



FOCUS



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American Association of University Women • New York State

Membership

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Did you say wine?

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Convention

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Student Advisory

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AAUW-NYS Roadmap to the Future



Janice Brown, AAUW-NYS President

I am thankful for the changing of seasons and how we adjust

to each one. Are you ready to enjoy the beauty of this season? As the winter season has arrived, let's take the time to think about all the issues that we still need to address. Just as AAUW National has provided a road map, AAUW-NYS is following. At our Fall Board meeting, we began the discussion of creating a strategic plan for NYS. We agreed that we would support two areas: economic security and leadership development. How can we move the state forward in these areas? How can we help close the gender pay gap as a state? How can we develop future leaders? We must first look at where we are as a State, where do we want to go and how do we get there together and successfully. Everyone's perspective is important. If you have an ideal to share with developing the strategic plan for AAUW-NYS, share them with me. We need concrete SMART goals for

developing future leaders and ending economic security. Send your thoughts and comments to Janice Brown at 4jmac2@gmail.com no later than January 30, 2019.

As we look at closing the gender pay gap, one of the goals of National is to train 10 million women to negotiate their salary by 2022. You can be a part of that number. AAUW National is asking every member to take the online salary negotiation workshop. Once you have completed the online workshop, share it with 5 other friends and family. The link is here: <https://courses.aauw.org/learn>

Our future can and will be bright if we can get equal pay for women. More information will be released about the online workshop and how AAUW-NYS will help make this goal a success.

Is your AAUW contact information up-to-date?

by Barbara Sarver, VP Membership

Are you missing out on newsletters and announcements? AAUW NYS uses the AAUW National Database to email you our newsletter, FOCUS. If an email address is rejected, the newsletter is sent by regular mail.

When you became a member of AAUW, your street address, email address, and telephone number were entered into the AAUW National Database. Since that time, many of you have changed your email address, may have moved, or changed your telephone number. As a result, you may not be receiving the e-mail editions of FOCUS, the state newsletter or OUTLOOK, the national newsletter.

Most branches update your information but not all of them do. You can verify or change your contact information by going to the national website www.aauw.org and creating a user account. All you need is your membership number. If you don't know it, contact your branch membership VP and she can give it to you. Once you have created a user account, you can access your information. At the bottom of the home page, click on the phrase "Member Services". Then on the next screen, choose "Enter Member Services Database". Your contact and membership information will be displayed. You can change the information where you see "click here" near the very top of the page. There is also an option to print your Membership Card which you can carry with you. Don't miss out any longer!

Make 2x the impact for women and girls



The time for equity has come!
Equity for women and families is only possible if we work together.
Your year-end contribution will go twice as far in helping AAUW advance the important work towards equity and break through barriers for women and girls across the country!

Double your impact today and help us fund the fight for equity.

Donate now!!!

<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/?treatment=AAUW-2X&AppealCode=F19YRES>
LD1218-1



2019 AAUW NYS Convention Fundraiser

by Carol Griffith, VP of Development

The AAUW members who attended the 2018 AAUW-NYS Convention in Corning and the Summer Conference at Cazenovia provided fundraiser suggestions/changes during both events to our executive team members.

Melissa White, Buffalo Branch, reported that she attended a successful wine fundraiser. After some research the findings report that fundraising wine offers a fantastic way to raise money for your club, community organization or charity. Melissa's suggestion was taken seriously by the 2019 AAUW-NYS convention planning team. Carol Griffith, VP of Development, will be providing our NYS Branch Presidents with how each branch will share in the responsibility for making this wine fundraiser a success.

More email blasts to come to members as the time gets closer to the days we will be at the historic Otesaga Resort Hotel.

Please remember AAUW NYS funds when you are considering your end of the year donations. Currently the AAUW-NYS donations as of September 30, 2018, are at \$28,304.42 for 2018. <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift/>

SAVE the DATE

2019 AAUW-NYS Convention Preview

by Jane Pendergast, Program VP

Leadership is the theme for the 2019 AAUW New York State Convention, **April 26-28, 2019**, in Cooperstown, New York. We will convene at the historic Otesaga Resort Hotel, on the shore of Otesaga Lake, the famed “Glimmerglass” of James Fenimore Cooper’s novels. Sports flavors the program this year, reflecting our Leadership theme and Cooperstown’s National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The Fenimore Art Museum, the Farmer’s Museum, and other visitor sites also make this an attractive destination for our convention.

