

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Diane Haney, AAUW-NYS president
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It has been a wonderful year. The state convention was glorious. We look forward to the coming Association convention where momentous decisions will be made. Some of us are still using ideas and programs gathered from past conventions — some of them long past.

Thank you to committee members, presenters, organizers and attendees of the state convention — we need you all to make a success. Special thanks to **Michelle Acquaro** who led the committee and **Jann Mirchandani** who put together a superb program.

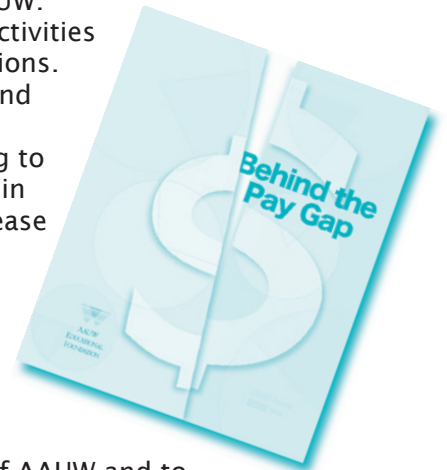
AAUW has scored a significant coup with its recent launch of the new research, *Behind the Pay Gap*. Gaining coverage on all three major television networks, not to mention the tremendous print coverage, exposed more than 70 million Americans to the findings and to the name of AAUW.

Meanwhile, branches made their own outreach on Equal Pay Day with activities such as handing out literature and Hershey®'s PayDay candy bars at train stations. **Nancy Mion**, NYS public policy director, has led the way on the on the issue and urged us all to work for passage of the NYS Fair Pay Bill.

We are in a tremendous position to capitalize on this energy by working to pass legislation of importance to men and women. When women enter a field in significant numbers, wages tend to fall. Protecting equity for women will increase equity for all. (**Susan B. Anthony** said that first, by the way.)

Our mission statement says, "AAUW promotes equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research." It has also been said that every activity that does not strengthen our mission dissipates it — and weakens our identity with prospective members. Working to close the pay gap fits our mission perfectly and allows us to advocate and to educate our members and others about the research we have all supported

As you plan for next year, let us work together to further the mission of AAUW and to build on the momentum we have already created.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR THE 2008-10 BIENNIUM

The new nominating team will be holding its first meeting at the Delta Lake Leadership Conference, July 13-15.

They will consider candidates for the positions which will be elected at the 2008 convention:

president, program vice president, and Educational Foundation vice president. The qualifications for each of these positions, as well as the application forms and instructions, are listed on the state website, www.aauw-nys.org.

The board representatives on the nominating team are **Betty Preble**, **Mary Lou Davis**, and **Joan Monk**. If you are interested in any of these positions or have suggestions for candidates, please

contact one of these individuals or send an e-mail to nominating@aauw-nys.org. Applications for these positions must be received by **October 15**.

In this transition time for AAUW, strong leadership is more important than ever – we need your input!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS membership vice president, TELCali@aol.com, 585/924-4876

Our recent New York State convention was outstanding! What an honor it was to be reelected to the position of membership vice president and to have the opportunity to connect with so many members at this important annual gathering.

I want to also thank all of the candidates who ran for board positions and especially **Carol Grzywinski**, whose dedication to AAUW was

(Continued on page 2.)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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demonstrated in her desire to serve as membership vice president.

Convention gave me a chance to award branches for their membership-building initiatives throughout the 2006-07 year. I am pleased to report that **16 branches have increased their membership base this year**. All branches achieving growth are to be commended for their efforts.

Awards were given to the following top five branches in their respective categories:

* Highest **percentage** of membership increase:

Rockland County: 57.1%
Jamestown: 26.3%
Kingston: 25.6%
Skaneateles Area: 24.4%
New York City: 17.4%

* Highest **overall increase** in membership:

Poughkeepsie: 29
Rockland County: 28
New York City: 24
Kingston: 23
Jamestown: 15

Branches were also recognized for their achievement within the membership development priority area on the 21st Century applications. Those branches receiving recognition in the platinum, gold, and silver categories are noted in the article by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS program vice president, on page 3 in this issue of *FOCUS*.

Congratulations to all of the branches that successfully connected membership to branch programs and community projects.

