

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Diane Haney, AAUW NYS president,
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Thank you all for a wonderful two years. AAUW New York State continues to shine as a beacon of innovation and leadership for all.

I don't remember a convention where the praise afterward was so effusive. Those of you who stayed home missed the best location, the best accommodations, the best food and the best speakers in a long time, at least according to the people who shared their thoughts with me. Hearty thanks to **Cathy O'Leary** who arranged the convention faultlessly and to **Jann Mirchandani** who gave us programming to live for!

This year, for the first time, we presented the President's Award to honor two branches that had outstanding mission-based projects. The award was judged by two past state presidents, **Bobbe Fortunato** and **Sue Oliver**. (Thank you, ladies, for sharing your time and wisdom.) The judges looked for projects exemplifying our mission: innovative, going beyond a single event or meeting, showing excellent organization, offering the possibility of replication and reaching into the community.

The **Adirondack Branch** was honored with the first award for a project on modern-day slavery which very much relates to our mission. The members worked with other organizations to be sure the entire community was informed, helped establish a task force with branch members serving on it, and gained positive visibility. The branch set a goal for itself and worked with like-minded groups to create a community commitment which goes well beyond having a monthly meeting. Congratulations to Adirondack!

The second 2008 President's Award went to the **Jefferson County Branch** for its project, "Focus on Young Prospects", which was organized (and truly well-organized) to develop membership and to reach all parts of the area served. The show went on the road, with meetings in the north, south, east and west, so that members in various parts of the county could be involved, as well as reaching new and prospective members. They educated the communities on issues facing women in the 21st century while celebrating new members and honoring long-time members. Congratulations to Jefferson County!

The judges also requested a special mention of the **Kingston Branch** and its project on "Upgrading Technology and Communications for the 21st Century" (known as CUP). We have been asking branches to use technology. Kingston has created two blogs which all members can use instead of the traditional website, used a free conference call in order to hold a meeting twice cancelled by weather, and put their mailing labels on Constant Contact which I suggest you ask them about. Bobbe Fortunato noted that if other branches did this, CUP would definitely runneth over.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMENTS

by Betty Preble, AAUW NYS communications
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As the term ends and I must relinquish this post, I'd first like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all the wonderful people I've been able to work with for the past four years. The newsletter editors, webmistresses, other communications people, and various other officers - all have been great. We've all learned from each other and have hopefully made progress in communications.

I'm delighted to say that at the end of this year every branch in NYS was represented with a site on the Internet. The next step is to get and keep them all up-to-date - some certainly do better than others! I suggest that everyone take a look at your branch's site - and contact your "webperson" with suggestions!!! Perhaps there will be a website competition next year?

Several newsletters were honored as "noteworthy newsletters" at the NYS convention. All are readable, attractive, and informative regarding more than just the branch. AAUW has a national and state presence, and the branch newsletters are the primary means of keeping the branch members in tune with that. The noteworthy names are all available on the Communications tab of the AAUW-NYS website. Congratulations to all!

As we move ahead into the 21st Century, AAUW will be working with more means of communication. An initiative is already in place to utilize the popular "Facebook". If you're interested in getting into it, the link to an explanatory document is available on the "Additional Resources" section of the Communications tab on the AAUW-NYS website. Jump in with us!

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Plan on joining us at Delta Lake in July for the **NYS Leadership Conference!** (Details on page 8.)

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS AND KUDOS

by Jann Mirchandani, AAUW NYS program vice president, program@aauw-nys.org ~ 914.245.8568

It has been a wonderful and full two years as your program vice president. I've been privileged to work with and get to know many outstanding women during my tenure. I welcome **Peggy Kelland** as she begins her term as program vice president. I know she will be a wonderful resource for our New York State branches as they continue to "Move the Mission Forward."

