



FOCUS



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American Association of University Women • New York State

Summer Leadership Conference. Check the roadmap to success.

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Roadmap to success



Janice Brown, AAUW-NYS President

The first year of this administration is coming to an end. We have had a great year of success and looking forward to building on that success in the upcoming year. We had a great State Convention in Cooperstown at a beautiful location. The attendance was low but the content was AMAZING!! The Convention Planning Team did a great job

incorporating **“Women Leaders: Facing the Future Together”**. Our speakers were amazing from the Mayor of Cooperstown on Friday night to Kate Brownell, first female to have her jersey in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, on Sunday morning. We also heard from Shannon Wolfe, Managing Director at AAUW. Shannon provided us with an overview of where AAUW is headed in the future.

As the new fiscal year is about to begin, we will have transition of several elected positions. We are requesting branch leaders and members from every branch attend the AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference to be held July 19-21, 2019, on the campus of Cazenovia College. The theme this year is **Roadmap to Success**, and the focus will be setting branches up for success moving forward. As AAUW National has established new ways of doing business within the organization, AAUW-NYS is implementing those changes and wants all branches to implement them as well.

The Summer Leadership Conference will begin on Friday with Planning The Journey with a National Representative. The focus will be on taking action in the upcoming year and how to plan it. There is an abundance of work to do and we need to know exactly what our plans will be to tackle each one and to avoid roadblocks.

On Saturday, we will focus on **Back to Basics: Roads to Equity**, during the day. These sessions will be led by our elected officers and also serve as counterpart sessions. We will gain insightful information on getting back to basic operations of leading our branches as we travel the many roads to equity. It will include a strategic planning session led by our National Representative. We will also have an online Work Smart workshop overview. The National goal is to train 100,000 women by August. AAUW-NYS can help meet that (... **continue page 2**).

Roadmap to success

continued

goal with this workshop.

Sunday will focus on our **Trip Advisor Roundup**. In addition to a Diversity Workshop, we will bring an overview of all the things we learned over the weekend to produce a Roadmap To Success for the coming year.

We will also brainstorm ideas for our special Centennial Celebration of AAUW-NYS during our 2020 Convention planning session. We will have time to plan and discuss District Conferences as well. There will be conversations and fun times to share during our wine and wisdom sessions.



We really hope that you will join us this summer. Registration is now open on our website at aauw-nys.org. The cost of the entire weekend is \$120 including meals and room and board.

The registration deadline is July 10th. NO registrations will be accepted after that date.

For more information

contact Sonja Williams at wsonja3166@gmail.com or me at 4jmac2@gmail.com for any additional information or questions. See you in Cazenovia as we plan a ROADMAP TO SUCCESS!!

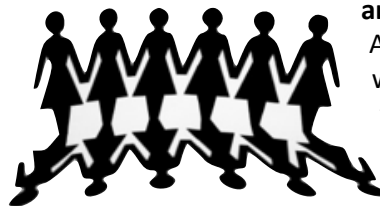
3 Strategies to Retain Membership

1.) Have an "On Boarding Plan"

First-time members are a specific group within your membership profile and they need to be approached with specific strategies to keep them engaged. Engaged members tend to come back. Unless you can show them the value of their membership, they can slip through the cracks.

2.) Say hello with a personal touch

Your first contact with the new member should come from a branch member. The personal touch is really important.



3.) Reach out at three months, six months, and nine months

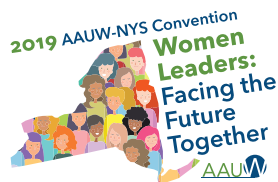
At three months, email the newcomer with news about upcoming programs followed up by an email at six-months highlighting branch accomplishments and events. At nine months, request feedback from the new member to gauge their participation. A short survey can be developed to capture their feedback or responses.

Barbara Sarver
NYS Membership VP

WWW.AAUW-NYS.ORG

2019 AAUW NYS CONVENTION

COOPERSTOWN, NY



AAUW Funds: AAUW NYS Convention 2019, Cooperstown, New York.

Carol Griffith

As VP of Development for AAUW New York State, I would like to update you with the results of fundraising events that took place at the beautiful Otesaga Hotel and Resort. During registration for convention the sign up for Belly Dancing was recognized as a popular event raising \$700.00.

The wine fund raising event, which raised \$520.00, was a new idea. It was supported by several New York State wineries (CJS Winery, Sheldrake Point Winery, Anthony Road Wine Company) who recognize the importance of AAUW programming as well as wine donations from several branches.

