



AAUWNYSFOCUS

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TWO DYNAMIC WOMEN, ONE SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

By JOAN MONK
AAUW-NYS DISTRICT COUNCIL DIRECTOR

Did you know that AAUW-NYS has two members in the forefront of United Nations programming? Melissa Guardaro is the representative to the UN and Geeta Desai is working on global women's issues as part of her position on the International Federation of University Women Membership Committee.

Melissa is a past president of the Rockland County Branch, past International Affairs chair for the AAUW-NYS Board and one of the driving forces behind the very successful My Sister's Keeper Project.

Geeta is a past president of the Poughkeepsie Branch, an organizational development consultant and the public policy convener for Women Graduates-USA.

It is with these two dynamic women in mind and their commitment to women and girls internationally that we are launching a new New York State Project called NYS AAUW UN Women. It is our hope that branches will engage to learn more — connect more — do more with regard to UN issues, initiatives and

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KEEPING BRANCH INFORMATION UP TO DATE IS CRITICAL

WEBSITES ARE THE KEYS TO COMMUNICATION

By LINDA HAMMOND
AAUW-NYS COMMUNICATIONS/
VISIBILITY DIRECTOR

I'm excited about accepting the Communications/Visibility Director position for AAUW-NYS.

I look forward to working with Betty Preble and Donna Seymour and with the state branches.

I'm a member of the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch.

Currently, I am Co-President along with Liz Russo and I oversee our branch website.

I work at Albany Medical Center where I'm involved with projects such as our recognition programs for 8,000 employees and the human resources website.

Over the next few months, we will review our state website and update the various pages.

If you are involved in a committee or if you are an officer, please review your page(s) and let me know what new information needs to be added and what information can be archived.

It's important that our state website feature up-to-date information. Within a couple of days of having my name posted on our site, I received several emails/inquiries.

Have you spruced up your branch's website recently?

Maintenance of your site is an important marketing requirement. Visitors will notice if your information isn't kept up to date.

The monthly newsletters should be sent to AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP Donna Seymour and to me.

The newsletters are excellent communication tools for a potential member to see what your branch is all about — activities that might pique their interest.

Our newsletters are also important to your members as a means of communicating the latest happenings, the status of projects, initiation of new projects, introduction of new members, and recognition for the hard work/good deeds by our members.

We are also sharing information to our branches through the newsletters.

I look forward to viewing your branch's newsletters and website.



Eleanor Roosevelt
in 1943

One successful project

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outreach. There are many opportunities for all of us to learn and grow through working and supporting Melissa and Geeta.

At the AAUW National Convention in New Orleans, members were enthralled with Robin Gerber's keynote speech on Eleanor Roosevelt.

Robin is the author of "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way," one of my favorite books.

With Eleanor's influence and leadership in shaping the UN as well as her authorship of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it seems fitting

that our first initiative under AAUW-NYS UN Women is "Embracing Eleanor."

This new project will have three parts. First, Robin has agreed to assist us as we begin a year long study of her book. We will be studying it chapter by chapter, month by month.

Next, the International Day of the Girl will be celebrated on Oct. 11, Eleanor's birthday.

What a great way to honor Eleanor and her legacy of leadership. Last, but not least, is how your branch chooses to embrace Eleanor. Honor the girls in your family & community and support the UN.

Please contact me to be part of our year-long study.

Diversity means starting the conversation

By HEIDE PARRENO
AAUW-NYS DIVERSITY DIRECTOR

I want to express my gratitude to each one of you for your confidence in me as Diversity Director.

We started a passionate conversation of diversity at our State Convention and continued at our Leadership Conference at Cazenovia. Members of the branches present shared what each one is doing in diversity.

It was evident as we shared that we are both the same and different. We are the same in our AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

We are different in how each Branch understand and execute our same mission.

This in itself is diversity! Some of the ideas shared:

1) diversity is a value that is mirrored in our mission and embedded in the organizational structure of our organization and integrated in all of our programs and activities.

2) it is the conscience of the Board and

3) Diversity should be an imperative of overarching strategic plan. A team volunteered to do a strategic action plan with me. We started in introducing a concept of inclusion in our diversity statement in our website which we suggest to have in all of our communication materials.

This is to read as:

In principle and practice, AAUW-NYS values and seeks an inclusive diverse membership.

The strategic action team will share with each other through emails, phone contacts and if needed teleconferences as we articulate our strategic actions. Then we will ask for your input and suggestions so it becomes your own.

I believe that it is only when we have ownership in the plan that we can successfully implement it.

I am at your service and am accessible through e-mail at orostar@aol.com and by phone at 585-256-7372.

DONATE & EMPOWER

By CYD AVERILL
AAUW-NYS DEVELOPMENT VP

I am honored to join the board this year, serving in the newly created position of Development Vice President. I will work in concert with Janice Brown (Educational Opportunities Fund Director) and Nancy Mion (Legal Advocacy Fund Director) to generate greater awareness of the full array of AAUW Funds, especially those with significance for our state.