I want to acknowledge the following branches for their outstanding programs during the past year. (Many thanks to those involved in completing the applications.) The **21st Century Award** recipients for 2008 are:

Westchester: Women's Financial Literacy; *21st Century Award* - Platinum Level, *Membership* - Platinum Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Platinum Level, *Diversity* - Platinum Level, *Visibility* - Platinum Level, *Leadership Development* - Platinum Level, *Technology* - Platinum Level

Poughkeepsie: Ed. Comm. Outreach - Equity for Life; *21st Century Award* - Platinum Level, *Membership* - Platinum Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Platinum Level, *Diversity* - Platinum Level, *Visibility* - Platinum Level, *Leadership Development* - Platinum Level, *Technology* - Platinum Level

Buffalo: Women's Financial Literacy; *21st Century Award* - Platinum Level, *Membership* - Platinum Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Platinum Level, *Diversity* - Platinum Level, *Visibility* - Platinum Level, *Leadership Development* - Gold Level, *Technology* - Platinum Level



New York City: Expanding Your Opportunities - The Sky's The Limit; *21st Century Award* - Platinum Level, *Membership* - Platinum Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Platinum Level, *Diversity* - Platinum Level, *Visibility* - Gold Level, *Leadership Development* - Platinum Level, *Technology* - Platinum Level

Jamestown: What's New Fair; *21st Century Award* - Platinum Level, *Membership* - Gold Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Platinum Level, *Diversity* - Gold Level, *Visibility* - Platinum Level, *Leadership Development* - Platinum Level, *Technology* - Platinum Level

Islip Area: Women's Health; *21st Century Award* - Gold Level, *Membership* - Gold Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Gold Level, *Diversity* - Gold Level, *Visibility* - Gold Level, *Leadership Development* - Platinum Level, *Technology* - Gold Level

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown: Sister-to-Sister Summit; *21st Century Award* - Gold Level, *Membership* - Gold Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Gold Level, *Diversity* - Gold Level, *Visibility* - Gold Level, *Leadership Development* - Gold Level, *Technology* - Platinum Level

Elmira-Corning: Strategic Plan; *21st Century Award* - Gold Level, *Membership* - Gold Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Gold Level, *Diversity* - Gold Level, *Visibility* - Gold Level, *Leadership Development* - Gold Level, *Technology* - Silver Level

Adirondack: Modern Day Slavery; *21st Century Award* - Gold Level, *Membership* - Platinum Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Gold Level Award, *Visibility* - Gold Level, *Leadership Development* - Gold Level, *Technology* - Gold Level

Jefferson County: Membership Initiative: Focus on Young Prospects; *21st Century Award* - Silver Level, *Membership* - Gold Level, *Campus/Community Outreach* - Platinum Level, *Visibility* - Gold Level

Queens: Award for students excelling in math/science; *21st Century Award* - Silver Level, *Diversity* - Silver Level, *Visibility* - Gold Level, *Leadership Development* - Silver Level

Greater Rochester Area: Art Forum/Campus Outreach; *Diversity* - Platinum Level, *Visibility* - Gold Level

North Shore: Let's Read Math; *Diversity* - Silver Level, *Visibility* - Silver Level, *Leadership Development* - Silver Level

Smithtown: Let's Read Math; *Technology* - Silver Level

Congratulations, everyone!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, 2008-2010

The AAUW New York State offices of membership vice president, Legal Advocacy Fund vice president, secretary/by-laws, and treasurer will be filled at the 2009 convention.

The new nominating team will meet at Delta Lake, July 11-13, 2008. The board representatives are Diane Haney, Tamara Brown and Nancy Mion. The qualifications for each of the four positions are listed on the state website, www.aauw-nys.org.

If you are interested in one of these positions or wish to suggest candidates, please contact one of the board representatives or send an e-mail to nominating@aauw-nys.org. You can also write to: Diane Haney, 13 Whitewood Drive, Roslyn, NY 11576 or call her at 515.248.0476.

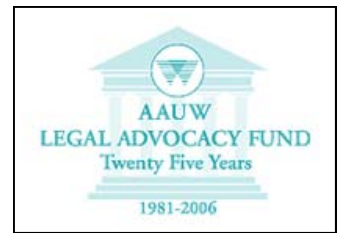
Applications and letters of recommendation must be received by October 15.

We need your input. Good hearts and willing hands will lead us to success.



LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president,
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A record crowd of 180 was present at the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Luncheon at the New York State AAUW convention on April 26, 2008! This luncheon is a regular program of the annual convention weekend. New York State applies for, and is granted, a speaker for this luncheon, usually an LAF litigant. This year we were pleased to have as our guest **Claire Schuster** of Kentucky.

Claire spoke to us about her background, family life, schooling, and the situations that brought her to Berea College in Kentucky. Her lawsuit against the college, regarding pay discrimination, is very similar to **Lilly Ledbetter's** case with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. (Lilly Ledbetter was our keynote speaker at the Friday night President's Dinner.) At this time, Claire's case is on appeal with the Kentucky Court of Appeals, with a decision expected any minute now.

