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Marching On with AAUW-NYS President, Roli Wendorf, after the Women's March.



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Proposed Bylaws Amendments by Loreen Ginnitti, Secretary, Bylaws.





American Association of University Women • New York State

Volume 66, Issue 3 • ISSN 1056 3199

SPECIAL STATE CONVENTION ISSUE

CONVENTION FEVER: THE ANTICIPATION AND EXCITEMENT RISES

By Geeta Desai, Program Vice President

The planning is done, the program is in place, the speakers and workshop facilitators are anticipating your presence, and the AAUW-NYS Convention Committee can't contain its excitement at seeing you in April at the Double Tree Inn in Syracuse, NY!

Have you registered yet?

This year's Convention is very special because 2017 is the centenary of women's rights in New York State, so it's a study, a retrospective, and a testament to all of the courageous women who came before us and whose many legacies we enjoy today. These women all had one thing in common: they understood that women were innately powerful and that once summoned, this power would elevate women to gender equality.

One hundred years later, AAUW-NYS is asking you the question: Are you summoning up your power to fight for your rights? for your daughters' rights, your mothers' aunts' nieces' rights? for your friends' rights?

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Next Stop, Convention! By Jean Havens, Communications/Visibility Director.

As you know, the theme of this year's convention is "Women and Power" and our intention is to help you summon up that power and use it in your personal and professional lives and in the interests of all women and girls.



April 21 - 23, 2017 at the DoubleTree Inn in Syracuse, New York

Why is it important to understand the concept of power and its strategic use? It's important because the world continues to change in ways that are not women-friendly: national legislative, business, and global policies do not favor women and girls.

Even the lackluster implementation of women's and girls' rights makes all previous legislation seem like mere equivocations.

For some people, the thought of changing this trajectory of priorities and policies may seem overwhelming, but not to us. In fact, this is what the AAUW is all about – smart women organizing to use their knowledge, their experiences, their

interpersonal and negotiating skills to win new rights for women and to stop the erosion of hard-won rights.

This Convention will teach you, inspire you, and applaud you as you discover that power is not elusive after all. It's inside you – where it was all along, waiting to be unleashed.

So, come celebrate our history, learn something new about yourself, and strengthen your resolve to fight for our collective rights.

Register for the 2017 AAUW New York State Convention taking place at the DoubleTree Inn in Syracuse, NY, from Friday, April 21 through Sunday, April 23, 2017! You won't want to miss it!!

https://tinyurl.com/hudfanb

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AAUW Funds and Fun at the Convention by Nancy Mion, Development Vice President.

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Call for Nominations by Janet Forbes, Nominating Committee Chair 2017-18.





MARCHING ON

By Roli Wendorf, President



FOCUS, a quarterly newsletter, is published by the American Association of University Women-New York State. The distribution cost of \$4 is included in state dues.

Questions and articles should be addressed to:

Focus Director Laurie Eikemeyer, 230 Wilmington Ave. Tonawanda, NY 14150

Phone: 716.440.7596.

Email: focus@aauw-nys.org.

Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor. *FOCUS* is a publication of the AAUW-NYS Board.



Women are energized in ways we haven't seen in a long time! The "Women's March" on January 21 turned out to be one of the largest mass demonstrations in American history. Many AAUW-NYS women joined the marches in Washington DC, New York City, and locations across the state.

As we mark one hundred years of women's suffrage in New York State this year, the fear of losing hard-won rights such as in Title IX and reproductive health, along with perceptions of an anti-women administration, are causing women to protest in large numbers. As the nation's leading voice on issues of equity for women and girls, we at AAUW have an opportunity to build up our membership by adding new members and to energize our programming by pushing harder on issues of gender equity.

Our upcoming AAUW-NYS Convention provides us an opportunity to network and channel our energy into new ideas and programs. Do come and be part of the conversation at this important time.

Our keynote speakers, workshops, and a variety of opportunities for meeting and talking will be helpful in generating ideas for the coming year.

