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# AAUWNYSFOCUS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN 

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#### NORTH SHORE BRANCH MARKS ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE

# Celebrating the past, planning for the future

was invited by North Shore Branch President Diane Daniels to attend the branch's 75th Anniversary Celebration on November 20th at the Manhasset Public Library.

Joining me in addressing the enthusiastic crowd of over 70 attendees were North Shore President Daniels, past North Shore and AAUW-NYS



President Diane Haney, Rose Marie Olivia Guzzo, and AAUW Field Representative Kim Pollard. State Diversity Director Valora

Blackson also attended the celebration.

It was truly a special afternoon. Highlights noted from AAUW's illustrious past included AAUW's research to prove that education did not "damage" a woman's reproductive capacity; passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act with input from Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-MI and an AAUW member) who fought to ensure the inclusion of gender in the Act.

Also, the 1981 establishment of the Legal Advocacy Fund to support women seeking justice in instances of sex discrimination in higher education; the January 29th, 2009 signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was tirelessly supported by AAUW; a very special North Shore "market" program that took members to the ground floor of food and produce markets around New York City; and special recognition of the five state presidents produced by the North Shore Branch.

Indeed, a proud history was lauded and celebrated.

After sharing my personal journey to AAUW, I

spoke about my term theme, "A Board for All Branches," and my three main goals for my term:

**Enhance Visibility:** Increase visibility through training and assisting branches in communications.

**Plan Strategically for the Future:** Identify ways in which to build membership and assist branches.

At our 2014 State Fall Board Meeting the board identified three key goals for this term: (i) to increase membership by a net gain of at least 5 percent; (ii) to develop practical leadership modules for branches, incorporating diversity; and (iii) to facilitate community engagement in branch programming.

Increase Board Outreach to Branches: Ensure that the board is reaching out to branches to engage them in AAUW's mission and goals, ensure they are aware of state resources such as the Leader on Loan Program and our state Speakers Bureau, and

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Edwina displays a 3-D banner celebrating the North Shore branch anniversary.

## Leadership comes in all shapes and sizes

#### By LOREEN GINNITTI AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws

Many branches across the state and the nation are facing leadership challenges. Members can be reluctant to make a commitment to lead for various reasons. Some branches are successfully using alternative leadership structures. These can include co-leaders, leadership teams, or shared positions.

Here are some examples of how NYS branches have solved the problem of leadership:

Shared or co-leaders: For the position of president, membership, program, development vice presidents and secretary: A shared position of two people in any of the following formats:

• Working together on all decisions and duties.

• Taking different parts of the job i.e.; one handling meetings and another handling communications with state and national.

• Each taking a group of months and handling what needs to be done during that time period - works well for "snowbirds." (Especially suited to the position of secretary.) • The more experienced acting as "senior" leader and the other as the "junior" or trainee who moves up the next year. This allows for constant leadership mentoring of positions. Could also be designed as a president and president-elect.

#### **Presidential Council**

• A group of experienced leaders, possibly the existing board members or multiple past presidents, divide the executive work of the president monthly, or by task, or by skill set.

Some officer positions do not lend themselves to shared alternatives. For example, only one person should handle the finances of the branch, so don't try to share the treasurer's duties.

To avoid problems, we recommend that leaders who share a job discuss the logistics and division of labor before the year starts. It may be necessary to revisit the division of labor during the year, as well. Keep the lines of communication open. It may take a while for things to work smoothly – don't give up too soon.

We know some branches are already using leadership alternatives when necessary or desirable. But unless your bylaws specifically allow for those alternatives, they actually prohibit them. Please read the article "Prepare Your Bylaws for Leadership Alternatives" in this issue for some simple wording suggestions to include in your next bylaws revision.

If not being able to fill officer positions is keeping your branch from moving forward, keep in mind that only an administrator, in most cases one or more persons serving a presidential role, a finance officer or treasurer and a secretary are required for branches by the national bylaws.

All other officers and positions are optional and do not prevent the branch from continuing to exist if they can not be filled.

Sometimes not filling positions of leadership gives a branch time to rethink or streamline their expectations for officers and chairs to accommodate the changing branch dynamic. The ideal is, of course, to fill all positions, but finding a solution that works for your branch is also important.

Fostering leadership development in your branch should be ongoing. But if restructuring is needed, it can be done with thought and planning. Please contact the Bylaws Chair for any assistance you might need to rethink branch leadership.

### Generosity of branches goes a long way

By JANICE BROWN AAUW-NYS Development VP

As we approach the first halfway point of this administration, I would like to thank each member and donor for his/her generous contributions this past fiscal year.

