

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**  
**New York State Division**  
**The Eighties**

The decade from 1980 through 1989 of New York State Division AAUW activities was a period marked by:

- the celebration of important anniversaries,
- the reorganization of the Division,
- the publication of several new booklets and brochures and a newsletter,
- the presentation of many new awards,
- the continuation of numerous projects and
- the introduction of task forces

all of which were action oriented. Part of the spirit of the era can be learned from looking at some of the Division themes: Priorities - Catalysts for Action, New Issues and Directions - Momentum for the Future, Celebrate Women, Choices + Challenges = Action, Making a Difference, and Turn Caring into Action.

Anniversaries

The 1980's proved to be a time for several significant anniversaries in AAUW. First and foremost was the centennial of the Association in 1981, celebrated most appropriately at the convention in Boston where the Association originated. Two NYSD branches also celebrated centennials in this decade - New York City in 1986 and Central New York, now known as the Syracuse Branch, in 1989. Three other branches, Albany, Buffalo, and Corning, were organized about the same time and will celebrate their centennials in 1990. NYSD also had a special birthday - we were 60 years old in 1981.

Projects and Topics

As AAUW moved into its second century, we participated in several Association topics and projects and initiated some of its own. One was Women and Aging in the early 1980's, and a number of members attended the White House Conference on Aging in 1982. The follow-up phase of this projects was planning a booklet on matters of financial concern to women, also in 1982. Under this project, twenty-five community forums were held, and findings from these were published with recommendations. In addition, a two-day conference, "Women Living Independently", was held in Albany.

In 1983-84 the Association adopted a Women's Vote Project in which NYSD Branches participated. The purpose was to increase: (1) voter registration, (2) voter education, and (3) voter participation.

Other projects included supporting the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the early 1980's and working with such Association topics as Families Facing Change (1980-1981), Managing Resources for Tomorrow (1980-1981), Money Talks (1981-1983) and Taking Hold of Technology (1981-1983).

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## Issues Task Forces

In 1983, Division Issues Task Forces were created to address the issues adopted by the Association and to promote action. Each Task Force had one representative with expertise on the issue from each district, and one chair who served on the Division Board, while the issue was current. The issues and their dates are as follows: Peace and National Security (1983-1986), Empowering Women or Advocacy for Women: Networking (1983-1986), Public Support for Public Education (1985-1987), Women's Work/Women's Worth (1986-1989), Promoting Individual Liberties (1987-1990), and Choices for Tomorrow's Women (1989- ). During the last half of the decade projects, such as Choices and Challenges (in which at least 23 branches participated by 1987), Pay Equity (1986), the Homeless, the Media and TV Survey (monitored TV news and commercials in January 1987), Time to Care Survey (1988), The Censorship Survey (1989) and the Partnership Project - Turn Caring into Action (1988-1990), often reflect the issues of the task forces.

## WIDE

The project WIDE (Workshops in Developing Effectiveness), which began in 1977, continued throughout the 1980's. Its original purposes were: (1) building branch communication, (2) releasing human potential, (3) increasing group effectiveness, and (4) management of time and resources. As it entered its next decade, it added workshops on the new task force issues (Peace, Censorship, etc.), while continuing to provide programs on goal setting, decision making, coping with stress, time management, and in 1988, the VoLT (Volunteer Leadership Training) module. Members from all districts throughout the state have been trained to lead workshops, and members who have attended workshops at branch and district meetings have benefited from them. Project WIDE also provided assistance in leadership training to other community groups.

## Legislative Activities

During the decade of the 1980's, the NYSD has been concerned about and taken action in support of legislation dealing with Rights of the Individual, Community, Culture, Education, and International Relations. These general areas included specific action such as ratification of the ERA, Handgun Control, Public Funds for Public Schools, Truth in Testing, Handicapped, Drunk Driving laws, and Medicaid Funding for women's reproductive needs, as well as studying the homeless and censorship in the schools. The Task Forces also generated interest in legislation specific to each topic. In addition to including the NYSD Legislative Program in the convention program, it was printed in booklet form to provide directions to the Legislative Committee and to branches, and to be used in contacts with legislators.

