



FOCUS



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State Convention Edition

American Association of University Women • New York State



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

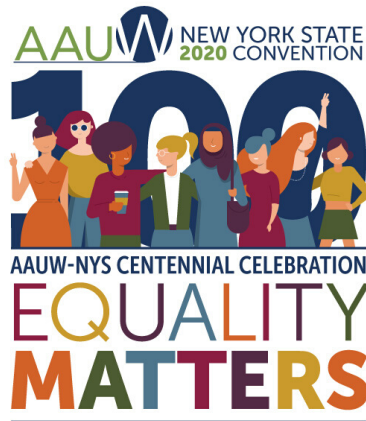
Janice Brown,
AAUW-NYS President

It has been 100 years since AAUW-NYS started providing support for women and girls across New York State. It has also been 100 years since the passage of the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote. This is a momentous occasion as we embrace our conference theme **“AAUW Centennial Celebration: Equality Matters”**. It is a privilege to recognize the hard work of our convention planning team led by Jane Pendergast and Carol Griffith. The team has been shaping a weekend to remember to take place April 24-26, 2020 at the Woodcliff Hotel & Spa in Fairport, NY. Equality Matters because it is important to empower and promote inclusive social and economic growth especially for women. We can help ensure equal opportunities and decrease economic insecurities if we all fight to eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices.

This year’s convention will be a celebratory one as we celebrate AAUW-NYS and the 19th Amendment. This convention will open with a night of community networking with many other women’s organizations and groups that are all fighting for equality for women. We will have the privilege of honoring five women, who exemplify the mission of AAUW and who were all “firsts” in New York State. The honorees include Ursula

Burns, the first African-American woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company; MaryEllen Elia, the first education commissioner; Honorable Hillary Clinton, first female Senator; Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, first female to lead Senate Majority, and Honorable Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul.

During the convention weekend, we will have an opportunity to take a bus trip to Seneca Falls. For those that have never been there, this is a great chance to visit. We will see “the” historic Chapel, visit the Women’s Rights Museum and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton home. You’ll also get a chance to visit some local women-owned shops. We will have two workshops with panels focused on voting and advocacy moving forward. Registration is open. Early registrants will have the opportunity for a drawing of a “free” Swedish massage at the spa during the weekend. We only get to celebrate “100” once. If you haven’t attended our state conventions in a while, this is the one to attend. Come and celebrate like you have never before. Looking forward to seeing you in Fairport as we celebrate **“AAUW-NYS Centennial Celebration: Equality Matters”**. We are requesting that you wear white on Friday night.



What’s Inside

Page 2: Convention Fundraiser: Order your Centennial Celebratory lapel pin. Link in the article.

Page 3: Check out the AAUW-NYS Convention Schedule and the touring opportunities for the weekend.

Page 4: Nominating committee and board election; plus Call to Nominations.

Page 5: Public Policy article & Around the State.

Pages 6 & 7: Meet AAUW-NYS Centennial Honorees

AAUW-NYS Centennial Lapel Pin Fundraiser

To celebrate both our centennials (AAUW-NYS and WOMENS' SUFFRAGE), we are offering centennial lapel pins. There is a limited number of the pins and the sale price is \$75.00. **Deadline to order pins is April 15th.**

The pin is a limited edition design created especially for AAUW-NYS. It is available in 18k yellow gold plating or rhodium plating with faux pearls. The stones in the '100' are precious crystals. \$10 of each pin's proceeds will go to the AAUW Greatest Need Fund. Click on the **link below to order.**



You can choose between Silver or Golden finish

<https://aauw-nys100.store/>

FOCUS is a quarterly newsletter published by the American Association of University Women - New York State.
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Questions and articles should be addressed to:

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Email: gabihoover@gmail.com
Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor.

AAUW-NYS 2019-2020 Board

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AAUW-NYS CONVENTION TOURS

For the 2020 AAUW-NYS, attendees will have two tour options. Both are related to the Women’s Rights Movements and the suffrage centennial.

1. **Susan B. Anthony Museum & Home:** Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy the historic Susan B. Anthony Museum & Home on Friday & Saturday afternoon between 1-5pm (This is a self-guided tour). Admission is \$10.00 and payable at the Museum.



2. **Seneca Fall Bus Trip:** The AAUW-NYS convention attendees can visit Seneca Falls and, while there, we will have the opportunity to visit the Women’s Rights National Historic Park, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Home and “the” historic Chapel. At our Chapel visit, we will observe a reenactment of the convention. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the local shops as well.

