

## NEWSLETTER

### Change is Still Coming



As I was preparing my thoughts for this last edition of the FOCUS where I serve as State President, I reminisced on many fond memories that I have experienced in this role over the past four years. Serving as State President has been an amazing and rewarding journey and honor. Although, my goals for the position to elevate the mission of AAUW-NYS was curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to pivot from our norm to a “new normal”. As we continue to overcome the residual effects of the pandemic, we were still able to stand for the mission of AAUW-advancing gender equity for women and girls through education, research

and advocacy. The work continues because equity for women and girls is far from equal.

When I ran for President, my theme was “The Time is Now”. This still remains relevant in AAUW and the lives of women and girls in New York State and around the world. The time is now to promote equality for women in education, workplace & economic equity and leadership. The country is getting ready to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. This law prohibits sex discrimination in education. It protects all (women, men, girls, boys, staff and students) in any educational institution or program that receives federal funding. AAUW-NYS will celebrate the anniversary of Title IX during our annual meeting on June 25th with a theme “**Title IX: Getting Girls in the Game**”.

Finally, as I wrap up this message, know that the work of AAUW, AAUW-NYS and your local community is a never ending fight because “change is still coming”. There is so much more to do. “See” you around.

Janice Brown, President

AAUW-NYS

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dues Reduction .....	Page 2
Diversity Update.....	Page 3
Annual Meeting .....	Page 5
Nominating Report .....	Page 7

# AAUW-NYS Dues Reduction

## Barbara Van Itallie-Treasurer

Dues Reduction for 2022-23

The AAUW-NYS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the dues for 2022-23 will be reduced to \$7 per member, from the usual \$13.

As you know, the state dues for the current fiscal year, 2021-22 were waived, in order to help our branches during this difficult pandemic time, and to help offset the dues increases from National AAUW. This proved to be helpful to many branches in retaining members and attracting new ones. While we previously announced that dues would return to \$13 in 2022, the Board felt that with another National dues increase coming up, this dues reduction would continue to support our branch memberships.

The State continues to be in a good financial position to offer this dues reduction. A financial report will be presented at the annual meeting in June. Please contact State Treasurer Barbara Van Itallie for more information at [treasurer@aauw-nys.org](mailto:treasurer@aauw-nys.org) if you wish.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Karen Martin-Membership VP

April and May are months of new birth and rebirth!

At this time we think renewal for folks who have embraced and actively worked to bring success to the mission of AAUW. We can applaud while our work continues. Take time to value our present members. Have a party! Sing their praises! Bring in new members to AAUW at your branch level. In your social gatherings and when you are out and about, invite others to join.

I want to bring energy and excitement to all NYS Membership leaders. Our times are full of change and challenge: if we are talking about control over our bodies or daily gun violence at home. Each of us has an opinion and opportunity to take action. Consider the Mission Statement of AAUW!

**AAUW Gatherings: Put Safety First.** Many members are understandably eager to return to in-person affiliate gatherings. However, due to the recent rise in the COVID-19 delta variant, we strongly advise caution. It's critical to follow all city, state and county guidance and be mindful of the risks. The pandemic isn't over, and many of us regularly engage with young people and others who may be unvaccinated.

The big news for us is the **AAUW Community Hub** and the continuing improvements that are being made to it. There is a newly created [comprehensive online guide](#) that provides resources, training, and instructions on the new system. Please make time to read and explore the guide.

#### E-RENEWAL letter from Angie Cooper

Please see Angie's letter immediately. A renewal message has been prepared if you would like it sent to your non-renewed members via email. 202.785.7782/ [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) or [coopera@aauw.org](mailto:coopera@aauw.org). Response requested by May 24, 2022, 5pm ET.

Please share with your branch about AAUW's premier young women's leadership conference, **NCCWSL 2022**, which is coming up next week. The keynote speaker is **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, Pulitzer-prize-winning creator of the 1619 Project and *New York Times Magazine* staff writer. See our National webpage for further details.

**"Membership Matters"** is a specific newsletter for us!

Looking for news and resources? This publication comes out monthly and is a timely resource for taking care of our members. May issue highlights celebrating 50 years of Title IX, and a great story from AAUW Racine (Wisconsin) about how to get 5 stars. Check it out.

Looking to Serve AAUW-NYS,  
Karen Martin, Membership VP

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

### **Suzanne Mercer-Young –Diversity Chair**

As our program year ends, I am happy to say the AAUW National DEI Toolkit is developing nicely with the input from the AAUW State DEI Chairs. What has been wonderful about this collaborative is the coalitions that are being formed to assist National in developing readily available tools to assist Branch and State board members alike.

I have also been working on the NYS AAUW DEI page to make it more inviting and providing links to the National website so that you can find what you need to pull a DEI program together. Whether you are an advanced branch who has been providing this programming already, or you are just starting out delving into DEI programming, you will be able to link to what you need through our newly developed page.