The decade also marked <sup>WAP</sup>the cooperation with many other organizations within the state as well as at the Association level. The Peace Rally in 1983, the March for Women's Equality in 1989, Women's Vote Project in 1984, Pay Equity for Women in 1986 and toxic waste were but a few projects in which many organizations worked cooperatively. Legislative items were also addressed in the Spectrum Sessions at conventions.

The Division also discussed the proposed Association change in the use of the word "women" to the word "graduate" to eliminate gender discrimination. This was based on legal and political pressures from other organizations. The change opened membership in AAUW to qualified men.

During this period New York was reapportioned - resulting in new legislative districts. Members were urged to network on legislative issues through the Branch Council Telephone Tree and with other organizations, write to legislators, and an effort was made to make branches and members comfortable about meeting with legislators. The Legislative Committee arranged for NYSD delegates at the 1989 Association Convention in Washington, D.C. to visit Congressmen or staff at their Washington offices.

NYSD Awards

Late in the last decade, beginning in 1979 the Division gave Media Awards at its annual conventions. After five years of presenting these awards, the Division Board decided to replace them with an annual Peace Award to honor women of significant achievement in promoting peace. Dr. Helen Caldicott was the first NYSD Peace Award recipient at the 1984 Convention. Recipients in subsequent years were Betty Reardon in 1985, Justine Merritt in 1986, Peggy Say in 1987, Diane Clark in 1988 and Mother Hale in 1989.

Beginning also in the 1970's and continuing on into the 1980's, the Division launched the practice of giving awards to branches for the Branch Newsletters. Each year at the Convention, branches chosen for the excellence of their monthly communications are given awards based on style, content, and design - according to the size of the branch.

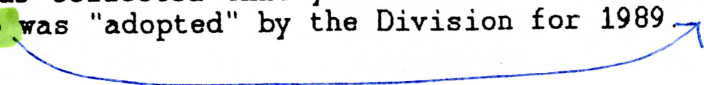
Various other Division Awards have been given as follows: Women as Agents of Change to Mary Codd in 1986, and Excellence and Equity in Education to Doris Miga the same year. In addition, during the 1980's, there was a Banner Contest Award, Travel (to convention) Awards, Branch Public Information Awards, and Membership and Retention Awards. These all helped to stimulate interest and enthusiasm.

Legal Advocacy Fund

Individuals and branches have contributed to the Association Legal Advocacy Fund, which was started in 1981. The fund represents women who are seeking judicial redress for gender discrimination in higher education. Cases involving New York institutions, including the Cornell 11 and Webster vs. Mohawk Valley Community College, have been encouraged in their legal efforts through contributions from the LAF.

In 1989, the vehicle for raising funds in New York was designated as the NYSD LAF Circle, and a jade pendant was given to individual contributors of \$50 and to branches with contributions of \$100. Each January the NYSD LAF Liaison will propose to the NYSD Board of Directors, a candidate from the Association list of litigants (with N.Y. State litigants given priority) for adoption and support. The person would receive the NYSD LAF Circle funds collected that year. Dr. Sharon Leder in her case against SUNY Buffalo was "adopted" by the Division for 1989.

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## Educational Foundation Programs (EFP)

The New York State Branches/Division contributions to the Educational Foundations Programs varied each year, but overall they continued to increase from \$70,600 in 1980 to nearly \$100,000 in 1989. Growth, however, is not the only highlight of EFP. In addition to the broad range of American, International and Selected Professions Fellowships and Project RENEW, Public Service, Issue Focus and Short Term Project Grants, this decade marked the establishment of several new EFP funds:

- In 1981, the Division established an American Fellowship Endowment in the name of the NYSD/AAUW Centennial with \$10,000 of undesignated funds. The Endowment reached the stipend producing level in 1987, but was to continue to the new goal of \$100,000.

- In 1983, participation with the California Division in a joint endowment of an American Fellowship in honor of Eleanor Roosevelt's 100th birthday was discussed. The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund for Women and Girls: International Partnership was formally established five years later for the purpose of providing sabbatical leaves to help bring equity to the classroom. Contributors of \$100 to this fund were honored at the 1989 Association Convention in Washington, D.C.