Much has changed in the last few years when it comes to fundraising in AAUW. Members have the opportunity to customize their AAUW giving according to their passions and priorities.

Your tax-deductible donation can quite literally be divided among as many or as few funds as you wish, empowering each of our members to support the AAUW mission in a very personal way.

In addition to EOF (4336) and LAF (3999), you may designate funds to Public Policy (4337), Research (Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, 9170), or Leadership Programs (4339). Many support the Evvie Currie Giving Circle (3086), which supports LAF projects within New York State.

The key is in the coding. When you donate, make sure your check specifies the recipient funds by name and code.

The exciting news this year is the introduction of a brand new fund: The Carolyn Joslin Donovan International Project Grants Fund (#4377), which honors one of our own New York State leaders and her 12 years as AAUW's representative to the United Nations. The grants, which are awarded to women who have completed an AAUW International Fellowship, support community-based projects that build on the fellows' academic work and are designed to improve the social advancement and economic empowerment of women and girls in the fellows' home countries.

We hope support from NYS donors will give this fund a strong start.

At the Summer Leadership Conference in July, Nancy and Janice shared a presentation that describes all of the AAUW Funds and explains their focus. This helpful overview is posted on the AAUW Funds page of the NYS website for your reference.

Additionally, a concise guide to AAUW Funds, including NYS-based funds and fellowships, is also available. To learn about AAUW's rich history of investing in women, a link to the new video "AAUW Fellowships and Grants 125th Anniversary," is on the Funds page.

Our conference "FUN"draiser, which netted \$600, visually demonstrated the many choices members have in support of our mission and is an easy 50/50 fundraiser for a branch meeting.

Using children's sand buckets labeled with the name of each fund, we encouraged members to "shovel" their raffle tickets into the buckets that represented their greatest interests. Many thanks to our raffle winner Donna Seymour, who graciously donated her winnings to AAUW — and proved she was paying attention by carefully specifying her target funds!

Whether you choose to give to the greatest need (unrestricted AAUW Funds, 9110), or direct your donations to specific funds, donating to AAUW is a tangible way to advance the mission of an organization dedicated to empowering women. We're worth it!

Direct your questions about EOF to Janice Brown (j2brown1012@aol.com, 254-247-9549) and LAF to Nancy Mion (myown2210@aol.com, 631-472-9377). For other AAUW Funds, contact Cyd Averill (averillc@optonline.net, 845-485-2866).

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*There are many issues we need to tackle to achieve
true political, fiscal and employment equity for women
here in the Empire State*

Title IX is top priority among initiatives

By **DONNA SEYMOUR**
AAUW-NYS PUBLIC POLICY VP

In what I like to call the “Your AAUW Dues at Work for You Department,” we have several major initiatives to report. AAUW-NYS received a 2013 Public Policy Impact Grant from AAUW. This \$1,000 grant will allow us to focus our attention on key topics during this next year with the help of the powerful AAUW Public Policy Department staff and resources.

The primary focus is on Title IX: Creating Safer Campus Climates, which includes sexual harassment, bullying, and gun violence.

Title IX is about so much more than athletics. This effort is being coordinated by me, Jeri Fairman, our AAUW-NYS College-University Director, and Dr. Jennifer Ball, the District 7 Coordinator.

Both Jeri and Jen are the Title IX Coordinators for their respective colleges, so this project will focus on making sure institutions know their responsibilities under Title IX and making sure students know their rights, as well.

They presented a workshop at the Summer Leadership Conference in Cazenovia (the PowerPoint is available on the state website) and we'll be creating resources and how-to materials for your use.

This project is flexible, designed to work at the branch or district level. You can work with your local colleges and/or your local school

system or BOCES Center. Under the Dignity For All Student Act which went into effect last July in NYS, all schools must have a building Title IX person, as well as an overall coordinator for the district/institution.

Additionally, AAUW-NYS won a grant to take advantage of a special states organizer who will help us work on outreach for the Title IX (TIX) project as well as work more closely with new and existing C/U partners and help branches connect to the e-Student members at those colleges. If your branch is looking for this kind of help, please contact our C/U Director, Jeri Fairman.

The AAUW-funded State Tracker Program will be moving into its second year, which allows us to track the status of key pieces of legislation in NYS on a day-to-day basis during the legislative calendar. AAUW is also transitioning to the SALSA platform for Action Network, which will allow us in NYS to write and send out our own state-based Action Alerts.

This will come in very handy as we continue to work toward women's equality with our allies in the state legislature and our coalition partners to create a WEA-2 for 2014.

There are many issues we need to tackle to achieve true political, fiscal and employment equity for women here in the Empire State.

Thanks to AAUW, we have the tools, support and training to do just that!