An area showing significant energy in New York State is pay equity and our Start Smart and Work Smart pay negotiation workshops. Cities at both ends of the state – New York City and Buffalo – have expressed interest in exploring the possibility of area-wide Work Smart programs. Large city and state college systems such as SUNY and CUNY are exploring the possibility of deploying Start Smart workshops on several of their campuses.

The areas we work on, such as Start Smart/Work Smart, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Title IX including campus sexual assault, are even more important now as we can expect less attention to these issues from the federal government.

We need to interact with one another more than ever. Let us meet at Convention and continue our march forward!





MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR AAUW-NYS BOARD

Peggy Tiffany, Membership Vice President and Nominating Committee Chair

Nominee for Vice President for Membership: Barbara Sarver



Branch: Westchester

Offices/Activities: Co-Recording Secretary, 2008-2011; maintains Branch database; produces and edits 52-page Branch Yearbook; serves as registrar and produces brochure and Journal for Branch's annual STEM conference for 7th grade girls.

B.S., Hunter College; M.S., Western Connecticut State University; M.S., Pace University.

Barbara Sarver does a lot for the Westchester Branch, as you see above. The activity with the most impact on the members is undoubtedly the Branch Yearbook, the cover of which features a print of the Tappan Zee Bridge and the legend "A Bridge to Equity!" The yearbook contains contact information and photos of each member of the Branch, which is a real help to members and prospective members in one of our larger branches. Barbara says her favorite Branch activity is planning for their annual "Explore Your Opportunity – The Sky's the Limit!" This is the Westchester Branch's very successful annual STEM conference for 7th-grade girls, and with her degrees in Math, Secondary (Ed.) Math, and Computer Science, it's a perfect fit for Barbara's skills. Barbara received the Emerging Leader Award from the Westchester Branch in 2008, and remembers how inspired she was by Lilly Ledbetter's speech to the state convention that year.

Barbara has taught mathematics and computer programming at the high school level and served her school district as Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator for grades 7 – 12. She continues to serve in her field as a volunteer math tutor at Westchester Community College. Those who wrote letters of support for Barbara note her dynamic style of leadership and attention to detail, both important skills for a Membership VP. She is described as a perfectionist, one who works well with others and is inclusive.

Nominee for Vice President for Public Policy: Cynthia Herriott Sullivan



Branch: Greater Rochester Area Branch

Offices/Activities: Branch Director of Public Policy; COPE (Coalition on Pay Equity); currently serving uncompleted term as VP for Public Policy, AAUW-NYS Board.

B.S., Roberts Wesleyan College; M.S., Keuka College

Cynthia Herriott Sullivan's range of experience is impressive, from serving as a Sergeant in the City of Rochester Police De-

partment to being the COO for Seamless Communications Group, the CEO for Rise Up Rochester, and Deputy Director – Metro Washington, DC for the National Drug Court Institute. Cynthia has also served on boards and major committees for regional, state, national, and international organizations, including International Association of Chiefs of Police, Diversity Committee; National Center on Women and Policing, Board of Directors; Department of Homeland Security, State and Local Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee; Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley, Board of Directors; United Way, Board of Directors; and YWCA, Racial Justice Committee of the Board.

Those who wrote letters supporting Cynthia's application noted her outstanding work ethic, her history as a public servant and experience with public entities. She is described as being easy to work with and someone who "wants to be part of the solution." Also noted are her excellent communication skills and ability to multi-task.