- NYSD members and branches generously supported the Judith Resnick American Fellowship Endowment. Branches contributing \$1.00 per member and divisions with \$1.00 per capita were listed on the Honor Roll, which was presented at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston in 1987. Many branches and the NYSD were included. The first Judith Resnick Fellowship Recipient was a Cornell University graduate student.

Two continuing funds of interest to the Division are:

- The New York Division Second Century Club which was begun in 1982. The donor may specify the fund to be credited with the \$200 contribution.

- At the Association level, Friends of the Foundation contribute \$1,000 to EFP. Some NYSD members have made this commitment to the EFP program.

In addition to the many fund raisers at the branch level, several projects through the Division helped support the Foundation. Sale items included ice tubs, file folders, crystal plates and stands, posters, raffle tickets, vinyl folders for tablets as well as note pads. Many Fellows study at colleges and universities in New York State, and some have been speakers at branches and at the EFP Luncheon at the NYSD Conventions.

The practice of allocating undesignated branch contributions to existing NYSD or Branch endowments and funds that have not reached the stipend producing level was continued.

## NYSD Organization

A number of organizational changes were made during the 1980's. At the beginning of the decade, the state was divided into five regions, which also included 10 areas, but by 1983 these regions were renamed as districts, and in 1985 the state was redivided into six districts. District representation increased, and by 1989 there was a District Team for each district which consisted of a Branch Council Representative, a chair for Membership, one for EFP, and one for each task force. Team

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members serve as resources for their respective districts and plan the fall district meetings. NYSD Board membership also mirrored Association dictates with the addition of a chair on Women in 1982 and the addition of chairs for the task forces as they became current. Names of board members also changed with the times. For example, the Corporate Member Representative was changed to Corporate Relations Representative in 1983 and to College University Representative in 1987. The number of branches varied from a peak of 74 in 1981-1983 to 66 in 1989. During the decade, some new branches were formed, some merged and a few disbanded.

### NYSD Publications

At the April 1985 Convention, MAR Director, Jean Colburn, stated that New York has become known as "The Great Communicator" because of the quality of its publications, and this was indeed a productive period for the Division. The AAUW New Yorker, a publication sent to each AAUW member in NYSD continued. In the fall of 1982 the New York Leader, with articles by NYSD Board Members, was established to replace the counterpart mailings, and it became the house organ for the Division to disseminate information to branch leaders. Besides these two major publications - printed on a regular basis - there were various packets, booklets, guidebooks, resource kits, and brochures on important issues or topics. Examples of these were the Women and Aging booklet (1981), the Aging Women Alone booklet (1982), the International Relations Handbook (1983), the Branch President's Handbook (1983), the Excellence and Equity in Education brochure (1985), the NYSD Image Folder (1986; reprinted 1989), the NYSD Membership Packet (1986), the Peace Curriculum Guidebook (1986), the Choices and Challenges Kit (1987), and the Membership Brochure and the Legislative Brochure, which are updated periodically. The Golden Era, AAUW 1920-1970, a History of NYSD, was reprinted in 1985, along with the addition of the history of the decade 1970-1980.

### Finances

The delegates at the May 1981 convention defeated a \$2.00 increase in the dues. Economies that included the cheapest method of travel, centrally located meetings, combined mailings, etc., had been implemented, but additional monies were needed. Through a "fill the blank" procedure, the dues were increased by \$1.00 to the annual dues of \$3.00. A five year financial plan using realistic membership projections showed the need for an additional increase in dues to \$4.00 effective July 1, 1984. This was passed by the delegates at the 1983 convention.

