



FOCUS



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American Association of University Women • New York State

Jump Start

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Strategic Plan

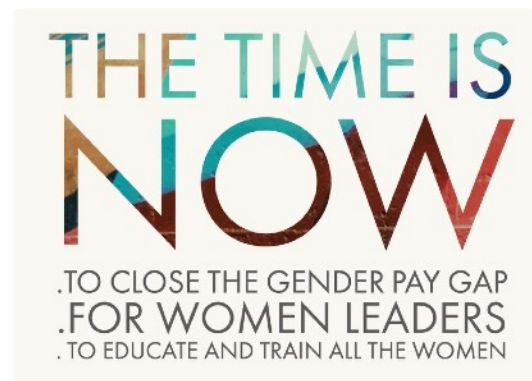
Jane Pendergast, AAUW-NYS Program VP, about the Strategic Plan. **Page 5**

THE TIME IS NOW

Welcome to 2018-2019 AAUW-NYS year! As I step into this role, I find I am already strengthening my ties with other members. I have met and corresponded over the summer with many members, and I have learned a lot about how our organization runs behind the scenes. My days have been filled with numerous conference calls, collaborating with other non-profits, and speaking at other engagements.

There is so many exciting things happening in the world of AAUW from the National organization to our local branches. This will be a great year of supporting gender equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy. During this administration, we will support the strategic vision of the national organization with a focus on economic security, leadership and education & training. This is the right time to act on all the work that has been started to make the lives of women in girls better in New York State. Overall, we will be working hard to find the next

opportunity to reshape the lives of women in New York because:



Many branches have already started their programming and from branch newsletters, I see many exciting things happening. Have a wonderful year and mark your calendar for the state convention "**Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together**", April 26-28, 2019 at the Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown and remember, "*the time is now*".



Janice Brown
AAUW-NYS President

YOU ARE PART OF SOMETHING BIG

In case you didn't know it, when you join a branch, you become part of AAUW New York State.

In addition to your local branch activities, AAUW-NYS offers programs which enable you to meet AAUW members from Buffalo to Long Island.

What a wonderful group of educated and accomplished women we are! Each year in April, we come together to celebrate and update the activities of the branches at our annual New York State Convention. The next convention will be held in Cooperstown, NY. The convention will encompass general fun activities, inspirational speakers, and exciting workshops.

Also a fun Summer Leadership Conference is held each year at Cazenovia College near Syracuse, NY. You get to take part in all of the same types of activities in a very relaxed environment, while staying in a dorm room.

Our branches are organized into districts based on geographic proximity. Each District offers a yearly program, providing another opportunity to meet other AAUW members outside of your branch. So you see, you are "part of something bigger".

Barbara Sarver
AAUW-NYS Membership VP

Jump Start program receives the MetroFund Grant

Kim Blanchet
AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws

Earlier this year, the AAUW-NYS Board submitted an application for a Metro Fund grant to support a Professional Jump Start event developed in conjunction with AAUW-NYS Student Advocate, Liz Brady. Liz is a recent Colby College graduate who has served on the state board for about a year and whom has provided insight into the current day struggles facing new college graduates. Inspired by her story and upon reflection of our own current or past career experiences, we began to discuss ways in which to address the challenges emerging female professionals face as they "jump" into the workforce and how the beginning of one's career can greatly impact their life-earning trajectory. We saw a need to provide these young women with important information surrounding the wage gap, while also providing them with effective skills to move forward into the career world with confidence. The end result was the

development of a day conference incorporating salary negotiations, motivational speakers, and skills sessions on professional and effective use of social media, developing ones resumes, interviewing, and preparing oneself for the expectations of the workplace.

We are pleased to announce that the Professional Jump Start program has received a MetroFund grant in the sum of \$19,500 and we are planning to host the inaugural event at Hunter College's The Roosevelt House in NYC on October 20, 2018. With the timing of the event falling around the same time as the district conferences, District 5 has partnered with AAUW-NYS to implement and host the event.



Kim Blanchet "With a little more than one month to the special day, members are working hard to solidify plans".

Over the summer, a group of AAUW members from both the Board of

Directors and District 5 have been meeting regularly to finalize key ...

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Great start by our District coordinators

District chairs have been meeting regularly by conference calls and emails. This promises to be a terrific Fall around the state with District conferences thanks to all the planning of each district chairperson.

District 1 is presenting its conference on "Youth Mental Wellness: A Whole Community Approach". Keynote speaker and a panel discussion on youth mental wellness in response to the new policy enacted in NYS regarding mental health instruction in schools. The conference is on October 27 from 9:30 to 2:30p.m. at Jamestown Community College. For more information contact Christina Marsh christina.alesia@gmail.com.

