

AAUW

FOCUS

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AAUW

STRIVING FOR NEW HEIGHTS — THE CLIMB IS WORTH IT!

by Eileen S. Hartmann, AAUW NYS president, TELCali@aol.com or Eshartmann5@gmail.com ~ 585.924.4876

Our 2009 New York State Convention at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, April 24-26, was loaded with AAUW business as well as fun through camaraderie and idea sharing.

Our time together provided a rich array of learning opportunities — even belly dancing, which was a huge hit! We addressed the 2009 Association convention and reviewed the results of our own state survey regarding the proposed bylaws changes (available to you on the www.aauw-nys.org site).

The views of the lake and the mountains at The Sagamore were awesome and members in attendance took time to soak up the fresh air while enjoying the beauty to be found in very direction.

When graphic designer and former AAUW NYS Program Vice President **Jann Mirchandani** prepared the program for the convention she chose such an appropriate cover. It is shared with you in miniature on this page.

Looking at the design, we see a woman hanging from a cliff with one foot attached, free yet connected. We see a beautiful panorama similar to the views enjoyed at The Sagamore every day. We see that there is a challenge, a quest, the desire to succeed despite obstacles in the way. Along with the feeling that you may be close to the summit, there is the fear that you might plummet. You hope that your experience and skills will see you through, that you will persevere and continue, and while there are barriers, there are also ropes that connect you safely with the mountain.

That's where we feel we are in AAUW at this juncture. In New York State we continue our AAUW business, assured that our members value us as a state entity. Many members from across the country continued their support of AAUW at the national convention in St. Louis in June as we voted to remain an organization of women and men with college degrees and to provide methods for each member to have a vote in future AAUW business.

Why do we continue as an organization? Does AAUW make a difference? We are generous, seek human interaction, know the value of educabrand of passion. We are aware of family dynamics, the economy and its impact,

economy and its impact, our community needs, legislation that brings about change, and the difference support can make in the lives of others.

The team in Washington, DC, keeps us connected and moves our mission, as we in New York State and beyond supply the members and funds to pave AAUW's pathway to success.

Together we need to keep growing to move barriers and use our knowledge and muscle to reach a summit where equity is the reward.

As we head into the summer, visit the Association website — www.aauw.org — to read about actions achieved at the national convention.

We also hope you'll join us, July 10-12, at the summer leadership conference at Hartwick College in Oneonta or, if you cannot attend, make a point to ask your branch leadership what was learned and how it benefits you as a member.

In August, prepare for another year of connection to AAUW. Support our mission and reach new heights through your involvement.

Keep Moving The Mission Forward!



PUTTING NEW YORK'S FACE TO EF

by Tamara Brown, AAUW NYS Educational Foundation director, TBforAAUW@cs.com ~ 716.649.9871

All year, I've talked about putting a face to the Educational Foundation (EF). This year, you, as New York State members, certainly did!

You've probably already heard the good news from the state convention, which will also be announced at the upcoming national convention:

New York State has rallied to #7 in the nation for overall giving to the Educational Foundation. Despite a very difficult economic environment and in light of our concerted efforts this year to keep a level of giving that represents our commitment to EF, this is something of which to be really proud!

I know that each of you give because of the wonderful benefits to equity through education and research, but please also accept my heartfelt appreciation for your support this year. Simply fabulous!

There are many wonderful "faces" to celebrate this year. Here are a few highlights from the convention....

The following branches are to be congratulated for leading the state in *overall giving to EF*: Buffalo, Westchester County, Islip Area, North Shore, Rockland County, Poughkeepsie, Schenectady, Smithtown Area, New York City, Inc., and Mid Island.

The following branches are to be congratulated for leading the state in *per-capita giving to EF*. This represents a high level of giving based upon the number of members. Impressively, each of these members met the goal of \$25 per member in contributions to EF: Buffalo, Smithtown Area, Islip Area, Oswego, Manhattan, Mid Island, Huntington, Westchester County, Rockland County, and North Shore.

The following branches were recognized at the convention for raising additional funds last year through the special *Work & Relax Fundraiser* (I believe that this extra effort propelled our competitive standing. It was truly appreciated.): Adirondack, Buffalo, Elmira-Corning, Ithaca, Oswego, and Smithtown Area.