Remember that you can access branch membership incentive applications from the www.aauw-nys.org website and receive funding for branch membership growth plans and activities. The deadline for the 2006-07 program year is June 30, 2007. Your NYS board voted to extend the funding for the upcoming branch program year and the applications will be updated on July 1, 2007, for your continuing use.

This is an excellent time to update your branch brochures with the new mission statement. Please contact me at any point should you have questions.

The Association website can assist in refreshing your knowledge of membership bylaws. Go to http://www.aauw.org/member_center/branches_states/bylaws/index.cfm to review that information at any time.

Keep growing! Thank you for your powerful AAUW initiatives.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND UPDATE

by Cheryl Papa, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president / cbpapa528@yahoo.com ~ 607/748-6075

Great news! New York State came in **second** in Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) total contributions nationwide. Our total was **\$31,262.60**. It was your belief in our mission and your generosity in supporting it that made this possible. Thank you.

The following are the Top Ten Branches in Total Contributions, beginning with first: **Islip Area, Westchester, Schenectady, Buffalo, Southern New York, North Shore, Poughkeepsie, Fairport Area, St. Lawrence County**, with a tie for tenth between **Elmira-Corning** and **New York City**.

The following branches are the Top Ten Branches in Per Capita Contributions, beginning with first: **Islip Area, Fairport Area, Oswego, Schenectady, Westchester, Southern New York, Skaneateles Area, St. Lawrence County, Elmira-Corning, and Bath**.

The following branches earned Star status for raising \$5.00 or more per member: **Adirondack, Alfred-Hornell, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Bath, Buffalo, Cortland, Dunkirk-Fredonia, Elmira-Corning, Fairport Area, Garden City, Greece Area, Islip Area, Jamestown, Kingston, Massapequa Area, Mid-Island, Nassau County, New York City, North Fork, North Shore, Ontario County, Oswego, Poughkeepsie, Queens, Rockland County, St. Lawrence County, Schenectady, Skaneateles Area, Smithtown Area, Southern New York, Syracuse, Westchester, and Yates County**.

Christine Ng, litigant in the *Mansourian v. the Regents of the University of California* case, and her lawyer, **Kristen Galles**, spoke at our convention. Their inspirational speeches made us aware of the importance of continuing to support Title IX cases. Our daughters and granddaughters deserve equality in athletic opportunities. The \$7,224.21 raised at the convention will go far toward supporting the entire mission of LAF.

I want to thank all of you for supporting me during my years in office as your LAF vice president.

All that has been achieved has been because *you* have made it happen. As **Mildred DeWitt** comes aboard July 1, please give her your continued support.

Let's keep the coveted second place!



CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AND KUDOS

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS program vice president,
jannmirch@optonline.net ~ 914/245-8568



Convention is always a special time for me. It's an opportunity to reconnect with friends and get to know members from around the state. This year was no exception, and was made even more special because I was able to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our branches.

The awards, with programming themes in parentheses, are as follows:

- **21st Century Platinum:**
Buffalo (Strategic Plan),
Islip Area (Economic Equity for Women),
Poughkeepsie (Educational Community Outreach), and
Westchester (Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security).
- **21st Century Gold:**
Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown (Elizabeth Cady Stanton Consortium),
Elmira-Corning (Strategic Plan),
Kingston (Girls Making Good Choices),
New York City (Expanding Your Horizons), and
Skaneateles (Strategic Plan).

Branches were also recognized for their achievement within the specific priority areas (programming themes are in parentheses, listed first time only).

- **Membership Development ~**

Platinum: Buffalo (Strategic Plan), New York City (Expanding Your Horizons) and Westchester (Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security).

Gold: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown (Elizabeth Cady Stanton Consortium), Elmira-Corning (Strategic Plan), Islip Area (Economic Equity for Women), Poughkeepsie (Educational Community Outreach), and Skaneateles (Strategic Plan).

Silver: Farmingdale (Science Contest), Huntington (Excellence in Science Awards), Schenectady (Schenectady Schools: Vision for the Future), and Smithtown (Building Numeracy through Literacy).

- **Campus/Community Outreach ~**

Platinum: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Buffalo, Islip Area, New York City, Poughkeepsie, and Westchester.