District 2 is presenting its conference on "Emerging Political Leaders: Preparation and Process." This event is intended to honor the late Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, a strong supporter of women's issues and mentor of other legislators. The keynote address will be given by a recent student graduate, who served on the Rochester City School District Board of Education. The conference is on October 27 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Monroe Community College. For more information contact Gaynelle Wethers@ gwether9@gmail.com.

District 4 took place on August 26th, Women's Equality Day. See page 5 for more.

District 5 plans are underway. The conference will feature the

AAUW Work Smart Program which is designed to help women negotiate for a new job, raise, or promotion, and also, training for the Start Smart program geared towards women just starting out in their careers. Through a grant from the Metro Fund, District 5 branches will serve as volunteers and participate in both the Work Smart and Start Smart programs. For more information contact Suzanne Young-Mercer@ smym5225@aol.com

District 6 conference will focus on "Fraud, Medicare & Immigration". The keynote speakers include experts from AARP Fraud

Watch, Medicare, and Medicaid services. The conference will be held on Saturday, October 13 from 10:00 -2:00.m. It will be held at Farmingdale State College. For more information contact Cynthia Katz @ ckj1988@optonline.net

We hope that you will attend as well as encourage others to support these conferences with timely and current topics!

Gaynelle Wethers
AAUW-NYS District Director

SAVE THE DATE

OCT. 27TH 2018

AAUW NYS DISTRICT TWO CONFERENCE
 Guest Speaker: Genesis Silva, Past Student Rep. to the Rochester Board of Education

Emerging Political Leaders
 Monroe Community College • Downtown Campus
 321 State Street • Rochester, NY 14608
 RSVP: Kimberlee A. Frarey • grabaaaw@gmail.com • 585-455-0477



District IV kick off year with a Parade for Women's Equality

by Nan Scinta, **AAUW Adirondack Branch**

District IV started off their program year with a parade for Women's Equality Day on August 26 on Glen Street in



Glens Falls, New York. The events were organized by a committee of Adirondack AAUW members. About 125 AAUW members, other women's organizations, and community participants walked the city block twice, behind 7 members of the Glens Falls city band. Adults and children made posters on the Equality theme, had them judged by John Strough, Queensbury Supervisor, and were awarded prizes.



Three young women won. Two candidates running for office did short speeches from the Library steps. Following the parade, there was a brunch at the Queensbury Hotel where state AAUW President Janice Brown spoke on pay equity. Also, Alice Paul and Inez Mulholland made an appearance as well as an anti-suffragette doctor. Our

district IV AAUW members were part of an audience of 79 enjoying the brunch.

The third event for the District IV conference took place at the Hyde Collection, our world famous art museum where 66 folks heard Dr. Carolyn Stanfanco, President of the College of St. Rose in Albany, spoke on Women's Equality, especially overcoming challenges. Dr. Roberta Reardon, Director of the Department of Labor employees, talked about pay equity. The day finished with Docent tours of the Jane Peterson collection and Women Landscape artists, women who painted in the early 1900's and were virtually forgotten as artists by their male peers. AAUW Adirondack sent the district attendees home after lemonade and cookies. All who attended had fun and were challenged by the information and possible programming ideas were presented.



2019 AAUW-NYS Convention:

The Otesaga Resort Hotel by Jean Havens

Ready for a huge helping of New York State history and culture complete with a thriving contemporary art scene and beautiful rolling hills thrown in for good measure? Plan now to soak up the elegant atmosphere at Cooperstown's Otesaga Hotel, site of the 2019 AAUW New York State Convention, April 26-28.

This legendary 132 room hotel occupies 700 feet of lakefront on the

southern shore of Lake Otsego. Made famous as "the Glimmerglass" in James Fenimore Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales, the nine-mile-long lake is the source of the Susquehanna River.

Built by brothers and Cooperstown benefactors Edward Severin Clark and Stephen Carton Clark, the Otesaga opened in 1909 and from the start provided gracious hospitality, first-class accommodations, and fine dining. The resort boasted the latest in modern conveniences and engineering. There was, for example, a refrigerator cooled with 30 tons of

ice, a telephone in each room, central heating that could be individually adjusted, and 400 windows from which visitors could admire the area's lush surroundings.

The Clarks were no strangers to building prominent structures. They owned, for example, the famous Dakota apartment building in Manhattan's Central Park West. Their Grandfather, Edward Cabot Clark, a lawyer, had amassed the family's fortune by partnering with Isaac Singer, founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Today, the Otesaga resort...