Speaking of the fundraiser, donor *Erna Cunningham* was the winner of the package, drawn at the convention. Erna will receive \$40 in Lowe's gift certificates and a relaxing package including gift certificates for a hotel stay and dinner. I am pleased to have been able to donate toward part of this special package and to raise more funds for EF. Thanks to the **Smithtown Branch**, who solicited Erna's donation, for their hard work on this fundraiser.

Some members are not only the face of EF, but also volunteered their feet as well. We had a number of branches participating in the *annual NYS EF walk/trivia contest*, including the follow-

ing team leaders: Joan Trinchera (Buffalo), Erna Cunningham (Islip Area), Jeanne Knapp (Ithaca), Loreen Ginitti (Jamestown), Denise Springer (Kingston), Mildred DeWitt (Manhattan), Norma Plett (North Shore), and Peggy Kelland (Poughkeepsie). In addition, although she did not attend this year's convention, Bobbe Fortunato (Islip Area) walked in her hometown, raising funds for EF! The Poughkeepsie and Jamestown branches led the way with donations, raising over \$700 for EF with just a few, enjoyable steps (or trivia questions)!

A final summer reminder: the year for EF does not end with the branch and state fiscal years. In fact, our work is barely half-done for 2009. EF runs on a calendar year, so we have six more months to continue to support our Foundation. Please continue to send in your support to your branch EF chairs. (Remember, donors of \$100 to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund [ERF] will receive the 2009 ERF pin.) Please send EF donations before early December to ensure proper credit for 2009 so that we can continue to put that wonderful face to FF!

It was wonderful seeing you all at the convention and celebrating the Foundation -- as well as the hard work that makes it all possible. You have my deepest congratulations for a successful 2009 and my sincere appreciation.

Acknowledgement: Please note the following errors / omissions from the convention's EF program: Angela Hamm is the named gift honoree for the Islip Area Branch. Barbara Shuck is the named gift honoree for the Mohawk Valley Branch.

EMERGING LEADERS

by Maria Ellis, district council director, mellis@opm32.hbs.edu ~ 973. 216. 4181

I had such fun talking with all the 2009 Emerging Leaders throughout NYS. Many wonderful women were nominated by their local branches for this pres-

tigious honor. This year, in addition to their bios, we added photos of our emerging leaders to the AAUW NYS website, www.aauw-nys.org.

Thank you to all the district leaders for giving me the opportunity to meet with these wonderful women and learn more about the success of their local branches.

Special thanks to all the Emerging Leaders, our district coordinators, the nominating committee delegates and alternates who attended the 2009 AAUW NYS Convention at The Sagamore and to all of <u>you</u>, for helping to move the AAUW mission forward.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by Bergie Lebovich, AAUW NYS membership vice president, Bergie.Lebovitch@gmail.com ~ 845.298.4045

On the shores of beautiful Lake George in the Adirondacks, the New York State Convention was held at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, April 24-26. The success of a convention is measured by the appearance of a "seamless" event. That was made possible by the total dedication of **Mary Lou Davis**, her team of convention divas and your New York State board. Many thanks go to them because we had a marvelous time getting to know one another and sharing our successes and experiences in such an inspiring environment.

I was given the honor of recognizing some of our stellar branches who have really excelled in increasing their membership. Our top five branches were celebrated in both the highest overall increase as well as the highest percentage increase. First place went to **Rockland County** who brought in 37 new members (2/1/09), an increase of 42.05%.

Special recognition for the <u>highest overall</u> <u>increase</u>: **Poughkeepsie** (23), a tie for **Cortland** (9) and **Southern New York** (9), **Oneonta** (7), and **Adirondack** (6). The list for <u>the highest percentage increase</u> includes: **Cortland** 32.14%; **Oneonta** 24.14%; **Southern New York** 12.86%; and **Oswego** 11.76%. Congratulations and many thanks to the 15 branches who not only brought in new members but did so <u>and</u> "bridged the gap" created by attrition at renewal time.

Have you been to the Association website (www.aauw.org)? Have you seen the *Hall of Fame*? Twenty-nine of our NYS branches are listed there along with the names of the members who have received recognition for all of their recruiting efforts!

Six branches entered the Member-Get-A-Member campaign this year (Cortland, Jamestown, Mohawk Valley, Oswego, Rockland County and Syracuse) — see any familiar names from above honor roll? It worked!