During convention a fundraising swim event was added with two supporting donations from our swimmers that raised \$875.00. The AAUW LAF Luncheon with guest speaker Paul Thein raised \$2150.

Thank you to all who helped to raise \$4265 during the Convention weekend.

Congratulations to all members/branches supporting AAUW-NYS ranked 5th in overall giving in 2018. See you at Summer Conference.



AAUW-Rockland County Diversity Breakfast

by Sylvia Miller

Communication Chair Rockland, NY Branch

February 23, 2019: AAUW Rockland County celebrated 20 years of diversity at our Annual Diversity Breakfast, held at the Pearl River Elks Club. The theme for our 20th Anniversary was "Empowering Women in Diverse Communities in the Age of *Me Too*." This annual celebration was in conjunction with our co-sponsors, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Jack and Jill of Rockland and Orange County, Inc., and the NYS National Association of Social workers. The guest speakers were Emily Waters and Michelle Grier, from Girls for Gender Equity (GGE), who proved us with information on how we celebrate



and support women no matter how they identify. Both speakers were knowledgeable and left us more informed.

We also acknowledged three women in the community who are our shining examples of community, justice and legislative leadership. Joyce Brown, past president of Rockland AAUW, received the Champion of the Community Award; Maureen McGarry Porette, Champion of Justice; and

Assembly Woman Ellen C. Jaffee, who was surprised with the Champion of the Legislature. With over 100 people in attendance, we certainly proved how valuable these women warriors are to our community. Last, but most importantly not least, I want to acknowledge the hard work of the chair of the Diversity Breakfast and Mistress of Ceremonies Edwina Frances Martin, Esq., and her fantastic

committee who worked tirelessly to make sure that the event was memorable.

Proven Program Ideas for Branches



by Jane Pendergast , AAUW NYS Program VP

AAUW NYS's Convention this year again gave members a chance to learn about some great programs in branches throughout the state. I would like to summarize some of these, which were honored with 21st Century Program Awards at the convention in Cooperstown this April. These programs work in their communities and I believe they, or similar programs, may work in your community. So please think about these ideas for your branch. They all met the award standards: mission-based programs leading to concrete results in communities, attracting new members and building coalitions with community groups. Please glance through these and then contact me or the Program VP of the branch noted if you would like more information!

- Sports Day – introduction to sports for girls in middle school or high school– Jamestown Branch
- Leading to Reading – extensive community work with schools, hospitals, etc., opportunity for coalitions, significant impact on community – this program could be sized differently – opportunity for coalitions, significant impact on community – Poughkeepsie Branch
- Elementary School Reading Mentoring Program – extensive impact on community, opportunity for coalitions – Rockland County Branch
- Court Watch Program – significant impact on community, opportunity for coalitions – Poughkeepsie Branch
- (continue page 8)

LeadHERship the Evvie Currie Way

Donna Seymour
Former AAUW-NYS Board Member

Evvie Currie was a leader in the best and truest sense of the word. By deed, word and example she demonstrated what leadership is. Those of us who served with her during her years as AAUW-NYS President (2002-04) were given the rare privilege of working with a woman who “Lived the Mission” of AAUW and expected the same of us.

The 2001 state Nominating Committee in 2001 agreed that we should look for leaders with the right skills to do the jobs we had to fill that year. That meant looking outside the traditional paths to authority. As one member said, “Leadership is not a Conga line – you don’t get in at the back and dance your way to the front!” Everyone agreed Evvie had the right stuff.

Every organization goes through ups and downs; times when finding leaders is especially difficult and other times when the right person appears just when she is needed. A leader with the right stuff naturally attract others who want to be in her orbit. This was true of the women Evvie Currie brought to her Board.

Evvie’s previous four years as Legal Advocacy Director were a critical key to her success as state president. Because she had committed to meeting with every branch, she was the face the membership knew and the voice they trusted.

She asked each Board member to commit to travel during our time with her. She knew feeding the grassroots of advocacy takes the personal touch. Budgets are a statement of values, and Evvie budgeted the travel money we needed to fulfill her vision.



Evvie always led with a smile. She was having fun and it was fun to be with her. We proudly wore our Living the Mission T-shirts and nearly wore them out trying to keep up with her! Good fun and hard work go together, and those two years were some of the hardest fun we ever had.

Evvie was the matriarch of our AAUW-NYS family. Those of us who served with her were fortunate to spend so much time with her and were able to learn from her work ethic and example to lead. It was a wonderful two years and in many ways those were the best two years in my 40 plus years as a volunteer.