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AAUW’s Mission, a Revised Strategic Plan and Mission Based Branch Programs

Jane Pendergast
AAUW-NYS Program VP

Did you know that this summer AAUW completed its months-long strategic planning process and announced a new strategic plan? The mission, vision, and value promise have also been revised through this inclusive planning process: Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Vision: Equity for all. Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based; Integrity; Inclusion and Intersectional.

or change our branch programs? Let’s take a brief look at the Plan’s goals – taken directly from the aauw.org site. The Plan states the intention to move our mission forward by galvanizing our grassroots power, through our members in every congressional district, state, and territory in the country. At the branch level, we can work to become familiar with the Plan’s focuses and begin concrete, dynamic programs to galvanize our power.

How can the new Strategic Plan influence

Strategic Area of Focus			
Education and Training - Addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women	GOAL A Champion equal access to all levels and fields of education.	GOAL B Ensure education at every level is free from sex discrimination.	
Economic Security - Ensuring livelihoods for women	GOAL A Achieve pay equity by 2030	GOAL B Create inclusive career pathways for women, free of systemic barriers and biases, to attain economic security.	GOAL C Deepens women’s retirement security and quality of life.
Leadership - Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities	GOAL A Bolster the participation of girls and women in leadership roles throughout their lives.	GOAL B Advance the number of women in leadership, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.	

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Questions and articles should be addressed to: Focus Director Gabi Hoover, 40379 Hoover Rd, Theresa-NY 13691.

Email: gabihoover@gmail.com

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

AAUW-NYS Board

Elected Officers:

- President – Janice Brown, 4jmac2@gmail.com
- Program VP – Jane Pendergast, jpendergast2@msn.com
- Public Policy VP – Cynthia Herriott, cherri4849@aol.com
- Development VP – Carol Griffith, cag2002@roadrunner.com or carol.griffith@va.gov
- Membership VP – Barbara Sarver, barmik256@optonline.net
- Treasurer – Diane Jablonski, dianejablonski@gmail.com
- Secretary/Bylaws Chair – Kimberly Blanchet, kablanchet@yahoo.com

Appointed Officers:

- Administrative Assistant- Sonja Williams, wsonja@yahoo.com

- College/University Director – Maria Ellis, mellis@kwnyc.com
- Diversity/Cultural Director – Suzanne Young-Mercer, smymaauw@gmail.com
- Communications/Visibility Director – Jean Havens, jhavens@verizon.net
- Immediate Past President/Nominating Board Member – Roli Wendorf, WendorfR@aol.com
- District Director – Gaynelle Wethers, gwether9@gmail.com
- Convention Committee Co-Chair/ Alternate Nominating Committee- Kim Edgar, KimberlySEdgar@gmail.com
- Convention Committee Co-Chair- Mary Lou Davis, MarylouDavis125@gmail.com
- Student Advisory Chair- Elizabeth Brady e.demingbrady@gmail.com



Mission

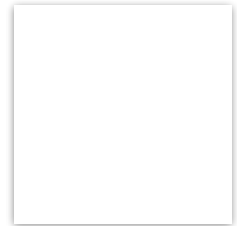
To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan.
Fact-based.
Integrity
Inclusion and Intersectionality.



Attention postmaster: Dated material. Please do not delay.
POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to AAUW Record Office,
1310 L Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005

continued from page 4 The Otesaga Hotel

... is also home to the 18-hole Leatherstocking Golf Course, rated by Condé Nast Traveler as one of the finest on the East Coast.

Stepping from the hotel's front portico with its massive 30-foot columns, you can explore all that Cooperstown has to offer. Attractions range from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the Fenimore Arts Museum to, in season, the annual

Glimmerglass Festival with its rich schedule of operas and musicals.

In describing all that the area has to offer, the Sunday Times of London called it "the most magical of settings".

Come to join us at the Otesaga next year to share the magic of AAUW with branch members from around the state. We'll see you at the Farmer's Museum's Empire State Carousel.

continue from page 2 Jump Start

... points of the program secure speakers and workshop presenters, hire a photographer for professional headshots, and organize a busy day to promote the future of women. The topics being presented during the event are directly correlated with AAUW National and State initiatives, including the National goal of educating 10 million women in the StartSmart program, which has been included in the one day conference.

With a little more than one month to the special day, members are working hard to solidify plans. We are always happy to have extra

hands for the event to help ensure everything runs smoothly. Therefore if you are interested in volunteering for the event, please let us know! We will also need help promoting the event! Be on the look-out for information coming through our social media outlets. We ask everyone to SHARE and LIKE our event, as it will help in the distribution of information.

It is events like this one, in which everyone comes together, that shows the strength and power of our organization. With every event, we make a difference. The time is now.