We have to continue to move the mission forward with our giving.

I established two goals that I would like to accomplish during my tenure as AAUW-NYS Development VP.

These include completing all the NYS specific EOF funds. These funds include Carolyn Donovan Fund-4377, AAUW Buffalo (NY) American Fellowship Fund in honor of Hillary Rodham Clinton-4347, Greater Rochester (NY) Branch Fund-1481 and Lois Waldorf Fund-1881.

My second goal is the Change 4 Change Initiative. This initiative will help all branches meet the requirements of donating money to all six big AAUW funds.

Each branch should have a collection bucket to collect change at each branch activity.

If your branch needs a bucket, feel free to contact me.

The Named Gift Honoree Program is a great way to thank and honor members.

An important part of fundraising is showing appreciation to donors, as well as to the people who give so much of their time and talent to AAUW.

This can be done in many ways with notes, small gifts, and special incentive programs, including the AAUW Named Gift Honoree program. The Named Gift Honoree program is managed by individual states and provides a recognition incentive for members and branches.

This is a fantastic way to honor people who give extraordinary gifts of time or money and to reward stalwart, longtime members without whom our state and branch work would not be possible.

In addition, this program inspires an increase in giving to AAUW Funds year after year.

NYS participates by honoring the branches that contribute a minimum of \$500 per year to EOF funds.

Your Named Gift Honoree information should be submitted to the Lucienne Nicholson-EOF Director no later than Feb. 20.



#### AAUW-NYS ELECTED OFFICERS

President Edwina Frances Martin, Esq. edwinamartin@hotmail.com

Program Vice President Jane Russell homechick@empacc.net

Public Policy Vice President Donna Seymour seymour6985@verizon.net

Development Vice President / Acting Administrative Director Janice Brown j2brown1012@aol.com

Treasurer Contact the state president, edwinamartin@hotmail.com

Secretary/Bylaws Chair Loreen Ginnitti loreen@fairport.net (appointed to fill out Secretary Edwina Martin's term)

#### **APPOINTED DIRECTORS**

LAF Director Nancy Mion Myown220@aol.com

EOF Director Lucienne Nicholson nicholsonlucienne@gmail.com

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Communications Director / Nominations Chair Cynthia "Cyd" Averill averillc@optonline.net

District Director Mary Lou Davis maryloudavis125@gmail.com

> Focus Director Claire Regan regan@siadvance.com

Diversity Director Valora Blackson blacksov@stjohns.edu

College/University Director Angela Clark-Taylor angela.clark-taylor@rochester.edu



Rose Marie Olivia Guzzo, Valora Blackson, Diane Haney, Edwina Martin, Kimberly Pollard and Diane Daniels at the celebration, held at the Manhasset Public Library.

### North Shore marks a milestone

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ensure they are aware of our current state branch incentive programs: (i) Summer Meeting Incentive – \$50 toward registration fee for a member or members of branches that have not attended the summer meeting at Cazenovia College for two (2) years; (ii) District Conference Assistance – up to \$500 toward the cost of a district conference; and (iii) Missionbased program assistance – a grant program for branches to apply for funds to support mission-based programming.

Congratulations again to the North



Shore branch, and to another 75 years of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research!

# Report of the nominating committee

The AAUW-NYS Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the recommendation of the following for election for 2014-2016 state office during the 2015 convention at Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa:

Membership VP: Margaret (Peggy) Tiffany, Dunkirk-Fredonia Branch

Public Policy VP: Donna Seymour, St. Lawrence County and Empire State Virtual Branches

Secretary/Bylaws: Loreen Ginnitti, Jamestown Branch

Treasurer: To be determined -- Cyd Averill, Nominating Committee chair

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# SAVE THE DATE

The 2015 AAUW New York State Convention

AAUW Leading the Way: Women Leadership in the 21st Century

April 17-19, 2015 Byblos Niagara Resort, Grand Island, N.Y.

Special recognition: A celebration of the 125th anniversary of the AAUW Buffalo Branch

Registration information is available on the website, www.aauw-nys.org

# District conference roundup

Across the state, members gather to address timely topics including STEM, Common Core and sexual assault on campus

By MARY LOU DAVIS AAUW-NYS District Director

#### **District I**

Conference theme: Women in STEM Date: Nov. 1, 2014 Location: SUNY Fredonia Branches that attended: Buffalo, Dunkirk-Fredonia, Jamestown

SUNY Fredonia students attended and participated in a tour of the state-of-the-art science center. One student participated in the panel of women in STEM careers/educational paths. Kim Pollard, AAUW field rep, also attended and stayed after the meeting to talk with members about a wide range of topics including big challenges and opportunities such as membership and leadership and C/U partnership development, increasing diversity, programming, etc.