Notes on Evvie Currie and AAUW

Evvie was a 65+ member of the American Association of University Women, a past President of the Schenectady Branch and was the Educational Foundation Named Grant Honoree of the Branch in 1997.

Evvie was the third New York State Director of the Legal Advocacy Fund. She held that position from 1998 – 2002 during which time NYS was 2nd in the country in contributions to the Fund every year. She was enthusiastic in educating the AAUW New York State membership to the importance of the

Legal Advocacy Fund. Evvie believed that the branches were the life-blood of AAUW and visited every single NYS branch during this time even though she was nearly 80 years old. She advocated having the LAF position become an elected Vice Presidency. The board voted to do so and in 2002 the office of NYS LAF VP was born. This allowed the position to have a place on the Executive committee.

Continue next page.

... **continued:** The Evvie Currie Giving Circle Campus Outreach Projects Grant was established as a national LAF grant category by NYS to honor Evvie's commitment to the LAF. Today funded at \$50,000, it awards grants which can be used by colleges/universities in New York State to host campus outreach programs that educate students on their rights pertaining to any type of discrimination.

Evvie served as the American Association of University Women NYS President from 2002-2004. Evvie set the theme for her term at "Living the Mission" and expected each member of her Board of Directors to exemplify that theme in their home branch as well as in their board work. She was a strong, charismatic leader and people wanted to live up to her expectations. Even though she was the eldest board member and

could have treated her board members as her "kids", she treated everyone as her equal and valued each for their contributions. Every member shared the commitment to education and equity that AAUW stands for.

AAUW NYS was asked to present a workshop on "Living the Mission" at the 2003 national AAUW convention in Washington DC as an example of what could be achieved when each member is committed to the mission.

***Memorial contributions may be made in Evvie's name to the Evvie Currie Giving Circle of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund
1310 L St NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005***

Evvie's Biography - Remarkable Women in New York State History

Evelyn Meyers Currie was born on Nov. 21, 1923 in Gloversville, New York. Known to everyone as "Evvie", she led a very active and productive life. she graduated from Gloversville High School in 1941. Evvie pursued her college education at the University of Rochester and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in English in 1945 and followed with a Bachelor of Music in voice and Music Education at the Eastman School of Music in 1946. After graduation, Evvie married Robert R. Currie in 1946, and since he worked for General Electric, they moved to a variety of locations including Rochester-NY, Pittsfield-MA, Scotia-NY, and Somers-NY.

Always eager to learn, Evvie continued to pursue her education as a student of Robert Shaw at Tanglewood during the summers of 1947-48. In 1966, she was awarded a masters degree in American Studies at Union college and later took graduate courses in English at Western Connecticut College in 1977.

Evvie taught vocal music and was the choral director at all levels from kindergarten through college during a 30-year span in New York State in Rochester, Schenectady, Ballston Spa, Scotia, and Somers, as well as in Detroit, Michigan.

Evvie's motto was on the calendar she kept on her desk and in her purse, "God can do tremendous things through the person who doesn't care who gets

the credit!". She has spent her life in service to others. with an exceptional work ethic and ability to organize and lead others. Evvie was an invaluable contributor to a number of organizations.

Upon retirement, Evvie and her husband settled in Burnt Hills, NY, where she could pursue her interest in a variety of musical/performance opportunities in the Capital District. She was a 50-year member of the NYS School Music Association and the Music Educators National Conference. The activities related to her love for the arts included Saratoga County Arts Council, Place for Jazz, Proctor's Restored Theatre (Schenectady), League of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra, Vice President of the Schenectady Arts Council, chair of the NYS Arts Decentralization in the Albany-Schenectady and Saratoga areas, and Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) where she was a sponsor and volunteer usher.

In addition, Evvie was involved in other community groups such as the League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood, the Burnt Hills Methodist Church, NYS United Teachers, Sunnyview Hospital Auxiliary. She was also President of the Board of Managers of the Schenectady Day Nursery and a member of a committee of six who serve on the steering committee of the NYS Task Force

on Tobacco-free Women and Girls sponsored by Roswell Cancer Center and the NYS Dept. of Health. During the months of February and March, she and her husband worked as Elderhostel coordinators for the University of South Alabama at the Gulf Shores State Park.