Gold: Elmira-Corning, Farmingdale, Kingston (Girls Making Good Choices), Schenectady, and Skaneateles.

Silver: Mid-Island (Women's History Essay Contest).

- **Outreach to Diverse or Underrepresented People or Groups ~**

Platinum: Buffalo, New York City, Poughkeepsie, and Westchester.

Gold: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Islip Area, and Kingston.

Silver: Elmira-Corning.

- **Visibility ~**

Platinum: Buffalo, Islip Area, Poughkeepsie, and Skaneateles.

Gold: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Elmira-Corning, and Westchester.

Silver: Farmingdale, New York City, Schenectady, and Smithtown.

- **Leadership Development ~**

Platinum: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Buffalo, Kingston, New York City, Poughkeepsie, Skaneateles, and Westchester.

Gold: Elmira-Corning, Islip Area, and Mid-Island.

Silver: Huntington.





EMERGING LEADERS 2007

by Mary Lou Davis, NYS district director, davehdavis@aol.com ~ 845/223-5544

The following members have been recognized by their branches for demonstrating leadership potential and dedication to AAUW's mission during the 2006-07 membership year.

- **Myrna Jantson, Adirondack** – As membership vice president, she creatively co-planned a membership tea held at a local art gallery. Myrna enthusiastically responds to any request from the branch board.
- **Melanie Pombrio, Amsterdam–Gloversville–Johnstown** - Melanie is currently the treasurer. She assisted with the Sister-to-Sister Summit last spring and was instrumental in drawing all the local schools and middle school students into planning the event. The enrollment tripled in one year.
- **Bonita Lyke, Bath** – Bonnie is the public policy chair. She alerts members to diverse AAUW issues and facilitates action when needed.
- **Susan J. Clements, Buffalo** – Because Susan was director of communications at the YWCA, and a member of the Friends of the Women's Rights National Park, it allowed AAUW to partner with Candidates Night and Pan Am 2001. She has been chairman of the program committee for two years and is the AAUW representative on the board of the Sister-to-Sister program.
- **Julie Biviano, Elmira–Corning** – Julie agreed to fill a vacant post as co-president for programs for the remainder of the year. She directed a fashion show, the most successful money raising event to date. She is also very involved in the community.
- **Sonia Aaroe, Fairport Area** – Sonia has demonstrated enthusiasm for branch work and programs as well as a genuine dedication to the mission of AAUW. She is the leader/facilitator of the monthly meetings of the Great Decisions committee.
- **Alice Cammisio, Garden City** – Alice helped register students as new voters at Hofstra University. A talented artist, she has created impressive posters for branch projects and participated in the branch's December program, "Women Artists Celebrate the Holidays".
- **Jessie Sue Nestor, Huntington** – Sue was membership vice president this year. She recruited new members as well as keeping existing members involved in branch activities. She also edited and published the directory.
- **Myrna Podolsky, Islip Area** – Myrna will be the corresponding secretary for the coming year and will be a part of a campus-based Equal Pay Day. She is also helping a former AAUW member who is no longer able to drive to be involved in branch activities.
- **Margaret Irwin, Jamestown** – Maggie co-chaired "The What's New Fair", an Educational Foundation and local scholarship fund-raiser. She is the co-chair of ED and Equity and is involved in the strategic planning and development of goals for the State Project 2006-2008.
- **Anne Gordon, Kingston** – Anne has been first vice president for program for 2006-2007. She worked with the Marbletown Tax Reform Group, Habitat for Humanity, and Ulster County Community College to present programs and arranged for a speaker on Sojourner Truth.
- **Catherine Reardon, Mid-Island** – Cathy has won several awards for her work as editor of the *Mid-Islander* newsletter. As a member of the executive board, she offers great suggestions and constructive ideas. She has volunteered to be secretary at meetings whenever one is needed and helps with fund raisers.
- **Dr. Nkechi Agwu, New York City** – Dr. Agwu is the AAUW NYC branch program co-vice president and black history chair. As such, she has revitalized branch programming to include the talents of the young

African-American students she mentors. She has a passion and lifetime commitment to women's issues and the education of women.

