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FOCUS

State Convention Edition

American Association of University Women • New York State



Happy New Year to All

Janice Brown, AAUW-NYS President



The New Year is here, and we are on a countdown to plans to attend the 2019 AAUW-NYS

Convention. Jane Pendergast,

Mary Lou Davis and the Convention Planning Committee have been busy planning this extraordinary convention at the luxurious Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, NY on April 26-28, 2019. This year's theme is **"Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together"**. This past midterm elections have shown that women are serious about leading our future. Women from all backgrounds and cultures will be taking on leadership roles from local government to Governor's Office to the United State Congress. Our future is women.

This year's convention will showcase women from many different communities. We will hear from a representative from the National office as well as from Kate Brownell, first female to have her baseball jersey in the

National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. There will be plenary sessions along with some amazing workshops to include an interactive STEM workshop where you will develop something in sports. The fundraising segment has a new look; there will not be a basket room or items to auction. The fundraising will be entertaining; we will have a belly dancing performance and first-time wine raffle fundraiser.

Registration is now open. Register early to attend. Be sure to make your selections for the tours and workshops when you register.

Come to Convention and be inspired by the speakers and workshops that will be presented. Your attendance at this convention will bring enthusiasm for our 2020 Convention. Don't forget to submit your applications for your branch's Emerging Leader and 21st Century Program Awards. See you in Cooperstown for a weekend of "Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together".

AAUW-NYS Convention

In the next pages, you will learn about Registration, the Otesaga Resort Hotel, tours and our weekend schedule.

Nominees

Who are the women running for AAUW-NYS Board positions? **Page 5 and 6**

Get Social

Remember to follow us on Social Media and stay connected to your fellow AAUW members.



@AAUWNewYork



@aauwnewyork



@aauwnewyork

COME TO COOPERSTOWN FOR THE STATE CONVENTION

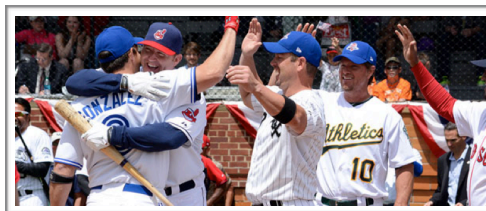
As we put the final details on the convention, we have four reasons to make this year's convention a hit. The Convention will be April 26-28, 2019, in Cooperstown, NY. This year's theme is **Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together**. Cooperstown is home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum.



bygone era and explore the famous Bark House, where you'll get a fascinating glimpse into American Indian life circa the 1750s, as you explore the beautiful formal gardens overlooking Lake Otsego. Admission for these two events is

\$23.00 per person. The tours will leave the hotel at 2:00pm. Sign up when you register.

National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum



As hallowed as the game it represents, the National Baseball Hall of Fame is an iconic fixture of Cooperstown and one of the sports world's most famous attractions. Drawing over 300,000 annual visitors, this non-profit educational institution features interactive exhibits, special events and digitally-enhanced multimedia presentations, along with classic radio broadcasts, newspaper stories and televised games that allow you to relive baseball's classic moments. It also provides activities for young fans to help foster a deeper appreciation of the sport and its place in our nation's history. This will be a self-guided tour for \$13.50 per person on Sunday afternoon. Sign up for this tour when you register.

The Place: The Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, NY. Situated in a picturesque lakeside setting, The Otesaga Resort Hotel provides elegant, luxury accommodations amid the best of Cooperstown. Enjoy access to a pair of first-class dining options, along with premier recreation, including a heated outdoor pool, fitness room, lake swimming, canoes, rowboats, tennis courts and the award-winning Leatherstocking Golf Course.

The Fun: Come early Friday to enjoy an afternoon of guided tours at **Farmers Museum and Fenimore Art Museum**. Visit the Farmers' Museum and immerse yourself within a fascinating interplay of trade, agriculture and village life reminiscent of New York State circa 1845. One of the oldest living history museums, this bustling attraction features a number of fascinating exhibits, along with hands-on activities, craft demonstrations and character tours that bring the mid-19th Century to life. One of the nation's top art institutions, the Fenimore houses a rich collection of American Indian art and American folk art, along with key holdings of photography, decorative arts and 20th century art. Tour remarkable artifacts from a



A block of rooms has been set aside for the AAUW-NYS convention at the Otesaga Resort Hotel. The hotel package includes two nights and 6 meals. Additional nights are also available.