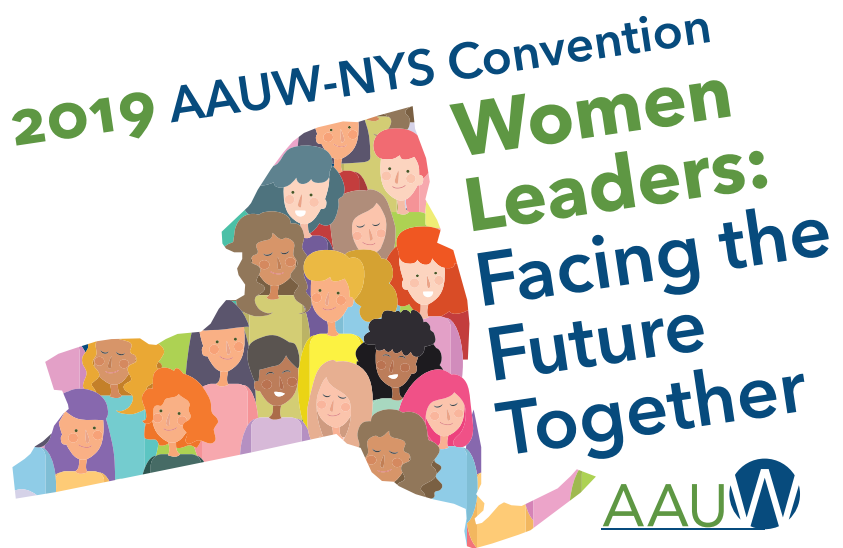
Why attend the convention this year? In this extraordinary year of women taking leadership in social change and elected office, you will learn practical, effective leadership skills to empower your branch members. The main focus of the Convention will be all three of the new AAUW Strategic Plan: Leadership, Education & Training, and Economic Security. You will see how a focus on these issues can revitalize your programs and spark change for women and girls right now.

In addition to impactful leadership training, the convention will bring you speakers on the challenges for women competing and working in the sports world; an inspiring story from an LAF litigant; an update from AAUW National; and timely, creative,

insightful workshops lead by experts, including: The ERA Revisited, Healthcare Advocacy Choices Now, LGBTQ-Sensitive Language for Today, Bringing the Intersectionality Value into All Our Work, a fun-filled STEM Sports Activity, and much more. You’ll have time to ask questions, to network, to browse, and to explore.

For fun, you can walk in a lovely setting, practice yoga and visit the spa; try stimulating healthful belly dancing; and sample and bid on New York State wines.

Look for upcoming convention posters and mark your calendars for April 26-28.



<https://aauwnyswp.aauw-nys.org/wp/>

District Conferences Update

by Gaynelle Wethers, District Director

There was a recent District Coordinators debriefing conference call held to address the following topics: Increasing Attendance and October Conferences dates.

There was much discussion and sharing regarding the time and preparation for these conferences. All had great speakers and the topics were timely and current, reflecting issues regarding local and national levels.

After much discussion and reflection, we are recommending the following:

- District Conferences should be scheduled by the Branches when they feel attendance is best for the partners in collaboration with the event and its members and the larger community it plans to target.

- District Conferences can take on a different format and template. For example, giving up a full day seems to be a challenge for today’s participants. Try a conference series targeting three different days for a two hour program such as evening, lunch, or weekend afternoon targeting different groups of participants.
- District Conferences with different collaborative partners to increase participation such as a community based organizations, local agencies, and our local college/university partners whom we have a relationship that will ensure success. Branches and each District should start planning now for 2020!

District II: Fairport and Rochester Branches working together



On the right, District II members got together for the “Emerging Political Leaders” Conference.

On the left, is keynote speaker Genesis Silva, a former student representative on the Rochester City School and District Board.



The “Emerging Leader” search is on

Do you have a new member who exhibits enthusiasm, creative ideas, networking skills, project or event planning experience and a demonstrated commitment to the AAUW Mission?

Do you have a new member who may be the first term Board Member, officer or committee chair who has demonstrated outstanding leadership?

Do you have a new member who has raised funds, written articles, assisted in social media or actively participated in STEM?

Then you have successfully identified an “Emerging Leader” for your Branch!