### Membership

With the changing times, membership in AAUW, both in NYSD and throughout the country, began to decline. In May 1981, NYSD had 7,634 members, which by May 1989 had decreased to 5,763. Several attempts were made to attract members. In 1982 the Association's San Francisco Sweepstakes Campaign was designed to reward AAUW members who recruited new members, and the focus was on retention, recruitment and orientation. The NYSD 1983 slogan was "8,000 or more in '84", and awards were given to

branches of different sizes for bringing in members. By 1986 the Membership Committee offered travelships for any branch that had not attended three Division Conventions. In 1987 NYSD won an Association membership award for recruitment and retention, in 1988 the association theme was "Share the Power, Share the Pride", and in 1989 membership awards (certificates and monetary grants) were given for 100% retention as well as for recruitment. Although the Association in 1987 ruled that men could join AAUW, there are not statistics on the number of male members in NYSD.

### Travel

Efforts have been made during these years to encourage branch representation at the NYSD Conventions. In 1982 two new branches, Patchogue and Skaneateles, received travelships to assist with expenses. The Membership Committee recommended that \$50 Branch Travelships be made available to the seven branches that had not attended the NYSD Convention in the past three years toward attendance at the 1987 NYSD Convention in Buffalo. It is hoped that branches will continue to be represented at these important meetings.

The Division Travel program provides for a branch visitor from the Division leadership once each two year period. The Division provides the cost of transportation, and the meals and lodging are provided by the branch. Arrangements are made through the NYSD Administrative Assistant.

### NYSD Participation at the Association Level

NYSD members continue to participate actively in Association convention, projects, and committees. Members were elected to be Director of Educational Foundation Programs, Membership Vice President, and appointed to be a Trustee of the Educational Foundation, as well as to hold many committee responsibilities. (With apologies to those the committee could not locate, the Addenda includes the names of some of those who served at the Association level.) Beyond the scope of the Association, a number of Division members have participated in IFUW conventions and conferences such as Nairobi Conference, Equity by 2000.

### Summary

The 1980-1990 decade has been one of action and commitment to women's issues, education, legislation, equality, and individual liberties. NYSD has kept up with the changing times of the '80's and looks forward to meeting the challenges of the final decade of the 20th century.

Prepared by:  
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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN - NEW YORK STATE DIVISION**

**1980 - 1990 Addenda**

**Statistical Summary**

| <u>ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS</u> | <u>ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS</u> | <u>MAR VICE PRESIDENT</u><br><u>/REGIONAL DIRECTOR</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1979-1981 Mary Grefe          | 1981 Boston (Centennial)       | 1979-1981 Martha Karraker (NJ)                         |
| 1981-1985 Mary Purcell        | 1983 San Francisco             | 1981-1985 Jean Colburn (Md)                            |
| 1985-1989 Sarah Harder        | 1985 Columbus                  | 1985-1987 Sandy Bernard (NY)                           |
| 1989- Sharon Schuster         | 1987 Houston                   | 1987-1989 Bernice MacDonald (NJ)                       |
|                               | 1989 Washington, D.C.          | 1989- Dian Belanger (Md)                               |

| <u>NEW YORK STATE DIVISION PRESIDENTS</u> | <u>NEW YORK STATE DIVISION CONVENTIONS AND THEMES</u> |
|---|---|
| 1980-1982 Marianne Huggard                | 1980 Jamestown  |
| 1982-1984 Sandy Bernard                   | 1981 Terrytown  |
| 1984-1986 Alice Ann Leidel                | 1982 Buffalo  |
| 1986-1988 Lois Waldorf                    | 1983 Albany   |
| 1988-1990 Joyce Dayton                    | 1984 Rochester  |
|   | 1985 Albany   |
|   | 1986 Glens Falls                                      |
|   | 1987 Buffalo  |
|   | 1988 Albany   |
|   | 1989 Syracuse   |
|   | 1990 Buffalo  |