(Continued on page 4)

AAUW-NYS ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Roli Wendorf (wendorfr@aol.com)

Program Vice President

Geeta Desai (geetadesai@optonline.net)

Membership Vice President

Peggy Tiffany (tiffanyfamily@netsync.net)

Development Vice President

Nancy Mion (myown220@aol.com)

Public Policy Vice President

Cynthia Herriott Sullivan (cherri4849@aol.com)

Secretary / Bylaws Chair

Loreen Ginnitti (loreen@fairpoint.net)

Treasurer

Diane Jablonski (dianejablonski@gmail.com)

DIRECTORS

Administrative Director

Betty Harrel (bharrel28@gmail.com)

College / University Director

Jane Pendergast, (jpendergast2@msn.com)

Communications / Visibility Director

Jean Havens (jhavens@verizon.net)

Convention Co-Directors

Mary Lou Davis (maryloudavis125@gmail.com) Stephanie Lemnios (sblemnios@gmail.com)

Cultural / International Director

Gabriela Hoover (gabihoover@gmail.com)

Immediate Past President

Edwina Martin (edwinamartin@hotmail.com)

District Director

Janet Forbes (jlforbes@hotmail.com)

Diversity Director

Suzanne Young-Mercer (smym5225@aol.com)

Focus Director

Laurie Eikemeyer (laurie.eikemeyer@gmail.com)



WOMEN'S MARCH







Candidates (continued from page 3)

Nominee for Secretary/By-Laws Chair: Kimberly A. Blanchett



Branch: Schenectady (Primary), Cortland, Empire State Virtual Branch (both Secondary)

B.A., SUNY Brockport; M.Ed., Roberts Wesleyan University; C.A.S., SUNY Oswego

Kimberly Blanchett currently works as the Assistant Academic Program Manager for Liberal Arts at Pace University in Connecticut.
Fortunately, she is able to work remotely from her home in New York State. In her job, she focuses on cross-disciplinary curriculum

development in the Liberal Arts, which involves working with faculty and managing online platforms for course material. She also teaches courses in history and political science. Such work requires a strong sense of time management, attention to detail, clear and concise written communication, and the ability to listen keenly as her meetings are usually via conference call. All of these are skills required of the Secretary/By-Laws Chair for AAUW-NYS.

Kimberly believes that education and advocacy are the roots of societal growth, and that is what drew her to AAUW. She competed in gymnastics in college, and has offered her services to gyms and dance studios to help train instructors on safe and effective techniques to use with their students. She has recently become involved as a volunteer with the Cazenovia Community Preschool, helping them with social media/public relations and fundraising.

Those who sent letters of support for Kim describe her as committed, energetic, focused, diligent, organized, and always willing to help others. One writer noted that Kimberly participated in the NY/NJ WILD Project, and was invaluable and conscientious with follow -up. This experience inspired her to create a blog for Pace University students about the leadership model of Eleanor Roosevelt, and how students could utilize that model in their lives.

Nominee for Treasurer: Diane Jablonski



Branch: Poughkeepsie

Office/Activities: Treasurer for Branch, 2013-present; Currently filling uncompleted term as Treasurer, AAUW-NYS Board.

B.A., University of Delaware

Diane Jablonski has a wealth of experience in managing and monitoring budgets. Her résumé includes 30 years in management at IBM and Cap Gemini Ernst and Young. In addition, Diane served as

Dutchess County Comptroller for 4 years, managing all county payments, supporting the external audit and performing audits of county departments and non-profits.

Diane has served as president and board member of the Mediation Center of Dutchess County, a large non-profit. She serves as a Commissioner of the NYS Bridge Authority. In all of these activities, Diane has acquired a thorough understanding of both government and non-profit finance. She understands the need for timeliness and accuracy in record keeping, responding to requests for payment, and providing timely and accurate information to a board of directors.

Writers of letters supporting Diane's candidacy noted her work ethic and accuracy, her willingness to take on responsibility, and her spirit of cooperation and collaboration. They also were impressed by the fact that she agreed to fill out an uncompleted term when the position had been vacant for some time. Of herself, Diane says, "During my professional career, I personally encountered many of the issues that AAUW addresses. I am pleased to be part of an organization at the forefront of women's rights and contribute to their work."

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

By Loreen Ginnitti, Secretary/Bylaws

American Association of University Women, New York State Inc.

Following are the bylaws amendments that will be presented at the 2017 AAUW-NYS convention for delegate approval.

