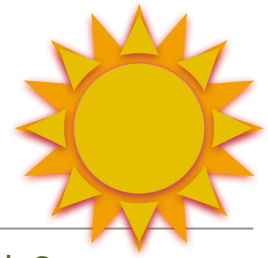




FOCUS



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American Association of University Women • New York State

THE TIME IS NOW



Another year is behind us, and to say it was an unusual one is an understatement. We were gearing up to celebrate a milestone in the history of our organization, 100 years of promoting equity for women and girls across New York State. Shockingly, the year ended in a surprise whirlwind. COVID-19 and racial disparities pandemics have made us look at the way we live and interact with each other in a different way. We continue to adjust to the “new normal”, whether that’s social distancing, wearing a face mask, isolating in our homes, or declaring that black lives matter. This “new normal” has impacted women in more ways than one. We have adapted to being full time teleworkers in addition to teaching, providing childcare, and performing house chores, all while staying in the home. As we continue to steer through these unparalleled times, I appreciate the flexibility and innovation you embraced as we tried to conduct business in ways some of us never imagined. To those who participated in our

special election of officers and our first virtual meeting as a State Organization, thank you. We will continue to move the organization forward as we remember the mission, vision and values set forth.

As we continue to steer these unparalleled times, the gender inequality will be affected even more. We must declare, The time is NOW to advance gender equity for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy. The time is NOW, equity for all. The time is NOW for us to be non-partisan and fact-based, demonstrating integrity, inclusion, and intersectionality.

Looking forward to a new fiscal year, we will focus on making sure our organization is ready and relevant to move into the next 100 years of work. This will include having virtual meetings, rewriting our bylaws/working rules and changing how we interact in our communities. I am challenging each of you to become more engaged and involved in your local branch and the State organization because the Time is NOW to make a difference.

Janice Brown, AAUW-NYS President

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SALE

AAUW-NYS Centennial Lapel Pin

To celebrate both our centennials (AAUW-NYS and WOMENS' SUFFRAGE), we are offering centennial lapel pins. 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.

SALE

\$35 per pin

\$100/3 - for 3 pins or more

\$100 donations or more to AAUW Great Fund get a free pin.

You can purchase online via PayPal (link below), or send a check payable to AAUW-NYS, to Janice Brown - 27708 Rogers Rd, Evans Mills-NY, 13637.



You can choose between Silver or Golden finish

www.aauw-nys.org

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear AAUW-NYS friends,

This edition of FOCUS is my last as its editor, so I am here to express my gratitude to Janice Brown, our president, for understanding my limitations this past year, and helping me organize and collect articles. Also my thank you to Betty Preble, for her website uploads, and most of all for taking care of the mailing list with the National AAUW. To both, my thank you regarding proof reading and edits. This newsletter is possible due to a team effort, and you have been crucial to its success. **Thank you!**

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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

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Janice Brown, Jefferson County Branch, president@aauw-nys.org

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Jane Pendergast, Westchester County Branch, programvp@aauw-nys.org

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vacant

Development Vice President

Carol Griffith, Buffalo Branch, development@aauw-nys.org

Membership Vice President

Karen Martin, Rockland County Branch, membershipvp@aauw-nys.org

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Barbara Van Itallie, Poughkeepsie Branch, treasurer@aauw-nys.org

Secretary/Bylaws

Lynn Gore, Kingston Branch secretary@aauw-nys.org

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Sonja Williams, Jefferson County Branch, wsonja3166@gmail.com

College/University Director

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Diversity/Cultural Director

Suzanne Young-Mercer, Rockland County Branch, smymaauw@gmail.com

Communications/Visibility Director

vacant

District Director

Gaynelle Wethers, Greater Rochester Area Branch, gwether9@gmail.com

Student Advisor

Vaishali Marar, vaishalimarar@gmail.com

OFF-BOARD

Historian/Archives

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Communications/Webmaster Liaison

Cyd Averill, averillc@optonline.net

Webmaster

Betty Preble, betty.preble@gmail.com

Governance/Bylaws Liaison

vacant

FOCUS Director

Gabi Hoover, gabihoover@gmail.com

Nominating Chair

vacant

Public Policy Liaison

Edwina Martin, edwinamartin@hotmail.com



AAUW-NYS VIRTUAL
TOWN HALL

Save the Date

Saturday, July 25, 2020
10:00AM-12:00PM
Meeting ID: 95213506191
Password: 966109



Call to nominations

Hello, I am 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

If you have been thinking that you want to take on more responsibility in a leadership role, now is the time. AAUW-NYS is looking for bold new leaders to move our mission forward especially in this new world in which

we find ourselves in. Opportunities abound and now is the time to seize the moment.