The hotel registration will be handled by Betty Preble. Betty must receive your registration with a check for room and food no later than March 25. Make your reservations early to guarantee a room at the hotel.

Please use online registration at <http://aauw-nys.org>.

Then mail your check to:

Betty Preble

6935 East Quaker

Orchard Park, NY 14127

Phone: 716-662-0608

betty.preble@gmail.com

Rates:

* Triple occupancy per person
\$329.60 includes gratuity, two nights and six meals.

* Double occupancy per person -
\$386.40 includes gratuity, two nights and six meals.

* Single occupancy - \$572.40
includes gratuity, two nights and six meals.

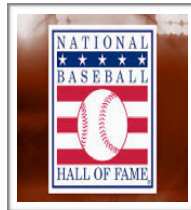
Additional nights including breakfast are available for \$215.40 a night.

Any registrations after March 25, 2019, will need to be made by contacting the hotel directly. You can reach the Otesaga at 607-353-6906 Monday-Friday, 8:30 – 5:30. Our group code is 2443417.

You can also email reservation1@otesaga.com
Registrations with the hotel will have added tax on your bill.

Convention Tours

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful **Fenimore Art Museum and the Farmers Museum** on Friday afternoon between 2-4pm (This is a guided tour). Pickup at hotel lobby. Prices are \$23.00 for both. Must include with registration fees.



Tour of the National

Baseball Hall of Fame Museum will be available to conference attendees on Sunday starting at 1:30pm. This is a self-guided tour. Price is \$13.50. Must include with registration fees.



AAUW-NYS FUNDRAISER EVENTS

\$20.00 Donation (ALL NYS WINES)

variety of NYS wines and prices

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT A CARD FOR \$20.00 ON FRIDAY (EVENING) AND SATURDAY (AFTERNOON) AT THE TIME OF THE DRAWING YOU WILL MATCH YOUR CARD TO THE WINE BOTTLE THAT HAS THE SAME CARD YOU SELECTED IN YOUR \$20.00 DRAWING OPPORTUNITY



Wellness Activities

Join us early Saturday morning, April 27, 2019 (6:30am to 7:30am) at the beautiful Otesaga Hotel, for chair Yoga under the instructions of Coopertown's own Bonnie Flower. **Advance registration is required.**

Join us early Sunday Morning April 28, 2019 (6:30am to 7:30am) at the beautiful Otesaga Hotel, for a walking tour of the village that was founded by William Cooper, father of the famous author James FENIMORE Cooper. The Wellness Events are FREE to AAUW Convention Participants.



Belly Dancing Performance

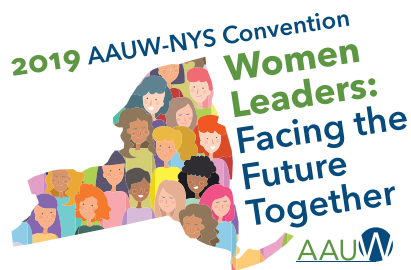
\$20.00 Donation

Saturday, April 27th at 9 pm

Register online when you register for the State Convention.

Performance by FIRE & SPICE BELLY DANCERS
Belly Dancing Lessons Available





Convention Program

We have a great lineup of women leaders to address our convention. We will hear some dynamic women leaders during the weekend.

To start, we will get an AAUW National Update from Shannon Wolfe, Manager Chief of Staff. **Saturday night** we will hear from Bridie Farrell. She is a former Figure Skater.

Who will talk about her determination of becoming a figure skater and how she overcame child sexual assault. **Sunday morning** we wrap up our speakers with Kate Brownell, the first female to have her baseball jersey in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Workshops: We will have 6 workshops scheduled on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Check their description below.