Funds are approved by the AAUW-NYS Board of Directors to award each 2019 Emerging Leader a \$25.00 voucher to use for expenses at the Convention or Summer Leadership Conference. This allows networking with AAUW leaders and members across the state.

The 2019 Emerging Leader application will be on the AAUW-NY website by the end of December. Applications will be due February 25, 2019.

We are looking forward to honoring our newly nominated 2019 Emerging Leaders at the Convention in April.

JUMP START

The Jump Start Conference is a one-day workshop sponsored by AAUW-NYS in collaboration with District 5 branches. Funding is provided through AAUW-NYC Metro Funds Grant.

The event will be on **March 9, 2019**. At Guttman Community College in New York City.

The event will include an AAUW Start Smart Workshop, Professional Head Shots and other workshops on resumes, interview skills and dress for success.

More information and details will be on the website and social media sites.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN- NYS

PROFESSIONAL JUMP START FOR COLLEGE WOMEN 2019

PRACTICAL CAREER ADVICE:
 AAUW START SMART WORKSHOP
 REFINE YOUR RESUME
 ACE THE INTERVIEW
 PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS
 DRESS FOR SUCCESS
 SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY

9 MARCH 2019
8 AM - 4 PM
 Guttman Community College
 50th W. 40th Street
 New York, NY 10018

REGISTRATION COMING SOON
 \$10.00 REGISTRATION FEE
 PROGRAM SPONSORED BY AAUW-NYC METRO FUNDS GRANT

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
- Interim Secretary – Sonja Williams, wsonja3166@gmail.com

Appointed Officers:

- Administrative Assistant – Sonja Williams, wsonja3166@gmail.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 Chair- Mary Lou Davis, Maryloudavis125@gmail.com
- Student Advisory Chair - Vaishali Marar - vaishalimarar@gmail.com

FOCUS is a quarterly newsletter published by the American Association of University Women - New York State. FOCUS is a publication of the AAUW-NYS Board.

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.

Testimonial

Evvie Currie's 72 years in AAUW

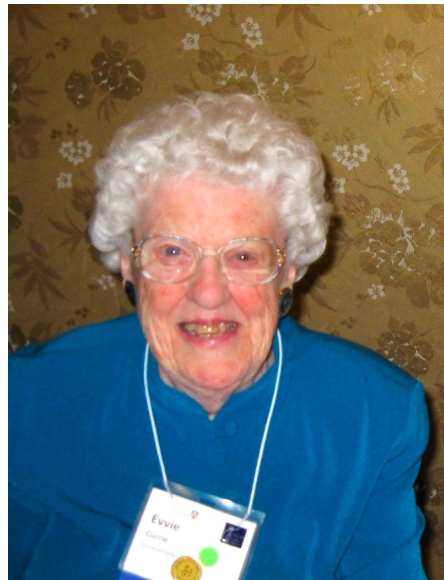
As I approach the age of 95 on November 21, 2018, I am remembering all the wonderful things which have enriched my life and kept my mind active. Among them all, AAUW has been the ongoing influence. I hope my thoughts will inspire all the members in AAUW NYS and especially the ones in my Schenectady Branch, to work for the AAUW Mission all of their lives.

I earned 2 degrees at the University of Rochester. To do that, I entered a 5 year program to achieve a Bachelors' Degree in English from the Arts College in 1945 and a Bachelors' of Music in Voice and Music Education from The Eastman School of Music in 1946. I joined AAUW right after graduating from the Eastman School in Rochester and continued my membership in the branches in each town to which we moved.

I married Bob Currie right after graduation also. He had returned from the Air Force and I taught at the University of Rochester while he completed his degree. He then joined GE and that was my first experience with how important AAUW was to be in my life. We moved to Schenectady in 1949 and I became a member of the Schenectady Branch for 3 years. Then on to the Detroit, Michigan Branch for the 15 years we lived there. Our children, Meg and Robert were born during that time.

Back to the Schenectady Branch, where I also taught in Scotia in the 60's. On to The Northern Westchester County Branch (as it was known then) while I taught in the Somers Central School District in the 70's. And finally back to my Schenectady Branch in 1985 as Bob and I retired to Burnt Hills. Each time we moved I found AAUW friends who welcomed me with open arms. We were all "Living the Mission of AAUW" to promote advancing equity for women and girls!