Ten very special women were honored at an exclusive membership reception on Saturday evening at the state convention. Over the past three years, these ladies brought in over 105 new members and were awarded custom-made pins as a recognition of their dedication to moving the mission forward. Selena Barron — Westchester; Joyce Brown — Rockland County; Maria Ellis & Dr. Rani — New York City; Peggy Kelland, Irene Keyes, Bergie Lebovitch, Liz Moesel & Amy Schwed — Poughkeepsie; and Margaret Williams — Jefferson County were all in attendance.

Five of this exclusive "club" were not present but, rather, were out trying to find other new members: Gloria Gibbs — Poughkeepsie; Julie Kleszczewski — New York City; Lenore Lewis — Elmira/Corning; Laurie Pina — Rockland County

and **Elizabeth Russo** of Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown. These five "go-getters" brought in another 51 members .

Additionally, **Joyce Brown** of the **Rockland County Branch** was given special recognition for all of her phenomenal recruiting efforts. Joyce's philosophy is: "build it and they will come." This credo is so instructional for all branches, in that (Pardon me, Hillary!) "It takes the whole branch" to grow the membership. Joyce has consistently worked in her branch, coming from a member-at-large membership, to help make Rockland County the fastest growing branch in New York State. Kudos to Joyce, again.

In the past three years, <u>443</u> new members have joined New York State through the *Member-Get-A-Member campaign*. If your branch is not participating or is not sure how to join in the fun and excitement of coupling the very "saving" *Shape the Future* (STF) events with *Member-Get-A-Member* (MGM), there are two or three options.

You may access The NYS membership connections at www.aauw-nys.org or the Association website at www.aauw.org to see recruitment campaign information. If you have any subsequent questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

If we all participate in **STF-MGM** this year, who knows how many will end up in the spotlight at the 2010 AAUW NYS convention?! Let's triple the "exclusive club's" membership attendees at The Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown next year. Go get them!!!

ASK JUDGE SOTOMAYOR

Sen. Pat Leahy (D-VT), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has announced that **Judge Sonia Sotomayor**'s Supreme Court confir-

mation hearings will begin on **July 13**. AAUW will be submitting questions we'd like the senators to ask Judge Sotomayor during these hearings, and <u>you</u> can be a part of that process.

Submit your suggested questions now by filling out the form on the national AAUW website (go to the Two-Minute Activist and look for "Legislative Alerts and Updates").

What do you want to know about Judge Sotomayor's qualifications and judicial philosophy? Do you have questions about her stances on any of AAUW's issues? What do you think the senators should know before they vote on her confirmation to this highly-influential, lifetime appointment?

AAUW will review all submissions and take your questions into account when formulating a formal set of questions for the Senate Judiciary Committee. Be an important part of the confirmation process by submitting your questions now.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

by Peggy Kelland, NYS program vice president, program@aauw-nys.org ~ 845.297.0507

The 2009 New York State convention at The Sagamore on Lake George began with the Friday, April 24, dinner and keynote by Jill Birdwhistell, AAUW's chief of strategic planning. She described the heartfelt signing ceremony for the Lilly Ledbetter Act, and urged us to help take the next step towards pay equity: passage of the federal Paycheck Fairness bill.

Friday evening also included lively discussions with **Sally Chamberlain** of the Educational Foundation board on proposed changes to AAUW membership requirements, and with the resolutions caucus on voting machines.

Following Saturday's Awards Breakfast and state business meeting, we heard a public policy panel on pay equity. **Denise Dowell** told us about her work organizing day care workers, pointing out that parking lot attendants are generally paid twice as much as child caregivers. NYS Assemblywoman **Susan John** has been leading the effort to pass the NYS Fair Pay bill, which would end the practice of giving different job titles (and pay!) to people doing the comparable work, and make salary scales transparent. **Anne Houle** spoke of the importance of negotiating one's initial salary.

The Legal Advocacy Fund luncheon featured **Roderick Jackson**, who lost his coaching job when he asked for equal use of facilities for his girls basketball team. Despite repeated losses in court, AAUW helped him pursue his case to victory at the US Supreme Court.

At Saturday night's dinner, **Zaara Sawar** spoke of her research with biofilm and **Tina Lee** shared her findings on the intersection of class, race and ethnicity.