- **STEM: Launch to Future. Home Run Derby.** During the workshop, teams of participants will be provided with materials from which they will need to design and build hand-held catapults and "batters" to launch and hit balls into the "field of their future."
- **Women in Sports: Where do we go from here? The Future of Women in College Athletics.** During this workshop we will develop an understanding of the history of women in athletics at the intercollegiate level, to ensure that we understand where we have come from. We will then take a look at several current events/issues that are impacting college sports and the future of college sports today and discuss how women may play a unique role in that future based on our history.
- **LGBTQ: The Language and Unknown Impact.** This workshop will discuss the language of the LGBTQ community and what impacts this community deals in relation to rights and healthcare and how they are moving forward today.
- **ERA Revisited: LOFTY GOALS: The Full Emancipation of Women Worldwide.** Come explore the interconnectedness and intersectionality of the ERA, CEDAW & electing women to higher office, and learn action steps to impact women's equality locally, nationally & internationally.
- **Healthcare: Healthcare Issues Now.** This workshop will explore the complex health issues women in New York State and in the U.S. are examining right now. We will discuss current policy, including private insurance under the Affordable Care Act, recent changes to the ACA, affordability, risks, availability of healthcare in our communities, and Medicaid and Medicare. We will also look at the various proposed changes, including Medicare for All and incremental changes to the ACA. Bring your questions and ideas to this workshop, that promises to help clarify your thinking about this vital aspect of our economic security.
- **Intersectionality: Relations to Diversity and Feminism.** The workshop will hopefully forge a discussion on how Intersectionality of race, class, sexual orientation and ethnicity needs to be embraced by AAUW in a climate where all of these disparate identities are forging alliances and making themselves heard. This is not a case of simple discrimination.

Saturday Plenary Sessions

Retirement Matters
Mentors and Leaders
History of Baseball

"Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together"

Visit our website for Registration, Speakers' profiles, and more.

www.aauw-nys.org

Meet the Candidates

by Elizabeth Harrel

The Nominating Committee has been busy putting together an outstanding slate of officers. You will have a chance to meet them at the convention in Cooperstown. If elected by the members present, these capable leaders will be serving for the 2019-2021 term and will take office on July 1, 2019.



Membership Vice President: Karen Martin

The Rockland County Branch is well represented by Karen Martin. Since joining in 2011, she has served as Program Vice President, member of the Women's History Month committee, and as a STEM elementary school programs volunteer. She has created Brag Boards for AAUW-NYS and other public events and created branch certificates. She has participated in the Summer Leadership Conferences for several years and has

been involved in branch board meetings.

As a middle school guidance counselor, Karen found that building relationships was a major focus of her time. She served as a liaison among administrators, teachers, parents and students and helped them work together effectively. Her passions include a desire to see women achieve equality, gardening, travel and photography.

Karen is open to new ideas and fosters inclusiveness with diverse people. With her willingness to hear members' stories and work closely with them, she will put her skills to work building and maintaining membership.

Rockland County Branch Co-President Suzanne Young-Mercer, who also serves on the AAUW-NYS Board, said, "As membership VP her personality in building relationships will be instrumental in reaching out to the branch to help determine their individual needs in growing membership. I believe that she will bring a fresh perspective to this position." Sylvia Miller, branch Communications Chair, said,

"Karen is a very intelligent, talented, enthusiastic people person. She is a definite team player and would make a wonderful Membership VP for AAUW-NYS."



Public Policy Vice President: Janet Forbes

Janet brings both state and local experience to the position. A member of both the Jamestown and Empire State Virtual Branches, she has served as Jamestown's Program Vice President, STEM Team

chair, Public Policy Chair, Co-President, Membership Co-

Vice President, and member of the Chautauqua County Education Coalition. She initiated and chaired "Get in the Game," an annual girls and sports event, and is an ongoing leader. State experience includes serving as District Director, Nominating Committee Chair, Education Director, and member of the Task Force for the Future.

As a nurse manager and case manager, she coordinated patient care, managed 40 employees, and served as part of a senior management team. Janet worked with a myriad of local and county organizations to provide resident benefits and advocate for jobs, health care, and healthy lifestyles. She also volunteers at the Nature Center, YWCA, public library, and Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Chautauqua and the Congregation of Jamestown.

Many skills were developed while Janet served in these leadership roles. She learned to move out of her comfort zone and collaborate well with others, mentor younger women, and advocate for social justice. She brings a passion for AAUW's mission to all of her work.