The LAF silent auction of themed baskets was, as usual, a "social gathering" where members could meet up with old friends and make new ones while discussing the merits of each and every one of the 51 baskets that were donated from around New York State. I am pleased to announce that you, as members of AAUW NYS, raised \$6,000 for LAF through these creative baskets. I am most grateful to every one of our members and the branches that participated.

In 2007, AAUW New York State came in second nationwide for total LAF contributions and ninth for per capita donations!

I extend my apologies to the **AAUW Jamestown Branch** for inadvertently leaving them out of the program booklet presented at the luncheon. Please recognize Jamestown for the following awards for LAF 2007: Amicus (\$100 - \$249) **Loreen Ginnitti**; NYS LAF Giving Circle (\$50 - \$99) **Gay Maria Norgren** and **B. Dolores Thompson**. Jamestown was also a STAR Branch, achieving \$5 or more in LAF contributions per member.

The Association is making changes in the LAF program — all for the better, as we progress to high profile cases, such as Lilly Ledbetter's. The fund will file *amicus curiae* briefs on behalf of plaintiffs involved in pay equity and sex discrimination suits in violation of Title VII and Title IX. This is an enormous step forward on the part of LAF. We recognize that all women are exposed to sex discrimination in all occupational contexts.

I thank you for the work your branches have done in 2007 and I look for renewed enthusiasm in 2008. The 2008 pins are now available for a donation of \$100. A donation of \$250 includes the anniversary pin as well as the 2008 pin. Contact me for more information.

Let us fight the good fight together for all women and girls *because...equity is still an issue.*



YOUR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: EDUCATION AND EQUITY AT EVERY LIFE STAGE

by Tamara Brown, AAUW NYS EF vice president, TBforAAUWNYS@cs.com ~ 716.649.9871

Oasis: Retirement (Part 4 of 4)

Well, we all know that the end is the beginning of something new. And, we now find ourselves at the oasis of retirement.

The pay gap represents a significant area of focus for women, and the effects of that gap are amplified during the retirement years. It has been estimated that three-fourths of the elderly poor are women.

Whatever your age -- or the ages of your friends, daughters, or mothers -- it's a great time to start the conversation. One great tool is the EF research report, *Your Mother's Retirement Security*. An understanding of retirement income -- and the role that Social Security plays -- is provided in this short study. Interestingly, this report was funded by an AAUW member, spearheaded by her own conversations with her mother.

How can I promote awareness of retirement issues?

Keep the focus on all life stages. Download the report and provide it to your members.

What else can I do?

Each dollar that you give to the Educational Foundation can help to promote an equitable society. Every dollar gained for equity multiplies for a later dividend. So, keep investing!

*P.S.: Congratulations to **Peggy Kelland** and **Carolyn Lippman** of the Poughkeepsie and North Shore branches, respectively. Peggy and Carolyn were among many participants in the 2008 convention walk/trivia contest and were our first- and second-place fundraisers!*

EMERGING LEADERS 2008

by Mary Lou Davis, AAUW NYS district director,
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The Emerging Leader awards are presented to branch leaders who are first-term board members or officers, or AAUW members of less than three years who demonstrate leadership potential through their enthusiasm, creative ideas, and commitment to AAUW's mission.

Following is a list of the women honored at the New York State Convention:

Adirondack – Kathy Black

Kathy developed a Powerpoint presentation on the history of AAUW and the Adirondack Branch to kick off the membership drive in September. She is the co-program chairperson for the branch.

Alfred-Hornell – Rebecca Shick

After joining in the fall of 2006, Becky accepted the positions of secretary and communications director. Becky set up a website for the branch, wrote articles for the newspaper, and took photos at meetings.

Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown – Dianne Kierpiec

Dianne is a second-year member of the branch. This year she is co-chairing the Sister-to-Sister Summit and presenting at the event. She also brought new committee members and sponsors to the event.

Bath – Virginia Murphy

Victoria won the branch's Mature Woman's Scholarship in 2006. As a first-year member, she contributed program ideas and participated in several program presentations.

Buffalo – Dr. Susan McClary

Dr. Susan McClary became program vice president within a short time of joining the branch. She chaired the Velma Cobb Scholarship and took on large responsibilities for Tech Savvy.