All **bold** are words to be added. <u>Underlined</u> is wording to be eliminated.

ARTICLE IX. STATE MEMBERSHIP POLICY

An AAUW-NYS member is a dues paying member of in good standing (dues paid or waived by the appropriate entity) of a NYS branch and AAUW-NYS.

Rationale – Wording added to define members of AAUW-NYS. At this time we have no mechanism for becoming a member of the state except by being a member of a branch.

ARTICLE XI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Committee

a. There shall be a Nominating Committee elected by the <u>following</u> procedure as outlined in the **AAUW-NYS Working Rules and** Nominating Committee handbook.

Rationale - Rewording is necessary when procedures are removed from bylaws and placed in working rules.

ARTICLE XII. OFFICERS

Section 2. Qualifications for Office

a. The elected and appointed officers shall be members of AAUW and_AAUW-NYS. The elected and appointed directors shall facilitate and promote the purpose and mission of AAUW and AAUW-NYS.

Rationale - Charges officers and directors to support AAUW-NYS mission which may be more specific than the AAUW mission.

ARTICLE XIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

All duly elected officers shall perform the duties usually pertaining to the office and as outlined in the AAUW-NYS Working Rules.

Rationale – Gives statement of expectations which covers "ordinary" expectations of officers without listing them individually.

Section 1. President

b. State Responsibilities

Represent AAUW-NYS in all work with other organizations and at meetings and conferences. Act as the official representative of AAUW-NYS.

Rationale - Gives the president ultimate authority of representation in any forum without listing them separately.

Serve in an advisory capacity to all task forces and committees except the **Finance and** Nominating Committees

Rationale – The president is named as a voting member of the Finance committee in these bylaws.

Section 2. Vice Presidents

There shall be <u>at least</u> four Vice Presidents of AAUW-NYS: a Program Vice President, a Membership Vice President, a Development Vice President, and a Public Policy Vice President.

Rationale – The original wording would potentially allow the board to add vice presidents without member approval.

Section 4. Treasurer

(3) Render a properly audited account at the annual meeting and at such other times as may be designated by the AAUW-NYS President, or at the request of 10% of the Board of Directors. Present a statement of current financial position to the membership at the annual meeting, to the board of directors at each board meeting, and to the finance committee upon request.

Rationale - Audit is not necessary for the organization because of limited finances. Since the financial review takes place in July, those figures are not helpful to members in April. Members benefit more from current figures. We have an operating Finance committee which gets regular reports but this mandates additional reports if requested and mandates reports to board of directors.

(4) Arrange for a report of the annual financial review to the board of directors at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Rationale – Added to mandate a report of the annual review to board.

(5)(previously (4)) Pay all bills authorized by the budget adopted by the Board of Directors or approved following board procedures.

Rationale – Specific procedures removed to the working rules which already have procedures for approving certain payments.

Section 5. Annual Reports. All elected officers and appointed board members shall submit annual reports to the President and be available on the AAUW-NYS website the membership. All reports shall be available in writing at the annual convention and shall be sent electronically by the President or her representative to members upon request.

Rationale – It is expensive to print 15 or more reports for every member attending convention. The website provides access to almost every member.

ARTICLE XV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The Executive Committee shall:

a. Act for the Board of Directors in the interim between meetings of the board except such for duties as are as specifically delegated to the Board in Article XIV in these bylaws.

Rationale – Provides more clarity.

ARTICLE XVIII. MEETINGS OF AAUW-NYS

Section 1. Time, Place and Notification

d. Notice of each meeting shall be sent to all members <u>eligible to</u> <u>vote at such meeting</u> at least 30 (but not more than 50) days prior to the meeting. Notice also will be sent to any non-voting

(Continued on page 6)

BYLAWS (continued from page 5)

members entitled to attend the meeting. If sent by facsimile telecommunication or mailed electronically, such notice is given when directed to the member's fax number or electronic mail address as it appears on the record of members, or to such fax number or other electronic mail address as filed with the secretary of the corporation.