The cost is \$25 and payable during registration.



REGISTER TODAY at www.aauw-nys.org

Convention Schedule - April 24-26, 2020 - Woodcliff Hotel & Spa Fairport, NY

Friday, April 24

- 12:00 6:00 Registration Open
- 1:00 5:00 Tour (Susan B Anthony Home & Museum-)
- 1:00 5:00 Movie Room
- 1:00 5:00 NYS Board of Directors Meeting
- 5:00 6:00 Convention Fundraiser
- 5:30 6:30 Community Networking & President's Reception with Cash Bar
- 7:00 8:00 Open of Convention: Janice Brown
- 8:00 9:30 Woman of Century Honorees Proclamations
- 9:30 10:00 Entertainment- Rochester City Community Chorus
- 9:30 Nominating Committee/Resolutions Caucus

Saturday, April 25

- 6:30 7:30 Exercise/Morning Walk
- 7:00 9:00 Registration
- 7:00 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 11:00 Business Meeting/Election of Officers

- 11:15 11:30 Bus to Seneca Falls
- 12:00 1:00 Lunch for non-Seneca Falls attendees
- 1:30 4:15 Movie Room/Free time- Non-Seneca Falls Attendees
- 4:30 6:00 Workshop Session- Voting
- 6:30 7:00 President’s Reception
- 7:00 9:00 Convention Banquet Induction of New Officers
Keynote – Kim Churches
- 9:00 10:00 Entertainment –Rochester City Community Chorus

Sunday, April 26

- 6:30 7:00 Exercise/Morning Walk
- 7:00 9:00 Registration
- 7:30 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 10:00 Counterparts Session-Group Session
- 10:30 12:00 Workshop Session-Advocacy-Moving Forward
- 12:00 1:00 Luncheon and Closing Session
- 1:15 1:30 Call to Meeting 2021
- 1:30 2:30 Post-Convention Board Meeting

2020 Convention: Nominating Committee Report and Election Process

by **Janice Brown**, AAUW-NYS President

Dear Members of AAUW-NYS

This year there will not be a slate of officers from the Nominating Committee presented at the Convention Business Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee, presented at the November 2019 AAUW-NYS Board meeting, was rejected due to irregularities of the process. As a result of investigation and consultations, the board agreed to accept all nominations for the positions of President, Program VP and Development VP from the floor during the business meeting at our state convention on April 25th. Any member of AAUW-NYS who is eligible to serve in the offices of President, Program Vice President and Development Vice President may be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Each nominee must provide written consent to serve in the office. The process will adhere to Robert’s Rules of Order. Guidance will be included in the convention registration packet and will also be outlined on the website one week prior to the convention.

Eligibility requirements are:

AAUW-NYS Bylaws

Article XII. Officers

Section 2. Qualifications for Office

1. The elected and appointed officers shall be members of AAUW and AAUW-NYS. The elected and appointed directors shall facilitate and promote the purpose and mission of AAUW and AAUW-NYS.

2. 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.

3. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.
Section 3. Terms of Office.

c. No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms unless a qualified candidate cannot be secured by February 1 of the election year and pending approval of the executive committee. No officer may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same position.

AAUW-NYS Working rules

II. Composition of the board

C. Term Limits

2. No member (elected or appointed) shall serve on the board for more than eight consecutive years except that a person who has served only one term as president, but has reached the board term limits may be permitted to be nominated for president by majority vote of the board of directors. If elected, they will also be permitted to serve as past president for one year, if they choose.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS about the nominating committee report or this process, contact President Janice Brown via email at president@aauw-nys.org or 4jmac2@gmail.com.



Call to nominations

Hello, my name is Suzanne Young-Mercer and this year it is my pleasure to be Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Board of Director positions for the 2021-2023 fiscal year.

The positions for consideration are:

- Membership Vice President
- Public Policy Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary/Bylaws

Leadership is critical to the success of our organization. If you have the skills and are willing to make a difference in the lives of

women and girls across New York State, we want you.

I will be reaching out to Branch Presidents in the next couple of weeks to provide job descriptions and application form for this position. Please make your members aware of these positions and please consider any members you feel have the leadership potential to serve on the NYS-AAUW Board of Directors.

I thank you for your consideration.