Along the way, I became a Paid Life Member and after 50 years an Honorary Life Member of AAUW. Along with my family and teaching responsibilities, AAUW has always been a priority in my life. It has been my way to "give back" to the many women who have helped me in my lifetime.



Evvie Currie

As AAUW NYS President for 2 years, I traveled to each Branch in the state at least once. Some Branches had never had a NYS President visit them before and welcomed me! The high points in my life have been many: President of the Schenectady Branch 1994-96 and being Named Grant Honoree in 1997; NYS LAF Director 1998-2002 when we raised the 2nd

highest LAF contribution in the country; President of AAUW-NYS 2002-2004; and "The Evvie Currie Giving Circle" is a special LAF Fund named in my honor. Members can designate their Legal Advocacy Fund gift to that Fund.

As I reminisce, please don't think that AAUW's "Living the Mission" will always be easy. I have given up things along the way to follow my dream. There have been days during my life when I was tempted to say, "why do I bother? It was then that my many AAUW friends around NYS would prove to me, with their dedication, why I needed to keep pursuing the AAUW dream of equity for all women and girls.

Thank you all for joining me, in all you do in Living the Mission of AAUW. I hope you will feel rewarded in a thousand ways, as I have been, with your friendship in AAUW.

AAUW-NYS is on Social Media. Follow us!!



Facebook:
[@AAUWNewYork](#)



Instagram:
[@Aauwnewyork](#)



Twitter:
[@aauwnewyork](#)

Meet Vaishali Marar

AAUW-NYS Student Advisory Board member

Hi everyone!

My name is Vaishali Marar. I'm a Junior at the New York Institute of Technology and majoring in Computer Science. I am a Long Island native, currently living on the Upper East Side of NYC. I have a strong passion for social work and women's empowerment, and I am extremely active in matters of mental health awareness and advocacy. Recently I started working with AAUW, and I'm looking forward this new chapter, hoping to help to increase the influence and reach of AAUW with students.



News from around NY State

Tell fellow AAUW-NYS what your branch has been up to. Submit pictures and a little description of some of your branch's activities to be featured on the new FOCUS section: "News from around NY State".

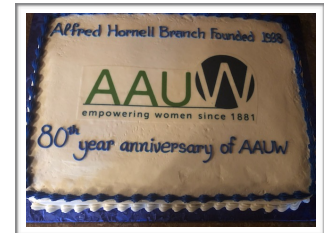
To submit your material write to gabihoover@gmail.com.



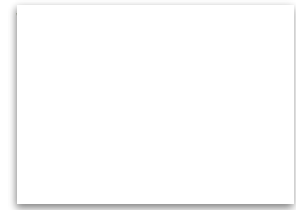
Throwback to warmer days when Jefferson County NY AAUW Branch members got together for their annual Summer Picnic.



Bath Branch Holiday Party. Members welcome the newcomers with a "chicken dance" and enjoyed time together before the end of the year rush time.



Cake time for Alfred-Hornell Branch celebrating its **80th Anniversary**.



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

OUR WORK ISN'T DONE!

by Edwina Frances Martin, Esq., Public Policy Liaison

Did you know that there are still opportunities to have a strong policy impact before the December 31st end of the state legislative session on issues of importance to AAUW? Here's how –

ACTION ITEM:

Call or email the NYS Department of Labor to demand that New York State enacts policies that break down the gender wage gap, such as eliminating the tipped workers minimum wage.

WHY:

New York State needs 'One Fair Wage' now because –

- 65% of tipped workers are women; female servers in America suffer from three times the poverty rate of the rest of the U.S. workforce.
- Relying on the largesse of customers for their income not only provides women with a precarious and unstable income but also subjects them to however a customer might treat them or touch them. Workers in

states with a \$2.13 sub-minimum wage experience twice the rate of sexual harassment as workers in 'One Fair Wage' states.

- Eliminating the tipped minimum wage has reduced poverty rates among women working as tipped restaurant workers, reducing it from 21.7% in states with a sub-minimum wage to 15.3% in the states with one wage.
- Eliminating the tipped minimum wage shows reduced poverty rates among tipped restaurant workers of color, 21.2% in sub-minimum wage states compared to 13.7% in states with one wage.

HOW:

Call Commissioner Reardon at the NYS Department of Labor at (518) 457-4318 or email her at

Roberta.reardon@labor.ny.gov