I want to thank Mary-Carol Lindbloom, Ithaca Branch, for her valuable help in assisting me in the page's development. Mary-Carol and I formed the DEI committee and we have been working on the AAUW-NYS DEI Page for several months and hope it is a value to you. On the page in addition to links to the National website, you will also find links to AAUW-NYS Branch DEI programs that you can view.

I am also asking you to think about recording any DEI branch programming that you have created whether virtually or live to share with other branches in the State to view. There is a section on the page for those links and recordings. Sharing your events can be a wonderful way to help other branches see what can be done under DEI.

Finally, I encourage all branches to consider appointing a member to be a DEI chair to your branch and/or to be a member of the AAUW-NYS DEI committee, so that we can support DEI programming in your branch and throughout the State. We cannot advocate for ALL women and girls, if we don't ensure that we are advocating for them through a DEI lens.

### **Carol Griffith-President Elect**

Development Vice-President: AAUW National received from AAUW-NYS a total of \$42,872.19 for the timeframe of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. Transitioning to keep AAUW-NYS going through the pandemic was new uncharted territory, and I am still proud to represent your donations to the AAUW mission. Many organizations that support similar mission, were not as fortunate. Your support to the AAUW-NYS executive board and National is greatly appreciated. As of May 13, 2022, after checking with National the AAUW-NYS donations were not available.

President Elect: The President Elect position was added during the last AAUW-NYS bylaws revision. I have had the opportunity to be the first in this position for AAUW-NYS, and the shortest commitment, I can remember ever making. Looking forward to the new challenges in 2022-2023.

# AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting

## June 24-25, 2022 –Virtual

The Annual Meeting will be held June 24-25, 2022 via zoom. This year’s theme is “**Title IX: Getting Girls in the Game**”. **Registration is open via zoom.** [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

On Friday evening will be a time to unwind and explore new skills and ideals with a virtual tour of the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY. We will cap the evening with a “paint and sip” hour exploring our artistic abilities. Bring your favorite drink and your artistic skills to the virtual paint party. On Saturday, we will do the business of AAUW during the business meeting, engage in a discussion of Title IX from a panel . Followed by our keynote speaker, Gloria Blackwell, our very own AAUW CEO. .

### **Friday, June 24, 2022-6:30PM –8:30PM**

6:30PM- National Women’s Hall of Fame Virtual Tour

7:15PM– Virtual “Paint & Sip”- Title IX themed art

### **Saturday, June 25, 2022– 9:00AM-1:00PM**

9:00AM– Business Meeting

10:45AM–12:00-Title IX Panel

12:00PM-Keynote Speaker, Gloria Blackwell

12:30PM– Induction of Officers



Gloria, in addition to her role as CEO, is also AAUW’s main representative to the United Nations. Among her many accomplishments is her 15-year management of AAUW’s highly esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas.

Gloria has also been the driving force behind AAUW’s signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings, which have reached nearly 190,000 nationwide. She has worked on pay equity initiatives with public officials in Washington D.C., New York City, Boston and Pittsburgh, as well as with numerous other state and municipal partners. She also worked with the National Science Foundation to increase girls participation in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. Most notably, Gloria has significantly expanded the AAUW’s outreach to girls and women of color.

Before joining AAUW in 2004 she was the director of Africa education programs at the Institute of International Education (IIE). She also managed fellowships programs during her decade at IIE and has held positions as a Peace Corps staff member and volunteer in Africa. She holds a master’s degree in education and human development from the George Washington University, a bachelor’s degree in international affairs from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and studied at the American University in Paris. Gloria is committed to supporting opportunities and empowerment for women and girls globally.

**AAUW-NYS Annual Meeting  
June 24-25, 2022-Virtual**

**2022 AAUW-NYS  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**TITLE IX: GETTING  
GIRLS IN THE  
GAME**

Celebrating 50 Years of TITLE IX

**JUNE 24-25, 2022 • FRI/SAT • 9AM-1PM**

VIA ZOOM:

**[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TZCRCUMHRD40HD14EF  
W\\_1C-BGQL7KWSWVNJ2](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/83650925279)**

**MEETING ID: 836 5092 5279**

**PASSCODE: 926045**

Keynote Speaker: Gloria Blackwell  
AAUW CEO



[www.aauw-nys.org](http://www.aauw-nys.org)

FOCUS is a quarterly newsletter published by the American Association of University Women-New York State.