Rationale – More clarity. The secretary does not keep that information and removing a specific person allows for flexibility.

Section 2. Representation

a. Voting Body

The voting body of any meeting of the state shall be composed of the people in the following categories, all of whom shall be AAUW-NYS members at the February 1st AAUW membership report. 31 days before the business meeting.

Rationale - We have been using this accounting because there is no other official record from the national records.

Section 3. - Resolutions and Public Policy Principles

Resolutions and Public Policy Principles shall be voted upon following the procedure outlined in the working rules appendix and published on the AAUW-NYS website.

- A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for adoption.
- (2) Resolutions and public policy principles may also be introduced from the floor. However, a two-thirds vote of those present and voting is necessary for discussion and a three-fourths vote of those present and voting shall be required for adoption of such item.

Rationale - Moved from section 2 with procedure removed. # 2 and 3 separated from paragraph. #1 and #2 have not been changed and require member vote on Public Policy Principles.

ARTICLE XIX. STATE BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Prior Approval. All <u>other</u> amendments to the AAUW-NYS bylaws **other than those mandated by AAUW** shall be sent to the AAUW-NYS Board of Directors for approval and compliance with AAUW bylaws, AAUW-NYS bylaws, federal and New York State laws, regulations of the Internal Revenue service and the mission of AAUW prior to the membership vote at the annual business meeting.

Rationale – The mandated bylaws amendment statement is found in Article VII. Reworded for that reason.

Please direct any questions or comments to Secretary/Bylaws Chair Loreen Ginnitti at: loreen@fairpoint.net

In addition, there are a number of procedures we are requesting to move to the AAUW-NYS Working Rules document that we are not posting here. Since they are not policy but rather procedural, it was felt that this was a more appropriate placement.

They will be voted on at the convention in one motion as part of the bylaws presentation unless a division motion is made.

These procedures were previously sent to branches to discuss and are posted on the AAUW-NYS website for your review at: https://tinyurl.com/jtcwcfw.

We hope you understand that printing and mailing costs prohibit their being included in the Focus.

NEXT STOP: CONVENTION!

By Jean Havens, Communications/Visibility Director

Have you begun reaching out beyond the familiarity of your branch meetings to perhaps a district meeting or maybe even the annual Leadership Conference in Cazenovia? If so, you know the fun and camaraderie that develops by sharing program ideas and information. Now it's time to move on to the next level of involvement – the AAUW-NYS state convention!

As a first-time convention attendee, you'll be pleasantly surprised by the scope of the speakers, workshops, and activities being offered. Mary Lou Davis, a member of the Poughkeepsie Branch who estimates that she has attended at least 11 of the most recent state conventions, recalls the excitement of the state convention dinner that featured Lilly Ledbetter as the speak-

er. "She was fascinating," Mary Lou recalls, "as she told us about her pay discrimination challenge to her employer, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Her battle resulted in the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and we were thrilled to have heard and met her as the case was still in progress."

Aside from meeting new friends from branches all over the state, Mary Lou appreciates the presentations by representatives from AAUW's Washington headquarters. "We get to hear what's happening in the nation's capital and how our local branches can support and take part in AAUW's nationwide efforts to support

(Continued on page 8)



(Photos from 2016 AAUW-NYS Convention in Sarasota Springs)



AAUW FUNDS AND FUN AT THE CONVENTION

BY NANCY MION

While you're registering for the Convention, you can support AAUW Funds in several ways:

You can sign up for the AAUW Fund Talent Show on Saturday night, April 22 at 9 pm! If you haven't already signed up to perform, you can still sign up to see your friends in the spotlight!

https://tinyurl.com/zwjp3uo

You can join the **Swim for AAUW Funds!** Four awards will be given out to the champions! For more information:

https://tinyurl.com/gsf5vj5

Participate in the **AAUW Funds** Basket Fundraiser.

https://tinyurl.com/juan670

And don't miss the **LAF luncheon** on Saturday featuring litigant Susan Daria Landino (formerly Burhans). Read about her case here:

https://tinyurl.com/z85z35u



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR **AAUW-NYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2020**

JANET FORBES, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR 2017-18

Attention all Branch officers and members! Your help is needed to assist the AAUW-NYS Board of Directors to find qualified applicants to run for open Board positions for the 2018-2020 term.