Sunday began with a Counterpart Breakfast and a roundtable with Jill Birdwhistell, giving all the opportunity to ask questions and share concerns. The Branch Showcase consisted of presentations on membership approaches by Rockland County, a diversity conference by Poughkeepsie, multicultural visibility by Jamestown, successful fund raising by Buffalo, and public policy initiatives by Cortland.

The present, past, and future of American women formed the basis for the next three programs. The obstacles overcome by, and ultimate achievements of, two successful women were highlighted by **David** and **Helen Melroy** in their daughter, astronaut **Pam Melroy**, and by Valkill Director **Kathleen Durham** in **Eleanor Roosevelt**.

The final luncheon looked ahead with a presentation by women students from SUNY Oneonta on the difficulties faced by minority and low-income students and how these may be ameliorated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COMMUNICATION AWARD WINNERS!

Donna Seymour, AAUW NYS director of communications, onthego@northnet.org ~ 315.265.6985

I am delighted to report that most of the branches in NYS are being very well-served by their newsletter editors and communication chairs! I handed out many, many awards celebrating the high overall quality of the branch newsletters. Thank you so much to all the newsletter editors in AAUW-NYS for all your hard work to keep your branch members informed and connected to the wider world of AAUW!

The 2008-09 Awards of Excellence went to these branches: Adirondack, Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown, Alfred-Hornell, Bath, Buffalo, Elmira-Corning, Fairport Area, Garden City, Ithaca, Jamestown, Kingston, Manhattan, New York City, Poughkeepsie, Greater Rochester Area, Schenectady, Southern NY, and Westchester.

The 2008-09 Awards of Distinction winners were: Albany, Islip Area, Jefferson County, Mid-Island, Mohawk Valley, North Shore, Rockland County, Skaneateles, St. Lawrence County and Staten Island.

Receiving 2008-09 Awards of Merit were: **East Hampton**, **Oneonta**, **Oswego**, **Syracuse** and **Yates County**. In addition, I honored **Ruth Wahtera** of the **Kingston Branch** for her very innovative communication, an e-newsletter using Constant Contact. Everyone was eager to learn the details of what Ruth does and how it enhances her branch's work.

I also had a chance to meet with several branch editors at the convention. What a treat to hear about all the innovative communications techniques being modeled in New York! I encourage each branch to send at least one person involved with communications to the AAUW Summer Leadership Conference at Hartwick College on July 10-12 in Oneonta. We are planning to convene a roundtable workshop featuring all the great people working in this area in the state. There will be a full computer lab available!

We have a zillion things we could learn about from each other in the areas of visibility, marketing, communications, newsletters, branch websites, blogs, other media venues (like your own TV programs!), web-casting, Google docs, net meetings, etc. This is your chance to share, learn and brainstorm about how to improve on this key area of AAUW. Everyone has something to contribute and something to learn!

Enjoy your summer break, but come back in the fall ready to go to fill the absolutely vital role you play in keeping your branch members involved, aware and educated about AAUW locally, in NY and across the nation!

2009 TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AWARDS

by Peggy Kelland, NYS program vice president, program@aauw-nys.org ~ 845.297.0507

OVERALL PROGRAMMING AWARDS:

Platinum: Buffalo

Islip

Jamestown Kingston New York City Poughkeepsie Schenectady Westchester

Gold: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown

Silver: Bath

Fairport North Shore

Bronze: Elmira-Corning

Smithtown



INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/PROGRAM AWARDS:

Community:

1st: Schenectady - "Brightening the Future of Students in the Schenectady Community"

2nd: St. Lawrence County - "Professional Clothing Fair"

3rd: Mohawk Valley - "Ygirls"

Cultural:

1st: St. Lawrence County - "Leaders and Readers Women's History Month"

Diversity:

1st: Poughkeepsie - "Beyond the Rhetoric" Conference

Education:

1st: Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown - "Sister to Sister" Conference

2nd:Elmira-Corning - "College Scholarship Awards"

3rd: Westchester - "Awards for High School Senior Girls"

STEM:

1st: Buffalo - "Tech Savvy" Conference

2nd: Rockland - "STEM at Summit Park"

3rd: New York City - "The Sky's the Limit" Conference

International:

1st: Rockland - "CASS Mentors and Great Decisions"

2nd: Adirondack - "Quilt Project"

Public Policy:

1st: Islip Area - "Changing the World Together"

Voter Education:

1st: St. Lawrence County - "Candidate Forums"

2nd: Mohawk Valley - "Presidential Debates"

3rd: Islip Area - "Get In'forum'ed"

Women:

1st: Jamestown - "National Women and Girls in Sports Day"

2nd: New York City - "Sister to Sister Family Day"

3rd: North Shore - "Understanding Your Finances"



AAUW NYS: TAKING ACTION FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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

We all believe in forwarding our mission: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through ADVOCACY, education and research."