Evelyn received a number of special recognitions. In 2005, she was honored with the University of Rochester's Reunion Service Award for 60 years of chairing university reunions. In 2005, she was elected to a three-year term on the Board of National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY and was reelected to another three-year term in 2008. In that same year, she also received the Eastman School of Music Medallion for 62 years support of this school.

Evvie Currie's involvement with AAUW was extensive and varied. She was a Paid Life and Honorary Life members and had served in a number of capacities. At the local level in various branches in NYS and Michigan, she served as Program VP, Recording Secretary, Hospitality chair, Cultural Arts chair, LAF chair, and Executive Vice President.

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Researchers: Gerri Pinkerton and Pam Haller

Writers: Pam Haller and Gerri Pinkerton Schenectady, NY Branch AAUW



Outstanding Candidates for State Officers Sought Could One of Them Be You?

By Jean Havens
Nominating Committee Chair 2019-20

The search is on for a few good people to help AAUW-New York State stay in the forefront of the fight for women’s rights. Accordingly, the AAUW-NYS Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to step forward to continue our well-documented history of dedicated, efficient state leadership.

For the 2020-22 term, we are seeking candidates for State President, Program Vice President, and Development Vice President. They will be elected in April at the 2020 state convention and will take office on the following July 1. Officers attend three board meetings each year: in November, at the April convention, and during the Summer Leadership Conference. Complete job descriptions are available at www.aauw-nys.org.

Think about what matters most to the people in your local branch as well as those people you’ve met at district conferences or talked to at the state convention. There are many skilled, enthusiastic members out there who can serve AAUW beyond their branch and gain vital experience as they

consider issues, concerns, and actions on the state level. Please submit their names for consideration. If you yourself would like to be part of this adventure, be sure to submit your own nomination while you’re at it.

Serving on the state board gives members the opportunity to work with other committed women from around the state as they get to see the AAUW “big picture,” ultimately taking action to effect positive change. The skills learned will be helpful both in personal and professional situations. Every effort is made to involve women from a wide variety of geographic locations around the state.

The form can be found on our website: www.aauw-nys.org. The deadline for nominations is **July 16**, 2019, and the deadline for applications is **October 1**, 2019. Please submit forms to Jean Havens, Nominating Chair, at jhavens@verizon.net, or 40 Kisco Park Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Your help is greatly appreciated!

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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.

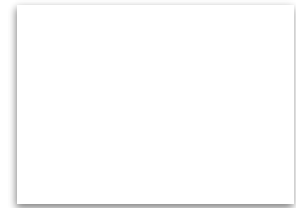
AAUW-NYS Board 2018-2019

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 – 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



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

Proven Program Ideas for Branches

... continue from Page 4

- Running & Winning – significant impact on community, opportunity for coalitions (this is an LWV program) – Westchester Branch
•Stem Workshops for Girls – Explore Your Opportunities, Tech Savvy – significant impact on community, opportunity for coalitions - Buffalo, Westchester and other branches
•Advocacy meetings with legislators – scheduled, repeat visits – significant impact on community, opportunity for coalitions – North Shore Branch
•Diversity Brunch or Program – the Rockland County branch brings several community organizations together for coalition-building and attracts a large audience every year.

In addition, I have included two more ideas recently suggested to me:

- Keeping Up to Date on Our Thinking re our Mission (maybe Women’s Issues would be better) – ongoing programs with different members or experts talking about ideas emerging currently, e.g., Invisible Women, by Perez, on use of the default male for all statistics – opportunity to generate program ideas in branches, could be a brief session or 5 -10 minutes at frequent meetings.
•Title IX – Continuing National emphasis; this is very important and not being done at many/most schools; AAUW is an organization that can have an impact on local schools and colleges; we would need to put this workshop together for the meeting.

Evvie’s biography

... continued from Page 6

She was also President of the Schenectady branch from 1994-96 and was Named Grant Honoree of this branch in 1997. At the state level, she served in a number of positions to include Member of the Educational Foundation State Committee, Nominating Committee Chair, and Cultural Interests Director on the NYS AAUW Board of Directors. She was the NYS Legal Advocacy Fund Director from 1998-2002, when NYS was recognized for the second highest LAF contribution in the country, \$31,423. In 2001, she was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Board for her commitment to the mission of LAF in the branch, state, and community. She was recognized by a special LAF fund named in her honor, “The Evvie Currie Giving Circle,” to which member contributions could be designated. Evvie also served as President of AAUW NYS from 2002-04 and in 2004-05 was Advisor to the NYS President and Chair of the NYS Nominating Committee.