Spectrum: The AAUW Woman  
 Priorities - Catalysts for Action  
 New Issues and Direction - Momentum 1988-1990  
 for the Future  
 Challenges for Tomorrow  
 Celebrate Women  
 AAUW Women: A Degree of Difference  
 Choices + Challenges = Action  
 Making a Difference  
 Turn Carriage into Action  
 Breaking Barriers: Past Perspectives, Future Focus

| <u>Years</u> | <u>Geographic Divisions</u>   | <u>Number of NYS Branches</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1980-1981    | 5 Regions, including 10 Areas | 73                            |
| 1981-1982    | 5 Regions, including 10 Areas | 74                            |
| 1982-1983    | 5 Regions, including 10 Areas | 74                            |
| 1983-1984    | 5 Districts                   | 73                            |
| 1984-1985    | 5 Districts                   | 73                            |
| 1985-1986    | 6 Districts                   | 70                            |
| 1986-1987    | 6 Districts                   | 68                            |
| 1987-1988    | 6 Districts                   | 67                            |
| 1988-1989    | 6 Districts                   | 67                            |
| 1989-1990    | 6 Districts                   | 66                            |

**ORGANIZATION OF NEW YORK STATE DIVISIONS**

NEW YORK STATE DIVISION AAUW ELECTED OFFICERS

|               |                   |                  |                  |                  |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| President     | <u>1980-1981</u>  | <u>1981-1982</u> | <u>1982-1983</u> | <u>1983-1984</u> |
| Program VP    | Marianne Huggard  | Marianne Huggard | Sandy Bernard    | Sandy Bernard    |
| Membership VP | Irene Shatz       | Sandy Bernard    | Alice Ann Leidel | Alice Ann Leidel |
| Secretary     | Sandy Bernard     | Carol Glansberg  | Carol Glansberg  | Karen Ladley     |
| Treasurer     | Marjorie Loveland | Elva Holman      | Elva Holman      | Elva Holman      |
|               | Diane Boyce       | Stella Hordes    | Stella Hordes    | Peggy Belden     |
| President     | <u>1984-1985</u>  | <u>1985-1986</u> | <u>1986-1987</u> | <u>1987-1988</u> |
| Program VP    | Alice Ann Leidel  | Alice Ann Leidel | Lois Waldorf     | Lois Waldorf     |
| Membership VP | Lois Waldorf      | Lois Waldorf     | Dr. Joyce Dayton | Dr. Joyce Dayton |
| Secretary     | Karen Ladley      | Barbara Riley    | Barbara Riley    | Betty Harrel     |
| Treasurer     | Elva Holman       | Diane Boyce      | Diane Boyce      | Barbara Carier   |
|               | Peggy Belden      | Elizabeth Knapp  | Elizabeth Knapp  | Anne Velesaris   |
| President     | <u>1988-1989</u>  | <u>1989-1990</u> |                  |                  |
| Program VP    | Dr. Joyce Dayton  | Dr. Joyce Dayton |                  |                  |
| Membership VP | Barbara Riley     | Barbara Riley    |                  |                  |
| Secretary     | Betty Harrel      | Barbara Smalbach |                  |                  |
| Treasurer     | Barbara Carier    | Barbara Carier   |                  |                  |
|               | Anne Velesaris    | Anne Velesaris   |                  |                  |

NEW YORK STATE DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

|           |                       |   |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| 1982-1985 | Alice Ann Leidel      | Educational Foundation Development Committee  |
| 1987-1990 | Alice Ann Leidel      | Educational Foundation Program Director       |
| 1982-1985 | Jeanette Sherril      | MAR Coordinator for Families and Work         |
| 1982-1984 | Dr. Doney Xiques      | Peace and National Security Task Force        |
| 1982-1984 | Carol Stull           | Training Task Force Chairman/VoLT             |
| 1984-1986 | Harriet Peters        | Corporate Relations Committee                 |
| 1985-1987 | Lois Waldorf          | Educational Foundation Program Committee      |
| 1985-1987 | Sandy Bernard         | MAR Director                                  |
| 1987-1989 | Sandy Bernard         | Membership Vice President                     |
| 1989-1991 | Sandy Bernard         | Leader Corps                                  |
| 1986-1988 | Dr. Anastasia Johnson | Corporate Relation Com./College Univ. Rep     |
| 1987-1989 | Elizabeth Knapp       | Association Nominating Committee              |
| 1987-1989 | Carol Stull           | Alternate to Association Nominating Committee |
| 1989-1991 | Harriet Edwards       | Choices for Tomorrow's Women                  |
| 1989-1991 | Anne Velesaris        | Trustee of the Educational Foundation         |