We know that Branches have skilled, energetic, and experienced members that could serve AAUW-NYS, as well as gain rich experience from Board service. Please think seriously about expanding your AAUW knowledge base, impact, and networking abilities by volunteering to serve on the Board.

If you know someone you think would be a good officer or if you are interested in serving in one of the open positions, please contact the 2017-18 Nominating Committee

Chair, Janet Forbes, by email or phone as soon as possible.

The offices that will need to be filled for the 2018-20 term are President, Program Vice President, and Development Vice President.

You will find job descriptions and qualifications for each position on the Governance page on the AAUW-NYS website at (aauw-nys.org). Please fill out the nomination form below.

Deadline for Nominations: July 15, 2017. Deadline for Applications: October 1, 2017.

AAUW-NYS NOMINATIONS FORM

This form is submitted to the Nominating Committee Chair as a source for potential Board members. We know there are capable, experienced women in the Branches whom the AAUW-NYS Board may not have reached to encourage a consideration of a state-wide leadership role.

Nominations from the Branches give the Board a pool of names to be used in finding

qualified candidates for officer positions.	
Name of Person Nominating	
Branch	
	Phone
Name of Person Being Nominated	
	Phone
Position (s) you think this person would President Program Vice President Development Vice President I have spoken with the nominee ab	out considering a position.
Please send this form to: Janet Forbes, Nemail jlforbes@hotmail.com or mail to 4	Iominating Committee Chair 2017-18, 8 W. 5th St., W.E. Jamestown, NY 14701.

leaders.

Thank you for assisting the Nominating Committee in recruiting strong and innovative

If you have questions, please call Janet at 716.490.2616.



MISSION STATEMENT

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

AAUW VALUE PROMISE

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

VISION STATEMENT

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

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.

NEW YORK STATE FOCUS 230 Wilmington Ave. Tonawanda, NY 14150 SPRING 2017 ISSN: 1056 3199 www.aauw.org

www.aauw-nys.org

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CONVENTION (continued from page 6)

elected officials and legislation that promotes our mission.

Informative panels and workshops are among Mary Lou's convention memories, as well as presentations by AAUW Fellows on their areas of research. This year's workshops will cover topics such as policing in the 21st century, pay equity, power and group dynamics.

"There are always some fun activities built into the weekend's schedule, too," says Mary Lou. "In the past we've done line dancing and played military bridge, and there's an annual lap swimming competition that raises money for the AAUW Funds. Plus it's always fascinating to see the regional or theme items branches have incorporated into their fundraiser baskets – everything from Finger Lakes wine to maple syrup." This year there's a talent show, so all

you aspiring singers, dancers, comediennes, and baton-twirlers out there – here's your chance!

The 2017 convention in Syracuse offers a couple of Friday afternoon activities in nearby Fayetteville, including a tour of the L. & J.G. Stickley collection that spans over 100 years of furniture making history as well as high tea and a tour of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation Museum. Gage was a lifelong supporter of women's rights. Learning more about this early suffragette ties in perfectly with the convention theme of "Women & Power" as well as the 100th anniversary of women's gaining the right to vote here in New York State.

You'll leave the state convention reinvigorated and eager to share the programs and ideas you will have learned about, shared and discussed over meals, at receptions, and in district or counterpart sessions. So, everyone – from first-timers to seasoned convention goers – register now. You'll be glad you did!



Thank you to all who sent Women's March photos! See more photos on the AAUW New York State website soon! http://www.aauw-nys.org

Laurie Eikemeyer
AAUW-NYS FOCUS Director