Elmira-Corning – JoAnne Krolak

JoAnne organized the branch's Equal Pay Day activity in conjunction with Elmira's Business & Professional Women. She tweaked the membership brochure, revamped the website and edits/prints/mails the newsletter.

Fairport Area – Dr. Mary Palamar

Mary, with the United Nations Association of Rochester and the Nazareth College faculty, developed a community awareness presentation on human trafficking. She is the public policy chairperson, is on the NYS public policy team and chaired the District 2 Fall Conference.

Greater Rochester Area – Heide S. Parreno

Heide is the leader of a new interest group, Women Helping Women. It is connected to Sojourner House, a home for women in transition from area shelters.

Islip Area – Rose Passannante

Rose contacted Adelphi, St. Joseph's, Farmingdale State and NIT in regard to the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. Islip Area then raised funds to send a college student to the Washington conference.

Jamestown – Brenda Johnson

After retiring, Brenda became completely involved in the publicity for Jamestown's major fund-raiser, "The What's New Fair." She is the membership co-vice president.

Kingston – Ruth Wahtera

Ruth served as newsletter editor and created the communications committee. She used her skills and technology expertise to become the branch's web consultant.

Mid-Island – Mildred Becker

Mildred is the branch's treasurer. She initiated changes in the way events are booked and keeps records that the branch can easily follow.

New York City – Dr. Chigurupati Rani

Chigurupati, an IT professor at City University of New York, is a director-at-large for the branch, communications chair and newsletter publisher.

North Shore – Jill Hackett

After Jill retired she joined AAUW and, within two years, recruited 10 other retirees. She is co-chair of the music study group and a member of the program committee.

Poughkeepsie – Geeta Desai

Geeta, as diversity chair, planned "A Global Gathering" which was attended by 75 diverse women. Partnering with the Catharine Street Center, the diversity committee assists with learning experiences for inner-city children.

Rockland County – Ann Brennan

Ann is the corresponding secretary. She started The Rockland Readers, a daytime monthly book club which has resulted in a new member for the branch and others who are interested in joining.

St. Lawrence County (SLC) – Innam Dajany and Maureen Sayles

Innam and Maureen established a High Peaks satellite of the SLC branch. They organized two AAUW membership and programming events in their area, hosted the 2007 District 7 Fall Conference and enrolled 8 new members.

Skaneateles Area – Mary Beth Bronk

Mary Beth initiated the branch's International Women's Day celebration which has been increasingly successful over the past three years.

Smithtown Area – Nancy Ellis

Nancy, an attorney and professor at Suffolk Community College, joined the branch because of LAF. She was instrumental in their 2007 Pay Equity Day and is a member of the Public Policy Committee.

Southern NY – Catherine McGowan

Catherine is the representative to the Status of Women Council. She encouraged people to attend the AAUW honoree awards dinner, organized a new member mixer and is working with the program committee this year.

Staten Island – Edwina F. Martin

Edwina has very creative programming ideas, has obtained outstanding speakers and is planning programs on domestic violence and pay equity.

Syracuse – Mary Buckley

Mary has researched stored archives at Syracuse University to find the court decision on the Hazel Clark endowment. She also provides transportation to branch meetings for non-driving members.

Westchester – Barbara Sarver

Barbara, a board member, is the branch record keeper and yearbook coordinator. For Expanding Your Opportunities, she designs and edits the conference's journal.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS membership vice president, TELCali@aol.com, 585.924.4876

Our New York State (NYS) convention at Cooperstown this year was an extraordinary experience. The opportunity to award branches and individuals who had excelled in membership recruitment, retention, and enthusiastic branch membership building was gratifying for all. My sincere thanks go out to all who worked hard this year to bring in new members by connecting membership to programs, projects, and fundraising, and understanding the entire picture of keeping our organization alive and well.

Many branch members received, read and acted upon my messages about participating in the Association's membership campaign *Keys to the Future: Every Member Get A Member* and the result is that approximately 150 New York State members' names are posted on the www.aauw.org website in the Hall of Fame as recruiters of new members. Those NYS members were acknowledged at the state convention and each recruiter was given a special thank-you note through their branch representatives at the convention. Their recruitment efforts brought approximately 250 new members into NYS branches. You may access that information on the Association website at any time, and YOU, too, can participate in that campaign through June 30, 2008.