#### **District II**

Conference theme: Common Core Checkup: Year 2 Date: Oct. 25, 2014 Location: Perkins Mansion, 494 East Ave., Rochester Branches that attended: Alfred Hornell, Bath, Elmira-Corning, Fairport Area, and Greater Rochester

Dr. Michael Doughty gave an overview of Common Core. A panel included Annamaria Falzarano, coordinator of World Languages, Greece Central School District, a suburban school district; Malek Evans, past president of the Rochester City School District school board, an urban school district; Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias, principal of Young Women's College Preparatory Charter School, Rochester; and Michael Gill, superintendent of Canaseraga Central School, a rural school district. All presentations were recorded and are available.

#### **District III**

Conference theme: The Community Meets the Common Core Date: Oct. 25, 2014 Location: Cortland Country Club Branches that attended: Oswego, Ithaca, Mohawk Valley, Southern Tier and Cortland

OCM BOCES Assistant Superintendent Jeff Craig explained that the Common Core is a list of standards that NYS has set for all children to achieve. The drama that surrounds the term Common Core comes from the testing and teaching curriculum chosen by individual districts. The second speaker, Homer Central School superintendent Nancy Ruscio, described project based learning and how New Tech High Schools follow the Common Core by using collaboration and real-life projects devised by businesses to teach skills that employers seek. The final speakers included Karen Hempson (SUNY Cortland professor), Julie Hempson (Moravia Junior High School teacher), Mindy Leisenring (Cortland Historical Society director) and Megan Eves (The 1890 House museum coordinator). They collaborated to create a project for eighth-grade students which used primary sources to teach NYS learning standards. During lunch Kathy Beardsley portrayed Matilda Tuttle Barber, a local character from the 1800s. The presentation was recorded.

#### **District V**

Conference theme: Inaugural SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Event Date: Oct.18, 2014 Location: College of Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale Branches that attended: Westchester, Rockland, Empire State Virtual Branch

Members and guests heard Career Advancement Grant receipt Stacy Rose, director/producer of "Bottled UP" Enid Zentelis, and Ellen Tejile from Sweden, member of the 'A Rating' Team. Ellen described the Bechdel Test for films which was quite a shocker. More people need to know about the "A" rating. The speakers added firsthand information regarding the forces holding women back in filmmaking. A screening of "Bottled Up" was followed by a Q&A session.

#### **District VI**

Conference Theme: Sexual Assault on Campus Date: Oct. 25, 2014 Location: LIU Post Campus Brookville Branches that attended: Garden City, Islip Area, Massapequa Area, Mid Island, Nassau, North Shore, Smithtown, Westchester

One in five college women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault. Less than five percent of such incidents are reported. What are the consequences for victims and offenders? How are students protected under Title IX? What procedures are in place by their colleges and the U.S. Department of Education? How do colleges provide a safe environment?

Speakers who clarified their services were Christine Cione, education coordinator, The Safe Center for Victims of Abuse, Nassau County; Kyle Rose-Louder, bureau chief, Special Victims Bureau, Nassau District Attorney's Office; Lynne A. Schwartz, director for counseling center, LIU Post; and Mary Logan, legal advocacy fund chair, AAUW Westchester County Branch.



Come to convention at Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa April 17-19

# A birthday bash for Buffalo

#### By JANE RUSSELL AAUW-NYS Program VP

As co-chair for the 2015 convention I am excited to share information with our state membership regarding our 2015 convention to be held April 17-19 at Byblos resort on Grand Island.

To start, we will wish our Buffalo Branch a very special quasquicentennial (125th) birthday. Friday night will be the Convention Kickoff with the special Birthday Bash.

Saturday will be a full day starting with the AAUW-NYS Business Meeting. We will have the responsibility at that time of electing our new officers for the positions of treasurer, public policy VP, secretary/bylaws chair, and membership VP.

Following the Business Meeting will be a Panel 'Plenary' Presentation of elected women officials sharing their personal paths to elected office and some of the challenges of running government. For members who may be interested in running for office, this panel will provide special insight into the process of running for office and the challenges of leadership once elected. The panel will be followed by our Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) luncheon.

And the afternoon will be filled with thought-provoking workshops on topics such as the status of the right to vote, an education update from National on 21st century educational issues, domestic and intimate partner violence, and Eleanor Roosevelt on leadership.

For the first time we will offer a Student Track on Saturday with workshops specifically designed to address students' needs.