- **Marion Whalen, North Shore** – After one month of membership, Marion took charge of LAF which became a financial success with North Shore now 5th in contributions in the state. Her Luncheon and Game Day concept contributes to the membership's social network by supporting cohesiveness, mental health and the ability to work together toward the AAUW mission.
- **Caitlin Hayden, Poughkeepsie** – As their youngest and most energetic member, Caitlin has been an inspiration to branch members. She is currently secretary. She worked on the committee for the Live Your Dream Girls Conference and co-chaired the Girls Reunion Conference this spring. She is an active member of Leading to Reading Project and worked at the Volunteer Fair.
- **Dr. Inez Sperr Brisfjord, Rockland County** – Dr. Sperr Brisfjord is chairwoman of the college/university committee. She helped seven colleges prioritize their five most pressing needs and developed committees to address some of their concerns. She located and organized 45 years of past presidents into the "Celebrating 125 Years" committee and also planned a conference in conjunction with Nyack College..
- **Chanel Murray, Schenectady** – Chanel served as LAF vice president. She worked with AIDS patients in Tanzania in 2006 and plans to return this year to work on a project for her graduate degree. Chanel is helping to coordinate a program on health issues in Africa for the branch.
- **Gail vander Linde, Skaneateles** – Gail was vice president for public policy. She spearheaded public forums and as a result the branch was approached by both political parties to moderate an upcoming candidates' debate.
- **Carolyn Lansberry and Charlotte Pavone, Westchester** – As program co-vice presidents, Carolyn and Charlotte are part of the coordinating council, the board of directors and co-chairmen of the program committee. They chose topics and high caliber speakers to promote the AAUW mission and incorporate the theme of "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security." Attendance at branch meetings increased by 25%.
- **Mary Anne Wilson, Yates County** – Mary Anne became involved in branch activities immediately as membership vice president, successfully recruiting new members. She is also the chair of the 2007 summer fundraising dinner.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

by Peggy Kelland, NYS international affairs director, smkell45@aol.com ~ 845/297-0507

BINA ROY FUND

New York State raised \$1,667 for the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme, collecting almost a thousand of that at the Sunday luncheon at the state convention. Our luncheon speaker, **Geeta Desai**, made us aware of the diverse effects of globalization on women of different economic levels in India.

Our contributions to the Bina Roy Fund help women to succeed in a changing world. The top contributing branches were **Kingston, New York City, Buffalo, and Syracuse**.

Dr Bina Roy (1914-1994), teacher and educational advisor from India, was the first Asian presi-

dent of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

She believed that friendly and supportive links should be forged among IFUW affiliates to provide strong international solidarity, while encouraging and aiding the creation and implementation of projects.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING AWARDS

The top international programming award went to **Buffalo**, who partnered with the Buffalo Chapter of the Friends of Women's Rights National Park for a program on "The Plight of Refugee Women and Children", and also organized an International Women's Day celebration dinner.

The second award went to **Schenectady**, who has study groups on international relations and world travel, as well as holding a program on "Combating the Health Crisis in Africa".

Third place winner was **Syracuse**, whose long-term partnership with the International Center of Syracuse included home stays, dinners, and pot-luck suppers, with discussions and cultural exchanges.

TECHNOLOGY AND NEWSLETTER AWARDS

by Betty Preble, AAUW-NYS communications director, communications@aauw-nys.org ~ 716/662-0608



The technology awards this year were based on the 21st Century application information. Unfortunately, this means that branches that did not submit an application may not have been honored for work they did in this area. However, the branches that did apply demonstrated many new techniques for moving into the 21st century and we applaud them for their efforts!

