

VISIONS

Spring 2023
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AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

2023 National Election

Voting is now open on proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities recommended by AAUW members. Please use the electronic or paper ballot with your member-specific voting information to vote. **Voting closes on Monday, May 15 at 5:00 pm ET.**

AAUW's Public Policy Priorities, adopted every two years by every-member vote, establish the federal action issues on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts and guide the work of the national staff. States and branches should also use the Public Policy Priorities to inform their advocacy efforts on state and local issues.

The strength of the Public Policy Priorities is that they originate and end with the AAUW membership. The AAUW Public Policy Committee (APPC) solicits feedback from members and staff to develop proposed Public Policy Priorities based on viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive contribution.

2023-25 AAUW Public Policy Priorities

The Public Policy Priorities underscore AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The work of AAUW builds upon responsible public participation, and the following priorities provide a basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Implicit in each is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these priorities. We work to increase the number of women, and the diversity of backgrounds they represent, including race, ethnicity, age, income, gender, and sexual identity, in policy- and other decision-making positions. Our positions are shaped by our commitment to being nonpartisan and fact-based, and to acting with integrity. We strive for our work to be inclusive and intersectional, collaborating with diverse allies and coalitions to achieve equity for all.

Editor's Note: The above information was taken from the national website, AAUW.org. Biennial Action Priorities are broken down into more specific items for each general category and are worth checking out before you vote. As members of a local branch, it is easy to forget that we do have a voice on national policy.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Current Board Members

President: Open	Bylaws: Open
Treasurer: Karen Huggins	Publicity: Open
Secretary: Ann Hicks	Newsletter: Faith Weldon
Membership Vice President: Bobbi Richardson	Directory: Bobbi Richardson
Program Vice President: Open	Circulation: Pat Terry
Study & Interest Group Chair: Arlene Maranville	Social Events: Arlene Maranville
AAUW Funds Vice President: Open	Website & College Liaison: Robin Eddy
	Sunshine: Karen Huggins

For our branch to continue, members need to step up and volunteer for the **open** positions. We all know that COVID hit many organizations hard, including ours. Last week the board met on Zoom and discussed the future of the Schenectady branch. Arlene Maranville has put together a survey to gauge membership interest and ideas. You will receive it soon if you haven't already. Please seriously consider your responses and return it as indicated.

STUDY AND INTEREST GROUPS

Quilting

May 25, 1 pm Marguerite Pileggi
Hawaiian Quilting

Gourmet

June 9 – Picnic on the Deck
Details to follow

Modern Lit

May 9 – *We Begin at the End*
Facilitator: Robin Eddy
Hostess: Linda Ward

June 1 – Picnic and Plan
Lions Pavilion
Collins Park



FALL GATHERING AT THE QUEEN

Thanks to the efforts of Arlene Maranville, over a dozen members gathered at the Glenville Queen for food and fellowship last fall. A good time was had by all!

Congratulations to three of our members, Mildred Creasey, Reba Mehan and Kathy Miller for attaining life membership in AAUW. This is an incredible achievement of supporting women in their quest for equality. They join 17 of our other members who also have 50+ years of membership. This is a wonderful legacy of dedicated members.

My Trip to Australia and New Zealand A Struggle for Women's Rights



I recently returned from a five week tour of Australia and New Zealand and I learned of the struggle for women's rights, even Down Under. Kate Sheppard was the most prominent member of the women's suffrage movement in New Zealand. She and other women campaigned so effectively that in 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to grant the vote to all women. In later life she traveled to Britain and assisted the suffrage movement there. Sheppard is considered an important figure in New Zealand history.

Since 1991 her profile has been featured on the New Zealand 10 dollar bill, replacing Queen Elizabeth. In 1993, a group of Christchurch women established the Kate Shepherd National Memorial on the banks of the Avon River. The group of women, with Sheppard in the middle, were also a part of the movement for equal rights. The memorial depicts the women carrying their petition for women's suffrage to Parliament in a wooden cart. The side panels of the sculpture depict scenes of everyday women's lives at the end of the 19th century. That same year a special white camellia was created which was a symbol of the suffragists. It was named after Sheppard and is planted extensively throughout New Zealand.