Public Policy, the heart and soul of AAUW, provides us with a way to achieve that goal. Most of you have been involved by contacting a legislator, talking to others about AAUW issues, and engaging in branch projects/programs.

This year, Amsterdam/Gloversville/
Johnstown, Bath, Buffalo, Cortland, Elmira/
Corning, Fairport, Garden City, Islip Area, Jamestown, Mohawk Valley, Nassau County, New York
City, North Shore, St. Lawrence County, Smithtown, and Southern New York — 38% of our
branches — were awarded the 21st Century Public
Policy Taking Action Award at convention. The
mean participation was four out of six categories,
quite an impressive number.

It can be assumed that their involvement, indicated by the percentages below, reflects what is happening in other branches across the state. Be sure Public Policy is part of your branch plans for next year

- 87% had one or more **Branch Public Policy Programs**
- 62% were involved in a Voter Registration project
- 56% reached out to raise Pay Equity Awareness, especially on Equal Pay Day



Nancy Mion with U.S. Senator for New York Kirsten Gillibrand

• 50% held **Candidate Forums** organized by the branch or with other organizations

Although not a category on the form, 56% mentioned that they used **newsletters and newspapers to inform people** about AAUW issues and 31% **visited/called a Legislator**.

Take that step and talk with these interested people about AAUW issues. You will find information for calls/visits/emails at www.aauw-nys.org or 631.472.9377.

Three thousand New Yorkers subscribe to the AAUW Two Minute Activist as a way to contact congresspeople on AAUW issues. Join by sending your name and email address to VoterEd@aauw.org.

MAKE PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY PART OF YOUR AAUW LIFE.

BIOGRAPHY DEADLINE EXTENDED

by Helen Engel, rengel@oswego.edu ~ 315.343.9678 and Marilynn Smiley, smiley@oswego.edu ~ 315.343.4803, AAUW NYS historical consultants

A Call to All Branches and Branch Members Concerning "Women Making A Difference"

It's not too late!! More biographies are needed for this important state project. Although over 100 biographies from many, but not all, branches, have already been submitted, to double that number would be awesome! Surely the great state of New York has many more women who deserve to be honored. Please submit as many biographies as possible to us by October.

Use "Women Making a Difference " to showcase the women, past and present, famous and not-so-famous, from your community. Utilize this also in your branch programming to increase branch visibility. Let us all work individually and together to make this project, which honors outstanding women from throughout the state, a huge success.



Scrapbooks

Thanks to all who have contributed to your branch scrapbook. It has been a pleasure to exhibit these visual records of branch activities and projects at the New York State AAUW Convention. The branch scrapbook pages we have will be added to the AAUW NYS archives at the University of Rochester.

Plan to continue your branch scrapbook to tell others what you have done and to preserve valuable aspects of your branch history. Make sure these pages, as well as the historical records of your branch, are placed in your local archives.

We look forward to hearing from you. Feel free to contact us at any time.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

by Mildred DeWitt, AAUW-NYS LAF vice president, laf@aauw-nys.org ~ 516.318.1313

The AAUW NYS Convention took place at The Sagamore, Bolton's Landing, on the weekend of April 24-26. **Roderick Jackson** was the speaker for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Luncheon and was well-received by our members and guests.

The basket room was a great success, with 53 baskets contributed by 24 of our branches. The branch credit for each basket contribution is posted on the AAUW NYS website at www.aauw-nys.org/Legal Advocacy Fund. New York State has retained the status of second in the nation and seventh in per capita for contributions to LAF.

MOVING FORWARD

LAF will give priority to cases accepted by a state or federal appellate court because the court would already have determined that the case merits review. Additionally, with appellate cases, LAF will generally have access to the lower trial court's record — legal briefs, testimony of witnesses, the fruits of discovery, evidence, proof, and arguments of all parties in the case (with the exception of items sealed by court order) to assist LAF casesupport decision making. Compared with appellate cases, arbitration and even trials often end in settlement with the results sealed, so the outcome cannot affect other women.