The convention also gave me the opportunity to recognize the "Top Five" achieving branches for their successful 2007-08 membership initiatives. All branches should be thanked for their membership-building activities, but convention recognition was given to the following branches for their outstanding efforts (Note the ties!):

Highest overall increase in membership:

Poughkeepsie: 44
Rockland County: 14
Skaneateles Area: 14
Jamestown: 10
Buffalo: 9
Jefferson County: 9
Southern New York: 9
Elmira-Corning: 8

Highest percentage increase in membership:

Skaneateles Area: 28.57%
Poughkeepsie: 22.45%
Alfred-Hornell: 21.88%
Oswego: 21.43%
Rockland County: 18.92%

In addition, a special award was presented to **Bergie Lebovitch** of the **Poughkeepsie Branch** for her outstanding recruitment of new members. Her energy and enthusiasm for AAUW is commendable and has benefited all of us in New York State by increasing our total membership.

Another special award at the convention went to the newly formed **Manhattan Branch** for their establishment and growth within a short period of time. During the year they went from zero to 42 members. WOW!

The **Poughkeepsie Branch** was honored at a special recognition reception on Saturday, April 26, at the Otesaga Resort so that we might celebrate their membership-building achievements. A good time was had by all!

Branches were also recognized for 21st Century achievements in the membership categories. (See page 2.)

Access the membership connections on the New York State website at www.aauw-nys.org and also visit frequently the www.aauw.org site to see recruitment campaign information and ideas for action. These are wonderful tools for learning about AAUW as well as its news and views. The NYS website has membership incentive forms for branches to use for requesting funding for new brochures and other membership-building activities. These will be available at least until June 30.

Let's keep growing in New York State! Thank you for your passion, energy, and vision!



2008 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS: SPEAKERS

- **Lilly Ledbetter**, who for two decades was paid less by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company than any man in her position, spoke about her ongoing struggle to receive back pay. The Supreme Court has ruled that since she did not file suit within 180 days of receiving the first discriminatory paycheck (even though the company forbade employees to reveal their salaries), she is unable to ever collect any back pay. A bill in Congress to make the 180-day clock start after each act of discrimination failed to get enough votes in the Senate to avoid a filibuster or override a veto threat. **Claire Schuster**, a tenured associate professor of nursing at Berea College, also spoke of her suit for sex discrimination in pay.
- **Patricia Smith**, New York State Commissioner of Labor, related her efforts to enforce the minimum wage law on behalf of employees of New York City green-grocers (receiving \$250 a week for 72 hours work), deliverymen for A&P and Gristedes (paid \$2 an hour), and bathroom attendants in nightclubs and restaurants (no pay; charged \$25 to \$50 a week for the opportunity for tips). She pointed out that legislation is useless without enforcement, and enforcement requires budgeted money.
- **Christianne Corbett**, research associate at AAUW's national office, gave a preview of the report *Where the Girls Are*. Both genders and all ethnic and income groups have been making gradual but steady improvement in test scores. Since white, Hispanic and Asian males continue to attend college in larger numbers than females in the same groups, the so-called "boy's crisis" turns out to be more specifically a crisis for black men, who are far less likely than black women to earn degrees.
- **Carolyn Donovan** (see International article, pg. 6)

INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS

by Peggy Kelland, NYS international affairs director, smkell45@aol.com ~ 845.297.0507

CTAUN CONFERENCE: On February 1, I attended the tenth annual conference of the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). From as far away as Texas, 473 people came to the UN to hear speakers on climate change, learn about multi-cultural efforts and discover innovative educational approaches.

A panel on "Climate Change: Rethinking the World We Share", was moderated by AAUW's **Carolyn Donovan**. **Rebecca Pearl** of the Women's Environmental and Development Organization told us that where men and women have unequal rights more women die in natural disasters. **Dr. Alan Robock**, professor of climatology at Rutgers University and a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, addressed three questions: *How will climate change in the future? How will it affect us? What should we do?*

Dr. Spencer Wells, director of the Geographic Project for the National Geographic Society, demonstrated how climate change in the Sahara 50,000 years ago was subsequently the main determinant of ancient migration routes. Sustainability Education Coordinator for the Scarsdale School District, **Dr. Steven Frantz**, concluded that "it's good to change your lightbulbs, but it's more important to change our leaders."

NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM: Almost 200 local residents gathered on Saturday, March 8, at Dutchess Community College to discuss "Americans' Role in the World: Building a More Secure Future". Morning discussion groups were followed by an afternoon panel of experts. **Professor Lewis Brownstein** of SUNY New Paltz discussed the history of American ambivalence towards promoting democracy abroad. **Major Tania Chacho** of the United States Military Academy and **Professor Steve Rock** of Vassar College both warned of over-reliance on military power to the neglect of diplomacy. **Professor Himadeep Muppidi** of Vassar College said that the building of a secure future requires understanding the interests of others and seeing people as they see themselves.

BRANCH INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: In April, the **Bath Branch** heard Carolyn Donovan speak on "Women and Girls Worldwide". **Buffalo** celebrated International Women's Day in March with a talk on "Modern India" by Geeta Desai. The **Huntington Branch** heard an update on trafficking from Nancy Mion in March. **Islip Area** had "The Middle East: Historical and Current Perspectives" in January, "Immigration Part II" in February and an International Women's Day celebration in March. In April, the **Manhattan Branch** had a speaker from the Sophia Women's World Conference, while **Oswego** had one on Ireland. In February, the **Schenectady**

Branch heard "Let's Talk About Iran", and **Southern New York** learned about "Patriarchy in Postcolonial Africa". The **Syracuse Branch** had a program in May on "Women Transcending Boundaries".

2007-08 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AT THE NYS STATE CONVENTION:



Individual Programs

First Place: the **Poughkeepsie Branch**, for "*Shame*", an inspiring film about a Pakistani village woman, with a discussion led by the film's editor who is the daughter of an AAUW member. The program was presented in conjunction with Vassar College and attracted an audience of over 200, several of whom joined AAUW that evening.

Second Place: the **Adirondack Branch**, for "*Refugee Children of Tibet*", a luncheon presentation attended by half the branch membership plus a number of community members. Press coverage led to other area presentations and contributions.

Third Place: the **New York City Branch**, for an Indian dinner honoring the Madeleine Albright Award winner.

Multi-Event Programming

- **First Place:** the **New York City Branch**
- **Second Place:** the **Adirondack Branch**
- **Third Place:** the **Westchester Branch**

Bina Roy contributions totaled \$1,096. In first place was **Kingston**; second: **New York City**; and third: **Islip Area** (which also made a \$100 contribution to the **Virginia Gildersleeve Fund**).

CONVENTION SPEAKER: **Carolyn Donovan** spoke at the Sunday brunch about her work at the United Nations. The issues include women's education, the status of women, and women's human rights. She has tried to include "and girls" in documents promoting the rights and education of women. She reminded us that the United States is one of only seven countries and the only major country to not yet ratify CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.



AAUW: THE WORDS THAT GUIDE US

Change is a given, and that includes changes in the words that guide us.

As you may remember, there is now a unified AAUW mission statement because we are becoming a single 501(c)(3) organization. It is no longer necessary to print three mission statements, especially with the diversity statement, when the vision statement and the value promise (stating what AAUW will do for us) have been added as well.

Look for these important words and statements on page 8 in every issue of *Focus*.

PUBLIC POLICY AT THE NYS CONVENTION

by Nancy Mion, AAUW NYS public policy director, myown220@aol.com ~ 631.472.9377



At the *Celebrate AAUW — Public Policy* session, six branches received the \$25 Voter Education Campaign Award. Their reproducible projects that brought AAUW visibility were:

- Elmira-Corning held a Judicial Tea in conjunction with local women's groups. Candidates for judgeships spoke about their credentials and mingled with attendees.
- Jefferson County registered voters at area community colleges and at farmers' markets where they wore red/white/blue hats to attract attention.
- Islip Area gave all parties the opportunity to express their views at their *Get In"forum"ed* by asking candidates to respond to five AAUW questions. Answers were read by branch members. Candidates were invited to attend.
- New York City invited political figures and candidates to their Martin Luther King Jr. celebration where they gave their opinions on AAUW issues.
- Poughkeepsie introduced *Vote 18*, a 40-minute interactive program (presented at Delta Lake 2007) about the fight for the right of all citizens to vote and the effects of not voting, to high school teachers in Dutchess County.
- St. Lawrence County, with their local Business & Professional Women's club, a local college, and a TV station, sponsored three candidates' forums: one each for village trustees, mayor and county sheriff. Questioners were media personalities, thus ensuring good coverage.

