC, Delaware and Virginia and **Dot McLane** (AAUWPA current president) representing New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, April 28, at the NYS Convention, Sally Chamberlain will be presenting an informational workshop on AAUW's bold move into the future. Don't miss her keynote address. Have a wonderful convention in Saratoga Springs!

AAUW RESOURCES ARE THERE FOR YOU!

There is a lot going on throughout AAUW these days and in order to help members remain active and aware, there are many, many resources available.



Should you, for example, want to contact a New York State officer, refer to the directory mailed to your branch last summer. (Check with your branch president.)

If you want to get all the details on the upcoming state convention, visit the state website www.aauw-nys.org or revisit the last issue of *Focus* where you'll find proposed bylaws amendments and information on candidates for state offices.

If restructuring or bylaws changes on the national level are your interest or concern, check out the Strategic Process section at www.aauw.org and watch for the Spring/Summer 2007 *AAUW Outlook*.



MOVING FORWARD WITH PAY EQUITY

by Nancy Mion, AAUW-NYS Public Policy Director / (631) 472-9377

Our new Mission Statement: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research* reinforces our ongoing commitment to advocacy for equity. Now, it has officially become our focus. Pay equity is essential.

Did you know that college women 25 and older receive 75% of the pay of their male peers? An AAUW Educational Foundation research study, to be released this spring, points to several pivotal factors including field of study, decision to have children, and occupational choice.

At the 2007 NYS Convention, Dr. Evelyn Murphy, founder of The WAGE (Women Are Getting Even) Project, will talk about "Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What to Do About It". She'll also present a workshop, titled "Learning to Talk About Unfair and Inequitable Treatment at Work". Your branch and/or you can launch WAGE Clubs -- small groups of women who share personal stories about sex discrimination at work, gather information, build allies, and then go to the top to create change in their workplaces.

Equal Pay Day, April 24, brings attention to the fact that to match men's earnings for 2005, women have to work from January 2006 into April 2007 — an extra four months! Write your NYS Senator requesting support for the NYS Fair Pay Act which provides for equal pay for jobs with equal requirements, such as education and level of responsibility. There is also a provision that allows all employees, without fear of retaliation, to request the salaries of those doing the same work. A lack of access to salary information renders the state and federal equal-pay for equal-work laws useless.

The NYS Pay Equity Coalition (NYSPEC), of which AAUW NYS is a member, is planning a march from NYS Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno's Saratoga Springs office to Albany in April 2007. The purpose is to publicize the Senate's inactivity on the NYS Fair Pay Act. The NYS Assembly has passed the Act every year since 2002. But the Senate Republicans refuse to act on it.

You can help move **pay equity** forward. You do make a difference.

THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR NEW GATEWAYS

by Tamara Brown, AAUW-NYS Educational Foundation VP / ef@aauw.nys.org / (716) 649-9871

A Firm Foundation.... I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming state convention. Among other wonderful tasks, this convention gives us an opportunity to celebrate the firm foundation of the Educational Foundation (EF) and its place within the guiding theme of the Association.

First, on Saturday afternoon, join me for a bit of fun as we celebrate our *foundation* by putting our feet to the pavement -- literally or figuratively, your pick!

I am asking each branch to designate at least one representative (or a team) to participate in the EF Treasure Hunt and to solicit sponsors before the convention. Search for "treasures" as you take a stroll through the town. We'll give you the clues; you keep your eyes open along your stroll. See your convention materials for more information.

This promises to be fun for everyone! There is a virtual walk for those who cannot participate in the afternoon stroll. However you participate, your donations help to further cement the foundation of EF. After all, last year, *your* EF granted \$3.5 million to support over 300 fellows and organizations. Isn't that something that's worth our worth taking a stand?

New Gateways.... One such outstanding fellow is **Sequetta F. Wright** of Rochester. Ms. Wright will be our guest at Saturday evening's gala. I cannot suggest another fellow whose life and work so completely embodies our national direction -- education as the gateway to economic self-sufficiency for women. It's a long phrase, and Ms. Wright puts meaning to the words.

Ms. Wright, a recipient of an AAUW Career Development Grant, is a student at St. John Fisher College pursuing a Masters of Science degree in human resource development. After 22 years in the technical industry, she started her own technical training and personal development business. She'll use her degree to improve her business. In addition, Ms. Wright founded, and is managing director of, Reach Me Too! Knowledge Center, which provides free tutoring in all subjects to adults and inner-city students in grades K-12.

Join me as we hear Ms. Wright's personal embodiment of the national theme and how the Career Development Grant has allowed her to assist others to utilize education to create more gateways. I look forward to seeing each of you as we celebrate our Foundation!



AAUW
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

Education. . . Gateway . . . Economic Self-Sufficiency



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The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

The AAUW Educational Foundation advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

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.

**Attention postmaster: Dated Material.
Please do not delay.**

Important! All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th Street, N.W., Washington, CD 20036.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN: AN UPDATE

by Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS International Director / (845) 297-0507

Many AAUW members, especially those with an interest in international issues, have asked about the current state of affairs between AAUW and the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

The Association Board as stated that it has no way to pay the arrears due to IFUW to reinstate its membership, nor does it have the income to pay future dues. As a result, AAUW membership in IFUW will expire on December 31, 2007.

Although AAUW will not be not eligible to have delegates at the Manchester Triennial in August 2007, AAUW members are still welcome to attend.

A group called IFUWSUPPORT has been formed by some AAUW members. They anticipate that interested AAUW members will elect to retain their AAUW membership and will also participate in IFUW through another channel, either as individuals or as members of some larger group.

IFUWSUPPORT has requested caucus time at the 2007 AAUW convention in Phoenix to discuss forming a new organization in the United States as a channel for IFUW membership. Hopefully, an inclusive solution will be reached that strengthens AAUW rather than dividing the Association.

In the meantime, we can and should continue to support the **Bina Roy Partners in Development** program. The women who benefit have even less money than AAUW. Many of the projects are educational. In Cameroon and Zimbabwe, for example, scholarships are given to promising girls whose would otherwise have to drop out of school. A library and reading room for women and girls has been started in Nepal. Vocational skills are often taught, ranging from sewing in Bangladesh and Nigeria to computer skills in Argentina and Egypt.

In Sri Lanka, support is provided for single mothers who lost their husbands, homes, and incomes in the tsunami, while in Mexico shelter and assistance is given to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. These and other projects depend on the generous support of our members. The loss of AAUW as a member of IFUW will put further financial strain on our sister associations.

Remember, you can contribute either as a branch or as an individual. Individual contributions will be credited to your branch, and the top contributing branches will be recognized at the state convention.