AAUW-NYS WOMEN OF CENTURY HONOREES

As part of our Centennial celebration, we are honoring five women from across New York State that has exemplified the values of AAUW. These women represents the pillars of AAUW strategic plan.

Ursula Burns

1st African American Woman CEO Fortune 500



Ursula Burns is an American businesswoman. She is the chairman and CEO of VEON, a senior advisor to Teneo, and a non-executive director of Diageo since April 2018. She is also a member of the board of directors of Uber. In 2009, Burns became CEO of Xerox, the first among black women to be a CEO of a Fortune 500 company, and the first woman to succeed another as head of a Fortune 500 company. Burns served as CEO of Xerox from 2009 to 2016 and Xerox chairwoman from 2010 to 2017. Forbes rated her the 22nd most powerful woman in the world. Among other civic positions, she was a leader of the STEM program of the White House from 2009 to 2016, and head of the President's Export Council from 2015 until 2016.

MaryEllen Elia

1st Woman Education Commissioner NYS



MaryEllen Elia is an American educator. MaryEllen Elia was born and raised in Western New York. She attended high school in Lewiston and attended Daemen College in Buffalo, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts. She received her Master of Education and Master of Professional Studies in reading from the University at Buffalo. She served for ten years as superintendent of Hillsborough County Public Schools in Tampa, Florida, but was fired by the school board after a number of incidents that eroded the board's trust in her. Elia later served as New York State Education Commissioner. In that role she gained recognition for easing tensions surrounding implementation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative and the question of how to evaluate teachers. She provoked controversy over the removal of school aid from struggling schools, the delayed removal of an outspoken Buffalo School Board member and a directive requiring private schools to come into compliance with state standards. She resigned as education commissioner on August 31, 2019.

Hon Kathy Hochul

LT Governor NYS



Honorable Kathy Hochul is an American politician serving as Lieutenant Governor of New York since 2015. She previously served as the U.S. Representative for New York's 26th congressional district from June 1, 2011 to January 3, 2013. She prevailed in the four-candidate special election of May 24, 2011, to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Republican Chris Lee, and was the first Democrat to represent the district in 40 years. Hochul served as the County Clerk of Erie County, New York from 2007 until 2011, when she assumed her seat in Congress. Previously, she was a deputy county clerk, a member of the Hamburg Town Board, a practicing attorney, and a legislative aide. She also worked as a government relations specialist with Buffalo-based M&T Bank. She became politically active during her college years at Syracuse University, leading a boycott of the student bookstore over high prices and an unsuccessful effort to name the university stadium after running back Ernie Davis, an alumnus, instead of the Carrier Corporation. She received her B.A. degree from Syracuse in 1980 and her law degree from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in 1984.

HONOREES

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins

1st Woman to lead Senate Majority NYS



Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins is an American politician and educator from Yonkers, New York. She represents District 35 in the New York State Senate. She serves as the body's Majority Leader and Temporary President. Stewart-Cousins is the first woman in the history of New York State to lead a conference in the New York State Legislature and is also the first female Senate Majority Leader in New York history. She was first elected to the New York State Senate in 2006. Prior to her Senate service, Stewart-Cousins was a Westchester County Legislator from 1996 to 2006. In 2012, she was chosen by her colleagues to lead the Senate Democratic Conference. After the Democratic Party won an outright Senate majority in the 2018 elections, Stewart-Cousins became Majority Leader in January 2019. Stewart-Cousins spent twenty years in the private sector, including thirteen years in sales and marketing with New York Telephone (later known as AT&T). After New York Telephone went out of business, she received a buyout and pursued a college degree while working for Gannett Newspapers. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Pace University and her teaching credentials in Business Education from Lehman College. She received her Masters of Public Administration from Pace University in May 2008 and is a member of Pi Alpha Alpha, the public administration honor society.

Hon Hillary Rodham Clinton

1st Woman Senator-NYS

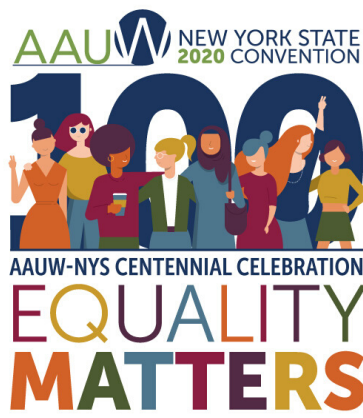


Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton is an American politician, diplomat, lawyer, writer, and public speaker. She was the first woman Senator from New York State. She served as First Lady of the United States from 1993 to 2001, as a United States senator from New York from 2001 to 2009, and as the 67th United States secretary of state from 2009 until 2013. She became the first woman to be nominated for president of the United States by a major political party when she won the Democratic Party nomination in 2016.

