



## American Association of University Women – New York State

### FALL FOCUS 2022

Carol A. Griffith – President (Buffalo)

Suzanne Young-Mercer -President-elect (Rockland County)

Nan Scinta – Public Policy Vice President (Adirondack)

Karen Martin – Membership Vice President (Rockland County)

Lynn Gore – Secretary (Kingston)

Barbara Van Itallie – Treasurer (Poughkeepsie)

Maria Ellis - College/University Director (Empire State NYC)

Suzanne Young- Mercer - Diversity Equity Inclusion (Rockland County)

Betty Preble – Webmaster (Buffalo)

Helen Engel - Historian (Oswego)

Edwina F. Martin, Esq - Nominating Chair (Staten Island)

Janice Brown – Past President (Jefferson County)

NYS Board meetings are generally held the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. The 2022-2023 planning meeting was held Saturday, July 30 in Poughkeepsie, face to face. Monday, September 19, was a zoom meeting. The next zoom meeting is set for October 17. If you have item to be added to the NYS agenda, please contact the [president](#) by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**AAUW-NATIONAL - Community Hub – This has been a frustrating experience for all of us, like anything that is new. However, without change or hard work by all members we cannot improve and reach our goals.**

#### NEW YORK STATE BUSINESS

The nominating committee under the leadership of Edwina Martin has been busy working on their responsibilities. The team includes Suzanne Curran, CW Turner, Sonja Williams and Marguerite Collesano (alternate). Please contact one of these members if you have suggestions or if YOU are interested in a leadership role. The [nominating form](#) is available on the website.

The following positions are open on the AAUW New York State Board 2023 – 2025

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Policy Vice President

It is the responsibility of our entire New York State membership to elect officers who will step up and take a leadership role in the organization that we are all so passionate about:

**Making a difference in the lives of women and girls.**

## AAUW New York State President Report

- Carol A. Griffith and Janice Brown – President Transition – July 2, 2022, Watertown, NY
- Lynn Gore, Barbara Van Itallie, and Carol A. Griffith Board Meeting – July 30, 2022 – face to face – Poughkeepsie, NY – Including TD Bank Transition Appointment (name changes on accounts)
- Carol also attended
  - Jefferson County Branch Picnic at Sackets Harbor, NY,
  - Bath Branch – Social Outing – Bristol Valley Theatre – Naples, NY
  - Staten Island Branch 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration, Staten Island, NY
  - National Women’s Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2022 -Seneca Falls, NY

### AAUW New York State Reports

#### President – Theme: **Communication is a Powerful Tool**

- Goal: Monthly meetings with AAUW-NYS board
- Goal: Monthly meetings to begin, Quarterly meetings with branch Presidents, or designee.
- Goal: Quarterly meetings/Program with all AAUW- NYS members

**President-elect** – Suzanne Young-Mercer – Maria DeWald has been added to the governance committee.

**Public Policy Vice President**– Nan Scinta has been working to organize “PowHerNY Equity Summit.” She has also been reaching out to recruit a public policy counterpart in **each** AAAUW-NYS branch. Nan has received responses from all branches except 6 branches, and those branches have been requested to respond as of October 5, 2022. Thank you for this support.

**Vice President Membership** – Karen is working with the community hub transition. Karen has been reaching out to the branches to reach her goal to have a membership counterpart at each AAUW-NYS branch. Karen is working with Barbara Van Itallie with the community hub. They estimated 1519 NYS members as of the September 19, 2022, board meeting.

**Treasurer** – Barbara has prepared budget presented budget for 2022-2023. Board approved NYS budget on September 19, 2022, board meeting. Barbara has taken great initiative working with the community hub and setting up zoom for board meetings for NYS board.

**Finance Committee** -Chairperson Barbara Van Itallie. Carol A. Griffith, and Suzanne Young-Mercer committee members. **Action: Branch Grants** were approved for

- Rockland County Branch, submitted by Doria Hillman, and
- North Shore Branch – submitted by Cynthia Katz.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Suzanne Young-Mercer will remain DEI state position. Suzanne also represents AAUW-NYS at national level. Suzanne has added Mary-Carol Lindbloom (Ithaca Branch) to her committee. The goal is to have a DEI representative for each NYS branch.

**AAUW-NYS Directory** - Maria DeWald, Barbara Van Itallie, Karen Martin, and Carol A. Griffith are updating the AAUW NYS directory. Maria has stepped up to this challenge and we be open to hearing your responses and suggestions. Soon to be distributed.

### Presidents Message to Branch Presidents

1. All AAUW-NYS members are encouraged to have an email.
2. All branches need to designate a representative for: public policy, membership, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Reach out to your NYS board member in the same position.
3. Please be working on your 5 Star National Recognition Program status.
4. Please fill out grant/zoom form for requesting a zoom account or subsidy ASAP.



Thank you, Jefferson County Branch, for wonderful evening in Sackets Harbor, for your summer picnic.

Thank you, Bath Branch for sharing your social and educational program event held in your neighboring community of Naples, at the Bristol Valley Theatre. Local artists display their work in the lobby of the theatre.



The Historic “**Smith Opera House**” in Geneva, New York was the home of the 2022 National Women’s Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Built in 1894, the fully restored Smith Opera House presents the best live music, outstanding local and traveling theatrical productions, in the Finger Lake community. Thank you, Fairport Branch, for your ad support. 2022 inductees - Octavia E. Butler, Judy Chicago, Rebecca Halstead, Joy Harjo, Mia Hamm, Emily Howland, Katherine Johnson, Indra Nooyi, and Michelle Obama.



Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 South Avenue, Staten Island, New York

Congratulations to **“Staten Island” Branch - 60 years** of recognizing women and girls, making a difference in their lives, and the lives in your community.

This room was the location of a wonderful, special celebration of the Staten Island Branch’s 60 years of labor, passion and love of the AAUW mission. Every person present was touched as the members filled this room with open arms to display organizational leadership and incredible teamwork by branch president Lisa Balistreri. Those present had the privilege of witnessing the outstanding support Lisa received from her family, (husband, son and daughter.) They recognized her strength and the importance of this milestone, and they understood how important the success of this event was to her and all the members of the Staten Island branch.

**THIS WAS A TRUE TESTAMENT TO WHAT WOMEN CAN ACCOMPLISH WHEN THEY WORK TOGETHER**

On behalf of the American Association of University Women

Congratulations “Staten Island”

From the AAUW New York State Board and our NYS Members