Traffic signal in Wellington, New Zealand

Our Membership Matters – Equal Pay Gap

In the U.S. we still struggle with inequality in the workplace and through AAUW, our national organization, we combine our efforts to try and level the playing field. So, it is that time once again to make our commitment to support AAUW in our continued efforts for equality. March was Equal Pay Day when women caught up to men. It marks the current state of the gender pay gap. The gap is 84% for full time workers and 77% for all workers. The date is based on the latest U.S. census figures showing that the average woman who works full time is paid on average just 84% of the typical man's pay. July 27th is the Equal Pay Day for black women who receive 67% of what men make. Our work continues through our national organization who lobbies in congress on our behalf to create change in these statistics. We still have high hopes for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7/S. 205 in the 117 Congress) that is sponsored by U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) that would help to close these punishing gaps by eliminating loopholes in the Equal Pay Act, helping to break harmful patterns of pay discrimination and strengthening workplace protections for women. It is a reasonable and comprehensive bill that would combat the wage discrimination that has plagued our nation for years. It languishes in Congress.

Your Membership Matters - **New Dues Information**

Our Branch board wants to make supporting these efforts as painless as possible. **Since National had to raise their dues, our Board decided for this year to waive both our local dues and State dues if you mail in your renewal and pay by check by June 1st, a savings of \$21.** If you pay after June 1st your membership renewal will be \$82. Our study groups are still going strong and Jean Wildgrube provided two important general meetings this past year: the CEO of Ellis Hospital spoke on the hospital merger and we were introduced to the Street Soldiers of Schenectady and the work they do helping the disadvantaged and Arlene Maranville set up luncheon. Both get togethers were well attended. I look forward to the coming year with renewed hope for a brighter future for all women and that our Branch continues to provide a social network for our members.

~Bobbi Richardson

**American Association of University Women
AAUW Schenectady Branch Membership Renewal
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**



Put an X in this box if there is a change from the information in the 2022-2023 directory.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell) _____ E-mail _____

**(Any changes that occur in the future, please let us know promptly – for the newsletter and directory.)
Please return this form even if you owe nothing**

Check appropriate category: (See Membership Article)

**If paid before
June 1**

_____ NYS AAUW (\$72 + NYS (\$7) + Branch Member (\$14).	\$82.00.	\$72.00
_____ Paid Life Member Renewal –NYS (\$7) Branch Member (\$14)	\$0	\$0
_____ Honorary Life Member (50-year member)	\$0	

*** Honorary Life & Paid Life Members need to return this form.**

VISIONS _____ I prefer to receive VISIONS in color as an email attachment

_____ I would like the black and white edition of Visions mailed to me. ***Please consider making a donation to cover the increased costs of the printing and the increase in postage.**

To be included in the Directory Supplement - Mail your check **PRIOR TO JUNE 30th**
payable to **AAUW Schenectady Branch:** to

**Bobbi Richardson
AAUW Schenectady Branch
1417 Fox Hollow Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309**

A directory supplement will be included in your September newsletter.

Optional Donations: In addition to my membership check, I am including another check(s) with my donation(s) to further AAUW's work. See page 10 in your directory for descriptions of funds.

_____ For the increased VISIONS printing and postage costs.	_____ Public Policy Fund
_____ AAUW Funds	_____ Eleanor Roosevelt Fund
_____ Legal Action Fund	_____ Schenectady Branch Grants and Programs
_____ Educational Opportunities Fund	_____ Leadership Grants
_____ Evvie Currie Giving Circle	

Suggestions for program topics and speakers:



VISIONS

Schenectady Branch Newsletter AAUW

The deadline for newsletter items is the
1st week of the month
prior to publication.

Editors: Faith Weldon and Robin Eddy

Circulation: Pat Terry

Website: [https:// schenectady-ny.aauw.net](https://schenectady-ny.aauw.net)

AAUW's Strategic Plan

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

Our Focus

- Education & Training
- Economic Security
- Leadership

<https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are>

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