Newly elected officers will be inducted at the Saturday evening dinner. The convention will also offer time for networking. Our Development VP Janice Brown will once again organize a dance "Fun" raiser; anyone that attended the Dance-a-thon last convention, or Bunco at our Summer Meeting at Cazenovia College, will know that we are in for a great time.

Sunday will include District Meetings and Counterpart Sessions for all branch officers and appointees. Sunday lunch will be the time for a great sendoff with great branch ideas to take home.

Last but in no ways least, I am pleased to share that the Board will be offering one of the least expensive conventions in our memory to our members, with a package price of \$275/person for a double room and \$385/person for a single room – that includes two nights, six meals, and a discounted registration fee of \$5.

The convention planning committee has been working hard to make this a fun and engaging event. We hope you all will attend, will learn, and will return home to your branches with renewed energy and ideas. Reservation forms are available at aauw-nys.org.



#### CELEBRATING NEW YORK STATE'S SUFFRAGISTS AT THE BRANCH LEVEL

By NANCY MION AAUW-NYS LAF Director

We were given a challenge at the 2012 NYS Convention. Elizabeth Cady Stanton's great-great-granddaughter Coline Jenkins told us that if we found at least six suffragists in our area she would come and talk to our branch.

Seven of us started researching and in six months we had a Super Saturday Suffragist Luncheon with Coline Jenkins. Then she gave us a new challenge. We were to start a Suffragist Trail on Long Island. We have been researching extensively for three years, using library, university and historical society archives, newspapers, books and the Internet. We've interviewed people and visited sites.

As we continued to delve into "Votes for Women," we discovered strong dedicated women and issues previously unknown to us about the Suffrage Movement in the first decades of the 20th Century. We named our Power Point presentation "Amazing Women and How They Got the Vote." I'd like to share some highlights.

HARRIOT STANTON BLATCH. Stanton's daughter was a suffragist strategist. Her energy, courage and political savvy spurred the movement on to its goals. Blatch worked to bring the elite and the working class suffragists together to



Islip Area branch members gather at the grave of suffragist Birdsall Otis Edey.

achieve greater impact. She used highly visible political tactics such as open-air meetings and picketing the White House.

**MONEY TALKS.** Money to finance the Women's Suffrage Movement came in large sums from wealthy women with power and influence. One of the richest women at that time, Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, was totally committed to the cause. She supported striking women, created and financed organizations, held retreats and bought the National Women's Party a building in Washington, D.C.

WORKING WOMEN AND THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT. Women garment workers sewed in deplorable conditions. In 1909, 20,000 went on strike. Despite thugs, scabs and police they succeeded. But they realized without the vote they had no power. So they organized to fight to "Give Women the Vote"

SUFFRAGISTS LURE CROWDS WITH MARCHES, PARADE, WAG-ONS AND CARS. Suffragists raised awareness by being visible. They also wanted to create news that the papers would publish. Parades were held, some very elaborate, which thousands of spectators came to watch. They drove colorful wagons and cars through towns while distributing leaflets and giving speeches.

NO VOTES FOR WOMEN - THE ANTI-SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT. The anti's were composed mainly of the elite class. They believed that politics was unwomanly and unfeminine. The fear was that if women voted, the fabric of the family would disintegrate and women of "ill repute" would taint the vote. The underlying issue was preserving the status quo and protecting the social positions of the elite.

THE BICYCLE EMANCIPATED WOMEN. It gave women an affordable way to leave their immediate surroundings. This allowed them to meet people from other areas for social, political or business purpose.

They did not have to be chaperoned anymore. Their bulky, restrictive clothing was altered to accommodate riding a bicycle. Susan B Anthony said "The bicycle has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world."

**SUFFRAGIST IN OUR OWN BACKYARD.** We found in our search for Long Island Suffragists that over half of us knew a Suffragist or had one in our family. Susan (Schoenwald) knew Rose Schneiderman, the woman's union organizer; Helen (Gronus) knew Rosalie Jones; Gwen (Cox's) husband's grandmother was an active suffragist; one of Lynn (Perry's) family connections worked with Alva Belmont.

It was a wonderful experience for me, too. I discovered that my grandfather, Nathaniel Schmidt, a professor at Cornell, was an active suffragist who was often recruited to speak at state and regional conferences and conventions.

Along with other prominent men in the state, he was a cofounder and VP of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage of NYS. My grandmother, Ellen Schmidt, joined Nathaniel in working with Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Anna Shaw, Carrie Chapman Catt and other suffragists.

Through our research we have found the homes of a few L.I. suffragists and visited the grave sites of several of them. We've presented our research to two historical societies, our own branch, an AAUW District Conference and a community group. We've talked to almost 200 interested people.