Those branches were:

- **Platinum** – Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Buffalo, New York City, Poughkeepsie, Skaneateles, and Westchester
- **Gold** – Elmira-Corning, Huntington, Islip Area, Kingston, and Schenectady
- **Silver** – Mid-Island



The newsletter awards recognition program was open to all branches that submitted newsletters to the NYS communications director during the year. The **noteworthy newsletters** this year were:

- Adirondack, *Adirondack Glimpses*
- Alfred-Hornell, *Newsletter*
- Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, *Upstate Update*
- Bath, *The Branch*
- Buffalo, *Advocate*
- Elmira-Corning, *News and Views*
- Fairport Area, *Canal Chronicle*
- Huntington, *AAUW Liaison*
- Islip Area, *The Connection*
- Ithaca, *Ithaca Insights*
- Jamestown, *Jamestown Twigs*
- Jefferson County, *Jefferson Journal*
- Kingston, *AAUW Focus*
- Mohawk Valley, *AAUW Drumbeat*
- Nassau County, *Nassau County Update*
- New York City, *The Courier*
- North Shore, *The North Shore Branch Bulletin*
- Oswego, *Oswego Branch Newsletter*
- Poughkeepsie, *The Branch*
- Rochester, *AAUW Rochester Bulletin*
- Rockland County, *Rockland County AAUW*
- St. Lawrence County, *The North Country Connection*
- Schenectady, *Visions*
- Southern New York, *the AAUW Briefs*
- Staten Island, *AAUW News*
- Westchester, *Chips*
- Yates County, *Yates AAUW News and Notes*

NYS RESOLUTIONS REPORT

by Nancy Mion, AAUW NYS public policy director, myown220@aol.com ~ 631/472-9377

To enact the legislation necessary to implement the five New York State resolutions (see topics below), I sent branches relevant information bi-weekly, wrote *FOCUS* and newsletter articles, and encouraged members to contact elected officials/legislators and branches to have issue-related branch programming.

ECONOMIC EQUITY

- We worked actively with pay equity groups to secure passage of the NYS Fair Pay Bill. Assembly passed it.
- Branch Equal Pay Day activities included distribution of information, petition signing, and letter writing.
- WAGE (Women Are Getting Even) Project, Inc. founder spoke at the NYS convention and held a workshop.

CHILD CARE

As participating members of the four major NYS child care organizations, our members were able SUCCESSFULLY to:

- Send e-mails resulting in the signing of Timothy's Law (Mental Health Insurance).
- Convince legislators to allot \$146 million for the pre-K program and to ensure that child care has separate funding.
- Effect the creation of a Children's Cabinet.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Joined forces with anti-trafficking organizations to lobby for strong bills.
- Promoted community outreach through a branch/college seminar and branch-developed conferences.

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

- Established contact with:
 - * The Wish List and Emily's List, both of which recruit, train, and support women who run for political office
 - * A local Girl Scout council developing a "Go Girl Govern" patch
- Provided at NYS convention:
 - * "Women in Politics" talk
 - * "Women Running for Office" workshop

EQUITABLE EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

- Developed a working relationship with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity and the Alliance for Quality Education.
- Signed onto an "*amicus curiae*" brief.
- SUCCESS!! Money was budgeted to give the children of New York State a sound basic education.

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Helen Engel, rengel@oswego.edu ~ 315/343-9678 and Marilynn Smiley, smiley@oswego.edu ~ 315/343-4803, AAUW NYS co-historians

Thanks to all the branches that exhibited their scrapbook pages at the state convention.

Each one was unique, creative and helped to showcase the many different types of branch activities there are statewide. We look forward to 100% branch participation next year.

The Women Making a Difference project will continue during 2007-



2008. Earlier this year, we requested a 1-3 page biography of one or more prominent women from your geographical area. We are now requesting additional ones for May, 2008. These featured women do not have to be, or have been, AAUW members and they can be from either the past or present.

The plan is to compile these biographies into a book which will highlight the accomplishments of the many outstanding women of New York State.

Discussions of important women to be included in this project can be incorporated in branch programs and/or committees, and also can be used as community outreach. It is a great way to increase branch visibility!

The participation of every member is needed to make this exciting project truly representative of the entire state.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, AAUW?

by Linda Haigh Tozier, Middle Atlantic Region (MAR) director, toz31@yahoo.com, 412/369-5770

The **strategic process** is an ongoing joint effort between the Association and Educational Foundation boards of directors. Last October, these joint boards adopted our new mission: "*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*" The boards created five task forces to address core issues identified in the strategic process: Vision, Membership, Organizational Structure and Governance, Internal Communications/Roll Out, and Due Diligence. These five task forces will share their reports at the national convention.

The boards asked the bylaws committee to present proposals and amendments that address the structural issues identified during the strategic process. The proposed bylaws changes are posted on the AAUW website and published in the spring/summer 2007 *AAUW Outlook*.