Women have increased \$0.02 in pay equity since the first Pay Check Fairness Act. The new campaign is so "right on".

KEEP THE CHANGE UNTIL WOMEN HAVE REAL CHANGE

The newly designed 2009 LAF pin (with the symbol for justice) is available for your donation of \$100. Please mail your contribution to: AAUW, Planetarium Station, PO Box 390, New York, NY 10024-0390.

Let us work for the REAL CHANGE!!!

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS: VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

by Melissa Guardaro, AAUW-NYS international affairs director, mmg4@netzero.net ~ 845.268.0152

This past January, AAUW members attended the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations' (CTAUN) day-long presentation at UN head-quarters on "Protecting Human Rights: The United Nations, Our Schools."

There were many distinguished speakers who spoke about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its ratification and the responsibilities of all members of the human race to uphold the rights for all peoples.

"The light is fading", according to **Craig Mokhiber**, deputy director of the New York Office of

the High Commissioner for Human Rights. His view is that the "idea" of human rights is under assault. There is a common, growing thought that there are things that "trump" human rights, such as state security, national borders and global markets. To counter this, a mobilization of ALL people is needed. This cannot be solved by non-governmental organizations, the UN or governments alone.

Other panel members answered pressing questions about U.S. involvement, or lack thereof. Carolyn Hannan, director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, which is part of the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, recounted how the United States and eight other nations have not yet ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). While the U.S. was active in designing this treaty, it has been reluctant to sign on because it would have to uphold all elements of the treaty.

Despite the previous administration's hesitancy, Senator Joe Biden was an active supporter of CEDAW ratification. The panel was hopeful that Vice President Joe Biden and the new administration will ratify CEDAW shortly.

Shulamith Koenig, president of The People's Movement for Human Rights Learning, spoke passionately about basic human rights. She asks in her seminars two questions: When was the first time your human rights were violated? and When was the last time your human rights were respected? Koenig stressed "dignity, not charity" when providing for other's rights.

During a video conference with students from Canada, Cameroon and Pakistan, a question was asked as to how to respect customs and religious beliefs while upholding human rights. The most frank answer came from the Ambassador of Bangladesh who was in the audience. His opinion is that he "cannot defend anything on the basis of culture or history that violates human rights."

The keynote speaker, **Greg Mortensen**, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, gave an inspirational slide show on his schools in Central Asia and spoke on the Pennies for Peace program, whereby children collect pennies for other children, and of his peacebuilding efforts. *Three Cups of Tea* is

now required reading for the State Department.

Mortensen has seen a tremendous increase in the number of children being educated in Afghanistan. This is promising, he says, "because this war will not be won with bombs, but with books."





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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@aauwnys.org. Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

Attention postmaster: Dated Material. Please do not delay.

POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR THE 2010-2012 BIENNIUM

The nominating team announces the call for nominations for the following AAUW NYS offices for the 2010-2012 biennium: state president, program VP, and Educational Foundation VP.

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. It is recommended that nominees have AAUW leadership experience within the past five within the last 5 years.

The board representatives on the nominating team are **Mary Lou Davis**, chair, and **Joan Monk**. If you are interested in any of these positions or have suggestions for candidates, please contact Mary Lou or Joan. Applications for these positions must be <u>received</u> by <u>October 15</u>. The applications will be reviewed by the Nominating Team and will be presented at the fall board meeting in November.

You can reach either of the board representatives at:

- Mary Lou Davis, nominating team chair, 845-223-5544, davehdavis@aol.com.
- Joan Monk, alternate chair, 914-245-7704, ftmaven@bestweb.net.

STATE DUES CLARIFICATION

by Norma Plett, NYS treasurer, normaplett@yahoo.com 516.627.5590

Our AAUW New York State dues for 2009-10 are as follows:

- Annual Member = \$10
- New Member = \$10
- Half-year, January 1 to March 14, 2010 = \$5
- March 15, 2010 to June 30, 2011 = \$10
- Paid Life Members = \$10
- Honorary Life Members = \$0
- Student Affiliates = \$0
- Dual Members = \$0
- Transfers this year = \$0