Loreen Ginnitti, Jamestown Branch member and former AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws Chair, said, "She strongly believes that public policy is the most important part of fulfilling our mission. Her employment and varied interests have given her a wealth of resources from which to draw." Past AAUW-NYS President Roli Wendorf stated, "I have been very impressed with the competence and meticulous detail with which she fulfilled all of her state board responsibilities. She also made thoughtful contributions to board issues beyond her area of responsibility."



Secretary/Bylaws Chair: Lynne Rapin

A member of the Buffalo Branch, Lynne Rapin has played an active role since joining. She served as secretary, Education Accounts and Program treasurer, Tech Savvy Treasurer, Book Sale Table Chair and Program Committee member. She has facilitated discussions at several dinners and worked on organizing the International Women's Day program. She has participated in both the AAUW-NYS state convention and Summer Leadership Conference.

Much of her professional career was as a high school business teacher in an alternative high school education program. She also served as a Pathways Program mentor and currently is working in the Clinical Competency Center at SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine. She serves as an actress, evaluator and administrator. She also volunteers at three theaters in the Buffalo area and provides dinners at a healthcare hospitality house.

Lynne has been able to meet challenges and has learned to use them for personal growth. She is flexible and willing to try new things. Her jobs have been with people from a variety of backgrounds and she has been able to change to meet their needs.

Cynthia Mehary, Buffalo Branch AAUW Funds Chair, said, "Whatever responsibilities she is given, Lynne is prompt and efficient in her performance. While secretary, her minutes were thorough, accurate and completed in a timely manner." Buffalo Branch President Betty Preble stated, "Lynne's quiet calmness will be a tremendous asset in maintaining efficient and effective processes while making sure that everyone's ideas are addressed with respect. Lynne has been a joy to work with on the Buffalo Branch Board!"



Treasurer: Barbara Van Itallie

An active member of the Poughkeepsie Branch, Barbara has served as president, immediate past president, treasurer, secretary, nominating committee chair, math buddies initiative chair, and cuisine interest group chair. On the state level, she has participated for 3 years in the annual financial review. Professionally she taught high school and college level math and served as the Executive Director and bookkeeper of the Violin Society of America. She is an active community volunteer and chaired and served as treasurer of the nationally-recognized Hudson Valley Philharmonic Young Artists' Competition. She is also a math volunteer at an inner city elementary school and is curriculum vice president of the Marist College lifelong learning institute.

Meet the Candidates continued:

Barbara brings a wide variety of skills to the position. Along with organizational and teaching skills, she is competent in using QuickBooks software.

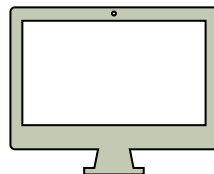
Current AAUW-NYS treasurer Diane Jablonski stated, "Barbara is well informed about AAUW, the mission and objectives. She is well positioned to take on the role of treasurer. Carol McMillan, Westchester Branch treasurer, said, "She is efficient, knowledgeable about financial management, and experienced in handling the record keeping for a very large branch."

Additional Nominations

The AAUW NYS Nominating Committee has put forth a slate of officers which has been duly vetted and approved by the Board of Directors. Nominations may be made from the floor under the following conditions:

- The person being nominated is not in the same branch as any candidate on the slate unless running for the same position.
- The nominee should have consented in writing.
- The written nomination and consent should state the nominee's name, branch and position they are being nominated for.
- The consent form should be presented to the secretary.
- The nominee should be prepared to make a 3 minute speech after introduction.
- Candidates for office, whether on the slate or from the floor, may not campaign in any way. This includes promotional materials, buttons, candies, flyers etc. except that being distributed by the nominating committee.

Did you ever wonder what the State Convention is like? If yes, check the link below on your computer to have a peek of 2018's AAUW-NYS Convention, in Corning - NY.



<https://youtu.be/un7AuAOHCOE>

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.

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,
smymaaauw@gmail.com
Communications/Visibility Director – Jean Havens,
jhavens@verizon.net
Immediate Past President – 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

Bylaws Amendments Proposal

The AAUW NYS Board of Directors has approved the following amendment to the AAUW NYS bylaws. This amendment will be voted on by the membership delegates at the 2019 convention business meeting in Cooperstown on Saturday April 27. Wording to be removed is underlined and wording to be **added** is bold. Please give your input to your branch delegates so they know how you would wish them to vote.