In 2005, AAUW – the Association, the Educational Foundation, the Legal Advocacy Fund, and the Leadership and Training Institute – committed to a focused, strategic alignment of programs with mission. "*Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*" is the basis for all programming, which is the clearest expression of mission.

Here are three pages from our website to assist you in your planning.

- <http://www.aauw.org/newvision/index.cfm> -This page gives an overall summary of the programmatic theme.
- <http://www.aauw.org/newvision/Mission-BasedProgramResources.cfm> - This page gathers in one spot the most pertinent and useful resources for program planning from across departments and from the resources already available on the website.
- <http://www.aair.org/newvision/Mission-BasedProgramExamples.cfm> -Explore the examples from AAUW states and branches to stimulate your branch.

The AAUW theme has a three-pronged thrust: (1) campus/higher education, (2) workplace equity, and (3) community/lifelong learning.

Relating to the first "prong", the research *Behind the Pay Gap* continues to make news since its April 24th release. This year's 10 Campus Action Projects include ones at the University of Maryland and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders was held at American University, June 7-9.

Pertaining to workplace equity, the Pay Equity Resource Kit can be downloaded from the website at http://www.org/issue_advocacy/actionpages/payequity.cfm. AAUW is partnering with the Puget Sound Center and its National Girls Collaborative Project to increase the number of women in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields.

Relating to the third emphasis, AAUW of Florida's Financial Independence for Girls program is available at <http://aauw.org/financialLit/FIG.pdf>. Also, the West Chester-Chester County Branch (PA) has received a Community Action Grant to spread its "Let's Read Math" project to branches in the Middle Atlantic Region. The EF Grant will provide training, books, teachers' guides, supplies and funding for interested branches.

So do your research, express your opinions, and promote our MISSION.

**Strategic
Process**



New York State **FOCUS**

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MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW 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.

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.

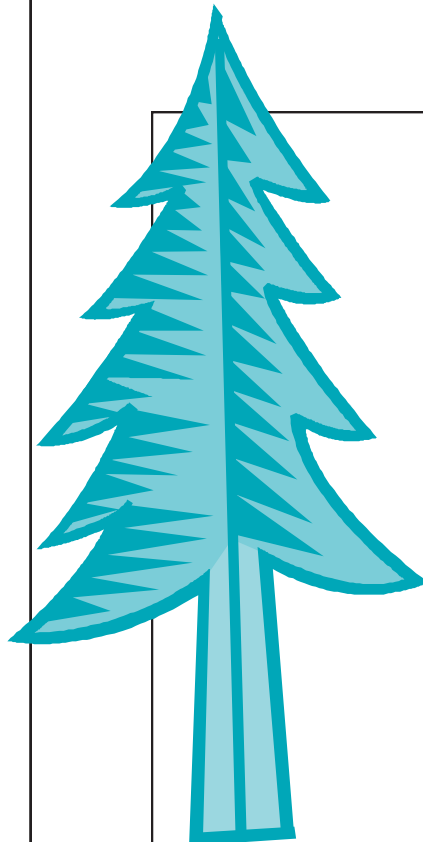
In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

FOCUS (USPS-390-570), a quarterly newsletter, is published for the New York State Division of the American Association of University Women by Print King, Inc., Williamsville, NY 14221. The subscription rate of \$4 is included in the New York State dues. Periodicals postage is paid at Buffalo, NY, 14240.

Questions and articles should be addressed to the *FOCUS* Director, Jean Havens, 40 Kisco Park Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Tel.: 914/241-4518. Email: FOCUS@aauw-nys.org.

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

Important! All mailing labels are prepared at AAUW headquarters. Send all address changes to Buffalo Postmaster, Buffalo, NY 14240, and AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.



NYS 2007 Summer Leadership Conference

**Delta Lake Conference Center
Rome, New York
July 13-15**

Two leaders from each branch are urged to attend. Others will be accommodated as space permits. Two nights lodging, five meals for \$30.

Come and share, learn, make new friends, pick up techniques, increase your connection, and become a leader in New York.

Contact Eileen Skaggs for reservations and information. Information also available at aauw-nys.org