FOCUS is a publication of the AAUW-NYS Board

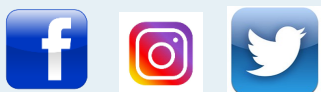
Questions and articles should be delivered to the State President,

Janice Brown, 27708 Rogers Rd, Evans Mills, NY 13637

Email: [president@aaup-nys.org](mailto:president@aaup-nys.org)

Submissions are accepted at the discretion of the editor

**FOLLOW US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA**



[@aaunewyork](https://www.instagram.com/aaunewyork)

## BRANCH DELEGATES NEEDED

The Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 9:00am via zoom. Your branch must be represented by a delegate. Have your branch delegates register for the annual meeting by emailing [AAUW.nysspecialelection@gmail.com](mailto:AAUW.nysspecialelection@gmail.com) no later than June 15th. The meeting will be open to all members. The zoom link to register for the meeting is [HERE](#)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Communications/Visibility Director</b>
Janice Brown, Jefferson County <a href="mailto:President@aaup-nys.org">President@aaup-nys.org</a> <a href="mailto:4jmac2@gmail.com">4jmac2@gmail.com</a>	Lynn Gore, Kingston <a href="mailto:secretary@aaup-nys.org">secretary@aaup-nys.org</a>	Dr. Cheryl McKeiver, Empire State NYC <a href="mailto:Cheryl.mckeiver@gmail.com">Cheryl.mckeiver@gmail.com</a>
<b>President-Elect</b> Carol Griffith, Buffalo <a href="mailto:Cag2002@roadrunner.com">Cag2002@roadrunner.com</a>	<b>Public Policy Vice-President</b> Nan Scinta, Adirondack <a href="mailto:nscinta@roadrunner.com">nscinta@roadrunner.com</a>	<b>Webmaster (Off-Board)</b> Betty Preble, Buffalo <a href="mailto:Betty.preble@gmail.com">Betty.preble@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Vice-President</b> Karen Martin, Rockland County <a href="mailto:membershipvp@aaup-nys.org">membershipvp@aaup-nys.org</a>	<b>College/University Director</b> Maria Ellis, Empire State NYC <a href="mailto:mellis@kwnyc.com">mellis@kwnyc.com</a>	<b>Historian (Off-Board)</b> Helen Engel, Oswego <a href="mailto:hengelosw@gmail.com">hengelosw@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Barbara Van Itallie, Poughkeepsie <a href="mailto:treasurer@aaup-nys.org">treasurer@aaup-nys.org</a>	<b>Diversity Chair</b> Suzanne Young-Mercer, Rockland <a href="mailto:smymaauw@gmail.com">smymaauw@gmail.com</a>	<b>Nominating Chair</b> Edwina F. Martin, Esq <a href="mailto:edwinamartin@hotmail.com">edwinamartin@hotmail.com</a>

## Nominating Committee Report

### Edwina F. Martin, Esq, Nominating Chair

Per the AAUW-NYS Bylaws, as last amended, the Committee conducted a search for one position President-Elect. The Committee conducted a thorough search, soliciting nominations from our state membership via notice, as well as reaching out to branch leadership throughout the state for nominations and recommendations. The Nominating Committee put forth the nomination for the position of President-Elect. The candidate slated is Suzanne Young-Mercer.

Suzanne Young-Mercer is a retired Director of Administrative Services for the Department of Emergency Service at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Suzanne earned her BA at Baruch College and her MBA at University of Phoenix.

Suzanne is active in her community and has received numerous awards for her service. She is Diversity and Cultural Director at AAUW-NYS, the current Past President of the Rockland County, NY Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW). Suzanne is Past President of the Jamaican Civic and Cultural Association of Rockland (JAMCCAR); served on the Board of the Spring Valley NAACP and member of the Monroe County NAACP; served two terms as a School Board Trustee for the East Ramapo Central School District from 2007 through 2013.

Suzanne and her husband Kenneth are now enjoying their retirement years together and are the parents of three children, a daughter and 2 sons and the proud grandparents of 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



## AAUW-NATIONAL Community Hub

The AAUW National website is still in the process of being overhauled. National is asking for your patience as everyone transition to this new site together. This is a new change for AAUW Staff as well as members. There are numerous questions that you may have. You can visit the FAQ page on the website for most, if not all your answers. The most important thing to do is logon to the new website and reset your password if you have not done that yet.

You can connect and communicate with National directly by

1. Joining office hours every Thursday at 3:30pm EST – registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdemgrj8tHtZyk1T31iYU70Xv9aqxvCJv>
2. Visiting the Systems Update page for video tutorials – [CLICK HERE](#)
3. Reaching out to Connect at [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

# AAUW-NATIONAL

## Rallying for Reproductive Rights

**Mission**  
To advance gender equity  
for women and girls  
through research, educa-  
tion, and advocacy.

**Vision**  
Equity for All

**Values**  
Nonpartisan. Fact-based.  
Integrity. Inclusion and  
Intersectionality.

**AAUW supports choice in determining one's reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services.**

AAUW believes that everyone can make their own informed choices about their reproductive lives within the dictates of their own personal moral and religious beliefs. Further, we believe that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference. Family planning fosters self-sufficiency, promotes preventive health care, and teaches people how to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Though we face many potential threats to reproductive rights, AAUW will keep fighting to improve access to care by working with Congress and federal agencies to take the following actions.

1. **Pass the Women's Health Protection Act (H.R. 3755/S. 1975).**
2. **Improve public funding for reproductive health**
3. **Put prevention first**
4. **Ensure access to legally prescribed or available contraception**

Visit AAUW Public Policy Center for more information on AAUW's Public Policy Priorities at [CLICK HERE](#)

American Association of University Women-New York State

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**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**