GO AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AAUW-NYS 2020 STATE CONVENTION

April 24-26, 2020
Woodcliff Hotel & Spa
Fairport, NY



REGISTER TODAY at:

www.aauw-nys.org

Public Policy: Guide for Submission of a Resolution at Convention

by Janet Forbes, Public Policy VP

The times that we live in call to many of us to take action on key public policy issues and initiatives locally, state-wide, and nationally.

At our April 2020 Convention the members of AAUW-NYS will review our 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities which will focus on a few targeted areas such as passage of a NYS ERA and National ERA as well as pay equity legislation. These issues were presented and discussed by members at our AAUW-NYS Summer Leadership Conference.

We encourage members to prepare and submit a resolution to focus attention on issues of importance to the mission and vision of AAUW.

The resolution should contain specific and realistic suggestions for action. AAUW States and Branches can take positions on state or local issues that are not current AAUW priorities at the federal level,

providing those issues do not conflict in any way with AAUW public policy priorities and principles.

Resolutions will be presented and discussed at the Resolutions Caucus on Friday evening and at the Business Meeting on Saturday morning. A copy of the resolution must be sent to the NYS Public Policy VP by March 20, 2020.

The full details for drafting and presenting a resolution at Convention can be found at the AAUW-NYS website's Governance page. <https://aauwnyswp.aauw-nys.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Resolutions-Process.pdf>

Please contact AAUW-NYS Public Policy VP Janet Forbes at policyvp@aauw-nys.org or 716-490-2616 with your resolution and any questions. We look forward to seeing you at Convention and discussing the resolutions that are presented. Together we can move public policy initiatives forward for the benefit of women, girls, and families.

ATTENTION: Deadline to submit a Public Policy resolutions is March 27th, 2020.



Ithaca Branch Hosts Wine Pairing with Food Scholarship Fundraiser

by Kimberly Edgar, Ithaca Branch

The Ithaca Branch collaborated with both Visit Ithaca's "Ithaca Loves Teachers Winter Break Week" and Tompkins Cortland Community College Culinary Arts Educational Center *Coltivare* in Ithaca to raise scholarship funds for non-traditional women students returning to Tompkins Cortland Community College. In the Fall of 2019, our first branch scholarship was award to Michelle Phillips, a student majoring in Accounting at Tompkins Cortland Community College.

The event featured a wine pairing with food demonstration by the head chef and student of culinary arts program with a professional sommelier. Attendees enjoyed great food and wine, while learning about various cooking techniques and how to best select wines to compliment your food.

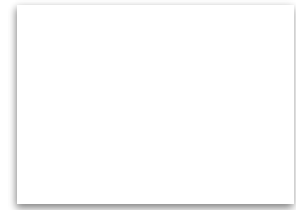
The fundraiser also featured a reception where attendees could get to know AAUW Fellow Stephanie Aguillon. Stephanie is a PhD Candidate at Cornell

University studying the evolution of feather color in birds. She is working primarily with the Northern Flicker, a widespread North American Woodpecker, for her dissertation work. Stephanie is a first generation of her family to go to college. She plans to defend her dissertation in 2021 and start her Post-Doctoral Research.

Overall, the fundraiser was a great opportunity to collaborate with other organizations in our community, meet a wonderful AAUW Fellow, promote AAUW to teachers across New York, and to raise needed funds for our local scholarship. As a major plus, we gained two new Ithaca Branch Members through the AAUW Shape-The-Future Campaign in under three hours!



AAUW Fellow at Cornell University
Stephanie Aguillon



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

The Woodclif Hotel and Spa in Rochester, NY



Woodcliff Hotel & Spa is situated in the scenic hills of upstate New York. The hotel offers contemporary accommodations with sophisticated style, a full-service restaurant open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, a full bar, and a fitness center. There is also a nine-hole golf course, full-service spa, an indoor pool, and a seasonal outdoor pool. Designed for discerning travelers Woodcliff Hotel & Spa is the perfect weekend getaway, couples escape, or corporate retreat.

Head to Convention Registration in our website - www.aauw-nys.org for special event packages.

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