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

I thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Young-Mercer



VOTING

How to Get Involved in the 2020 Elections

Jane Pendergast, AAUW-NYS Program VP

Voting - among all the AAUW crucial programs affecting women - calls us to action this fall! Most branches sponsor discussions, candidate nights or issue forums, registration campaigns, or get out the vote (GOTV) projects. 2020 is the year to emphasize these projects, for the Presidential contest, but also for Congressional and local races. (A reminder: AAUW branches, as 501c4 and 501c3 nonprofits, cannot be partisan or support candidates, but we can work for issues.)

I would like to urge your branch to work on voter access, issue forums, and, most importantly, registration and GOTV campaigns this summer and fall, and point you to the excellent resources available to you on www.aauw.org and www.aauwaction.org, both recently revised to be concise and up to the minute. But what about the pandemic, how can we table and canvass door to door? For the answer, I point you to a webinar on voting on the first page of aauw.org. Scroll down to Policy and How to Get Involved in the 2020 Elections. Click on the webinar there, which offers a comprehensive primer on voting rights and voting access, voter education and GOTV.

On voter access, the webinar recommends we contact our local Board of Elections, the Governor, and our elected representatives to emphasize that an easy absentee process will likely still be needed for this November. At this writing, I do not believe this process is yet in place in NYS for November, although the June primary absentee ballot process appeared to work well. The webinar also recommends that we get involved in advocating for absentee voting and greater voter access generally in other states, where voting access

may be a problem, through our families and friends in other states.

For issue forums, the webinar recommends partnering with other local organizations. For registration and GOTV campaigns, the webinar details how we can use telephoning, the internet, and social media to take the place of in-person meetings, tabling, and door to door canvassing. Our AAUW experts also recommend working in community coalitions on these projects. It will be important to have the facts on voting date (November 3) and the deadline for registering (October 9 for mail registration and in person registration), the dates for absentee ballots (check closer to the election for possible changes) as well as how to use the resources of the local Board of Elections to make sure your information is correct and to provide the appropriate forms. A questioner in the webinar asked how to get telephone numbers of voters, which stumped the AAUW experts, but for NYS, my experience has been that organizations can usually get the voter roles to use in canvassing from the Board of Elections: it is public information. But for all this work, working in coalitions – as our AAUW experts recommend – can make these projects flow more easily and have a stronger impact in our communities.

Good luck, voter work is the most important work now, and it is always fun!

A message from the Vice President of Development

Carol A. Griffith, AAUW-NYS Development VP

It is a pleasure and honor to continue to serve as a member of the Executive Committee, as Vice President of Development. Thank you for two years of support.

The past two years have been a tremendous learning journey. Although serving AAUW-NYS in this position has not been easy, it would have been a personal loss had I not taken the opportunity. As I looked back and reflected during the election process, I realized the hard times make you work harder to find solutions to move the AAUW-NYS organization forward.

We all need to work together to meet the new challenges of the time we are all facing, living in a new world climbing out of a serious loss of humanity and economic stability. This challenge to meet fundraising goals will be even greater and a greater need for creative ideas for fundraising. Thank you again for your generosity to AAUW National (\$75,088.95) in 2019. Please continue to support the Centennial AAUW NYS Pin Sale.

How to Support AAUW's Mission

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting AAUW's critical work! When supporting the following funds, you give AAUW the ability to carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future.



AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.



Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

**STEM
Title IX
Pathways to Jobs**

*Examples of programs include:
Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives
Fellowships and Grants
Public Policy
Research*



Economic Security Fund (4449)

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

**Pay Equity
Title VII
Retirement Security**

*Examples of programs include:
Start Smart
Work Smart
Work Smart Online
Legal Advocacy Fund*



Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

**Career
Workplace
Training**

*Examples of programs include:
Campus Action Projects
Empower
NCCWSL*

Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be sent to the address below or made online at www.aauw.org/contribute.

P.O. Box 98045
Washington, DC 20090-8045
800.326.2289 | connect@aauw.org
www.aauw.org

AAUW-NYS STATEMENT ON RACIAL INJUSTICES

AAUW-NYS joins the country in mourning the recent losses of Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, as well as the many earlier losses over the last few years including some New Yorkers. These and countless other people of color have been unjustly killed across our nation because of systemic racism and persistent attitudes that Black and Brown communities are less deserving of basic human and civil rights.

All lives are created equal. We all have choices, we challenge each of you to make a choice, one that is easy or one that is hard. The easy choice is to accept that there isn't an issue and do nothing. The hard choice is to take a stand and make your voice heard.

These deaths reflect deeply ingrained, long-standing divisions in our society. And they come at a time when the pandemic has given rise to hate around the world,

with rampant acts of violence across the nation, and the spread of misinformation, racial profiling, and fear.

As an organization, we feel compelled to condemn injustice and discrimination and to reaffirm our commitment to live by our values and mission as an organization that supports equity for all.

Our commitment to advocate for racial equality; petition our policy makers to focus on the range of actions needed to respond directly to race and gender biases; and support our National organization's efforts in advancing policies and systemic changes that address these injustices regardless of their form.