AAUW's impact is felt far and wide

By MARY LOU DAVIS
AAUW-NYS PRESIDENT

Greetings! Exciting things are happening in New York State.



Public Policy VP
Donna Seymour
applied for and was
awarded an Impact
Grant for New York.
The other Impact
Grant leaders are Jeri
Fairman and Jen Ball.

The goals for the grant were as follows:

CREATING SAFER CLIMATES

- Create campus-wide and self-awareness of Title IX rights for college students in NYS.
- Create a climate so NYS colleges fulfill their legal and ethical obligations under Title IX.
- Engage the approximately 75 C/U partners we have to provide Title IX education for students.

PAID SICK DAYS

- Create a coalition of state-organizations to educate about the need for Paid Sick Days at the state and federal level.
- Successfully move bills through both NY state houses to the Governor's desk for action.

New York was also one of 20 states chosen to participate in the State Organizer Pilot Program. In the application for an organizer we listed our state's top three priorities or goals for the coming fiscal year. The goals are listed below:

1. Increasing public policy action through the Impact Grant with a focus on Title IX and Paid Sick Leave, two issues of critical importance to women. Provide advocacy training at the state convention.
2. Identify and facilitate outreach to current and potential coalition partners.



At the Summer Leadership Conference, Emma Condori spoke about life in Bolivia.

Provide resource information and help to structure activities with these partners. This will help to increase AAUW's visibility in the broader community.

3. Enhance college and university partnership relationships and increase the number of partnerships. Assist branches in attracting e- student affiliates. Jeri Fairman will be our point person for the organizer pilot program.

The focus of our Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia was "Violence Against Women." Our speakers on the topic were Dr. David Crenshaw who spoke about abused children, Judy Lombardi who told us about battered women, Emma Condori who talked about her life in Bolivia, and Geeta Desai who spoke about partnering with women in developing countries.

We also heard from Susan Zimet

about Votes for Women 20/20 and Dr. Uma Gupta on STEM.

There were workshops on programming, fundraising and use of the national data base. Members learned about Title IX, MSK and AAUW Funds.

We all enjoyed an evening of games, chocolate, wine and face cream, as well as plenty of ice cream sundaes. Time was spent brainstorming for the 2014 Convention at Honors Haven in Ellenville on April 25 to 27.

Mark your calendars now so you can attend. Eileen Hartmann was elected to the AAUW Board of Directors and New York was well represented by our members at the National Convention in New Orleans.

Be sure to check the aauw.org website for information on the speakers and workshops at the convention.

A call for nominations

At the 2014 spring convention we will be electing three state officers for the following two years — President, Program VP and AAUW Funds VP. These officers will be working closely with branches to move our AAUW program forward throughout the state.

It is the job of the Nominating Committee to advertise these positions, educate members about the positions, and find qualified candidates to stand for election. Each District elects members to serve on the Nominating Committee at convention. This is a critically important task as we consider the future needs of the state and search for leaders.

We invite all members of AAUW-NYS to consider carefully these needs and suggest qualified people to fill the slate.

Eligible AAUW members can self-nominate or run for election from the floor at the business meeting.

If you are nominating someone else you must, however, obtain that person's consent in writing. All the forms and related information can be found at aauw-nys.org.

— Donna Seymour

SAVE THE DATE

2014 AAUW-NYS CONVENTION

April 25-27, 2014
Honors Haven Resort
Ellenville, N.Y.

2013 SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE





CAZENOVIA BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN ALL OF US





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Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy 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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BRANCH ARCHIVES LINK THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

By **HELEN ENGEL**
AAUW-NYS HISTORIAN

Many of you have received information from previous officers or committee members for the coming year. Now is the perfect time to sort through this information and decide what should be put in your branch archives.

If you don't want the total responsibility about what to put in the archives, get together with others to go through those boxes and piles of paper.

All branch members who have accumulated branch information should also make sure this is done.

After you have saved the things you will need to perform your current job, things that can be tossed could include routine correspondence, externally created publications, old forms that are no longer in use, drafts and working copies. Notes and telephone messages that are outdated can also go into that round file.

In deciding what to save for your branch archives, think of its historical significance. Certainly founding documents, your branch bylaws

and all revisions, and all your branch minutes should be included.

Past audits and budgets, publications, news clippings and press releases should be kept.

Your old directories and membership list, correspondence, including emails of a significant nature, and other branch memorabilia are all important. Photographs with names and dates and audio visual recordings help to give a human aspect to your history when saved.

Finally, scrapbooks should be included as they are a good primarily visual source of your yearly activities. Use your best judgment about what should be kept. If you are unsure, ask other branch members what they think about a particular item.

Your branch archives not only tell others about the past accomplishments of your branch, but are our gateway to the future. Information should be saved for future generations to use and enjoy. Make sure your branch is maintaining this information.

For further useful information please check your AAUW-NYS and AAUW-National websites. If you have questions, please contact me at rengel@oswego.edu or 315-343-9678.