The AAUW NYS Bylaws Committee proposes the following amendments to:

Article XI Nominations and Elections Section 2.
Nominations

a. The officers elected in a given year shall be members of different branches unless they are running for the same office.

and add:

a. In order to maintain branch diversity, a majority of the Executive Committee may not be from one branch.

Rationale for this amendment:

The job of the Nominating Committee is to select the **best candidate** for each position. Branch affiliation may disqualify a person from being considered. It would be very beneficial to select the best candidates despite their branch affiliation. Larger branches have a larger pool of potential officers but we are not always able to take advantage of their larger membership.

Why change it now, since the rule has worked for a long time?

The rule was enacted when there was nearly double the number of branches and members in the state. Currently nearly half of the membership resides in only 6 branches. It has been increasingly difficult to solicit state officers. We have ultimately had to turn down good nominees because there was already a candidate for another office from that same branch. The bylaws already contain a statement in

Article XII section 2-b which guides the nominating committee, it reads:

“Elected and appointed officers shall be chosen for their experience and work in AAUW and/or

their aptitude for the duties and responsibilities of the office with due regard for geographical representation and rotation in membership.”

What is done to get nominations?

All members receive a copy of the Focus newsletter with the officer positions announced. Often the nomination form has been published as well. Each branch president receives a nominations reminder by mail/email and is encouraged to inform their members of the opportunity. The website contains the nomination and application forms as well as a description of officer positions, responsibilities of the position, requirements of board members, and nominating chair contact information. Each AAUW-NYS member has an equal opportunity to be nominated or to self nominate.

Would this mean that small branches would not be represented?

The nominating committee will continue to try to solicit members from every branch.

Nominations from smaller branches will help to insure representation and branches should encourage member participation.

Attending district and state meetings and convention may allow your potential to be recognized by the Nominating Committee,

Will this lead to a voting bloc?

Our agenda is the AAUW mission and the good of the membership in all branches.

It is possible that several large branches may hold the majority of seats on the executive committee. The Executive Committee has extremely limited powers and has no power in the areas of budget, dues or bylaws changes.



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

Convention Schedule

Friday, April 26

12:00 6:00 Registration Open
1:00 5:00 Tour (Fenimore Art/Farmers Museum)
1:00 5:00 AAUW Funds Wine Room Setup
1:00 5:30 NYS Board of Directors Meeting
5:00 6:00 AAUW Funds Wine Room Open
6:00 6:30 Emerging Leaders and President's Reception (cash bar)
7:00 8:00 Presidents' Dinner
8:00 9:00 Welcome: Janice Brown
Keynote: AAUW National Rep
9:00 10:00 AAUW Funds Wine Room Open
9:00- 12:00 Entertainment-Hawkeye Bar and Grill
9:30 Wine Room-Tasting / Resolution Caucus / Networking
9:30 Nominating Committee

Saturday, April 27

6:30 7:30 Chair Yoga
7:00 9:00 Registration
7:30 8:30 Breakfast (Membership/ Program /Communication Awards)
8:30 9:30 Plenary Session-
9:45 11:00 Business Meeting/Election of Officers
11:15 12:15 Plenary Session-
12:15 12:30 BREAK
12:30 2:00 AAUW FUNDS-LAF SPEAKER/ Funds Awards

2:15 3:30 Workshops Sessions 1- choose 1
3:45 5:00 Workshop Sessions 2- choose 1
5:00 5:30 BREAK/Free Time/ Visit Wine Room
5:30 6:15 Women in Baseball Presentation
6:30 7:00 Cash Bar
7:00 9:00 Convention Banquet //Induction of New Officers // Keynote – Bridie Ferrell
9:00 10:00 AWW Fundraiser –Belly Dancing Performance

Sunday, April 28

6:30 7:00 Morning Walk
7:00 9:00 Registration
7:30 8:30 Breakfast – Counterpart Sessions
8:00 8:45 Nominating Committee-if needed
8:45 10:00 Workshops Session 3- Choose 1
10:15 11:45 Plenary Session- Kate Brownell
12:00 1:00 Luncheon and Closing Session
1:15 1:30 Call to Convention 2020
1:30 2:30 Post Convention Board Meeting
2:00 3:00 Baseball Hall of Fame Tour-Self-guided

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