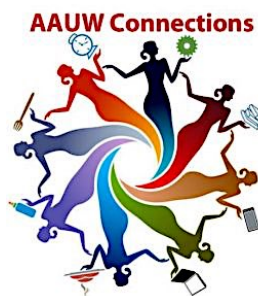
Yours in Solidarity,
Janice Brown
State President



Poughkeepsie Branch

The POUGHKEEPSIE Branch has started a "[connections](#)" page on their website to help branch members help each other get through these very trying times. Think about starting one of these in YOUR branch! Everyone needs assistance sometimes, and everyone can sometimes help, even if it's just to listen! Check it out!

<https://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org/index.php?page=Connections>



SAVE THE DATE

On July 17-19, 2020, log in your computer to take part at the "Women's National Park Virtual Convention".

<http://home.nps.gov/wori/planyourvisit/virtual-convention-days-2020.htm>

Public Policy Updates

From ESVB Public Policy VP & State Board Public Policy Liaison Hon. Edwina Frances Martin, Esq.

The Census Is Critical to the Future of New York State.

According to Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York State's Census response rate is at 56.7%, well below the national average of 60.5%. We can do better. If battling the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is that it is vital for our future that every New Yorker takes a few minutes to complete the Census form to ensure that our state receives its fair share of national resources. And it couldn't be easier this year because it can be completed online.

Visit my2020census.gov and make sure all your family, friends, and neighbors do too. If you are not counted, you don't exist. 10 questions, 10 minutes for 10 years of funding for our communities.

Have You Supported GEEA? GEEA — The Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act, H.R.3513, 116th Congress (2019-2020) (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3513/text>)— will help to reduce and prevent sex discrimination in all areas of education by supporting the vital, on-the-ground work of Title IX coordinators through additional resources, training, and technical assistance. It will also authorize competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local educational agencies, or states to support their gender equity work by:

- Providing additional resources, training and technical assistance to educational entities in order to ensure compliance with Title IX.
- Establishing an Office of Gender Equity in the U.S. Department of Education to coordinate activities within the Department and among other federal agencies.
- Supporting the work of thousands of Title IX coordinators by providing annual training and technical assistance.

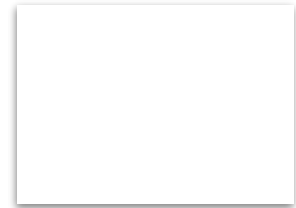
- Authorizing competitive grants to K-12 schools, colleges, local educational agencies, or states to support their gender equity work.

Particularly during this time when Title IX is under assault, it is critical to send the message that NYS will protect what it stands for, the right to education without harassment. During times of crisis it is all too easy to forgo basic civil rights, but it is paramount that we ensure those who are most vulnerable are protected in times of peril. If you did not receive the recent AAUW Two-Minute Activist encouraging you to write to your congressional and senate representatives in support of this legislation, visit <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/geea/>.

Edwina Frances Martin, Esq.

- Member, National Board of Directors, American Association of University Women
 - Co-Chair, Committee on Leadership Development, New York State Bar Association
 - Member, Board of Directors, NY Bar Foundation
 - Recording Secretary, Board of Directors, Network of Bar Leaders
 - May Week Chair, Staten Island Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
 - Past President & Advisory Board Member, Staten Island Women's Bar Association
 - Education/Title IX Committee Co-Chair, Women's Bar Association of the State of NY
 - Member, Board of Directors, Meals on Wheels of Staten Island
 - Member, Advisory Board, Friends of Alice Austen House, Inc.
 - Fellow, American Bar Foundation (Life Fellow) and The New York Bar Foundation
 - Former Co-Host, City Watch, WBAI 99.5 FM (Radio Pacifica)
- [\(646\) 221-9145 \(c\)](tel:6462219145)
edwinamartin@hotmail.com

www.aauw.org



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

Leadership Opportunities

AAUW-NYS board of directors has several open positions. As an AAUW affiliate, every branch and state must have at a minimum a President (administrator) and Treasurer (finance Officer). The board has several vacant positions.

If you have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to help move the state organization forward, WE WANT YOU!!!

We are looking for leaders with social media experience, public policy experience, programming and editorial/webpage experience.

If you believe you can assist the board and help move AAUW-NYS forward, then the TIME IS NOW for you to make a difference in the organization. Contact Janice Brown, State President for more information.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@aaunewyork

INITIATIVES

AAUW & COVID-19: Standing Strong through Crisis

During this challenging time, AAUW stands together as a caring and connected community. For nearly 140 years, we have been there for one another and fought for the economic security of American women and families. Throughout the coming weeks, months and years, AAUW will accelerate our efforts to address the persistent and underlying inequities that are crucial for a full recovery. Together, we can ensure that we end up with a better, more economically secure world for women.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/connected-community/>