One program was in the Hudson Valley where my daughter Bonnie found that there were many suffragists and grassroots organizations within 20 miles of her home. This made me realize that suffragists were everywhere.

**OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU.** Celebrate the 100th anniversary of NYS women's suffrage, which occurred on Nov. 6, 1917, by investigating the Suffrage Movement in your area. A statewide suffrage committee, including some AAUW members, is developing a website you may want to check out www.nywomenshistory.com. You and your branch will find it meaningful to discover these courageous people who fought so hard to "Give Women the Vote"

What can you do? Here are some ideas: Develop a suffrage committee; create a Suffragist Trail in your area; have a guest speaker; give a talk about a local suffragist; feature a local suffragist in your newsletter; celebrate Elizabeth Cady Stanton's birthday. Whatever you do, find a way to celebrate this 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage. Happy voting!

Nancy Mion chairs the Islip Area Branch Long Island Suffragist Committee.

### New approaches to leadership

#### By LOREEN GINNITTI AAUW-NYS Secretary/Bylaws

If your branch has been operating or is considering operating with shared officer positions of any type and you have not made changes in your bylaws to permit shared positions – they are currently prohibited.

However, it is not too late to make some simple bylaws changes to cover branch leadership alternatives.

Consider making some wording changes to allow for leadership alternatives, whether you feel you will ever use them or not, they can give you flexibility in structure that may work for your branch.

You may want to approve language at the board level and have it approved by the state secretary now, but wait until the next mandatory update from state or national before bringing it to your membership and submitting it to state and national. Here are examples of wording that branches have used to cover these options.

For most of you this applies to: Article VI – Section 1 - Officers

1. The officers of the branch shall consist of one or more – president (could use the term administrator), vice presidents for programs & membership, secretary(s), and a treasurer (or use the wording financial officer) and such other officers as the members may authorize.

Note: Leave any office you feel should never be shared in the singular tense - such as "a treasurer" in the sentence above.

Note: If you would authorize a combined office such as secretary/treasurer you may specify that as well.

2. The elected (you may insert and appointed as well if you desire) directors/officers shall comprise the Board of Directors. When an office is shared by more than one person, the office has one vote.

a. Any branch office shared by two (or more) persons has only one vote at a board meeting.

Note: This applies only to BOD meetings. In meetings of the branch, officers who are not presiding are general members and vote as a member.

Note: Rather than specifying the duties of each officer, the following might be used.

3. Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the rules of policies and procedures adopted by the board of directors, and by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

If you need help with wording of your bylaws to allow for shared positions or alternative structure, please contact me to assist you.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

#### AAUW VALUE PROMISE

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

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

#### 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.

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 Claire Regan, Associate Managing Editor, Staten Island Advance, 950 Fingerboard Rd., Staten Island, N.Y. 10305. Phone: 718-816-2845.

#### Email: focus@aauw-nys.org.

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### Elect Her program is thriving

By EDWINA MARTIN, president, and KIM POLLARD, state organizer

New York will host four sites for AAUW's Elect Her-Campus Women Win trainings this spring 2015! Ithaca College and Stony Brook University will continue as 2015 Elect Her training sites; SUNY Albany and SUNY Buffalo have been selected as new 2015 sites; and an additional site — Syracuse University — held its Elect Her training on Nov. 15 this year. Only 50 colleges from across the nation and Jamaica host Elect Her-Campus Women Win.

Elect Her-Campus Women Win, a collaboration of AAUW and Running Start, is a unique campus-based program that teaches women how to run for elective office.

Its goal is to address the disparity between the high percentage of women in colleges and universities and their low representation in student government by encouraging women to run for campus leadership positions.

This day-long program covers skills such as how to mobilize your constituency, how to craft your message, and how to speak and present yourself confidently as a candidate. By encouraging more women to run for student government during their college years, we are confident that we are preparing more women for local, state and federal office candidacy.

In 2014, Elect Her-Campus Women Win trained more than 1,000 participants on 50 campuses. Of the students who reported running for student office after the training, 78 percent WON! Approximately 12 percent more students said they are considering running for political office after the training than before. Plus, 100 percent of the participants reported that they would recommend Elect Her-Campus Women Win to a friend.

Participation in Elect Her is rewarding for the students and for AAUW branches that work with the campuses on this program and help bring new generations to AAUW.

"I am excited to work with our local future leaders on such an important offering," said Dr. Susan D. McClary (Buffalo Branch). To learn more about Elect Her-Campus Women Win, please visit:

www.aauw.org/what-we-do/campus-programs/elect-her-campus-women-win/