In this significant election year, please support your branch's Voter Education Project.

A Clean Money, Clean Elections resolution was passed at the NYS AAUW convention. Want to read it? Go to http://aaunys.org/attached%20files/Public%20Policy/Clean_Elections_Resolution.pdf or I can send you a copy.

It was announced that *AAUW Action Network*, which includes the *Two Minute Activist* has 2,400 members in NYS, up 541% from last year. Do you belong? Want to? Go to <http://capwiz.com/aauw/mlm/verify/>

Update: We obtained over 1,500 signatures (almost three times last year's) on NYS Fair Pay Bill petitions to be presented to Governor Paterson, Speaker Silver, Senate Majority Leader Bruno and Craig Johnson, senate sponsor. Your efforts are appreciated.

AAUW HISTORIANS SEEK BIOGRAPHIES

by Helen Engel, rengel@oswego.edu ~ 315.343.9678 and Marilyn Smiley, smiley@oswego.edu ~ 315.343.4803, AAUW NYS co-historians



Thanks to all branches that exhibited their scrapbook pages and their biographies for the "Women Making a Difference" project at the state convention!! Each one was unique and well-received. We were pleased with the response from the branches and appreciate everyone's time and effort.

Earlier, we requested a 1-3 page biography of one or more prominent women from your geographical area. Now, we are requesting additional biographies — as many as you can contribute. The biography could be an AAUW member or non-member from the past or the present — someone who made or is making a difference in your area.

Fields to be considered include, but aren't limited to: government, politics, business, science, medicine, law, journalism, media, literature, religion, health, social services, education, art, music, theater, sports, leadership and community service.

It is important to preserve the accomplishments of these women. Otherwise, their contributions might be forgotten. Since this has been an

ongoing project, send us your biographies as soon as they are written.

The plan is to compile all the biographies into a book written by AAUW members from throughout New York State. The information in this project can also be incorporated in branch programs and used for community outreach. What a great way to promote AAUW and to increase branch visibility!

The participation of every branch and member is needed in order to make this project truly representative of the entire state. We are looking forward to receiving many biographies.

Thanks again for your participation in this important AAUW project. You can reach us by mail at: Helen Engel, 32 Brown Drive, Oswego, NY 13126, or Marilyn Smiley, 77 West Fifth Street, Oswego, NY 13126.



AAUW MEMBER ADVANTAGES

In addition to the many benefits of being an AAUW member, there are also several discount programs available. You can sign up for low-cost subscriptions at [MagazineLine](#), enjoy a discount on your car insurance with GEICO or other insurance plans with Marsh Affinity Group Services. A travel program is also being developed. Questions? Log onto www.aauw.org.



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

AAUW VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

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.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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.

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Questions and articles should be addressed to the *FOCUS* Director, Jean Havens, 40 Kisco Park Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Telephone: 914.241.4518. Email: FOCUS@aauw-nys.org.

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YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Join us at the Delta Lake Conference Center, Rome, NY, from **July 11-13**, and sharpen your vision of AAUW, your leadership skills and your branch plans for the upcoming year and beyond. Our special guest will be **Gail Nordmoe**, executive vice president and secretary of the AAUW national board of directors.

At least two leaders from each branch should register and attend for the low cost of \$40.00 per person. That price includes two nights' lodging and five meals!

Go to the New York State website at <http://aauw-nys.org/deltalake.htm> for the registration forms, directions and additional information. Or, contact Betty Preble at either 716.662.0608 or betty.preble@gmail.com for registration information.

See you at Delta Lake for this leadership opportunity!

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS:

April was a memorable month for the **Bath Branch**. First, **Carolyn Donovan**, AAUW's representative to the United Nations, spoke to a gathering of branch members and area citizens at the Glenn Curtis Museum in nearby Hammondsport. Her topic was "Women and Girls Worldwide."



On April 22, Equal Pay Day, Bath Branch member **Mary-Ann Robinson** spoke to five social studies classes of seniors at Bath Central School explaining the significance of the day, the inequities involved and current legislative efforts to bring about change. Her presentation was well-received by students of both genders. Thanks to a strategy suggested at the state level of AAUW, students were given Hershey's mini-PayDay candy bars wrapped in an informative slip of paper. The remaining bars were distributed at various locales.